



2ND CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM REPORT



Support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Turkish Cypriot community through
inter-alia tailor made assistance, trainings, capacity building and networking with
Greek Cypriot and other European Union's CSO
EuropeAid/135176/C/SER/CY



CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM REPORT

20th January 2016, location: Cyprus Turkish Journalists Association, Nicosia

The second Civil Society Forum hosted by the Civic Space was held on 20th January 2016, Wednesday in Nicosia between 16.00-20.00 hours in the premises of the Cyprus Turkish Journalists association. The agenda of the event is presented in Annex I.

The Forum was attended by **44 participants from 31 CSOs**. The forum started with welcoming words by the EU Task Manager, Charlotte Goyon, followed by a presentation of **past and upcoming project activities** by the Team Leader of Civic Space, Juliette Remy-Sartin. The elected CSO representatives of the Steering Committee, Emete Imge and Enver Ethemer, shared their views and comments regarding the activities presented. The presentation was followed by a session in which questions from participants were answered and comments were shared. The Civil Society Forum, proceeded with a session in which participating CSO representatives convened in **thematic working groups** and made initial decisions regarding the structure and formation of working groups, as well as expectations from Civic Space to support their thematic work. The last session of the Forum was a session in which Selen Lermioğlu Yılmaz (Capacity Development Expert of Civic Space) made a presentation on **the Active Citizenship Mechanism**, answered questions and took note of recommendations made. Detailed information on each of these sessions are presented below.

Session I: Past and Upcoming Activities of Civic Space Project

Juliette Remy Sartin, the Team Leader (TL) of Civic Space opened the session with a short overview of the project and welcoming words. The TL introduced the CSO representatives and gave an explanation of the election process for the Steering Committee CSO representatives. **The elected CSO members, Emete Imge and Enver Ethemer** presented themselves and shared their views and opinions on the Civic Space activities as explained by the TL. The activities implemented between the first Forum (20th October) and the second one (20th January) were briefly introduced by the TL and the Steering Committee CSO members.

Past Activities

Juliette Remy Sartin provided information on a workshop conducted by Civic Space on **"Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development."** The workshop was conducted on 18th November 2015 at the EU Programme Support Office, to share information and knowledge on standards of a conducive environment for civil society and legal framework on freedom of association as well as indicators and good practices from EU Member State and IPA countries. Speakers and participants from the EU Committee, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL), Civic Space, Cyprus NGO Initiative, Cyprus NGO Network, CSOs and TC administration were present in the workshop to share views and information on the topic.

Enver Emether shared his views on the workshop, by stating that *"the enabling environment workshop was an opportunity for civil society to voice their views and opinions on the draft law on associations. The main function of an enabling environment is to give way to a more participatory approach"*. Emete Imge gave a brief explanation of the 10 years' history of the law on associations process. The Cyprus NGO Network experience and the purpose of advocacy was explained. She stated that *"10 Years ago, a group of CSOs led by the Management Centre came together and worked on a draft law, that was presented to the authorities. While waiting for that draft to be discussed or enacted, a very poor draft was brought in the agenda, which had nothing to do with the one prepared by the Cyprus NGO Network. The Network became involved in advocacy, and was able to prevent the new draft to be enacted. A new draft was prepared by the authorities much later, in which Cyprus NGO Network was also a part"*. She mentioned that it is a great opportunity that Civic Space has been given the mandate to work with the administration to improve the environment around civil society.

She continued explaining that in the first meeting of the EU Committee (responsible to discuss and finalize the draft in the 'Parliament') members of the Cyprus NGO Network as well as Civic Space expert were present to share their views. She also gave a brief overview that, in the last months, the support provided by the Civic Space included the translation of the draft law, receive international expert opinion, provide relevant documents and bring, in a very short time, an international expert from the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) to share views and recommendations. The discussions on the draft, in the EU Committee are ongoing. She finalized her views by saying: *"the support that Civic Space will be providing towards the legal framework, to increase participation and enhance advocacy efforts are very important and will strengthen us CSOs"*.

Juliette Remy Sartin briefly explained the **launching event of Civic Space**, that was held on 4th December 2015. She mentioned that, it was very good to see representatives from both communities present in the event under one roof, sharing ideas about how Civic Space can support more participation, more inclusion in democratic decision-making, bottom-up policy making. It was a good event to participate and to exchange ideas. The event was a scene for artistic performances such as graffiti live, forum theatre, live jazz music.

