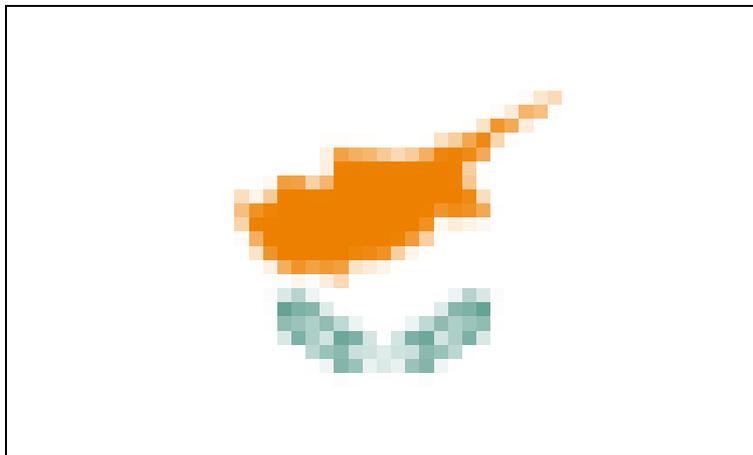




YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN CYPRUS



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Council of Europe
European Commission



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1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006	Less than 18	11.00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		73.00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		2.70
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		10.50
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		32.00
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		63.00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		58.00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		1.00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		34.00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		27.00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		10.00

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	Annex 5
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3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	Annex 6
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ANNEX 5

SOCIAL SUBSISTANCE/PROTECTION

Social provisions aim primarily to provide financial assistance to susceptible social groups and to people need in order to promote cohesion and to prevent social closure. However, there are benefits which are addressed to general public e.g. child benefit. Entitlement to social provisions normally requires beneficiaries having their habitual residence in Cyprus and entitlement may be universal or restricted to citizens of European Union only. In any case special rules govern the administration of each particular provision and normally beneficiaries need to claim by filling in application forms and submitting the necessary documentation.

- Child benefit addressed to families with children normally to 18 years, if study full time to 23 years and to 25 years old males if they make their national service. Children must live under the same roof with parent or guardian. The level of child benefit depends on number of children per family and the annual income.
- Special education grant addressed to families having students in higher education.
- Special grant for the blind addressed to people with visual impairment.
- Mother's allowance is payable to mothers who have had at least four children and have ceased to be entitled to child benefit.
- Financial assistance to large families for purchasing a car. One-off grant pay to families who receive child benefit for at least four children.
- Financial assistance to the disabled for purchasing a car is addressed to people with visual impairment and mobility disabilities.
- Travel allowance for the disabled is addressed to people with visual impairment and mobility disabilities.
- Special grant for housing is addressed to those purchasing or building their new house.

(Cyprus Government Web Portal 2008, MISSOC 2008.)

The Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance are responsible for the provision and promotion of social welfare services. The policy of the Social Welfare Services forms an integral part of the general governmental policy for social and economic development and aims at advancing social welfare, meeting social needs and preventing social problems among individuals, families and communities. The Social Welfare Services have already participated in the open method of coordination launched in the European Strategy for Social Inclusion Preventive Services:

- Family Counselling and Supportive Services the main objective of these Services is to support individuals and families, so that they can respond, in the best possible way, to their role of providing healthier conditions for the development of their members, always aiming at the welfare of society in general.
- Prevention/Handling of Violence in the Family Social Welfare Services provide help to families facing problems of violence within the family.
- Maintenance Cases These cases involve divorced parents who, due to severe relationship problems, do not accept any other arrangements for the payment of maintenance (usually) by the father to the children. In these cases, Welfare Officers receive and forward the maintenance.
- Child Protection: Children in the care of the Director - The Social Welfare Services, as the official agency of the State for the implementation of legislation concerning children undertake the care and protection of children who, for certain reasons, must be removed from their families. At the same time, practical assistance and social work services are provided to the child's family with the aim of improving conditions and facilitating the earliest possible return of the child to its own home.

(CyprusNet 2008.)

