

Welcome to our Newsletter #5!

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 bicomunal 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 13. 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 April 2025 and 30 September 2025 and was collected through UN reports, online newspapers, and social media publications of UN bodies in Cyprus.

The InPeace Project Assistant presented the project's findings at the Conference of Conflict Research Society (CRS) in the UK

Fezile Osum, the Project Assistant of InPeace, attended the 62nd Annual Conference of the Conflict Research Society (CRS) in the United Kingdom and presented her upcoming academic paper on the bi-communal Technical Committees in Cyprus. During her presentation, she discussed the role of these Committees through the lens of multi-track diplomacy, highlighting their contributions to supporting and shaping future negotiations.



If you would like to read Fezile Osum's published articles about the Technical Committees, click on the links below:

Fezile Osum, [a Brief Assessment of the Bi-Communal Technical Committee on Gender Equality | BY FEZILE OSUM | PENNA](#)

Fezile Osum, [Can the Technical Committee on Gender Equality Change the Traditional Male-Dominated Nature of the Peace Negotiations* in Cyprus?](#)

Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

During the reporting period, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage (TCCH) completed seven major conservation works across Cyprus. These include the (a) Church of St. George of the Latins in Famagusta, (b) Tuzla Mosque in Larnaca, (c) Panagia Kanakaria Church in the Karpas Peninsula/Karpaz, (d) Church of Ayia Photini/Photou, (e) Holy Water Cave of Agiasma, (f) Mosque in Avdimou/Evdim, and (g) Mosque in Tera/Terra. 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.

Moreover, the TCCH strengthened collaboration and public engagement across Cyprus through a series of interactive events. On 10 April, over fifty experts from both communities gathered for a networking event that introduced the [TCCH's Digital Heritage Platform](#). On 12 May, more than sixty students celebrated the International Day for Monuments and Sites with guided visits to major landmarks and interactive digital heritage experiences. In June, the TCCH reached even wider audiences at the Morphou/Güzelyurt Orange Festival (16-22 June) and at Avdimou/Evdim (23 June), where locals celebrated the completion of the mosque's conservation.

The summer concluded with two key milestones: the 2 July celebrations marking the conservation of the Church of St. George of the Latins and Tuzla Mosque, and the 10 July technical session of ETEK, where around thirty professionals explored UNDP case studies and digital heritage innovation. Together, these events reflected the TCCH's ongoing commitment to collaboration, capacity-building, and the preservation of Cyprus' shared cultural legacy.



Technical Committee on the Environment

The Technical Committee on the Environment has been one of the most active Committees. It organised more than 10 events, including educational field trips, workshops, trainings, and biodiversity activities. Below is the overview of some of these activities.

Geo-Heritage Project

The exploration of Cyprus's remarkable geological story continued through the [Geo-Heritage Project](#). The Committee organised a visit to Kyrenia on 5 April to discover the island's diverse geo-sites. Through a geo-treasure hunt, stone painting, and hands-on geology simulations, participants learned about Cyprus geological evolution in a fun and interactive way. The Geo-Heritage series celebrates the island's natural wonders, while fostering a shared appreciation for its unique environmental heritage across communities. The Committee's Geo-Heritage Project is funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP in coordination with OSASG-Cyprus.

Environmental Caretakers Project

The Technical Committee on Environment launched in April 2025 the Environmental Caretakers Project, which aims to empower young people across Cyprus to take action for the protection of the environment. The project began with two interactive workshops in Nicosia, led by the NGOs Terra Cypria and Taskent Nature Park, focusing on the climate crisis and biodiversity challenges. Over the summer, participants joined field trips across the island, from the mountain trails of Troodos to the beaches of Karpas, learning about local ecosystems and using the new Environmental Caretakers App to report environmental issues. Subsequent events included nature walks through Nicosia's Pedieos Park, night-time biodiversity studies in Girne/Kyrenia, and

educational activities in Platania. Each gathering connected young environmental activists in hands-on learning experiences that turn awareness into action. The Environmental Caretakers project of the Technical Committee on the Environment is funded by the EU and implemented by the UNDP in collaboration with OSASG-Cyprus.

Barn Owl Initiative

A Barn Owl Networking Session was hosted on 25 April 2025 at the Ledra Palace Hotel, bringing together researchers, conservationists, and farmers from across the island. The session explored the ecological and cultural importance of barn owls, emphasising their role in sustainable agriculture through natural pest control. With guidance from international experts, participants learned how barn owls can contribute to biodiversity and cross-community cooperation. The initiative highlighted how even the smallest species can play a big role in fostering unity and environmental sustainability.

Bee Health & Breeding Initiative

A two-day Bee Health & Breeding Workshop was organised at the Ledra Palace Hotel on 4-5 July 2025. Bringing together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot beekeepers, international experts, and researchers, the sessions focused on honey bee health, Varroa mite (parasite) management, and selective breeding practices. Optional site visits allowed participants to exchange experiences and explore sustainable solutions to shared challenges. The workshop underscored the importance of protecting pollinators and promoting collaboration for a more resilient, biodiverse island. This event was a part of the Committee's initiatives on Bees, funded by the EU and implemented by the UNDP in collaboration with OSASG-Cyprus.

Technical Committee on Culture

The Technical Committee on Culture has launched a new online network to bring together Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot artists, performers, and cultural workers. The [platform](#) provides opportunities to showcase work, access training and funding, and engage with a vibrant cross-community creative network. This initiative, funded by the EU and implemented by the UNDP in coordination with OSASG-Cyprus, aims to foster resilience and collaboration through culture. Artists and cultural workers across the island are encouraged to [register](#) and join the new online network.

Technical Committee on Youth

The two leaders agreed earlier this year to create a Technical Committee on Youth. This held its first meeting on 5 May 2025, with the meeting being co-facilitated by the OSASG-Cyprus and UNFICYP. The Committee later hosted its first event called 'Nice to meet You(th)' on 11 July 2025. The event was held at Ledra Palace Hotel, and brought together participants to explore ideas across five key areas: culture, entrepreneurship, health and sports, technology, and the environment. It featured color-coded networking and a musical recital, offering participants a dynamic space for connection and creative exchange. The event was funded by the EU and implemented by the UNDP in collaboration with OSASG-Cyprus, with support from UNFICYP. Explore the highlights and key moments [here](#).

