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- Startups 4 peace
- Ghost Airport Screening
- Preparations for the Park for Cooperation
- Experiences through the eyes of a host company of the Cross Community Exchange Program.
- Experiences through the eyes of a successful intern of the Cross Community Exchange Program

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# Newsletter

**“Leading by Example” 6th Issue**

**May 2016 - September 2016**

## STARTUPS 4 PEACE KICK-OFF



STARTUPS 4 PEACE is a competition hosted by the Embassy of Finland in Cyprus in partnership with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce. The objective is to encourage innovative startup entrepreneurship with intercommunal vision in Cyprus, to bring together and to increase contacts between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot startup communities and to support young entrepreneurs in developing their business.

The Grand Finale took place on the 22nd of September and the selected finalists had the chance to present their ideas in an exciting pitching

competition. The event took place at 17:00-18:30 in the Home for Cooperation located in the buffer zone of Nicosia. After pitching the winning startups were announced. The winners will get to travel to Europe's leading startup event SLUSH in Helsinki, Finland, in November!

This year there were altogether eight finalist teams pitching their ideas at the final. These were: 4re Energyprom Ltd, Antebox, Capsule Skateboards, Cyprus Guided Tours, Cyprus Kidzone, Idea Wall for Peace, LOKAL and Xarkis Presents: Craft Stories. All teams gave great pitches but in the end only three could win. These were Capsule Skateboards, LOKAL and Antebox.





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## GHOST AIRPORT SCREENING



The Ghost Airport documentary directed by Sami Özuslu, features interviews, pictures and plenty of video footage that refer to the history and the sad closure of the old Nicosia international airport following the 1974 events. It approaches the subject in a non-political, humane and emotional/nostalgic way demonstrating also the painful results of the conflict on the island for both communities. At the same time though, it reinforces the belief that the people of this island can leave peacefully together and that there is hope for the future.

The documentary was completed in 2015 and last September it was screened at the European Parliament in Brussels in an event organised by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO). The screening took place on the 9th of June at the Chateau Status, with many guests who have attended. It was a well appreciated event.

As the President of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce

**Mr Fikri Toros** said, *"The airport is a constant reminder of our division, our shattered memories and our lost opportunities. This is the reason why we need to act now. It is time to end our island to become the lands of ghosts – ghosts of the past that have been haunting us."*

On his part, **Mr Phidias Pilides**, President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, mentioned in his welcoming address at the event, *"... the documentary demonstrates that there is hope for the future and the people of this island, irrespective of ethnic origin, can work together to make the island prosper and secure a promising future for our children and the generations to come."*

At the screening there was also the Captain Adamos Marnero



who landed the last plane at the Nicosia Airport and he has talked about his experiences.







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**LEADING BY  
EXAMPLE**

### **Park for Cooperation**

The “Park for Cooperation” initiative envisages the creation of an outdoor space within the Ledra Palace buffer zone for regular bazaar-style bi-communal events, featuring merchants from both communities, cultural performances, entertainment and music. The envisaged location for the Park is the moat behind the ‘Home for Cooperation’ next to the football field. The Home for Cooperation management has been sounded out and is very keen for this project to be implemented and they have agreed that they will manage the Park if at the end of the project it will be self-funded. The activity will be implemented with the rules of the Green Line Regulation taken into account. The Leading by Example Project team has met with the Civil engineer in order to discuss the Bazaar events that will take place in the buffer zone.



### **QUIP Production owner Evren Maner telling about his experiences with a Greek Cypriot Intern from the Cross community Exchange Program.**

It is important that a Cinema labourer should give quick decisions based on understanding the work and the conditions. In this technical process religion, language and the ethnicity is not a factor. Dora has become a person who respects the work, open to criticisms, well-disciplined colleague. Quip Production LTD has brought its cinema and television broadcasting to the international levels all throughout Cyprus together with the Greek Cypriot colleagues. People like Dora who have given her heart and mind for peace and reunification, believes in common values and the universal human rights, religion, language and the culture difference will build a future for our country. It is the real example of the two society's business world's coming closer with partners of trade shows that there are no problems.

### **A success story about a Turkish Cypriot Intern Ahmet Özavcılar.**

As per my internship under "Leading by example", I worked full time at Baker Tilly in the 'South East Europe' Administration department. My responsibilities included assisting Human Resources team with preparing internal trainings, dealing with day-to-day HR matters, assisting the Chief Operations Officer with research and presentation preparations and at times of need, assisting other departments such as internal accounting. All these responsibilities added valuable knowledge and development of soft skills for my part which was very satisfying. After the 3 months of internship, I continued to work full-time for another month in the company. "Leading by Example" has been an excellent experience. Not only has it provided me with professional discipline, it has also enabled me to meet with wonderful people and create new friendships. The project acted as a bridge, both for me and the people working in Baker Tilly, to realize how similar our communities are. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who brought this project to life.