

# Evaluation of the Support facility to the bi-communal Technical Committees (BCTC SF)

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## List of Abbreviations

BCTC	Bi-Communal Technical Committees
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EC	European Commission
EUPSO:	EU Programme Support Office
GC:	Greek Cypriot
GO	Good Offices
LIF	Local Infrastructure Facility
JCR	Joint Contact Room
OSAG	Office of Special Advisor to the Secretary General
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/ Development Assistance Criteria
SC	Steering Committee
SF	Support Facility
TC	Turkish Cypriot
TCCH	Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bi-Communal Technical Committees (BCTCs) were established as confidence building measures to improve the atmosphere of the Cyprus peace talks and demonstrate that the two communities could work together on issues of common concern. However, the BCTCs had been struggling to find a purpose and sense of direction in the period following the collapse of the Crans Montana negotiations in 2017. The establishment of the BCTC Support Facility by the EU in 2019 was a significant and timely intervention as the political process had stalled and there was a growing sense of disillusionment about the prospects for a future settlement. The BCTC SF is funded under the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community. The overall aim of this aid programme is to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU and the preparation for the EU body of laws (also referred to as the EU *acquis*) following a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue.

The failure of the last round of negotiations in 2017 on the future of Cyprus and several other factors including changes in the political environment in the TC community and a shift in the narrative towards a two-state solution by the TC leadership, increasing divergence between the two economies, as well as demographic changes in the Turkish Cypriot community created a more difficult climate for possible future negotiations and for the work of the BCTCs. The BCTCs had been in a transition phase in the years up to 2019 with several fragmented and inactive and struggling to find a way forward. The Covid 19 pandemic and resulting restrictions had a serious impact on daily life in Cyprus with restrictions at crossing points for a period of 15 months. The fact that the BCTCs could not meet face to face for two years was a significant factor and undoubtedly set back the work of the BCTCs which were starting to undertake activities through the BCTC SF.

The evaluation has found that overall concept of the BCTC SF and the specific support provided to the BCTCs is very relevant and timely given the situation in Cyprus. It has helped to normalise bi-communal work and sustained hope at a time when sentiment has been quite negative. The BCTC SF itself and the projects it has supported over the last three years give a strong political message and demonstrate the EUs continued commitment to supporting UN efforts to revive the negotiation process and work towards reunification of Cyprus. At this point the BCTCs are the main mechanism for bi-communal work and a key element in efforts to revive the political negotiations process. The support of the EU has been critical, and the continuation of this support is essential in the current political context. Continued support will be crucial in the next phase both to enable the TC and GC communities to address common issues and to create conditions conducive to a revival of negotiations. The EU should maintain the BCTC SF and the indirect management mechanism and continue to work in partnership with the UNDP and the UN Good Offices to ensure that the BCTCs can build on the initial progress made over the last three years.

The evaluation has found that the work supported through the BCTC SF is coherent with the objectives of the EU Aid Programme and that the BCTC project has contributed to the objectives of this programme both in terms of economic integration and confidence building at a critical time when the political process was at a standstill. There was consensus among those consulted that the Technical Committees are crucial in the current political environment and that they have a key role to play to

the development of integrated island wide approaches to common issues in areas such as the environment, health, climate change and in promoting reconciliation and a possible future settlement. Overall the evaluation has found that the BCTC SF has been effective and has made good progress towards the achievement of its objectives despite significant challenges in this period. The support provided has enabled several BCTCs to undertake work in the cultural and socio-economic arenas. Collaboration between GC and TC experts from the different sectors has contributed to the economic integration of the island and has built relationships, trust, and confidence; key ingredients for a resumption of the negotiation process. Equally important it has demonstrated the potential and the benefits of bi-communal work in these areas, increased awareness of the need for island wide approaches, raised the ambition of the BCTCs and created a platform for more substantial bi-communal initiatives. While these contributions are still modest, they are significant as they are starting to address critical issues relating to economic integration, creating momentum and models for further work.

The BCTC SF has contributed to confidence building by revitalizing the BCTC, supporting them through a difficult transition period and facilitating them to develop and implement all-island initiatives. The BCTCs are positive regarding the support provided by the EU through the BCTC SF and highlighted the value of the facilitation, problem solving and encouragement provided through the complimentary roles of the UNDP and the UN Good Offices. Members of the BCTCs are generally very positive about the role of the UNDP during project implementation and monitoring, highlighting in particular the willingness to work and support the Technical Committees through crises situations, to help overcome barriers and to lighten the administrative and bureaucratic load. The capacity of the UNDP to recruit and engage experts to support the Technical Committees and to handle procurement and finance was seen as critical to progression and implementation of projects and overall it has brought considerable added value to the initiative.

Given the political context in Cyprus there is a need for sustained work and ongoing support for the BCTCs in order to build the multilevel and incremental programme of confidence building which will be needed to support the negotiation process. In order to shift the dynamic and contribute to wider and more sustained confidence building the BCTCs need to develop a multi-level approach and widen their constituencies through increased partnership and engagement with civil society, the private sector, academic institutions etc. The BCTCs have been involved in a range of activities ranging from once off events/study visits/conferences to more substantial projects such as those implemented by the Technical Committees on the Environment, Health, and Culture.

There have been concerns around the quality of projects coming forward and delays in completing several projects which has led to frustration and undermined some of the initial progress made by these BCTCs. The project was based on two assumptions; that the political context would remain relatively stable and positive and that the BCTCs had a pipeline of projects available. These assumptions were too optimistic as a number of BCTCs had been inactive, experienced turnover in membership and were not ready to develop projects at the outset. The changed political context has presented challenges to the BCTC and to the SF and has contributed to some delays in the implementation of projects and frustration among BCTC stakeholders involved. Concerns around the politicisation of the BCTC and the increased focus on the projects and on terminology has been a persistent theme in the consultations and is causing concern among all stakeholders. Technical issues have been elevated to political level contributing to, delays and tensions which risk undermining the

overall aim of building confidence and resolving common problems. While all stakeholders recognise that the BCTCs are part of the political process there is a strong desire to provide them with space to operate and creating this space should be a priority in the next phase of the initiative.

There are some issues around the broader impact of this work at this point and the extent to which it has brought the two communities closer together. Stakeholders acknowledge that there are significant challenges in promoting the work of the BCTCs. The key is to transfer the work out into the wider community and build stronger ownership on the ground. This will require increased engagement with civil society, the private sector and academic institutions and continued efforts to promote this work to a wider audience.

The support to the BCTCs is provided through a partnership involving the EU, UNDP, and UN Good Offices with a project Steering committee set up to oversee implementation. There have been some criticisms of the operation of the Steering committee, the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders and a certain lack of clarity around decision making. It will be important that the management structure and decision making is more streamlined going forward and that it strengthens Cypriot ownership of the process. Under the contribution agreement between EU and UNDP, the UNDP is the implementing partner responsible for the provision of strategic, logistic, administrative and procurement support to initiatives identified by the BCTCs. The nature of support provided the level of engagement with BCTCs and the ongoing need for crises management and facilitation requires a considerable investment in project management. The political context in the TC community has shifted over the lifetime of the BCTC SF with divergences between the EU's political agenda and the perspectives of some stakeholders in the TC community with some sensitivities around the role of the EU. The UNDP is a trusted partner in both the GC and TC communities with a track record of implementing bi-communal initiatives and dealing with sensitive issues. In this context the role of the UNDP is critical to the effective operation of the BCTC SF and brings important added value to the overall initiative. The indirect management model has been effective, provides value for money and should be retained in the next phase on the initiative.

Some of the key lessons emerging from the operation of the BCTC SF were as follows; the BCTCs are at different stages of development with different levels of capacity and support needs to be individualised and tailored to their specific requirements. The political context impacts on the operation of the BCTCs and as far as possible the BCTCs need to be protected and enabled to carry out important bi-communal work. The level of engagement with external stakeholders, particularly civil society, has limited both the contribution to confidence building and the sustainability of the interventions. This is a critical area which can lift the work of the BCTCs to a new level and strengthen societal confidence building. The Gender Technical Committee can have a significant role going forward but will need considerable support and a comprehensive partnership approach in order to help integrate gender into the work of other technical committees and to strengthen the gender dimension in future negotiations. The BCTC SF was implemented in a challenging environment and should be viewed as a pilot phase which informs and shapes future work.

Stakeholders are keen to strengthen and sustain the work of the BCTCs and recognise the critical role of the BCTC SF in this regard. Proposals on the way forward have focused on; increased engagement and involvement of wider society in these initiatives, more focus on thematic issues with increased cross-BCTC collaboration, increased emphasis on a multi-level approach and on the policy agenda,

expanding the pool of resources to facilitate more ambitious bi-communal initiatives and a more streamlined process to speed up implementation. One of the weaknesses in the overall initiative has been the limited engagement with the wider community and this needs attention in the next phase. Many of the island wide issues and challenges overlap and would benefit from a thematic and multi-disciplinary approach with enhanced collaboration between BCTCs. There is also scope to create synergies between the work of the BCTCs and with other work supported under the Aid programme such as the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage (TCCH) and the Local Infrastructure Facility (LIF). This would point to the need for new structures and processes to support the BCTCs in this regard as well as ongoing and sustained support for individual BCTCs to enable them to contribute effectively. Effective confidence building measures need a multi-level approach and BCTCs should put increased focus on how initiatives can impact on policy in the GC and/or TC arena. Adopting a thematic approach, increased focus on policy and on wider community engagement should be key priorities going forward.