Emete Imge stressed to the members of the forum that *"the support of Civic Space will enable Turkish Cypriot CSOs to raise their voices and contribute to the development of a culture of democracy and human rights"*. Enver Ethemer stated that *"Civic Space will play an important part in creating a productive participation of civil society into decision and policy-making"*. He continued sharing his views by saying that *"Specifically, CSOs from rural areas should be provided with opportunities to raise their voice and expectations. The most important thing about Civic Space project, the "magic key" is about ownership. It should be the civil society itself, us, to own what's happening, to be a part of it, to monitor, to guide, to request from the project what we need"*.

With regards to the **Active Citizenship Mechanism (ACM)**, Remy-Sartin mentioned that the Team Leader of a similar project, that has been implemented in Turkey for 3 years (as a first of its kind) was invited to Cyprus to share information on ACM mechanism, and lessons learnt on support programmes. The mission of the expert took place between 10-11th December 2015, during which he met with various stakeholders such as CSOs, the EU and the EUCC, share information and good practices as well as listen to expectations of CSOs in Cyprus from the mechanism.

Enver Ethemer shared his views on ACM by saying that *"One of the main pillar of the project is the Active Citizenship Mechanism (ACM). The project, and this pillar can support the civil society to create change, to request the change. The role of active citizens is very important. As citizens, active agents, it is important to ask what do we want? How do we say it? What do we do for it? When we ask these questions to ourselves, then Civic Space and ACM may support it. ACM will make it possible for individuals to make change. It is of utmost importance though that information on the ACM programme is disseminated through all parts of Cyprus"*.

The Team Leader, Juliette Remy Sartin, finally, presented the recent bi communal consultations conducted by Civic Space. She mentioned that a first bi-communal consultation was conducted in Famagusta with the participation of civil society activists and representatives to share their experiences and opinions on bi-communal partnerships. These consultations are *"spaces of dialogue"*, and *"aim to map what has been done in bi-communal activities in Cyprus."*

Future Activities

The session continued with brief presentations on the activities planned by Civic Space to take place until the end of April 2016. These were presented by Juliette Remy Sartin (Team Leader), Selen Lermioğlu Yılmaz (Capacity Development Expert) and İzlem Sönmez (Communication Expert) as follows under relevant components:

Component 1 – Capacity Strengthening of TC civil society

- Active Citizenship Mechanism information days and start of applications;

- Capacity Strengthening Training I: Transparency and Accountability
- Workshop on Social Incubation
- Evaluation/Assessment of civil society working environment
- Research on Public Perception of civil society and civil society capacities
- Capacity Strengthening Strategy drafting

Component 2 – Increased collaboration and joint actions between Greek and Turkish Cypriot CSOS

- Feasibility study on bi communal actions
- 5 Focus group consultations in Limassol, Nicosia(2) and other regions
- Report on Recommendations from the Bi communal consultations for the future of bi communal activities
- Data collection and Sectoral Mapping
- Sustainability analysis
- Focus group meetings on strategy
- Informative sessions to introduce the draft Strategy
- Sustainability draft Strategy finalized
- Initiate support to minimum 2 existing bi-communal initiatives

Component 3 – Communication

- Civic Space information sessions to rural areas
- Visits to universities to promote internship between CSOs and University officials
- CSO- Media institutionalization of relations
- Launching of the Civic Space Web portal

Component 3 – Enabling Environment for Civil Society

- Conference on Enabling Environment
- Technical Assistance on Law Reform
- Legal Framework Analysis

Component 4 – Fostered cooperation, support and exchange of best practices between Turkish Cypriot CSOs and CSOs in other EU Member States

- Strengthening capacity building
- 2 Study visits of individuals to CSOs in EU
- 1 Coaching session between TCC CSOs and EU CSOs.

The presentation covering the past and future activities can be found in Annex IV. The presentation was followed by a questions and answers session, which can also be found in Annex V.

