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Kleovoulos Stylianou
President of the Board of YEU Cyprus

INTRODUCTION

This year marks a significant milestone for YEU Cyprus, as we celebrate 20 years of existence as an NGO in Cyprus. That's 20 years of youth work, 20 years of volunteering, and 20 years of teamwork and effort by dozens of young people from Cyprus and beyond—all working together for a better society, a better tomorrow.

Over the years, YEU has stood strong, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the people who are part of it. These are people who stood by the organization because they believed in its goals — a fairer society where young voices are heard. People who had no connection with each other came together through YEU to take action and push for the changes they wanted to see in the world. All of this happened thanks to volunteers, who have always been at the heart of YEU. That's why I'll keep saying it—without our volunteers, YEU wouldn't exist. Of course, YEU's team goes beyond the board of directors. It includes our amazing office staff, the ESC volunteers, their mentors, and, of course, our members.

YEU has had many successes, with our recent one being the Global Education Youth Award 2024 for our project Art.Act.Disrupt for its contributions in the youth work field. YEU also faced different challenges. For us, every step we take to improve our organization's capacity is a success that ultimately strengthens the youth we serve. These successes wouldn't have been possible without the contributions of all the people who have been involved in YEU in one way or another over the years. These are the people who turned challenges into opportunities for growth, and I sincerely thank them.

Every time these people handed the organization over to a new group of individuals, is a fresh start with new ideas and initiatives, keeping YEU alive and relevant. YEU is who we are —with our values, our beliefs, and, of course, our goodwill. We are a team of young people working for young people.

YEU CYPRUS OUR MISSION & VISION

Our organization is dedicated to advocating for the rights of young individuals, nurturing their potential to emerge as influential contributors to society. We are committed to fostering a culture of engagement and empowerment, both within our immediate community and extending far beyond the borders of Cyprus. Through dynamic initiatives, activities and projects, we aspire to create a world where young people are equipped, inspired, and connected to shape positive change, not only locally but on a global scale.

YEU Cyprus is an independent, non-profit youth NGO based in Nicosia, dedicated to empowering young people to envision and create the societies they aspire to live in. Through local and transnational projects, we focus on non-formal education to promote active citizenship, human rights, peacebuilding, mental health, inclusion, sustainability, cultural exchange, and socially engaged art practices.

We actively establish synergies with stakeholders, fostering collaborations with civil society organizations, youth networks, informal groups of young people and public institutions to amplify our impact. These partnerships enable us to raise awareness of pressing societal issues, and enhance educational opportunities through innovative and inclusive approaches.

Our ultimate mission is to provide young people with opportunities to become active social actors using a bottom-up approach, and delivers educational opportunities through creative and experiential learning.

YEU CYPRUS OUR VALUES

Active Citizenship

- Cultivate an environment of open dialogue and idea exchange.
- Enable youth to become impactful contributors at local and global levels.

Awareness & Inclusion

- Forge partnerships to amplify awareness and understanding.
- Champion youth rights, fostering participation and influence.
- Promote mental health and well-being awareness for all.

Cultural Exchange & Dialogue

- Encourage intercultural empathy and effective communication.
- Facilitate collaboration, fostering a spirit of unity among young people.

Human Rights

- Advocate for equal rights of all, with a particular focus on youth.
- Confront racism, xenophobia, and radicalization, upholding equality.

Sustainability

- Equip youth to be agents of positive change, driving societal and global progress.
- Embrace sustainability and peace-building as shared responsibilities.

Transparency & Accountability

- Embody principles of integrity, honesty, and equitable conduct.
- Foster a transparent dialogue between youth and decision-makers.
- Combat corruption and promote effective governance through active involvement.

