



Nicosia, 24 June 2019

To: Media

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Launch Conference of the project DARE- Day One Alliance for Employment

The launch conference of the "DARE-Day One Alliance for Employment" project, aimed at boosting youth employment, was held on Monday 24 June. The project started in April 2019 and will last for three years. The project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.

The conference was welcomed by Mr. Giorgos Kalligas on behalf of the Office of the Volunteering Commissioner and NGO, Ms. Leda Skordelli on behalf of the National Focal Point for the Financial Mechanism of the EEA & Norway Grants in Cyprus. At the same time, the Youth Entrepreneurship Program was presented by Ms. Elena Kalli, Youth Officer of the Youth Board of Cyprus, as well as actions to Combat Youth Unemployment by Ms. Marina Rigou, representative of the Department of Labor of the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Insurance.

The proposed interventions entail Job Labs and Entrepreneurship Labs for 1.400 young people not in education, employment, or training. A system of validation of non-formal learning with Open Badges will be put in action in favour of the participants. Five partners will transfer know-how in career planning, entrepreneurship education, and validation of non-formal learning from three countries: Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Education (Lithuania), Youth Career and Advising Center (Lithuania), Lodz Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Poland), IFTE Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship (Austria), Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Austria).

The target group of the project is young people who are out of employment, education or training. The group includes long-term unemployed, discouraged young people who have stopped looking for work, inactive women caring for children or adults, ethnic minorities, asylum seekers, the least qualified, people with mental health problems and people with disabilities. The project will also approach employers who intend to recognize non-formal learning.

More on the project: <https://sealcyprus.org/projects/international-projects/dare/>

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THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

The EEA and Norway Grants have their basis in the EEA Agreement. Under the Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are part of the EU's internal market. The EEA Agreement sets out the common goal of working together to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe and strengthening cooperation between donor and beneficiary countries. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have allocated EUR 2.8 billion to 15 EU countries for this purpose. Norway provides just under 98 % of this amount.

The EEA and Norway Grants are important tools in the Norwegian Government's active European policy, which seeks to promote a green, competitive and inclusive Europe.