



Frequently Asked Questions

Cyprus

****Warning this does not constitute legal advice, please check this information with the entities mentions in the different topics.****

Health

- **How do I get access to health services?**

In case of emergency, call **112**. It is the emergency number.

If it is not an emergency, you should go to the Health Centre of your area.

For more information about the public hospitals and & health centres in Cyprus see the following link:

https://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/moh.nsf/page63_en/page63_en?OpenDocument

- **Is there a need for registration?**

The healthcare system in Cyprus is now based to the General Health Service (GHS). GHS is a full-coverage healthcare program for all citizens of Cyprus. All individuals in the Republic of Cyprus in the following categories will be able to benefit from the new scheme:

- Cypriot Citizens
- **European citizens who work or hold a permanent residence status**
- **Third Country nationals (Non EU citizens) who hold a permanent residence status**
- Members of families of the above in accordance with legislation
- **Refugees and persons with a status of supplementary protection.**

More Information on how the health system works in Cyprus for migrants is available here:

https://www.gesy.org.cy/sites/Sites?d=Desktop&locale=en_US&lookuphost=/en-us/&lookuppage=hiobeneficiaryeligibility

- **Is there an emergency number or other number?**

In Cyprus the following emergency numbers operate:

Ambulance: 199 / 112

All Emergencies (Pan-European): 112

- **Indicate website, phone and names of the entities responsible**

Hospitals Contact Numbers

Lefcosia General Hospital 22801400

Makareio children's hospital 22405000

Lemesos Old General hospital 25305333

Lemesos New General hospital 25801100

Larnaka Old General hospital 24304312

Larnaca Makareio hospital 24800500

Pafos General hospital 26803100

Ammochostos hospital 23821211

Education

- **How do I or my children get access to educational services?**
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a. Indicate the process; Is there a need for registration?

Public education in Cyprus is compulsory and free of charge from the age of 4 years and 8 months, until the age of 15. Education is provided both by the state and private schools for all education levels, from pre-primary education until higher education and vocational education and training. Primary education at public schools is free; however, parents are responsible for the food expenses of their child. The feeding program follows a strict food ration which is agreed together by the Ministry and the parents and is available from the school canteens. Private schools are not free, and the costs differ depending on the school. The language of instruction in public schools is Greek and the schools conform to the Curriculum set out by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth.

There are however several private schools that teach primarily in English and some in other European languages.

Registration Dates (Public Schools)

Registration to public primary schools takes place in January. However, the exact date is determined each year by the Minister of Education and Culture. Confirmation of registration typically takes place around the middle of June, but again the exact date is determined by the Minister. Children can be registered for primary school if they will have reached the age five years and eight months on 1st September of the year of study.

More Information about the registration procedure can be found to the following link:

http://www.moec.gov.cy/exypiretisi_politi/en/index.html

Greek Language Learning for pupils with Migrant Background

When the children register in the primary school, they have the chance to enter Greek language as a second language learning programs. Pupils who do not have satisfactory Greek language knowledge, have the chance to enter special Greek language learning programs, including transition classes, when it is deemed necessary for their smooth integration in the education system. Ascertaining any child's Greek language knowledge takes place with the help of a diagnostic test at the beginning of the school year.

Transition classes program for students with *migrant background*:

<http://enimerosi.moec.gov.cy/ypp7859>

b. Is there specific training for (Adults) migrants? Language trainings?

Adult education and *Language Learning for migrants* in Cyprus is offered at public, semi-government and private institutions which, according to the type of education or training being offered, can be grouped in three categories:

- Institutions offering formal adult education
- Institutions offering non-formal adult education
- Institutions offering (continuing) vocational training

In the link below you will find the major institutions and organizations offering adult education clustered in the above mentioned categories: <https://mihub.eu/en/info/info-by-topic/education>

c. Indicate website, phone numbers, names of the entities responsible

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth

Website: http://www.moec.gov.cy/exypiretisi_politi/en/index.html



Telephone: +357 22 800630/631

Other useful websites:

<https://mihub.eu/en/info/info-by-topic/education>

Housing

- Do I have access to social housing?

At the moment, there is no social housing scheme available for migrants in Cyprus. The only exception is the Kofinou Reception and Accommodation Centre which houses applicants for international protection. However, multiple non-governmental organizations are offering temporary emergency accommodation to migrants.

- How do I get access to private housing?

Individuals interested in rented accommodation can do so either by contacting directly owners who have listed their property for rental or through estate agents who can propose housing options. They will be given the chance to see the property in question and if it meets their criteria agree on the price with the owner or his/her representative. Upon agreement, the two parties will sign a contract which will clearly lay out their rights and obligation. In most cases the minimum duration of a rent agreement is one year but this is for the two sides to decide. A person who is interested to rent is usually asked to provide a sum as a deposit to cover potential damages to the property. If no problem arises this sum is returned to the tenant.

- Does the Republic of Cyprus offer any support for migrants to get access to accommodation?

Asylum seekers in Cyprus receive, through the Republic of Cyprus' Social Welfare Services (SWS) benefits to cover their basic needs which cover accommodation in the form of a rental allowance. They are expected to find the property they will be renting on their own and subsequently provide all the necessary rental documentation to the SWS. The rental allowance is set at €100 for single persons and couples. It is increased to €150 for a family of three and can reach up to a maximum of €200 for families of four and above, without any further adjustment. Rent is directly payable to the landlord upon the submission of necessary documentation (e.g. confirmation from the Inland Revenue Department).

Employment

- How can I work legally in Cyprus?

The Republic of Cyprus has different procedures and regulations in place in regards to the employment of different groups of non-EU migrants in the island.

- Individuals Migrating for employment purposes to Cyprus

The Department of Labour examines applications from employers for the employment of foreigners, for the satisfaction of pressing, short term needs in the labour market, in certain economic fields and occupations.

The examination of employers applications for the employment of foreigners is mainly regulated by the Criteria and Procedures agreed between the Social Partners and approved by the Council of Ministers. The basic precondition for the granting of permit for the employment of foreign workers is the absence of prospects to meet the specific needs of the employer by local labour force (Cypriot or European citizens), which will be ascertained following an investigation of the competent service of the Department of Labour.

- Employment of Students from Third Countries

According to a recent law, which follows a directive of the European Union, students who are nationals of third countries may now work in Cyprus, in paid economic activity, under certain conditions and for certain kinds of work.

The Order or Decree of the Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance that makes this possible was published in the Official Gazette. Students of recognised universities or university programmes are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week, in specific occupations and specified sectors of economic activity.

They must be full-time students of recognised universities or colleges (or of some additional registered colleges).

They must be treated equally with Cypriot workers. All minimum labour standards should be observed. The Ministry has prepared a standard contract of employment for use in this case. The standard contract is available at the District Labour Offices.