OUR 2024 STRATEGIC GOALS

Enhance young people's participation in democratic processes



Promote and cultivate environmental awareness and education



Encourage learning and intercultural exchange between young people



Promote inclusive societies for young people and protect human rights



OUR 2024 TEAM

YEU CYPRUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS







Annita Tsolaki



Andri Koumidou



Pantelis Kiriakidis



Andriani Antoniadou



Angeliki Haliou



Maria Karolidou

YEU CYPRUS TEAM



Nina Poulouzasvili
Project Officer
(until September 2024)
Executive Director
(since September 2024)



Annagrace Messa
Executive Director
(until September 2024)



Kemal Ashik
Project/Communication
Officer



Maria Mavronicola
Project Officer
(until September 2024)

OUR 2024 PROJECTS

Types of projects:

- EU projects
- National projects
- Youth mobilities
- European Solidarity Corps

YEU Cyprus is dedicated to creating meaningful experiences and implementing impactful youth oriented projects, at a local and transnational level. We specialize in a range of activities, including organizing and facilitating workshops, conducting training courses, and orchestrating dynamic youth exchanges. At the heart of our approach is a dedication to non-formal education. We harness the power of experiential learning to fuel youth development, foster awareness, and build essential capacities. This drive is fueled by our core areas of focus: human rights, sustainable development, intercultural education, and youth participation



ART. ACT. DISTRUPT



ART ACT DISRUPT is a project aiming to bridge the gap between Civic Social Organisations and the Artistic community, to create disruptive and effective public interventions that initiate conversation & action on social issues. The project is implemented by YEU Cyprus and Alternative Brains Rule (ABR) and funded by the Active Citizens Fund in Cyprus.

In 2024, in scope of the project, the following activities took place:

 4 public interventions designed by local artists, Lamarina, the anonymous collective "Under the Tent, It's Still Raining", Twentythree, and Pashias.









Images from Art.Act.Disrupt public interventions

 A closing event of the Art.Act.Distrupt project, "ARCTIVATE: A Closing Arct", which brought together civil society representatives as well as individuals from the creative sector.







Images from Arctivate: A Closing Act

Visit this <u>link</u>, to explore more resources, and more information on activities created within the scope of the project! These include:

- · 'Artshift' conference
- 'Arctivate' workshops
- 'Art-Act-Disrupt' podcasts
- Guerilla campaign



SUPERHEROES



Superheroes is a project aiming to encourage young people to promote social inclusion through identifying the positive examples of their communities; create innovative practices for educators, teachers, parents, and other staff connected to the education and upbringing of young people; and also create new practices in social inclusion education and increase the inclusive practices in youth work. The Superheroes project is funded under the Erasmus+ programme.

In 2024, in scope of the project, the following was organized:

• Development of comic books (check them out here),



- Webinar on Inclusive Learning Through Creative Practices in Youth Work,
- Public interventions with Koullou Makka Collective,
- "The Origin Story: A Multiplier Event" which included a workshop with the Koullou Makka team and shared information about the accomplishments of the "Superheroes" project.









Images from Superheroes Multiplier event

Visit this <u>link</u>, to explore more resources, and more information on activities of the project! These include:

- · Learning, teaching, training activity in Cyprus,
- Booklet on Inclusive Learning Through Creative Practice in Youth Work,
 - Interviews on good practices in partner countries.



SEXEDU



SEXEDU aims to positively influence inclusive sexual and emotional education programmes at national and European level to foster well-being among young people with diverse backgrounds including those who are often marginalized such as second-generation immigrants, people with disabilities, members of the queer community, and more. The SEXEDU project is funded under the Erasmus+ programme.

In 2024, in scope of the project, the following was organized:

- Training course for youth workers in Italy,
- Resource handbook on local good practices,
- Partners meeting in Cyprus,
- Development of activities to explore emotional and sexual health,
- Implementation of activities with youth in Cyprus in collaboration with United Sports Cyprus.

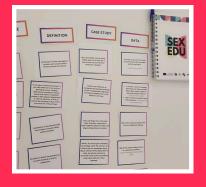






Images from local activities with youth







Images from SEXEDU training course in Italy

For more information about the SEXEDU project and access to the Resource Book, click here.

YSI-ACT



YSI-ACT aims to foster citizens', and more specifically youngsters', active participation in accordance with the democratic values of the European Union, in the promotion of human rights and with the objective of co-constructing a more inclusive and equalitarian society for all, regardless of one's origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, capability, etc. YSI-ACT is implemented under the CERV framework and funded by the European Commission.