Session II: Thematic Working Groups

As decided in the first Civil Society Forum, thematic working groups will be convened to discuss, prioritize thematic issues, to identify joint actions and to act towards achieving results. These thematic groups will be supported by the Civic Space by various means. As a follow-up to the recommendation made in the first Civil Society Forum, a session was devoted to thematic groups in the second Forum. Facilitated by Emete Imge, the participants were invited to convene in working groups on priority topics proposed in the first Forum, and initiated discussion on priority issues, formation and structure of the working groups and expectations/ possible support from Civic Space.

5 thematic working groups were convened on the following topics: Protection of Environment and Nature and Sustainable Development; Gender; Health, Human Rights, People with Disabilities. Decisions made by the working groups and the working group members are presented briefly in Annex III.

The Protection of Environment and Nature, Sustainable Development Working Group consisted of 4 representatives from 3 CSOs; Gender Working Group consisted of 4 representatives from 3 CSOs; Health Working Group consisted of 8 representatives from 7 CSOs; Human Rights Working Group consisted of 8 representatives from 6 CSOs; and People with Disabilities Working Group consisted of 2 representatives from 2 CSOs.

All working groups decided to enlarge the working group with various other stakeholders. While some groups decided to include only CSOs (e.g. Protection of Environment, Nature and Sustainable Development and People with Disabilities), some others decided to also include members of TC administration and other relevant decision-makers (e.g. Human Rights and Gender).

Four working groups decided to hold their enlarged meeting in the month of February, while one group (Protection of Environment, Nature and Sustainable Development) decided to meet every 3 months.

The expectations of the working groups from Civic Space were mostly:

- (1) Outreach: support in announcing the establishment of working groups, invite others that are interested to take part, etc.
- (2) Communication: support in creating of Facebook groups, communication networks, developing partnerships, etc.
- (3) Logistic Support: provision of meeting space, supporting transportation costs of participants, reaching out to rural areas, etc.
- (4) Guidance & Expertise: support in strategic planning, facilitation, fundraising planning, project identification and implementation, campaign development, bringing in experts, etc.

The thematic working groups are open for those who are interested to take part. The detailed decisions and contacts of initial working group members can be found in Annex III.

Session III: Active Citizenship Mechanism

Selen Lermioğlu Yılmaz (KE2) made a brief presentation to introduce the Civic Space in-kind support named as Active Citizenship Mechanism (ACM). The Active Citizenship Mechanism is a support programme to be implemented under Civic Space Project, to provide flexible, transparent and accessible direct support to rights-based, public benefit work carried out by activists, citizen's initiatives, platforms, networks, and CSOs. **ACM is not a grant programme/scheme, but a direct in-kind support** that involves covering the costs of eligible activities/projects directly with the service/goods providers of the beneficiaries. It was highlighted that the presented information, criteria, procedures and eligibility requirements were still at planning stage and were being presented to receive recommendations and opinions of Forum participants. The proposed information will then be updated and will be consulted with relevant authorities in the EU before finalization of the programme.

The objectives of ACM were presented as follows:

- ✓ To increase accountability and visibility of CSOs toward the public;
- ✓ To support reconciliation, dialogue, closer relationship and trust between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities;
- ✓ To support the exchange of good practice, allowing the creation and expansion of citizen networks, initiatives and platforms, including support for voluntarism.

KE2 further then introduced a list of eligibility to respond to the question of who will be eligible to receive support under ACM. The list was as follows:

- ✓ Activists¹ (legally residing in Cyprus)
- ✓ Unregistered citizen's initiatives,
- ✓ Registered or unregistered civil society platforms, networks, initiatives, groups,
- ✓ Registered associations, foundations and non-profit companies,
- ✓ Trade unions,
- ✓ Local cooperatives,
- ✓ Professional Organizations.

The presentation included information on minimum and maximum amounts of support proposed: as 50 euros – 3000 euros. The ACM is planned to allow several applications to be made by one individual or organisation but the same beneficiary will not be able to receive more than 6000 euros. The total amount of budget spared for the ACM is 150.000 euros.

Selen Lermioğlu Yılmaz also shared the information that the Civic Space team is considering the option to have an urgent fund in addition to the standard support to be provided mentioned above. The project team is in the process of receiving procedural information and clarifications on this issue. If it is possible to provide urgent support, then Civic Space is planning that costs up to a maximum of 1000 euros of eligible beneficiaries can be provided within very short period of time for covering unexpected urgent needs.

