

# **What makes Future Worlds Center a cutting-edge organization?**

Yiannis Laouris

**Hurray !**

**We are here,  
and we are  
almost all here!**

**To share knowledge**  
**To strengthen the team**

**1**

# What is Future Worlds Center?

- A Community of agents of change
- A Community of social entrepreneurs
- A Community of visionaries
- An Organization that supports team work
- An Organization that promotes innovation
- An Organization that utilizes communication

# What do we believe in?

## Constitutional and Value Policies

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*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus Sharing with the World and Empowering Others*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus at the interface between human brain-modern technology-social transformation*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus in Modern IT*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus in Promoting Cyprus as Peripheral Center*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus in Promoting Peace*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus in applied innovative RND*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus on Children*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus on Future Orientation*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus on Innovation*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus on Structured Democratic Dialogue*

*Constitutional and Value Policy: Special Focus on Vulnerable Groups*

**2**



**ALL INFORMATION is  
accessible**





**3**





**4**

**No surprises**  
**Following well-defined**  
**processes**



## Policies

---

1. Policy: Joining Future Worlds Center
2. Policy: Signing an Honour Declaration
3. Policy: Signing a Confidentiality Agreement
4. Policy: Self and Peer Evaluations
5. Policy: Working in multiple projects
6. Policy: Signing a Contract with Future Worlds Cer
7. Policy: Legal-financial aspects of work contracts
8. Policy: Counseling for Associates working with Cf
9. Policy: Project Coordinator Replacement
10. Policy: Project Member Replacement
11. Policy: Virtual Officing
12. Policy: Official Language
13. Policy: Laptop Security
14. Policy: Public reports and deliverables
15. Policy: Organization of an event
16. Policy: Media relations
17. Policy: Certifications
18. Policy: Creating clusters of projects
19. Policy: Hosting interns
20. Policy: Using virtual infrastructure
21. Policy: Office Rules
22. Policy: International Travel
23. Policy: Yearly Financial Statements
24. Policy: Subcontracting
25. Policy: Payments to third parties
26. Policy: Associates making personal payments to third parties

## Procedures

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1. Procedure: Hiring process
2. Procedure: Self and Peer Evaluation
3. Procedure: Inviting and Hosting interns
4. Procedure: Counseling Services for Associates
5. Procedure: Laptop subsidy
6. Procedure: Preparing a grant application
7. Procedure: Media management
8. Procedure: Organization of an event
9. Procedure: Preparing certificates
10. Procedure: Preparing public reports and deliverables
11. Procedure: Payments to third parties
12. Procedure: Reimbursing associates who made personal payments
13. Procedure: International Travel
14. Procedure: Preparing Yearly Financial Statements

**5**

**We have a good name**

**Yes, they can find our  
Organization in Wikipedia**



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# Future Worlds Center

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**Future Worlds Center** (FWC) is a non-profit, non-Governmental independent organization active in programs with future orientation in areas related to [positive social change](#), [social entrepreneurship](#) and [transformation](#).

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## Founding history [edit]

Future Worlds Center was founded in 1991 as [Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute](#). In the late 90's, it expanded its operations pioneering in a number of humanitarian, multicultural and peace related projects<sup>[1]</sup>, <sup>[2]</sup>. At the end of 2005, with a new Constitution, it evolved into a larger organization with a pure international orientation integrating all humanitarian, peace, and multicultural activities under one umbrella.

## Notable Operations [edit]

### Promoting regional peace [edit]

Future Worlds Center pioneers in envisioning, designing and implementing projects that promote the culture of peace and reconciliation in Cyprus, the region and the globe. The [Technology for peace](#)<sup>[3]</sup> initiative in 1997, founded by [Yiannis Laouris](#) and [Harry Anastasiou](#) members of the [Cyprus Conflict](#)

### Future Worlds Center



<b>Type</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Nicosia, Cyprus</a>
<b>President</b>	<a href="#">Yiannis Laouris</a>
<b>Main organ</b>	Board of Directors
<b>Affiliations</b>	<a href="#">Institute for 21st Century Agoras</a>
<b>Budget</b>	1,000,000 Euro annually
<b>Staff</b>	20
<b>Volunteers</b>	>50
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.futureWorldsCenter.org">http://www.futureWorldsCenter.org</a>  <a href="http://www.FutureWorlds.eu/wiki">http://www.FutureWorlds.eu/wiki</a> 

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# Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute

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The **Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute** (CNTI) is a non-profit, non-Governmental independent organization active in programs with future orientation in areas related to human brain-modern technology-social transformation and the repercussions of relevant research for humanity.

