

# Researcher's Guide to Cyprus

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The Cyprus Mobility Portal is available at [www.eracareers.org.cy](http://www.eracareers.org.cy)



Research  
Promotion  
Foundation

ERA-MORE opens the door  
European Network of Mobility Centres

# The Researcher's Guide to Cyprus

The Researcher's Guide to Cyprus has been prepared by the Cyprus Mobility Centre in order to assist foreign researchers, wishing to pursue their next career move in Cyprus, by providing information about Cyprus, its research landscape and various mobility related issues.

The Cyprus Mobility Centre has been developed in the frame of a European Commission co-funded project, named "Development of the Cyprus Mobility Centre" (CYMOCEN). The project also involves a number of other activities such as the development and hosting of a Portal that will provide updated information regarding mobility, employment and living in Cyprus. It also involves promotional and raising awareness activities such as various publications aimed at researchers home and abroad, training sessions on mobility issues and Information Days aiming to encourage Cypriot research Organisations to advertise their vacancies and researchers to submit their CVs in pursue of jobs in other European countries.

The Centre is a member of the European Network of Mobility Centres (ERA-MORE), an initiative of the European Commission aiming to provide personalised assistance to researchers wishing to pursue their next career step abroad. The various national Mobility Centres can provide researchers with customised information on practical matters regarding their move abroad such as entry conditions for them and their families, issues regarding employment, social security and tax issues, medical coverage but also administrative and cultural issues regarding the host country.

There are, currently, more than 200 Mobility Centres in 32 countries, which are funded by the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6). All relevant information concerning the countries participating in the ERA-MORE Network, as well as research job opportunities across Europe can be found on the European Researcher's Mobility Portal (RMP) at [europa.eu.int/eracareers](http://europa.eu.int/eracareers).

The Cyprus Mobility Portal can also assist foreign researchers by offering information on practical issues regarding moving to and employment in Cyprus. It can also provide up to date information on research job vacancies in academic and research Organisations of the island as well as information on legal, administrative and cultural matters. It also provides links to the RMP and other European portals in order to encourage Cypriot researchers to pursue research opportunities in other European countries. The Cyprus Mobility Portal can be visited at [www.eracareers.org.cy](http://www.eracareers.org.cy).

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# 1. About Cyprus

The island of Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea after Sicily and Sardinia with a total area of 9.251 sq. kms. It is situated at the north-eastern end of the East Mediterranean basin at a distance of 300 km north of Egypt, 90 km west of Syria and 60 km south of Turkey. The Greek mainland is some 800 km to the west.



The island's population is approximately 837.300 (2005 figures), of which the 77,8% are Greek Cypriots (including Maronites, Armenians and Latins), 10,5% are Turkish Cypriots and 11,7% are foreign citizens. About 35% of the Republic's territory is under Turkish army occupation since the summer of 1974, while a further 1,8% forms part of the buffer zone along the cease-fire line.

The capital of the island is Lefkosia with a population of 219.200 in the sector controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. Lefkosia is situated roughly in the centre of Cyprus and is the seat of government, as well as the main business centre. It is the only divided capital in the world. The second largest town is Lemesos on the south coast with a population of around 172.500 inhabitants. Lemesos is Cyprus' main commercial port, an industrial centre and an important tourist resort. Larnaca, in the south-coast of the island, has a population of 77.000 and is the country's second commercial port and an important tourist resort. To the south of the town Larnaca's International Airport is located. Paphos, on the southwest coast, with a population around 51.300, is a fast-developed tourist resort, home to the island' s second international airport and an attractive fishing harbour. The towns of Famagusta, Kyrenia, and Morphou have been under Turkish occupation since the Turkish invasion of 1974. More than 120.000 Turkish settlers are estimated to be illegally residing in the Turkish-occupied part of the island.

The language of the Greek Cypriot community is Greek and the community adheres to the Autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus, whereas the language of the Turkish Cypriot community is Turkish and the community adheres to Islam.

Even though the political problem remains unresolved, the economy, based on the free enterprise system, has made a remarkable recovery, exceeding the pre-invasion levels. Cyprus is today a major tourist destination, a service centre - mainly banking and shipping - and telecommunications node. The local currency is the Cyprus Pound (£1 = €1.58).

Cyprus aspires to adopt the Euro, giving up its national currency, on 1 January 2008. At the same time, it will become a member of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) which is based on the conduct of a single monetary policy primarily focused on maintaining price stability.

Cyprus is an independent, sovereign republic with a presidential system of government. Under the 1960 Constitution the executive power is exercised by the President of the Republic, elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term of office. The President ensures the executive power through a Council of Ministers appointed by him. The Ministers may be chosen from outside the House of Representatives.

Cyprus is an active member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations and the Council of Europe. In 1990 the Government of the Republic of Cyprus applied for full membership to the European Union, with which it had a Custom Union Agreement since 1972. At the European Council Summit in Copenhagen on 12 and 13 December 2002, it was decided that Cyprus would be admitted to European Union on 1 May 2004, together with nine other candidate countries. On 16 April 2003 Cyprus formally signed the Treaty of Accession that came into effect on 1 May 2004.



## 2. Research in Cyprus

### 2.1. Overview

Until the early nineties, research activities in Cyprus were quite limited, not only by international standards, but also in relation to the comparatively high level of development of the Cyprus economy. Despite the high educational level of the population, the absence of a local University impeded the development of research. In addition, the small size of enterprises also acted as a serious constraint to the development of research activity in Cyprus.

Apart from the establishment of the University of Cyprus in 1992, several steps have been taken towards the upgrading of research activities in Cyprus. The most significant of these steps are:

- the expansion of the research activities of the Institute of Neurology and Genetics, the Agriculture Research Institute and the State General Laboratory,
- the creation of research departments in the fast expanding tertiary education sector institutions,
- the establishment, in 1996, of the Research Promotion Foundation - an institution responsible for the co-ordination, support and funding of research activities in Cyprus,
- the participation of Cyprus in the Framework and other European Programmes.

These developments led to a significant increase in both the number of researchers and the expenditure devoted to research. It is estimated that the expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) in 2004 reached £27,9 million compared to a mere £4,8 million in 1991. Thus, the share of Research and Development expenditure to the GDP was 0,4% in 2004 in comparison to 0,18% in 1991. It must be noted, however, that between 2000 and 2004 research expenditure nearly doubled. The target set by the Government is to reach 1% by 2010.

The number of researchers in terms of full time equivalent also showed a healthy increase, rising from 341 persons in 1991 to 1017 persons in 2004, mainly as a result of the growth of business and tertiary education sectors.

Regarding the distribution of research activities by sector, in 2004, the government accounted for 36,1%, the higher education institutions for 35,2%, the enterprises for 21,3% and the private non-profit institutions for 7,4% of total R&D expenditure.

