



**The Vocational Education and Training System of Cyprus:
Initial Vocational Education
and Training 2004**





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Training System of Cyprus:**

**INITIAL VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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FOREWORD

This report was initiated by Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, and has been prepared by the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (HRDA), the nominated National Coordinator of the European network ReferNet in Cyprus.

ReferNet was set up by Cedefop as the European network of reference and expertise in vocational education and training. It aims to improve the collection and dissemination of information to policy makers, researchers and practitioners in the field of vocational education and training.

The report has been prepared as part of a series of reports on vocational education and training in European Union countries. It is a contribution to Cedefop's continuing work on VET systems in EU member states, which is changing from being mainly based on hard copy descriptions of each national system to an electronic-based system.

This report aims to provide a description of the initial vocational education and training system in Cyprus, in which people may acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes for entering an occupation or group of occupations. The focus is both on schematising the pathways through the system and the levels at which people can obtain a vocational qualification.

The Cedefop database, eKnowVet¹, offers on-line information on vocational education and training in partner countries. The standard entry format allows country-specific and multi-country searches covering 11 thematic areas in overview (thematic overviews) and in detail. The database is regularly updated by the European network ReferNet.

ReferNet is made up of national consortiums, each comprising organisations, which are representative of the interests of vocational education and training within each EU Member State, plus Norway and Iceland. The HRDA, as the National Coordinator of ReferNet in Cyprus, wishes to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance. The contribution of the Statistical Service of Cyprus is also acknowledged.

¹ http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/Information_Resources/NationalVet/

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04 – INITIAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

0401 – INTRODUCTION TO INITIAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (INCL. STATISTICS)

Vocational Education and Training, VET (Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi kai Katartisi) includes all types of education and training that give people the qualifications needed to enter the labour market and to work in certain jobs. There is no formal or legal definition of VET in Cyprus. Initial Vocational Education and Training (IVET) in Cyprus is provided through the Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE), the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM), the initial training programmes subsidised by the Human Resource Development Authority HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) and the public institutions of tertiary education.

There is no IVET during the first ten years of compulsory education up to the lower secondary school. Instead, IVET starts at the upper secondary school, grade 11 of the education system, where the pupils have the option to follow the technical or vocational schools (technikes kai epangelmatikes scholes). The typical age of students at the technical and vocational schools is between 15 and 18 years of age. There are three grades and each class has a maximum of 28 pupils.

STVE is offered in two directions, the Theoretical Direction (Theoritiki Katefthinsi) and the Practical Direction (Praktiki Katefthinsi). The duration of studies is three years for each direction. The first year of studies is common for all branches/specialisations in each direction and pupils select a specialisation in their chosen branch in the second and third year of their studies. Upon completing the study programmes successfully, graduates of both directions are awarded a Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio), which is equivalent to that obtained from other Public Schools of Secondary General Education and entitles them either to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, or to enter the labour market as skilled workers.

The Theoretical Direction is completely school-based and combines general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects. About 53% of the graduates of the Theoretical Direction pursue successfully studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, either in Cyprus or abroad.

The first and second year of the Practical Direction are completely school-based and combine general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects. The third year of studies in the Practical Direction combines a school-based environment with a real workplace and final-year pupils are placed in industry for one day per week, where they follow a

practical training programme. About 15% of the graduates of the Practical Direction pursue successfully studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, either in Cyprus or abroad.

Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE) is offered at twelve Public Technical and Vocational Schools operating in the government-controlled area of Cyprus. There are three Schools in Nicosia, three in Limassol, two in Larnaca, two in the free area of the Famagusta district, one in Pafos and one in Polis. There is also one Hotel and Catering department at Apeitio Gymnasium in Agros.

The Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, is responsible for planning, organising, implementing and evaluating the educational programmes that are offered at the twelve Public Technical and Vocational Schools. The Director of STVE reports directly to the Director General of the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeoio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP). There are two Chief Education Officers, one of which is assigned as Head Inspector, who supervise the work of five STVE School Inspectors.

Technical and Vocational Schools maintain close cooperation with the STVE Directorate. Each School has its own Director, who reports directly to the assigned school inspector and the Director of STVE.

The Evening Technical School (Esperini Techniki Scholi) accepts persons of all ages who wish to complete a course of study at technical and vocational schools. It has been operating on the premises of the A' Technical School in Nicosia since September 1999. The study programmes offered are equivalent to the STVE programmes that are offered in the morning. The curricula in each branch/specialisation are the same as the curricula in the respective branch/specialisation of the morning classes, adapted, however, to the particular characteristics and needs of the pupils who attend evening classes. The duration of studies varies from one to four years, depending on the educational level of students. Attendance is free and leads to the acquisition of a Leaving Certificate, which is equivalent to that awarded by Technical and Vocational Schools.

The Apprenticeship System is another form of initial vocational education, which accepts students who leave formal education between grades eight and ten. Participants are pupils of 14 to 18 years of age. The programme lasts for two years and is a combination of general education and vocational training which takes place at Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS), for two days per week with practical training in industry, where apprentices are remunerated for their work, for three days per week. The System is run jointly by the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeoio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) and the Ministry of Labour

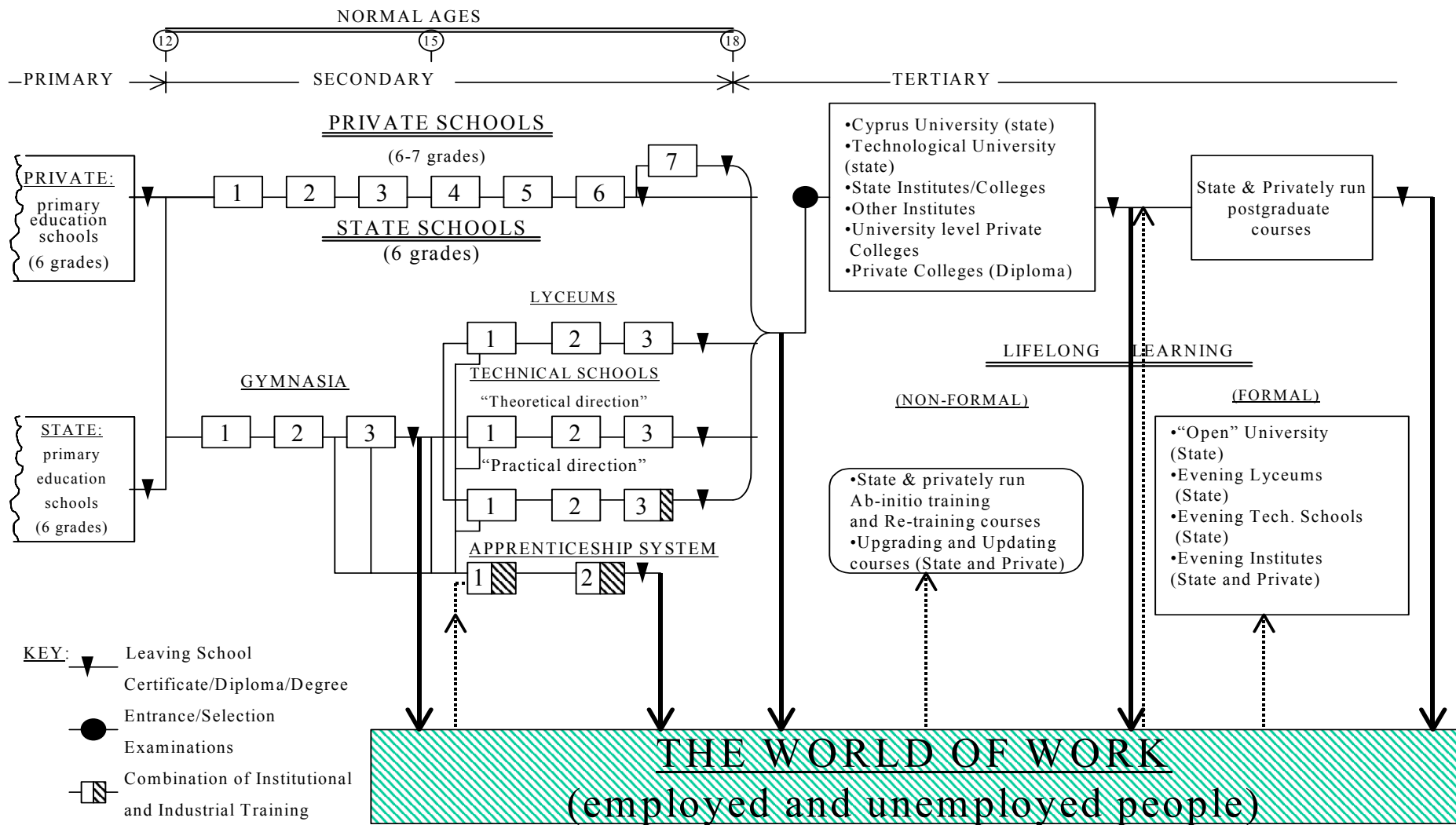
and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA).

The HRDA approves and subsidises multi-company initial training programmes organised in cooperation with training institutions, enterprise-based initial training and the practical training of students of certain specialisations in public secondary and tertiary education institutions. The HRDA also co-funds the Apprenticeship System.

Public tertiary education is currently provided at the University of Cyprus, UCY (Panepistimio Kyprou, PK). Two more state universities, the Technological University of Cyprus (Technologiko Panepistimio Kyprou, TEPAK) and the Open University of Cyprus (Anikto Panepistimio Kyprou, APKy), have recently been created, but none has started to operate yet. In addition to the public provision of tertiary education, there are several private institutions. IVET at tertiary level is provided at seven institutes/colleges, which come under the jurisdiction of various ministries.

The structure of the Education System of Cyprus is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: THE FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM OF CYPRUS



Source: ETF, Vocational education and training and employment services in Cyprus- Monographs for candidate countries (2002).

Note: Most of the Ab-initio, Re-training, Updating and Upgrading courses are sponsored by the Human Resource Development Authority.

The gross participation rates of considering population aged 15-20 and 15-17 (the most relevant age group) are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Statistics on Introduction to initial Vocational Education and Training

School year	Gross participation rates considering population aged 15-20 ⁽¹⁾		Gross participation rates considering population aged 15-17 ⁽²⁾ (most relevant age group)	
	Only Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education	Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education + Apprenticeship System	Only Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education	Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education + Apprenticeship System
1990/91	5.9%	7.4%	12.2%	15.3%
1995/96	7.3%	8.4%	13.7%	16.0%
2000/01	6.6%	7.5%	13.5%	14.8%
2002/03	6.5%	7.3%	13.2%	14.9%

⁽¹⁾ Total number of pupils in the programmes irrespective of age is divided by the population in the age group 15-20

⁽²⁾ Total number of pupils in the programmes irrespective of age is divided by the population in the age group

040101 – DEVELOPMENT OF IVET

HISTORICAL REVIEW

The first efforts to introduce Technical and Vocational Education, TVE (Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, TEE) in Cyprus were initiated before the Second World War by the private sector, but ended in failure because of the complete absence of infrastructure and the lack of financial investment.

During the Second World War, the lack of trained personnel forced the British colonial authorities of Cyprus to take the first steps towards developing a Public Technical and Vocational Education system. In 1944 a special committee was formed in order to draw a proposal for the establishment of Technical and Vocational Education in Cyprus. In 1946, the first apprentice-training programme was introduced and in 1951 a Technical and Vocational School was established in Lefka. In 1952, the British authorities decided to introduce a five-year Technical and Vocational Education programme. In 1956, the Nicosia Technical Institute, the Nicosia Preparatory Technical School and the Limassol Technical School began their operation.

After independence in 1960, the Cyprus economy exhibited spectacular growth and, as a result, there was great need for adequately trained personnel in all sectors of the economy. Therefore, the number of Technical and Vocational Schools increased to eleven, including two Commercial and Vocational Schools and an Agricultural School.

However, the Turkish invasion in 1974 and the occupation of 40% of the island had devastating effects on all aspects of life, including education. Five out of eleven Technical and Vocational Schools were occupied, including the two Commercial and Vocational Schools and the Agricultural School.

In the years after the Turkish invasion, there was a swift transformation of the economy from predominantly agricultural to service based. As a result, Technical and Vocational Education had to respond to new educational, economic, industrial and social challenges.

Gradually, more Technical and Vocational Schools were established in the government –controlled area of Cyprus. Currently, there are twelve TVE Schools: three in Nicosia, three in Limassol, two in Larnaca, two in the free area of the Famagusta district, one in Pafos and one in Polis. There is also one Hotel and Catering department at Apeitio Gymnasium in Agros.

Apart from the schools mentioned above, there is also one Evening Technical School (Esperini Techniki Scholi), which has been operating on the premises of the A´ Technical School in Nicosia since September 1999.

THE REFORM

The Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP), aiming at the reform of the content and structure of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE), formed a Proposal for Reform, Restructuring and Modernisation of STVE. The Proposal was approved by the Council of Ministers (Ypourgiko Symvoulío) in August 2000 and it was implemented in September 2001.

In the context of the Proposal for Reform, Restructuring and Modernisation, the special objectives of STVE have been revised, in order for this type of education to:

- Help society achieve its goals for social, cultural and economic growth.
- Contribute to the improvement of the quality of life, by providing individuals with the opportunity to broaden their intellectual horizons.

- Enable society to utilise the results of economic and scientific-technological changes, for the benefit and prosperity of society as a whole.
- Provide pupils with better opportunities for vertical and horizontal movement across the upper secondary educational system.
- Offer solid knowledge and broad technological training, making STVE an attractive option for the development of pupils' talents, interests and skills, therefore leading them either towards Higher and Tertiary Education or the labour market.
- Enhance understanding of the modern civilisation's technological dimensions and their impact on the environment.
- Develop the decision-making competencies of pupils, as well as the necessary attitudes for active and educated participation, co-operation and leadership at the workplace and in society in general.

According to the revised structure, Secondary Technical and Vocational Education is offered in two directions, the Theoretical Direction (Theoritiki Katefthinsi) and the Practical Direction (Praktiki Katefthinsi). The duration of studies is three years for each direction. The first year of studies is common in each branch and direction. Pupils select a specialisation offered in the branch of their choice in the second and third year of their studies.