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## Founding history [edit]

The Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute was founded through the initiatives of [Yiannis Laouris](#) and a team of repatriated Cypriot scientists with the support of ex-Minister of Education and Culture [Dr. Chrysostomos Sofianos](#), District School Inspector [Dr. Christodoulos Laouris](#), the Bishop of [Paphos Chrysostomos](#) (now Archbishop of Cyprus) and three prominent foreign academics [Prof. Dr. Sc. Med. Peter Schwartze](#) (Germany), [Prof. Dr. Med. Habil. Uwe Windhorst](#) (Germany/Canada), and Regents [Prof. Douglas Stuart](#) (USA). It was registered on the 6th of November 1991 and launched its activities in 1993. Between 1994 and 1999 it expanded its operations hosting a number of peace related projects. It was re-structured in year 2000 modifying its original Constitution to embrace projects aiming in the development of an active civil society in [Cyprus](#), as well as projects with international scope, especially those that involve the application of technology towards bridging the literacy, economic and digital divides (Development and IT Education). At the end of 2005 it evolved into a larger organization with a pure international orientation integrating all its activities

## Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute



<b>Formation</b>	1991
<b>Type</b>	Research Institute
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Nicosia, Cyprus</a>
<b>President</b>	<a href="#">Yiannis Laouris</a>
<b>Main organ</b>	Board of Directors
<b>Affiliations</b>	<a href="#">Institute for 21st Century Agoras</a>
<b>Budget</b>	1,000,000 Euro annually
<b>Staff</b>	20
<b>Volunteers</b>	>50
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.cnti.org.cy">http://www.cnti.org.cy</a>

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# Unit of Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture

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The **Unit of Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture** (URVT) <sup>[1]</sup> has operated in [Cyprus](#) since 2005.

The funding for the establishment of the URVT came originally from the [European Council](#)<sup>[2]</sup> decision to establish the [European Refugee Fund](#) (ERF) II<sup>[3]</sup> for 2005–2010. Cyprus has been participating in the ERF since 2004, with the Asylum Service being appointed as the responsible authority for its implementation. The national program for the implementation of the ERF is mainly focused on actions in the areas of reception of asylum seekers and integration of persons enjoying a form of international protection (including [refugees](#)) currently residing in Cyprus.

The Unit was founded with the initiatives of Elia Petridou and [Yiannis Laouris](#) and is operated under the Humanitarian Affairs Unit of [Future Worlds Center](#), a non profit, non-governmental organization established in Cyprus.

The URVT operates on the premise that no one shall be "subjected to [torture](#) or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."(Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948)

The URVT is dedicated to helping victims of torture and their families rebuild their lives, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or economic or legal status.

## The victims

[\[edit\]](#)

For the Unit, a victim of [torture](#) is anyone who has experienced any form of torture, which is defined as "any act by which severe pain and suffering, whether physical or mental is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person."

Victims of torture in Cyprus are mainly [asylum seekers](#) and therefore have applied for protection in Cyprus in accordance to the asylum procedures as stipulated in the Cyprus Refugee Law 2000. In accordance to the Refugee law as well as Cyprus' EU and International obligations the element of torture must be examined and taken into consideration when examining an asylum seeker's application for asylum. If torture is found then the person should not be returned to their country of origin and should be granted refugee status, or other status depending on the other elements of the case. The victims that are treated by the URVT are asylum seekers and recognized [refugees](#), and the vast majority are referred to us by the Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior, which is the proper authority that examines asylum claims. The referral is based on an obligation stipulated in the Cyprus Refugee Law according to which when an applicant claims torture the Asylum Service must refer him/her to a specialist doctor. In lack of any other specialist, the Asylum Service fulfills this obligation by referring asylum seekers who claim torture to URVT. The Unit operates closely with the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) in Nicosia.





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## Civil Society Dialogue project in Cyprus

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The **Civil Society Dialogue Project in Cyprus** follows the negative outcome of the [referendum in Cyprus](#) for the re-unification of the island (known as the [Annan Plan](#)), which took place on the 24th of April 2004. A number of Cypriot peace pioneers launched the Civil Society Dialogue Project aiming to provide opportunities for disengaged peace builders to assume new initiatives. They have used the **Structured dialogic design** process as described by one of the fathers of the science, Dr. [Aleco Christakis](#) in his book <sup>[1]</sup>. The project engaged more than 300 Cypriots from both sides of the Green line in structured dialogues. The first dialogue explored the obstacles which peace builders faced in their work <sup>[2]</sup>. The participants developed a shared understanding of factors contributing to the perceived widening of the gap between the two divided communities in Cyprus. The came up with 121 ideas, which were structured using the science of dialogic design to highlight the five most influential: Media as puppets of political parties; The personal and financial interests of politicians and ordinary people on both sides; Leaders on each side do not want to share power; Disempowerment of the NGOs in north Cyprus & weak NGOs in the south who are suppressed; Provocative statements made by the leaders on both sides. The next dialogue focused on developing options for the future.<sup>[3]</sup> Out of the 84 ideas originally produced, five turned out to be the root drivers: Make possible for Turkish Cypriots to use rights arising from the Cyprus constitution and European Union membership; Have more positive and independent media on both sides; Promote modern diplomacy methods by making **zero-sum** VS **win-win** concepts widely known; Adopt the Turkish language as a working language of the Republic of Cyprus; Teach Turkish & Greek as obligatory second languages in schools. Other dialogues included the challenge of integrating the economies of the two sides, the opening of the enclaved city of [Famagusta](#), the environment etc. The results of all peoples' dialogues were handed over to Track I (politicians and diplomats) in the expectation that they would facilitate the negotiation process.