KE2 also provided information that there will be a very simple application form, applications in English, Greek and Turkish languages will be accepted, a help-desk will be provided for support, and it is expected that it will approximately take 1 month to respond to requests for support. Until the total allocated amount (150.000 euros) is fully spent, Civic Space is planning that the application process will be open. It is planned that all applications will be listed to be checked for eligibility in order of arrival, on a first-come-first-serve basis. In case of high influx of demands, or after mid-assessment of the Civic Space Project, the Team will reserve the right to opt for periodic fixed deadline procedure.

Following the presentation, Civic Space asked the following set of questions to be able to assess the real needs of civil society, and if the tentative planned structure of ACM (as presented) will respond to their needs:

- Do the minimum and maximum amounts of support (50-3000 euros) will be an appropriate response to civil society needs?

¹ Active individuals who carry out participatory and volunteer activities in society; who take part actively in decisions that affect the society as well as in their implementation process; who develop the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to ensure that all kinds of decisions involving the society are based on solid foundations; who question public policies, practices and existing systems in terms of the principles of equality, participation, diversity and social justice.

- Should the application process be open all through or should it be call for applications at fixed deadlines?
- What kind of needs do you have to reach your aims?
- Are the priority groups appropriately formulated?
- What type of urgent needs do you have?
- What are other issues to be considered?

A summary of recommendations and comments shared by participants were as follows:

- Some participants found the maximum amount as too low stating that it should be at least 8000 euros. Some other participants stated that since the total amount of money is quite small (150.000 euros), and that this is not a grant programme, the maximum amount proposed by Civic Space is reasonable and will enable more organisations to be supported. The latter approach was shared with more participants.
- The minimum amount (50 euros) proposed was found as very low amount and some participants stated that no one will be applying for that small amount. Some other participants shared their ideas that to be able to reach out to individuals or groups (e.g. children) who might need very low amounts of in-kind support, keeping the minimum at a low amount might have an encouraging effect.
- Some participants stated that due to the fact that the total amount to be provided is not very high, an all through open application process might bring the risk that the funds will end very quickly. The first come first served approach was also found to be not appropriate and fair. Thus it was recommended that the application process could be arranged in a periodical manner. If the system will be first come first served, then it should be clearly and very widely communicated to the whole potential beneficiaries from all parts of Cyprus, otherwise some groups will be left out.
- Another point of discussion was the possibility to apply and receive support more than one time by the same individual/organisation. The proposal brought by some participants was to limit one support for the same individual/group/organisation only one time per year.
- Some participants inquired if there will be an age limit to require and receive support. Civic Space project explained that no such limit is planned due to the fact that this is not a grant scheme but in-direct support, children can also be entitled to apply with their public benefit ideas and Civic Space can pay for their costs if found eligible.
- There were some questions about covering the costs of international travel to participate in meetings, etc. Civic Space explained that, as long as the activity/meeting proposed is eligible yes travel costs will be covered.
- Another important discussion point was the eligibility of trade unions, chambers and professional organizations in receiving support from ACM. Some participants stated that those organizations already have relatively higher resources than many other public benefit CSOs or citizens' initiatives, and that it might not be fair for them to be eligible. It was proposed that they can be eligible if they apply together with a public benefit organization/group.
- Finally, a very important point discussed was about the transparency of the programme and the monitoring and evaluation of the support. It was proposed that criteria for transparency, reporting and accountability should be thought of and should be in place. Internal control mechanisms should be required.

In addition to the above mentioned comments and recommendations, the two following questions regarding eligible activities to be supported were asked by some participants:

- Is it possible to pay with ACM an international platform's annual membership fees?
- Does it pay for CSO's staff's foreign language education?

The answers for these questions had to be clarified with the EU, so Civic Space took note of these questions. Civic Space team explained that the recommendations will be taken into consideration and following a technical clarification received from the EU regarding eligibility, criteria, process, etc. a guideline will be drafted for the ACM support, which will then be shared widely via online and offline means.

The Civil Society Forum was closed with short thank you note of the Team Leader of the Project.