The largest part of R&D expenditure was devoted to the Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Mathematics) and Agricultural Sciences, £10.9 million and £4.4 million respectively. Other research activities focus on the sectors of Social Sciences £4.3 million, Humanities £2.4 million, Medical Sciences £1.2 million and Engineering £4.0 million.



## 2.2. Comparative Advantages

The strategic position of Cyprus establishes it as Europe's stepping stone to the Eastern Mediterranean countries. Its traditionally good relations with the neighbouring countries provide the platform for fruitful cooperation and collaboration. Bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries regarding research are already being promoted by the Republic of Cyprus.

Cyprus is substantially favoured by its scientific manpower, whether that resides on the island or abroad. There is an extensive pool of Cypriot distinguished expatriate scientists with whom one can cooperate.

Cyprus is easily accessible from all major European destinations. It has a highly developed telecommunications infrastructure, which enables the easy access to international research networks. It also has an excellent educational infrastructure, which enables the easy movement of foreign scientists and their families to Cyprus.

## 2.3. Constraining Factors

Despite the considerable progress achieved the development of R&D activities are constrained by several factors such as the:

- Low level of spending on research,
- Small size of the Cypriot economy and the enterprises (often family run), which does not favour the development of industrial research,
- Limited development of research skills within the educational system,
- Insufficient research infrastructure,
- Limited number of researchers,
- Limited R&D activities in the technology sector and
- Limited transfer of advanced technologies in potential application areas.

## 2.4. Future

The Government of Cyprus has fully recognised the importance of research and innovation in growth strategy. The scarcity of natural resources and the full employment conditions which prevail, lead to the need to invest in knowledge and innovation. Furthermore, a basic target of the Government's plans is to take advantage of the position of Cyprus at the crossroads of three continents and become an important regional centre in research.

Certain new initiatives will accelerate the accomplishment of the targets set. More specifically, the new initiatives include:

- The recent enactment of a law, allowing the establishment of private Universities.
- The establishment in 2007 of a second University, with technical orientation.
- The recent formulation of the innovation strategy of Cyprus.
- The newly established Cyprus International Institute, in collaboration with Harvard University in the areas of Public Health and Environment.
- The establishment of the Cyprus Institute in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the areas of Energy, Environment and Water.

It is well established that the level of research activities in Cyprus is still low and the upgrading of such activities needs long term planning, consistent efforts and co-operation of all the stakeholders. However, it is envisaged that in the near future the gap in the level of RTD between Cyprus and its European partners will be narrowed down even further.



## 3. The R&D Landscape of Cyprus

### 3.1 R&D Policy Development

The Organisations involved in R & D policy development in Cyprus are the following:

- Planning Bureau - [www.planning.gov.cy](http://www.planning.gov.cy)
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism - [www.mcit.gov.cy](http://www.mcit.gov.cy)
- Research Promotion Foundation - [www.research.org.cy](http://www.research.org.cy)

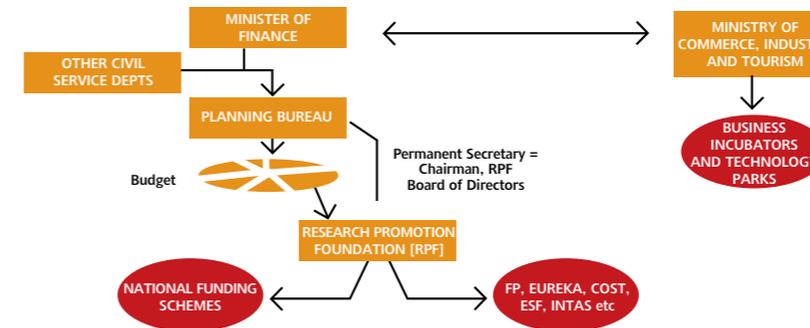


Fig. The R&D landscape of Cyprus

The Planning Bureau is the Government agency engaged in the formulation of strategy, the identification of objectives and the introduction of policy measures aiming at the promotion of research activities in Cyprus. The Planning Bureau, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, provides direct financing for research initiatives undertaken by the state research institutions / departments, through the annual Development Budget of the Republic. The Minister responsible for research activities in Cyprus is the Minister of Finance.

In addition, the Planning Bureau is the national representative of Cyprus in the EU's Framework Programmes on Research and Technological Development (FP) and concludes international (bilateral and multilateral) agreements aiming at the strengthening of the research capacity of Cyprus.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has introduced, under the supervision and responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, a Programme for the creation of new enterprises of high technology and innovation, namely the "Programme for the Creation of New Enterprises of High Technology and Innovation Through the Institution of Business Incubators". The Programme aims to promote the development of a product in one of the sectors of the manufacturing industry, information technology or software development provided that this product / idea satisfies the criteria of: Innovation, Technological viability and Marketability.

The Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) was established by the Republic of Cyprus in 1996, to serve as the national organisation for the promotion of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. In 2004, it accounted for 12% of the total R&D funding in Cyprus. The Foundation is not a governmental institution but is governed by a 12-member board, currently chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Planning Bureau.

The Foundation is fully supported by the Government and its resources are derived mostly from the Government, but also from the Framework Programmes of the EU.

### 3.2. Research Organisations in Cyprus

The following Academic and Non-Academic Organisations are involved in research activities in Cyprus:

#### Academic Institutions

- University of Cyprus - [www.ucy.ac.cy](http://www.ucy.ac.cy)
- Cyprus University of Technology - [www.cut.ac.cy](http://www.cut.ac.cy)
- Cyprus Institute - [www.cyprusinstitute.ac.cy](http://www.cyprusinstitute.ac.cy)
- Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health - [www.hsph.harvard.edu/cyprus](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cyprus)
- Higher Technical Institute (Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance) - [www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/hti/hti.nsf](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/hti/hti.nsf)
- Cyprus Forestry College (Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment) - [www.moa.gov.cy/moa/fc/Forestry.nsf](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/fc/Forestry.nsf)
- Cyprus College - [www.cycollege.ac.cy](http://www.cycollege.ac.cy)
- Intercollege - [www.intercollege.ac.cy](http://www.intercollege.ac.cy)
- Frederick Institute of Technology - [www.frederick.ac.cy](http://www.frederick.ac.cy)
- Philips College - [www.philips.ac.cy](http://www.philips.ac.cy)
- Americanos College - [www.ac.ac.cy](http://www.ac.ac.cy)
- P.A. College - [www.pacollege.ac.cy](http://www.pacollege.ac.cy)

#### Non-academic Institutions

- Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING) - [www.cing.ac.cy](http://www.cing.ac.cy)
- Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) - [www.ari.gov.cy](http://www.ari.gov.cy)
- Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre - [www.bococ.org.cy](http://www.bococ.org.cy)
- State General Laboratory (Ministry of Health) - [www.moh.gov.cy](http://www.moh.gov.cy)
- Geological Survey Department - [www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf)
- Department of Fisheries and Marine Research - [www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf)
- Cyprus Forestry Department - [www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf)
- Meteorological Service - [www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf)
- Cyprus Institute of Energy - [www.cie.org.cy](http://www.cie.org.cy)
- Cyprus Institute of Technology - [www.technology.org.cy](http://www.technology.org.cy)
- Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) - [www.cyta.com.cy](http://www.cyta.com.cy)
- Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC) - [www.eac.com.cy](http://www.eac.com.cy)

### 3.3. The Role of the Research Promotion Foundation (RPF)

The RPF was established by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus in 1996, to serve as the national organisation for the promotion of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. The Foundation is not a governmental institution but is governed by a 12-member board, currently chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Planning Bureau.

