

STEAM3D Academy

IO1: Green Best Practice guide

BEGIN



National Desk Research

Cyprus

Contents

Background	3
Energy policies	4
Grants and subsidies	6
References (Use APA Style to list your references)	7

Background

Full name: Republic of Cyprus

Area: 9 251 km²

Population: 1 189 265 inhabitants

Population density: 123.4 people/km²

Capital: Nicosia

Currency: Euro

Cyprus, in Greek Kípros, is an island located in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, renowned since ancient times for its mineral wealth, superb wines and produce, and natural beauty. As the Greek-Cypriot poet Leonidas Malenis once cited, Cyprus is A “golden-green leaf thrown into the Sea” and a land of “wild weather and volcanoes”, since it comprises tall mountains, fertile valleys, and wide beaches (Cyprus | History, Flag, Map, & Facts, 2022). Cyprus, which has been inhabited for over ten millennia, is located at a cultural, linguistic, and historical crossroads between Europe and Asia. Specifically, Cyprus is approximately 40 miles (65 km) south of Turkey, 60 miles (100 km) west of Syria, and 480 miles (770 km) southeast of mainland Greece (Figure 1).

Moreover, the country’s four dominant cities; Nicosia, Limassol, Famagusta, and Paphos, have absorbed the influences of generations of conquerors, pilgrims, and various travellers, transitioning the country to being prominent for tourist destinations (Cyprus | History, Flag, Map, & Facts, 2022). Hence, due to its diversified history, Cyprus is currently inhabited by 1,230,161 individuals (male= 51.1%, female= 48.9%) and is hypothesized to be expanded by 7,585, due to migration (Cyprus population, 2022). Nonetheless, Cyprus is leading with a democratic policy, since its government is compromised in three representative states as it is a Unitary state, it involves a Presidential system and a Constitutional republic.

Evidently, since Cyprus is settled in the Mediterranean, the climate is strongly Mediterranean, consisting of strongly marked seasonal rhythm. In other words, the country is comprised of hot, dry summers and rainy winters, but simultaneously with short autumns and breezy springs. During the summers, Cyprus’ capital Nicosia, reaches exceedingly high temperatures, with an average daily maximum of 37°C, in contrast with the winter’s average temperature of 21°C (Cyprus | History, Flag, Map, & Facts, 2022).

Energy policies

In Cyprus, the department of Environment, is the progressive occurrence of the Environmental Service, which was devised in 1986. After the integration of Cyprus into the European Union in 2004, a variety of environmental legislations have been adopted in the Cypriot National Law. As the Regulatory Authority, the department of Environment is crucial for coordinating and involving other relevant Services and Departments, in addition to implementing laws and regulations.

For instance, a few of the regulations implemented by the department are the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Waste Management, Control of Water and Soil Pollution, Climate Action and the Protection and Management of Nature. Further to the instruments enacted as part of the European acquis, the Department serves as a contact point for implementing the requirements of numerous United Nations environmental conventions, while also participating in the execution of the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) (Home, 2022). Unfortunately, despite Cyprus' efforts and significant improvement, the country still performs poorly in the sector of eco-innovation (Department of environment, 2022).

According to the Eco-Innovation Scoreboard in 2019, the country reached a score of 56, ranking it in the 26th position, placing it behind the EU average (Eco-Innovation, 2022). Thus, such outcomes might be explained by the fact that eco-innovation in Cyprus, is predominantly produced by individual sectors such as research institutes. However, the country contributes to the alleviation of environmental pressures through its significant natural habitat in renewable energies of solar and wind, allowing the possibility of cultivating eco-innovation through these activities. Research depicted that the country is ranked first in solar DHW (Domestic Hot Water Heating) per capita (Eco-Innovation, 2022).

Nonetheless, Cyprus aims to follow the regulations implemented by the EC to the extent at which the country is capable. The current policy situation includes the national policy framework derived from the framework of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). This framework is governed by the respective EU framework for its implementation and involves policy measures from a variety of categories (technical, regulatory and financial). In other words, the already reinforced policy measures for energy, target the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through sectors such as business, energy, transport, agriculture, education etc. (Mesimeris, 2020). Initially, this plan is a detailed roadmap for achieving Cyprus' Energy and Climate targets by 2030.