YSI-ACT aims to critically address prejudices, stereotypes, and discriminations, promote the development of the necessary competences for active participation, and innovative methodologies combining non-formal education, creative and participatory methods.

In 2024, in scope of the project, the following was organized:

- Partners meeting in Cyprus,
- Local focus groups with CSOs in Cyprus in collaboration with Ena Emeis.







Images from YSI-ACt focus groups and partners' meeting in Cyprus

For more information about the YSI-ACT project click <u>here</u>.

ESC: GREEN IT UP!



The Green-It Up project is an European Solidarity Corps project which brought together 7 volunteers from Spain, Slovakia, Czechia, Austria, Luxembourg, and Hungary. The volunteers activity period started in May 2023 and was completed in May 2024. The Green-It Up project is funded under the European Solidarity Corps programme.

Green-It Up promotes awareness on sustainability and climate change and builds the ECO capacity of YEU Cyprus. It aims to increase cooperation among youth towards the decreasing environmentally harmful production and consumption. The project promotes awareness on sustainability and climate change by implementing educational and volunteering activities and opportunities for young people in Cyprus.

In 2024, in scope of the project, the following was organized:

- · Composting workshop,
- · Sustainability bazaar with local craftspeople,
- · Panel discussion on sexual health and sustainability,
- Workshop on creating awareness-raising posters with children,
- · Workshop on seed planting,
- Campaign on water quality in Cyprus,
- Cookbook inspired by zero food waste,
- Christmas markets to raise funds for the treatment of stray cats.











Images from various activities in scope of the Green-It Up project

ESC: LEARNING LEAGUE



The Learning League project is an European Solidarity Corps project which brought together 7 volunteers from Austria, Italy, Germany and Greece. The project aims to integrate and improve different forms of learning, equipping young people for the challenges of today's world. The project focuses on highlighting Youth Goal 8 of "Quality Learning" as well as Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 4 which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". The Learning League project is funded under the European Solidarity Corps programme.

In 2024, in scope of the project, the following was organized:

- Recruitment and integration of volunteers,
- Creation of monthly newsletters,
- Supporting the organization in fairs, festivals and other activities,
- Organizing a workshop in collaboration with UCY Green Club and Art Club on pumpkin carving,
- · Supporting YEU Cyprus with the organization of the Cyprus Peaks, Village Leaks event,
- Idea generation for upcoming activities in scope of the project.









TIME TO MOVE CAMPAIGN



The Cyprus Peaks, Village Leaks event was organized in scope of the Time to Move campaign in which a variety of organizations organized activities all around Cyprus.

As part of the Time to Move campaign, YEU Cyprus partnered with the Peaks Frequency initiative to organize multiple activities in Kourdali. The event included a presentation by the ESC volunteers on a variety of Erasmus+ opportunities including Youth Exchanges, Training Courses and European Solidarity Corps. This was followed by a hike and bike rides, and food and music to conclude the day.









Images from the activities in scope of the Time to Move campaign.

MILESTONES (CHELL)

YEU CYPRUS 20 YEARS!

2024 marked the 20th anniversary of YEU Cyprus registering as an official NGO!

As part of the 20th year of YEU Cyprus, a logo commemorating the 20 years was created, testimonials from past/present members and collaborators were collected and a celebratory event was organized underlining the significance of work conducted by YEU Cyprus over the past two decades.





In 2024, YEU Cyprus received GENE Global Education Youth Award for the Art.Act.Disrupt project implemented in collaboration with ABR!

GENE highlights quality youth-led iniaitives on a variety of themes such as solidarity, sustainability, human rights, global citizenship and social justice.

Art.Act.Disrupt was selected among the 14 initiatives to receive the GENE Global Education Youth Award.

For more information on the GENE Award, click <u>here</u>.









We couldn't have done it without your continued support and participation in our programmes.



THANK YOU

to all our members and volunteers!

Special thanks to our dedicated staff, who pour their hearts into youth work and contribute to creating a positive impact in our local and European communities. We are also deeply grateful to our board members, whose time and passion have been instrumental in the growth and evolution of YEU Cyprus.

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