

Newsletter

Special points of interest:

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- Leading by Example (LbE) aims to increase dialogue, trust, cooperation and reconciliation between civil societies, including the business communities, throughout Cyprus, as well as to increase the involvement of Cypriot civil society in the decision making process at political level
- Cross Community Exchange Internship Programme
- “Come to Mediation!” workshop
- Joint Chamber delegation in Helsinki and Stockholm
- Chamber Presidents visit Germany

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COMMUNITY EXCHANGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

In the framework of the ‘Leading by Example’ project, which is co-funded by the European Union under the “Cypriot Civil Society in Action IV” programme, the two implementing partners, the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO), and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), launched the Cross-Community Exchange Internship Programme. This activity will benefit 12 Greek Cypriot interns, 12 Turkish Cypriot interns and a maximum of 24 companies/organisations in both communities over the period of September 2015 – April 2016, with a 3-month duration internship for each intern and a monthly allowance of €500. This activity will be wholly funded by the project at no cost to the company/organisation which will be hosting the Intern(s).

This professional exchange internship programme aims to support cross-community exchanges of internships of young unemployed



professionals from the GC and the TC community with the cooperation of the two project implementing Chamber partners.

The interns will acquire work experience in a company/organisation relevant to their skills and interests, and most importantly within the other community, thus giving them the opportunity to experience the actual challenges which their counterparts face in their everyday business/working lives. This will ultimately provide hands-on experience of the working and cultural environment in the other community.

COME TO MEDIATION!

The workshop “COME TO MEDIATION!” was successfully held on 21st May 2015 under the framework of the EU co-funded project entitled “Leading by Example” and with the participation of the respective Mediation Associations in both communities. The overall objective of this workshop was to introduce and familiarize the general public with the process of Mediation.

Mediation is a highly efficient instrument that allows individuals as well as companies to resolve disputes out of court. Following a confidential and structured process, the parties in conflict strive to achieve an amicable resolution that is responsive to their needs and acceptable for all sides. In contrast to a judge, the mediator does not decide the issues for the parties, and does not evaluate the rights and wrongs of the case, but facilitates the conversation and therefore sets a new basis for negotiation. The mediator has no decision-making power, so control over the outcome of the case stays with the parties. Hence there is ownership of the decision by them. And, in contrast to a lawsuit, it is principally voluntary.





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**This project is co-funded
by the European Union
under the "Cypriot Civil
Society in Action IV" pro-
gramme**



**LEADING BY
EXAMPLE**



CHAMBERS PROMOTED SETTLEMENT AND POST-SOLUTION INVESTMENT AT THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS

As a part of their commitment to promote the peace process in Cyprus and to gather support for preparing the both communities for a solution, the Chambers have visited the European capitals.

STOCKHOLM AND HELSINKI

Led by Phidias Pilides and Fikri Toros, Presidents of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce respectively, a joint delegation of Chambers visited Stockholm and Helsinki between 1-3 June 2015, to talk about the economic benefits of a solution and the role of the Chambers in the peace process. During the programme, which was organized jointly by the Embassies of Sweden and Finland, the Chambers had the chance to learn about the Nordic start-up and incubation centers in order to better design their similar common projects in Cyprus.

On the first day of their programme, the Presidents delivered speeches and answered questions about the Cypriot peace process and the role of the business communities at a panel discussion co-organized by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Stockholm School of

Economics. Both Presidents reiterated their position that the current status-quo is not sustainable and the solution will bring economic benefits not only to the Cypriots but to the entire region.

The delegation was also received by Mr. Oscar Stenström, State Secretary to the Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, to discuss the role of the businesses in the peace process

During their visit to Finland, the Chamber Presidents visited the Crisis Management Initiative to discuss the possibility of an enhanced cooperation between the Initiative and the Chambers. The Presidents were also received by Dr. Erkki Tuomioja, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Peter Stenlund, Secretary of State to discuss how Finland and the EU can contribute to the peace process in Cyprus.

PRESIDENTS DREW ATTENTION TO THE LUCRATIVE SECTORS IN THE POST- SETTLEMENT CYPRUS

The Presidents of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fikri Toros and Phidias Pilides respectively,

visited Germany between 15-18 June 2015, to promote the role of the Chambers in the peace process, to raise awareness about the economic benefits of a solution and draw attention to the lucrative sectors for investment in post-settlement Cyprus. During the visit, Toros also had the opportunity to inform the counterparts about the economic situation in North Cyprus and raised the urgent necessity of speeding up the efforts for a solution and for preparing the Turkish Cypriot community for EU integration.

During the visit, which was kindly organised by H.E. Nikolai Von Schoepf, Ambassador of Germany to Cyprus, who also participated in it, the Presidents visited Hannover, Munich and Berlin, holding meetings with officials from the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK), Hannover as well as Munich and Upper Bavaria Chambers of Commerce. They also met with officials from the Ministries responsible for Economics and Trade, MPs from the national Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany and high-level diplomats from the German Foreign Ministry.