

Speech by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr Nicos Nicolaides at the launching of the H2020 Teaming project «Excelsior» of the Cyprus University of Technology, on Friday, 8 September 2017 at 09.30 hours at Tassos Papadopoulos building

Distinguished guests,
Dear Friends,

First of all let me, on behalf of the Limassol Municipality, welcome all our guests from abroad and wish them a fruitful and enjoyable stay in our beautiful city.

It is a great pleasure and an honour to be invited to address this important event, on the occasion of the launching of the project "EXCELSIOR". Our warmest congratulations go to the Rector of the Technical University and to Prof. D. Hadjimitsis for this significant achievement, a success which reflects on the entire University and the excellent work that is being done.

The Municipality of Limassol has enthusiastically supported the EXCELSIOR, as a project which will do good to our city. A project which will upgrade the existing ERATOSTHENES Research Centre into a sustainable Center able to provide the highest quality of services through the systematic monitoring of environment using earth observation, space and ground based integrated technologies.

Since 1974, Limassol has developed into one of the greatest commercial ports in the Mediterranean, as well as one of the most important maritime, tourist, commercial and service centre in the wider region. We expect the EXCELSIOR project to assist the Municipality of Limassol in resolving important issues in the areas of Coastal and Shipping, Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Transportation, Transport and Environment, Built Environment and Smart Cities.

Limassol is the largest ship-management centre in the European Union, with a coastline which includes beaches, marinas and ports.

The EXCELSIOR project can assist the Municipality in:

1. Port planning and management.
2. Maritime Spatial Planning.
3. Continuous monitoring of the maritime traffic on waterways around Cyprus and of coastal waters in ports and other point sources of pollution.
4. Continuous monitoring of water quality at beach sites and of the effects of erosion resulting from coastal waters

As far as Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Limassol being a popular tourist destination, has a lot to benefit from EXCELSIOR project in the areas of:

1. Conservation, restoration, integration, enhancement and re-use of heritage buildings in the modern built environment and the promotion of Cultural Heritage in general.
2. Optimization of the tourist experience in Cyprus by the use of ICT technologies, and promotion of cultural heritage routes for tourists and visitors.
3. GIS web/mobile based applications to provide information to tourists regarding water quality at beaches and air quality.

The EXCELSIOR project can furthermore offer valuable services to the municipality in the area of Transport by helping the Municipality's efforts to resolve increasingly difficult issues regarding traffic, road conditions, parking and road accidents in Limassol.

Furthermore in the area of Environmental Issues, Built Environment and Smart Cities, there are a number of issues which can be addressed by the Project aiming at a sustainable urban

development and planning of infrastructures.

I am more than positive that the scientific knowledge and professionalism of the academicians and researchers involved in the EXCELSIOR project, will prove a strong guarantee for the successful course of the project.

Once again warm congratulations to TEPAK and its people.