

COMPENDIUM

CULTURAL POLICIES AND TRENDS IN EUROPE

COUNTRY PROFILE

CYPRUS

Last profile update: December 2014

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It is based on official and non-official sources addressing current cultural policy issues.

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Standard Reference: Council of Europe/ERICarts: "Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe", 16th edition 2015. Available from World Wide Web: <http://www.culturalpolicies.net>.
ISSN: 2222-7334.

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS¹

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Last profile update: December 2014.

1. Historical perspective: cultural policies and instruments

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. It is situated at the far eastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea and is at the crossroads of three continents (Europe, Asia and Africa). Cyprus' historical and cultural tradition is very rich and dates back to the 7th millennium B.C. The arrival of the first Mycenaean Greeks on the island in the 15th century B.C. set the foundations for the development of the Greek civilisation on the island. Due to its unrivalled strategic location, Cyprus was subject to a number of conquerors and came under the influence of many different cultures and civilisations like for example the Phoenicians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Athenian Empire, Hellenistic Greek dynasties, Roman Empire, Byzantium, the French Lusignans, Venetians, Ottoman Turks from 1571 and finally the British from 1878 up until 1960 when Cyprus gained its independence with Greece, Turkey and Britain as guarantors of the country's independence (Treaty of Establishment).

According to the 1960 Constitution (Article 2, paragraph 1&2) all Cypriot citizens are declared as belonging to either the Greek Cypriot Community (if they are of Greek origin or are Greek Orthodox) or to the Turkish Cypriot Community (if they are of Turkish origin or Muslims). There are other religious groups (Armenians 0.3 %, Maronites 6 % and Latins 0.1 %) who, according to the 1960 Constitution, were given the option to become members of either the two Communities. The above mentioned religious groups opted to belong to the Greek Community. Thus the Greek Cypriot Community formed almost 80% of the population and the Turkish Cypriot Community 18% at that time.

Furthermore, the Constitution of 1960 provided that the Turkish Cypriot Community would be given a share of 30% in the government and all state institutions. As a result of this, the ten Ministries provided by the Constitution were divided amongst the two Communities on a 7:3 ratio. However, a Ministry of Education and Culture had not been established, since cultural and educational matters, according to the Constitution, were considered a realm of responsibility of the two Communal Assemblies, the Greek Communal Assembly and the Turkish Communal Assembly.

However, within less than three years – due to some proposals for constitutional amendments suggested by the President of the Republic – a tense situation developed and the Turkish Cypriot Community members of the executive, legislature, judiciary and the civil service withdrew from their posts in 1963; apart from this, they created military enclaves in Nicosia as well as in other parts of the island.

In addition to the above, on 15 July 1974 the then ruling military junta of Greece staged an unsuccessful coup d'état aiming to overthrow the democratically elected government of Cyprus. Turkey used the coup d'état attempt as an excuse to invade the island on 20 July 1974 with about forty thousand troops. As a result of the Turkish invasion, nearly 35% of the territory of the Republic was captured and remains occupied until today. Furthermore, it is estimated that, after the Turkish invasion, one third of the Greek Cypriots who resided in the occupied part became refugees while 115 000 Turkish settlers were illegally transferred from Turkey to the occupied northern part of Cyprus. These and other developments caused a dramatic change in the demographic character of the island. The United Nations have in several resolutions of the Security Council demanded respect for the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

In 1983, the occupying regime arbitrarily declared the independence of the northern part of Cyprus. The UN condemned this act and, until now, no country other than Turkey has recognised this entity. In April 2003, the pseudo-state, through a decision of its "Ministerial Council", allowed residents of both areas to cross over the green zone area,

demanding until 2015, however, the presentation of a passport and the issuing of "entry visas" for Greek Cypriots and "exit visas" for Turkish Cypriots. As a result of the partial lifting of restrictions on freedom of movement, thousands of Greek and Turkish Cypriots do regularly cross the demarcation line.

The above described political situation had an impact both on socio-economic as well as on cultural aspects. One of the most tragic consequences of the 1974 Turkish invasion is the systematic destruction and looting of the cultural and religious heritage in the occupied areas. Moreover, this political situation has a tremendous impact on the way cultural matters are being dealt with. More specifically, after the withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriot ministers and the public servants, in 1963, the functioning of the Greek Communal Assembly was temporarily suspended and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Cyprus was formed under the Law 12 of 1965; in 1992, it has been renamed into the Ministry of Education and Culture. Nevertheless, due to the political situation any kind of further reform is avoided as this could be regarded as a breach of the Constitution. As a result, cultural governance structures remained to a great extent static since the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus. Since 2004, however, there have been continuous attempts to restructure the cultural governance structures in order to encounter socio-economic challenges in a more effective way (see chapter 2.1).