The most significant innovations included in the Proposal for Reform, Restructuring and Modernisation of STVE are the following:

- Revised special objectives.
- Revised curricula.
- The introduction of new branches and specialisations.
- The introduction of new subjects.
- The introduction of elective subjects of special interest.
- The upgrading of general education subjects.
- The introduction of modern technology.
- The introduction of lifelong learning and training programmes.
- The restructuring and modernisation of the Apprenticeship System (Systema Mathiteias, SM).
- The systematic training of the teaching staff.

The challenges facing technical and vocational education in the twenty-first century and the demands of the contemporary workplace call for the implementation of learner-centred innovative and flexible approaches. Therefore, the current revised system of Technical and Vocational Education in Cyprus is based upon an instructional approach that places

pupils, with their learning abilities, strengths, weaknesses, talents and interests, at the centre of the educational process, thus leading them to the acquisition of solid broad knowledge and generic skills, which will equip them with the capacity to solve problems, carry out research, learn how to learn and help them adapt to a changing environment. To this end, the revised curricula developed by the Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (Diefthinsi Defterovathmias Teknikis kai Epangelmatikis Ekpaidefsis), have introduced a common first year of study for the branch in each direction, providing pupils with solid general education and generic skills associated with their branch, before choosing their specialisation in the second and third year of their studies. Moreover, the revised curricula place particular emphasis on subjects and issues such as modern technology, the environment, foreign languages and entrepreneurship, and also take account of the requirements of rapidly growing service industries.

In addition to the above, contemporary educational technology is employed, particularly the Internet, interactive multimedia materials and audiovisual aids, in order to motivate pupils, promote self-learning and enhance the effectiveness, quality and richness of the programmes on offer. The Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education is currently in the process of adapting or even developing teaching and learning materials that use the information and communication technologies.

Finally, in an effort to provide pupils with the experience they need for their smooth entry into the labour market, machines and equipment used in laboratories and workshops simulate the workplace as closely as possible. As a result, pupils develop a command of valuable practical skills such as tool use, repair and maintenance of equipment and safety procedures.

040102 – RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IVET AND GENERAL EDUCATION (INCL. STATISTICS)

Compulsory education lasts for ten years and covers pre-primary education, primary education, grades one to six, and lower secondary education in the gymnasium, grades seven to nine. Pupils are accepted at the pre-primary school at the age of four years and eight months. At the end of the gymnasium, pupils receive a certificate. Most pupils in primary and secondary education (90,5%) attend public-sector schools, which are set up and funded by the government. Private-sector schools are mainly self-funded.

Formal upper secondary education lasts for three years, grades 10 to 12. It is provided at two types of upper secondary school, namely, the unified lyceum (Eniaio Lykeio) and Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS). Upon completion of upper secondary education, (either general or

technical and vocational) all pupils receive a Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio), which provides access to the labour market or to Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education in Cyprus or abroad.

The unified lyceum provides general upper secondary education. The new unified lyceum curricula aim to provide a wide knowledge base and greater flexibility in the selection of subjects. During the first year of studies, pupils follow a common core of subjects, while in the second and third year of their studies, pupils can select from a wide range of subjects. Technical Schools provide two major directions of upper secondary technical and vocational education, the Theoretical (Theoritiki) and the Practical (Praktiki). At the beginning of the first year of studies, pupils in both directions select the branch of their choice from a selection of thirteen branches. The first year of studies is common for the branch in each direction and pupils can select from a wide range of specialisations offered in the branch of their choice in the second and third year of their studies.

General education subjects constitute a substantial part of the Technical and Vocational Education, TVE (Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, TEE) study programmes. A considerable number of secondary general education teachers, teaching general education subjects, are employed at Technical Schools. Respectively, some technological subjects are integrated in the general education curriculum and are taught by Technical School teachers.

One of the most significant innovations introduced in the National Education System is the facilitation of horizontal and vertical movement across the upper secondary level of education. This means that pupils attending the unified lyceum can enrol in the second year of Technical Schools if they wish, provided that they succeed in special examinations. The same applies for pupils attending Technical Schools.

General Education and Technical and Vocational Education share a number of common objectives, since both aim at providing all pupils with the opportunity to develop their individual skills, aptitudes and unique personalities by offering them a variety of elective subjects of special interest. They also aim at assisting pupils to develop their communication and learning skills so as to enhance self-confidence and therefore empower them to deal successfully with the diverse roles they are expected to play in life.

In addition to the above, qualified guidance counsellors of the Counselling and Career Education Service of the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP), offer pupils of Public Secondary General and Public Secondary Technical and Vocational Education assistance in order to develop personal awareness as regards

their interests, needs and skills and therefore make the right decisions about their education and future career.

Initial Vocational Education and Training is also provided through the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM), which is run jointly by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA). The programme addresses pupils who do not wish to continue their studies at the upper secondary level and also dropouts from the formal secondary education system. The Apprenticeship System accepts students who leave formal education between grades eight and ten. It lasts for two years and combines general education and vocational training at school, which takes place at Technical Schools for two days per week, with practical training in industry, where apprentices are remunerated for their work, for three days per week. General education subjects are taught by secondary general education teachers.

Table 1: Distribution of participants between Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Upper Secondary General Education

School Year	Only Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education	Upper Secondary General Education	Total	Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education + Apprenticeship System	Upper Secondary General Education	Total
1990/91	17.1%	82.9%	100%	20.6%	79.4%	100%
1995/96	15.5%	84.5%	100%	17.6%	82.4%	100%
2000/01	14.5%	85.5%	100%	16.2%	83.8%	100%
2002/03	13.7%	86.3%	100%	15.1%	84.9%	100%

040103 – QUALIFICATIONS STRUCTURE

SECONDARY TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Upon completing the Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE), study programmes successfully, graduates of Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) are awarded a Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio), which is equivalent to the Leaving Certificates awarded by other Public Schools of Secondary General Education. This Leaving Certificate entitles graduates either to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, or enter the labour market as skilled workers.

The Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) is responsible for defining and creating the qualifications for the different pathways offered in the context of STVE.

Leaving Certificates (Apolytiria) are awarded by Technical and Vocational Schools, on the authorisation of the MoEC.

THE APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM

Upon completing successfully the two-year programme offered in the context of the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM), apprentices are awarded a professional certificate, which entitles them to enter the labour market as semi-skilled workers. This certificate is not equivalent to the Leaving Certificates awarded to graduates of upper secondary education (general or technical and vocational) and does not entitle apprentices to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education.

The MoEC and the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA) run the Apprenticeship System jointly. The MoEC is responsible for the vocational education and training of the apprentices, while the MLSI is responsible for the administration of the System.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

Successful completion of the programmes of public tertiary education institutions leads to the award of each institution's diploma. Following law 67 (I)/96, which regulates the procedure for the recognition of higher education qualifications, the diplomas awarded by the public tertiary education institutions are recognised by the competent authorities of the state.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INITIAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) approves and subsidises multi-company initial training programmes organised in cooperation with training institutions, enterprise-based initial training and the practical training of students of certain specialisations in public secondary and tertiary education institutions.

The participants who successfully complete the training programmes will receive a Certificate, except those who participate in the enterprise-based initial training.

040104 – SCHOOLS/TRAINING CENTRES/PROVIDERS

The Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) has the overall responsibility for the enforcement of laws, the implementation of education policy and the administration of education. It manages and operates public education institutions for the pre-primary, primary and secondary levels including both general and Technical and Vocational Education, TVE (Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, TEE).

Moreover, there is a private sector for education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. All private sector institutions, which offer school leaving or other certificates or diplomas are registered and approved by the MoEC. The authority of the MoEC is exercised through the various relevant decisions taken by the Council of Ministers (Ypourgiko Symvoulío) and acts passed by the House of Representatives (Vouli ton Antiprosopon). All private institutions, which award leaving or other certificates or diplomas, must be approved by the MoEC.

The main provider of Initial Vocational Education and Training, IVET, is therefore the MoEC, and more specifically the Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE). STVE offers a wide range of technical and vocational education, initial training and lifelong training programmes to eligible gymnasium leavers and adults. It is integrated into the national school system and maintains close links with industry and other training institutions. STVE includes morning and afternoon and evening classes.

Initial STVE is offered at twelve Public Technical and Vocational Schools operating in the government-controlled area of Cyprus. There are three Schools in Nicosia, three in Limassol, two in Larnaca, two in the free area of the Famagusta district, one in Pafos and one in Polis. There is also one Hotel and Catering department at Apeitio Gymnasium in Agros.

Apart from the schools mentioned above, there is also one Evening Technical School (Esperini Techniki Scholi), which has been operating on the premises of the A´ Technical School in Nicosia since September 1999. The study programmes offered at the Evening Technical School are equivalent to the STVE programmes that are offered in the morning. The curricula in each branch and specialisation are the same as the curricula in the respective branch/specialisation of the morning classes, adapted, however, to the particular characteristics and needs of the pupils who attend evening classes. The duration of studies varies from one to four years, depending on the educational level of those interested in attending evening TVE programmes. Attendance is free and leads to the acquisition of a Leaving Certificate (Apolitirio), which is equivalent to that awarded by Technical and Vocational Schools.

In addition to the above, in the context of lifelong learning, STVE offers afternoon and evening classes, which cover Technical and Vocational Training subjects.

There are other ministries or departments, which are active in the provision of education and training. The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA), as part of its responsibility to cater for labour and human resource development matters, has taken initiatives to set up vocationally oriented education and training institutions.

The MLSI is also involved in IVET, in the context of the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM). The System is run jointly by the MoEC and the MLSI. The MoEC is responsible for the vocational education and training of the apprentices, while the MLSI is responsible for the administration of the System. The programme lasts for two years and combines general education and vocational training, which takes place at Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS), for two days per week with practical training in industry, where apprentices are remunerated for their work, for three days per week.

Furthermore, a small number of vocational and post-secondary institutions come under the jurisdiction of several ministries such as the Ministry of Health, MoH (Ypourgeio Ygeias), the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, MoA (Ypourgeio Georgias, Fysikon Poron kai Perivallontos, YGFPP), the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, MCIT (Ypourgeio Emporiou, Viomichanias kai Tourismou, YEVT), the Ministry of Finance, MoF (Ypourgeio Oikonomikon, YO) and the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, MJPO (Ypourgeio Dikaiosynis kai Dimosias Taxis, YDDT).

Finally, the Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) plays an important role in initial vocational training. The HRDA promotes and subsidises initial training activities aimed to bridge the gap between the abilities of people leaving the educational system and the needs of the labour market.

040105 – ROLE OF SOCIAL PARTNERS AND ENTERPRISES

In Cyprus there has been a long-standing tradition of tripartite consultation (government, trade unions and employers' organisations) and social dialogue. This is reflected in the active participation of social partners in the various bodies and committees.

The Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE), in order to be able to re-examine and adapt the content of its curricula according to the current development needs of the Cyprus economy and industry, and

taking into account the latest scientific and technological advances, has developed close cooperation with the following agencies:

- The Advisory Committee for STVE.
- The Branches and Specialisations Advisory Committees for STVE.
- The organised agencies of employers and manufacturers (Employers' Organisations).
- The organised agencies of employees (Employees' Organisations).
- The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD).

Cooperation between the Directorate of STVE and the agencies mentioned above has been developed in the following areas:

- The introduction of revised curricula, as well as of new branches and specialisations in STVE.
- The levels and content of the STVE curricula.
- The employment prospects and career opportunities of the Technical School (Technikes Scholes, TS) graduates.
- The practical training of final year pupils of the Practical Direction (Praktiki Katefthinsi) in industry, under actual working conditions, in order to be able to assimilate and implement the knowledge and skills which they have been taught at school.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SECONDARY TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The Advisory Committee for STVE is composed of representatives of:

- Ministries and Departments.
- Semi-Governmental Organisations.
- The Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus and the Associations of the Cyprus Professional Engineers.
- Employees' Organisations.
- Teachers' Organisations and Parents' Associations.
- The STVE Alumni Association.

The Minister of Education and Culture (Ypourgos Paideias kai Politismou) appoints the members of the Advisory Committee for a two-year term. The chairman of the Advisory Committee is the Director of STVE.

THE BRANCHES AND SPECIALISATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR SECONDARY TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

A number of Advisory Committees on issues regarding the branches and specialisations offered at Technical Schools have been formed, aiming at enhancing cooperation between Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and the labour market. The Advisory Committee for each branch/specialisation is responsible for:

- Advising the Minister of Education and Culture on all the issues concerning the education and industrial placement of STVE pupils.
- Advising and submitting suggestions about the curricula, as well as the timetables and analytical programmes, of the various branches and specialisations that are offered at Technical Schools, particularly during the formation or revision of curricula.
- Advising and submitting suggestions about issues concerning the infrastructure and equipment of the specialisations of the branches.
- Contributing to the development of closer ties and cooperation with the labour market and submitting detailed and precise suggestions about issues regarding the placement of pupils for industrial training.

The Minister of Education and Culture appoints the members of each Advisory Committee for a two-year term.

In addition to the above, the social partners also participate in an advisory and consultative capacity in the development planning process, including the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan, the Single Programming Documents for Objective 2 and Objective 3, the National Action Plan for Employment as well as the Community Initiative Programme (CIP) "EQUAL".

As a result of administrative arrangements the social partners also participate in:

- The Labour Advisory Board (Ergatiko Symboulevtiko Soma), which advises the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance (Ypourgos Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon).
- The Pancyprrian Productivity Council (Pangyprio Symboulío Paragogikotitas).
- The Economic Consultative Committee (Symboulevtiki Oikonomiki Epitropi).

Furthermore, the social partners as main stakeholders usually participate on the Board of Governors of institutions dealing with human resources

such as the Cyprus Productivity Centre, CPC (Kentro Paragogikotitas, KEPA), the Higher Technical Institute, HTI (Anotero Technologiko Institutouto, ATI) and the Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus, HHIC (Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus, AXIK).

The HRDA is administered by a 13-member Board of Directors with a tripartite character where representatives of the Government, the Employers and the Trade Unions participate. The tripartite character is also reflected in the various committees set up by the HRDA.

040106 – PLANNING AND FORECASTING

The main formal mechanism in place for the assessment of skill needs is operated by the Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) by analyses of changes in the labour market. The Planning Bureau, PB (Grafeio Programmatismou, GP) makes projections for the growth of the economy. The Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) is, on the other hand, responsible for the identification of educational and special skill needs.

