

PRESS RELEASE
Regional Information Meetings for the
"Implementation the Smart Rural Areas Approach"

The cycle of five (5) Regional Information Meetings for the "Implementation of the Smart Rural Areas Approach" was completed on Wednesday, 05 April 2023, organized by the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation & Digital Policy, with the support of the Cyprus Communities Union, the National Rural Network and the European Consortium "E40 Europe".

The meetings took place between 27 March and 05 April 2023, in the Communities of Galata, Skarinou, Trimiklini, Liopetri and Tsada, covering all the Provinces of Cyprus and its rural areas.

The Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation & Digital Policy, Mr. Philippos Chatzizacharias attended and addressed the Trimiklini meeting. The President of the Cyprus Communities Union, Mr. Andreas Kitromelidis, or his representatives - in Galata, Mr. Sotiris Kyriakou, President of the Community Council of Agrokipias, and in Tsada, Mr. Michalis Nikandrou, President of the Community Council of Anaritas, also addressed the meetings.

The meeting program included presentations:

- ✓ From Ms. Elena Pulli, on behalf of the Deputy Ministry, for the "Smart Cyprus" Strategy, the Platform that is created and enhances the achievement of the Strategy's goals, as well as smart solutions that can be created and hosted on the Platform, in urban and rural areas.
- ✓ From Mr. Makis Papamichael, National Expert of the "Smart Rural 27 Project", for the National Definition of Smart Rural Areas, the results of the research recording the priorities of rural areas in smart solutions and good implementation practices from other EU Member States.
- ✓ From representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, for the Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy and the funding it includes for smart and innovative investments.

Particularly important was the contribution to the meetings of the Local Action Groups, with the participation and interventions of Mr. Lefteris Periklis, President of the Development Agency of Limassol, Mr. Petros Hatjikostas, Director of the Development Agency of Troodos, Mr. Vassilis Konstantinou, Director of the Development Agency of Larnaca and Famagusta,

Mr. Marios Ioannou, Director of the Development Agency of Paphos and Mr. Evangelos Kepolas, Coordinator of the LEADER Program for Larnaca and Famagusta.

The meetings were addressed to representatives and executives of the Community Councils, as well as to representatives of the organized groups of the rural areas. In total, 110 people participated in the meetings.

Among others, Ms. Alexandra Attalidou, Member of Parliament for Nicosia, Mr. Charalambos Pazaros, Member of Parliament for Paphos, Mr. Panikos Panaoulas, Deputy Secretary of the PEK, Mr. Charalambos Pittokopitis, District Secretary of the PEK for Paphos, Mr. Thomas Thomas, representative of EKA and Mr. Yiannis Tsouloftas, Director General of Sewerage Board of Limassol-Amathus.

The main message emerging from the meetings is the opportunities and possibilities arising from the development of the National Strategic Framework for "Smart Cyprus", as well as the creation of the relevant Pan-Cyprus Platform by the Deputy Ministry, which are the first and important steps to achieve the goal of technological and digital upgrading of the country. In this context, the possibility of utilizing digital tools, such as the Platform under creation, as well as other smart solutions, such as telemetry of water, tele-health, fire safety, etc., from rural areas is a given.

Smart Development Strategies are a valuable and an untapped tool for Local Authorities. Focusing on people and the environment are dominant elements of a flexible, transparent and participatory process. The development and implementation of relevant Strategies is fully harmonized with the development strategy of the European Union which aims at a modern, digital, resource-efficient and competitive economy, as well as a climate-neutral European territory.