ANNEX I – AGENDA OF THE FORUM

AGENDA

16:00 - 16:30

Açılış, kahve ve kayıt / Welcome, coffee and registration

16:30 - 17:15

Sivil Alan'nın geçmişte yaptığı ı ve gelecekte yapacağı ı faaliyetlerinin sunulması ve öngörülen eylem planının aktarılması

Presentation of past and coming activities of Civic Space and briefing on proposed Action Plan

17:15 - 17:30

Kahve arası / Coffee Break

17:30 - 18:15

Tematik çalışma gruplarıyla ilgili tartışma ve bu grupların oluşturulması

Discussion on and creation of thematic working groups

18:15 - 19:00

Aktif Yurttaşlık Mekanizması'nın tanıtılması

Introduction of the Active Citizenship Mechanism

19:00 - 20:00

Resepsiyon / Reception

ANNEX II – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX III – Thematic Working Group Decisions and Members

Working Group Decisions

Decisions Made by The Working Group on Protection of Environment and Nature, Sustainable Development

The group consisted 4 representatives from 3 CSOs: Association for Sustainable Development, Cyprus Foundation for Afforestation, Combating Soil Erosion and the Protection of Natural Habitats (KEMA) and Karpasia Eco-Tourism Association. The decisions made were as follows:

- Information sharing, solidarity and support is necessary
- Participation of all organisations on the topic should be maintained
- Information sharing with all organisations on the topic should be maintained
- Meetings should be held every 3 months (at Civic Space)
- Creation of a Facebook group in which Civic Space is also included
- Rotational leadership for meetings
- Implementing of a program on capacity development
- Support in development of potential project ideas
- Support in establishing partnerships during project preparation by taking into account the fields of work of organisations
- KEMA took the responsibility to call for a meeting in April.

Expectations from Civic Space:

- Civic Space to create a Facebook group and share information.
- Civic Space should take facilitation role
- Civic Space should provide leadership to bring everyone together
- Civic Space support for developing partnerships
- Dissemination of project summaries by Civic Space (thematic group stakeholders – partners)

Decisions Made by the Working Group on Gender

The following groups should take part in the Gender Mechanism:

- Public institutions, Relevant ministries, Media, Education institutions, Social services, CSOs working in this field, Activist groups – initiatives, Youth, municipalities (local administrations)
- Fema will take the responsibility to call for a meeting in mid February

Expectations from Civic Space:

- Civic Space to help in establishing sustainable networks in the island-wide and internationally
- Support in enlarging the working group, calling out for more organisations
- Active citizenship mechanism to support CSOs
- Civic space can provide space and transportation for central and rural regions

- Civic Space to provide Trainings via experts
- Technical support

Decisions Made by The Working Group on Health

How Will We Work?

- Creation of a network on health in Civic Space,
- Conducting training and awareness activities on geriatrics (for public)
- Developing a strategic communication plan
- Organising informative seminars on patients' rights and support required for the creation of a platform on the topic (brochures, public service adv., etc)
- Creation of an e-mail group for 8 people
- The group to meet early February and discuss issues
- Coordination of the e-mail group will be done by Raşit Kutlu and Suzan Gürel.

Expectations from Civic Space:

- Support required for the creation of a communication network with health organizations
- Provision of meeting room

Decisions Made by The Working Group on Human Rights

Potential actions/issues to be tackled:

- Human Trafficking: unregistered workers, escorts (so called sex workers)
- Refugees right: we need a law
- Children rights: It needs to be on the agenda
- Patient rights: unbalanced service and consent violation
- Immigrant Rights: white identity card
- Ethnic minorities: where are Roma, Maronites and Armenians? And Kurdish people?
- Youth rights: education, scholarships, protection of LGBTI youth by schools, no student discounts in all areas.

Decisions:

- Considering the enormous range of Human Rights issues, it was decided to start by taking one particular matter : Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings.
- Some information were shared already by participants on their past, current or future work and/or interest to act on anti-trafficking. E.g.: RRA has been supporting some victims of Human Trafficking recently, MAGEM is planning to do a report on the issue, TCHRF did a report on modern slavery: the case of domestic worker, EU is planning some financial assistance to develop projects related to anti –trafficking of Human Beings mid 2016, Hassan shared experience of Municipality programme in UK for the victims, etc.