The HRDA conducts research studies and surveys, which constitute a useful guide for the formulation of the training and human resource development strategy and for planning the organisation's activities through the annual priority setting. For the systematic employment forecasting and the identification of skills gaps, the HRDA conducts the following research studies:

- Long term employment trends and forecasting in Cyprus.
- Short term employment forecasts.
- Annual investigations for the identification of initial training skill needs with the involvement of the Social Partners.
- Human resource studies focusing on the characteristics of selected groups (such as the employed, the unemployed, the economically inactive, women, foreign workers), on education and training and lifelong learning.
- Thematic Priorities setting for multi-company programmes.

The HRDA has recently completed a study for long-term employment forecasts for the period 2005-2015. The study covers 44 sectors of economic activity and 27 occupations that cover the whole of the economy. According to the study, total employment is expected to increase during this period by 16.6% (from 345.691 persons in 2005 to 403.239 in 2015). The mean annual rate of growth of employment is expected to reach 1.6% during the same period. The importance of the tertiary sector is expected to grow, while the secondary and the primary

sectors are expected to decline. Employment in the tertiary sector is expected to reach 73.9% by 2015, compared to 72.0% in 2005.

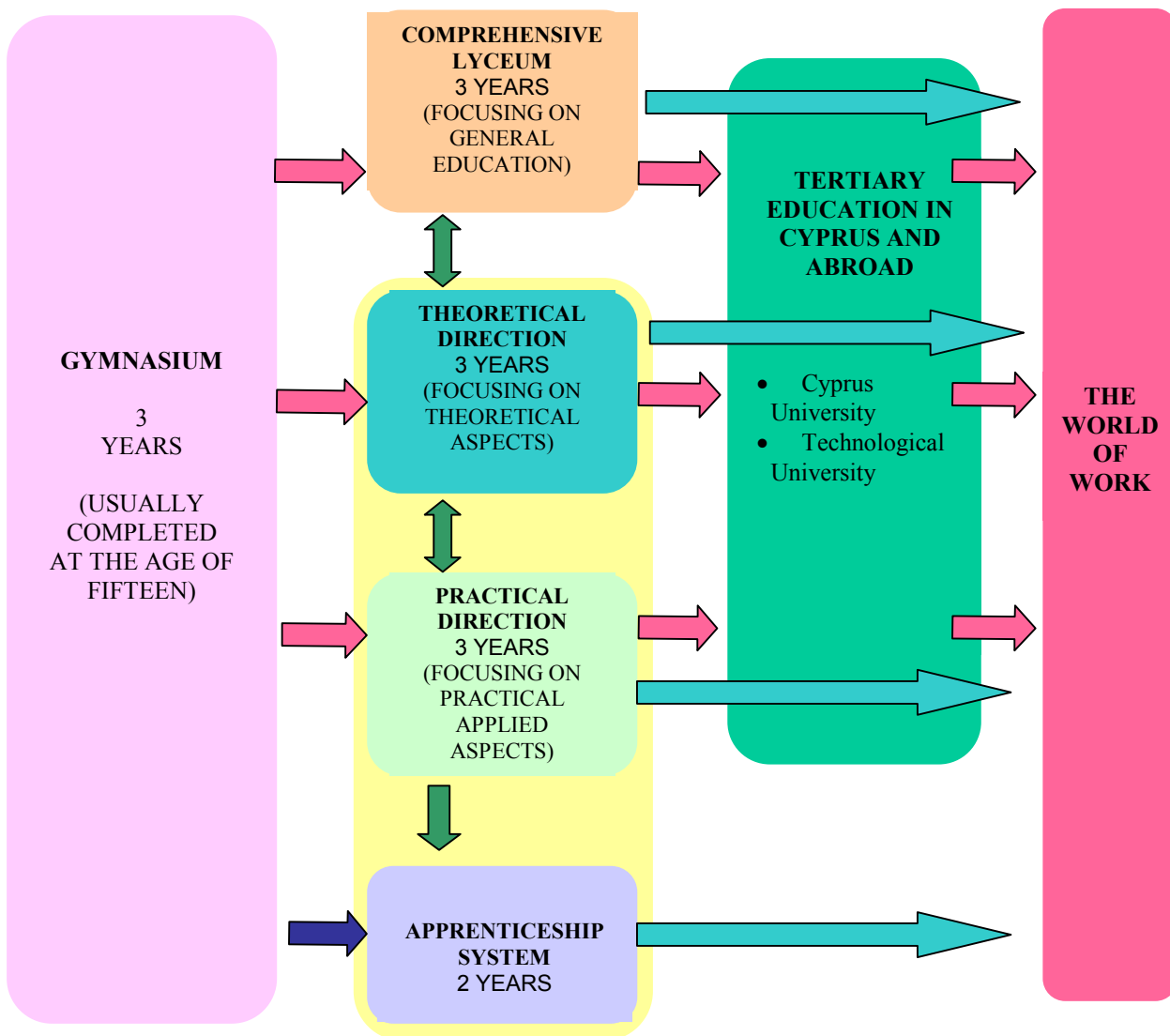
The HRDA studies providing employment forecasts will be widely distributed and are expected to be utilised by private and public organisations and bodies that are involved in human resource planning and vocational guidance and counselling to students.

Moreover, the Planning Bureau, PB (Γραφείο Προγραμματισμού, GP) makes projections for the growth of the economy, which include forecasts for different sectors, and makes proposals for the required policy changes.

Finally, the MoEC is responsible for the overall administration of education. For the design of curricula in secondary technical and vocational education, participation of the social partners in committees helps to identify any special skills needed. In order to determine the number of pupils who will be enrolled in each branch and specialisation that is offered at STVE Schools, the STVE Directorate takes into account the desire of gymnasium graduates to follow a certain branch and specialisation. This in turn is determined by factors that are directly or indirectly related to the employment prospects of graduates of each branch and specialisation.

040107 – DIAGRAM OF MAIN PATHWAYS WITHIN IVET

Table 1: Structure of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education



- INITIAL TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
- Theoretical Stream – School Based
- Practical Stream – School Based + One day per week in industry during the final year
- Apprenticeship System – Combined, Two days in school + Three days in industry
- Gymnasium – Compulsory Education
- Comprehensive Lyceum
- Tertiary Education – School Based or Combined
- THE WORLD OF WORK

0402 – IVET AT LOWER SECONDARY LEVEL

There is no initial vocational education and training provided in Cyprus at the lower secondary level.

040201 – CURRICULA

Not applicable.

040202 – LEARNING OUTCOMES

Not applicable.

0403 – IVET AT UPPER SECONDARY LEVEL: SCHOOL-BASED AND ALTERNANCE (INCL. STATISTICS)

In Cyprus, Initial Vocational Education and Training programmes begin to be provided at the upper secondary level of the education system. Upon completion of their compulsory lower-secondary education, successful gymnasium (Gymnasio) leavers are eligible to enrol either in the theoretical or in the practical direction offered by technical schools.

Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE) provides a broad range of technical/vocational education, initial training and re-training programmes to eligible gymnasium leavers and adults. It is integrated into the national school system and maintains close links with industry and other training institutions.

Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) offer two distinct three-year secondary school programmes free of charge: the Theoretical Direction (Theoritiki Katefthinsi) and the Practical Direction (Praktiki Katefthinsi). The duration of studies is three years for each direction. The first year of studies is common for the branch in each direction and pupils select a specialisation offered in the branch of their choice in the second and third year of their studies. The Theoretical Direction is completely school-based and combines general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects. The first and second year of the Practical Direction are also completely school-based and combine general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects, while the third year of studies in the Practical Direction combines a school-based environment with a real workplace as final-year pupils are placed in industry for one day per week, where they follow a practical training programme.

The basic aim of both the STVE directions is to meet the academic and vocational needs of students. The knowledge and skills acquired are oriented towards enabling students to pursue appropriate technical or

vocational jobs in industry or to continue their technical or vocational education and training in higher educational institutions.

Upon completing the STVE study programmes successfully, graduates of Technical Schools (Theoretical or Practical Direction) are awarded a Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio), which is equivalent to that obtained from Public Schools of Secondary General Education. This Leaving Certificate entitles graduates either to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, or enter directly the labour market as technicians and skilled workers.

The allocation of teaching time to various subjects, aims to enable STVE pupils to acquire solid and adaptable knowledge, as well as learning skills and the competencies that will help them adjust to dynamic and unpredictable situations. In addition, it aims to help pupils acquire competence in searching for, assessing, selecting and employing essential information.

Pupils are also given the opportunity to acquire methodological skills and learn how to analyse and solve problems. Moreover, they are provided with a productive environment that encourages them to develop such characteristics as the ability to co-operate with other people, their creativity and self-confidence, and the skills to help them deal successfully with the diverse roles they are expected to play in life.

The subjects that are included in the curricula can be classified into the following seven categories:

- Common Core Subjects.
- Related Subjects.
- Elective Subjects.
- Technological and Workshop Practice Subjects for the Branch.
- Technological and Workshop Practice Subjects for the Specialisation.
- Elective Subjects of Special Interest.
- Industrial Placement.

Secondary Technical and Vocational Education offers thirteen branches, each divided into various specialisations, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Branches and specialisations by direction

BRANCHES AND SPECIALISATIONS		DIRECTION*	
1	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING		
	Mechanical Engineering (General)	Theoretical	
	Production Engineering and Machine Tools		Practical
	Welding and Metal Constructions		Practical
	Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Systems	Theoretical	Practical
	Electromechanical Hotel Equipment		Practical
	Automobile Engineering	Theoretical	Practical
	Car Electrics and Electronics	Theoretical	Practical
	Motor Cycle and Boat Engines		Practical
2	ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING		
	Electrical Installations	Theoretical	Practical
	Electronics	Theoretical	
	Computer Engineering	Theoretical	
	Electrical Appliances, Automation and Control Systems	Theoretical	Practical
	Domestic Appliances, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning		Practical
	Electronic Communication	Theoretical	Practical
3	CIVIL ENGINEERING – ARCHITECTURE		
	Civil Engineering	Theoretical	
	Architecture	Theoretical	
	Land Surveying	Theoretical	
	Building		Practical
	Laboratory Assistants		Practical
4	DRAFTSMEN		
	Draftsmen		Practical
5	CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY		
	Chemical Production and Chemical Lab Technicians	Theoretical	
6	WOODCRAFT AND FURNITURE MAKING		
	Furniture Design and Production	Theoretical	
	Woodcraft and Furniture Making		Practical
7	APPLIED ARTS		

BRANCHES AND SPECIALISATIONS		DIRECTION*	
	Graphic Design	Theoretical	Practical
	Interior Design	Theoretical	Practical
	Ceramics and Pottery		Practical
	Goldsmithing – Silversmithing		Practical
8	DRESSMAKING		
	Fashion Design	Theoretical	
	Dressmaking		Practical
9	SHOEMAKING AND LEATHER CRAFT		
	Shoemaking and Leather Craft		Practical
10	COSMETOLOGY – HAIRDRESSING		
	Hairdressing		Practical
11	AGRICULTURE		
	Horticulture		Practical
12	SERVICES		
	Tourist Agency and Hotel Clerks	Theoretical	Practical
	Sales Personnel		Practical
	Bank and Accounting Clerks	Theoretical	
	Secretarial Studies		Practical
13	HOTEL AND CATERING		
	Cooks and Waiters		Practical

* The Theoretical Direction is completely school-based and combines general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects. The first and second year of the Practical Direction are completely school-based and combine general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects. The third year of studies in the Practical Direction combines a school-based environment with a real workplace and final-year pupils are placed in industry for one day per week, where they follow a practical training programme.

Initial Secondary Technical and Vocational Education is offered at twelve Public Technical and Vocational Schools operating in the government-controlled area of Cyprus. There are three Schools in Nicosia, three in Limassol, two in Larnaca, two in the free area of the Famagusta district, one in Pafos and one in Polis. There is also one Hotel and Catering department at Apeitio Gymnasium in Agros.

Apart from the twelve Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) that operate in the morning, there is also an Evening Technical School (Esperini Techniki Scholi) operating on the premises of the A' Technical

School in Nicosia. The study programmes offered at the Evening Technical School are equivalent to the STVE programmes that are offered in the morning. The curricula in each branch and specialisation are the same as the curricula in the respective branch/specialisation offered at the Technical Schools that operate in the morning, adapted however to the particular characteristics and needs of the pupils who attend evening classes. The duration of studies varies from one to four years, depending on the educational level of those interested in attending the Evening Technical School. Attendance is free and leads to the acquisition of a Leaving Certificate (Apolitirio), which is equivalent to that awarded by Technical Schools and other Public Schools of Secondary General Education. This means that the Leaving Certificate which is awarded by the Evening Technical School entitles graduates either to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education or enter the labour market as technicians and skilled workers.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC IVET PATHWAYS AT UPPER SECONDARY LEVEL

Each Technical and Vocational School offers a wide range of branches that cover various sectors of economic activity. Table 2 shows the branches that are offered at each Technical School.

Table 2: Branches offered at each Technical School

	Mechanical Engineering	Electrical Engineering	Civil Engineering-Architecture	Draftsmen	Chemical Technology	Woodcraft and Furniture Making	Applied Arts	Dressmaking	Shoemaking and Leather Craft	Cosmetology-Hairdressing	Agriculture	Services	Hotel and Catering
A´ Technical School Nicosia	*	*	*	*		*	*						*
Technical School "Makarios III" Nicosia	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*			*	*
B´ Technical School Nicosia		*			*			*				*	
A´ Technical School Limassol	*	*				*	*					*	
B´ Technical School Limassol		*	*	*	*	*		*					
C´ Technical School Limassol		*					*					*	*
Dianellos Technical School Larnaca		*				*		*					*

Ayios Lazaros Technical School Larnaca	*		*	*	*		*					*	
Technical School Paralimni	*											*	*
Peripheral Technical Agricultural School Avgorou	*	*									*		
Technical School Paphos	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*	*
Technical School Polis Chrysochous			*					*				*	*
Apeitio Gymnasium Agros- Hotel and Catering Dept.													*

Table 3: Participation rates in Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education

School year	Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education			
	Participation rates considering population aged 16-19		Participation rates considering population aged 15-17 (most relevant age group)	
	Gross ⁽¹⁾	Net ⁽²⁾	Gross ⁽¹⁾	Net ⁽²⁾
1990/91	8.8%	N/a	12.2%	N/a
1995/96	11.0%	N/a	13.7%	N/a
2000/01	9.9%	6.7%	13.0%	11.3%
2002/03	9.6%	6.5%	13.2%	11.2%

⁽¹⁾ Gross Participation Rates: Total number of pupils in the programmes irrespective of age is divided by the population in the age group of interest.

