



LEADING BY
EXAMPLE

Newsletter

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Cyprus Startups look into the future with ambition - the Leading by Example project supports and promotes such initiatives



“Entrepreneurship prospects in a Post Solution Cyprus”

With the organisation of the panel debate entitled “*Entrepreneurship prospects in a Post Solution Cyprus*”, the activities of the EU co-funded project “*Leading by Example: Engagement of TC and GC Business Leaders in Dialogue, Cooperation and Reconciliation*” continued to raise interest as well as create awareness among the civil society of Cyprus regarding the vision and potential benefits of a re-united Cyprus after reaching a settlement.

This panel debate was organised by the two implementing partners of the **Leading by Example** project, the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber

of Commerce, on Friday 14th October 2016 at the Faculty of Business & Economics of the Eastern Mediterranean University EMU in Famagusta, in the presence of a number of students in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Welcome addresses were delivered by Kemal Baykalli and Leonidas Paschalides on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry respectively, while the entrepreneurship gurus **Stavriana Kofteros** and **Tunç Yalgin** discussed how developing entrepreneurial skills would be relevant in the post-solution Cyprus.

A similar panel debate is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 25th January 2017, 16:00 –18:00 in the Center for Entrepreneurship building, University of Cyprus, Nicosia.

‘Cyprus StartUp Mixer’

On Monday, 24th of October 2016 the ‘**Cyprus StartUp Mixer**’ workshop brought together mainly young entrepreneurs from both communities of the island at the Home for Cooperation, in the Buffer Zone in Nicosia (opposite Ledra Palace).



The event was jointly organised by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI) and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO) again in the framework of the EU co-funded ‘Leading by Example: Engagement of TC and GC Business Leaders in Dialogue, Cooperation and Reconciliation’ project under the Civil Society in Action IV Programme, which is jointly implemented by the two Chambers.

‘Cyprus StartUp Mixer’

Welcome addresses were delivered by Kemal Baykalli and Leonidas Paschalides on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry respectively. The facilitators of the event, **Stavriana Kofteros and Tunç Yalgın** who are well-known startup experts, introduced the Cyprus startup ecosystem to the young entrepreneurs, students and people with ideas who attended the event. It was an innovative and highly interactive event with a lot of feedback and guidance from the facilitators and networking opportunities for the participants.



Park for Cooperation: under construction!

An exciting initiative of the *Leading by Example* project is the creation of an outdoor space within the Ledra Palace buffer zone where bazaar-style bi-communal events, featuring merchants from the two communities, will be organised. This will be the “**Park for Cooperation**”, to be located behind the “*Home for Cooperation*” in the moat area.

In close cooperation with the authorities and the United Nations/UNFICYP, the *Leading by Example* project team has received the relevant permits and is now ready to begin the necessary landscape works in the area. In specific, since no construction works can take place in the proposed area, as both the moat



and the Venetian walls are protected ancient monuments, there will be some landscape works in order to level the grounds and cover them with crushed sandstone (*pouri*). This will transform the area so as to easily accommodate the pavilions/stands of Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot merchants who will be participating in the *Leading by Example* bazaars. It is expected that the landscape works will be completed by March 2017, while a total of five bazaar events will take place within the period March-June 2017.



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2nd Call of Opportunity to Work InThe Other Community!

After the successful completion of the **WORKING IN THE OTHER COMMUNITY** initiative of the *Leading by Example* project, it was decided to extend this truly unique opportunity to more people and host organisations.

So far, a total of 24 young people (12 from each community) and 19 organisations/companies (11 from the GC community and 8 from the TC community) have benefited from the **Cross-Community exchange internship programme of young unemployed professionals in the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities**, wholly funded by the *Leading by Example* project. This initiative has been greatly appreciated by both interns and host organisations, since it gave them the unique opportunity to work closely with their

compatriots within a working and cooperative environment, outside of the usual interaction that citizens from both communities have experienced in past years.

As one of the 1st round beneficiary interns put it, *"We, young people, are begging for opportunities like this, as we would like to work and live as one"*; while a host company said, *"It is with this kind of interaction that we will start eliminating the fears and mistrust between our two communities"*. These words lie in the core substance of the *Leading by Example* project, since it aims to increase dialogue, improve cooperation and reinforce reconciliation between the two communities.

The next round of the internship programme will aim to benefit a total of 16 interns and a maximum of

16 companies/organisations in both communities over the period of January 2017 – May 2017, again with a 3-month duration internship for each intern and a monthly allowance of €500 each. The launch of this extended internship scheme took place on the 5th of December 2016, at the Home for Cooperation. Interested parties should fill in the relevant application forms available on www.ktto.net and www.cci.org.cy, as well as on the *"Leading by Example Project"* Facebook page, and submit them by **5th January 2017** at the very latest.