Sources:

[Cyprus Government Web Portal 2008. Social Policy - Social Welfare Services.](#)
[MISSOC 2008. Comparative Tables on Social Protection.](#)
[CyprusNet 2008. Cyprus Social Welfare.](#)

ANNEX 6

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The entire island entered the EU on 1 May 2004, although the EU acquires - the body of common rights and obligations - applies only to the areas under direct government control, and is suspended in the areas administered by Turkish Cypriots. However, individual Turkish Cypriots able to document their eligibility for Republic of Cyprus citizenship legally enjoy the same rights accorded to other citizens of European Union states. Nicosia continues to oppose EU efforts to establish direct trade and economic links to north Cyprus as a way of encouraging the Turkish Cypriot community to continue to support reunification. (Nation Master 2008.)

The legal system of Cyprus safeguards the provision of the necessary legal protection for persons claiming to be victims of any kind of discrimination and provides for effective remedies/recourses (administrative and judicial). The fundamental rights and liberties of the citizens and the remedies provided for their effective implementation are defined in the Constitution of Cyprus, which incorporates and in some instances expands upon the rights and liberties safeguarded by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

All these rights are safeguarded to all persons without making any distinction or differentiation between citizens and non-citizens of the Republic or between citizens of the Republic who belong to the Greek and Turkish Communities and without any distinctions or differentiation on grounds of community or religion or nationality, or on other grounds.

The NMWR (National Machinery for Women Rights) is the competent structure within the government for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality in all spheres of life. It consists of four bodies, in which all government departments and a large number of non-governmental organizations are represented. It works for example for elimination of legal discrimination and the safeguarding of women's rights and gender equality, prevention and combating of violence against women including domestic violence, balance participation of women and men at the decision-making level of public and political life, economic empowerment of women including enhancement of women's entrepreneurship.

During the last decades and more systematically since May 2004 that Cyprus joined the EU remarkable anti-discrimination work has been carried out by all competent National Authorities (Law Office, Independent Bodies, Ministries, NGOs, social partners and other civil society actors). This work includes comprehensive legislation, structural changes and series of awareness raising activities such as educational and housing programs, campaigns, conferences, seminars and other organized events, studies, research on attitudes etc. Regarding the grounds of discrimination, the work for disabled and for gender equality has the longest establishment tradition.

This racial, religious and cultural diversity in the Cypriot society, calls for immediate measures for integration in order to secure the peaceful coexistence of Cypriots and immigrants and the prevention as well as the combating of racism, intolerance, xenophobia and discrimination.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, some groups are vulnerable to discrimination in the workplace: women, persons with disabilities, older people, young people, people of a different national or ethnic origin or of a different religion and people of a different sexual orientation. For some of these groups, this is shown in the statistics below for employment and unemployment levels by gender and age:

Year 2005 employment rate for women were 58,5% and for men 79,5%. Employment rate in age group 15-24 years old was 36,9%. Furthermore, in accordance with data of the Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus (2008), 42% of women employees are paid with monthly amounts below 600 pounds, while only 15.3% of their male colleagues belong to this payment category. In general salary differences between men and women are about 25%.

Despite progress achieved during the last years, women are still under-represented in political and public life. Women constitute only the 14% of the total number of the Members of the House of Representatives and the 19% of the total number of Local Councillors. Besides women constitute the 19% of the board members of the semi-governmental organizations while their representation at the decision-making level of the public and private sector does not exceed the 18%. (Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus 2008.)

Of the total number of pupils/students, 75,3% were enrolled in public schools and 24,7% in private schools. The most popular fields of study were: Social and behavioural sciences 10,4%, Humanities 10,4%, Business and Administration 12,5%, Health 10,6%, Engineering 10,2%, Teacher training and Education science 7,3% and Computing 5,9%. Female participation in non-formal education (22,5%) is higher than male participation (20,5%). Male participation in informal learning activities (28,7%) is higher than female participation (24,0%). The highest participation in informal learning activities is among those in the age groups 20-29 and 30-39 with 37,4% and 36,6% respectively. The participation in non-formal education and in informal learning activities of the population aged 15 and over is highest among the employed population, with 24,7% and 33,6% respectively. The number of adult offenders convicted of serious offences was 1.575, compared to 1.406 the year before. Their median age was 26,0 years for males and 29,0 for females. The women represented only 9,0% of adult convicted offenders, while the convictions of foreigners constituted 35,7% of the total convictions for serious offences (33,8% of males and 55,6% of females).
(Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus 2008.)

Sources:

[Nation Master 2008. Statistics on Cyprus.](#)

[Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus 2008.](#)