The BCTC SF budget of EUR 1 million was sufficient to support the BCTCs in this initial phase of the process and there was an underspending at the end of the project. However, this scale of funding would not be sufficient in the next phase of development where BCTCs are progressing to more ambitious bi-communal projects. Several BCTCs have plans in place to further develop bi-communal work and there is already a pipeline of projects with a projected total budget of over EUR 300,000. The BCTCs can access other EU funding streams for larger projects and facilitating and supporting the BCTCs to apply for and benefit from these opportunities is one of the objectives of the BCTC SF. However, this would not be an option for some BCTCs in the short to medium term as they have not developed the capacity to plan and implement larger, more complex projects and are also restricted since they are not legal entities. Therefore, access to additional sources of funding would be significant as an interim measure and would provide a progression path for BCTCs and facilitate the development of substantial bi-communal initiatives in the medium to long term. The UNDP is well positioned to provide support to eligible bi-communal initiatives in line with its programme priorities in Cyprus and the UNDP should investigate the potential to establish a supplementary Trust fund to complement the work of the BCTC SF.

The evaluation concludes that the EU's support for confidence building efforts in Cyprus through this BCTC Support Facility remains highly relevant and recommends that the EU should maintain the BCTC SF in order to support island wide projects, improve the lives of Cypriots and build confidence with a view to contributing to the future unification of Cyprus. It also highlights the added value of the EU support provide through the Facility and the importance of the partnership approach between the EU, the UNDP, and the UN Good Offices. The indirect implementation mechanism worked well in this phase and would appear to be most appropriate approach for the future development of the BCTCs. Considering this and the need to maintain continuity and build on the first phase of work, it would be appropriate for the EU to maintain the indirect management mechanism and continue to work in partnership with the UNDP and the Good Offices.

## 1. Introduction

The Bi-Communal Technical Committees (BCTCs) were established by the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities under the auspices of the United Nations, to address issues that affect the day-to-day life of people, through encouraging and facilitating greater interaction and understanding between the two communities. The BCTCs operate as confidence building measures that can improve the atmosphere of the peace and talks and demonstrate that the two communities can work together on issues of common concern. Cyprus joined the EU in 2004 as a de-facto divided island. In April 2004 the Council of the European Union stated its determination to "put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community and to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community". The EU implements an aid programme which aims to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on; the economic integration of the island, improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and the preparation for the EU body of laws (also referred to as the EU acquis) following a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue.

### Overview of the Evaluation

The objective of the evaluation was to assess the relevance, impact; effectiveness; efficiency; sustainability of Support Facility to the bi-communal Technical Committees, to identify lessons emerging and to provide recommendations for the continuation and future development of the project and a road map for designing the potential next phase of the project. The evaluation should enable UNDP in Cyprus, the European Union, and other stakeholders to draw lessons in order to improve the implementation of the project.

The evaluation was carried out over a 6-week period from mid-May to the end of June 2022 and involved three phases: the inception phase, two weeks data collection in Cyprus and the report writing phase. The data collection phase in Cyprus involved interviews with key stakeholder focusing in particular on the co-chairs of the Technical Committees and the GC and TC Co-ordinators.

**Table 1: Summary of data collection**

Stakeholder	No of people interviewed
Co-chairs/members of Technical Committees and Technical committee co-ordinators	23
UNDP, UN, and EU	13
Civil Society and academics	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

A list of people interviewed is provided in Annex 1. The interviews were semi structured and based on the main questions set out in the ToR. The interview protocol is provided in Annex 2. As part of these

interviews, members of the Technical Committees were asked to score this support provided under four headings.

1. Relevance of the support (appropriateness, the right support at the right time)
2. Sensitivity/awareness of the political context and challenges faced by the technical committees
3. Flexibility and responsiveness to needs
4. Overall rating of the support provided

The scoring scale was from 1 to 5 with 1 indicating poor or inadequate support and 5 indicate high quality/excellent levels of support. Ten co-chairs of TCs who had received direct project support from the BCTC SF participated in this element of the evaluation.

## 2. Context

### 2.1 Cyprus context

The island of Cyprus has been de-facto divided into two parts since 1974 with the buffer zone, also known as the green line, dividing the Turkish Cypriot community in the northern part, from the Greek Cypriot community in the southern part. The failure of the last round of negotiations in 2017 on the future of Cyprus has led to an impasse with little prospect of renewed negotiations in the immediate future. The talks process in Geneva and Crans Montana had raised hope that an agreed settlement was finally achievable and the collapse of these talks and the lack of progress in the interim has resulted in a level of disillusionment about the prospects for a settlement. In his report to the UN Security Council<sup>1</sup> the UN Secretary General Guterres stated that “an historic opportunity to settle the Cyprus problem had been missed”.

Efforts to revive negotiations and work towards an agreed settlement have been further complicated by changes in the leadership in Turkish Cypriot community and a shift in the narrative of the TC leadership towards a two-state solution in contravention of the longstanding and UN supported bi-zonal, bi-communal federation solution which has underpinned all negotiations to date. Several other factors are compounding the challenges and creating a more difficult climate for possible future negotiations. The two communities appear to be increasingly separated, with a lack of sustained engagement and limited bi-communal initiatives to stimulate and promote relationship building and reconciliation. The economic context has also changed considerably in recent years and the two economies are drifting further apart, with the Turkish Cypriot economy increasingly dependent on financial assistance from Turkey. The current global economic crises caused by the war in Ukraine has impacted on both economies but has had a particularly serious impact on the Turkish Cypriot community. The combination of the Ukraine war, the collapse of the Turkish lira and the legacy of the Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in inflation rates of up to 100% in 2022. There are also concerns about demographic trends which are altering the composition of the Turkish Cypriot population. There has been a high level of outward migration particularly among young Turkish Cypriots who are disillusioned with the continued isolation of the area. At the same time there has been a steady inflow of Turkish immigrants resulting in Turkish Cypriots becoming a minority in the north<sup>2</sup>.

The UN has been actively supporting the negotiation process and has made repeated attempts to facilitate an agreed settlement to the Cyprus problem most recently the extensive process in the period 2014 to 2017. The UN has consistently focused its efforts on supporting a Cypriot owned process based on a comprehensive settlement in which “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”. However there have been criticism of these negotiation processes which are seen as top-down, elitist and excluding civil society and the wider public. An analysis of the UNs role in Cyprus noted that the two sides wanted to maintain a particular type of process – elitist, exclusive, male-dominated, and leader-led – which the UN had to agree to but with which it became stuck. Instead of building up the

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Secretary General to the UN Security Council (Sep 2017)  
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1306018?ln=en>

<sup>2</sup> Meta Hatay; Population and politics in north Cyprus.

negotiations have brought increasing division because their setting has not fundamentally changed, they have lacked inclusivity and failed to create common ground”<sup>3</sup>.

Analysts are increasingly pessimistic and highlight the need for renewed efforts to promote and facilitate interaction between the two communities, to create interdependencies and to bring about a resumption of negotiations. An analysis of the current context by PRIO noted that there is a growing realisation that the status quo is increasingly untenable and that the window of opportunity for a settlement is now closing”<sup>4</sup>. This report calls for increased engagement between the communities, increased flexibility, a fundamental change of approach at political level and the need to foster a “culture of engagement on the island”.

In this context the work of the The Bi-Communal Technical Committees (BCTCs) are particularly significant and to a certain extent are currently the only route towards building this culture of engagement. These Committees were established by the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities under the auspices of the United Nations to address issues that affect the day-to-day life of people, through encouraging and facilitating greater interaction and understanding between the two communities. Seven Technical Committees were established in 2008 and in 2015, and as a new round of negotiations started five new Technical Committees were established. The BCTCs operate as confidence building measures that demonstrate that the two communities can work together on issues of common concern, strengthen inter-communal contacts, promote and facilitate reconciliation and contribute to a future settlement and reunification of the island.

The Covid 19 pandemic and resulting restrictions had a serious impact on daily life in Cyprus with crossing points closed for 15 months. This has inevitably limited bi-communal activities in this period and set back the work of the BCTC in undertaking activities with the support of the Facility. The full impact of the closure of the crossing points is noted in the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

“The restrictions on freedom of movement reduced opportunities for direct engagement. They also resulted in thousands of people facing difficulties in gaining access to their economic, social and cultural rights as they were unable to have access to work, education, health care, family members and friends, as well as places of religious or cultural significance. Many of the confidence-building measures and peacebuilding gains were lost, since the COVID-19 pandemic was used politically to cement the divide.”

## **2.2 EU support to Cyprus**

Cyprus joined the EU in 2004 as de-facto divided island. On 26 April 2004 the Council of the European Union stated its determination to "put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community and to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community". As a result the Commission established an aid programme for the Turkish Cypriot community based on the Aid Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 389/2006). The programme encourages

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<sup>3</sup> Assessing the effectiveness of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Cyprus (OSASG) Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (Dr. Alexander Novosseloff) 2021

<sup>4</sup> The Cyprus Problem in an era of uncertainty; Establishing a culture of engagement; PRIO James Ker-Lindsay 2019

the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU. In the period 2006-2022, the EU allocated nearly EUR 656 million to projects in support of the Turkish Cypriot community. The Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support runs a Programme Support Office (EUPSO), in the northern part of Nicosia, to help deliver the assistance. Over the last decade the EU has provided almost €25m to implement the priorities of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, to help preserve Cyprus' cultural heritage. With the support of the EU and UNDP, the TCCH conserved, and protected or restored 33 heritage sites island wide, including Orthodox, Maronite and Armenian churches, mosques and minarets, fortifications, hammams, aqueducts and watermills.

