

## IOM Cyprus continues the empowerment of UMCs



During the final days of the school year, beneficiaries of the semi-independent living program in Limassol district had the chance to participate in personal development and empowerment activities, such as a professional orientation workshop and a second one regarding key elements of successful integration. The children were able to appreciate the importance of continuous learning and personal initiative in their journey towards a new, independent life in Cyprus.

In addition to the above, beneficiaries of the semi-independent living programme took part in a team building workshop focusing on communication and interpersonal skills. Its main aim was to help understand the importance and positive effect of a respectful behavior towards other peers. Workshops were kindly hosted by the Youth Information Center in Agros, with the participation of 20 children so far (18 boys and 2 girls).

IOM Cyprus held several information meetings with community councils in the broader district of Limassol. The discussion with community chairs and representatives concerned the identification of suitable housing for adolescents arriving in Cyprus unaccompanied and additional ways of support in the framework of the [#it\\_takes\\_a\\_community\\_to\\_care](#) campaign.

IOM Cyprus staff members have also held a series information sessions Pournara Reception Centre and had the opportunity to discuss with unaccompanied children about the details of the semi-independent living programme.

## IOM Mourns Death of Former Director-General William Lacy Swing



William Lacy Swing, former Director General of the International Organization for Migration and longtime US diplomat, died on 12 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He was 86 years old.

Over four decades, his diplomatic career included six US Ambassadorial postings, before retiring from the US Foreign Service in 2001 and embarking on a second career with the United Nations.

He was elected Director General of IOM in 2008, steering the Organization for the next decade through its greatest period of expansion since the organization's foundation in 1951. Under Mr. Swing's stewardship, IOM grew into an agency with an annual operating budget of an estimated USD1.5 billion and more than 10,000 staff working in over 150 countries worldwide. IOM currently has 174 Member States.

Swing felt strongly that IOM's future lay in formalizing the well-established working relationship between the Organization and the United Nations system. In September 2016, then-DG Swing and Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon signed the agreement that established IOM – UN Migration – as a related organization of the UN.

As UN Migration, IOM became the point of reference in the global debate on the social, economic and political implications of migration in the 21st century.

## AVRR capacity building seminar on victims of trafficking



On 2 June IOM Cyprus organized a capacity building seminar on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking.

The purpose of the seminar was to improve the cooperation and the implementation of practices between IOM Cyprus and the competent bodies regarding the voluntary return of victims of trafficking through the exchange of views and good practices.

Representatives from different IOM offices in Europe had the chance to present different perspectives on the issue from an institutional point of view. The input by IOM's Regional Office in Brussels focused more on the IOM/institutional approach, with reference also to the new EU strategy on counter-trafficking, while IOM Switzerland shared an overview of AVRR and counter-trafficking efforts in the country, with reference to collaboration with local stakeholders, individual case studies supported, as well as reference to specific counter-trafficking campaigns.

In addition, representatives from the Social Welfare Services provided useful information regarding the support and assistance to victims or potential victims of trafficking in Cyprus, including children and vulnerable individuals.

## IOM shares best practices on the integration of migrants in Cyprus



On 15 April IOM Cyprus shared insights on the integration of the most vulnerable migrants and refugees in Cyprus during the online conference "Approaches to Integration and Inclusion of Migrants Across Europe". The Conference was organized by the Diplomatic Academy of the University of Nicosia with the support of CARDET.

The event focused on the importance of education and employment of migrants as part of their integration process presenting experiences and practices from Cyprus, Malta, Portugal and Austria.

In terms of the integration process, IOM stressed that relative efforts should start early and involve both migrants and the host community, as recognized by the National Action Plan on Integration. In this direction, IOM Cyprus has created the semi-independent living programme for unaccompanied migrant children in Cyprus. IOM seeks to meet the individual needs of unaccompanied minors by ensuring their access to education and vocational training, health services, psychosocial support and legal information on their rights and duties. Its objective is to promote the inclusion of migrant children in the local community and to protect their rights.