



**Building a Multi-Ethnic and
Multi-National Cyprus**

**Youth for a
Multicultural Cyprus**

Author: Kerstin Wittig
Editor: Yiannis Laouris

This booklet was prepared in the context of the project '**Building a Multi-Ethnic and Multi-National Cyprus to promote European Values and Regional and International Peace**'.

The main objective of the project is to promote awareness and increase the sensitivity of the Cypriot Society on how a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural Cyprus serves European values and promotes regional and international peace.

To meet the main objective, the project engaged students, teachers and parents in workshops and activities to create a vision map for a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic Cyprus, as well as visualize and implement specific activities, which contribute towards materializing the vision for a multi-cultural society.

The coordinating organization of this project is the Future Worlds Center (legal reg.: Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute), based in Nicosia. The project's partner organizations are: the Cyprus Adult Education Association, the Human Rights and Education Network, the University of Cyprus (Department for Political Sciences), and the Young Cypriot Scientists Network.

The project is part of UNDP's initiative Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT), which receives support from the American people through a grant from USAID.

The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Future Worlds Center (legal reg.: Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute) and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of UNDP. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations or its Member States, UNDP or USAID.

Copyright 2008: Future Worlds Center (legal reg.: Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute), Nicosia, Cyprus



Table of Contents

Multicultural society – Multicultural Cyprus.....	4
Role of Youth.....	5
How can YOU contribute to a Multicultural Society?.....	6
Youth Organisations for a Multicultural Cyprus.....	7
Multicultural Europe for Youth.....	10
International Student Associations.....	10
Exchange and Volunteer Programs.....	10
Traveling in Europe and the World.....	11
Other Links.....	11

Multicultural Society – Multicultural Cyprus

Multiculturalism has become a concept that is heard more and more, in our everyday life. It is being discussed in various contexts and has reached a paramount importance especially when it comes to the question of how schools in Cyprus can deal with the raising influx of immigrants, and, more specifically, of pupils with a language other than Greek as their mother tongue.

The term and concept of **multiculturalism** emerged in the 1960s in Anglophone countries in relation to the cultural needs of non-European migrants. It can be referred to as ***plurality or multiplicity of cultures***. According to the Anthropologist Franz Boas, culture defines a 'system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and artefacts that the members of society use to cope with their world and with one another, and that are transmitted from generation to generation through learning'. Thus, multiculturalism refers to a diversity of cultures within one society.

In the case of Cyprus, the term multiculturalism refers to the cultural diversity within Cypriot society, including Greek and Turkish Cypriots, but also Armenians, Latinos, and Maronites, as well as the growing diversity of ethnic migrant groups coming to the island. Multiculturalism as a concept recognizes the diversity of ethnic and cultural groups, and promotes mutual tolerance and acceptance among these groups.

Role of Youth

The youth has taken a central role in our today's society. Their active participation and citizenship helps them not only to shape their own future but moreover it contributes towards the development of the society as a whole. Young people are instrumental in our effort to build a more cohesive and competitive Europe. This is why the issue of young people is assuming greater importance on the political agenda, both at national and European level.

In our venture to create a multicultural society, the youth have to develop concepts such as solidarity, self-confidence and integration. Indeed, those are the keys to achieve a respectful multicultural society.

In order to participate in the community life, youth need to be involved and feel the importance of their contribution. Engaging in voluntarism is a great way to achieve this. Through the experience and the skills obtained in volunteering one's time, young people improve their self-confidence, integrate in society and they increase their employability. In addition, "Volunteering is also a means of expressing solidarity."¹

Participation in national or European projects is another way youth can contribute to shaping their future and their community. Youth participation in projects is a way to learn about all types of challenges the EU faces and to be directly involved in helping to meet those challenges with guidance and camaraderie.

Internships are also a wonderful opportunity for youth to explore their role in society. They can enhance their educational experience through practical work assignments. Doing an internship is not only a fruitful experience, but it is also very stimulating and fulfilling. Interns experience the daily work in organisations and participate actively in activities of host institutions. It is also a good way to meet other active and ambitious youth as well as to build relations with influential people.

¹ White Paper on Youth (2001).

How can YOU contribute to a Multicultural Society?

There are plenty of different opportunities for young people to get involved in multicultural activities and to play a role in promoting multiculturalism in our society.

Maybe your school offers some extra activities? Are your teachers interested in organising a workshop for students of your school on multiculturalism? There are lots of things you can do in your school, such as intercultural festivals, exhibitions, creation of story-books, play games and others. If you have a great idea and you need support or assistance, contact us, and we will do our best to help you materialise your idea!

In the following pages you can find contact information about organisations that offer activities on multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue. You can also find web-links to websites that might be of interest to you, and where you can find relevant material and resources.

Youth Organisations for a Multicultural Cyprus

Below you can find a list of organisations that work with young people in a multicultural context. Contact them and find out if they offer any activities in your area and in your field of interest.

Cyprus Network for Youth Development: www.multiculturalcyprus.org

Recently, a network has been created of organisations working with youth and multiculturalism. On their website, you can find news about upcoming events, workshops, seminars, and volunteer opportunities.

Youth Board: www.youthboard.org.cy

The Youth Board of Cyprus offers several opportunities and activities, many of them on European level.

62 Aglantzia Avenue, Nicosia
Tel: +357 22402600

Cyprus Youth Council: www.cyc.org.cy

The Cyprus Youth Council is an umbrella organisation, which has about 40 youth organisations as members. Many of them offer activities related to multiculturalism.