### **2.3 UN support to Cyprus**

Since 2001, the UNDP programme in Cyprus has been delivering mainly EU funded interventions, to support Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots on confidence building measures by encouraging dialogue and cooperation, and supporting the development of environmental, economic, and social infrastructure on the island. These initiatives focus on three main themes; empowering communities to protect cultural heritage, strengthening inter-communal mechanisms and improving environmental, social, and economic infrastructure. The Support Facility to the Bi-Communal Technical Committees was established in 2019 to strengthen the capacity of the Committees as effective inter-communal mechanisms for identifying and implementing projects that address issues of mutual concern and foster mutual understanding and cooperation. In addition to supporting the Technical Committees the UNDP also implements the Local Infrastructure Facility (LIF) and provides additional support to the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and the Technical Committee for Missing Persons. The LIF project works with local communities to develop and implement projects which improve the environmental, social, and economic infrastructure in the Turkish Cypriot community. The LIF finances infrastructure investments in priority areas such as: water and wastewater, solid waste management, energy efficiency, environment and social infrastructure. The Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary General (OSASG) supports the negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders and also facilitates the Technical Committees which were established to support the political negotiations. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) focuses on monitoring the ceasefire between the sides and maintaining the security of the buffer zone.

## 3. Implementation of the Project

### 3.1 Overview of the BCTC Support Facility

The BCTC Support Facility (BCTC SF) is funded under the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community. This programme aims to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU and the preparation for the EU body of laws (also referred to as the EU *acquis*) following a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. The programme objectives are:

- To promote social and economic development in the Turkish Cypriot community
- To develop and refurbish infrastructure
- To foster reconciliation, build confidence and support civil society
- To bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU, through information and contacts between Turkish Cypriots and other EU citizens
- To help the Turkish Cypriot community prepare for the implementation of EU law once a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue is agreed

The overall objective of the BCTC SF is to support the work of the Technical Committees (BCTCs) and to improve the everyday lives of Cypriots through encouraging and facilitating greater interaction and understanding between the two communities. It provides financial, conceptual, and operational support in the preparation and realization of projects in support of confidence building measures. It aims to support the reconciliation process and to increase the levels of trust between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots communities. The specific objectives are:

- Support and enable the Technical Committees to adopt island-wide and intercommunal solutions for issues of common concern and to implement these in a strategic manner.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Technical Committees as effective inter-communal mechanisms for identifying, planning and implementing projects/initiatives that foster mutual understanding and cooperation.
- Seek ways to enhance the visibility of the impact of the work and successes of the Technical Committees through public outreach campaigns, including press releases, social media, awareness-raising and other audio-visual & written communication products.

The BCTC SF was originally funded by the EU for 2 years (April 2019 – April 2021). Under addendum 1 the EC granted an extension for an additional year and under addendum 2 the EC granted a further extension for a period of 6 months, until 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

#### Expected Outputs

- Capacity building for cultural heritage management and maintenance
- Support to bi-communal Technical Committees' initiatives
- Maximise visibility & raise awareness about the work of the Technical Committees and the EU support to their initiatives.

## **Governance**

An Implementation Committee (IC) is composed of representatives from the EC and the UNDP and has responsibility for technical implementation matters and prioritization. The project Steering Committee (SC) is comprised of the two Technical Committees co-ordinators, the UNDP, the European Commission and the OSASG-Cyprus. Its role is to review and recommend for selection the proposals received from the Technical Committees. The Steering Committee has met on 17 occasions over the lifetime of the project while the IC has met on one occasion.

### **3.2 Information and Capacity building events**

Over the course of the project the BCTC SF delivered a number of awareness raising and capacity building activities for members of the BCTCs. These include:

A workshop on the guidelines for the BCTC Support Facility and the preparation of project proposals (April 2019) attended by 55 members of technical committees as well as the GC and TC Co-ordinators.

Three Refresher Info Sessions to inform the Technical Committees about the BCTC SF, areas of support provided, guidelines for the preparation of project proposals, application and selection process following the appointment of new members of the Technical Committees.

The online session (Feb 2021) was attended by representatives of 12 TCs plus CG and TC Co-ordinators (Total participants 59)

### **3.3 Support work with the Technical Committees**

The BCTC Support Facility provides a range of technical supports to enable the BCTCs to develop and implement projects, moving from ideas to projects. This includes support in developing the concept, drawing up budgets, submitting proposals to the SC, co-ordination and communication, logistical assistance, and provision of human resources to enable project implementation. The project has two categories of project; Ad hoc proposals which were assessed on feasibility and cost-effectiveness and longer proposals which were assessed on relevance, maturity, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness.

Over the lifetime of the project the BCTC SF has provided direct project support to nine BCTC. Table 2 below provides an overview of this support. While the main role is supporting the TC to develop and implement projects the BCTC SF provided a range of other supports to a number of BCTCs which enabled them to carry out important bi-communal actions.

The level of support provided through the Facility to the BCTCs varies considerably. The Broadcasting BCTC has collaborated effectively on 5G interoperability with no direct support from the facility, the BCTC on Crime and criminal matters has been supported through the facility for one project but most of the work of this committee is dealing with routine and ongoing criminal matters and with increasing problems around domestic violence. The BCTC on Crises Management and Crossing have not been very active and have not accessed support. The BCTC SF has provided direct support to seven BCTCs; Health, Environment, Education, Culture, Commercial matters, Gender, Crime and Criminal matters as well as the maintenance support provided to the BCTC on Cultural Heritage.

In the initial phase of the project (2019 -2020) the BCTC SF provided support to the BCTCs to develop bi-communal island wide initiatives and on the preparation of project proposals. As a result, 7 projects

were approved by the Steering Committee in Y1 (April 2019 -April 2020) with a combined budget of just over €200,000, demonstrating a significant jump in activity given the low level of activity in the preceding years. The number of proposals coming forward dropped off in 2020 -2022 with only three projects approved in this period with a combined budget of €65,868 (Bullying and Cyber bullying in Schools, the Study on Electric and Electronic waste and the Covid 19 poetry project) A further 6 pipeline projects have been developed by BCTCs with a total estimated budget of over €300,000.

- The Health Technical Committee has implemented the ID-VEC project which has established a surveillance system to identify mosquito vectors at an island level focusing on regions at higher risk for disease transmission. This initiative has made a valuable contribution to public health on the island and enabled health experts to build partnerships and develop island wider surveillance and early warning systems.
- The BCTC SF has been very important in the work of the Environmental committee and has enabled it to implement an experience and information sharing initiative among GC and TC environmental experts and to identify necessary key environmental projects for future implementation. A key element in this was the recruitment of two technical experts to support the work of this Committee.
- The Culture TC implemented the “In Culture We Trust” project with significant financial and technical support through the BCTC SF. This project involved an exchange of paintings and audio-visual material and an exhibition at Ledra Palace. The project was initiated by the two leaders who also attended the exhibition and had important symbolic value as it demonstrated the shared culture and heritage of the two communities.
- The project on bullying and cyberbullying in schools was implemented through a collaboration between two BCTCs and the BCTC SF played a key role in the formation of a Technical Team and recruitment of research co-ordinators and assistants to carry out the research. However, this initiative has encountered delays.

**Table 2: Summary of support provided to the Technical Committees**

Technical Committee	Details
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of an international consultant to design the overall maintenance strategy and monitor its implementation.</li> <li>• Recruitment of two local consultants, one GC and one TC to provide support to the International consultant: Support on selection of the 5 cultural heritage pilot project sites for the development of a comprehensive caretaking and maintenance operations plan</li> <li>• Organisation of capacity building workshops (Nicosia Walls vegetation cleaning Aug 2022)</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Pilot production of educational materials:</b> Formation of a Technical Team and development of ToR. Procurement of Part-time Education Specialists (one GC and one TC) . Developed the ToR and conducted a procurement process to identify a service provider for the development of the tri-lingual website
<b>Health</b>	<b>Identification and distribution of vectors in Cyprus (ID-Vec) and Mapping risk for vector-borne diseases (ID-VRisk)Phase 1 &amp; 2</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation of a Technical Team/ Procurement of Individual Contractors (Scientists, Biological/Environmental Science Technicians and Quality Control/Quality Assurance Expert Scientist)</li> <li>• Procurement of equipment and consumables required for the implementation of the Action including mosquito traps, protective gear, sampling equipment, cooling boxes etc.</li> <li>• Provided logistics for 2 online “Mosquito Surveillance and Control” training sessions (one in Greek and one in Turkish) July 2021</li> <li>• Support with development of public awareness, visibility activities and production of communications materials</li> <li>• <b>Meat Hygiene Practices - Study Visit to a Slaughterhouse:</b> provision of administrative support, coordination, and oversight of the implementation of the Action. Arranged transport for study visit</li> <li>• Support with development of Internship program (pipeline project)</li> </ul>
<b>Culture</b>	<p><b>In Culture we Trust project:</b> Provision of administrative support, coordination, and oversight of the implementation. Procurement of Individual Contractors, Services and Goods and Procurement of the services of 10 professionals including technical and restoration team to undertake conservation works on the artworks and to design, prepare and promote the exhibition.</p> <p><b>Coronavirus inspired poetry recital from home:</b> Selection and procurement of a professional filmmaker. Support with development of a project on Cultural Monuments of the island of Cyprus: video and drawing competition, workshop, and exhibition (pipeline project)</p>
<b>Environment</b>	<p><b>Exchange of experience &amp; information between environmental experts:</b> Formation of a Technical Team and development of ToR, Procurement of Part-time Local Junior Technical Consultants. Developed a Terms of Reference for website and conducted a procurement process to identify a service provider for the development of the website. Organisation of 12 bi-communal field visits</p> <p><b>Support with development of 4 pipeline projects</b></p>
<b>Economic and commercial</b>	<b>Study for Waste Electrical and Electronic Waste (WEEE) recycling</b>
<b>Crime and Criminal Matters</b>	<b>Cambridge University Workshop</b> Provision of administrative support, coordination, and oversight of the implementation of the Action.
<b>Humanitarian Affairs</b>	<b>Angels of Peace project:</b> Provided administrative support, i.e. catering and venue arrangement, for the organization of the launch event
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Development of Gender Action Plan</b>
<b>Joint project Education &amp; Crime and Criminal matters</b>	<b>Bullying and cyber bullying in schools</b> Formation of a Technical Team- Procurement of Part-time Research Coordinators and Research Assistants (GC and TC)

