

OBJECTIVE 04

To support the exchange of good practice, allowing the creation and expansion of citizen networks, initiatives and platforms, including support for voluntarism



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CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil Society Initiative (SITI)

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THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Participation of the Civil Society Initiative (SITI) and the Greek Cypriot Civil Society Advocates' representatives to the International Civil Society Week (ICSW) co-hosted by CIVICUS and Civic Initiatives in Belgrade, Serbia on 8-12 April 2019.

Production of an animation video and visuals explaining the procedure to establish an association in the northern part of Cyprus.

Production of a set of visuals regarding the mandatory elements to be included in the charter of an association and dissemination of these materials through social media channels.

Development and presentation of an interactive game to promote the sustainable development goals (SDGs) towards the Nicosia civil society fair participants held on 28 September 2019, as part of the 4th Open Door Festival.

ABOUT THE CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVE

The Civil Society Initiative is a non-profit organisation formed by a group of civil society activists. It aims to create a fair, equal, supportive and enabling environment for civil society organisations.

STORY OF THE ACTION

Through this action, the SITI planned to raise awareness of the legal text on associations and to address potential problems in its implementation. It aimed to experience and examine CSOs' best practices in EU Member States and disseminate this information to promote a fully enabling environment for civil society in the Turkish Cypriot community.

"We aim to strengthen the capacity of the SITI so that it can encourage the implementation of international best practices and hence create a more enabling environment for civil society in the northern part of Cyprus. We hope to promote a more active participation of Turkish Cypriots in civil society and enable them to advocate for the improvement of the rights and responsibilities of civil society organisations."

Süreyya Çelmen Değer

"We had the opportunity to establish networks with various organisations from the EU and learn from the good practices of different organisations. The main outcome of this event was that it has created the basis for SITI and it has encouraged SITI to raise civil society's awareness on SDGs. To this end, SITI has started participating in a series of meetings and workshops across Cyprus and has put its signature on awareness raising activities during the event. Our activities and games promoting sustainable development goals have been described as very informative and useful by the participants."

Süreyya Çelmen Değer



Photo Credit: Civil Society Initiative (SITI)

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The SITI's action has contributed to promoting an enabling environment for civil society, which plays a crucial role for an accountable, transparent and sustainable society by promoting citizens' active participation and advocacy in shaping public strategies and policies. It has increased accountability and visibility of the SITI through awareness raising activities, exchanging good practices and allowing creation and expansion of citizens networks with relevant stakeholders, especially from other EU member states and IPA countries. It created a dialogue, collaboration and closer relationships with the Greek Cypriot civil society organisations in pursuing a more enabling environment for civil society and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The CSI has been officially registered as a CSO. The core team is still keen to continue advocating towards an improved enabling environment for civil society, promoting more sustainable and independent civil society organisations and developing and implementing other comprehensive projects to this end.

Five representatives of the SITI, with three members of their counterparts in the Republic of Cyprus: the Civil Society Advocates, participated in the International Civil Society Week (ICSW). They could exchange experiences and best practices on overcoming challenges faced by civil society and build networks with international counterparts for sustained communication and cooperation.

The initiative has produced an animation video and 15 posters as guidelines providing clear and understandable information on "how to establish an association step by step" and "what must an association's charter include". The guidelines have been shared on SITI social media accounts and other social media channels to provide information for individuals and groups interested in setting up an association and supporting those who experience problems during the process.

The knowledge and experience gained encouraged the initiative to develop an interactive game to raise awareness on the sustainable development goals. They introduced the game to the Nicosia civil society fair held on 28 September 2019, as part of the 4th Open Door Festival organised by Civic Space and CSOs.

TO FIND
MORE ABOUT
THE ACTION



Sivil Toplum İnisiyatifi- Civil Society Initiative



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