



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland

Cyprus-Ireland Blue Growth Initiative 2019

The Embassy of Ireland in Cyprus is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the first “Cyprus-Ireland Blue Growth Initiative” which has taken place in Ireland and Cyprus.

Following the visit of Ireland’s Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney to Cyprus in June 2018, it was agreed, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Mr Nikos Christodoulides, that cooperation should be enhanced between Ireland and Cyprus, as two EU island nations, in the marine and maritime sectors.



Left to right: Ms Dimitra Petsa, Ms Dimitra Orthodoxou, Ms Patricia Ryan, Ambassador Deirdre Ní Fhallúin, Minister Nikos Christodoulides, Ms Xenia Loizidou, Ms Hannah Brownlow, Ms Jane Sheehan, Ms Anna Tselepeou, Ms Maria McGuinness, Mr Demetris Samuel

This first year of the initiative has involved an academic, educational exchange between University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland and AKTI Project and Research Centre, based in Cyprus. The themes explored this year have included microplastics/marine litter, blue growth, marine renewable energy, entrepreneurship within the blue economy, and other marine and maritime related issues. Following the exchanges, discussions have now commenced on ways to enhance the collaboration between the two EU island nations through the development of Memorandums of Understanding for academic, research, civil society and industry collaboration.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Mr Nikos Christodoulides had a meeting with the Ambassador of Ireland Deirdre Ní Fhallúin, the students from University of Cork in Cyprus and the team from AKTi Project and Research Centre. The Minister said: *“Despite the geographic distance between us, Cyprus and Ireland have a lot in common and enjoy excellent ties at various levels. Together with our Irish partners we are determined to expand and broaden our cooperation further, in innovative ways that will benefit our peoples, our economies and the environment we live in, an important part of which are the seas that surround our islands. The ‘Cyprus-Ireland Blue Growth Initiative’ is a prime example of the innovative cooperation we are looking for and that we are therefore happy to encourage and support.”*

The Ambassador of Ireland in Cyprus, Deirdre Ní Fhallúin said: *“The aim of this project is to develop bilateral relations between Ireland and Cyprus in two key respects – marine/maritime and higher education. As two islands at the opposite sides of Europe, Ireland and Cyprus have much to learn from each other through sharing expertise and learning. The project complements the role being played as consortium members by the Irish Marine Institute and SmartBay Ireland in the development of the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI) in Larnaca.”*

Head of AKTI Xenia Loizidou said: *“Our island countries, Ireland and Cyprus, have so many in common: limited natural resources and a fragile environment. Sustainability is the only way forward. Cooperation and networking make us stronger and resilient, to protect our islands, to protect our seas, to develop within the Blue framework of growth!”*

Cyprus participants:

Ms Dimitra Petsa – Environmental Engineer

Ms Dimitra Orthodoxou – Biochemist/ Environmental Engineer

Ireland participants

Ms Hannah Brownlow – University College Cork

Ms Maria McGuinness – University College Cork

Ms Jane Sheehan – University College Cork

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