**Table 3: Summary of approved projects**

<b>Technical Committee</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Budget €</b>	<b>Experts recruited through BCTC SF</b>	<b>SC Approval date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Crime and Criminal Matters</b>	Workshop	Workshop at the University of Cambridge on the work of the Joint Contact Room (JCR)	5,152		26 June 2019	Completed
<b>Culture</b>	In Culture We Trust	Exchange of paintings and audio-visual material and exhibition of a selection of paintings by Greek Cypriot and audio-visual material from CyBC archives related to the Turkish Cypriots, Publication of a catalogue to accompany the event.	43,146	Coordinator of Technical and Restoration Team & 4 Exhibition Technicians, Conservator of Art Works, Exhibition Designer and, Communication and Promotion Assistant	11 Sep 2019	Completed
<b>Humanitarian Affairs</b>	Angels of Peace	To bring together children with disabilities from both communities for joint activities. (12 June 2019)	150		7th June 2019	Completed
<b>Health – Sub Committee on Veterinary Matters</b>	Meat Hygiene Practices - Study Visit to a Slaughterhouse	To observe the applications of EU laws, regulations and best practices in the areas of animal transport, management and control .	200		29 Oct. 2019	Completed
<b>Health</b>	Identification and distribution of vectors of medical importance in Cyprus (ID-Vec)”	Establish a surveillance system to identify mosquito vectors at an island level focusing on regions at higher risk for disease transmission. Enhance capacity building and	86,110	Phase 1 ID VEC: Three Scientists (2 Turkish speaking and 1 Greek speaking),Phase 2: ID Risk: Three Scientists (2 Turkish	2 Dec. 2019  Projected start and end date Jan 20 – June 21. Extended to 31 March 2022	Completed

		increase public awareness on protection measures		speaking and 1 Greek speaking),		
<b>Education</b>	Pilot Production of educational materials	To create new educational material To encourage teachers to share high-quality lesson plans they have already created. (Sep 2019 – Dec 2020)	33,700	Two Education Specialists (one GC and one TC)	18 July 2019  Projected start and end date Sep 2019 – 31 May 2021	Ongoing/delayed
<b>Culture</b>	Coronavirus inspired poetry recital from home	Production of a short video putting together 10 self-recorded poems about the impact of Covid 19. (June-July 2020)	858	Filmmaker	2 June 2020 Projected start and end date June -July 2020	Completed
<b>Environment</b>	Exchange between environmental experts	Experience and information sharing among environmental experts from both the GC and TC communities to identify necessary key environmental projects for future implementation (Sep 2019 – Dec 2020)	32,280	Two Technical Consultants, (one GC and one TC)	18 July 2019  Projected start and end date Sep 19 – March 2022	Completed
<b>Crime and Criminal Matters &amp; Education</b>	Bullying and cyberbullying in schools	Research on the prevalence of bullying, victimisation and cyber bullying among GC & TC primary and secondary school pupils.	40,000	Two Research Coordinators (one GC and one TC) and two Research Assistants (one GC and one TC)	23 July 2020 Projected start and end date – Aug 2020 – March 2022	Ongoing /delayed
<b>Economic and Commercial matters</b>	Preliminary study for Waste Electrical and Electronic Waste (WEEE) recycling	Research on the feasibility of collection of non-cannibalized appliances directly from the TC suppliers and/ or consumers	25,000	Two electronic waste experts (one GC and one TC)	June 2022 – September 2022	

Delays in progressing projects from inception to completion has been a major issue for several TC, particularly for Education, Culture, Economic/Commercial and the joint project between Education and Crime/Criminal Matters.

- The project on the production of Education material (Education TC) was approved in Sep 2019 and should have been completed by 31/5/2021 but has not yet been completed.
- The Bullying project (Education and Crime and Criminal matters TC) was approved in Sep 2020 and should have been completed by Aug 2020 but has not yet been completed
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Waste (WEEE) research
- project proposed by the Committee on Economic and Commercial matters was initially proposed in November 2021 but only approved in February 2022

**Table 4: Pipeline projects**

Six projects with a projected budget of EUR 300,000 have been developed by the BCTCS and are currently in the pipeline.

<b>Technical Committee</b>	<b>Proposal &amp; estimated budget</b>
<b>Technical Committee on Culture</b>	Cultural Monuments of the island of Cyprus: video and drawing competition, workshop, and exhibition (Budget 17,500)
<b>Technical Committee on the Environment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Saving the Griffon Vulture from extinction (Budget €150,000)</li> <li>2. Carob tree protection: Preservation and protection of selected trees in a particular area in the Buffer zone (Budget 20,000)</li> <li>3. Geoheritage Project (Budget 17,000)</li> <li>4. Butterfly project (Budget 58,580)</li> </ol>
<b>Technical Committee of Veterinary Matters</b>	Internship program of bicomunal character for veterinary students and young veterinary (Budget €45,000)

### 3.4 BCTC SF Budget

The BCTC SF budget was EUR 1m for 24 months. The timeframe has been extended twice; under Addendum 1 for 36 months and under addendum 2 for 42 months. The overall budget has remained at EUR1m.

**Table 5 Financial Overview as of 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2022\***

Project Type	Total Budget	Expenses and Commitments	Utilization
<b>1. Project management</b>	€ 149,125.00	€ 137,508.82	92.2%
<b>2. Project Office</b>	€ 49,400.00	€ 46,618.70	94.4%
<b>3. Other Action Costs and Services</b>		€ -	
3.1 Maintenance TCCH	€ 60,908.00	€ 27,452.14	45.1%
3.2.1 Technical Committees Activities and Other Ad-Hoc Initiatives	€ 605,088.00	€ 387,771.80	64.1%
3.3 Awareness and Visibility	€ 55,280.00	€ 34,168.35	61.8%
3.4 Evaluation	€ 14,779.00	€ 16,605.43	112.4%
<b>4. Indirect costs</b>	€ 65,421.00	€ 45,508.77	69.6%
	€ 1,000,001.00	€ 695,634.01	69.6%

\* Unofficial interim financial report with indicative figures.

## 4. Analysis of the BCTC Support Facility

The EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community aims to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU and the preparation for the EU body of laws, following a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. The BCTC Support Facility was designed to contribute to these objectives by supporting and enabling the BCTC to adopt island-wide and intercommunal solutions for issues of common concern, to strengthen the capacity of the BCTCs to identify and implement projects/initiatives that foster mutual understanding, build confidence and contribute to a settlement. It also aimed to enhance the visibility of the work and successes of the BCTCs.

### 4.1 Contribution to the EC Aid Programme objectives

The BCTC SF has enabled several BCTC to undertake work in the economic arena; the Electronic Waste Study (TC on Commercial matters) the work of the BCTC on Environmental matters and the work of the Veterinary sub group (a study visit, and the pipeline Internship initiative for vets) Collaboration between GC and TC experts from the different sectors have made a contribution to the economic integration of the island and have built relationships, trust and confidence; key ingredients for a resumption of the negotiation process and a possible future settlement. Equally important it has demonstrated the potential and the benefits of bi-communal work in these areas, increased awareness of the need for island wide approaches, raised the ambition of the BCTCs and created a platform for more substantial bi-communal initiatives. While these contributions are still modest, they are significant as they are starting to address critical issues relating to economic integration and creating momentum and models for further work in these areas.

The BCTC SF has contributed to confidence building in three areas; revitalizing the BCTC, supporting them through a difficult transition period and facilitating them to develop and implement all-island initiatives. The work of the BCTCs on Culture, the Environment and Health have all improved the level of contact between the GC and TC communities and contributed to confidence building. However, several of the projects (the Angles of Peace project and the Coronavirus poetry) were small and therefore their broader impact was limited. The Art project implemented by the BCTC on Culture addressed an important symbolic issue and generated wider public engagement and is a good example of how the BCTC SF created space and opportunity for confidence building work.

Effective confidence building measures need to be long term, incremental, multi-level, transparent and based on local ownership<sup>5</sup>. The work supported by the BCTC Support Facility has facilitated local ownership by the BCTCs and the Environment and Health Committees are developing additional projects and moving forward on an incremental approach. However, there is still a significant gap to be filled to build the multilevel and incremental programme of confidence building which will be needed to support the negotiation process in Cyprus. In order to shift the dynamic in Cyprus and contribute to wider and more sustained confidence building the BCTCs need to develop a multi-level approach, focusing on the policy agenda and widening their constituencies through increased partnership and engagement with civil society, the private sector, academic institutions etc.