- Discussions were also taking place on who should be involved in the working group to ensure that there is a wide understanding on the Human Trafficking issue (Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution) and ensure ownership and partnership for driving the changes. Mustafa (MAGEM) suggested to invite Dogus Derya, Faika suggested to invite the Doctor's Association. Charlotte Suggested to have someone from the Ministry of Interior (Mol).
- Next meeting was proposed on 11 February in Civic Space.

Decisions Made by the Working Group on People with Disability

- Our objective is to work with all organisations working on people with disabilities that answer our call
- A meeting should be held once a month, at the indicated time and place
- Our group should consist maximum 10 organisation's chairpersons
- We will start working on the issues written (the list of issues is below) in the order of urgency
- First meeting date: 20 February 2016

Issues Found Insufficient and Need To Be Worked Upon

- Other organisations working on people with disabilities will be informed and their participation will be maintained
- What kind of activities can be implemented all year through to raise awareness on people with disabilities?
- How can the problems on transportation, access and movement be solved? (e.g. how can transportation and access problem of an individual with disability be solved to follow up her/his own work at a public institution?)
- How can psychological support be provided to families of people with disabilities?
- How can lack of statistics on people with disabilities be overcome?
- How can individuals with disabilities be reintegrated into the society productively?
- How can home-schooling programme be created for 0-3 years children with disabilities, which is lacking in our society
- What support can be provided for the Building Our Future (Engelsiz yaşam evi) project?
- How can projects that enable the participation of people with disabilities into the society as productive individuals be implemented in cooperation with municipalities?
- Employment of people with disabilities in public and private institutions?

Expectations from Civic Space:

- Request for support for meeting space, communication network, and transportation support to enable the participation of our friends with disabilities
- Guidance is required for creative activities to raise funds for needs that will emerge during project implementations (e.g. brochures, posters, press announcements)

Working Group Members

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Civil Society Forum

20 January 2016



This project is funded by the European Union

Past Activities 20 Oct 2015-20 January

Civic Space! Who we are

- The Civic Space is a Technical Assistance *Project* funded by the **European Union (EU)**, to strengthen the role of civil society in the Turkish Cypriot community
- To promote EU values and the development of a conducive environment for the further development of trust, dialogue, cooperation and closer relationship

Past activities 20 Oct 2015 -20 January

Civic Space first steps...

- Between September – October 2015, inception period of the project, the Technical Assistance Team conducted meetings with more than 19 CSOs and the representatives of the CSOs expressed their **needs and expectations for capacity building.**



Past activities 20 Oct 2015 -20 January

The First Civil Society Forum (20 Oct 2015)

The first Civil Society Forum hosted by the Civic Space was held with 70 participants from 50 CSOs.

- In the Forum, **participants split in chit chat cafe to discuss their needs and expectations**
- **They came up with proposals on priority issues for working groups.**
- They discussed the **selection mechanism for representatives of the CSOs to be elected** as part of the project Steering Committee.



Past activities 20 Oct 2015-20 January

Civic Space Steering Committee CSO Members elected

- The voting process for the Civic Space Steering Committee membership started on 16th of November and ended on 21st November 2015. Enver Ethemer from Envision Diversity and Emete Imge from Universal Patients' Rights Association, have received the highest number of votes and were **elected as the CSO representatives** in the Steering Committee for the first term of 6 months.

Past activities 20 Oct 2015-20 January

Enabling Environment workshop

- A workshop on **"an enabling environment for civil society development"** was held on 18th of November in the EU Programme Support Office.
- Organized by the Civic Space Team
- To share views on how to enable Civil Society development
- Discussing **the association "draft law"** with various representatives of CSOs, decision makers, MPs and EU expert, Luben Panov, from the European Center for Not- for -profit Law (ECNL).

Past activities 20 Oct 15-20 January

Civic Space Cultural Opening Night

- Civic Space **project opened its doors** on the 4th of December 2015, in Nicosia with numerous activists attending. Artists Naz Atun, performed graffiti live, Forum theater group led by Oya Akin and Polly Flourentzou, and The bi communal music group Trio playing jazz live. **During the event, various Civil Society Members expressed what their vision of a Civic Space should be;**

Past activities 20 Oct 2015 -20 January

- *Emete Imge*, member of the Civic Space Steering Committee said “the **support of Civic Space will enable Turkish Cypriot CSOs to raise their voices and contribute to the development of a culture of democracy and human rights.**”
- The member of the Steering Committee, *Enver Ethemer* said “**Civic Space will play an important part in creating a productive participation of civil society into decision and policy-making**”.

