Adoption of a 5year Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Unintentional Childhood Injuries in Cyprus

After the submission of the proposal by the Cyprus Ministry of Health to the Ministerial Council, for the adoption of a 5year strategic plan for the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries in the country, the Ministerial Council accepted and adopted the strategic plan. The Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Childhood Injuries and Poisonings, of the Ministry of Health of Cyprus, developed the Plan during a two-day workshop which took place in Nicosia in January 2016. The workshop was coordinated by:

* Dr. Dinesh Sethi, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health.
* Prof. Eleni Petridou, Athens University, Medical School, Secretariat WP Accidents and Injuries.

A big number of local stakeholders participated actively in the workshop.

The plan’s vision is for Cyprus to become a much safer place for children in their daily activities in the house, school, roads and community. It was also agreed to set a preliminary target: to reduce childhood injury mortality and non-fatal injuries by 30% by 2020.

The Action Plan aims to substantially reduce morbidity and mortality from unintentional injuries (road crashes, drawing and suffocation, falls, poisoning and burns and scalds ) by setting realistic goals and taking advantage of the good practices of other countries . For each type of accident, the basic principles of prevention that have been repeatedly tested in many countries with a great success have been also adopted in this action plan. These principles are as follows:

• programming and educational intervention to ensure greater safety for children

• enforcement /legislation

• environmental and product modification

For each action there is a relevant department/organization/entity defined, which is directly involved in the action’s implementation. The Action Plan has been sent to all Ministries and their comments and views have been added and included in the plan.

The implementation of the Strategic Plan will be made gradually by all Ministries involved. Each Ministry involved is going to develop its own Plan of Action within a timetable and cover all the expenses derived from its activities, from its own yearly budget. Furthermore, each Ministry will submit a yearly report about the progress of the implementation of its activities. The Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Childhood Injuries and Poisonings will follow up the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan, and will also cover any coordination needed.

The strategic action plan has been posted on the Ministry of Health’s website [www.moh.gov.cy](http://www.moh.gov.cy).

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