1 Makarios Avenue, Mitsis Building No.3, office 216, Nicosia
Tel: +357 22 878316

UNDP Action for Cooperation and Trust: www.undp-act.org

UNDP-ACT implements a youth programme and offers a variety of bi-communal summer camps and other projects and actions, like graffiti-competition, short movie competitions, and art competitions.

P.O. Box 21642, 1590 Nicosia
Tel: + 357 22 874777 or (0392) 601 4778 / 4779
E-mail: fo.cyp@undp.org

ADD-ADHD Cyprus: www.add-adhd.org.cy

Its mission is to improve the lives of all those affected by AD/HD in Cyprus by offering support, information, education and advocacy.

P.O. Box 12187, 2341 Nicosia

Tel.: +357 22 446592, Fax: +357 22 446593

Email: adhdcyprus@spidernet.com.cy

Cyprus Environmental Studies Centre: www.esc.com.cy

The Cyprus ESC is the first and probably the only center for practical environmental education or “field studies” on the island of Cyprus. Groups of students of all ages come to study ecology, geography, tourism and other environmental subjects appropriate to the area, following programs from 1 to 10 days in length.

Kritou Terra, 8724 Paphos District

Tel: +357 26 332532, +357 99 586167, Fax: +357 26 332531

PeacePlayers International – Cyprus: www.peaceplayersintl.org

PeacePlayers International (PPI) is an innovative global organization that uses sport to unite and educate young people in divided communities.

48 Kyriakos Matsis Avenue 201, 2409 Nicosia

Tel: +357 99 710107, +90 533 8393228

Email: bshea@peaceplayersintl.org

Soma Akriton: www.somaakriton.com.cy

Soma Akriton aims to encourage children and youth to spend free time in a beneficial and pleasant way, to reinforce the effort of the youth to become good and useful citizens and to raise environmental awareness.

19 Tempon Street, 2114 Aglantzia

Tel: +357 99 324492

E-Mail: info@somaakriton.com.cy

KAYAD Community Center: **www.kayadcommunitycenter.com**

KAYAD is a women's organization working in the field of community development in northern Cyprus. It aims to strengthen grassroots through empowering women, strengthening families and providing skills to youth. It increases awareness on vital issues for sustainable development.

14 Güner Türkmen Sok. Akın Demirağ 2 Apt No 2.
Köşklüçiftlik, Lefkoşa
Tel: + 90 392 22 70750/1, Fax: +90 392 22 84393
Email: info@kayadcommunitycenter.com

HasDer Folk Art: www.hasder.com

Folk Arts Association, established in 1977 as the first folklore organization established by Turkish Cypriots, was founded with the objective of researching, spreading and enrichment of Cypriot Folklore in general with special emphasis on Turkish Cypriot Folklore.

Selimiye Square No. 1, Nicosia
Tel: +90 392 22 89020, Fax: +90 392 22 87798
E-mail: hasder@hasder.org

Multicultural Europe for Youth

Below you can find a list of web-links to European or international organizations, initiatives and projects that you can participate.

International Student associations

AIIESEC: www.aiesec.org

AIIESEC, the world's largest student organization, is an international platform for young people to discover and develop their potential so as to have a positive impact on society. AIIESEC has around 28,000 members and runs an exchange program that enables over 4,400 students and recent graduates the opportunity to live and work in another country.

AECEE: www.aegee.org

AECEE is one of the biggest interdisciplinary student associations in Europe; it is represented by 15,000 students, active in 232 academic cities, in 43 countries all around Europe, which presents amazing culture variety. AECEE is a secular, non-profit organization, not linked to any political party. All projects and activities are based on voluntarily work of its members.

Exchange and Volunteer programs

European Voluntary Youth Service

http://europa.eu/youth/volunteering_-_exchanges/european_voluntary_service/index_eu_en.html

The EVS provides young Europeans with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU.

Youth for Understanding: www.yfu.org

YFU is a non-profit educational organisation, which offers opportunities for young people around the world to spend a summer, a semester or year with a host family in another culture.



Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations: www.alliance-network.eu

The AEVSO is an International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation that represents national organisations which promote intercultural education, understanding and peace through voluntary service.

IBG: www.ibg-workcamps.org/indexeng.htm

IBG is a German NGO offering international work camps in Germany and Liechtenstein.

Association de Volontaires Internationaux pour le Developpement en Afrique www.cooperationtogo.net

AVIDA is a French NGO offering work camps in Africa.

Travelling in Europe and the World

International Student Identity Card: www.isic.org

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is the only internationally accepted student ID card. Since its launch in 1968, the ISIC has helped over 40 million students to get the most out of their travel experience. With access to a global network of affordable and specialised student services, the ISIC is your passport to more than 32,000 discounts and benefits in 106 countries worldwide.

http://europa.eu/youth/travelling_europe/index_eu_en.html

www.hostelseurope.com

www.europeanhostels.com

Other links

- **European Cultural Foundation: www.eurocult.org**
- **Cultural Portal of the European Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/portal/index_en.htm**

Building a Multi-Ethnic and Multi-National Cyprus to promote European Values and Regional and International Peace

IMPLEMENTED BY:



Future Worlds Center (legal reg.: Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute)

Human Rights Education Network

University of Cyprus

Cyprus Adult Education Association

Young Cyriot Scientists Network

SPONSORED BY:



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Future Worlds Center
(legal reg.: Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute)
5 Promitheos Street, offices 4 & 9
1065 Lefkosia, Cyprus
Tel: +357 22873820
Fax: +357 22873821
www.futureworldscenter.org

Copyright 2008: Future Worlds Center (legal reg.: Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute), Nicoisa, Cyprus

All rights reserved

ISBN: 978-9963-677-22-1