

**EDUCATION PERTAINING TO
MIGRANT WORKERS IN
CYPRUS**

General dynamics of Cyprus

- The people of Cyprus represent two main ethnic groups, Greek and Turkish.
- The Greek Cypriots constitute four fifths of the population.
- The official languages of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish.
- English is widely spoken and understood in all of Cyprus.
- Illiteracy is extremely low

Cyprus has had a history involving many invasions.

The most recent invasion is in 1974, by Turkey. The Island is still divided.

Since 1974, additional immigrants from Turkey have been brought in to work in the occupied area in the north of Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus

- I shall now focus on Adult Education and migrant workers in the Republic of Cyprus, (the south).

Main suppliers of adult education (excl. employers) in Cyprus

- Overall responsibility for adult education in Cyprus is placed under the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture. Some courses are provided by the Ministry itself but most by other organisations including:
 - Open University Cyprus
 - Human Resource Development Authority
 - Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 - Cyprus Productivity Centre

Role of traditional distance education in the country

- Distance education is not of much importance on the Cyprus training market. Only a few smaller private education institutions offer limited number of correspondence courses.
- There is a tradition of Cypriots owning first level degrees in different subjects to register for correspondence courses offered by the providers from other European and overseas countries for achieving further education and degrees. These degrees also need to be recognised by the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture.

Types of Institutions

- Public Institutes
- Evening Gymnasium
- State Institutes of Further Education
- Apprentice Schemes
- Evening Technical Classes
- Adult Education Centres
- Industrial Training Authority

Types of Institutions

- The Cyprus Productivity Centre (CPC)
- Cyprus Academy of Public Administration
- Private Institutes
- Cyprus Adult Education Association (CAEA)-Cyprus

The State Institutes of Further Education

- These Institutes operate in urban as well as in rural areas.
- They offer a wide range of programmes.
- Preparation of high school graduates for university in Greece
- Computer Science
- Certificated language courses
- Greek to foreign nationals

Trainees and Training Programmes of the Industrial Training Authority

- The Industrial Training Authority operates as a semi-governmental organisation charged with the task of conducting research, training needs and problems that exist in industry and the workforce. The authority sponsors programmes and covers a wide range of activities relevant to the needs of the participants.

The Cyprus Productivity Centre (CPC)

- The CPC was established in 1963 by the Cyprus Government with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme.
- The CPC is now totally run by the Cyprus Government. Administratively, the CPC is a Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

- The Centre runs programmes to assist in private and public organisations
- To be in line with the national goals for economic growth and development
- To include the needs of the Civil Service

The Apprenticeship Scheme

- Students are aged 16-18.
- This scheme operates in Technical High Schools
- Training in various vocational fields in afternoon and evening to assist participants to be able to work

Cyprus Adult Education Association (CAEA)- Cyprus

- CAEA is a national non-governmental organisation which promotes adult education and international cooperation.
- It also acts as a consultant for other adult education centres throughout Cyprus.
- Due to the increasing number of foreigners from Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Georgia, Sri-Lanka, Pakistan ,Vietnam and other Asian countries, the association also offers Greek language courses but no NVQs as such.

(CAEA)

- The CAEA has experience in local, regional, national and international cooperation in the organisation of projects as well as courses in language and culture.

Cyprus Academy of Public Administration (CAPA)

- The CAPA is part of the Ministry of Finance.
- It was created in 1991 by a decision of the Council of Ministers on the basis of recommendations made by experts from the Europeans Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht.
- Its main aim is to contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the civil service through the development of the management capabilities of civil service departments.

CAPA'S Programmes focus on

- The institutions, decision-making processes and policies of the EU
- The relationship between Cyprus and the EU
- The roles and responsibilities of national civil services in the EU context, with the inevitable emphasis on the Cyprus civil service
- The organisational and managerial implications of the EU challenge for the Cyprus civil service

- Continual personal development (CPD) is a growing educational path in Cyprus.
- CPD is beginning to be recognised by more and more people in industry.

How does Cyprus perceive migrant workers?

- Cypriots in the Republic of Cyprus although traditionally a hospitable nation, are in fact rather xenophobic.
- White collar workers tend to be more accepted than manual workers.
- KISA-Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism in co-operation with Cypriot organisations was established in 1998

KISA

- The aim of KISA is to combat against:
- Xenophobia
- Discrimination
- Racism against migrants workers, refugees and asylum seekers
- This can be achieved by sensitising the Cypriot society

What is available for migrant workers?

- Blue collar migrant workers cannot access the technical programmes as these are taught in Greek only.
- They can however, attend the State Institutes of Further Education to learn Greek. These courses are inexpensive so that they can be accessible to all.

- White collar workers can also attend the State Institutes of Further Education for language courses such as Greek.
- They will also have the advantages, that through their workplace they will have access to courses run through the Industrial Training Authority

Main Barriers for Participating in lifelong learning by adults

- The lack of supply in peripheral areas of Cyprus plays an important role as a barrier. Public adult education courses are mostly offered in cities so that residents from rural areas have difficulty in reaching such courses
- Family oriented mentality does not allow much time for lifelong learning
- The overall low unemployment rate means that people who are unwilling to learn are unlikely to be punished on the labour market by increasing risk of becoming unemployed.

- Other barriers are also the cost involved in further education. This factor is especially true of migrant workers. Cyprus' salary scales are quite low in comparison to western European salary scales
- Language is also another major barrier

Current Situation of migrant workers in Cyprus

- There are no accurate and up to date statistics on the number of migrant workers in Cyprus.
- Under the current conditions, only poor immigrants tend to choose Cyprus as their destination.
- Furthermore, many chose to use Cyprus as 'a stepping stone' and chose to leave Cyprus for other countries.

- The ability to attract qualified immigrants will strengthen the competitiveness of the Cypriot economy.
- The importance of new skilled immigrants for the economy is something that many advanced countries such as Canada, recognised decades ago.
- The availability and the recognition of the need for further education for migrant workers will also help Cyprus' economy.

CONTINUAL LIFELONG LEARNING