

The Union of Cyprus Municipalities presents:



"The Future of Cohesion is our Future"



On Friday, June 2nd, The Union of Cyprus Municipalities (UCM), held a workshop and an open dialogue with young people regarding the **Future of Cohesion Policy** in their **local communities in Cyprus**.



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Cohesion Policy, all around Cyprus.

Representatives from UCM and from the ministry gave a presentation of how the EU and cohesion policy, but not only, are present and visible in Cyprus and foresee long-term change and investments, at the **benefit of the Next Generation**, highlighting projects such as the construction of a **bicycle infrastructure** to connect the Universities of Nicosia with the city center, or the transformation and upgrading of the existing **Community Center of Larnaca**, into a multi-purpose social welfare and employment center.





During the dialogue, young people were asked: “**What projects do young people want to see implemented?**”. The findings, summarised in a white paper, will be examined under the scope of the **upcoming Local Government Reform in Cyprus.**



The young group, made up of high school students and members of different youth associations identified **several fields of action where** local projects could act to better support them...





Improving young people's skills & increase **access to training opportunities** youth at risk of poverty, boosting employment for young people, Addressing Climate Change issues for a better future, with better transports, waste management and more green places.



On top of identifying these priorities, they also came up with some **concrete and innovative project ideas** that will be enclosed in the white paper, and with additional recommendations on how to better reach out young people.



"Digital external communication should be mainstreamed and more physical interaction boosted"

The European Union and Cohesion Policy in particular are too technical and bureaucratic, with **too little importance given to communication matters** which are usually underestimated as Cohesion Policy is not an easy subject to explain to the general public, **not easily accessible** to external people, with language and cultural barriers. This leads to a general **lack of awareness** about this topic.





To make young people active one should use digital tools, appropriate social media (like Instagram, TikTok, and more), and should stop using dry institutional communication with endless political speeches. One of the solutions would be to **create partnerships with schools and universities** and to allow young people to draft articles in their blogs or university newspapers about Cohesion matters



The **Future of Cohesion Workshop**, is an activity organised by the **the Union of Cyprus Municipalities** under the framework of the **YOUTHopia** Project, a pan European campaign led by the **Assembly of European Regions** to shed lights on the benefits of Cohesion Policy for young people in Europe's Regions.



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