



CONNECTION COMMUNITY CO-CREATION HOME FOR COOPERATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNING BOARD

Dear friends,

It is with great pride that we are sharing this annual report with you, after the globally challenging year of 2020.

Cyprus experienced the pandemic as the rest of the world, with the added difficulty of being divided. This undeniably had a negative effect on the Home for Cooperation's usual operations. Most events and several of our services had to be postponed or cancelled, and at times even our staff did not have access to the buffer zone, putting us all in front of unprecedented challenges.

Nevertheless, thanks to the commitment and sacrifices of our staff and the continued support of our long-term partners and friends, we managed to realize our core peace-building programs, establish new partnerships around the world despite the pandemic, and even start new exciting projects.

We are thankful to all who stood by us when we needed them most and continued to believe in the mission of the Home for Cooperation. Today we are stronger because of them.

We are especially grateful for the generosity of those in the international community, in particular the EEA & Norway Grants and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden,

who heeded our call and helped us overcome the financial challenge created by the restrictions of movement to the buffer zone and beyond.

In this report you will find information about the achievements in 2020, the impact of the work of the Home for Cooperation, our collaborators in 2020 and the new partners, as well as the upcoming projects.

2021 is a very special year for us as it marks the 10th year of the Home for Cooperation. Together with the staff and all our friends, we are determined to continue our work with increased motivation and creativity for a better Cyprus, built upon the pillars of peace, diversity and cooperation.

With renewed determination and increased hope for a better future for our island, we remain united in peace.

*The Governing Board
of the Home For Cooperation*

*Kyriakos Pachoulides
Salpy Eskidjian
Erbay Akansoy*

Opening its doors officially in 2011, the Home for Cooperation (H4C) is a unique community centre located in the middle of the dividing lines in Cyprus, in the Ledra Palace area, UN Buffer Zone, Nicosia. Through its programs it encourages individuals and civil society actors to engage in intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding, benefiting from the power of artistic and cultural tools in transforming societies. It essentially aims to act as a bridge-builder between separated communities, memories and visions. Home for Cooperation provides working spaces and opportunities for Non-Governmental Organizations and individuals to design and implement innovative projects.

MISSION AND VISION

The Home for Cooperation aims to facilitate and offer a space for initiatives that contribute to promoting communication and interaction between people from different ethnic, religious or linguistic backgrounds at a local, regional, European and international level, to inspire and promote creativity among local and international artists, and to become a platform for cultural expression through diverse mediums. Furthermore, the Home aims to offer its resources to support cultural and educational activities that promote interaction, dialogue and freedom of thinking and expression.

COVID-19 AND THE H4C

In 2020, Cyprus got its share from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic as the rest of the world, with the added difficulty of being divided; having two authorities that are not cooperating and having crossings between the two communities restricted to a large extent. Located in the Buffer Zone, the H4C was particularly affected as access to the building became difficult resulting in a decrease in both outreach and revenue generating activities. Adapting to the challenging situation, the H4C moved most of its operations online, and managed to carry out its core programs physically, in line with the protective measures.



HIGHLIGHTS

2020 has been a transformative experience for all of us; unexpected, filled with questions and constant readjustments. Although, 2020 brought along the Covid-19 pandemic which created a split in all our planned activity, this split allowed for a moment of questioning and adaptation, which of course contained other possibilities to continue bringing the communities of Cyprus together. 2020 also showed us that regardless of the closure of the checkpoints, the mental connection and cooperation that has formed between the people cannot be eliminated. So, we sought alternative ways and have adapted our programs to carry on digitally. We have received the support of the **EEA and Norway Grants Cyprus** for the funding period of 2014-2021 as a predefined project which supports the efforts of civil society in peacebuilding in Cyprus. We also received a prominent grant from the **Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs** aiming to support the recovery and sustainability of the Home for Cooperation from the implications of the coronavirus pandemic.

Peacebuilding, female artistic entrepreneurship, interdisciplinary creation, and supporting the arts through the Covid-19 crisis, have been amongst our primary goals in 2020. United by Sound is the name of our project which uses music for peacebuilding. As part of the project in 2020, Island Seeds, a collective of almost 40 Cypriot musicians joined forces to record 'The Time Is Ripe', a track sang in English, Cypriot-Greek and Cypriot-Turkish that drives the message that no amount of divisive politics will stop the communities of Cyprus from re-uniting. At the same time, the Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival 2020 was a journey to critically and artistically question the meaning of displacement of people, ideas and practices. Going ahead with an international Performing Arts Festival despite the pandemic also meant exploring alternative and interdisciplinary methods.