Past activities 20 Oct 2015-20 January

The Active Citizenship Mechanism: A direct support for activists

- A facility to respond to the needs of Civil Society and activists
- to allow for a broader participation of active citizens in activities for the public good and/or for peace and reconciliation in Cyprus.
- Civic Space Team invited Cengiz Çiftçi, Team Leader of Sivil Düşün Project from Turkey on 10th and 11th of December to share information with CSOs on a similar mechanism implemented in EU and IPA countries.

Past activities 20 Oct 2015-20 January

Bi communal consultations with Civil Society: understanding the past, planning for the future

- January 13th marks the day when it started. What you might ask: **it's a dialogue between organisations and individuals**, with Civic Space project.
- **It aims to map what has been done in bi-communal activities in Cyprus**, and to understand what should take place in the future.
- And there is no better place to start than with the practitioners and peace workers themselves. Famagusta started off the dialogue, Limassol and Nicosia follow. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Future activities 20 Jan-20 April

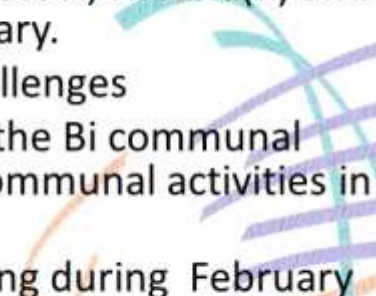
Component 1 – Capacity Strengthening of TC civil society

- Active Citizenship Mechanism information days in 5 regions during February 2016
 - Active Citizenship Mechanism applications start by March 2016
 - Capacity Strengthening Training I: Transparency and Accountability in February 2016
 - Workshop on Social Incubation – March 2016
 - Evaluation/Assessment of civil society working environment – February-March 2016
 - Research on Public Perception of civil society and civil society capacities – February-March 2016
 - Capacity Strengthening Strategy drafting – March-April 2016
- 

Future Activities 20 January-20 April

Component 2 – Increase collaboration and joint actions Between Greek and Turkish Cypriot CSOS

Feasibility and Sustainable study on bi communal actions

- 5 Focus group consultations in Limassol, Nicosia(2) and Regions in January and early February.
 - Lessons learned, achievements, challenges
 - Report on Recommendations from the Bi communal consultations for the future of bi communal activities in February
 - Data collection and Sectoral Mapping during February
- 

Future Activities 20 January-20 April

Component 2 – Increased collaboration and joint actions Between Greek and Turkish Cypriot CSOS

Feasibility and Sustainable study on bi communal actions

- Sustainability analysis starts in February
- Focus group meetings on strategy in March
- Informative sessions to introduce the draft Strategy in March
- Sustainable draft Strategy finalized in March

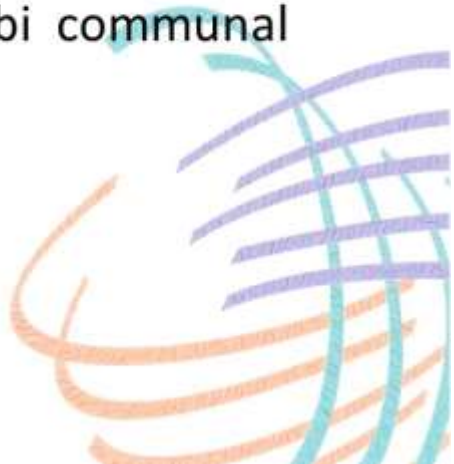


Future Activities 20 January-20 April

Component 2: Increased collaboration and joint actions between Greek and Turkish Cypriot CSOS

Foster new and Existing projects

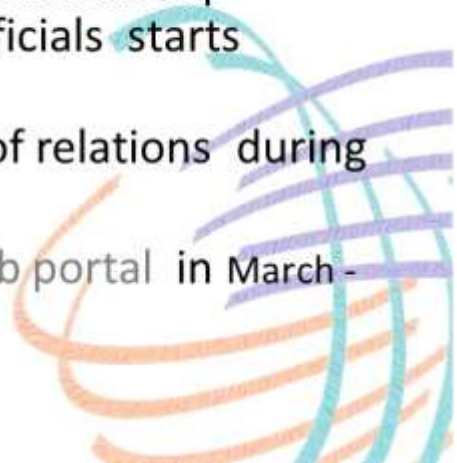
- Initiate support to 2 current bi communal initiatives April