The Foundation is fully supported by the Government and its resources are derived mostly from the Government.

During the 2003-2006 period, the Foundation funded research projects with a total budget of approximately 68 million Euro, while its own financial contribution was approximately 44 million Euro (64,7%). Between October 2003 and December 2006, a total of 1871 proposals for research projects and research support actions were submitted to the Foundation. About 60% of those were eligible for funding and 597 (31,9%) were actually financed.

The Foundation has initiated programmes covering various thematic areas, programmes aiming at increasing the competitiveness of enterprises as well as strengthening research infrastructure and providing access to international research infrastructures.

Programmes were also initiated for developing the human potential in research. Such initiatives include programmes addressed to young researchers and Cypriot expatriate scientists. These are particularly important because they will enable Cyprus to overcome the disadvantage of size and the consequent limited critical mass of researchers. Finally, it has developed, with considerable success, several measures (competitions) for the promotion of research culture within all levels of the educational system.

Currently, the Foundation accounts for 12% of the total R&D funding in Cyprus. During 2007-2010 it is planned to more than double the funds allocated for R&D through the Foundation's Programmes and activities.

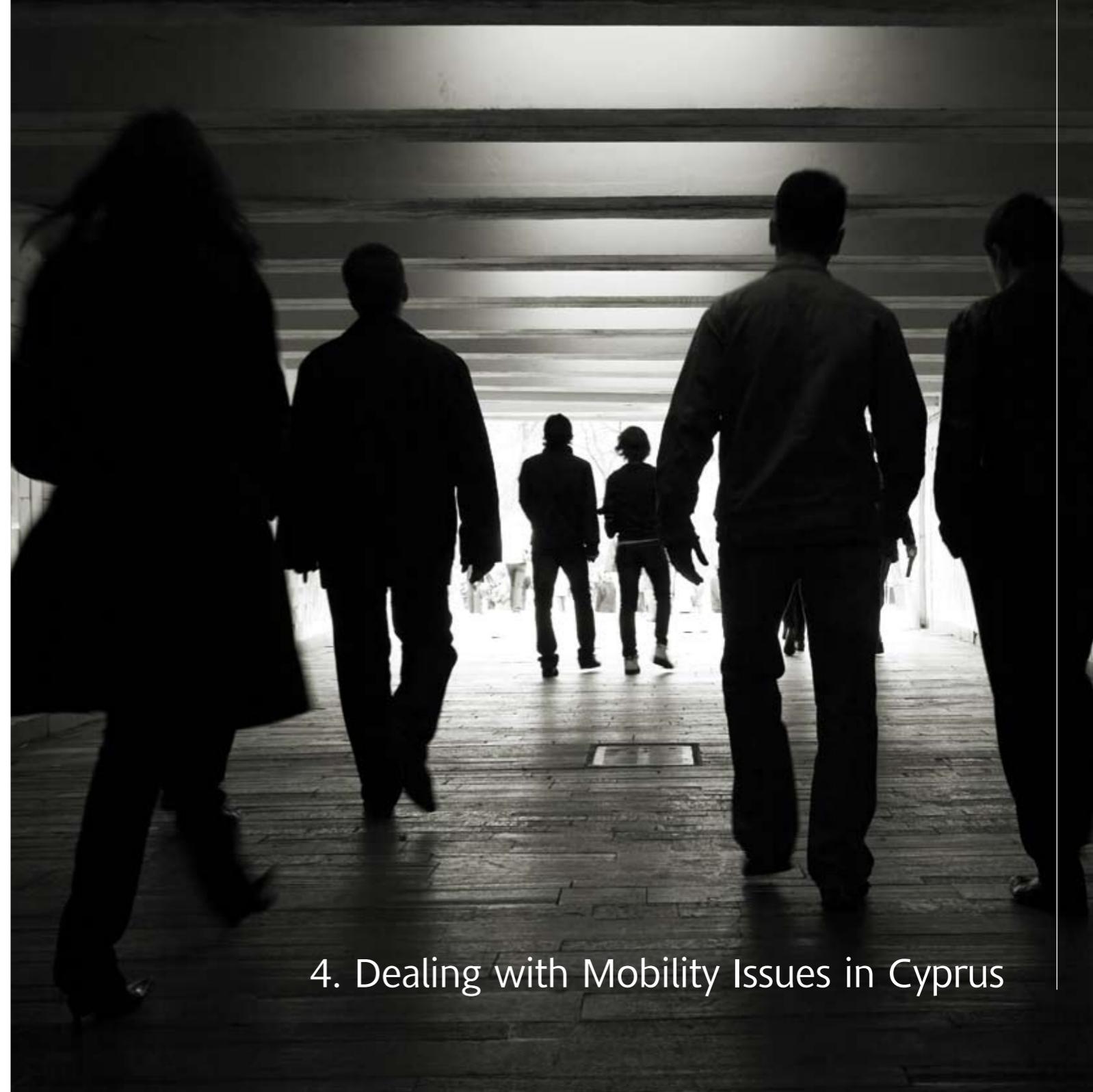
Non-Cypriots can also participate as partners in the Foundation's Programmes and receive funding. Proposals in some cases can be submitted in English and we are now in the process of extending this possibility.

The Foundation is constantly improving the rules and procedures of its funding programmes and follows practices that are internationally adopted and accepted. Evaluation of submitted proposals is carried out outside Cyprus, by a panel of foreign experts to ensure objectivity. The outcome of the scientific evaluation of submitted research proposals clearly indicates a constant improvement in their quality.

