



# CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT (SeeD)

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE ON SECURITY: NEW PROJECT LAUNCHED BY INTER-COMMUNAL THINK-TANK “SeeD”**

The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), together with its international project partners, the Berghof Foundation and Interpeace, announce the launch of the “Security Dialogue Project”. Aiming to support the Cyprus Peace Process, the Security Dialogue Project will contribute to the identification of informed, innovative, and viable security options or solutions that could enable all communities in Cyprus to simultaneously feel secure.

The Security Dialogue Project aims to identify and contribute a set of creative and viable security arrangement options based on a methodology that blends international security expertise with SeeD’s extensive research and dialogue efforts, to map the unique perceptions, needs, and interests of the two Cypriot communities. The goal of the initiative is to offer an informed and vetted array of insights and concrete options for solutions to support mutually acceptable security arrangements. The project will additionally embrace a broader perspective of regional developments in the volatile Eastern Mediterranean, newly emerging global security threats, and the potential role of unified Cyprus in addressing such challenges.

During its 10-month implementation period, this initiative will involve both local and international stakeholders in a participatory dialogue process, aiming to build local ownership while creating an open environment where different options and scenarios can be freely discussed. By utilizing mixed-method research, this project will initially capture the current perspectives and security concerns of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. This research data will then be analysed in conjunction with input from international security experts, drawing upon their know-how and lessons learned from negotiated security arrangements and transitional experiences in comparative contexts. The project will further test the viability of different security alternatives and the negotiated framework according to feedback and perspectives from within both communities through public opinion polls. The analytical results and forthcoming generation of security arrangement options will then be offered to the Cypriot leader-led negotiations. This will help to ensure a more effective implementation process for a possible peace agreement through a period of transition and beyond.

All research and analysis activities carried out by the project partners within the Security Dialogue Initiative are designed to proactively engage and draw from diverse perspectives that reflect the wider Cypriot public. For this purpose, the team includes people of different communities and with diverse political backgrounds, but who share a common belief in the values of tolerance, dialogue and inclusivity. The activities of the project are overseen by SeeD Research Directors Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sozen and Dr. Alexandros Lordos.

The project is funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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More information about SeeD can be found at [www.seedsofpeace.eu](http://www.seedsofpeace.eu)

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