OUR WORK

Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival 2020

The festival was developed by the Home for Cooperation team in 2014, with the idea of providing a platform to question sensitive topics, expressing ideas in new and creative ways. This would enable people to engage with one another regardless of the dominant historical narratives, ideologies or identities which are very much politicized and often divisive for the people of Cyprus. The Buffer Fringe Festival, which was born out of a unique local situation, has established itself as a highly respected international festival since then.

In 2020, the Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival (VII) continued to bridge the divide in Cyprus and respond to the needs of the time, by bringing artists and audiences together from around the world, with an innovative artistic program presented on the brand new festival blog under the theme “**Displacement**”. The live festival was presented on stage between December 4-6, across the divide, supported by livestreaming online. We livestreamed all our performances to reach audiences beyond the limitations of the pandemic. Our performances also took place physically in November and December on both sides of Nicosia, and in New York at the Gallatin Galleries. We collaborated with IMPACT, the global platform for ACCT (Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation) on the Thinking-Partners program and on online discussions aiming to explore the relationship between peacebuilding, the arts and displacement. (<https://bufferfringe.org>)



OUR WORK

United by Sound

LIVE CONCERTS

The program United by Sound hosts performances by established and upcoming musicians across the divide at the Home for Cooperation. It has prompted venues throughout Cyprus to host musicians from both sides of the divide and has initiated beautiful collaborations. The program is committed to **supporting a new generation of emerging Cypriot artists that view their music and its innate excitement surrounding co-creation** as a response to the existing physical and mental barriers. In the autumn of 2020, a series of mini live concerts was organized at the Home for Cooperation where musicians and audiences proved once again that Cyprus is too small to have two separate music scenes.

THE TIME IS RIPE

On the occasion of the **Home for Cooperation's 9th Anniversary** and the International Day of Music, 21st of June, the original song and video "The Time is Ripe" was released. Amid the challenges of this year, the Island Seeds collective sprouted under the program United by Sound. Island Seeds is a collective of nearly 40 musicians from across the divide who joined forces from their homes in Cyprus, Germany, the UK, Greece, Canada, and the USA, to sing their invitation to the world that the time for 'bringing our voices together' is here. The song's music and trilingual lyrics are an amalgamation that mirrors Cyprus' present-day music culture: open-minded, eclectic, and not bound in purist agendas.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV9iQDS9BB0>)



City Tours

Although meeting of communities was very limited due to strict Covid-19 measures, 2020 was maybe one of the most important times to show the elements that have connected the people of Nicosia and to act as a mental bridge. Hence, we adapted our tours to explore the public spaces of the City on both sides of the divide at different times and dates. Yet each time the tours reminded us of the common stories and histories that make up a city, and cannot be overlooked by physical boundaries. During 2020, we had four cycling tours, on Nicosia's living history and the cultural diversity of its present and past.

Language Classes

Language barriers and the difficulty in knowing where to begin forming personal relationships are amongst the main challenges that divide the people of Cyprus. The aim of our language classes in Greek and Turkish is to eliminate such barriers by providing a space where people can come together, and learn to speak to and understand each other. In March 2020, our language classes were adapted to continue online due to the protective measures imposed by the authorities against Covid-19, maintaining in this way the connection established in this community.



Europe Direct Information Center Nicosia (EDIC)

EDIC Nicosia has continued its mission physically and digitally in 2020 in English, Greek and Turkish. We started 2020 with a Citizens' Dialogue on Youth Entrepreneurship. However, when the outbreak of Covid-19 blocked all physical events, we sought alternative ways to continue. On the International EU Day, we launched the #europeathome photography competition. At the same time, we also initiated a dialogue between different NGOs on environmental issues and climate change, by organizing the Wild Life Talks from Home. We collaborated with the European Documentation Centers of the University of Nicosia and University of Cyprus to support and encourage young people to develop their innovative business ideas, by launching the Go Green, Go Digital, Go Start-up! Online Idea Competition.

Event Organization

We actively support formal and non-formal groups in their efforts to cooperate with people from all communities beyond restrictions and dividing lines. Our experienced team can assist in the design and implementation of different types of events, from book launches to film screenings, from capacity-building seminars to press conferences. In 2020, we hosted more than 130 screenings, meetings, events, trainings, and student fairs, and more.