### 3.4. Participation of Cyprus in European Research Programmes

The RPF has developed several initiatives in order to promote the participation of Cypriot researchers in international research activities and encourage collaboration between Cypriot and international institutions. These include the following:

- The participation of Cyprus in the European Union's Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development has been more than satisfactory. During the 6th Framework Programme (FP6: 2002-2006), out of the approx. 800 proposals, which were submitted with Cypriot participation, approx. 180 were approved for financing, involving 27 million Euro. Out of these funds, 37% were secured in the field of information technology, 14% in the human resources and mobility, 15% in sustainable development and climate change and 7% in SME's participation. In the monitoring report of 2004 of the EC it is reported that Cyprus ranks first among the 25 EU members in the amount of funds secured per researcher.
- The COST Programme created many opportunities for networking. In 1999, Cyprus was represented in only 4 actions of the Programme, while until now Cyprus researchers have been participating in a total of 132 actions.
- The Programmes launched by the European Science Foundation (ESF) were instrumental in promoting the integration of Cypriot researchers in the European Research Area. Apart from participating in the ESF's "traditional" activities, the Foundation is currently supporting 10 Research Networking Programmes as well as 7 EUROCORES initiatives.
- The Membership of Cyprus in the EUREKA Initiative in 2002 and the launching of a "Eureka Cyprus" Specific Action, with a dedicated budget for the financing of industrial research projects, has played a catalytic role in the involvement of enterprises in research activities. So far, Cypriot Organisations have participated in 20 EUREKA projects.
- The collaboration between DG JRC and the Cypriot Scientific community is growing steadily and today the JRC is working together with some 20 Cypriot partners - most of these are collaborating through the institutional programme and the remainder through indirect actions.
- Another activity aiming at the promotion of international cooperation is the signing of the bilateral agreements in the field of research. So far, agreements have been signed with Greece, France, Italy, Slovenia, Egypt and Romania whereas preliminary discussions are under way with various European and Arab Countries. The aim of this last initiative is to make Cyprus a link between Europe and the Arab world.



## 4. Dealing with Mobility Issues in Cyprus

## 4.1. Entry Conditions

### (a) Competent Authorities

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### (b) Information

The free movement of persons is one of the most important issues for the European integration and the Single Market. Therefore, the European Union has adopted a series of Community Regulations and Directives, to secure the right of the nationals of all member states for free access in the labour market and equal treatment, by the member states, between their nationals and the nationals of other member states.

The Council Directive 2005/71/EC, of 12 October 2005, on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research has not yet been integrated into national legislation.

The principle of the free movement of workers within Europe is applied in Cyprus since 1st May 2004. It covers the citizens of all member states of the EU. It also covers the citizens of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, which belong to the European Economic Area, as well as the citizens of Switzerland. In the text that follows the term “member state” or “EU citizen” means any one of the abovementioned countries.

The employment of European citizens is regulated by Law no. 92(I) of 2003 “Law on Free Movement and Residence of Nationals of the Member States of the European Union and their Families”.

According to this legislation, the freedom of movement and residence in the Republic can be restricted only on the grounds of reasonable threat of public order, safety or health. So, as from 1st May 2004, any EU national can enter the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by simply showing a valid passport or identity card. The members of the family have the same right as the European national whom they are dependant. The issue of a visa is not required, unless the members of the family are not nationals of an EU member state. In that case, a residence document is issued, having the same validity as that issued to the national of a member state whom he/she is dependant.

There are 2 main visa categories available. These are the following:

#### Short-stay or Travel Visas / Multiple-entry Visas

This visa entitles aliens who seek to enter the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, for reasons other than immigration, to pay a continuous visit or several visits, the duration of which does not exceed three months in any half-year from the date of first entry. As a general rule, this visa may be issued for one or several entries.

In the case of aliens who need to travel frequently to Cyprus, for example on business, short-stay visas may be issued for several visits, provided that the total length of these visits does not exceed three months in any half-year. This multiple entry visa may be valid for one year, and in exceptional cases, for more than a year but for no more than five years for certain categories of persons.

#### Long-stay Visas

Visas for visits exceeding three months can be issued for the following categories:

- Employment
- Study
- Business.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website ([www.mfa.gov.cy](http://www.mfa.gov.cy) - Consular Information - Travel Information for Foreign Visitors) contains further information regarding entry regulations to Cyprus, visa application procedure, fees and the documents required as well as a list of countries, whose nationals are required to have a visa to enter the Republic of Cyprus.

Visas are issued by all the Diplomatic Missions (Embassies and General Consulates) and all the Honorary Consulates of the Republic of Cyprus abroad in their respective countries. Additionally, visas can also be issued by the British High Commissions / Embassies in some countries. Further information and contact details of all Diplomatic Missions and Consulates are available on the abovementioned website.



## Contact Details <

**Consular Department**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
 Presidential Palace Avenue  
 1447, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
 Tel.: +357 22 401222  
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 Fax: +357 22 661881  
 / 665313 / 665778  
 Email: [minforeign1@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:minforeign1@mfa.gov.cy)  
 Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy](http://www.mfa.gov.cy)

## 4.2. Work and Residence Permits

### (a) Competent Authorities

- Civil Registry and Migration Department - Ministry of the Interior
- District Aliens and Immigration Branch - Police - Ministry of the Interior
- Department of Labour - Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

### (b) Information

#### Employment of EU nationals

As from 1st May 2004, nationals from EU member states (including European Economic Area countries and Switzerland) can work in Cyprus without restrictions. However, they will need a residence permit if they intend to stay longer than 3 months and take up employment in Cyprus. They must apply for such a residence permit to the Civil Registry and Migration Department, as soon as they secure employment and in any case before the expiration of this 3-month period.

EU nationals working in Cyprus have the same rights as Cypriot nationals with regard to pay, working conditions, access to housing, vocational training, social security and trade union membership. Family and relatives, who are dependent on them such as children, have similar rights.

Once in Cyprus, if there is an intention to stay and take up employment, an EU citizen will have to:

- Apply within eight (8) days for an Alien Registration Certificate (ARC) at the local Immigration Branch of the Police (issued automatically for monitoring purposes) and at the same time apply for a Residence Permit. It should be noted that a fine is imposed in case of non-compliance.
- Submit in person a duly completed standard form at the Civil Registry and Migration Department (this service is for the time being, provided at the local Immigration Branch of the Police in all districts). The form is obtainable from the Civil Registry and Migration Department or from the local Immigration Branch of the Police, depending on the category of residence permit one is applying for (employed activity, self-employment etc.). The standard form for employed activity (Form MEU1) includes the so-called "Document of Engagement of Employment", which has to be completed and signed by the employer and stamped by the Labour Department at any District Labour Office. A valid passport or ID card, photos and a small fee are also required. When applying for dependants, certified true copies of marriage certificate and birth certificates of children would be required.
- Apply to the Department of Social Insurance Services (Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance) for a social insurance number, upon securing employment in Cyprus.

The residence permit is issued within 6 months from the date of application and the submission of the required documents by the applicant and is valid for a 5-year period, which is renewable.

It should be noted that the conclusion of formalities for acquiring a residence permit is not an obstacle for the immediate commencement of employment.