The program was approved by the Council of Ministers on the 15th January 2020 and delivered to the European Commission on 21st January 2020 (Cyprus and the EU Green Deal, 2022). Moreover, regardless of the Cyprus' Energy and Climate targets, the NECP also lists principal policy priorities which will be incorporated to allow the country to succeed in reaching its targets, that are in accordance with the European Green Deal (Directorate General Growth, 2022). A few of these priorities are:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental objectives;
- Increasing the share of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in energy consumption;
- Improve energy efficiency (Cyprus and the EU Green Deal, 2022).

Furthermore, an additional policy the country aims to reinforce is the EU's Green Action Plan guidelines and presented the 'Cyprus Action Plan for the transition to a circular economy 2021-2027' (Cyprus CEAP, 2022). The Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry claimed that this forthcoming transition to a circular economy, will create opportunities regarding the transformation of firms and

industry. Evidently, this will help firms gain increased competitive advantages and become more resilient and more sustainable at a local and international level.



Hence, the four pillars that the Cypriot government is basing the achievement of this transition are:

- **1st Pillar** – *Cultural change for a circular economy;*
 - It involves educating the community, the consumers and businesses about the various prospects of circular economy.
- **2nd Pillar** – *Providing incentives for investments in a circular economy;*
 - Developing a Consulting and Financial Guidance plan of €1m to distribute to companies.
- **3rd Pillar** – *Development of circular economy infrastructures;*
 - To identify which waste streams, need to be declassified, produce an online platform for companies to share resources and information and create an integrated system for supervising waste management projects.
- **4th Pillar** – *Municipal Waste Management;*
 - Implementation of the 'Pay as you Throw' scheme to ensure the proper collection, recycling, fertilization through compost and reduction of waste (Cyprus CEAP, 2022).

However, despite the country's efforts, it is undeniable that various challenges and threats might arise throughout the process of implementing the environmental policies. For instance, a dominant challenge for switching to the environmental policies, it is the country's high dependency on fossil fuels for energy, which ultimately was labelled as the biggest share in the EU. Thus, the country must rapidly develop both its hydrocarbon and renewable energy sources (National energy and climate plan, 2022). An additional strategy that Cyprus is aiming to incorporate into its policies is the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). This strategy involves a coordinated process of actions, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve the environmental, social and economic objectives in an integrated manner (A Sustainable Europe by 2030, 2022).

Watch this video for more information: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-iJM02m_Hg

Unfortunately, there are significant issues in the areas of sustainable agriculture, clean water, and sanitation. In terms of inexpensive and clean energy, responsible use and production, and climate action, Cyprus continues to lag behind. However, the data demonstrated that most environmental

goals are being satisfied, indicating the success of focused government policies and activities (Sustainable development knowledge platform, 2022).

Nonetheless, despite the fact that Cyprus' has not depicted the expected improvements, the country is tirelessly supporting the implementation of green energy policies in cities, such as the NECP. Through a diversified subcategorized measures of the NECP, the country introduced strategies to increase the number of nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEBS), and decrease the amount of utilized energy in the primary, secondary and tertiary sector (Pirpitsi, 2017). Moreover, as the country follows the policies by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), it incorporated a roadmap for the improvement of energy utilization, which should:

- Focus on solely on the power sector;
- Determine options for economically optimal levels of renewable energy power generation;
- Examine how to best integrate variable renewable energy into the Cyprus power grid;
- Analyze impacts of the planned electrical interconnection to Greece and Israel;
- Investigate options under consideration for the planned production of domestic natural gas (Renewable Energy Roadmap for the Republic of Cyprus, 2022).

Furthermore, through this roadmap the country aims to lower the electricity demand, invest in environmental technologies such as solar PV and once indigenous natural gas will become available, Cyprus will be shifting from mostly imported oil -based power generation to fully domestic-based power generation, dominated by solar PV, wind and domestic natural gas, improving the trade balance, increasing energy security and significantly reducing cost of electricity supply (Renewable Energy Roadmap for the Republic of Cyprus, 2022).