⁽²⁾ Net Participation Rates: Total number of pupils in the programmes who are in the age group of interest divided by the population in the age group of interest.

N/a: Not available

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

The 2002/2003 enrolments in Secondary Technical and Vocational Education include 1 031 pupils in the Theoretical Direction and 3 332 pupils in the Practical Direction including evening classes. The total

number of pupils in upper secondary schools in 2002/2003 was 31 843. Only 13.7%, one of the lowest percentages among European countries, are enrolments in technical/vocational programmes.

Table 4: Number of participants in upper secondary IVET by age and gender 1995/96 (does not include evening technical schools)

	Total	<14	15	16	17	18	>19
Male	3512	186	1192	1109	871	135	19
Female	897	50	296	268	219	55	9
Total	4409	236	1488	1377	1090	190	28

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus, Statistics of Education 1996 (1997).

Table 5: Number of participants in upper secondary IVET by age and gender 2000/2001 (does not include evening technical schools)

	Total	<14	15	16	17	18	19	>20	Not stated
Male	3748	174	1032	1243	1056	219	24	0	0
Female	731	29	172	232	223	65	8	1	1
Total	4479	203	1204	1475	1279	284	32	1	1

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus, Statistics of Education 2001 (2003).

Table 6: Number of participants in upper secondary IVET by age and gender 2002/2003 (does not include evening technical schools)

	Total	<14	15	16	17	18	19	>20	Not stated
Male	3506	177	974	1197	927	197	30	2	2
Female	738	26	176	278	190	60	7	1	0
Total	4244	203	1150	1475	1117	257	37	3	2

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus, Statistics of Education 2003 (2004).

Table 7: Number of pupils in technical schools by type of school, class, branch of study, 2002/2003

Direction, type of school and branch of study	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total
Theoretical Direction					
Public					
Mechanical Engineering (General)	73	18	14	0	105
Automobile Engineering	0	49	49	0	98
Electrical Appliances, Automation and Control Systems	23	38	50	0	111
Electrical Installations	0	7	50	0	57
Computer Engineering	0	105	89	0	194
Electronics	156	0	14	0	170
Electronic Communication	0	20	0	0	20
Civil Eng./Architecture	33	15	0	0	48
Construction Works	15	14	33	0	62
Graphic Arts	15	18	63	0	96
Applied Arts	10	14	0	0	24
Fashion Design	0	0	13	0	13
Dressmaking	17	16	0	0	33
Total	342	314	375	0	1 031
Practical Direction*					
Public					
Mechanical Engineering	107	0	0	0	107
Engineering	38	0	0	0	38
Automobile Engineering	10	121	132	8	271
Electronics	265	34	0	0	299
Electrical Installations	62	99	107	0	268
Domestic Appliances, Refrigeration and Air conditioning	0	132	142	0	274
Electronic Communication	0	42	0	0	42
Car Electrics and Electronics	0	21	0	0	21
Motorcycle and Boat Engines	0	20	0	0	20
Elect.Machines, Automation and Control Systems	0	35	0	0	35
Civil Eng./Architecture	10	0	0	0	10
Draughtsmen	32	24	41	0	97
Builders	25	23	27	4	79
Mechanics-Fitters	159	0	32	0	191
Metal Welders	0	15	37	0	52
Plumbing, Heating and	0	26	47	0	73

Direction, type of school and branch of study	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total
Cooling Systems					
Electromechanical Hotel Equipment	0	42	25	0	67
Cabinet Makers/Carpenters	31	33	31	0	95
Hotel/Catering	300	211	7	0	518
Cooks and Waiters	0	78	279	0	357
Secretarial Studies	12	21	0	0	33
Services	25	15	0	0	40
Silversmithing	0	0	24	0	24
Applied Arts	122	90	0	0	212
Dressmaking	8	20	8	0	36
Fashion Design	0	8	11	0	19
Garments	14	0	0	0	14
Chemical Lab Technicians	0	6	0	0	6
Private					
Hotel/Catering	7	8	10	0	25
Secretaries/Accountants	2	4	3	0	9
Total	1 229	1 128	963	12	3 332

* Includes the Evening Technical Schools, shown as Class 4. Classes 1, 2, 3 refer to years 1,2,3

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus, Statistics of Education 2003 (2004).

040301 – ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Access requirements to enter Upper Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (school based and alternance IVET at upper secondary level), which is offered by mainstream Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) and the Evening Technical School (Esperini Techniki Scholi), are defined by the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP). The minimum access requirement for enrolling in Technical Schools is the successful completion of Lower Secondary Education (grade 9). Enrolment is without examinations.

Certain branches of study are not available in some Technical Schools, however the great majority of branches is available in each district of the government-controlled area of Cyprus (see Table 2, Branches offered at each Technical School, field 0403).

04030101 – PROMOTING PARTICIPATION

In order to promote participation in Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE), an Evening Technical School (Esperini Techniki Scholi) operating

on the premises of the A' Technical School in Nicosia was established in 1999. The study programmes offered at the Evening Technical School are equivalent to the STVE programmes that are offered in the morning. The curricula in each branch and specialisation are the same as the curricula in the respective branch/specialisation offered at the Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) that operate in the morning, adapted however to the particular characteristics and needs of the pupils who attend evening classes. The duration of studies varies from one to four years, depending on the educational level of those interested in attending the Evening Technical School. Attendance is free and leads to the acquisition of a Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio), which is equivalent to that awarded by Public Technical Schools and other Public Schools of Secondary General Education. This means that the Leaving Certificate which is awarded by the Evening Technical School entitles graduates either to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education or enter the labour market as technicians and skilled workers.

Another measure taken in order to render STVE more attractive to pupils and therefore promote participation has been the introduction of new specialisations, which is one of the major innovations included in the recent revision of the STVE curricula.

Some of the new specialisations that have been introduced are:

- Car Electrics and Electronics.
- Motor Cycle and Boat Engines.
- Electrical Appliances, Automation and Control Systems.
- Electronic Communication.
- Architecture.
- Furniture Design and Production.
- Bank and Accounting Clerks.
- Secretarial Studies.

Finally, foreign pupils who have difficulty in following the STVE programmes due to language problems may attend classes offered at Technical Schools as mere observers if they wish and be entitled to enrol in the next class as regular pupils, provided that they succeed in the special entrance exams.

040302 – CURRICULA

Curriculum development is a collective effort involving qualified Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE) staff, experts from other training institutions, STVE Advisory Committee members, trade union and industry

representatives. The STVE curriculum is subject to approval by the Council of Ministers (Ypourgiko Symvoulío) before being implemented.

Specifically, the Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, (Diefthinsi Defterovathmias Technikis kai Epangelmatikis Ekpaidefsis) in order to be able to re-examine and adapt the content of its curricula according to the developmental needs of the Cyprus economy and industry, and taking into account the latest scientific and technological advances, developed close cooperation with the following agencies:

- The Advisory Committee for STVE.
- The Branches and Specialisations Advisory Committees for STVE.
- The organised agencies of employers and manufacturers (Employers' Organisations).
- The organised agencies of employees (Employees' Organisations).
- The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD).

Cooperation between the Directorate of STVE and the agencies mentioned above has been developed in the following areas:

- The introduction of revised curricula.
- The introduction of new branches and specialisations.
- The levels and content of the curricula.
- The employment prospects and career opportunities of the Technical School (Technikes Scholes, TS) graduates.
- The practical training of final-year pupils of the Practical Direction.

The Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) put forward a reform proposal for STVE, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in August 2000 and was implemented in September 2001.

The reform of STVE focuses on the revised curriculum, which provides pupils with the knowledge and skills required in order to:

- Enter the labour market and society smoothly.
- Compete successfully for a place in Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, in Cyprus or abroad.
- Participate in lifelong education and training and learn how to adapt in an ever-changing world.

The revised curricula include a considerable number of innovations, which enable students to make effective and mature decisions concerning the kind of knowledge and skills they would like to acquire. Some of the most significant innovations are the following:

- A common first year of study for the branch in each direction.
- The introduction of the selection of subjects offered in the branch of the pupils' choice in the second and third year of their studies.
- The implementation of modern teaching methods.
- The upgrading of general education.
- The introduction of horizontal and vertical movement across the upper secondary education system.
- The introduction of new branches and specialisations.
- The introduction of elective subjects of special interest.

04030201 – CONTENT AND DELIVERY

Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE), taking into account the dynamics and growth rate of the Cyprus economy, offers a wide range of specialisations in various sectors of economic activity.

The various branches and specialisations are offered in two directions, the Theoretical Direction (Theoritiki Katefthinsi) and the Practical Direction (Praktiki Katefthinsi). The curricula offer balanced programmes of general education, technological education and workshop practice and aim to prepare graduates:

- To be employed in industry, or
- To continue their academic studies in the Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education in Cyprus or abroad.

The Theoretical Direction is completely school-based and combines general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects.

The first and second year of the Practical Direction are also completely school-based and combine general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects, while the third year of studies in the Practical Direction combines a school-based environment with a real workplace as final-year pupils are placed in industry for one day per week, (seven teaching periods per week) where they follow a practical training programme. The programmes of practical training in industry aim to provide final-year pupils of the Practical Direction with specialised knowledge and skills, under actual working conditions and in accordance with authorised curricula. The programmes contribute to:

- The improvement of the pupils' vocational training, aiming at their smooth transition from school to the labour market.
- The consolidation and implementation of the skills and competencies provided to pupils at Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS).
- The development of the professional ethics, attitudes and values that are required for the graduates' entry into the labour market and integration into society.
- The development of closer ties between the system of formal education and the system of industrial training.

The programmes provided include a variety of branches in both the Theoretical and Practical Directions. Examples of branches provided include mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, building and civil engineering, hotel and catering, fashion design, graphic arts and interior design and other branches. The great majority of programme branches are offered in both the Theoretical and Practical Directions. Please see Table 1 in field 0403.

The allocation of teaching time to various subjects aims to enable STVE pupils to acquire solid and adaptable knowledge, as well as learning skills and the competencies that will help them adjust to dynamic and unpredictable situations. In addition, it aims to help pupils acquire competence in searching for, assessing, selecting and employing essential information.

The Theoretical Direction offers courses in a variety of specialisations with emphasis on general subjects and science, which take up 58% of the total programme. The rest of the time (42%) is allocated to technology and workshops. Specifically the 35 teaching periods per week are allocated as follows: 30% is devoted to general subject including religious education, modern Greek, languages, history and physical education, 28% is devoted to related subjects which include mathematics, physics, chemistry and computers, 22% is devoted to technology and drawing and 20% of teaching time is devoted to practical work in workshops and laboratories.

In the Practical Direction courses, special emphasis is given to technology and workshop skills at a 57.5% time allocation. The remaining 42.5% is devoted to general education subjects. Following a supervised practical training programme, final-year pupils of the Practical Direction are placed in approved enterprises for one day a week throughout their final year. Instructors who maintain continuous contact with the employers closely monitor their progress and performance.

The 35 teaching periods every week for the first two years of study are allocated as follows: 25% for general subjects, 17.5% for related

subjects, 20% for technology and drawing and 37.5% for practical work in workshops. During the 3rd and final year of the Practical Direction pupils attend school for only four days per week while they spend the remaining day in industry. As a result teaching time in all subjects is reduced proportionally so that the distribution becomes 15% for the general subjects, 10.5% for related subjects, 12% for technology and drawing, 22.5% for workshop practice (in school) and 40% for industrial experience.

The subjects that are included in the revised curricula can be classified into the following seven categories:

- Common Core Subjects.
- Related Subjects.
- Elective Subjects.
- Technological and Workshop Practice Subjects for the Branch.
- Technological and Workshop Practice Subjects for the Specialisation.
- Elective Subjects of Special Interest.
- Industrial Placement.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

The STVE curricula offer pupils the opportunity to select subjects that interest them and aim at enhancing their general, cultural, social, environmental, scientific and technical/ vocational education. The four teaching periods per week that are allocated to Elective Subjects are added to the periods allocated to related subjects and a uniform analytical programme is drawn up.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

In the second year of their studies, pupils can select one Subject of Special Interest, i.e. a subject that is not included in the standard curriculum and whose duration is one period per week. Elective Subjects of Special Interest give pupils the opportunity to enrich their knowledge and satisfy their individual inclinations and talents.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This subject aims to introduce pupils to the use of computers, in order to be able to use them as tools and also as a means of learning. In particular, it aims to familiarise pupils with computers to the point that they can employ them effectively in their everyday life. As a result, pupils will be adequately equipped to enter a society that is increasingly affected by the advanced technology of computers and information science.

The seven categories of subjects and the teaching time allocated to each category are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Categories of subjects and their teaching time by direction

CATEGORIES OF SUBJECTS	THEORETICAL DIRECTION ¹			PRACTICAL DIRECTION ¹		
	A ²	B ²	C ²	A ²	B ²	C ²
COMMON CORE SUBJECTS						
Religious Education	1	1	1	1	1	1
Modern Greek	4	4	4	4	4	4
History and Civics	1	1	1	1	1	1
Information Technology	2	-	-	2	-	-
Physical Education	1	1	1	1	1	1
NUMBER OF PERIODS	9	7	7	9	7	7
RELATED SUBJECTS						
Mathematics	4	4	4	2	2	2
Physics	3	4	4	2	2	2
Chemistry	1	1	1	1	1	1
English	3	2	2	3	2	2
NUMBER OF PERIODS	11	11	11	8	7	7
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS	-	4	4	-	4	4
TECHNOLOGICAL AND WORKSHOP PRACTICE SUBJECTS FOR THE BRANCH	15	-	-	18	-	-
TECHNOLOGICAL AND WORKSHOP PRACTICE SUBJECTS FOR THE SPECIALISATION	-	12	13	-	16	10
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST	-	1	-	-	1	-
Visual Arts						
Music						
Drama						
Astronomy						
European Culture						
Use of the Library						

CATEGORIES OF SUBJECTS	THEORETICAL DIRECTION ¹			PRACTICAL DIRECTION ¹		
	A ²	B ²	C ²	A ²	B ²	C ²
Sports						
Dancing						
INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT	-	-	-	-	-	7
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERIODS	35	35	35	35	35	35

¹ The Theoretical Direction is completely school-based and combines general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects. The first and second year of the Practical Direction are completely school-based and combine general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects. The third year of studies in the Practical Direction combines a school-based environment with a real workplace and final-year pupils are placed in industry for one day per week, where they follow a practical training programme.