Pictures from the Meeting in Galata, Monday, 27 March 2023



Pictures from the Meeting in Skarinou, Wednesday, 29 March 2023



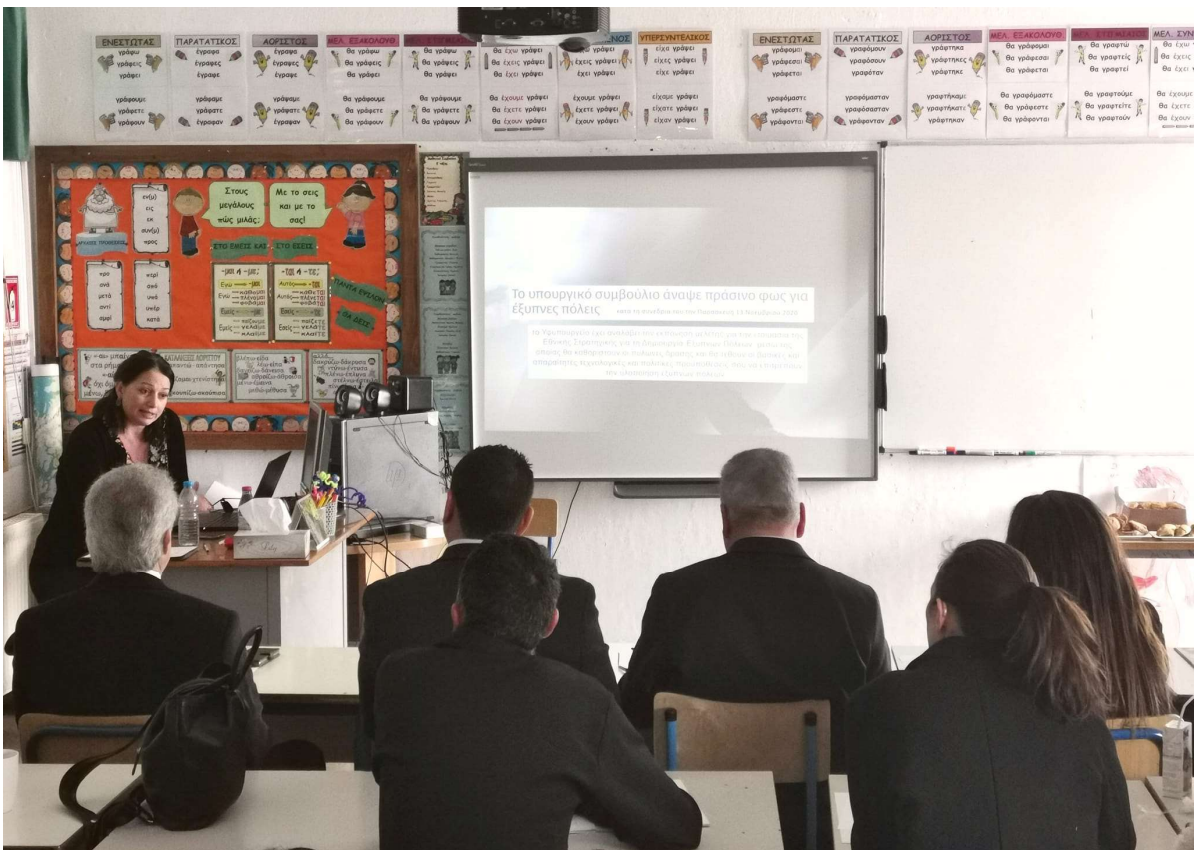
Pictures from the Meeting in Trimiklini, Thursday, 30 March 2023



Pictures from the Meeting in Liopetri, Monday, 03 April 2023



Pictures from the Meeting in Tsada, Wednesday, 05 April 2023



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Εφαρμογή της προσέγγισης των έξυπνων αγροτικών περιοχών από Υφυπουργείο Καινοτομίας

7/04/2023, 13:18



Εφαρμογή της προσέγγισης των έξυπνων αγροτικών περιοχών από Υφυπουργείο Καινοτομίας – «Τα πρώτα σημαντικά βήματα για την τεχνολογική και ψηφιακή αναβάθμιση του τόπου»

Οι ευκαιρίες και οι δυνατότητες που απορρέουν από την ανάπτυξη του Εθνικού Πλαισίου Στρατηγικής για την «Εξυπνη Κύπρο – Smart Cyprus», καθώς και η δημιουργία της σχετικής Παγκύπριας Πλατφόρμας από το **Υφυπουργείο Έρευνας, Καινοτομίας και Ψηφιακής Πολιτικής**, παρουσιάστηκαν σε πέντε περιφερειακές ενημερωτικές συναντήσεις για την “εφαρμογή της προσέγγισης των **έξυπνων αγροτικών περιοχών**”.