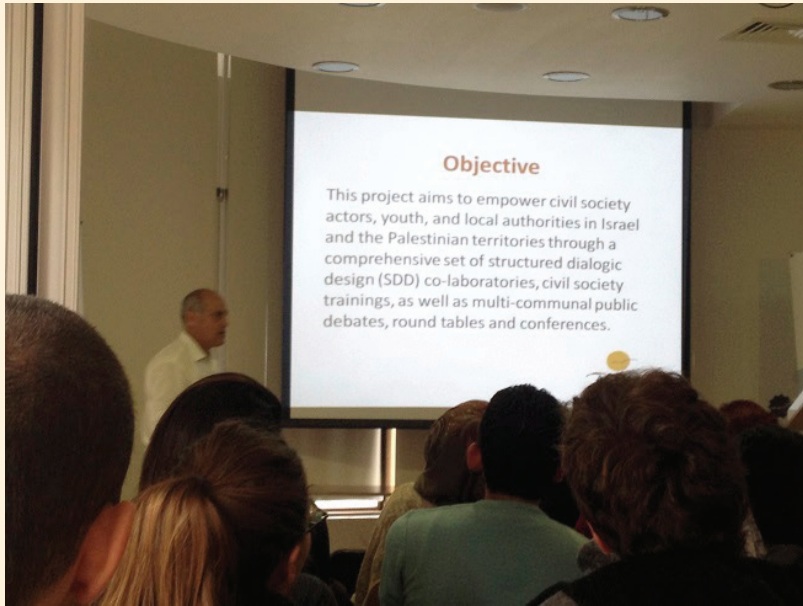


International Conference

"Act Beyond Borders"

Conference Report

Conference Report



"If we are not talking we have a problem"

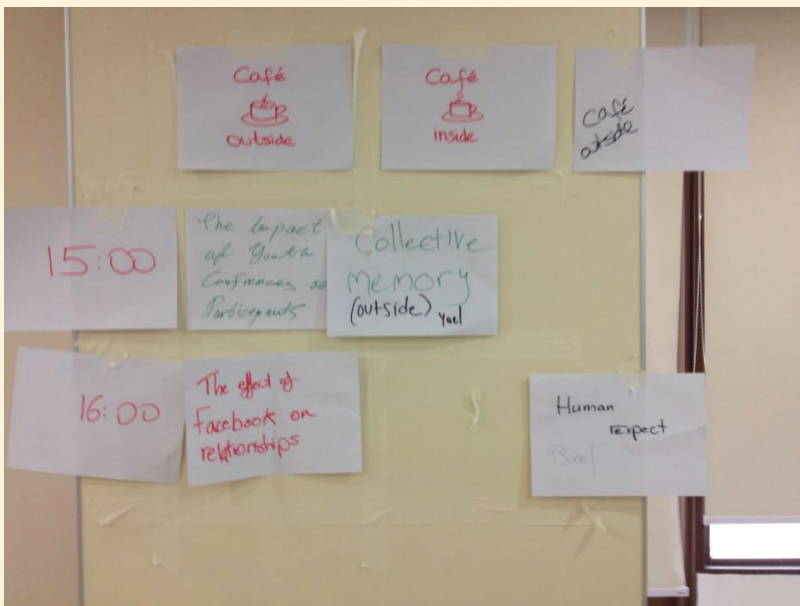
David Swissa



"Is the gender border harder to penetrate/transcend than other borders?"
Aleco Christakis



"Youth is the owner of the future"
Meltem Ikinci



The event

In an effort to strengthen and promote reconciliation across civil societies, civil society actors from Cyprus, Israel and the Palestinian Territories came together in the "Act Beyond Borders" International Conference which took place on the 22nd-23rd of November 2013.

