

Welcome to our Newsletter #4!

This newsletter is prepared within the frame of the Inclusive Peacebuilding (InPeace) Project, which is funded by the European Union under the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community and implemented by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Law, Alternative and Innovative Methods (ICLAIM) and the Human Rights Platform (IHP). InPeace aims to generate knowledge, and draw lessons relating to the operation and effectiveness of the bicommunal Technical Committees.

The bi-communal Technical Committees were established by the Greek Cypriot (GC) and Turkish Cypriot (TC) community leaders to 'address issues that affect the day-to-day life of people, through encouraging and facilitating greater interaction and understanding between the two communities'. Since their establishment in 2008, the number of Technical Committees has grown to 12. These Committees are unique mechanisms run under UN auspices, operated by Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, to address shared challenges and meet shared goals for Cyprus. Although their work improves our daily lives and contributes to the collaboration between the two communities, little is known about the work of the bi-communal Technical Committees. The main aim of this newsletter is to disseminate information on their progress and inform the public about their achievements, as well as providing up to date information on the activities of the InPeace Project.

Information provided in this newsletter covers the period of **1 September 2024** and **31 March 2025** and was collected through UN reports, online newspapers, and social media publications of UN bodies in Cyprus.

InPeace Project Organised a CSO Training

The InPeace Project organised a training session for civil society organizations (CSOs) focused on advocacy in frozen conflict settings on March 14, 2025. An optional half-day session was also organised on March 15. On the first day of the training, Project Assistant Fezile Osum introduced the InPeace Project to the participants and discussed the concept of the 'frozen conflict'. Additionally, under the facilitation of Dr. Marieke Hopman from Maastricht University, participants had the opportunity to reflect on their activism experiences using the Theory of Change model and critically assess the effectiveness of activism in Cyprus. On the second day of training, Dr. Hopman gathered the training participants along with child researchers she had collaborated with on a study about children's rights in Cyprus and they discussed children's rights and activism in Cyprus.



Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

During the reporting period, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage (TCCH) completed seven conservation works in various parts of Cyprus. These are the (a) Agios Georgios Church in Flamoudi/Mersinlik, (b) mosque in Alaminos/Alamino, (c) church in Agios Elias/Yarköy, (d) mosque in Kalavasos/Kalavason, (e) Agios Georgios church Limnia/Mormenekşe, (f) Agia Paraskevi in Famagusta, and (g) mosque in Alektora/Gökağaç. These projects were implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the TCCH under the project 'Supporting Cultural Heritage Monuments of Great Importance in Cyprus', which is funded by the EU.

In addition to the completed projects, the TCCH is currently working on seven conservation efforts. These are the (a) Panagia Evangelistria Church in Lysi/Akdoğan, (b) mosque and cemetery in Tochni/Dohni, (c) Panagia Kanakaria Monastery in Karpas/Karpaz, (d) mosque Avdimou/Evdim, (e) Apostolos Andreas Monastery in Karpas/Karpaz, (f) St George of the Latins Church in Famagusta, and (g) Tuzla Mosque in Larnaca/Larnaka.



Moreover, the TCCH has launched an Interactive Education Platform focused on cultural heritage in Cyprus. This platform provides Cypriot youth with an engaging way to explore the island's rich and shared history. Following the launch, TCCH organised an event for students in Famagusta, allowing them to discover and utilise the platform. The platform can be accessed and used in classrooms and homes across the island and can be accessed here:

iep.cyprusdigitalheritage.com



Furthermore, during this period, the Committee organised several events. On the International Day of Peace, youth from the United for Peace EU and United World Colleges (UWC) in Cyprus participated in an event where they explored a virtual reality experience of the Cyprus Digital Heritage Website. Another event organised by the Committee was a tour of the Soli archaeological area, featuring the St. Auxibus Basilica and the Soli Theatre. Lastly, bi-communal afforestation work was conducted to protect the common cultural heritage and promote environmental sustainability.

