

Press Release – LIFE Programme

Sustainable organic farming against childhood obesity and climate change!

The Cypriot LIFE National Contact Point and the team of the LIFE Cyclamen Project organised a press event on Wednesday October 9th 2019 at the Department of Environment. The purpose of the event was to introduce local journalists to the LIFE Programme - EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action.

The general objective of the LIFE Programme is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value. Those who can benefit from this Programme are public bodies, research centres, non-governmental organisations, local authorities, universities and private companies.

During this event, participants had the opportunity to hear more about a Cypriot LIFE Project that was recently completed, namely [LIFE ORGANIKO](#). This project promotes organic farming and organic products on the basis of two great challenges for Cyprus: (a) Childhood obesity, which is turning into a pandemic, with the adoption of a more organic way of living and (b) the combat of climate change with organic farming, which reduces the greenhouse gas emissions.

With regards to nutrition, the clinical trial conducted by ORGANIKO, among 149 children in Cyprus, showed that the systematic consumption of organic food lowers the body burden of pesticides and as a result significantly lowers the levels of biomarkers of oxidative stress/inflammation in children. Such biomarkers of oxidative stress/inflammation are considered as early stage markers for a suite of chronic conditions, such as obesity, type II diabetes, or cancer.

The findings of the ORGANIKO project were used to form an action plan promoting organic farming and organic products in Cyprus, which will be taken into account by the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment in the preparation of the strategic national plan for the development of organic farming.

The beneficiaries of this Project were: The Cyprus University of Technology, the Agricultural Research Institute, the Department of Environment and Kyoto Club (Italy).

The Cypriot National Contact Point (The Department of Environment) through the LIFE Cyclamen Project aims to support and assist Cypriot applicants and help increase the success rate of Cypriot proposals while making use of these EU funds to improve our environment. To find out more about the LIFE Cyclamen Project and the LIFE Programme visit www.lifecyclamen.com.cy

October 9th, 2019