

MINUTES OF THE IMMIGRANT AND NGO NETWORK MEETING

Held at Nicosia Multifunctional Foundation

“Addressing challenges and limitations to promote the rights of foreign students in Cyprus”

25 June , 2014

A. Agenda

18:00-18:10	Welcoming Remarks Municipality of Nicosia – Charis Theocharous
18:10-18:25	Defending Human Rights in Cyprus - the role of the Ombudsman Zinaida Onoufriou, Cyprus Ombudsman (Commission for Administration of Human Rights, Anti- Discrimination Body)
18:25 – 18:45	The Legal framework for admissions of third country nationals to study in EU member states - a case study for Cyprus Dr. Nikos Trimikliniotis Associate Professor
18:45 – 19:05	Presentation by University officials regarding admission requirements, student visa renewal procedures, internships etc Mrs Marianna Michael, University of Nicosia
19:05 – 19:25	Presentations by student organisations Ms Charoula Matthaiou, CYC Program Development Secretary Kritonas Dionysiou, Students’ organization “Protoporia” Christos Charalambous, Students’ organization “Proodeftiki” Marina Shammouti, Students’ organization “Anagennisi” Alexia Sakadaki, General Secretary, Young Cyprus Greens

19:25 – 19:45	Discussion

B. Participants

Representatives from Immigrant Organisations, NGOs, Universities and project practitioners attended the Forum:

A/A	NAME	ORGANIZATION
1	Nikos Trimikliniotis	University of Nicosia
2	Harry Theotokatos	Social Worth Consulting
3	Zinaida Ounofriou	Obudsman Office - Cyprus
4	Christos Charalambous	Student Association "Proodeftiki"
5	Kristina Marku	CARITAS
6	Achu Maureen Anim	African Diaspora / Cyprus Youth Council
7	Valdez Sylvia	Consulate of Philippines
8	Doros Polykarpou	KISA
9	Charoula Mattheou	CYC Programme Development Secretary
10	Ismaelle Line	Cyprus Youth Council
11	Alexia Shakadaki	General Secretary, Young Cyprus Greens
12	Marianna Michael	University of Nicosia
13	Luwen Zhang	Student
14	Natasa Xenofontos	Lakatamia Municipality
15	Yong Zang	Student
16	Marina Shammouti,	Students' organization "Anagennisi"
17	Charis Theoharous	Nicosia Municipality

18	Maria Mavrou	Independent Expert
19	Nikos Stathopoulos	NVK Advent Consulting
20	Andreas Stravrou	Nicosia Municipality
21	Fatima	University of Nicosia
22	Katerina More	NMMF
23	Roula Georgopoulou	NMMF
24	Fatziye Tayime	Palestinian Community
25	Eskam Kamel	Thomson Reuters
26	Farida Abed	Thomson Reuters
27	Maha Alubzi	Thomson Reuters
28	Marios Argyrou	NMMF
29	Kritonas Dionysiou	Students' organization Protoporia

C. Discussion/ Conclusions

Maria Mavrou chaired the discussion which followed the presentations of the speakers and the representatives of youth and student organisations. Major issues discussed and conclusions derived include:

- The right for part-time employment of Foreign students is denied or at best is not in the priority of employment counselors. There is no legal basis for the Labour Office to promote this policy.
- Foreign students should claim their rights (work, internship placements etc.) through the Ombudsman Equality Agency, the pertinent school departments, and other institutions
- Student organizations should become more involved to promote equal rights of Foreign students, including the right for open participation of foreign students in the elections of student bodies and promote their inclusion in student life.
- Democratic participation of international students in the decision making process
- Student organizations and pertinent university departments (foreign student admission offices) should promote interaction of foreign students and the Cypriots

- Create an one-stop-shop to deal with foreign student affairs and issues
- Make the function of the Immigrant and NGO Network sustainable to promote such issues in the future, through open participation and processes that encourage the involvement of government agencies and NGOs.
- Visit pertinent public agencies (Immigration, police etc) to inform of the rights of foreign students and current state of public policy and practice.

D. Follow-up, next meeting

An announcement will be made for the next meeting in the context of the next programme period.