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<sup>5</sup> OSCE Guide on Non-military Confidence Building Measures

Consultations with civil society group indicates that there is a willingness to collaborate with the BCTCs on issues such as the environment, gender, culture, and education and will it be important that these opportunities are advanced in the next phase. The collaboration on the bullying project between the TC on Education and the TC on Crime and Criminal matters is also a positive development and this type of cross committee work can contribute to more comprehensive approaches and increased engagement. The BCTCs are well positioned to influence the policy agenda on key all island issues and work by the TCs on the Environment, Health and Crime and Criminal matters are positioned to feed into the policy agenda. A range of key themes and issues that need to be addressed on an all-island basis were identified by BCTC and by civil society groups including climate change, the environment, health, refugees and asylum seekers and energy.

#### **4.2 Relevance**

There is general agreement among stakeholders that the political negotiation process is at a standstill with limited channels of communication open between GC and TC sides and stakeholders highlighted the importance of the Technical Committees in this context. They referred to the Technical Committees as the “only show in town” and emphasised the important role of that they have played by keeping lines of communication open, sustaining relationships, addressing key island wide issues, and sustaining hope. Stakeholders also identified a range of common issues and challenges impacting on the island across the environmental, health, economic, energy and social arenas. Stakeholders consulted are very positive about the role of the BCTC Support Facility and there is consensus that it has changed the dynamic and injected a new momentum into the work of the BCTCs. The evaluation has found that overall concept of the BCTC SF and the specific support provided to the BCTCs is very relevant and timely given the situation in Cyprus. The support provided by the UNDP is considered to be critical to the work of the BCTC and is also highly relevant.

The establishment of the BCTC SF and the support provided over the last three years has facilitated a number of significant initiatives which have generated some momentum and highlighted the potential of bi-communal approaches to common problems. This was timely in two regards. Firstly, it sustained and developed relationships and kept channels of communications open at a time when the track one process was halted and there was limited bi-communal work among civil society (track three). Secondly it coincided with and increased awareness on a range of critical issues in health, climate change, the environment and energy and a growing recognition in both the Gc and TC communities that many of these challenges require an island wide approach and wider regional engagement.

The BCTC SF is aligned with and relevant to the priorities of both the UN and EU in Cyprus and is regarded as an important component of the overall support architecture. It has enabled the EU to provide very concrete support to bi-communal work as part of its overall contribution towards a settlement and has complemented the ongoing work of the UN OSASG to support and facilitate the negotiations process. A key priority for all actors is increased engagement by both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in identifying and resolving issues affecting their daily lives as well as increased Cypriot ownership. The BCTC SF was designed to enable the BCTCs to convert ideas into action and to be able to deal with issues of concern to both GCs and TCs. The evaluation has found that it is highly relevant to these agendas, that it has promoted Cypriot ownership and enabled the Committees to take on key issues. However, more work is needed to promote wider community engagement, to deepen ownership among both GCs and TCs.

The projects supported through the BCTC Support Facility are relevant to the prevailing context in Cyprus and there is a direct link between the activities supported and the objectives of the Aid programme. All of the projects have contributed to some extent to improved contact between the GC and TC communities and several have made useful contributions to confidence building. Projects implemented by the BCTCs on the Environmental, Commercial and the Veterinary sub-committee have contributed to economic integration on the island. The work of the Environmental, Health and Culture Committees have been particularly important both in implementing specific projects and in creating a platform for future work in these areas.

### **4.3 Effectiveness**

The BCTC SF has been operating in a particularly challenging period which has impacted on the work of the BCTCs and the effectiveness of the BCTC SF. The BCTCs had been in a transition phase in the years up to 2019 with several fragmented and inactive and struggling to find a way forward.

The evaluation has found that the BCTC SF has been effective, that it has enabled BCTCs to undertake several key initiatives which have contributed to confidence building and that it has brought added value to the work of the EU in Cyprus. The BCTCs acknowledged that they could not implement projects without the support package provided through the BCTC SF. They are not legal entities and are largely voluntary and this has been a limiting factor for most of the BCTCs from the outset. The BCTC SF has directly addressed this issue by providing financial, administrative and technical support to the BCTCs which has enabled them to bring forward ideas and turn these into feasible projects. The alternative option, direct delivery by the EU, would not have been as effective as it would not have provided the necessary level and type of support which the BCTC required. The design of the BCTC SF and the involvement of the UNDP in the provision of strategic logistic, administrative and procurement support is considered to be crucial to the work of the BCTC. The political agenda of the EU is an issue among some TC interlocutors with a perception that the EU is biased. In this context the role of the UNDP is critical as it is trusted by both the TC and GC communities and has a track record of implementing bi-communal initiatives.

#### **Objective 1 Support and enable the Technical Committees to adopt island-wide and intercommunal solutions for issues of common concern**

This objective has been largely achieved and the BCTC SF has enabled the BCTC to take on island wide projects which have contributed to confidence building. Over the last three years the BCTC SF has supported all BCTCs, provided direct project support to nine of them and contributed to the development of 12 projects (See table 2). The UNDP has provided information, encouraged and facilitated the BCTCs to develop projects and worked closely with them to bring these to fruition. In addition, it has supported the BCTC on Cultural Heritage through the maintenance element.

The evaluation has found that the BCTC SF has helped to normalise bi-communal work and sustained hope at a time when sentiment has been quite negative. One of the most important roles of the BCTC SF has been in generating momentum among the BCTCs and giving them a route to bring forward proposals and implement complex bi-communal projects. The combination of the financial resources of the EU, the political facilitation role of the Good Offices and the administrative, technical, and logistical support of the UNDP has created a comprehensive support structure for the BCTCs which created space and enabled them to undertake some important all island initiatives.

The BCTCs have been involved in a range of activities ranging from once off events/study visits/conference to more substantial projects such as those implemented by the Technical Committees on the Environment, Health, and Culture. Designing and implementing these projects has been mostly positive and constructive and has strengthened relationships, addressed issues of common concern, and contributed to confidence building. However, delays in the implementation of projects on the production of educational material (TC on Education) the bullying project (TCs on Education and TC on Crime/Criminal matters) and the children's art project (TC on Culture) have led to frustration and undermined some of the initial progress made by these BCTCs.

The delays in decision making and the increased politicisation of the Technical Committees has negatively impacted on the work of the BCTC SF and the implementation of projects and reduced overall effectiveness. Issues around terminology have caused frustrations and diverted the energy of several BCTC away from their core work and it is essential that mechanisms are developed to allow more timely and effective decision making at the appropriate levels. The SC has been involved in assessment of sub-components of projects (e.g sampling, training, scheduling of activities etc.) and in assessing small scale projects with modest budgets. Mechanisms should be in place to identify and rectify technical issues and to approve small scale projects before these reach the SC. The BCTC SF would benefit from having a working group to deal with these issues, iron out potential problems and streamline the process.

The fact that 6 substantial projects have been delayed and/or postponed and only three major projects were completed in the project period does not reflect well on this initiative and raises some concerns about overall effectiveness. Two key points need to be taken into account. Firstly, it appears that the project concept was based on the assumption that the BCTCs were functioning and that there was a pipeline of projects waiting to be implemented. In reality, several Committees were in transition and not ready to move to project implementation while others had broad ideas about areas of co-operation but had not developed the concept. Secondly, the context changed considerably as the BCTCs encountered political interference and delays due to the covid pandemic and restrictions. The fact that these new committee members could not meet face to face for two years was a significant factor and undoubtedly delayed efforts. Indeed, the committees which have been relatively active and effective (Cultural Heritage, Broadcasting, Environment and Health) have highlighted the importance of personal relationship in this context and the need for committees to invest time and effort on the relationship side.

## **Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the Technical Committees as effective inter-communal mechanisms**

The BCTC SF has provided a range of support to strengthen the capacity of the BCTCs including delivery of information and capacity building workshops and the recruitment of 28 experts to support BCTCs with research, project design and implementation. The support provided through the BCTC SF has built capacity of the BCTCs and enabled them to work collaboratively and progress initiatives. This is reflected in the fact that most of the BCTCs have been active with seven developing projects. In addition, the BCTC on Gender worked together to produce a Gender strategy and the BCTC on Broadcasting was active on 5G interoperability outside the BCTC SF. However, results under this objective are somewhat mixed as several projects have not been completed and some BCTCs, particularly Gender and Humanitarian Affairs, have not developed significant projects despite the

needs in these areas. Further support is needed to strengthen capacity and to encourage and facilitate new initiatives as well as ensuring the BCTCs can complete existing initiatives. The maintenance of monuments has been an issue of concern for all stakeholders (EU, UNDP and the TCCH) and the maintenance component of the BCTC SF was intended to address this by building capacity at local level. The BCTC SF recruited an international expert and two local experts to promote local level maintenance of these monuments. However, this initiative does not appear to have gained traction and overall has not been effective. The TCCH has considerable experience and expertise in preservation and maintenance of monuments and has been working with local authorities and communities to promote and enhance maintenance work and this component could be more effective if integrated into the TCCH strategy.

