

ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟΥ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΑΥΓΟΡΟΥ
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SKE Avgorou – «Creative Europe»

The Community Volunteer Council of Avgorou is a self-governing, voluntary organizational structure with a non-profit character and it is a member of the Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council. Its aim is the provision of social services to the community of Avgorou and the amelioration of the standard of living.


These aims are pursued through different programs such as:

- The “Home of the Elderly”,
- The “Home Care Program”
- Day Care Centre
- Children’s Club
- The Program “Never More Home Alone” Elderly Club
- Implementation of various European programmes such as the European Voluntary Service – European Programme of the Cyprus National Service, with young volunteers from other European countries offering their service to the programmes of the Organization (granted by the European Union Programme “Erasmus+”)
- It also organizes events, conferences and seminars of various topic, excursions, voluntary blood donations etc.

Regarding the European experience, our Organization is being consistently involved in the European programs since 2007:

- Program “Never More Home Alone” Elderly Club. Subsidized by ECB and Republic of Cyprus – 2007-0009 (2 ½ years)
- Pegasus Project – 2009. The EEA Financial Mechanism & the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2004-2009. Fund for Non-Governmental Organization
- EVS – European Voluntary Service (2 volunteers) – 1/3/2013 – 31/8/2013
- Youth Initiatives «Make the Difference» - 1/8/2013 – 31/10/2013
- EVS – European Voluntary Service (6 volunteers) – 1/8/2013- 31/5/2013
- Action 1.2 « Switch off your PC, Switch on yourself» - 2014
- EVS - European Voluntary Service «Go for EVS» - 2014
- EVS - European Voluntary Service «What about EVS» - 2015

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- Youth exchange – «Sports jobs» - 2015
- EVS – European Voluntary Service «Keep calm and be an EVS Volunteer! »

It is also worth mentioning that applications for the programmes are fully carried out by individuals within the organization. Up to now there was no need for help from other organizations.

By participating in the European Programme “Creative Europe”, our primary goal is the promotion and presentation of the tradition and the cultural continuity in a border region. The traditional occupations, which nowadays are close to extinction, are a crucial factor in achieving our goals. We focus on the research and analysis of agricultural occupations, which remained popular up to today, but are nowadays being neglected from the new generation.

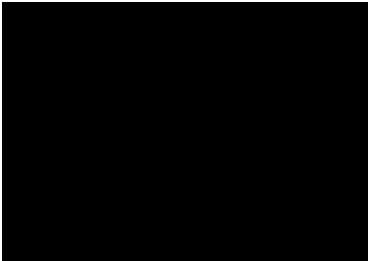
Agriculture is perhaps one of the most ancient activities of humans and remains active up to today. Our area is a great example. We could demonstrate this activity using concrete examples. This could be achieved through exhibitions of the development of agricultural tools-machinery, studies on the composition of soil layers, which could indicate the continuous cultivation of the land, interviews from old farmers, who will outline the differences etc.

Besides analyzing the place where the occupations are taking place, we also aim to research and present the types of entertainment among the locals, focusing on the growers and farmers. This will be achieved through the research, the presentation and the reproduction of music, dances and generally ways of entertainment, which were directly associated with these groups. A concrete example of this would be the representation of a traditional Cypriot celebration, which was used to take place right after the crop gathering in summer in our area.

Concerning food, there are also some interesting aspects. A logical consequence of being active in agriculture and farming was the processing and use of “fruits” by humans. By focusing on those products, which were always produced in our region, we can give a sense of historical continuity and development regarding cook recipes. Through the publication of a recipe book we will focus on the development of the recipes over time. Thus this would be a historical handbook promoting the culinary culture of our area, which arose from the adaptation of agriculture and farming to different conditions throughout time.

Another interesting aspect about our organization is the attempt to upgrade and develop expert skills in those occupations relevant to agriculture and farming. The aim of this is to attract young people to the occupations, to revive this sector, which was the backbone of the economy of the area and to rescue and

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coordinate a series of traditional occupations, which are close to extinction. All this could be realized through a series of lectures, workshops, study visits to more developed areas in this sector within the island but also to the rest of Europe. A consequence of this would be a reduction of unemployment and an increase in production. Moreover, it would upgrade and westernize these occupations in the area.

What we require in order to be able to implement this program is to find partners with similar goals and interests in order to exchange ideas and experiences, work together and take advantage of the benefits that the EU offers to us.

Petros Karyos

President of SKE Avgorou

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