In this context and despite the small size of its population (about 952 100 people), it is important to note that the demographic make-up of the island nowadays tends to develop rather multicultural features: According to the *Demographic Report of the Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus* (2011), the majority of the population are Greek – and Greek speaking – Cypriots (71.8%). Maronites, Armenians and Latins (Roman Catholics) account for about 1%. Turkish Cypriots make up about 9.5% of the population and the remaining 18.7% are foreign residents and foreign workers. With respect to cultural matters, through the various state subsidies, financial assistance is provided to all cultural, social and athletic clubs of the many different ethnic groups that reside in Cyprus. There are two official languages – Greek and Turkish, although English is widely spoken.

2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy

2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model

Cultural policy in Cyprus operates in a rather centralised and compartmentalised model of approach. Despite the fact that cultural policy for contemporary culture is situated in the Ministry of Education and Culture, a number of other Ministries and semi-governmental bodies have a certain degree of responsibility for various cultural issues (cf. chapter 3).

On the whole, the Cyprus cultural policy model could be described as an idiomatic version of the "architect model" in which the state, through a Ministry of Culture, assumes the responsibility for cultural development. This includes the municipalities' level, where a great number of cultural activities are subsidised by the Ministry of Education and Culture through a special scheme fund.

The present model can also be attributed to certain historical facts that may well justify the delayed development of certain institutions at the local level or of civil society cultural initiatives: From 1571 until 1878, Cyprus was under Ottoman rule, and the right to freedom and cultural life was suppressed by the Ottoman Turks who ruled the island. The Enlightenment and other intellectual movements that were dominant in the rest of Central Europe, had not reached the population of Cyprus at that time (Persianis 2010). In this context, only certain individuals who could afford to study abroad came in contact with European cultural and intellectual movements. The social and cultural sphere in Cyprus was therefore affected by the political and ideological discourse prevailing in the rest of Europe only at a later stage.

2.2 National definition of culture

There is not any kind of official definition for culture. Nevertheless, as it has been observed the *concept of cultural policy in Cyprus* has rather traditional connotations by being confined to the traditional segregation of art forms (Gordon 2004).

Furthermore it has been observed that there is a policy vacuum (Gordon 2004) as well as an absence of a meaningful and coherent national strategy. In such a reflection, it is not surprising that up at least 2007, policy trends were mainly expressed through the annual state budget. Moreover, cultural policy is not rooted in any kind of cultural research and there is a lack of cultural statistics.

2.3 Cultural policy objectives

According to the Budget Policy Statement (2011) the vision of cultural policy centres upon the preservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage of the island as well as on bolstering and promoting contemporary cultural creation. In particular, the specific policy objectives for 2011-2013 are as follows:

- formulation of a five-year action plan for cultural development;
- enhancing and promoting cultural activities in Cyprus and abroad in order to make known the Cyprus' political problem through artistic and intellectual creation;
- co-operation with the local government in order to develop joint programmes of cultural action;