The BCTCs are positive regarding the support provided through the Support Facility and highlighted the value of the facilitation, problem solving and encouragement provided through the complimentary roles of the UNDP and the Good Offices. They also highlighted the contribution of external experts which the UNDP could bring in to provide specific inputs such as gender experts and Health experts to advise authorities during the Covid pandemic. Members of BCTC consulted during the evaluation highlighted the value of the UNDPs support describing it as “helpful”, “accessible, and “invaluable” “we couldn’t work without them”, “they open doors” and “a good partner”. This is also reflected in the scoring by the Co-chairs on three aspects of the support provided<sup>6</sup>; (Scores were from 1 (poor/ineffective) to 5 (excellent/very effective));

- Sensitivity/awareness of the political context and challenges faced by the Technical Committees (Average score 4.1)
- Flexibility and responsiveness to needs (4.2)
- Overall rating of the support provided (4.3)

These are very high scores given the context and the challenges encountered. Stakeholders are generally positive about collective support from the UN Good Offices and the UNDP with most people satisfied with the roles and responsibilities and the level of complimentary. The BCTC SF and the Good Offices have played an important role in briefing the BCTCs on the political context and realities faced by both sides and have provided some cover and protection for the BCTCs to operate in a sensitive political context. A number of factors were identified as key to the effectiveness of the work of the UNDP including the professionalism of the team, the level of sensitivity to the political context and the challenges faced by BCTC and the flexibility and willingness to work from where the Committees were at.

The focus on projects implemented by individual BCTCs was useful in the initial phase of this initiative and will be a core element of future work. There is also scope for developing broader thematic approaches with increased collaboration between BCTCs in the next phase.

### **Objective 3: to enhance the visibility of the impact of the work and successes of the Technical Committees**

Stakeholders acknowledge that there are significant challenges in promoting the work of the BCTCs and overall results have been limited in this area. The issues addressed by the BCTCs (Health,

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<sup>6</sup> Scores were provided by 9 co-chairs which had been involved in implementing projects and represents 50% of the co-chairs consulted.

environment, education etc) are central to the lives of both GC and TC communities and the BCTCs have made efforts to promote the work through both traditional and social media channels. However, the work of the committees are still at an early stage and several projects such as the Health project on mosquitos are quite technical and not of interest to the wider public despite their value in relation to public health. The art exchange project implemented by the BCTC on Culture did generate a lot of attention and the launch of the Gender strategy also received media attention. There are some concerns about the overall lack of awareness of the importance of island wide approaches and a lack of knowledge and understanding of the role and the contribution of the BCTCs to date. Consultations with civil society also indicate gaps and a lack of awareness of the work of the BCTCs and this is an area that needs attention in the next phase. CSOs are deeply engaged on issues such as the environment, gender and culture and can be allies in this work, generating wider public interest and momentum and improving effectiveness. There is also merit in more joint work between the BCTC in order to address some of the issues identified and to develop more high-profile flagship projects. Many of the issues being dealt with need a multi-disciplinary approach, but it is also important to acknowledge that some committees prefer to operate under the radar and avoid potential external pressure and interference.

#### **4.4 Governance and Management**

The support to the BCTCs is proved through a partnership involving the EU, UNDP and the Good Offices. The roles of the UNDP as set out in the DoA was to assist members of the BCTCs with the identification and development of ideas for expanding confidence building measures which could be developed into practical and implementable EU funded projects. It provided strategic, logistic, administrative and procurement support to initiatives identified by the BCTCs. The role of the Good Offices was to support the BCTC with the context of the peace talk and provide in-depth political analysis to ensure that projects maximise the confidence building measures. The Steering Committee (SC) comprised of a representative of the GC and TC Community, the UNDP, the EU and the Good Offices. Its purpose was defined as “review proposals and make recommendations for funding”. The Implementation Committee was composed of two representatives for the EC and the UNDP with the mandate to “take the overall necessary decisions related to technical implementation matters and prioritization and be responsible for the final selection of BCTC proposals recommended for implementation by the SC”.

There have been some criticisms of the operation of the BCTC SF; notably the working of the steering committee, the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders, a certain lack of clarity around decision making and as well a need for more timely sharing of information on budgets and grants. The SC has met on 17 occasions over the two-year period from May 2019 to March 2022 -effectively meeting on a monthly basis, while the Implementation Committee has only met on one occasion. The SC has become the primary decision-making body. It is not clear why the SC moved from quarterly to monthly meeting and why the IC only met on one occasion. The majority of projects (7) were approved in the first 6 months of the BCTC SF becoming operational (June -Dec 2019). Only 3 additional projects were approved in the period from Jan 2020 to March 2022. The SC has been mainly involved in monitoring the progress of approved projects several of which encountered delays. There are concerns that the SC has become caught up in micro management of projects. Given the nature of the work being supported through the BCTC SF and the political context in Cyprus it is likely that there will

be ongoing challenges in the coming years, and it will be important that the management structure and decision making is more streamlined and that it strengthens Cypriot ownership of the process.

#### **4.5 Impact**

The BCTCs had been inactive in the years before the establishment of the BCTC SF in 2019 and were only moving into a more active implementation phase in 2020 when their activities were restricted by covid restrictions and other challenges. As a result, it is still early days in this initiative. Despite this there has been some progress at outcome level and the BCTC SF has made some valuable contributions to tackling all island issue and confidence building.

The support provided through the BCTC SF was critical in this period and the partnership efforts of the EU, UNDP and UN Good Offices enabled the BCTCs to collaborate on a range of important all island issues. Overall, the evaluation has found that the BCTC SF has supported the BCTC through a difficult transition and helped build a solid platform for future confidence building initiatives. The BCTC are part of a wider political process and the activities they undertake have important practical, political, and symbolic values. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of building a culture of co-operation on the island, improving the levels of trust and keeping hope alive. The BCTC have a key role in these areas and the support provided through the BCTC SF has been critical in this regard and the fact that the BCTCs have been active and collaborating has improved relationship and confidence among BCTCs and in a wider pool of people in these specific sectors. The support provided through the BCTC SF demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the EU to a future settlement.

The support provided to the BCTC on Culture for the Art exchange project was a good example of how the BCTC SF can draw on the capacities of the partner organisation to implement a project which generated considerable interest and publicity and contributed to confidence building. Projects being implemented by the Health, Environment and Economic Technical Committees are dealing with critical common issues and this level of collaboration can contribute to changes in attitude, improved relationships and further collaboration in these sectors. However, there are issue around the broader impact of this work at this point and the extent to which it has brought the two communities closer together. At this stage in the process the much of work of the BCTC has been quite specific and technical or initiative are still in the development/study stage and therefore have not generated wider public interest or engagement. The art initiative implemented by the Technical Committee on Culture (In Culture we Trust) did have this wider public appeal.

The BCTCs were established as part of the negotiation process and have tended not to engage with other sectoral interest groups, civil society, or the wider community. This has limited the awareness of the work of the BCTCs and the broader impact on confidence building and bi-communal relations. This is an area that needs attention by the BCTCs and the UNDP going forward and to a certain extent the time is right for broader engagement. The BCTCs recognise that the issues they are dealing with in areas such as the environment, health, culture, and gender require wider citizen engagement while at the same time there is increased willingness among civil society to engage at policy level and to develop all Island approaches. The key is to transfer this out into the wider community and build stronger ownership on the ground. This will require increased engagement with civil society, the private sector and academic institutions and continued efforts to promote this work to a wider audience. On the other hand, there are risk involved as some committees are dealing with sensitive

issues such as culture, education and crossing and increased exposure could have a downside with the risk of further politicisation of the work.

#### **4.6 Efficiency**

A key question around efficiency relates to the implementation model and the extent to which this modality is most efficient use of resources. Under the Contribution agreement the UNDP is the implementing partner responsible for the provision of strategic, logistic, administrative and procurement support to initiatives identified by the BCTCs. The quality of some of the projects, delays in implementation and the time and resources invested in keeping projects on track does raise some concerns around efficiency. There is a need for a more streamlined system in order to avoid this. Project management costs were 30% and appear high for a project of this nature. However, several factors needed to be taken into consideration in assessing the efficiency of the project. Firstly the nature of support provided, the level of engagement with BCTCs and the ongoing need for crises management and facilitation required a considerable investment in project management. Without this the BCTCs would have struggled to gain momentum and undertake meaningful projects. Secondly the political context in the TC community shifted over the lifetime of the BCTC SF with divergences between the EUs political agenda and the perspectives of some stakeholders in the TC community. This impacted on the BCTC and in several cases inhibited their efforts to undertaken bi-communal project. In addition, a number of BCTCs developed relatively small scale projects with small budgets. Just under two thirds (64%) of the budget for BCTC activities was spent. This is low given the range of issues being addressed by the BCTCs and the needs identified. However, there is a pipeline of projects from several BCTCs which indicates that the BCT have the capacity to expand their programmes of activity. Finally, project management costs were mainly fixed costs and continued during the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions while activity levels were low. When these factors are taken into account the indirect modality was reasonably efficient and the project management costs are not excessive.

#### **4.7 Lessons**

The following lessons have emerged over the course of the evaluation

1. The BCTC are at different stages of development with different levels of motivation and capacity. Support needs to be individualised and tailored to their specific requirements. The BCTC SF has been effective in providing this tailored support and needs space to continue on this track.
2. The context is very political and the BCTCs established are part of the track 1 political process and there is likely to be ongoing political intrusion in their work. Therefore, the BCTCs need to be supported to prevent this from disrupting their core work on technical issues. There may be scope to learn from models that have managed to work effectively in this environment e.g. Cultural Heritage and the Committee on Missing Persons.
3. The limited engagement with external stakeholders particularly civil society has limited both the contribution to confidence and the sustainability of the interventions. This is a critical area which can lift the work of the BCTCs to a new level through the development of more comprehensive responses to island wide issues and by strengthening societal confidence building.
4. The Gender TC was set up look at the gender issues and to suggest ways of integrating a gender perspective in the peace process. While it has developed a strategy with the support UNDP gender experts it has not engaged with the wider gender agenda or with women's groups. This TC can have a significant role going forward but will need considerable support and a comprehensive

partnership approach in order to help integrate gender into the work of other TCs and to strengthen the gender dimension in future negotiations.