### References

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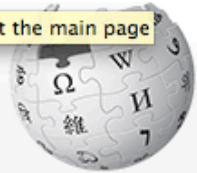
- <sup>↑</sup> Christakis AN, Bausch K (2006) How people harness their collective wisdom and power. Information age publishing, Greenwich, CT. <http://www.harnessingcollectivewisdom.com>
- <sup>↑</sup> Laouris, Y., Michaelides, M., Damdelen, M., Laouri, R., Beyatli, D. and Christakis, A. (2009). A Systemic Evaluation of the State of Affairs Following the Negative Outcome of the Referendum in Cyprus Using the Structured Dialogic Design Process. Syst Pract Action Res 22:45–75
- <sup>↑</sup> Laouris, Y., EreI, A., Michaelides, M., Damdelen, M., Taraszow, T., Dagli, I., Laouri, R. and Christakis, A. (2009). Exploring Options for Enhancement of Social Dialogue Between the Turkish and Greek Communities in Cyprus Using the Structured Dialogic Design Process. Syst Pract Action Res 22:361–381.

### External links

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- <http://www.civilsocietydialogue.net/>
- <http://sunsite.utk.edu/FINS/loversofdemocracy/CyprusCivilSociety.htm>

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# Cyprus Safer Internet Hotline

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## Basic Information [edit]

The **Cyprus Safer Internet Hotline** is a service provided by the [Cyprus Safer Internet Center](#) project, coordinated by the [Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute](#) (CNTI). The Hotline promotes the safe use of the [Internet](#) in [Cyprus](#). It serves the needs of all people that live on the island but also abroad and addresses issues of [child pornography](#), [child erotica](#), [child nudity](#), [child grooming](#) activities, [child trafficking](#), [child sex tourism](#), but also [racism](#) (currently on the rise in Cyprus), [gender discrimination](#) and inappropriate use of peoples' images.

The Hotline provides assistance to the [Cyber Crime](#) unit of the [Cyprus Police](#) by filtering reports to determine which reports concern content that is probably illegal and is also located in [Cyprus](#) or has a Cypriot dimension. This assists the Police to dedicate their specialist resources to pursuing investigations within their jurisdiction by not having to deal with the majority of reports that do not contain illegal content or relate to material held in other jurisdictions.

The Hotline is a member of the [INHOPE](#) International Association of Internet Hotlines, founded in 1999 under the EC Safer Internet Action Plan. [INHOPE](#) facilitates and co-ordinates the work of hotlines internationally in responding to illegal use and content on the Internet. It facilitates good working relationships between hotlines and the exchange of reports by ensuring trust built on a rigorous hotline approval process. When illegal content which is not hosted in [Cyprus](#) is reported to SafenetCY the report is forwarded via [INHOPE](#) to the hotline that operates in the hosting country. If there is no [INHOPE](#) hotline in operation in the hosting country, the report is forwarded to the Cyprus Police which can decide based on the nature of the content to pursue an investigation in liaison with [Interpol](#).

### SafenetCY, the Cyprus Internet Hotline



<b>Formation</b>	2007
<b>Purpose/focus</b>	The identification and removal of illegal content on the internet.
<b>Location</b>	Nicosia, Cyprus
<b>Region served</b>	Cyprus
<b>Official languages</b>	Greek/Turkish/English
<b>Parent organization</b>	<a href="#">Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.cyberethics.info">http://www.cyberethics.info</a>



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# Technology for peace

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Technology for Peace is a Cyprus based peoples' initiative launched in 1995 to serve the needs of peace pioneers on the divided island.

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## History

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The peace portal <sup>[1]</sup> was born because it was deemed needed. What led to its birth was neither the availability of relevant technology nor the availability of funding, because both were not there. The ban of bi-communal meetings imposed by the Turkish Cypriot Authorities following the EU's decision to postpone accession negotiations with Turkey (summit meeting in Luxembourg, December 1997) stopped face-to-face dialogues (during the time window 1994-1997) and threatened to nullify all peace building efforts on the island. The idea came out of several (# 9, 10 & 11) of the 15 peace promoting projects, which made it to the final [Cyprus Peace Bazaar](#) organized by the [Cyprus Conflict Resolution Trainers Group](#) in 1995.

## Tech4Peace vision

[\[edit\]](#)

The vision, which underpinned the project Technology For Peace (Tech4Peace) was to enhance in Cyprus one of the most basic human rights, the right of communication, by applying modern technology in the service of peace with emphasis on the usage of Internet and Internet-based applications. A promising and creative way to enhance inter-communal communication where there exist substantial hindrances to direct contact between peoples is through the use of the Internet. Cyberspace and Internet provide an efficient, fast, tractable, confidential, organized, time and space independent means of communication. As individuals and organizations throughout the world continue to demonstrate, the Internet can overcome the [Visit the main pag](#)