Grants and subsidies

Through the countries efforts to convert its linear economy into a circular economy, the government is providing a variety of funds that will assist this transition (National Grant Schemes, 2022). Some of these grants are (Cyprus CEAP, 2022; National Grant Schemes, 2022):

- Go circular Grant Scheme.
- Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF).
- Industry and Technology service.
- Scheme for the Purchase of Electric Vehicles (H14).
- Grant Scheme to encourage the use of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Saving in Homes (2022).
- Grant Scheme for the installation or replacement of solar water heating systems (2022).
- Grant Scheme to encourage the use of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Saving in Local Authorities and Non-Profit Organisations (2022).

- Support Scheme for the installation/expansion of photovoltaic systems for the charging of electric or hybrid vehicles.
- Scheme for replacement of electrical appliances in homes of vulnerable electricity consumers - First Call.
- Sponsorships Programme 2021 (SPONSORSHIPS/0721).

For more information check these websites:

<https://www.fundingprogrammesportal.gov.cy/en/program-major-category/national-grant-schemes/>

http://www.capo.gov.cy/capo/capo.nsf/capo18_en/capo18_en?OpenDocument

<https://moa.gov.cy/>

References

European Commission - European Commission. 2022. A Sustainable Europe by 2030. [online] Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/reflection-paper-towards-sustainable-europe-2030_en> [Accessed 5 January 2022].

Ec.europa.eu. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/cy_final_necp_main_en.pdf.

Cyprus And the EU Green Deal - Energy and Natural Resources - Cyprus. Mondaq.com. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from <https://www.mondaq.com/cyprus/renewables/1152336/cyprus-and-the-eu-green-deal>.

Eco-Innovation (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/cyprus_en.

Cyprus | History, Flag, Map, & Facts. Encyclopedia Britannica. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cyprus>.

Cyprus CEAP (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from <https://cypruscircular.org.cy/cyprus-action-plan-circular-economy/>.

Cyprus' Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan. Ec.europa.eu. (2022). Retrieved 31 January 2022, from https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/cy_final_necp_main_en.pdf.

Cyprus population (2022) live — Countrymeters. Countrymeters.info. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from <https://countrymeters.info/en/Cyprus>.

Cyprus: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Sustainabledevelopment.un.org. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/cyprus#:~:text=Severe%20challenges%20exist%20with%20respect,and%20production%20and%20climate%20action.> .

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT - History. Moa.gov.cy. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environmentnew.nsf/page03_en/page03_en.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL GROWTH, MINISTRY OF FINANCE - European Green Deal. Dgepcd.gov.cy. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from http://www.dgepcd.gov.cy/dgepcd/dgepcd.nsf/page61_en/page61_en?OpenDocument

Funding your Business | Getting Funding | businessincyprus.gov.cy. Business In Cyprus. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from <https://www.businessincyprus.gov.cy/doing-business-in-cyprus/getting-your-business-funded/>.

Home | UNEP MAP. Unep.org. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from <https://www.unep.org/unepmap/>.

National Grant Schemes - Πύλη Ενημέρωσης Χρηματοδοτικών Προγραμμάτων - ΓΔ ΕΠΣΑ. Πύλη Ενημέρωσης Χρηματοδοτικών Προγραμμάτων - ΓΔ ΕΠΣΑ. (2022). Retrieved 28 January 2022, from <https://www.fundingprogrammesportal.gov.cy/en/program-major-category/national-grant-schemes/>.

Mesimeris, T. (2020). Cyprus' Integrated national energy and climate plan for the period 2021-2030. Ec.europa.eu. Retrieved 31 January 2022, from

Piripitsi, A. (2017). 4 TH NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN OF CYPRUS. Ec.europa.eu. Retrieved 31 January 2022, from https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/default/files/documents/cy_neeap_2017_en.pdf.

Renewable Energy Roadmap for the Republic of Cyprus. Energy.gov.cy. (2022). Retrieved 31 January 2022, from <https://energy.gov.cy/assets/entipolikoi/RENEWABLE%20ENERGY%20ROADMAP%20FOR%20THE%20REPUBLIC%20OF%20CYPRUS.pdf>.