In case nationals of EU Member States wish to pursue a profession that is regulated in Cyprus, then a different procedure is followed. Therefore, it is wise before coming to Cyprus to find out which are these regulated professions/occupations. These include for example, the profession of doctor, architect, nurse, beautician, lawyer, estate agent, mechanical engineer, taxi and bus driver, geologist etc.

The Labour Department acts as National Focal Point for providing information on legislation and procedures with regard to pursuing regulated professions in Cyprus, as well as information on the "competent body" responsible for examining applications submitted for the exercise of a regulated profession.

#### Employment of Third-Country Nationals

The Department of Labour examines applications for the employment of third-country nationals for the satisfaction of pressing, short term needs in the labour market, in certain economic fields and occupations, according to the Council of Ministers' decision No. 33.210 dated 15/3/1990.

Considering Cyprus' employment policy, priority is given to the employment of Cypriot or EU citizens. An employment permit is granted only on a temporary basis and for a specified position, provided that no suitably qualified Cypriot or EU citizens are available. It should be noted that this action takes place while foreign nationals are outside Cyprus.

Foreign nationals seeking employment in Cyprus must secure through personal efforts a local employer who should submit an application to the Director of Civil Registry and Migration Department, Ministry of Interior, who is the competent authority for the issue of such permits. The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance acts as an advisor to the Director of Civil Registry and Migration Department as regards the situation in the labour market and the compliance by the abovementioned employer with the criteria regulating the employment of aliens.

Manpower recruitment is made directly by the employers or through intermediaries; therefore, foreign candidates have to make their own direct contracts with interested employers, intermediaries or employers organisations.

The application forms for employment of foreigners are available to the District Labour Offices and also at the Labour Department's website.

The Republic of Cyprus secures equal treatment between foreign workers and local personnel through its Constitution, Article 28(2), which guarantees the protection of human rights regardless race, religion or ethnic origin. Moreover, the Cyprus Government has also ratified several International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions, as well as the Article 19 of the Revised European Social Charter i.e. the right of the migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance. These instruments provide, inter alia, for no less favorable treatment for migrant workers than that of nationals.

Decisions of the Council of Ministers as well as a number of administrative arrangements also exist to promote and guarantee that migrant workers are at least treated equally with nationals in respect to, among other things, terms and conditions of employment.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance safeguards the equal treatment between foreign workers and local personnel through written contracts of employment signed by both the employer and the foreign employee. These contracts contain all terms and conditions of employment (hours of work, salary and other benefits, holidays, overtime pay, duties etc.), which also apply for Cypriot employees, mainly on the basis of collective agreements.



## Contact Details

### 1. Civil Registry and Migration Department

Ministry of the Interior

Leoforos Severi Avenue

1457, Nicosia, CYPRUS

Tel.: +357 22 804401

/ 804405 / 804503

Fax: +357 22 804587

Email: [migration@crmd.moi.gov.cy](mailto:migration@crmd.moi.gov.cy)

Website: [www.moi.gov.cy](http://www.moi.gov.cy)

### 2. Department of Labour

Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

Clementos 9

1061, Nicosia, CYPRUS

Tel.: +357 22 400844

Fax: +357 22 400932

Email:

For employment of foreign labour -

[fws@dl.mlsi.gov.cy](mailto:fws@dl.mlsi.gov.cy)

For regulated professions -

[qualifications@dl.mlsi.gov.cy](mailto:qualifications@dl.mlsi.gov.cy)

Website: [www.mlsi.gov.cy/dl](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/dl)

## 4.3. Social Security and Pension Rights

### (a) Competent Authorities

Department of Social Insurance Services - Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

### (b) Information

The Department of Social Insurance Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance is responsible among others for:

- the application of the government policy in the area of social insurance with the implementation of specific schemes and measures,
- the submission of suggestions regarding government policy aiming to the continuous improvement of the social security based on the international developments and social and economic conditions of Cyprus,
- the identification of social and economic needs that can be confronted with social security, and
- the continuous study and evaluation of the schemes and measures which are implemented by the Department in connection with the prescribed targets.

The current Social Insurance Scheme was put into operation in October 1980.

The Scheme provides for the following benefits:

- maternity, sickness and unemployment benefits,
- marriage, maternity and funeral grants,
- old age, widow's, invalidity pensions and orphan's benefit, and
- employment injury benefits, i.e. injury benefit, disablement benefit and death benefit.

The benefits provided by the Scheme satisfy and exceed the minimum standards set by the International Conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the Council of Europe. In order to maintain the purchasing power of the benefits provided by the Scheme, the benefits are revised each year according to the increase of the cost of living index and the annual survey of wages and salaries.

The structure of the Social Insurance Scheme achieves social solidarity, not only between the young and the old, the employed and the unemployed, the healthy and the sick, but also between the high-income and the low-income earners.

The national social security schemes in the EU vary considerably from one country to another and the Community provisions on Social Security, although constantly evolving, are intended to harmonise them. The purpose of these provisions is merely to prevent persons and their dependants who move within the Union from losing part or all of their social rights when they move from one Member State to another.

The EC social security provisions for people moving between member states are covered by Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72.

**The principles of these regulations are the following:**

- no discrimination between nationalities
- workers are subject to legislation of only one state at a time
- the rights to benefits in course of acquisition are protected (aggregation of periods of insurance, employment or residence), and
- the rights already acquired are protected (i.e. benefits already claimed from another EU country can still be received).

**The EC Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72 apply to:**

- a national of any EU country who at some point lived or worked in an EU country
- a stateless person or refugee who lives in an EU country
- a dependant or widow or widower of anyone covered by the regulations. In this case, nationality does not matter
- the husband, wife or child of someone who has died, where the deceased worked in an EU country and was not an EU national or a stateless person or refugee. In this case, the rules of nationality must be satisfied by the husband, wife or child of the deceased, and
- non-EU or Swiss nationals may be covered by the EU regulations, but only in certain circumstances.

If a person has never worked, the EC regulations are not applicable to this person. But, if in the past a person was employed or self employed and had been paying social security insurance, they may apply to this person.

There are special arrangements, called bilateral agreements in social security, between Cyprus and other countries. If a person is not covered by the EC regulations and in very limited circumstances even when the person is covered by these regulations, the person may be able to get cash benefits because of the bilateral agreements.

The conclusion of bilateral or even multilateral agreements between the various countries in the area of Social Security emerge from the need for social protection of the insurance rights of the worker's benefits who move from one country to the other.

