

Press Release



Communication Office
Promotion and
Development Sector

Telephone: 22894304

Email: prinfo@ucy.ac.cy

Website: www.ucy.ac.cy/pr



22 March 2018

The first EU experts training on drones for emergency management conducted by the KIOS Center of Excellence

Between the 6th and the 9th of March 2018, the KIOS Research and Innovation Center of Excellence (CoE) of the University of Cyprus in collaboration with the Cyprus Civil Defence Force conducted a first-of-its-kind training on the use of drones for emergency management purposes. The training was supported by the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism through its training programme and specifically the "Exchange of Experts" module, which funded the participation of 17 experts from across 11 EU countries. Amongst the participants were representatives of first response authorities in Cyprus, who will use the acquired knowledge to support mission-critical activities, to improve situation awareness, to speed up current procedures, thus increasing the success rate of missions and minimizing several risks (injuries or loss of lives).

The four-day training agenda included presentations that covered key aspects of drone operations, such as the fundamental principles of unmanned aerial vehicles, state-of-the-art tools for operating drones, planning aspects for emergency-related missions and data capturing, as well as processing and management issues. The participants were also engaged in practical activities in the field of conducting drone operations on manual and automated modes, and familiarized themselves with the specialized software developed by the KIOS CoE for real-time search and detection of objects on the ground.

Moreover, the networking achieved amongst the experts was of equal importance. It gave the opportunity to share valuable knowledge regarding the use of drones in different emergency scenarios in participants' home countries and understand the regulatory and authorization procedures of operation in other Member States. The received feedback at the end of the course indicated the success of the training's objective, which was to improve the response's capacity, at national and at European level.

The training is the outcome of the expertise developed in Cyprus and made possible by the EU funded project PREDICATE. The cooperation between civil authorities and research organizations

in this project is an excellent example of how actions like this one can result in improved products and services.

End of announcement

