



**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. Participants were encouraged to 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 Americal 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

All rights reserved

ISBN: 978-9963-677-22-1



# Multicultural Society – Multicultural Cyprus

Multiculturalism is a concept that we encounter 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 (legal or illegal) 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.

# 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.

## **ADD-ADHD Cyprus: [www.add-adhd.org.cy](http://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](mailto:adhdcyprus@spidernet.com.cy)

## **Cyprus Environmental Studies Centre: [www.esc.com.cy](http://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](http://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](mailto:bshea@peaceplayersintl.org)

## **Soma Akriton: [www.somaakriton.com.cy](http://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](mailto:info@somaakriton.com.cy)

# 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](http://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](http://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. AEGEE 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](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.

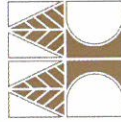
**Youth for Understanding: [www.yfu.org](http://www.yfu.org)**

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.



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

## IMPLEMENTED BY:



Young  
Cypriot  
Scientists  
Network



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

Human Rights Education Network

University of Cyprus

Cyprus Adult Education Association

Young Cypriot Scientists Network

## SPONSORED BY:



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

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

All rights reserved

ISBN: 978-9963-677-22-1