OUR STORIES

Our stories bring us together

“There is no doubt that music connects people and societies. I cherish the similarities and the differences in both societies and have always believed that we can further develop our shared culture by making music together. This project was the perfect way to do that.”

– **Ezgi Akgürgen, Musician**

“Since the day we met, I knew that I found a friendship that I didn’t have with any of my friends until now. Then, we found ourselves in the “Time is Ripe” project and the “United by Sound” together. The vocal and video recording process was extremely enjoyable. Even though each of us recorded their parts separately, I still felt part of a team. The energy of people who work for this cause is unbelievable. The song really stands up for love and friendship between Cypriots, and without any prejudices. I hope for better days.” – **Nama Dama, Musician**

“Buffer Fringe is important for me because of its location and how it manages to push the Buffer zone out of its context. It’s important to use these kinds of spaces that are controlled by military forces and not by the communities of the island. Military as an institution is all about limitations and rules that does not really make anyone’s life easier, so intervening their zones with art, even if it’s just a short amount of time in a year, is definitely success.

This is our first ever collaboration [with MITOS] and we are getting to know each other as the project progresses. We have to do everything online and it’s been tough for me, probably for Elena as well. I’ve never been to MITOS but I know that I am welcomed there if I want to do something. This alone actually shows how the Buffer fringe has its own power.” – **Nurtane Karagil, Artist**



"I got to know about Home for Cooperation in 2016 while studying about heritage and wanted to learn more about peacebuilding and community engagement in cultural heritage. At the H4C, I found a family of peacebuilders that were open to collaborating with one common vision, create an environment for peace development in Cyprus. Some of the projects I had the opportunity to get involved with were the city walks that H4C is providing twice a month. As an archaeologist and a tour guide, I was given the opportunity to lead some of tours in the city. What is special about these tours is that we approach the city as one. This approach helps our guests to understand better the heritage value of the city but also the idea of unity in Cyprus.

Moreover, those tours have brought me in contact with many people of different ages, genders, nationalities, religions, all of them having an eagerness to know more about the history of Nicosia. What excites me the most about these tours is that they create a safe environment for people to express and learn. It happened many times during these walks, for people to cross the checkpoints for the first time. It is very touching to see, that people wanted and felt safe to meet the "new", the "other side" related to the parts of the city they have never been to before. Above all, what I appreciate from H4C walks, is the connection between the people from all the communities, the humanisation! Having common interest for Nicosia has given them the first "subject of discussion", the first step to the unknown. I have seen new friendships being created through H4C walks, that after the walks will stay at Home Cafe to enjoy a coffee and later on they will show their own perspective of the city to their new friends. Besides, I have found a family of people who share the same vision for coexistence on our island and the same passion for cultural heritage." - Antigoni Michael



IMPACT

45K

ENGAGEMENT

Number people engaged in online and physical activities of the H4C in 2020. Including the Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival, United by Sound, language classes, tours and other activities.

25K

ONLINE FOLLOWERS

Number of online followers of the H4C and connected social media channels, including EDIC Nicosia, Buffer Fringe Festival on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube and newsletter subscribers in 2020.

5K

PHYSICAL PRESENCE

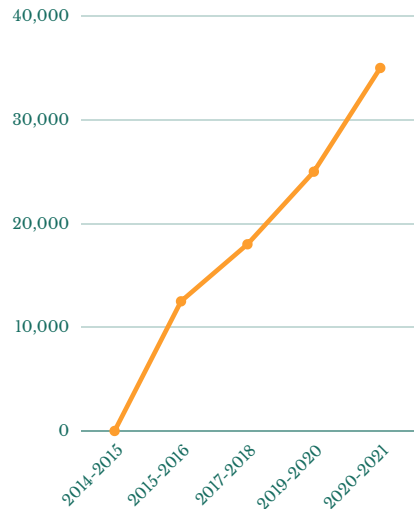
Number of people who attended events organized or hosted by the Home for Cooperation in 2020.

130

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Amid the changing measures and restrictions, in 2020 we organized and hosted in total 130 events, including meetings, trainings, and live music nights.

AUDIENCE GROWTH



OUR SPACE



BOOKINGS & EVENT ORGANIZATION

The Home offers attractive and well-equipped spaces to hire for a range of activities, such as conferences, workshops, meeting, press conferences, film screenings and exhibitions. The rooms can be set-up according to the needs of each event, and the equipment available includes translation booths, exhibition panels and much more.