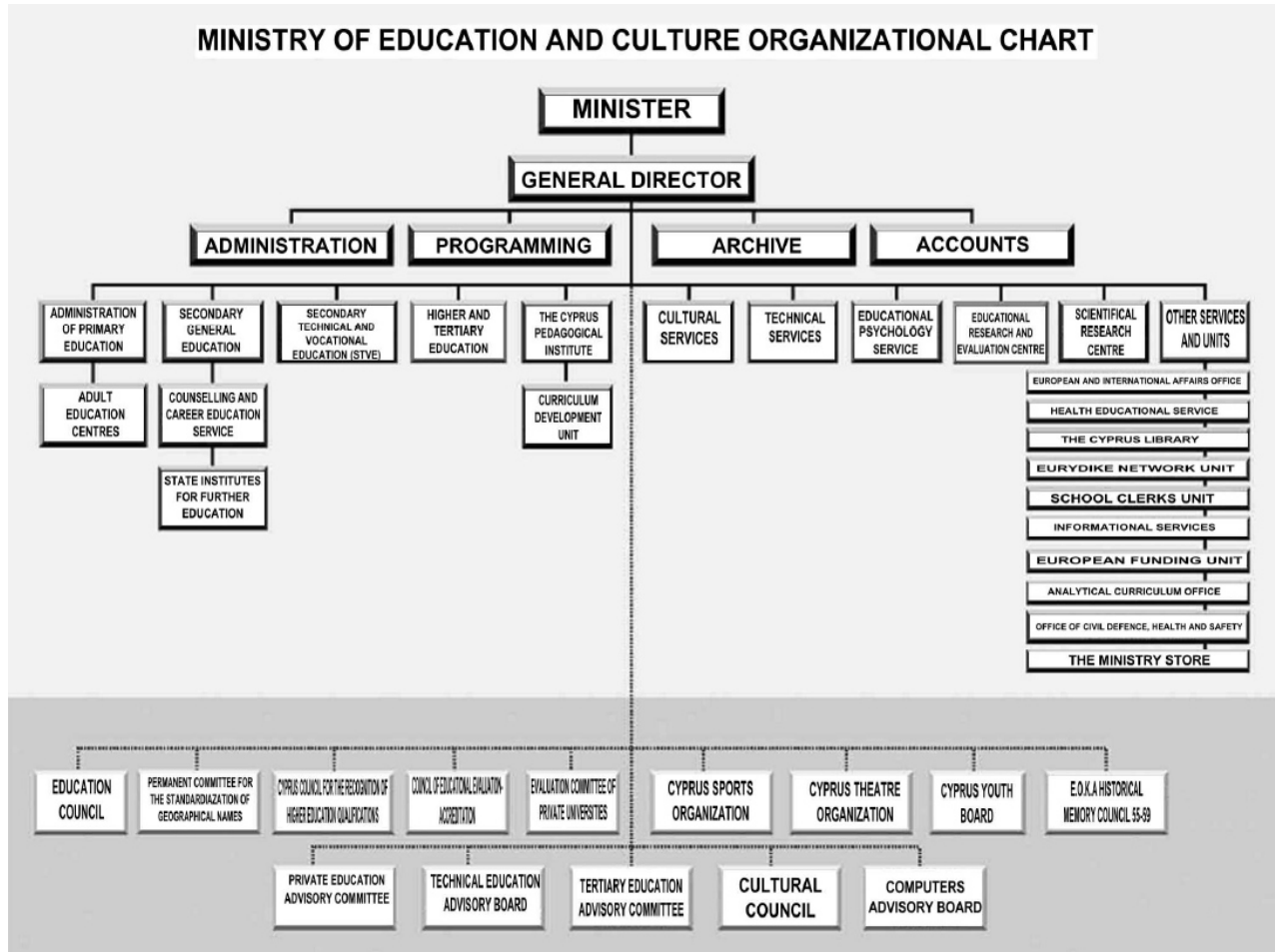
- completion of the study for the Creation of a Unified Authority for Culture and implementation of the proposed structural reforms²;
- establishment and operation of a School of Art;
- transformation of Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC) into a State Theatre;
- formulation of joined bi-communal programmes in the field of arts in order to promote the common and shared cultural heritage of the two Communities (Turkish and Greek Cypriot); and
- formulation of certain policy measures in order to bolster and promote cultural development.

² This was amongst the political priorities of the previous left-wing government. Its term of office terminated in the 2013 elections; nevertheless, no significant progress has been achieved in this respect by the previous government. The newly elected right-centre wing government which won the elections in February 2013 aims to formulate a new proposal regarding governance structures

3. Competence, decision-making and administration

3.1 Organisational structure (organigram)

Contemporary cultural policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture is located within the Cultural Services Department. Cultural Education is primarily being developed in the Departments in charge of Education. A number of other Ministries are also involved in cultural policy (see chapter 3.3).



3.2 Overall description of the system

As far as the *political context* is concerned, Cyprus has a presidential system of government. The President is elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term. Executive power is exercised through an 11-member Council of Ministers appointed by the President. The Legislative Power is carried out by the House of Representatives; Under the Constitution of Cyprus, the judiciary is established as a separate and autonomous power.

Due to the limitations inherent to the political problem and the consequent Constitutional constraints (see chapter 1) since the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus, there had not been any kind of significant administrative reforms in terms of the overall governmental system. Moreover, educational and cultural matters since 1965 have been transferred to the then newly established Ministry of Education which was created under the law of necessity. In 1968, the Cultural Services Unit was created and in 1992, it was upgraded to a department (but still with the same remit of responsibilities) and the Ministry was renamed into the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Despite the above renaming of the Ministry, the Cultural Services reflect the state's cultural policy mainly regarding contemporary culture. The Cultural Services Department has the main responsibility for both formulating and implementing contemporary cultural policy in such fields as Literature, Books, Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Dance, Cinema, Folk Culture, Museums, and Cultural Centres abroad (there are three Cultural Centres, one in Athens, one in Berlin and one in London for promoting Cypriot culture abroad).

