

KEPLI supports IOM with activities for Unaccompanied Migrant Children



In the context of IOM's program regarding the provision of semi-independent living opportunities for unaccompanied migrant children, the Regional Youth Information Center (KEPLI) in Agros organized a series of activities for the program's beneficiaries, aimed at their social integration and the strengthening of transversal skills, in accordance with the European Youth Strategy (EU Youth Goals).

In particular, activities included a guided tour in Agros in order for the teenagers to familiarize themselves with the community, a presentation about the history of Agros and Cyprus, a workshop for the development of communication skills, individual appointments with a vocational orienteering consultant, a workshop for setting up a CV, digital interactive games on Cyprus and the European Union, a workshop on volunteering and cleaning of main roads of Agros.

Since June, KEPLI has been offering Greek and English language courses on weekly basis. In addition, the whole team was granted the European Youth Card free of charge, which offers benefits and discounts in Cyprus and abroad.

IOM is deeply appreciative of KEPLI's support and excellent initiatives and is looking forward to the organization of future educational activities related to social integration, sports, culture and employment.

IOM Discusses Migration in the Eastern Mediterranean and COVID-19



Mrs Natasa Xenophonos Koudouna, Head of IOM Cyprus, had the opportunity to exchange views on Migration in the Eastern Mediterranean and COVID-19 during the video podcast episode hosted by the Eastern Mediterranean Studies Initiative on June 24.

Mrs. Xenophonos Koudouna was joined by Mrs. Katja Saha, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Cyprus, while the discussion was moderated by Dr. Constantinos Adamides, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and Governance, University of Nicosia

IOM stressed the disproportionate impact of the COVID19 pandemic on people on the move which could result in diminished avenues for safe, regular and orderly migration, further exacerbating health vulnerabilities and human security risks, including opportunities for human traffickers and smugglers. In a time of uncertainty and fear linked to the spread of COVID-19, it is also critical to maintain international solidarity and prevent stigmatization, discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech against particular groups, including migrants, based on nationality or ethnic origin.