OFFICE SPACES

A big family of the civil society shares the Home for Cooperation, contributing to and supporting each other's work. The Home offers office spaces to organizations and individuals working on intercommunal cooperation in the fields of education, art, culture, research, and sports. It offers a safe environment with easy access from both sides of the divide.

THE HOME CAFE

The Home Café is one of the most unique coffeeshops in Nicosia. The Café is Located in the Buffer Zone under the umbrella of the Home for Cooperation, and acts as a community space where all of the island's communities can come together. The Home Café as a social space organizes different events, invites and supports diversity. Part of its mission is to promote the interaction, co-creativity and coexistence between people.

The Home Café offers freshly made food, including wraps, fresh salads and sandwiches, as well as delicious homemade cakes and a selection of hot and cold drinks. It is an inviting space for gatherings, reading, and relaxing in a friendly environment.

Our kitchen is open for orders at the cafe or via phone between 9:00 and 16:00! You can also get our delicious snacks and drinks delivered at your place, via Bolt Food and Wolt! from Monday to Friday, between 10:00 - 16:00!

Catering Services

The Home Café offers catering services for events taking place at the Home for Cooperation or nearby spaces. We provide a selection of menus for coffee breaks, lunch breaks, and wine receptions (see below), as well as different set up options, designed to accommodate any kind of event. We also have a special menu for small groups of up to 15 people with homemade snacks, lunch and desserts made by the Home Cafe cooks available between Mondays and Fridays.

www.home4cooperation.info/cafe

www.facebook.com/TheHomeCafeCyprus



RESIDENT NGOS



óμιλος ιστορικού διαλόγου
και έρευνας **association**
for historical dialogue
and research tarihsel
diyalog ve arastirma derneđi

Association for Historical Dialogue & Research (AHDR)

A multicommunal, non-for-profit NGO established in Nicosia in 2003. AHDR has enlisted members from various ethnic, linguistic, and professional backgrounds of various educational levels, making the first steps to a greater effort for a continuous, open dialogue about enhanced pedagogic practices in the discipline of history.
www.ahdr.info



CYPRUS DIALOGUE FORUM
ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΟ ΦΟΡΟΥΜ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ
KIBRIS DİYALOG FORMU

Cyprus Dialogue Forum (CDF)

CDF is a non-formal dialogue that aims to support and complement the formal peace process in Cyprus, by providing for the first time in the history of Cyprus' conflict a safe space for broad based participation and knowledge sharing, to act as an accompanying change mechanism to the formal peace process.
www.cydialogue.org



Humanitarian Relief Mission

Humanitarian Relief Mission (HRM)

HRM was established in 1998 to support and enable efforts of local stakeholders to advocate for human rights, basic freedoms and sustainable peace in Cyprus. It responds to the needs and requests of concerned stakeholders, supporting dialogue processes and consultations to reach common values, cooperation and solidarity.

**Office of the Religious Track of
the Cyprus Peace Process**
Under the Auspices of the Embassy of Sweden

Office of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process (RTCYPP)

The RTCYPP under the Auspices of the Embassy of Sweden is a peace building initiative in Cyprus, encouraging the religious leaders of the island to engage constructively in the Cyprus peace process. Since 2009, it has succeeded to bring all 5 religious leaders of Cyprus together for an engaged and honest dialogue.
www.religioustrack.com

RESIDENT NGOS



PeacePlayers Cyprus (PP-CY)

A locally led, non-profit organization in Cyprus, which uses basketball to allow 8 to 18-year-old Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot boys and girls to interact. It is the only year-round bicommunal youth sports organization in Cyprus, working towards reversing prejudices and fostering the long-term trust necessary for true friendship. www.facebook.com/PeacePlayersCyprus



Voice of the Island (VOI)

VOI is an online newspaper founded in 2016, under Umüt Rüzgar Medya & Haber Ajansı company. It is Cyprus's only Turkish and Greek language online newspaper, offering a new view for Cyprus media, aiming to be a strong instrument for both communities' news traffic. www.voiceoftheisland.com



Cyprus Youth Council (CYC)