² A, B, C refer to Years 1,2 and 3 of the studies.

The underlying philosophy of STVE programmes emphasises the degree of independence and complementarity of “theory” and “practice”, aimed at facilitating the attainment of programme goals. With regard to practical skills and instruction on relevant technological issues, the programmes are conducted in adequately equipped workshops, laboratories and technology classrooms. General knowledge subjects are offered in a conventional classroom setting. Plans are under way to improve Technical School premises in order to ensure a more effective and enjoyable learning experience.

Pupils are also given the opportunity to acquire methodological skills, and learn how to analyse and solve problems. Moreover, they are provided with a productive environment that encourages them to develop such characteristics as the ability to co-operate with other people, their creativity and self-confidence, and the skills to help them deal successfully with the diverse roles they are expected to play in life.

Modern teaching methods are being introduced including teamwork and creative learning techniques. Pupils are encouraged to take initiative in guiding their learning, while teachers act as facilitators, demonstrating new skills to suit the mixed-ability classes they teach. Frequent visits to industrial establishments give pupils first-hand experience in current working practices.

04030202 – ASSESSMENT

The assessment procedures at Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) are similar to those of the General Secondary Education. Constant assessment of the progress of pupils, in the form of tests, quizzes, workshop and laboratory work, written assignments, projects and class participation, is carried out by educators throughout the entire school year. The final examinations that pupils take after the completion of the first and second year of their studies are organised by each School, whereas the unified school-leaving final examinations, taken by third-year pupils, are organised centrally on a national basis by the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) and lead to the acquisition of a Leaving Certificate (Apolyterio), which is equivalent to that awarded by General Secondary Education Schools, i.e. unified lyceum (Eniaio Lykeio). The subjects in which pupils of the technical and vocational programmes of the technical schools take written exams at the end of the year are: modern Greek, mathematics, physics, technical drawing and specialised classes in technology.

The grading scale according to which pupils are assessed is the following:

- Failure : 1–9.
- Almost Good: 10–12.
- Good: 13–15.
- Very Good: 16–18.
- Excellent: 19–20.

A pupil is promoted to the next class if he/ she gets at least 10 in all subjects. A pupil is also promoted if he/ she fails in a subject that is not examined at the end of the school year but his/ her average grade for all the examined subjects, as well as for the subject he/ she has failed in, is at least 10 (almost good).

A pupil is not promoted to the next class if he/ she has failed in three or more subjects that are examined at the end of the school year, or if he/ she has failed in two subjects that are examined and two or more subjects that are not examined. In addition, a pupil is not promoted if he/ she has been excessively absent from school (60 teaching periods of unjustifiable absences or a total of 225 teaching periods of absences).

A pupil is considered to have satisfied the requirements of Technical Schools and obtains the Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio) if his/ her grade in all subjects is at least 10. A pupil is also awarded a Leaving Certificate if he/ she fails in a subject that is not examined at the end of the school year but his/ her average grade for all the examined subjects, as well as

for the subject he/ she has failed in, is at least 10 (almost good). In addition to the above, a pupil can obtain his/ her Leaving Certificate, if he/ she fails in a subject that is examined at the end of the year with a grade of not less than 8, but the average grade for all the examined subjects at the end of the school year (including the subject he/ she has failed in) is at least 12.

A pupil who does not obtain his/ her Leaving Certificate at the end of the school year in June has the right to take the school leaving examinations in the testing periods of September, June or February for the next three years following his/ her failure.

04030203 – QUALITY ASSURANCE

The respective Inspector of each branch is responsible for the correct implementation of the IVET curricula, therefore each Inspector supervises the work of educators and ensures that the teaching material is adequately covered, through the use of effective teaching methods.

Furthermore, constant assessment of the progress of learners, in the form of tests and quizzes carried out throughout the entire school year, as well as final examinations organised by each School and the unified school-leaving final examinations taken by third-year pupils organised centrally by the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP), are instrumental in order for Inspectors to evaluate the outcome of the educators' work.

In addition, Inspectors of each branch are responsible for making sure that the infrastructure of Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) is made use of in the best possible and most effective way. It is also their responsibility to encourage and guide educators to take the necessary measures where it is estimated that there is room for improvement and help them remove any obstacles to the proper functioning of the programmes.

In the context of the practical training of final-year pupils of the Practical Direction (Praktiki Katefthisi) in industry, their employers are given a specific programme of practical training, which they are bound to implement. The instructor of each IVET Specialisation assumes the role of the Inspector, making sure that the practical training programme is implemented correctly and that pupils progress and benefit by it as much as possible.

Finally, major inspections of the operation of Technical Schools are carried out every two years. These inspections are conducted by various groups of Inspectors of the Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (Diefthisi Defterovathmias Technikis kai Epangelmatikis Ekpaidefsis), in order to ensure that each Technical School has developed

those mechanisms that promote the in-service training of educators and instructors, secure the effective solution of any problems that may arise, improve the school units' learning culture and safeguard the smooth operation of each Technical School.

040303 – LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing the Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE) study programmes successfully, graduates of Technical Schools (Theoretical or Practical Direction) are awarded a Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio), which is equivalent to that obtained from Public Schools of Secondary General Education. This Leaving Certificate entitles graduates either to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, or enter directly the labour market as technicians and skilled workers.

04030301 – QUALIFICATIONS/CERTIFICATION

Upon completing the Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, STVE (Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi, DTEE) study programmes successfully, graduates of Technical Schools (Technical or Practical Direction) are awarded a Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio), which is equivalent to that obtained from Public Schools of Secondary General Education. This Leaving Certificate entitles graduates either to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, or enter directly the labour market as technicians and skilled workers.

The Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio) awarded by Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) equips graduates with one type of qualification only (one occupational field). Graduates who wish to obtain a certificate in a specialisation other than their original one, can do so in the context of Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET), through attending programmes offered by the Evening Technical School (Esperini Techniki Scholi) in Nicosia or the three-year programmes offered by the Afternoon and Evening Classes of Technical Schools (Ekpaideftika Programmata Apogevmatinon kai Vradinon Tmimatou Technikis Ekpaidefsis) in all major towns of Cyprus.

A pupil is considered to have satisfied the requirements of Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes) and obtains the Leaving Certificate (Apolytirio) if his/ her grade in all subjects is at least 10. A pupil is also awarded a Leaving Certificate if he/ she fails in a subject that is not examined at the end of the school year but his/ her average grade for all the examined subjects, as well as for the subject he/ she has failed in, is at least 10 (almost good). In addition to the above, a pupil can obtain his/ her Leaving Certificate if he/ she fails in a subject that is examined at the end of the year with a grade of not less than 8, but the average grade for

all the examined subjects at the end of the school year (including the subject he/ she has failed in) is at least 12.

A pupil is not awarded a Leaving Certificate if he/ she has been excessively absent from school (60 teaching periods of unjustifiable absences or a total of 225 teaching periods of absences).

A pupil who does not obtain his/ her Leaving Certificate at the end of the school year in June has the right to take the school leaving examinations in the testing periods of September, June or February for the next three years following his/ her failure.

04030302 – PROGRESSION AND TRANSITION (INCL. STATISTICS)

Qualifications provide access to regulated occupations. Each employer decides about the competence of his/ her future employee since there is not an official skill accreditation body.

The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) organises programmes, which aim to train new entrants to the labour market, unemployed school-leavers and persons who wish or have to move into new occupations through retraining.

Moreover, drop-outs can enrol in the Apprenticeship System (Systema Mathiteias, SM) which is a two-year initial vocational education and training programme addressing pupils who do not wish to continue their studies within the formal upper secondary education system. Pupils must be at least fourteen to be accepted in the Apprenticeship System and must not be over eighteen at the time of graduation.

In addition to the above, in the context of the Leonardo da Vinci programme entitled "Drop-outs Back on the Track", the Cyprus Youth Organisation has established a service aiming at informing drop-outs about the opportunities provided to them for resuming their education in the context of the formal education system and also about training programmes that will prepare them to enter the labour market.

Nearly 64% of the total secondary school leavers continue their studies beyond the secondary level. About 41% pursue their studies at higher educational institutions abroad and the other 23% attend higher educational institutions in Cyprus.

About 53% of the graduates of the Theoretical Direction (Theoritiki Katefthinsi) pursue successfully studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, either in Cyprus or abroad. The vast majority of the graduates of the Practical Direction (Praktiki Katefthinsi) enter the labour market. About 15% of the graduates of the Practical Direction pursue

successfully studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education, either in Cyprus or abroad.

0404 – APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (INCL. STATISTICS)

The Apprenticeship System (Systema Mathiteias, SM) is a two-year initial vocational education and training programme providing practical and theoretical training to young people who do not wish to continue their studies within the formal upper secondary education system when they finish the third year of gymnasium but wish to be trained and employed in technical occupations. Pupils who have finished the second year of gymnasium are also accepted to enrol in the Apprenticeship System. Pupils must be at least fourteen to be accepted in the Apprenticeship System and must not be over eighteen at the time of graduation. The Apprenticeship System is not compulsory and attendance is free of charge.

The Apprenticeship System study programmes provide practical and theoretical training alternately. Practical training takes place in industry, where apprentices are remunerated for their work, for three days per week. Theoretical training is provided at Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) for two days per week. The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) subsidises employers for wages paid to apprentices during the two days per week when they attend classes at Technical Schools.

The Apprenticeship System has been in operation since 1963. The Apprenticeship Law of 1966 is the basic law that governs the operation of the Apprenticeship System.

Responsibility is shared between the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA) and the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP), while the HRDA compensates employers for wages paid to apprentices while attending classes at Technical Schools. The MoEC is responsible for the vocational education and training of the apprentices and the MLSI is responsible for the administration of the Apprenticeship System.

The main objectives of the Apprenticeship System are:

- To offer training to young people working in industry.
- To increase the number of trained technicians in those occupations where there are shortages.
- To increase the number of semi-skilled workers in industry.

- To raise the technical level of young workers in industry, according to modern ideas of production.

According to the Apprenticeship Law of 1966, the Apprenticeship Board is responsible for supervising the operation of the System. The Apprenticeship Board has tripartite character with representation of the government, technical schools, employers and employee organisations, the Cyprus Productivity Centre, CPC (Kentro Paragogikotitas, KEPA) and the HRDA. The members of the Board are appointed by the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance for a 2-year period. The composition and work of the Board ensure the effective and coordinated effort of all interested parties in providing industrial training always to the interest of apprentices, the industry and the country in general. This Board examines issues that arise concerning the System and consults the MLSI.

At present, the following trades are operating under the Apprenticeship System:

- Welders/plumbers.
- Auto mechanics.
- Auto electricians.
- Furniture makers.
- Electricians.
- Builders.
- Welders.

The Apprenticeship System has basically remained unchanged since 1963. However, it has recently been reviewed (June 2001) and the relevant recommendations are being under consideration by a ministerial committee (Ministers of Finance - Ypourgos Oikonomikon, Labour and Social Insurance - Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon and Education and Culture - Paideias kai Politismou) before submitting a final proposal to the Council of Ministers (Ypourgiko Symvoulío). Major weaknesses are the steady reduction in the number of trainees, the low completion rates of about 60%, the limited number of occupations in the traditional mechanical, auto, electrical and construction trades and the lack of interest of teachers/instructors as well as employers. The Apprenticeship System is associated with low educational attainment and with failure at school. In addition, a very low percentage of girls participate in the system (while girls constitute 32% of dropouts, less than 1% registers with the system).

The reform of the Apprenticeship System is considered as a priority of the Strategic Development Plan as well as the National Action Plan for Employment and it is envisaged that a decision for the establishment of

an upgraded scheme will soon be a reality. It is expected that the modernised Apprenticeship System will establish itself as a new work based training option, offer an alternative to school based training, operate as a safety net and as a second opportunity for school dropouts and will hopefully attract substantial numbers of females.

The MoEC, taking into account the results of studies conducted about the Apprenticeship System, as well as the views and suggestions of the representatives of the MLSI, the Planning Bureau, PB (Γραφείο Προγραμματισμού, GP), the organised agencies of employers and manufacturers and the organised agencies of employees, recommends the following:

- The introduction of a preparatory year, aiming at the provision of a broad educational basis, which will enable apprentices to become active citizens and which will help them adapt easily to the needs of the labour market.
- The restructuring of the curricula, in order to become flexible and easily adaptable to the needs of the apprentices and the industry, aiming at the acquisition of skills required for technical and non-technical professions, for which there is a shortage of workforce in the labour market.
- The introduction of new branches and specialisations that will take into consideration the dynamics and rapid development of the economy of Cyprus.
- The operation of autonomous Apprenticeship Schools, whose aim will be to increase the capacity in order to cater for the young people’s increased desire to attend the Apprenticeship System Study Programmes.

Table 1: Gross Participation Rates in the Apprenticeship System

School year	Gross Participation rates considering population aged 16-19	Gross Participation rates considering population aged 15-17 (most relevant age group)
1990/91	2.3%	3.2%
1995/96	1.8%	2.3%
2000/01	1.4%	1.8%
2002/03	1.2%	1.6%

⁽¹⁾ Gross Participation Rates: Total number of apprentices in the programmes irrespective of age are divided by the population in the age group of interest.

Table 2: Number of participants in the Apprenticeship System by gender (Data not available by age)

School year	Apprenticeship System		
	Male	Female	Total
1990/91	720	92	812
1995/96	651	44	695
2000/01	622	0	622
2002/03	533	5	538

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

040401 – ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Pupils who are fourteen years old or over and have finished the second year of Gymnasium (Gymnasio), are accepted to enrol in the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM). Apprentices however must not be over eighteen at the time of graduation.