**The general purpose of the Social Security Agreements which are concluded between the various countries is to coordinate the Social Security Systems of the contracting countries in order to safeguard the following principles:**

- **Equal Treatment:** The citizens of the one contracting state who live and work within the territory of the other contracting state should have the same rights and obligations in the same way as the citizens of that state.
- **Applicable Legislation:** Defines that all the workers should be subject to the social security legislation of the country where they work, so that they will not have to pay simultaneous contributions to the social security systems of two contracting states. In addition, they avoid the risk of failing to be subject in any insurance system.
- **Aggregation of Insurance Periods:** Where the legislation of a contracting state requires certain insurance periods or periods of residence for the entitlement to a benefit in cash or in kind, the insurance periods or the periods of residence completed in the other contracting state are also taken into consideration.
- **Exportation of Benefits:** Benefits which are payable from the social security scheme of the one contracting state, are paid to the beneficiary even in the case where he resides in the other contracting country or in any other country as long as this is provided by the national legislation of that state.

Cyprus has concluded social security bilateral agreements with the United Kingdom, Greece, Egypt, Canada, Quebec, Australia, Austria, Slovakia, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.



## Contact Details <

**Dept. of Social Insurance Services**  
**Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance**  
 Head Office  
 7, Lord Byron Avenue  
 1465, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
 Tel.: +357 22 401600  
 Fax: +357 22 672984  
 Email: [interrel@sid.mlsi.gov.cy](mailto:interrel@sid.mlsi.gov.cy)  
 Website: [www.mlsi.gov.cy/sid](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/sid)

## 4.4. Salaries and Taxation

### (a) Competent Authorities

Department of Inland Revenue - Ministry of Finance

### (b) Information

The Inland Revenue Department administers the Cyprus direct tax legislation which comprises of various taxes and duties such as income tax, immovable property tax and capital gains tax.

### Income Tax

Income tax is levied under the Income Tax Laws and is assessed and collected under the Assessment and Collection of Taxes Laws.

The Cyprus Income Tax Laws apply to both individuals and companies. Partnerships are not subject to tax as separate entities. Their income is allocated and assessed to tax on the partners, whether individuals or companies:

- Husband and wife are assessed to tax separately, each one on his or her own income.
- Enterprises other than companies with an annual turnover exceeding CY£40,000 are required to submit to the Department tax computations and accounts audited by an authorised accountant operating in Cyprus. The year of assessment coincides with the calendar year and assessment is on a current year basis.

The Cyprus tax system is a combination of Government assessment and self assessment systems. Self-employed individuals submitting audited accounts fall under the self-assessment system completely. Self-employed individuals not submitting audited financial statements fall under the self-assessment system only as far as the provisional tax is concerned and for employees, a PAYE system is in operation. Ultimately, self-employed individuals who do not submit audited financial statements and employees are Government assessed.

Since 1st January 2003, the Cyprus source territorial system, which was in place up until then, was replaced by taxation of worldwide income earned by Cyprus residents and taxation of Cyprus source income earned by non-residents.

The term “Cyprus resident” for tax purposes, when applied to a physical person, means an individual who resides in Cyprus for a period or more which in aggregate exceed 183 days in a calendar year.

### Chargeable Income

In order to arrive at the chargeable income, income from all sources is added up followed, as and where applicable, by the deduction of any income exempt from tax, charges and expenses incurred

wholly and exclusively for the production of the income, personal allowances, wear and tear allowances and losses carried forward from previous years.

### Residents are taxed on their worldwide income from the following sources:

- business profits
- employment income
- dividends and interest income
- pensions and annuities
- property income such as rents, royalties etc.
- any consideration in respect of trading goodwill.

### Non-residents are taxed on their income from the following sources:

- business profits from a permanent establishment situated in Cyprus
- employment income from salaried services provided in Cyprus
- pensions from employment in Cyprus
- income from property situated in Cyprus such as rents, royalties etc
- any consideration in respect of trading goodwill arising in Cyprus
- income from the exercise of any profession or vocation in Cyprus, including the remuneration of entertainers from performances in Cyprus.

### Income exempt from tax includes:

- profit on the disposal of securities (such as shares, bonds, debentures etc. of companies incorporated in Cyprus or abroad, and options thereon)
- dividends received
- the whole interest income of individuals (interest income generated from the ordinary activities of a person, including interest which is closely connected with the ordinary activities of a person, will be treated as trading income and not as “interest income” and hence will be fully chargeable to corporation or income tax)
- lump sums received on retirement
- income from a scholarship or similar educational endowment
- capital sums accruing to individuals from approved life insurance policies and approved provident or pension funds
- emoluments of foreign diplomatic and consular representatives who in accordance with the rules and principles of International Law enjoy diplomatic immunity on the basis of reciprocity
- the lower of £5,000 or 20% of the income from employment exercised in Cyprus earned by a person who was resident outside Cyprus before the commencement of his/her employment. This exemption applies for a 3 year period, beginning on the 1st of January following the year of commencement of the employment
- income of individuals from the provision of salaried services abroad to a non-resident employer or an overseas permanent establishment of a resident employer, for an aggregate period exceeding 90 days in the tax year.

**Personal allowances and deductions for individuals:**

- premiums paid for approved life insurance policies or medical schemes
- contributions made to approved pension or provident funds
- contributions made under the General Health Scheme Laws.

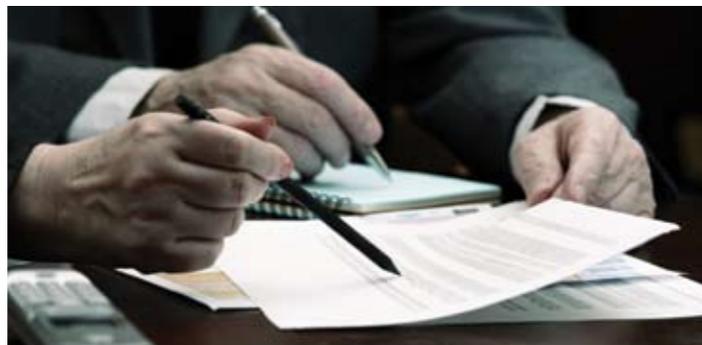
The gross income earned by a non-resident individual from the exercise in Cyprus of any profession or vocation, the remunerations of non resident public entertainers or groups of public entertainers (including football clubs and other athletic missions from abroad) derived from performances in Cyprus is subject to withholding tax at the rate of 10%.

**Double Tax Agreements**

Currently, 33 treaties are in force, covering 41 states: most European Countries, the USA, Canada, China, India, South Africa, Singapore and four Arab countries (Egypt, Syria, Kuwait and Lebanon).

**> Contact Details**

Department of Inland Revenue  
 Ministry of Finance  
 M. Karaoli & Gr. Afrentiou Comer  
 1472, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
 Tel.: +357 22 601921  
 Fax: +357 22 661243  
 Email: svrasida@ird.mof.gov.cy  
 Website: www.mof.gov.cy/ird

**4.5. Health and Medical Care****(a) Competent Authorities**

Ministry of Health

**(b) Information**

Under EU regulations, health care can be provided in Cyprus for people from other EU Member States on the same basis as it is provided to Cypriot nationals and is available at any of the Government Medical Institutions in Cyprus.