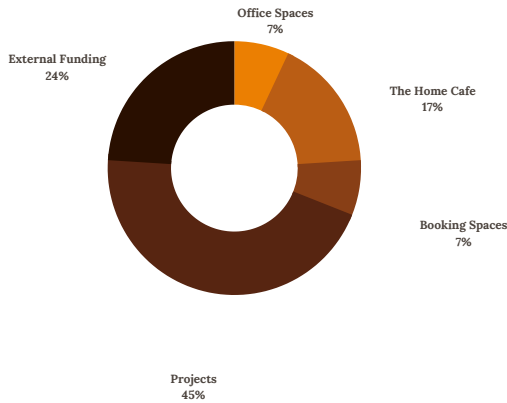
The national youth council of Cyprus, with 63 members including youth wings of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties, student unions and NGOs. It acts as a platform of exchange between youth, promoting dialogue and cooperation, representing their interests to the state, in European and global institutions. www.cyc.org.cy



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

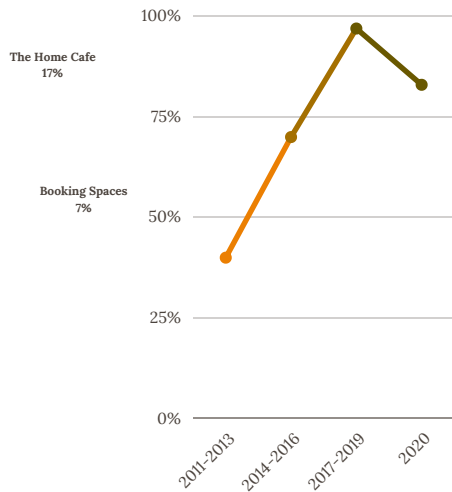
ANNUAL INCOME

The chart illustrates the income allocation between the different sections of the services and projects of the Home for Cooperation for the period 1st of January to 31st of December 2020.



SUSTAINABILITY

The graph illustrates the increase of the financial sustainability of the Home for Cooperation for the period 2011 - 2020 and financial impact of the pandemic.



WHAT'S AHEAD

10 YEARS OF COOPERATION

May 2021 will mark the 10-year anniversary of cooperation and co-creation introduced by the Home for Cooperation. In 2011, no one believed that establishing such a collective space which would bring all the communities of Cyprus together, was possible. However, with the Home for Cooperation the buffer zone has gained a new meaning, showing that the re-imagination of a different future for Cyprus is possible. During the past 10 years, the H4C has grown into a collective space, showing that home is not a place you come from and go to, but rather a process of co-creation of deep and reciprocal connections, relations and experiences, by the people whose identities, energies and ideas make up this space. Going beyond separating categorizations, the Home has become the embodiment of coming together through deeper values that connect us as humans. As we are celebrating 10 years of cooperation, we invite everyone to become part of this process of co-creation and exchange!

Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival 2021

In its 8th Edition, Buffer Fringe builds on the idea of materializing the displacement of people, ideas, and practices, growing out of the unique blending of theme and methodology of the previous edition.

Nicosia City Tours

We continue to design and implement guided walking and cycling tours across the divide in Nicosia, with new themes and a new approach, to bring even more people together to experience our city in fascinating ways.

United by Sound

2021 brings new types of activities for the musicians of Cyprus and their audience, building on collaborations and partnerships of the past, to spark many more beautiful moments of co-creation.

Language Classes

Continuing to offer community members a variety of different learning opportunities for personal growth, our Turkish and Greek language classes continue in 2021 in physical and digital formats.

Spatial Practices in Art and Architecture for Empathetic EXchange (SPACEX)

SPACEX is a transdisciplinary research action that utilises secondments between academic institutions and third sector organisations in order to scope and map European spatial practices. SPACEX aims to test, map, analyse, communicate and maximise the ways in which spatial practices in art, architecture and design instigate public exchange and promote empathetic ways of living together in urban space. The comprehensive transdisciplinary composition of the SPACEX consortium - 27 partners in 9 EU countries and 1 TC, Palestine - will enable its ERs and ESRs to undertake secondments in a range of world renowned academic institutions, research institutes, arts organizations, biennials, urban agencies, a film festival and a creative media agency.

Campaigns

Advocacy is very important to our work. So, in 2021 we aim to launch online campaigns to raise awareness on issues we value and stand for, to trigger much needed conversations in the community.

RESOLVE: Peace Camps

Partnering up with UK-based Asfar, and organizations from Georgia, Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Spain and Turkey to enable youth to engage with decision makers on local, EU and international levels, to share their thoughts, opinions and participate in democratic practices.

NOW - Connecting the Dots

We are partnering with Austria-based *Innovation in Politics* and organizations in Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Lebanon, and Kosovo to give young people the chance to voice their opinion on decisions that are impacting them, while promoting youth dialogue, participation, and empowerment.