Participants are free to choose their specialisation from those offered. The specialisations are determined every year according to the needs of the industry and the availability of workshops, equipment and teaching staff in the Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS). Certain specialisations, due to the above reason, are only available in specific areas.

04040101 – APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS

Apprentices submit their application forms to Technical and Vocational Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) or to the District Labour Offices, DLO (Eparchiaka Grafeia Ergasias, EGE). The competent officers employed at the District Labour Offices and the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM) inspectors are responsible for the industrial placement of apprentices.

According to the Apprenticeship Law of 1966, an apprenticeship contract is signed between the employer, the apprentice and his/her parent/guardian where the employer is committed to provide practical experience and allow the apprentice to attend theoretical classes and workshops for two days a week at the premises of technical schools. The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) subsidises employers for wages paid to apprentices during the two days per week when they attend classes at Technical Schools.

The apprenticeship contract also includes some standard elements e.g. wages, the apprentices' maximum working hours, weekly rest time. The

apprenticeship contracts do not vary according to the sector of training, but the same apprenticeship contract is being used for all sectors.

The enterprises which provide apprenticeship must be within the same economic sectors as those of the specifications offered. They must also have adequate facilities to provide on the job training and competent supervisors or foremen (instructors), for the implementation of the approved curricula.

04040102 – PROMOTING PARTICIPATION

The Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM) is a two-year initial vocational education and training programme, which is mainly directed to those pupils who do not wish to continue their studies within the formal upper secondary education system when they finish the third year of gymnasium.

In order to promote participation in the System, pupils who have finished the second year of gymnasium and have dropped out of school are also accepted to enrol in the Apprenticeship System programmes. However, pupils must be at least fourteen to be accepted in the Apprenticeship System and must not be over eighteen at the time of graduation.

Other measures to promote participation in the System include publications in the newspapers and magazines, circulation of information leaflets, provision of relevant information in schools (addressed both to teachers and pupils), provision of relevant information to parents, organisations and government departments.

At present there aren't any mechanisms in place to overcome obstacles to access. However, there are mechanisms within the Apprenticeship System in order to respond to individual participants' needs, such as the appointment of instructors and assistance to apprentices to find employment.

Inspectors are appointed every year by the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance (Ypourgos Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon). The inspectors appointed are teachers in the Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) and they are obliged to visit regularly the trainees at their place of work. Apprentices can apply to inspectors in order to discuss and solve all the problems that might arise from their education in the schools or their training in the workplaces.

Special efforts are made in order to assist the apprentices to find employment (where to be trained in parallel). These efforts are made both by the inspectors and the Department of Labour (a Labour Officer, in each District Labour Office, is responsible for this).

In addition to the above, the Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) subsidises employers for wages paid to apprentices during the two days per week when they attend classes at Technical Schools.

040402 – CURRICULA

The Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) is responsible for the vocational education and training of the apprentices at the Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA) is responsible for the administration of the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM).

According to the Apprenticeship Law of 1966, the Apprenticeship Board is responsible for supervising the operation of the Apprenticeship System. This Board has tripartite character with representation of the government, technical schools, employers' and employees' organisations and the Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD). The members of the Board are appointed by the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance for a 2-year period. The composition and form of the Board ensure the effective and coordinated effort of all interested parties in providing industrial training always to the interest of apprentices, the industry and the country in general. The Apprenticeship Board, at its meetings, assesses the developments taking place in the Apprenticeship System during the previous school year, takes decisions concerning occupations for which training will be provided in the next school year, and also decides on other important issues closely related to the operation of the System.

The Joint Apprenticeship Committees (which are also regulated by the Apprenticeship Law of 1966) are responsible for the monitoring of the operation of the Apprenticeship System for each specialisation in each district. These committees also have tripartite character and their terms of reference are among others, to submit suggestions to the Apprenticeship Board concerning the problems arising from the operation of the System, for example the revision of curricula, the monitoring of the training of the apprentices and the information to the public of the aims and goals of the System. The members of the Committees are appointed for a 2-year period.

04040201 – CONTENT AND DELIVERY

At present, the following trades are operating under the Apprenticeship System:

- Welders/plumbers.
- Auto mechanics.
- Auto electricians.
- Furniture makers.
- Electricians.
- Builders.
- Welders.

The Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM) study programmes provide practical and theoretical training alternately. Practical training takes place in industry, where apprentices are remunerated for their work, for three days per week. Theoretical training, which combines general education subjects with technological and workshop subjects, is provided on the premises of Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) for two days per week.

During the two days spent at school apprentices take the following subjects for both years of their study: 1 period in Greek language, 2 periods in mathematics, 3 periods in technology, 2 periods in drawing and 5 periods in workshops/laboratory work. Practical training takes place within industry for three days a week.

The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) subsidises employers for wages paid to apprentices during the two days per week when they attend classes at Technical Schools, thus securing the support of enterprises in this part of the System.

04040202 - ASSESSMENT

Assessment in technical schools follows the rules of the education system with regular tests and final examinations. Please see data island 04030202 for the assessment procedure in technical schools.

In industry the apprentices are assessed by their supervisors and their grade appears on the certificate which is issued by the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA) for the apprentices who successfully complete the course. Assessment at Technical and Vocational Schools, as in Secondary General

Education, is continuous and consists of tests, workshop and laboratory work and final examinations. In 2003 there were 487 participants in the Apprenticeship System (Systema Mathiteias, SM).

04040203 – QUALITY ASSURANCE

THE APPRENTICESHIP BOARD

The Minister of Labour and Social Insurance (Ypourgos Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon) appoints the members of the Apprenticeship Board for a two-year term. The members of the Board coordinate and organise the procedure for the provision of industrial training to apprentices. The Board adjourns at least once a year in order to assess the operation of the System during the previous school year and determine which specialisations will be offered during the next school year.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM COMMITTEES

There are various Committees responsible for each specialisation that supervise the implementation of the Apprenticeship System (Systema Mathiteias, SM). The members of these Committees submit their suggestions about problems that may arise in relation to the revision of the curricula and the industrial placement of apprentices. The members of these Committees are appointed by the Apprenticeship Board for a two-year term.

APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM INSPECTORS

The Minister of Labour and Social Insurance appoints inspectors on an annual basis, one in each district and for each specialisation, in order to assure both the quality and the quantity of the apprentices' practical training in industry. Their main task is to follow up the progress made by the apprentices, and assist the instructors from the industry in the implementation of the approved curricula, which are prepared on the basis of industry requirements. These inspectors have the responsibility of taking suitable measures in order to secure the quality, the quantity and the right methodology in industrial training. The inspectors appointed are teachers in the Technical Schools (Technikes Scholes, TS) and they are obliged to visit regularly the trainees at their place of work. Apprentices can apply to inspectors in order to discuss and solve all the problems that might arise from their education in the schools or their training in the workplaces.

040403 – LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing the two-year programme offered in the context of the Apprenticeship System (Systema Mathiteias, SM) successfully, apprentices

are awarded a professional certificate. For more information please see 04040301.

04040301 – QUALIFICATIONS/CERTIFICATION

The professional certificate awarded to the apprentices who complete the two-year programme successfully equips graduates with one type of qualification only (one occupational field) and entitles them to enter the labour market as semi-skilled workers. This professional certificate is not equivalent to the Leaving Certificates (Apolytiria) awarded to graduates of upper secondary education schools (general or technical and vocational). Therefore, it does not entitle apprentices to pursue further studies at Institutions of Higher and Tertiary Education. However, it is recognised by the Government, industry and employers' organisations. This certificate is also recognised as being equal to the certificate issued by the Lower Technical Schools in Greece. In some cases, employers regard this certificate as the minimum qualification required.

An apprentice is considered to have satisfied the requirements of the Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM) and obtains the professional certificate if his/her grade in all subjects is at least 10. An apprentice is also awarded a professional certificate if he/she fails in a subject that is not examined at the end of the school year but his/her average grade for all the examined subjects, as well as for the subject he/she has failed in, is at least 10 (Almost Good). In addition to the above, an apprentice can obtain his/her professional certificate if he/she fails in a subject that is examined at the end of the year with a grade of not less than 8, but the average grade for all the examined subjects at the end of the school year (including the subject he/she has failed in) is at least 12.

An apprentice is not awarded a professional certificate if he/she has been excessively absent from school and industry (60 teaching periods of unjustifiable absences or a total of 225 teaching periods of absences).

An apprentice who does not obtain his/her professional certificate at the end of the school year in June has the right to take the final examinations in the testing periods of September, June or February for the next three years following his/her failure.

Graduates of the Apprenticeship System who wish to obtain a professional certificate in a specialisation other than their original one, can do so in the context of Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET), through attending the three-year programmes offered by the Afternoon and Evening Classes of Technical Schools (Ekpaideftika Programmata Apogevmatinon kai Vradinon Tmimatou Technikis Ekpaideftisis) in all major towns of Cyprus.

04040302 – PROGRESSION AND TRANSITION (INCL. STATISTICS)

The teaching time devoted to the industrial placement of apprentices facilitates their smooth entry to the labour market. The Apprenticeship Certificate allows access to a number of regulated occupations (e.g. building contractors, electricians), given that all the other provisions of the relevant legislation are being observed.

Participants who wish to enter the Labour Market may apply to the District Labour Offices, DLO (Eparchiaka Grafia Ergasias, EGE) and co-operate with the competent Officers in order to find suitable employment.

A significant proportion of the apprentices tend to stay with their employer, after completing their training.

There is no data available regarding the destinations of apprentices.

The Apprenticeship System (Systima Mathiteias, SM) is not compulsory and attendance is free of charge. However, there are no direct and visible academic progression routes from the System.

There are no mechanisms to help those who dropped out before completing an apprenticeship programme to be integrated into the labour market or to continue their education and training.

0405 – OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMMES AND ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

There is no initial vocational education and training provided in Cyprus under this category.

040501 – ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

040502 – CURRICULA

Not applicable.

040503 – LEARNING OUTCOMES

Not applicable.

0406 – VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT POST-SECONDARY (NON TERTIARY) LEVEL (INCL. STATISTICS)

There are five types of initial training schemes that are financed by the Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD), and mainly target upper secondary education graduates. These are the accelerated initial training scheme, the enterprise-based initial training scheme and the three new schemes approved to be co-financed by the European Social Fund, ESF (Evropaiko Koinoniko Tamio, EKT).

ACCELERATED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

The Accelerated Initial Training Scheme is a multi-company scheme organised and operated by the HRDA. It aims to train mainly new entrants into the labour market, unemployed secondary school-leavers, and persons who wish or have to move into new occupations through retraining. The aim of this scheme is to meet needs in occupations where there are significant labour shortages. Training programmes are organised in cooperation with the Cyprus Productivity Centre, CPC (Kentro Paragogikotitas, KEPA), the Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus, HHIC (Anotero Xenodocheiako Institouto Kyprou, AXIK) and other institutions.

The HRDA covers all costs for the institutional training. In addition, trainees receive a weekly allowance. Enterprises employing these trainees receive subsidies for the duration of the practical training depending on the size of the enterprise and the salary of trainees. In 2004, the HRDA subsidised the training of 158 persons in technical, hotel and other occupations, of which 126 were men and 32 were women.

Table 1: Number of participants in accelerated initial training programmes in 2004 by specialisation and sex*

Specialisation	Men	Women	Total
Cooks	14	10	24
Welders	24		24
Plumbers	32	1	33
Cabinet Makers/ Carpenters	11	1	12
Construction Masons	45		45
Office Support Staff		20	
Total	126	32	158

Source: Human Resource Development Authority

* There is no data available for the age of participants

ENTERPRISE-BASED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

The Enterprise-Based Initial Training Scheme consists of single-company training programmes subsidised by the HRDA. It aims at the design, organisation and implementation of training programmes by the enterprises themselves for meeting their own training needs at all staff levels. These programmes are mainly designed for meeting the needs for initial training of newly recruited employees. These training programmes can be conducted by trainers that are company employees or by other trainers from Cyprus or abroad. The subsidies granted by the HRDA are calculated according to the level and duration of the programme, as well as the place of origin of trainers (i.e. from Cyprus or abroad).

Table 2: Number of participants in Enterprise-Based Initial Training Scheme in 2004 by sex

Enterprise-based initial programmes	Men	Women	Total
7 programmes	6	8	14

Source: Human Resource Development Authority

* There is no data available for the age of participants

THREE NEW SCHEMES CO-FINANCED BY THE ESF

In the three-year period 2004-2006, the HRDA will develop and put in operation three new schemes, which will be co-financed by the ESF. Each one of these schemes aims to promote the training and employability of the unemployed, of new young secondary school-leavers, and of the economically inactive women.

The aim of these schemes is to effectively meet the training needs of the three selected target groups in order to improve their employability potential through the acquisition of specialised complementary skills and knowledge.

The targets set are for 2000 persons participating in these three schemes for the period 2004-2006 and their distribution by scheme, action and sex is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Targets for participation in the three new schemes for the period 2004- 2006 by sex

	Men	Women	Total
Number of unemployed participating in training programmes	200	300	500
Number of unemployed participating in work experience programmes	80	120	200
Number of new secondary education graduates participating in training programmes	150	200	350
Number of new secondary education graduates participating in work experience programmes	80	120	200
Number of economically inactive women participating in training programmes		600	600
Number of economically inactive women participating in work experience programmes		200	200

Source: Planning Bureau, "The Single Programming Document Complement for Objective 3 - Human Resources"

040601 – ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

ACCELERATED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD), prepares on an annual basis a study for the identification of initial training needs with the active involvement of the Social Partners. In the study, the views of Employers' Organisations (Ergodotikes Organoseis), Trade Unions (Syntechnies) and District Labour Offices, DLO (Eparchiaka Grafeia Ergasias, EGE) are collected and analysed through a specially designed questionnaire. The study provides annual estimates for the number of persons required for specific occupations by district. On the basis of these estimates suggestions are put forward for the implementation of specific programmes in the Accelerated Initial Training Scheme.

The types of programmes that are offered are published in a prospectus twice a year for the technical occupations and once a year for other occupations. The occupations, the training centres, the districts, the number of trainees and other relevant information about the programme are given together with application details and dates of selection interviews.

The number of programmes is limited due to limitations in the training facilities and the instructors. The number of places is also limited, for example certain programmes have 12 places available and others have 15.