Held at the Home for Cooperation in the UN Buffer zone in Nicosia, Cyprus, the conference provided a space for participants to learn from each other, share their very own experiences and ideas with fellow civil society actors and academics, as well as jointly develop alternative proposals to help bridge the divide between communities. Through a set of presentations, workshops and panel discussions people were given the opportunity to explore success stories and challenges of civil society actions across the divide in Cyprus, Israel and Palestinian Territories and endorse joint strategic and coherent action plans for Democratization, Conciliation and Human Rights.

The conference successfully challenged stakeholders to broaden their view of the conflict, develop contact, communication and cooperation across the divide, and examine the impact of the past on prospects for the future.

Conference Programme

Friday 22 nd November	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction by Ms. Anna-Maria Drousiotou <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming by Ms. Eleni Loukaidou Deputy Mayor of Nicosia and Ms. Alev Sensoy Committee Member responsible of Cultural Affair <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming by Ms. Kezban Akansoy, Press Officer and Political Reporter on behalf of Mr. Georgios Markopouliotis - Head of European Commission Representation in Cyprus. <input type="checkbox"/> Act Beyond Borders: The project and its challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Yiannis Laouris FWC president <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Amos Davidowitz YAARI <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Hasan Mahariq PDC
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 13:00	<p>Presentation of results of Act Beyond Borders Project from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Trainers from the Series of Civil Society Strengthening Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Prof. Aleco Christakis, Social scientist, Systems scientist and Cyberneticist <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Hasan Mahariq, Project Assistant for Act Beyond Borders,PDC <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Amos Davidowitz, Project coordinator for Act Beyond Borders, YARRI <input type="checkbox"/> Action Groups (Students, Women, Business, Non-Formal Education)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 17:00	Workshops cont.
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Workshops: Bridging the gap for successful future collaborations</p> <p>Representatives will give short 20 min input speech at beginning of workshop, following will be a short discussion and then participants will continue to the workshops with facilitator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education– Input speech: Representative from the Association for Historical dialogue, Ms. Ellada Evangelou. <i>Facilitator: Ms. Sophia Arnaouti</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism/Media – Input Speech: Representative from CCMC-Cyprus Community Media Center, Ms. Natassa Apostolidou. <i>Facilitator: Ms. Eleni Michail</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Networking – Input Speech: Mr. Mehmet Birinci and Ms. Antri Mylona successful recipients of the Stelios Hadjioannou Philanthropic foundation award for bi-communal entrepreneurship. <i>Facilitator: Ms. Annagrace Messa</i>
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Presentation of workshop Results</p> <p>Wrap Up of Day 1</p>
20:00	Dinner at Loxandra Restaurant

Saturday 23rd November

9:00 – 9:10	Registration
9:10 – 11:00	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p>Human Rights, Peace Building & Conflict: Perspectives and Challenges</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Yiannis Laouris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Importance of Public Opinion in Divided Societies: Perspectives from Cyprus by Ms. Meltemkinci, Representative, The Center for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development <input type="checkbox"/> The UNSC Resolution 1325 and the Cyprus Peace Negotiations: The work of the Gender Advisory Team (GAT) by Ms. Maria Hadjipavlou, Associate Professor Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cyprus and <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Olga Demetriou, Senior Research Consultant, PRIOC yprus Center <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Ashraf E. M. Alajrami, Social Activist <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. David Swissa, Project Assistant for Act Beyond Borders
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration between different stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights: Addressing human rights in peace building <input type="checkbox"/> Taking it forward: Future Projects or Actions <input type="checkbox"/> Thinking out of the Box: Recommendations to change the system <p><i>Facilitator: Ms. Kerstin Wittig Ferguson</i></p> <p><i>Group Moderators: Dr. Yiannis Laouris, Ms. Rahme Veziroglu, Mr. Hasan Mahariq, Mr. Amos Davidowitz</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:30	<p>Open space Workshop: Introduction and Facilitation by Ms. Kerstin Wittig Ferguson</p> <p>Open Space Technology is a powerful methodology that enables participants to manage their own agenda and discussions on questions and topics of their own priority, within the general frame of the conference. The Open Space Session will give the conference participants the opportunity to address issues that they feel has been missing from the conference, or create small project teams for potential future collaborations. For more information on the Open Space Technology: http://www.openspaceworld.org</p>
16:30-17:00	Presentation of Open Space
17:00-17:30	<p>Next Steps.</p> <p>Closing Remarks by Dr. Yiannis Laouris, Mr. Hasan Mahariq, Mr. Amos Davidowitz</p>
17:30 – 19:30	Cocktail Reception

