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PATIENTS' VOICE PROJECT EVENT REPORT

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|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Name of the event: | Mental Health Seminar | Activity: 9 | Advocacy and Awareness Raising Activity |
| No of participants: | 30 | Budget for the Action: | 650 Euro |
| Time: | 10:00 – 12:30 | Venue: | Thalassemia Conference Room |
| Date of Event: | Tuesday 18th October 2016 | Reporters Name: | İzlem Sönmez (Project Manager, Beran Dağtaş (Communication & Advocacy Officer) |
| Visibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre and post press releases• Facebook and Twitter posts | Appearances | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kıbrıs Newspaper• Ortam (Cover page)• Kıbrıs Postası Newspaper• Kıbrıs TV (İzlem Sönmez guest on Ayşe Gürkan's program)• BRTK radio (İzlem Sönmez guest on "45 minutes show")• http://meydankibris.com/haber-ruh-sagligi-semineri-duzenlendi-12249.html• http://www.nehaberkibris.com/haber/ruh-sagligi-yasasi-1932den-beridir-degismedi/4592/• http://meydankibris.com/haber-ruh-sagligi-semineri-duzenlendi-12249.html• http://www.gazete360.com/Haberler/saglik/ruh-sagligi-semineri-duzenlendi/56237• http://www.kibrispostasi.com/index.php/cat/77/news/203380/PageName/SAGLIK_KISISEL_BAKIM• http://www.kibrisgazetesi.com/saglik/ruh-sagligi-tedavisi-gorenlere-toplumun-disina-itiliyor/4224• http://www.kibrisondakika.com/ruh-sagligi-semineri-duzenledi/• http://dijigazete.net/ruh-sagligi-semineri-duzenlendi/ |

| Budget for the Action Costs | Budget Spend (Euro) | Available budget- 650 Euro |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Seminar Advert (1/6) – Visibility | 95,06 | |
| Video production- visibility | 150 | |
| Catering | 200 | |
| SMS messaging | 50 | |
| Stationary | 10 | 505 Euro Spent 145 Euro (left) |



This project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Universal Patient Rights Association and the Active Citizenship Network.





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Details of the event:

Program:

- Opening remarks: İzlem Sönmez
- Presentation by Emete İmge
- Speech by TCC authority for health Dr Faiz Sucuoğlu
- Presentation by president of Cyprus Turkish Association of Doctors, Dt Filiz Besim
- Presentation by child psychiatrist Dr Ayşe Zeki
- Film screening: "Interview with a mental health patient's parents"
- Closing remarks by head doctor of Barış Mental Hospital, Dr Abidin Akbirgün

Mental Health Seminar which was organised in the framework of "Mental Health Month" received high level participation including the TCC authority for health, head doctor of Dr Burhan Nalbantoğlu State Hospital, head doctor of Barış Mental Hospital, president of Cyprus Turkish Association of Doctors, head nurse of the state hospital, doctors, dean of medical school of EMU, professor from Harvard University and other academics, researchers and guests.

Seminar was opened by Patients' Rights project manager İzlem Sönmez' presentation, introducing the project and it was followed by UPRA president Emete İmge's presentation. After İmge's presentation during which she elaborated the condition of patient rights in north Cyprus as well as the added challenges encountered by mental health patients.

After İmge's presentation TCC authority for health Dr Faiz Sucuoğlu took the floor and spoke about his works since he took the office and promised to tackle problems in the health care system in general and mental health patients' conditions in particular. Sucuoğlu also expressed his willingness to work in cooperation with UPRA and Patients' Rights Project.

In her presentation after Sucuoğlu's speech President of Cyprus Turkish Association of Doctors Filiz Besim criticised the out-dated mental health law and made a detailed analysis of the problems in north Cyprus healthcare system. Besim also urged all the policy makers to give priority to healthcare reform and increased work on substructure of the general hospital.

Speaking after Besim, Dr Zeki emphasised the "stigmatization" faced by mental health patients and discrimination against them. Zeki stressed that mental health problems are more common than the general society assumed and spoke about the importance of awareness raising activities on the issue.

Making some unscheduled closing remarks Dr Akbirgün said that the mental hospital was working over capacity due to an archaic mental health law. Akbirgün said that the hospital was not in a condition to answer the high demand which stems from the fact that non-psychiatric individuals who actually need to be admitted to care homes or should be part of the society were left to their care.



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At the end of the conference all participants and organisers agreed on the need for regular communication and formation of alliances in order to overcome the problems in healthcare system.

The project team will organise a smaller meeting with the strategic actors.



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