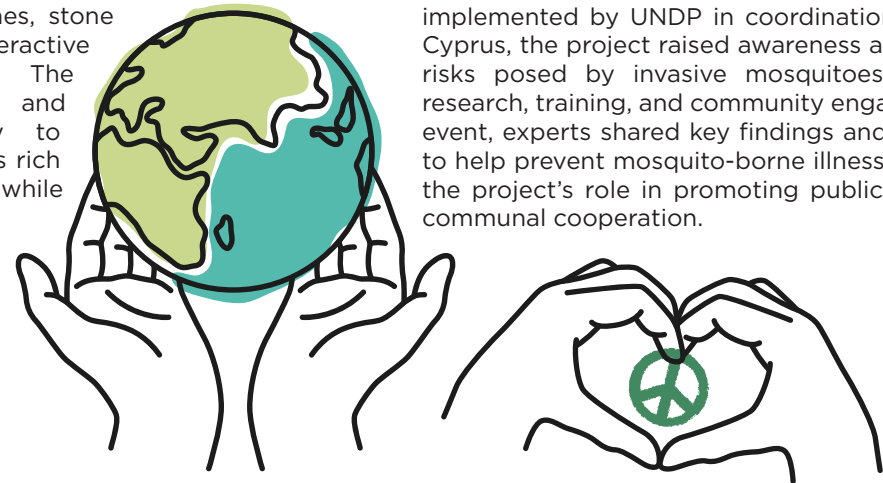
Technical Committee on Environment

As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental education and inter-communal engagement, the Technical Committee on Environment organised a series of educational activities. Funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP in coordination with Office of the Special Advisor for the Secretary General-Cyprus (OSASG-Cyprus), the Committee celebrated the rich geological heritage of Cyprus while fostering environmental awareness.

The Committee organised the Geo-Heritage Camp – Young Explorers Weekend, held from 30 November to 1 December 2024 in Limassol. Designed for youth aged 11 to 14, the camp offered a weekend of geology-themed games, discovery activities, and a rock collection adventure. This interactive experience aimed to spark curiosity and inspire a new generation to engage with the natural environment through hands-on learning. The project concluded with the Geo-Heritage Final Event on 15 February 2025 at the Home for Cooperation. The event brought together educators, youth workers, and STEM enthusiasts to explore Cyprus' geological heritage through educational games, a Q&A session, and collaborative discussions on integrating geo-education into schools and geo-sites across the island.

Furthermore, on 22 March 2025, a field excursion to key geo-sites in the Troodos Mountains took place. Participants explored the unique rocks and minerals of the region, learning about their significance in daily life. Each participant received a set of geology tools and rock samples to aid in identification and further study. The day concluded with a pottery workshop, where attendees created clay fossils using natural materials, blending science with creativity.

Most recently, on 5 April 2025, participants gathered at the Ledra Palace Hotel for a special event exploring the geological wonders of Kyrenia. The day featured a lively geo-treasure hunt, jewellery making with local stones, stone painting, and interactive geology simulations. The event offered a fun and engaging opportunity to learn about the region's rich geological landscape while enjoying the outdoors.



Technical Committee on Education

The Technical Committee on Education formed a focus group to propose joint educational projects promoting contact and cooperation between students from both communities, particularly on environmental and sustainable development topics. Committee members also exchanged educational materials for teaching history in their communities.

Technical Committee on Crossings

The Technical Committee on Crossings held regular meetings and finalized plans to expand the Agios Dometios/Metehan crossing point in Nicosia, where long delays are often caused by limited lanes and limited staff for document checks. Implementation is set to begin in September 2025, with the expansion expected to greatly ease movement between the two sides.

Technical Committee on Health

The Technical Committee on Health recently concluded the "Mapping Risk for Aedes Invasive Mosquito Spread (ID-AIM)" project with a final event on 30 October 2024 that brought together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP in coordination with OSASG-Cyprus, the project raised awareness about the health risks posed by invasive mosquitoes through joint research, training, and community engagement. At the event, experts shared key findings and practical tools to help prevent mosquito-borne illnesses, highlighting the project's role in promoting public health and bi-communal cooperation.

