

**Mayor Greeting Charalambos Petrides**

*“Gastronomy brings us closer”*

Communities with Colour

**29 November 2017**

**13:00 - 15:00**

**HHC**

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Honourable Ambassador of Syrian Arab Republic  
Honourable General Consulate of Thailand  
Honourable Members of diplomatic corps of Russian Federation,  
of the People's Republic of China  
Honourable Director of Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus  
Dear members of Aglantzia Municipal Council  
Dear colleges,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all at event “Gastronomy bring us closer” hosted at the Higher Hotel Institute. The event is, run within the framework of the Integration programmers by local authorities in collaboration with Higher Hotel Institute.

Aglantzia Municipality participates, and leads, the “Colourful Societies project”, which incorporates the provision of training/education, orientation and social support service coupled with cultural events for Third Countries Nationals living in Cyprus.

The “colourful Societies” programme is part of a collective effort by the Local Authorities in Cyprus based on the EU strategy, the objectives of the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the National Strategy of Cyprus. Its ultimate goal is to support and integrate immigrant communities, refugees and asylum seekers in the Cypriot Society. By improving the social inclusion, cohesion and socialization we aim to tackle discrimination, xenophobia and racism.

Local authorities, having the ability to be close to citizens and their every day life, and thus play an important role in this collective government effort. We as local authorities

have a special mission to create conditions that facilitate the smooth integration of immigrants and refugees into a coherent, non- discriminatory society.

The Municipality of Aglantzia, is the Final Beneficiary of the project other participating partners are the Strovolos, Latsia and Dali Municipalities, the Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL) and the Opinion and Action Services Ltd, Strategic Planning and Communication Consultants. The Municipality of Tseri and Geri also take part in the part in the partnership scheme, through their representation via ANEL.

The programme is 90% co-funded by the Asylum, Integration and Immigration Fund and 10% by the Republic of Cyprus.

Gastronomy has always brought different civilizations, cultures and customs closer. The students of Higher Hotel Institute, under the supervision of their esteemed chef teachers are about to present unique exotic flavours thus helping us get to know a significant part of the of Third Country Nationals living in Cyprus' culture and to build bridges via of communication and cooperation.

I take this opportunity to formally announce that the municipality of Aglantzia has themed its most popular event, the 2018 carnival parade, as "Earth- a colourful planet". The theme addresses all the issues addressed by the project "colourful Societies" .

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the Director of Higher Hotel Institute Dr. Evi Soteriou for the cooperation and hospitality. Nicosia Development Agency, our partners in the project. and all of you who have honoured us with your presence today.