

The Cyprus Experience in Quality Higher Education Through Accreditation

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Background

- Registration of more than 20 private institutions of HE in 1991;
- Establishment of the University of Cyprus in 1992;
- Functioning of the Council for Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (Kypriako Symvoulío Anagnorisis Titlon Spoudon-KySATS) in 2000;
- Accreditation of the first programmes of study offered by the registered institutions in 2000;
- Approval of the laws for the establishing of the Open University and the Technological University of Cyprus in 2003 and 2004;
- Reaccreditation of the accredited programmes in 2004

Overall Structure

Public University Level

- The University of Cyprus
- The Open University of Cyprus
- The Technological University of Cyprus

Public Non-University Level

- Cyprus Forestry The College
- The Higher Technological Institute (H.T.I.)
- The Higher Hotel Institute
- The Mediterranean Institute of Management
- The School of Nursing
- The Public Health Inspectors School
- The Cyprus Police Academy
- The Tourist Guides' School

The Private Schools of Tertiary Education

Statistics

According to the Statistical Service:

The total number of Cypriot students during the academic year 2002-2003 were 28696, thus comprising more than 50% of the total population in the age range 20 to 24. From the above figure, 12322 students were following programmes in Cyprus, and the remaining 16374 studied abroad (mainly in Greece, UK and USA).

Internet address for information on Cyprus Educational System:

Ministry of Education and Culture

www.moec.gov.cy

Degree Structure

- The undergraduate cycle with a duration of four years, leading to the first final University degree (Ptychio)
- The graduate cycle with a duration of 18 months leading to the Master Degree
- Complementary to the above, the University of Cyprus offers doctorate programmes

1-year

2-year

3-year

4-year

Certificate

Diploma

Higher Diploma

Bachelor

Recognition of degrees

- The Council decides on issues of recognition of diplomas, and issues a relevant certificate.
- The Council advises the Minister on international and transnational agreements

Lisbon Recognition Convention of 1997

Symvoulío Ekpedeftikis Axiologisis Pistopiisis-S.Ek.A.P..

- **Establishment of a system of credits**
- **Promotion of mobility**
- **European dimension in HE**
- **Lifelong learning**
- **Institutions and students**

Quality assurance

The Programmes

- a) Visiting Teams
- b) Final recommendations of the Visiting Team of Educational Evaluation-Accreditation
- c) Decision on:
 - i. the approval of the application; or
 - ii. the rejection of the application ;or
 - iii. postponement of a decision for a specified period of time, during which the institution shall attempt to remedy the specific deficiencies that are identified .

The Qualifications

- a) Diploma of Higher Education
- b) Ptychio – University level degree
- c) Postgraduate Diploma at Masters Level
- d) Doctoral degree

The Vision

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL LEVEL 1946-2001

(For persons 20 years of age or above) (%)

YEAR	No school attendance	Elementary	Secondary	Third level	TOTAL
1946	41	51	7	1	100
1960	25	59	15	1	100
1976	13	53	25	9	100
1980	8	55	29	8	100
1987	6	46	34	14	100
1991	6	39	40	15	100
1997	4	39	40	17	100
2001	2	30	43	25	100

Percentage of the population with HE Qualifications by age group

Educational index	Cyprus	EU15	Greece	Italy	Belgium	Germany	Bulgaria	Lithuania	Czech R.
35-39 years old	32,3	23,5	22,1	10,5	32,9	26,8	19,3	46,7	14
40-44 years old	28,9	22,1	18,0	11,3	26,0	26,4	21,7	50,3	12,9
45-49 years old	22,8	21,5	16,4	11,4	24,6	26,2	20,9	49,5	11
50-54 years old	17,3	18,9	13,4	9,2	21,6	24,3	16,8	40,4	10,8
55-59 years old	12,5	16,2	9,1	6,6	19,5	22,6	15,8	38,3	10,5
30-59 years old	25,2	21,3	17,8	10,2	27,1	25,5	19,2	45,2	12,1

Percentage of the GNP in the budget

Year	% of GNP
1984	3,8
1988	3,6
1992	4,2
1996	5,0
1998	5,8
2000	5,6
2001	5,7
2002	6,2