5. This initiative was implemented in a challenging environment and should be viewed as a pilot phase which informs and shapes future work.
6. The inclusion of the Maintenance component in the BCTC SF has not been effective and should be incorporated into the main funding stream for the BCTC on Cultural Heritage.

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

### 5.1 Conclusion

There is consensus that the BCTCs had been struggling to find a purpose and sense of direction in the period following the collapse of the Crans Montana negotiations in 2017. The establishment of the BCTC Support Facility by the EU in 2019 was a significant and timely intervention. The general view is that the gap between the GC and TC communities has widened in recent years and that the BCTCs are essential to narrow the gap, build relationship and develop island wide approaches to the growing list of shared problems. The initiative was based on two assumptions; that the political context would remain relatively stable and positive and that the BCTCs had a pipeline of projects available. These assumptions were too optimistic as a number of BCTCs had been inactive, experienced turnover in membership and were not ready to develop projects at the outset. The changed political context has presented challenges to the BCTC and to the Support Facility and has contributed to some delays in the implementation of projects and frustration among BCTC stakeholders involved.

Despite this there has been progress over the last three years and a number of significant bi-communal initiatives have been undertaken which have direct impact on the daily lives of communities as well as symbolic importance to both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The BCTC Support Facility has supported the BCTCs through a difficult transitions phase which was further complicated by the Covid pandemic and resulting restrictions. The evaluation has found that the SF has played an important role and has made a valuable contribution to the work of the BCTC particularly in revitalising the BCTCs, generating momentum and providing a clear sense of purpose and direction for these committees. The support provided through the BCTC SF has demonstrated the potential and the benefits of bi-communal work, in the health, environment, business and culture arenas, increased awareness of the need for island wide approaches, raised the ambition of the BCTCs and created a platform for more substantial bi-communal initiatives. While these contributions are still modest, they are significant as they are starting to address critical issues relating to economic integration and inter dependencies and to rebuild relationships and confidence. The fact that the BCTC are active, and collaborating is in itself an important contribution to confidence building as it demonstrates the continued willingness of the GC and TC communities to work together and keep open the potential for a settlement in the absence of political negotiations. Stakeholders stressed the need for more bi-communal engagement and activity irrespective of the political context and lack of progress on the negotiations.

The evaluation has found that the work supported through the BCTC Support Facility is coherent with the objectives of the EU Aid Programme and that the BCTC projects supported through the BCTC SF have contributed to the objectives of this programme both in term of economic integration and confidence building at a critical time when the political process was at a standstill. The BCTC SF itself and the projects it has supported over the last three years gives a strong political message and demonstrates the EUs continued commitment to supporting UN efforts to revive the negotiations process and work towards the reunification of Cyprus. At this point the BCTCs are the main mechanism for bi-communal work and a key element in efforts to revive the political negotiations process. The support of the EU has been critical, and the continuation of this support is essential in the current political context both to enable the TC and GC communities to address common issues and to create conditions conducive to a revival of negotiations.

The changed political context in the TC community has impacted on relationships with the EU and the work of the BCTCs. Despite this the EU has navigated these challenges and the BCTC SF has brought considerable added value to the situation and stakeholders in both the GC and TC communities value the support provided through the BCTC SF. The partnership between the EU, the OSASG and the UNDP has been effective in reviving the BCTCs and enabling several of them to take on and implement significant bi-communal projects. Members of the BCTCs are generally very positive about the project implementation and monitoring role of the UNDP, highlighting in particular the willingness to work and support the Technical Committees through crises situations, the ability to open doors, overcome barriers and to lighten the administrative and bureaucratic load. The capacity of the UNDP to recruit and engage experts to support the Committees and to handle procurement and finance was seen as critical to progress and implementation of projects and overall, it has brought considerable added value to the initiative.

Delays in implementing and completing projects has been a cause for concern and friction among stakeholders and there are concerns among stakeholders that these issues are damaging relationships and confidence and risk undermining the core aims of the BCTC SF and the Aid Programme in Cyprus. Concerns around the politicisation of the BCTC and the increased focus on the projects and the terminology has been a persistent theme in the consultations and is causing concern among all stakeholders. Technical issues have been elevated to political level contributing to, delays and tensions which risk undermining the overall aim of building confidence and resolving common problems. While all stakeholders recognise that the BCTCs are part of the political process there is a strong desire to provide them with space to operate and creating this space should be a priority in the next phase of the initiative.

There have also been issues around the eligibility of some proposed project under the EC Aid programme and this has been a source of friction among stakeholders. This highlights the need for increased clarity around eligibility criteria and for a more streamlined decision-making process which prevents technical issues from becoming politicised. There is still a need for tailored facilitation and support in this developmental or start-up phase to promote innovation, to enable BCTCs to move forward with their ideas in a more timely manner and to build partnerships and wider constituencies.

Developing more robust protocols and agreed principles among stakeholders with increased clarity on the approval process and allowing the BCTCs themselves to resolve issues with the support of the Good Offices and UNDP would help overcome some of these challenges. At the same time it is important to recognise that some of the areas such as education and culture are themselves contested so projects in these fields are likely to encounter issues and challenges. There is also merit in looking at the learning from other Technical Committees such as the TCCH and the CMP which have managed these challenges and effectively worked on potentially controversial issues. A number of those consulted referred to the need for new language which could enable the Technical Committees to develop technical projects while avoiding potentially contentious language issues. It would therefore be useful to consider setting up a working group which could make some recommendations in this area and deal with terminology before these issues are escalated upwards into the political arena.

Stakeholders are keen to strengthen and sustain the work of the BCTCs and recognise the critical role of the BCTC Support Facility in this regard. Proposals on the way forward are grouped under five areas;

increased engagement and involvement of wider society in these initiatives, more focus on thematic issues with increased cross-BCTC collaboration, increased emphasis on a multi-level approach and on the policy agenda, expanding the pool of resources to facilitate more ambitious bi-communal initiatives and a more streamlined process to speed up implementation.

One of the weaknesses in the overall initiative to date has been the limited engagement with the wider community and this needs attention in the next phase. The BCTCs themselves are small and are mainly voluntary with limited scope to implement larger project and need wider engagement and the support of Civil society, the private sector, academia/thinks tanks if they are to take on more significant projects in areas such as health, environment, and economic development. This should be a priority area in the next phase.

Consultations with BCTCs and CSOs has highlighted the necessity for broader engagement and increased bi-communal collaboration around issues of gender, social cohesion, equality and migration/refugees, energy, water management and climate change. Many of these issues overlap and require a multi-disciplinary approach and projects in these areas would benefit from collaboration between different BCTCs, the involvement of other partners such as CSOs, academics and the private sector as well increased focus on broader community engagement. There is also scope to create synergies between the work of the BCTCs and with other work supported under the Aid programme such as the BCTC on Cultural Heritage and the Local Infrastructure Facility (LIF). This would point to the need for new structures and processes to support the BCTCs in this regard as well as ongoing and sustained support for individual BCTCs to enable them to contribute effectively. A number of those consulted felt there was a need for additional Technical Committees to deal with some of these issues such as energy and climate change. While this is a sensitive political issue there is merit in exploring the potential for this with relevant stakeholders.

As outlined above effective confidence building measures need a multi-level approach and BCTCs should put increased focus on how initiatives can impact on policy in the GC and/or TC arena. This may require increased support in this area which the UNDP is well positioned to provide. Adopting a thematic approach, increased focus on policy and on wider community engagement should be key priorities or cross-cutting issues going forward. However, due to sensitivities around some issues BCTCs also need to have the independence and scope to implement specific projects in their own areas.

The BCTC Support Facility budget of EUR 1 million was sufficient to support the BCTCs in this initial phase of the process and there was an underspending at the end of the project. However, this scale of funding would not be sufficient to support the BCTCs through the next phase of development where BCTC are progressing to more ambitious bi-communal projects. Several of the BCTCT have plans in place to further develop bi-communal work and there is already a pipeline of projects with a projected budget of over EUR 300,000. The BCTCs can access other EU funding streams for larger project and facilitating and supporting the BCTCs to apply for and benefit from these opportunities are one of the objectives of the BCTC SF. However, this would not be an option for some BCTCs in the short to medium term as they have not developed the capacity to plan and implement larger, more complex projects and are also restricted due to the fact that they are not legal entities. Therefore, access to additional sources of funding would be significant and would provide a progression path for BCTCs which could facilitate the development of substantial bi-communal initiatives in the medium to long

term. The UNDP is well positioned to provide support to eligible bi-communal initiatives and should investigate the potential to establish a supplementary Trust fund to complement the work of the BCTC SF.