Candidates must be at least 16 years of age. Candidates choose to apply to the specialisation they prefer. All candidates pass through a selection interview, which is carried out jointly by the HRDA and the relevant institution for each specialisation.

The access requirements or criteria for selecting trainees for these programmes are the following:

- Knowledge – It is preferable to have completed upper secondary education, although candidates with lower secondary education are not always excluded, especially if they attend Evening schools leading to upper secondary education.
- Abilities – Based on the requirements of each occupation, the physical and mental abilities of each candidate are evaluated.
- Social and Economic status – Candidates are given priority if they are unemployed, if they do not have anyone to support them financially, if they have to support a family, if they belong to a divorced family etc.
- Interest and level of commitment of the candidate - An important criterion is the interest of the candidate in the chosen specialisation.

Access to each programme is limited depending on the number of places available by district for each programme.

The most popular specialisation is the plumber (there are about four applications for each position available) and the second most popular specialisation is the construction mason.

In order to overcome obstacles to access due to distance, a traveling allowance is given to participants that live in another district or if the distance of the participant's permanent residence is more than 20 km from the town centre.

ENTERPRISE-BASED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

These programmes are mainly designed for meeting the needs for initial training of newly recruited employees who do not have any other previous experience on their job. Enterprises control the whole process as they decide on the trainee and the programme and then apply to the HRDA for

subsidisation. Therefore access to this type of programmes is provided only through this process.

THREE NEW SCHEMES CO-FINANCED BY THE ESF

The three new schemes to be co-financed by the European Social Fund, ESF (Evropaiko Koinoniko Tamio, EKT) involve the promotion of training and employability of the unemployed, of new young secondary school-leavers, and the economically inactive women.

1. Promotion of training and employability of the unemployed

This scheme concerns the development and utilisation of specific groups of unemployed people with emphasis on women, the young unemployed persons of 15-24 years of age with no qualifications and on groups that are in danger of social exclusion with regard to their access to the labour market.

2. Promotion of training and employability of new secondary school-leavers

This scheme concerns the new secondary school graduates with a priority given to general education graduates who are less than 25 years old and who have not gained work experience of more than 9 months after graduation.

3. Promotion of training and employability of the economically inactive women

This scheme concerns the improvement of the employability of women who remain economically inactive through actions of training and work experience.

As these three schemes are directed to the specific target groups described above, access to them will be limited to those groups with additional selection criteria as indicated.

The implementation of a personalised approach to the recipients of each target group is considered to be a crucial part for the successful and comprehensive implementation of these actions. The personalised approach, which will be provided through the Public Employment Services, PES (Dimosies Ypiresies Apascholis, DYA), includes the identification and recording of skills, talents and interests of the beneficiary persons, as well as the design of a personal action plan along with the continuous provision of information on the available opportunities for training and employment.

Finally, the geographical coverage of all the districts of Cyprus is considered to be essential with a priority given to the Objective 2 areas (West Rural Area, East Rural Area, Eligible Urban Areas of Nicosia).

The targets that were set for each scheme for the period 2004-2006 were mainly determined by budget constraints. This is envisaged to be the main limitation to access in these schemes.

040602 – CURRICULA

ACCELERATED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

From 2000 to 2004 training programmes have been organised for the following occupations: Construction Masons, Plumbers, Welders, Mechanics/Fitters, Cabinet Makers/Carpenters, Cooks, Waiters, Assistant Information Technology Technicians and Office Support Staff.

The duration of the institutional training programmes ranges from 12 to 26 weeks, depending on the requirements of each occupation. They include theoretical and workshop sessions at a training institution and practical training in an enterprise.

Table 1: Duration of Accelerated Initial Training programmes by specialisation

Specialisation	Duration of institutional training (weeks)	Duration of practical training (weeks)	Total Duration (weeks)
Cooks	13	8	21
Welders	16	8	24
Plumbers	16	8	24
Cabinet Makers/ Carpenters	16	8	24
Construction Masons	18	8	26
Office Support Staff	10	5	15

Source: Human Resource Development Authority

The theoretical training takes place at the Cyprus Productivity Centre, CPC (Kentro Paragogikotitas, KEPA) for technical occupations, the Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus, HHIC (Anotero Xenodocheiako Institutouto Kyprou, AXIK) for hotel related occupations and various other institutions for other specialisations. The dates and time of the programmes at the training centres are fixed and they usually last from Monday to Friday, 7:30 am - 1:30 pm.

The training institutions together with the Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) set and agree the curricula. The curricula include subjects relevant to each specialisation as well as subjects taught by external instructors such as industrial relations, basic computer knowledge, basic knowledge of first aid, health and safety in the workplace, site visits.

The objective is to achieve in an accelerated manner the development of abilities and knowledge that are required so that the young person becomes employable in that specialisation.

The participants must attend the training centre sessions: If they are absent for more than 15% of the time, they are not granted a certificate. In order to pass the examination the participants must be able to complete by themselves a given project of certain complexity.

During the institutional training, the instructors assess the participants and evaluate their performance, their interest in the programme and their performance in a team. The trainees who do not satisfy the minimum requirements are informed that they have to leave the programme.

As far as the practical training in the industry is concerned, the analytical programme set by the HRDA is followed. An employee of the enterprise is assigned as a training advisor (trainer) for the trainee. According to the analytical programme, the trainees are required to spend 50% of their working time for training purposes. The trainers are also required to spend 25% of their time for training and coaching of the trainee.

All the participants to the programme are required to keep a personal logbook that is provided by the HRDA. The supervisor of the trainee in the enterprise signs the logbook. The main instructor of the programme is responsible for the follow up of the training. The instructor pays 2 to 3 visits to establish that the logbook is properly kept and to check the implementation of the in-company part of the programme.

ENTERPRISE-BASED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

These programmes are tailor-made to meet the needs of the enterprise. The curricula, the duration and the level of the programme vary according to the trainee, the occupation and the needs of the enterprise. The duration of programmes however usually ranges between 4-12 weeks.

The programmes are submitted to the HRDA in advance for approval of subsidisation. This is the first quality assurance mechanism, since the programme has to meet certain quality characteristics in order to receive approval. The participants to the programme are required to keep their personal logbook that is provided by the HRDA, where all their achievements are written down. The trainers report to the HRDA on the

progress of the trainee. The HRDA officers perform site inspections at the enterprise to ensure the quality of the programme.

During the execution of the course the trainer assesses the trainee and at the end the trainer performs a final evaluation to ensure that the programme has achieved its targets.

THREE NEW SCHEMES CO-FINANCED BY THE ESF

These schemes include indicatively the following operations:

1. Organisation of vocational training programmes

The vocational programmes are grouped in two categories:

- The provision of core skills, on the basis of the results of the personalised guidance/ approach. Indicatively, the following subjects can be covered: communication and interpersonal relations, group work, development of negotiating techniques, problem solving, digital literacy and learning of languages.
- Participation in training activities for the acquisition of specialised vocational skills, taking into account the results of the personalised guidance/ approach and the projections provided by medium-term and short-term studies carried out by the HRDA.

The training activities for the acquisition of specialised vocational skills will be implemented via practical and theoretical training.

The duration of the programmes will vary depending on the specialisation, the level and the subject.

The implementation of this approach indicatively provides: the design of analytical thematic training programmes, the establishment of criteria for the selection of specialised vocational training centers and trainees and the evaluation of the training programmes.

The anticipated results are:

- The correspondence of the vocational training programmes to the real needs of the labour market.
- The familiarisation of the trainees in various specialisations of the labour market through the acquisition of practical experience within an enterprise.
- The development of personal skills and the adaptation of the vocational qualifications of the trainees to the developments and the needs of the labour market.

2. Programmes for the acquisition of work experience

The specific operation aims at the adaptation of knowledge and skills of the target groups to the needs of the labour market through the attainment of work experience. The persons of the target groups will have the opportunity to participate in programmes in order to gain work experience through their placement in enterprises.

Based on the capabilities, talents and interests of the persons concerned, these persons will be placed to suitable enterprises. Upon the placement of the individual, a training programme will be prepared for him/ her with the participation of both the individual and the company. Each programme will include practical training on the core operations of the company, on professional behaviour and communication at the work place, on utilisation of information and communication technologies, on safety and health at work etc.

The procedure that is provided for the implementation of this operation includes the establishment of criteria for the participation of companies, the submission of expression of interest in order to establish a relevant registry of suitable companies which will accept the placement of trainees, the corresponding call for the submission of applications by interested persons (whether they have or have not benefited from the other actions of the measure).

During the whole period of the placement/ training of the person, monitoring and guidance will be carried out in relation to the progress of implementation of his/ her training programme. The duration of the placement/ training will be of about 3 months, according to the complexity of activities of the company in which he/ she will be placed.

040603 – LEARNING OUTCOMES

ACCELERATED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

After the completion of the practical training at the industry, the employer and the instructor assess the participants and the assessment form of the participant is given to the Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) together with the training logbook.

The participants who successfully complete the programme are granted a Training Certificate, which specifies the subject of specialisation, the duration and the content of the training and it certifies that the person who possesses the certificate has successfully completed the requirements of the training.

In order to be granted a certificate, the person has to:

- Complete the institutional part with acceptable absences.
- Complete a minimum of 40 days of full employment in a company approved for practical training.
- Cover the syllabus for practical training in the company.
- Be evaluated by the employer at the end of the enterprise training with an acceptable range of evaluation grades.

In the event that the certificate is for some reason misplaced, the trainee can apply for a written certification of his/her attendance. Certificates are only issued once. A ceremony is held once a year during which an official from the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA) awards the certificates to successful trainees.

In the event that the participant does not successfully complete the whole programme, a Certificate of Attendance is granted, provided that the person has attended at least 70% of the total duration of the programme.

After the completion of the programme, the trainee may continue to work in the company or find employment elsewhere.

ENTERPRISE-BASED INITIAL TRAINING SCHEME

These programmes do not provide a certificate or a recognised qualification since the knowledge received is specific to the requirements of the trainee, the occupation and the needs of the enterprise concerned.

THREE NEW SCHEMES CO-FINANCED BY THE ESF

The participants who successfully complete the training programmes will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

0407 – VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT TERTIARY LEVEL (INCL. STATISTICS)

Public general tertiary education is provided at the University of Cyprus (Panepistimio Kyprou, PK) and two more state universities have recently been created, namely the Technological University of Cyprus (Technologiko Panepistimio Kyprou, TEPAK) and the Open University of Cyprus (Anikto Panepistimio Kyprou, APKy), but none has started to operate yet. In addition to the public provision of tertiary education, there are several private institutions. Vocational Education and Training, VET (Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi kai Katartisi) at tertiary level is provided at a

number of institutes/colleges, which come under the jurisdiction of various ministries.

All public education in Cyprus is free of charge, including studying at the University of Cyprus and public institutes/colleges. Education in accredited private institutions is subsidised in the form of a grant, as is tertiary education abroad.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

There are seven public tertiary level education institutions offering programmes in Engineering, Forestry, Hotel and Catering, Nursing and other vocations. The length of study in these institutions is usually three years. These institutions by ministry are the following:

- Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance:
 - Higher Technical Institute.
 - Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment:
 - Cyprus Forestry College.
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism:
 - Tourist Guides School.
- Ministry of Justice and Public Order:
 - Police Academy.
- Ministry of Health:
 - Nursing School.
 - School of Health Inspectors.

The main aim of these institutions is to provide tertiary education and produce high-calibre professionals in each field. The objective is to provide education and training according to the needs of the Cyprus labour market.

The student tuition fees range from CPE 1 000 (€1.740) to CPE 2 500 (€ 4.350) per year. Cypriot students receive a government grant for their tuition and therefore pay no fees. Foreign students pay tuition fees.

The academic year in most public higher education institutions starts in September of each year and ends in July of the following year.

Table 1: Number of students by field of studies and gender, 2002/2003

Field of study	Male	Female	Total
Business and administration	9	19	28
Computing	65	23	88
Engineering and engineering trades	262	9	271
Architecture and building	64	21	85
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	23	0	23
Health	194	457	651
Social services	12	13	25
Personal services	80	114	194
Security services	572	133	705
TOTAL	1 281	789	2 070

Source: Education Statistics, Statistical Service of Cyprus

Table 2: Proportion of the young people in VET

	Gross participation rates considering population aged 19-25⁽¹⁾	Gross participation rates considering population aged 18-25⁽²⁾ (most relevant age group)
1990/91	1.5%	2.7%
1995/96	2.8%	2.4%
2000/01	2.0%	1.7%
2002/03	2.7%	2.3%

⁽¹⁾ Total number of pupils in VET at tertiary level irrespective of age is divided by the population in the age group 19-25

⁽²⁾ Total number of pupils in VET at tertiary level irrespective of age is divided by the population in the age group 18-25

Source: Education Statistics, Statistical Service of Cyprus

Table 3: Number of participants in VET at tertiary level by school and gender, year 1990/91

Institution	Male	Female	Total
Pedagogical Academy*	166	552	718
Higher Technical Institute	566	104	670
Nursing School	83	294	377
Hotel and Catering Institute	119	39	158
Forestry College	29	0	29
Total	963	989	1 952

* Since the establishment of the University of Cyprus in 1992 the Pedagogical Academy has been incorporated into the University.