To obtain health care in Cyprus, one must initially be in possession of an appropriate E-Form or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from his/her own Member State. Persons falling into one of the categories listed below are entitled to free health care in Cyprus.

**Persons with Form E111 or EHIC**

The form E111 or EHIC entitles the beneficiary to receive any medically necessary treatment that he/she may need while staying in Cyprus. If one does not have a form E111 or EHIC when attending a Cyprus State Hospital, it may be possible to obtain such a form by contacting his/hers "home" administration who may be able to provide the beneficiary with the relevant documentation.

If a person does not have the required E-Form or EHIC, the state hospital authorities are entitled to charge them for the treatment provided. A reimbursement claim can then be submitted to the home Member State.

**Persons with Form E106, E109 or E121**

A person not in possession of any of these forms MUST register with the Cyprus Ministry of Health. On arrival in Cyprus, he/she should contact a Cyprus State Hospital or the Ministry of Health, where they will be given an application form for a Cyprus Medical Card. The completed application form should be submitted to a State Hospital or the Ministry of Health together with the appropriate E-form and supporting documents required according to instructions. If the beneficiary is a Pensioner, some form of proof to confirm that he/she is receiving a Pension from the "home" State will also be needed. The application will be processed by the Ministry of Health as quickly as possible. The Cyprus Medical card will entitle the beneficiary to receive health care in Cyprus for the duration covered by the card.

**Persons with Form E123**

This E123 Form entitles the beneficiary to receive treatment in Cyprus in the case of industrial injury or occupational disease only. To receive treatment for any other medical condition under the EU Regulations, one must also be in possession of another E-form. The form E123 should always be presented to the hospital authorities when treatment is required for the industrial injury or prescribed disease.



If one is in possession of a form E123, and has decided to take up permanent residence in Cyprus, he/she should inform the Cypriot authorities accordingly.

#### Persons with Form E112

The beneficiary should immediately present this form to the State Hospital authorities when attending for treatment.

The following table below shows which E Form is necessary for which category of visitor:

Category of Visitor	Necessary E Form - Card
Temporary visitor or tourist	E111 or EHIC
A pensioner coming to live permanently in Cyprus	E121
A worker from another Member State posted to work in Cyprus for less than one year	E111 or EHIC
A worker from another Member State posted to work in Cyprus for more than one year	E106
A U.K. person under Pension age coming to live permanently in Cyprus	E106 (residual)
A student	E111
Dependants living in Cyprus but insured worker living in another Member State	E109
A person from another Member State in receipt of Industrial Injuries Benefit or an occupational disease	E123
A person referred to Cyprus for specific medical treatment	E112

Third country nationals are not entitled to free health care in Cyprus. However, it should be noted that first aid is provided for free in all State Hospitals.

The contact details of the State Hospitals are provided in the table below:

Town	Hospital	Phone number
Lefkosa	New General	22 603000
	Makareio	22 405000
Lemesos	Old General	25 305333
	New General	25 801100
Larnaka	Old General	24 304312
	Makareio	24 800500
Pafos	General	26 803100
Ammochostos	General	23 821211

There is also a considerable number of private hospitals and clinics in all towns across Cyprus.

## 4.6. Education

### (a) Competent Authorities

Ministry of Education and Culture

### (b) Information

Education in Cyprus is considered as a basic human right and as such it is provided free of charge and is compulsory from the age of 4 years and 8 months (pre-primary education) to the age of 15 years (lower-secondary education).

The general aim of education in Cyprus is the development of free and democratic citizens; with a fully developed personality, being mentally and morally refined, healthy, active and creative citizens who contribute generally with their work and conscientious activity to the social, scientific, economic and cultural progress of our country and the promotion of cooperation, mutual understanding, respect and love among individuals and people for the prevalence of freedom, justice and peace.

Education in Cyprus is provided in pre-primary, primary, general secondary, technical and vocational secondary schools and in special schools. Educational administration in Cyprus is centralised. The highest authority for educational policy making is the Council of Ministers. Overall responsibility rests with the Ministry of Education and Culture. However, a small number of vocational and post-secondary professional institutions come under the Ministries of Labour and Social Insurance, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources and Health.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the administration of education, the enforcement of educational laws and, in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General, the preparation of educational bills. The bills, after approval by the Council of Ministers, are tabled for debate and approval by the House of Representatives. Furthermore, the Ministry prescribes syllabi, curricula and textbooks and it regulates and supervises all the institutions under its jurisdiction.

Public education is mainly financed by the Government either directly or through allotments to local authorities or School Boards.

Private schools are owned, administered and financed by individuals or bodies. Although private schools maintain a considerable degree of independence in their operation and curricula, they are registered with the Ministry of Education and Culture and comply with certain curriculum and facility requirements mandated by law. Furthermore, they are liable to supervision by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Lists of (mainly English-speaking) private primary and secondary schools as well as lists of tertiary education colleges are available from the Cyprus Mobility Centre.



### > Contact Details

#### Ministry of Health

10, Markou Drakou Street  
1448, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
Tel.: +357 22 400207 / 305354  
Fax: +357 22 305346  
Email: ministryofhealth@cytanet.com.cy  
Website: www.moh.gov.cy

### Contact Details <

#### Ministry of Education and Culture

Kimonos and Thoukididi Corner,  
1434, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
Tel.: +357 22 800600  
Fax: +357 22 427559  
Email: registry@moec.gov.cy  
Website: www.moec.gov.cy

## 4.7. Childcare and Older Persons Facilities

### (a) Competent Authorities

Social Welfare Services - Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

### (b) Information

#### Childcare Facilities

A basic incentive for women's increasing participation in the labour market has been the provision of adequate day-care for children.

The Social Welfare Services operate 11 state day-care centres for pre-school children. The main aim is to cater for children of working parents. Fees are on a sliding scale so that families pay according to their income.

One of the main goals of the Government has been the establishment and operation of day-care centres for children by local communities and non-governmental Organisations. Technical and financial assistance by the Social Welfare Services has encouraged an ever increasing number of such programmes, for both pre-school and school-age children.

According to legislation, non-governmental and private day-care centres are required to register at the Social Welfare Services. Social Welfare Services are responsible for setting and inspecting the standards as regards day-care facilities and services. Standards include safety, hygiene, child-space ratio, child-staff ratio, staff qualifications and quality of care.

A list of the state, the local and non-governmental as well as the private day care centres that exist in each of the five districts of Cyprus is available from the Cyprus Mobility Centre.

#### Older Persons Facilities

The Social Welfare Services inspect day-care and residential institutions for older persons and persons with disabilities by legislation. The aim is to provide the best possible quality care for the persons who use these services. A special tripartite board (i.e. consisting of representatives of the public, the private and the non-governmental sectors) has a consultative role in the implementation of the law as regards the standards of operation in residential homes.