Future Activities 20 January-20 April

Component 3 – Communication

- Civic Space information sessions to rural areas
February - March 2016
- Visits to universities to promote internship
between CSOs and University officials starts
February 2016
- CSO- Media institutionalization of relations during
February - March 2016
- Launching of the Civic Space Web portal in March -
April 2016



Future Activities 20 January-20 April

Component 3 – Enabling Environment for Civil Society

- Conference on Enabling Environment in April
2016
- Technical Assistance on Law Reform all through
January-February-March 2016
- Legal Framework Analysis February-March 2016



Future Activities 20 January-20 April

Component 4 – Fostered cooperation, support and exchange of best practices between Turkish Cypriot CSOs and CSOs in other EU Member States

Strengthening capacity building

- 2 Study visits of individuals to CSOs in EU in April
- 1 Coaching session between TCC CSOs and EU CSOs in April



Future Activities 20 January-20 April

Component 4 – Fostered cooperation, support and exchange of best practices between Turkish Cypriot CSOS and CSOS in other EU Member States

Fostering networks

- Creating networking opportunities for CSOS with EU platforms in April
- Promoting access on line and building tools workshop in April
- Development of communal projects with EU NGOs
- Consultation meeting for identification of partners in April



ANNEX V - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Q & A on the Capacity Strengthening Component - Future Activities

Question: About the Survey on Public Perception of Civil Society. It is very important, there is a need to see the perception and expectations of people and asked if it is possible to contribute to the questionnaire that will be developed for the survey?

Question: Can activists and young people, unregistered organizations participate in project activities? Trainings, etc?

Answer: Of course they can. Unregistered CSOs are already our direct beneficiary. As for youth, Civic Space will be implementing various initiatives (with universities and schools) to increase young people's engagement in civic life, to provide study visits, internships, peer-to-peer learning opportunities. ACM will also be supporting individual activists or unregistered CSOs.

Question: How can the support on law reform can be extended, so that it is not only enabling environment but also thematic issues?

Answer: This can definitely be the role and function of the thematic working groups.

Comment: We have things to say to the public, and they have expectations or things to say to us. A bridge in between the two is necessary.

Comment: Transparency is very important. Public perception towards civil society is negative due to "signboard CSOs" that are not active. So we need to discuss and work on how to change this perception.

Q & A on the Strengthened Role of CSOs Component - Future Activities

Question: One of the most important problems of CSOs is to find volunteers. Will there be any activities implemented under Civic Space for this problem?

Answer: Yes there are various activities planned to support increasing volunteers. Peer-to-peer programs, internship programs, communication activities towards increasing civic engagement, etc. There will also be trainings to be implemented on this topic to strengthen knowledge and skills of CSOs on working with volunteers.

Question: Are you going to provide support in developing communication strategies?

Answer: Yes, Civic Space will be providing tailor-made help desk function to support CSOs in developing and implementing communication strategies.

Comment: We have been inviting media to our events but they do not come to rural areas. It is also not easy for us to come to Nicosia during day time because we all work during the day. Transportation costs are sometimes difficult for some rural CSOs but also it is not possible for people to leave their work in the rural areas and attend meetings during the day. Is it possible that media can come to rural areas where we work and visit us to see what we do on the spot? Is there anything that can be done for this?

Answer: Civic Space will be holding various events/activities in rural areas. In addition, a media-CSO working group is planned to discuss all these problems to find solutions.

Comment: Since Civic Space will also be holding activities in the rural areas, maybe those events can also be utilized to create local hubs.

Comment: We can also use social media more effectively to outreach to media, even though they are not coming. Maybe Civic Space can support us in using social media more effectively.

Comment: Near East University is starting a programme for senior students to do internship at CSOs. This is very good news but the problem is that CSOs should reimburse costs of interns and not many CSOs can do this.

Comment: Participation of some groups/individuals should be promoted, for example by providing child care facilities. This is missing.



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