Home for Cooperation Sharing Heritage

This project is a collaboration between the Home for Cooperation and the Imaginary Famagusta group, aiming to bring young people together to visualize and invest in a shared future, while drawing from traditions and customs of each other. It explores the role of marketplaces in Famagusta, focusing on the intangible shared heritage of the city.



THANK YOU

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Active Citizens Fund/EEA and Norway
Grants 2014-2021
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden
Embassy of Norway in Athens
Embassy of Sweden in Cyprus
Cyprus Dialogue Forum
Embassy of the Federal Republic of
Germany in Cyprus
British High Commission in Cyprus
The Embassy of Ireland in Cyprus
Embassy of the Kingdom of the
Netherlands in Cyprus
Embassy of Italy in Cyprus
Embassy of Poland in Cyprus
Embassy of Switzerland in Cyprus
Embassy of France in Cyprus
Youth Board Cyprus
Civic Space

PARTNERS

Association for Historical
Dialogue and Research
ASFAR
Innovation in Politics
Imaginary Famagusta
IMPACT
European Commission in Cyprus
Goethe Institute Cyprus
Open University of Cyprus
Centre of Performing Arts Mitos
Mağusa Kale Pasajı
NiMAC and the Pop-up Festival

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Embassy of the Slovak Republic
in Nicosia
UNFICYP
Grant Xperts



AWARDS 2020

**European Heritage
Days Stories Award
2020**

**European Sports Week
– First Prize in Local
Level Activity**

Bi-communal Cycling tour in
collaboration with Youth
Information Centres Nicosia
and ONEK

2018 – International Peace
Bureau, Sean MacBride Peace
Prize

2017 – Stelios Award (Buffer
Fringe on Tour)

2014 – Europa Nostra Award,
Conservation Category

EFFE LABELS FOR BFP AF

2017 - Award Laurate
2017-2021 Label "Remarkable
Festival

HANDS ON DECK

21

GOVERNING BOARD

Akansoy Erbay, *Member*
Eskidjian Salpy, *Member*
Dr. Pachoulides Kyriakos, *Member*



STAFF

Lambrou Lefki, *Director*
Rüzgar Hayriye, *Communications Officer*
Christofides Andri, *Programs & Knowledge Officer*
Spyrou Marilena, *Operations Officer*
Soğancı Nihal, *Administration Officer*
Kyriakidou Alexandra, *Operations Officer Replacement*
Karavalis Antonis, *Intern*
Anastasi Marita, *Intern*
Spyrou Mary, *Inter*
Kisaoğlu Suzan, *Intern*



THE HOME CAFE TEAM

Karagiorgi Afroditi, *Manager*
Loucaidou Maria, *Cook*
Yalçuk Feray, *Barista*
Altaner Tayfun, *Barista*



H4C CARETAKERS

Theodorou Chara
Kaczmarek Agieszka
Deniz Derya
Charalambous Othonas



HANDS ON DECK

H4C PARTNERS

Evagelou Ellada, *BFPAP Artistic Director*

Moumjis Lefteris, *UbS Project Coordinator*

Christou Ioanna, *GR Language Instructor*

Şabanlar Hazel, *TR Language Instructor*

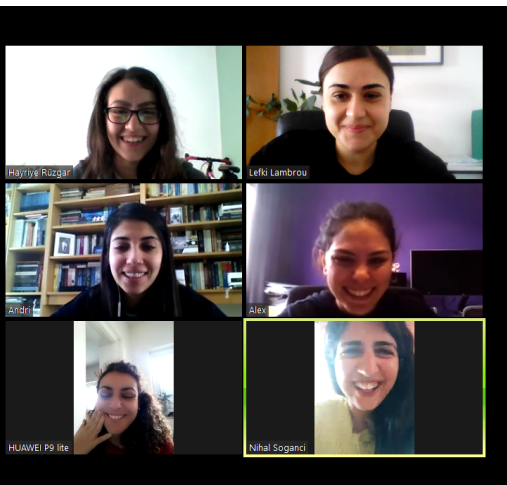
Christodoulou Kyriaki, *GR Language Instructor*

Michael Antigone, *Tour Leader*

Antoniou Marios, *Tour Leader*

Zeybek Derviş, *Tour Leader*

Epaminondas Marios, *Tour Leader*





ANNUAL REPORT 2020
FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020



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[Home for Cooperation](https://www.youtube.com/HomeforCooperation)