There are diverging views on the role and effectiveness of the Steering Committee with some stakeholders feeling it is an effective conflict resolution mechanism while others feel it is time consuming and ineffective. The Steering Committee meets bi-monthly and has played a central role in decision making on all aspects of the project. However, there are questions as to why it is necessary for a high-level committee to meet so often given the scale and number projects being implemented. Concerns have been expressed about micro management of this initiative and the Steering Committee should review its modus operandi and identify options to streamline procedures. As outlined above a more structured process for approving project at an earlier stage would contribute and would also provide greater transparency as well allowing the SC to focus on its strategic role. When looking at the future implementation modality a number of points should be taken into consideration. The political agenda of the EU is an issue for some TC interlocuters and therefore direct implementation by the EU could present challenges to some stakeholders. An indirect implementation mechanism would appear to be most appropriate approach at this stage in the development of the BCTCs. In light of this and the need to maintain continuity and build on the first phase of work it would be appropriate for the EU to maintain the indirect management mechanism and continue to work in partnership with the UNDP and the Good Offices.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

1. The EU's continuation of support for confidence building efforts in Cyprus through this BCTC Support Facility remains highly relevant. To maintain the BCTC SF in order to support island wide projects, improve the lives of Cypriots and build confidence with a view to contributing to the future unification of Cyprus continues to be important to all stakeholders.
2. The indirect management model should be retained and the partnership approaches between the EU, the UNDP and the UN Good Offices should be kept in place and strengthened with enhanced communications and clarification of roles.
3. The EU and UNDP should revise the project management structure to create a more streamlined system which can more effectively oversee and support the work of the BCTCs.
4. The EU, UNDP and Good Office should work with BCTCs to create a progression paths or roadmap for other initiatives which could access other funding streams. This would include support with resource mobilisation for larger scale projects in areas such as climate change, environment, energy, and health etc.
5. BCTC SF should provide a hybrid model of support with two funding streams, one to support strategic projects set out in a project workplan, and a second one to support smaller ad hoc initiatives.
6. There should be increased emphasis on collaborative approaches between the BCTCs and between BCTCs and other stakeholders with a focus on developing larger flagship projects which could generate wider public interest and engagement.
7. The Cultural Heritage maintenance component should be incorporated into the main funding stream for the BCTC on Cultural Heritage as there is a separate funding from EU for Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage where a new phase recently been initiated inclusive of maintenance component.

8. The UNDP and UN Good Offices should:
  - a. consult with key stakeholders to explore the merits and potential to establish new Technical Committee(s) and/or sub committees to address gaps and deal with critical emerging issues and if appropriate make recommendation to the two leaders;
  - b. Undertake a consultation process with the BCTCs and with other stakeholders particularly civil society to increase awareness of the BCTC Support Facility, identify priorities for the next phase, generate renewed momentum and initiate an inclusive process with enhanced collaboration between the BCTCs and other stakeholders.
  - c. Facilitate the BCTCs to develop workplans which set out how the BCTC will meet the objectives of the EU Aid programme, implement bi-communal solutions to island wide issue of common concern, and build confidence with a view to contributing to a future reunification of the island. These would include identification of key thematic areas, drawing up a list of potential bi-communal projects, identification of areas for enhanced cross-BCTC collaboration and strategies to engage with external stakeholders, particularly civil society/NGOs;
  - d. clarify their respective roles and draw up an MOU to guide future work with the BCTCs and collaborate with the BCTC co-ordinators to develop agreed terminology.
  - e. Work with the BCTCs to develop a strategic communication strategy to increase public awareness of the island wide issues and challenges, enhance public engagement, promote the work of the BCTCS, and collate feedback on public perceptions. This should include strategies to engage with media outlets in the GC and TC communities.
9. The UNDP should:
  - a. encourage and facilitate activities which strengthen relationship and introduce new approaches and innovation among the BCTCs including seminars, training, inputs from thematic experts and comparative international study visits etc;
  - b. continue to draw on its extensive pool of experts in thematic areas to stimulate and support the BCTCs including support in project identification and formulation.
  - c. establish database of experts and stakeholders in the relative area of interest in both communities in order to ensure expert support is available to the BCTCs
  - d. revise the results framework to include qualitative indicators which reflect the nature of support and facilitation provided to the BCTC, the outcomes of this work and the impact on the lives of Cypriots.

## ANNEX 1: Stakeholder Consultations

Alexandra Prieto	UNDP: Local Infrastructure Facility
Fatma Terlik	UNDP
Irene Anastassiou	UNDP
Nilgun Arif	UNDP
Ali Tuzel	UNDP
Jakhongir Khaydarov	UNDP
Cecilia Rodrigues	EU Programme Support Office
Alain JOARIS	EU Programme Support Office
Sergiy Illarionov	OSASG
Arnoud Amouroux	OSASG
Sherry Holbrook	OSASG
Phillipe Baudin	OSASG
Obiageli Ifeyinwa	OSASG
Adrianos Kyriakidis	Technical Committee Greek Cypriot Coordinator
Gunes Onar	Technical Committee Turkish Cypriot Coordinator
Michalis Loizides	Technical Committee on Environment
Andreas Kapardis	Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters
Mr. Salih Doratlı	Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters
Ali Tuncay	Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage
Salih Gücel	Technical Committee on Environment
Cenk Soydan	Technical Committee on Health
Aysan Mullahasan	Technical Committee on Crossings
Zehra Başaran	Technical Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
Tahir Tahir	Technical Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
Vedat Yorucu	Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters
Sotos Ktoris	Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage
Phidias Pilides	Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters
Leonidas Paschalides	Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters
Aristos Tsiartas	Technical Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
Soula Zavou	Technical Committee on Gender
Michalinos Zembylas	Technical Committee on Education
Marlen Vasques	Technical Committee on Health
Ferdiye Ersoy	Technical Committee on Culture
Kadri Bürüncük	Technical Committee on Broadcasting
Huriye Hancerli	Technical Committee on Gender
Andreas Kapardis	Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters
Magda Zenon	Hands Across the Divide
Evrin Pekar	Civic Space
Gizem Mulla	Biologist Association

Malek Keles	Biologist Association
Meta Hatay	PRIO

## ANNEX 2: Interview protocol

No.		TC	EC/UN/ UNDP	External
1	Overall context: How has the changes in the Cyprus context and in the wider geopolitical context impacted on bi-communal relations and efforts to promote understanding and increased interaction	X	X	X
2	How have these changes impacted on the work and dynamics of the BCTCs.  Elaborate on the role of the BCTCs and how these committees are expected to facilitate greater interaction and understanding between the two communities and improve the atmosphere of the peace and talks.	X	X	
3	How do you understand the role of the specific TC you are involved with and how it is expected to contribute to greater interactions/understanding  What is your awareness and connections/relationship with other TCs -what if any interactions/cross-fertilisation is happening, Why/Why not.  Do you think there is a need/potential in this regard.	X		
4	How has the Support Facility assisted your TC and its work  How well has it responded to the needs and interests of BCTCs  How would you describe the relationship between the SF and the TC(s)	X		
5	Has the EC/UNDP Support facility evolved and stayed relevant over this period? How well has it responded to changes in the context? Has it addressed the right issues at the right time?	X	X	X
6	From your perspective has it been effective?  What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Facility  Were there any significant issues or missed opportunities? What factors contributed to or reduced its effectiveness?	X	X	X
6	What do you consider to be the main achievements of the Facility?  What is the added value of the Facility and how could this be enhanced?	X	X	

	How has it facilitated your work/ the work of the TC and how could this be enhanced			
7	<p>How effective has the Facility been in following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitating the BCTCs to adopt island-wide and intercommunal solutions for issues of common concern</li> <li>➤ Enabling a strategic approach to implementation</li> <li>➤ Capacity building</li> <li>➤ Reach out and engaging with different constituencies (women, youth, CSOs Religious leaders)</li> <li>➤ Inclusion and promoting local ownership</li> <li>➤ Communications and increased visibility of the work of the BCTC</li> <li>➤ Integrating agender dimension and promoting the involvement of women</li> </ul>	X	X	X
8	<p>Where and how has the Facility enhanced co-ordination and contributed to partnerships and synergies with other UN agencies and externally (LIF, OSASG, UNFICYP) and <u>Civil Society/NGOs</u>?</p> <p>What are the main gaps in this regard and how can this be improved?</p>	X	X	X
9	<p>How well are resources (human and financial resources, expertise, time, etc.) used?</p> <p>How effective are the Organisational structures /co-ordination mechanisms (BCTC project governance – PSC/IA).</p> <p>Are there any particular gaps or deficiencies in this regard</p> <p>How could these be improved</p>	X	X	
10	From your knowledge/experience- What lessons can we draw from the work of the Facility and how should these be integrated and applied more effectively? Are there any models of good practice.	X	X	X
11	<p>What are the key challenges / issues facing the Support Facility and what emerging issues/challenges do you anticipate over the next 3 -5 years? What are the implications of this for the project and TCs (wider).</p> <p>How should it position itself going forward? What should the priorities be over the next 3- 5 years?</p>	X	X	X
12	From your perspective how are the TCs perceived by your CSO /the wider CSO sector			X

	<p>What, if any interaction/connection is there between the TC and CSOs in this sector</p> <p>How could this be enhanced</p>			
13	Any other comments/suggestions regarding the future development of the TCs and how the facility can contribute	X	X	X

### **ANNEX 3: List of documents consulted**

- Description of the Action
- Donor Agreement and related annexes
- Project Progress Report
- BCTC Project proposals
- Steering Committee meeting minutes
- Report of the Secretary General to the UN Security Council (Sep 2017)  
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1306018?ln=en>
- Population and politics in North Cyprus. PRIO Meta Hatay;
- Assessing the effectiveness of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Cyprus (OSASG) Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (Dr. Alexander Novosseloff ) 2021
- The Cyprus Problem in an era of uncertainty; Establishing a culture of engagement; PRIO James Ker-Lindsay 2019
- Directorate-General for STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT Cyprus settlement support (July 2020) <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/ht0420250enn.pdf>