Source: Education Statistics, Statistical Service of Cyprus

Table 4: Number of participants in VET at tertiary level by school and gender, year 1995/96

Institution	Male	Female	Total
Higher Technical Institute	549	111	660
Nursing School	263	745	1 008
Higher Hotel Institute	42	68	110
Forestry College	49	0	49
Total	903	924	1 827

Source: Education Statistics, Statistical Service of Cyprus

Table 5: Number of participants in VET at tertiary level by school and gender, year 2000/01

Institution	Male	Female	Total
Cyprus Police Academy	225	62	287
Higher Technical Institute	411	68	479
Nursing School	147	361	508
Higher Hotel Institute	67	102	169
Forestry College	13	0	13
Total	863	593	1 456

Source: Education Statistics, Statistical Service of Cyprus

Table 6: Number of participants in VET at tertiary level by school and gender, year 2002/03

Institution	Male	Female	Total
Cyprus Police Academy	572	133	705
Higher Technical Institute	391	53	444
Nursing School	215	489	704
Higher Hotel Institute	80	114	194
Forestry College	23	0	23
Total	1 281	789	2 070

Source: Education Statistics, Statistical Service of Cyprus

Table 7: Number of full time students in VET at tertiary level by age and gender, year 2000/2001

	Total	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	>25
Male	656	0	65	63	134	67	54	50	42	47	134
Female	597	1	120	62	66	53	47	44	44	25	135
Total	1 253	1	185	125	200	120	101	94	86	72	269

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

Table 8: Number of full time students in VET at tertiary level by age and gender, year 2002/2003

	Total	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	>25
Male	1251	15	156	146	177	132	144	128	86	66	201
Female	753	21	161	151	149	79	49	24	18	19	82
Total	2 004	36	317	297	326	211	193	152	104	85	283

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

040701 – ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

The basic admission requirement for public institutions of tertiary education is the completion of 12 years of primary and secondary education, which is certified by the lyceum or technical school leaving certificate (apolytirio). The number of students admitted to these institutions is limited and therefore the selection of candidates is based on the applicants' success in the common entrance examinations conducted by the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) for placement in the Institutions of Tertiary Education of Greece and Cyprus. The number of students to be admitted each year is determined by the competent authorities of the individual institutions.

There is a limited number of places for overseas students who wish to study at the public institutions of tertiary education. Usually G.C.E. or G.C.S.E. credentials are taken into consideration but it must be noted that it is required that the prospective student is competent in the language the courses are taught in. Entrance criteria in the case of international students who want to apply may also be set by the particular department the student is interested in. The University of Cyprus, UCY (Panepistimio Kyprou, PK) may set special examinations for international students.

040702 – CURRICULA

The public tertiary education institutions offer specialised programmes in various fields ranging from engineering to nursing, hotel and tourism management, forestry and other professional disciplines. The programmes are technically-vocationally oriented, and they are designed to offer students the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes, which will enable them to work either in the public or private sector.

The public tertiary education institutions, which offer Vocational Education and Training, are the following:

- The Higher Technical Institute of Cyprus, HTI (Anotero Technologiko Institutouto, ATI) that operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, MLSI (Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon, YEKA). It offers three-year programmes, which lead to the acquisition of a Higher Diploma in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering Mechanical Engineering, Marine Engineering and Information Technology. The language of instruction is English. The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) subsidises the enterprise-based practical training of students. The selection of companies and the placement of students for practical training as well as the follow-up and evaluation of their progress are done by

the organisers of the programmes, in consultation and with the HRDA's subsidisation.

- The Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus, HHIC (Anotero Xenodocheiako Institutouto Kyprou, AXIK), which operates under the supervision of the MLSI. It offers three-year programmes, which lead to the acquisition of a Diploma in Hotel and Catering Management and a Diploma in Cooking. It also offers one-year programmes that lead to the acquisition of a Diploma in Hotel Reception and a Diploma in Hotel Economy. The language of instruction is English. The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) subsidises the enterprise-based practical training of students. The selection of companies and the placement of students for practical training as well as the follow-up and evaluation of their progress are done by the organisers of the programmes, in consultation and with the HRDA's subsidisation.
- The Nursing School of Cyprus (Nosileftiki Scholi), which operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, MoH (Ypourgeoio Ygeias). It offers three-year basic programmes in General Nursing and in Psychiatric Nursing. It also offers a transitional twelve-month programme in Hospital Management, Midwifery, Intensive Nursing and other specialised fields. The language of instruction is Greek.
- The School of Tourist Guides (Scholi Xenagon), which operates under the supervision of the Cyprus Tourist Organisation, CTO (Kypriakos Organismos Tourismou, KOT). It offers a one-year programme, which leads to the acquisition of the Diploma of Tourist Guides. The language of instruction is Greek.
- The School of Health Inspectors (Scholi Ygeionomikon Epitheoriton), which operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and offers courses whenever there is a need for qualified public health inspectors.
- The Cyprus Forestry College (Dasiko Kollegio Kyprou), which operates under the supervision of the Department of Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment MoA (Ypourgeoio Georgias, Fysikon Poron kai Perivallontos, YGFPP). It offers a two-year course, which leads to the acquisition of a Diploma in Forestry. This course is designed to provide the proper theoretical and practical training at technical level in the general principles of Forestry and Forestry Practice. Theory is combined with practical training acquired through demonstrations, project work and field experiments and work. In addition, the Cyprus Forestry College offers a six-month post diploma course, which leads to the acquisition of the Higher Diploma in Forestry and also a short training course leading to the Certificate in Forestry. The language of instruction is English.

- The Cyprus Police Academy (Astynomiki Akadimia Kyprou), which operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, MJPO (Ypourgeio Dikaiosynis kai Dimosias Taxis, YDDT). The language of instruction is Greek. The Academy is divided into three Schools:
 - The Officers School: It organises a number of programmes, specialised courses, seminars and workshops providing Senior Police Staff, Chief Inspectors and Inspectors with training in management issues.
 - The School for Sergeants and Constables: Training for Sergeants lasts for eight weeks and consists of supervisory subjects, operational subjects and subjects of wider interest. Moreover, this school organises special programmes such as traffic and criminal investigation courses. As far as recruits are concerned, training lasts for three years and is alternated between theory and practice. During their three-year training, all trainees are on probation. The theoretical component lasts for one academic year and consists of Penal Law, Legislation, First Aid, English, Physical Education, Sociology, Psychology etc. The practical component lasts for two years and recruits are posted to their Divisions, Units and Departments where they put theory into practice, under the supervision of skilful mentors.
- - The School of Foreign Languages: It provides police officers with training in foreign languages, according to the needs of the Service.

Studies are organised in diploma programmes, which include different specialisations. The competent ministry of each institution has to approve each programme, but, to a large extent, the institutions themselves design the curricula. The diploma programmes consist of basic vocational studies and practical training.

Programmes of study are organised on a full-academic-year basis of 36 weeks, including examinations, Christmas and Easter holidays. They are divided into two semesters with compulsory attendance. The academic year commences in mid-September or early October and ends in June/July of the following year. It often consists of two semesters, with significant time spent on practical training.

Teaching methods involve lectures on the theoretical level, extensive practical training and student participation in projects. Industrial training often completes institutional training at the end of each academic year.

Educational guidance is offered individually by the institutions and centrally by the Ministry of Education and Culture, MoEC (Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou, YPP) through its guidance and counselling

educational service. Guidance and counselling very often lead to the placement of the graduates in appropriate positions in their particular field in either the public service or the private sector.

040703 – LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students are assessed by sitting mid-semester and semester examinations. However, coursework and lab-work are also evaluated and comprise a percentage of the final mark in the particular subject. Project work and industrial training are also assessed and taken into consideration when assigning final marks. Examinations are the responsibility of the faculty. No comprehensive government examinations are offered. Successful completion of the programme, which lasts 2-3 years, leads to the acquisition of the Institutions' Diploma or Higher Diploma. Each institution awards its own diploma to graduates.

Following law 67 (I)/96, which regulates the procedure for the recognition of higher education qualifications, the diplomas awarded by the public tertiary education institutions are recognised by the competent authorities of the state. An amendment of "The Institutions of Tertiary Education Laws of 1996 to 2004", which includes the requirement for the adoption of the ECTS system and of the diploma supplement by all public and private institutions of tertiary education, is at present under discussion.

The Human Resource Development Authority, HRDA (Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou, AnAD) subsidises the enterprise-based practical training of students of the Higher Technical Institute, HTI (Anotero Technologiko Institutouto, ATI) and of the Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus, HHIC (Anotero Xenodocheiako Institutouto Kyprou, AXIK). The selection of companies and the placement of students for practical training as well as the follow-up and evaluation of their progress are done by the organisers of the programmes, in consultation and with the HRDA's subsidisation.

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Eurydice, CEDEFOP www.eurydice.org

Forestry College of Cyprus – Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment www.moa.gov.cy/fc

Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus – Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/hhic

Higher Technical Institute – Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance www.hti.ac.cy

Human Resource Development Authority www.hrdauth.org.cy

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, www.moa.gov.cy

Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus www.moec.gov.cy

Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, www.mlsi.gov.cy

Nursing School, www.moh.gov.cy

Planning Bureau, www.planning.gov.cy

Police Academy – Ministry of Justice and Public Order www.police.gov.cy

Statistical Service of Cyprus www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat

ANNEX 1: TABLE OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYMS	DEVELOPMENT	EN TRANSLATION	EN ACRONYM	COUNTRY
APKy	Anikto Panepistimio Kyprou	Open University of Cyprus		Cyprus
ATI	Anotero Technologiko Institutouto	Higher Technical Institute	HTI	Cyprus
AXIK	Anotero Xenodocheiako Institutouto Kyprou	Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus	HHIC	Cyprus
	Apolytirio	School Leaving Certificate		Cyprus
AnAD	Archi Anaptyxis Anthropinou Dynamikou	Human Resource Development Authority	HRDA	Cyprus
	Astynomiki Akadimia Kyprou	Cyprus Police Academy		Cyprus
	Dasiko Kollegio Kyprou	Cyprus Forestry College		Cyprus
DTEE	Defterovathmia Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi	Secondary Technical and Vocational Education	STVE	Cyprus
	Diefthinsi Defterovathmias Teknikis kai Epangelmatikis Ekpaidefsis	Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education		Cyprus
DYA	Dimosies Ypiresies Apascholis	Public Employment Services	PES	Cyprus
	Ekpaideftika Programmata Apogevmatinon kai Vradinon Tmimatou Teknikis Ekpaidefsis	Afternoon and Evening Institutes of the Technical Education		Cyprus
EL	Eniaio Lykeio	Unified Lyceum		Cyprus
	Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi kai Katartisi	Vocational Education and Training	VET	Cyprus
EGE	Eparchiaka	District Labour	DLO	Cyprus

	Grafeia Ergasias	Offices		
	Ergatiko Symboulevtiko Soma	Labour Advisory Board		Cyprus
	Ergodotikes Organoseis	Employers Organisations		Cyprus
	Esperini Techniki Scholi	Evening Technical School		Cyprus
EKT	Evropaiko Koinoniko Tameio	European Social Fund	ESF	
GP	Grafeio Programmatismou	Planning Bureau	PB	Cyprus
	Gymnasio	Gymnasium		Cyprus
KEPA	Kentro Paragogikotitas	Cyprus Productivity Centre	CPC	Cyprus
KOT	Kypriakos Organismos Tourismou	Cyprus Tourist Organisation	CTO	Cyprus
	Lykeio	Lyceum		Cyprus
	Nosileftiki Scholi	Nursing School		Cyprus
PI	Paidagogiko Institouto	Pedagogical Institute	PI	Cyprus
PK	Panepistimio Kyprou	University of Cyprus	UCY	Cyprus
	Pangyprio Symboulio Paragogikotitas	Pancyprrian Productivity Council		Cyprus
	Praktiki Katefthinsi	Practical Direction		Cyprus
	Scholi Ygeionomikon Epitheoriton	School of Health Inspectors		Cyprus
	Scholi Xenagon	School of Tourist Guides		Cyprus
	Symboulevtiki Oikonomiki Epitropi	Economic Consultative Committee		Cyprus
	Syntechnies	Trade Unions		Cyprus
SM	Systima Mathiteias	Apprenticeship System		Cyprus
TS	Technikes Scholes	Technical Schools		Cyprus
TEE	Techniki kai Epangelmatiki Ekpaidefsi	Technical and Vocational Education	TVE	Cyprus

TEPAK	Technologiko Panepistimio Kyprou	Technological University of Cyprus		Cyprus
	Theoritiki Katefthinsi	Theoretical Direction		Cyprus
	Vouli ton Antiprosopon	House of Representatives		Cyprus
YDDT	Ypourgeio Dikaiosynis kai Dimosias Taxis	Ministry of Justice and Public Order	MJPO	Cyprus
YEVT	Ypourgeio Emporiou, Viomichanias kai Tourismou	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism		Cyprus
YEKA	Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon	Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance	MLSI	Cyprus
	Ypourgeio Esoterikon	Ministry of Interior		Cyprus
YGFPP	Ypourgeio Georgias, Fysikon Poron kai Perivallontos	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	MoA	Cyprus
YPP	Ypourgeio Paideias kai Politismou	Ministry of Education and Culture	MoEC	Cyprus
	Ypourgeio Ygeias	Ministry of Health	MoH	Cyprus
	Ypourgiko Symvoulío	Council of Ministers		Cyprus
	Ypourgos Oikonomikon	Minister of Finance		Cyprus
	Ypourgos Paideias kai Politismou	Minister of Education and Culture		Cyprus
		Community Initiative Programme "EQUAL"	CIP EQUAL	

ANNEX 2: MEMBERS OF THE CYPRUS CONSORTIUM

1. NATIONAL COORDINATOR

1.1. Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (www.hrdauth.org.cy)

2. MINISTRIES/GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

2.1. Planning Bureau (www.planning.gov.cy)

2.2. Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance/Department of Labour (www.mlsi.gov.cy/dl)

2.3. Ministry of Education and Culture (www.moec.gov.cy)

2.4. Statistical Service of Cyprus (www.mof.gov.cy/cystat)

2.5. Cyprus Academy of Public Administration (CAPA) (www.mof.gov.cy)

2.6. Pedagogical Institute (athena.pi.ac.cy/pedagogical/index.html)

2.7. Cyprus Productivity Centre (www.kepa.gov.cy)

3. SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYER AND TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS

3.1. Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (www.oeb-eif.org)

3.2. Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (www.ccci.org.cy)

3.3. Cyprus Workers' Confederation (www.sek.org.cy)

3.4. Pancyprian Federation of Labour (www.peo.org.cy)

3.5. Democratic Labour Federation of Cyprus (www.deok.org.cy)

4. OTHER ORGANISATIONS/NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS

4.1. University of Cyprus (www.ucy.ac.cy)

4.2. Cyprus Institute of Technology (www.technology.org.cy)

4.3. Research Promotion Foundation (www.research.org.cy)

5. NATIONAL AGENCIES/UNITS FOR MANAGING EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES/INITIATIVES

5.1. Leonardo Da Vinci National Agency (www.kepa.gov.cy/leonardo)

5.2. Socrates National Coordination Unit (www.moec.gov.cy)

5.3. National Eurydice Unit (www.eurydice.org)