Day One

The conference opened with an introduction by Ms. Anna-Maria Drousiotou. This was followed by welcoming speeches by Ms. Eleni Loukaidou, the Deputy Mayor of Nicosia, Ms. Alez Sensoy, Committee Member responsible for Cultural Affairs, and Ms. Kezban Akansoy, Press Officer and Political Reporter on behalf of Mr. Georgios Markopoulotis — Head of European Commission Representation in Cyprus. Successes and challenges of the Act Beyond Borders project were then discussed by Future Worlds Center President, Local Coordinator from the Association for Progressive Education in Honor of Meir Yaari, Project Assistant from the Palestinian Dialogue Center. Next, workshops were held where stakeholders from Israel, Palestinian Territories and Cyprus developed ideas to bridge the gaps in collaboration in Education, Journalism/Media and Business.



Day Two

On the second day, Dr. Yiannis Laouris moderated a panel discussion. Ms. Meltem Ikinci presented the trends of collaboration between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities and stressed the significance of youth involvement and public engagement. Next, Associate Professor at the University of Cyprus Dr Maria Hadjipavlou, presented the “UNSC Resolution 1325 and the Cyprus Peace Negotiations” and “The work of the Gender Advisory Team (GAT)” alongside Dr Olga Demetriou, Senior Research Consultant, PRIO Cyprus. The panel discussion finished with input speeches from Mr. Ashraf Alajrami, former Palestinian Minister of Prisoners Affairs and Mr. David Swissa, emphasized the importance of dialogue. The discussion closed with a positive statement from Mr. Swissa: “If we continue dreaming, everything is possible.”

Ms. Kerstin Wittig then facilitated an Open Space work shop. The conference culminated with closing remarks by the President of Future Worlds Center and the Coordinators of the project.

Some words about the Project “Act Beyond Borders”:

“Act Beyond Borders” is a three-year European Union funded project that is being coordinated by Future Worlds Center (FWC) in Nicosia, Cyprus with the assistance of local partners, the Palestinian Dialogue Center (PDC) in the Palestinian Territories and the Association for Progressive Education in Honor of Meir Yaari (YAARI), in Israel. This project enhances CSO’s capacity to act within their communities, and on the national and trans-national levels as well. It actively engages civil society actors from Israel and the Palestinian territories to collaborate on jointly developed community action projects to foster mutual understanding.

About the Organizer:

Future Worlds Center (FWC), (leg. Reg: Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Nicosia, Cyprus. FWC operates as an umbrella organisation with its three units; the New Media Lab Unit, the Global Education Unit, and the Humanitarian Affairs Unit, working towards positive social change. FWC has an international character enabling it to pioneer in the promotion of regional peace, intercultural communication and understanding, while at the same time responding to the needs of vulnerable groups on the island.

Partners

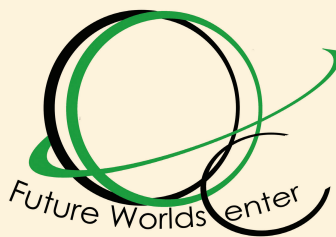


העמותה לחינוך מתקדם ע"ש מאיר יערי



The project is co-funded
by the European Commission

Organizer



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

5 Promitheos, 1065 Lefkosia, CYPRUS
Tel. +357 22 87 38 20
Fax. +357 22 87 38 21 <http://actbeyondborders.net/>
www.futureworldcenter.org