There are governmental, non-governmental and private homes for older persons and persons with disabilities. The Government encourages local communities and NGOs to develop supportive services on a local level because they tend to be more flexible and efficient.

The Social Welfare Services may meet the costs of residential care fully or partly depending on a resident's income.

A list of the governmental, non-governmental and private homes that exist in each of the five districts of Cyprus is available from the Cyprus Mobility Centre.



## 4.8. Recognition of Qualifications

### (a) Competent Authorities

Council for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

### (b) Information

The Council for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (KY.S.A.T.S.) is the competent authority for the recognition of Titles or Degrees which were awarded from institutions of Higher Education recognized in the country they operate. It serves the role of the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) for Cyprus.

The recognition of academic Titles or Degrees is based on the Directives of UNESCO and the Council of Europe. The Laws of the Republic of Cyprus which concern the "Recognition of Titles of Higher Education and Provision of Relevant Information" are Laws 68(I) of 1996, 48(I) of 1998, 111(I) of 2000, 219(I) of 2002, 38(I) of 2003, 1(I) of 2004 and 26(I) of 2006. The Regulations concerning the Recognition of Titles or Degrees of Higher Education and the provision of relevant information were promulgated by the Council of Ministers, approved by the House of Parliament and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

According to the laws and regulations that control the Council's role, KY.S.A.T.S. evaluates academic qualifications granting them recognition of equivalence or equivalence and correspondence only in the case when the academic Title is awarded by an accredited education establishment recognized in the country it operates or if the academic Title or Degree has been conferred by an evaluated - accredited programme of study. It must be noted that an evaluated - accredited programme of study means the one, which has been evaluated and accredited, by the competent National Authority responsible for the evaluation - accreditation in the country where the programme is offered.

### > Contact Details

**Social Welfare Services**  
Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance  
Central Offices  
63, Prodomou  
1468, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
Tel.: +357 22 406709  
Fax: +357 22 667907  
Email: [central.sws@sws.mlsi.gov.cy](mailto:central.sws@sws.mlsi.gov.cy)  
Website: [www.mlsi.gov.cy/sws](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/sws)

### Contact Details <

**Cyprus Council for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications**  
P.O. Box 12758  
2252, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
Tel.: +357 22 402472 / 402473  
Fax: +357 22 402481  
Email: [info@kysats.ac.cy](mailto:info@kysats.ac.cy)  
Website: [www.kysats.ac.cy](http://www.kysats.ac.cy)

## > Contact Details

### 1. School of Modern Greek

University of Cyprus

P.O.Box 20537

1678, Nicosia, CYPRUS

Tel.: +357 22 892028

Fax: +357 22 892029

Email: smgreek@ucy.ac.cy

Website: www.ucy.ac.cy

### 2. State Institutes of Further Education

Ministry of Education and Culture

Kimonos and Thoukididi Corner

1434, Nicosia, CYPRUS

Tel.: +357 22 800646

/ 800647 / 800648

Fax: +357 22 305514

Email: moec@moec.gov.cy

Website: www.moec.gov.cy

### 3. Adult Education Centre

Ministry of Education and Culture

Kimonos and Thoukididi Corner

1434, Nicosia, CYPRUS

Tel.: +357 22 800800

Fax: +357 22 800802 / 512784

Email: epimorfotika@schools.ac.cy

Website: www.moec.gov.cy

## 4.9. Language Learning Possibilities

Despite the majority of the Cypriot population being sufficiently fluent in English, learning the Greek language could be important for any foreign citizen wishing to pursue employment in Cyprus.

Greek language courses are offered by the following Institutions:

1. School of Modern Greek (University of Cyprus) in Nicosia
2. State Institutes of Further Education (Ministry of Education and Culture), available in all towns across Cyprus
3. Adult Education Centre (Ministry of Education and Culture), available in all towns across Cyprus.

### School of Modern Greek

The School of Modern Greek was founded in 1998 and is currently under the aegis of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Cyprus. The School aims to teach the Greek language to non-native speakers, nationals and foreigners, as well as to those who wish to perfect their knowledge of Greek.

The School of Modern Greek offers both intensive and non-intensive courses:

- Intensive Summer Course, which is offered at all levels and lasts four weeks (August). Classes are held Monday through Friday, five teaching units per day and amount to a total of 100 teaching units - Tuition fees 250 Euro.
- Intensive One-Semester Course, which is offered twice a year at all levels and lasts thirteen weeks (from September to December and from January to April or May) - Tuition fees 500 Euro.
- Two-Semester Course (non-intensive), which lasts 26 weeks (September-May). There are classes for beginner, intermediate, high and advanced level students. Classes take place twice a week, for a total of 156 teaching units - Tuition fees 500 Euro.

### State Institutes of Further Education

The State Institutes of Further Education were formed by the Ministry of Education and Culture in 1960 to serve as Institutes for Foreign Languages. The Institutes are currently offering courses in a number of foreign languages to students of all levels across Cyprus.

The Institutes also offer a Greek language course for foreigners. This is a 4 year course (September-May) which includes an examination at the end of each year and leads to a certified Diploma.

The annual tuition fees are currently 200-350 Euro according to course year.

### Adult Education Centre

The Adult Education Centre was also formed by the Ministry of Education and Culture and also offers a Greek language course for foreigners. This is a once a week course running between October-May (24 classes).

The annual tuition fees are currently 50 Euro.

To enroll in any of the above courses, prospective students must complete the application form, which may be obtained from the respective Institution.

## 4.10. Intellectual Property Rights

### (a) Competent Authorities

Department of Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver - Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

### (b) Information

The Department of Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver (DRCOR) is the competent authority in Cyprus for keeping the register of Patents, Trade Marks and Industrial Designs. As Cyprus is a signatory of both the European Patent Convention (EPC) and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the DRCOR acts as a receiving office of European and International applications. National patents are granted according to the Cyprus Patent Legislation.

After the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, Cyprus has become a member of the Office of Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) and, therefore, community Trade Mark applications can be filed with the Registrar.

Where Cyprus is designated in a European (EPC) or International (PCT) application, the applicant may within three months after the grant and publication of the European patent, file with the Cyprus office, a translation of the patent specifications for registration purposes.

Both Patent and Trade Mark applications are filed through an advocate registered with the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

In Cyprus, Copyright is automatic and requires no registration. The Law protects Cypriot nationals for their work which is published anywhere in the world and nationals of foreign countries for work which is published in Cyprus. Only the owner of a Copyright has the exclusive right to reproduce, translate and offer his / her work for sale. Anyone who infringes this right, is liable to the payment of damages and to other penalties under the Law.



## Contact Details <

### Department of Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver

Ministry of Commerce,

Industry and Tourism

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Xenios Building

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