Moreover, Cultural Services have an active role in promoting Cyprus contemporary culture abroad. Due to the centralised administrative structures of cultural governance, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, apart from formulating the national cultural policy for contemporary culture, are also responsible through the grant-aid system to provide support to artists and cultural foundations that are actively involved in cultural activities in Cyprus (cf. chapter 8.1). Municipalities and local communities are also granted support for certain cultural projects on a project basis through a respective funding scheme. The budget of the Ministry of Culture for Contemporary Culture in 2010 was EUR 32 362 034 (34 876 522 EUR for 2011) (in this figure it is not included the budget of Department of Antiquities of the Ministry of Communication and Public Works (EUR 18 520 070 for 2010) and the budget of the Ministry of Interior for Urban Cultural Heritage (EUR 13 885 120 for 2010). Moreover, European funds have also been a stream of money in support of the cultural sector (funds from the Culture Programme as well as the Structural Funds particularly for regeneration projects).

Additionally, the Cultural Services organise the annual International Festival "KYPRIA". In addition to the above, Regional / Rural Cultural Development is fostered through a number of subsidies which are granted by the Ministry to Municipalities and Communities on a project-basis application. Also within the framework of the Cultural Infrastructure Plan, subsidy is provided (upon approval of the relevant Ministerial Council) for undertaking works of Cultural Infrastructure at Municipalities and Communities (Annual Report 2009). The Infrastructure Plan has been in operation since 2000. The Local Authorities Support Scheme for the creation of Cultural Infrastructure Projects provides a clear cultural development policy measure for local government authorities.

The annual Budget is submitted to the House of Representatives for final approval. A budget policy statement briefly elaborates on the main cultural policy objectives (see chapter 2.3). Moreover, it is important to stress the fact that in order for the state budgets to be approved, the following authorities are involved: the Legislature (sometimes) and the Parliaments Assembly.

The responsibility for cultural heritage in Cyprus is divided amongst a number of Ministries and their respective departments and services. More specifically, the Department of Antiquities of the Ministry of Communication and Public Works is responsible for the management of the archaeological heritage of Cyprus. The Department of Town Planning of the Ministry of Interior is responsible for regeneration projects with respect to urban cultural heritage. The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture has as its main responsibility the development of contemporary culture and folk tradition in its contemporary manifestations.

Cyprus is divided into six administrative districts (Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca, Paphos and the towns of Ammochostos (Famagusta), Kyrenia and Morfou which since 1974 have been under Turkish occupation.

The capital of the island is Lefkosia (Nicosia) which is situated at the centre of the island and is the seat of government. Nicosia is the only remaining divided city in Europe. Since the Turkish invasion of 1974, its northern part is under Turkish occupation and is separated from the South by a United Nations patrolled buffer zone.

Local government is the responsibility of the Municipalities and the Communities (these are the two types of local authorities). Municipalities are concerned with the provision of local government in urban centres and tourist centres, while the Communities with the management of rural areas. In this context, it is important to clarify that in Cyprus there is not a three-tier system of government as there is no system of regional government located in between the national and the local authorities.

According to the Law (Municipalities' Law of 1985), the main responsibilities of municipalities refer to the construction and maintenance of municipal gardens and parks as well as to the protection of public health. The Municipal Council has the authority to promote, depending on its finances, a vast range of activities and events including the arts, education, sport and social services.

The main sources of revenue of municipalities are municipal taxes, fees and duties (professional tax, immovable property tax, hotel accommodation tax, fees for issuing permits and licences, fees for refuse collection, fines, etc.). Moreover, in the last 15 years, cultural departments and services have been created in a number of the municipalities of Cyprus, mainly in the urban ones (Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca, Strovolos, etc.) but also in provincial ones (i.e. Ayia Napa, Dheryneia, etc.).

With respect to the Communities it can be argued that most of their functions are similar to those of Municipalities. The revenue of Communities consists of the state subsidies as well as taxes and fees collected from the residents of the area.

To sum up – as has been indicated before – the responsibility for cultural policy is devolved to a number of Ministries and semi-governmental organisations as well. More specifically, the Department of Antiquities which was founded in 1935, is under the Ministry of Communications and Public Works and is responsible for ancient, Byzantine and medieval culture. In addition to the above, it is also responsible for the culture that had been developed during the Turkish Ottoman rule, all over Cyprus territory. Furthermore, the Department of Antiquities is responsible for the management and running of the Archaeological Museum in Nicosia and of the District Museums, for the maintenance and preservation of the cultural heritage as well as for archaeological research and excavations. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for broadcasting and media through its Media Directorate. The Ministry of Interior is also responsible, through the Department of Town Planning and Housing, for the conservation and protection of the architectural heritage. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also involved in cultural matters through the embassies of Cyprus abroad as it has a shared responsibility with the Ministry of Education and Culture for certain projects.

A number of semi-state organisations are also involved in cultural policy making. More specifically:

- the Cyprus Theatre Organisation (TH.O.C.), which was founded in 1971, is under the realm of responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Culture. TH.O.C.'s main objective is to promote theatre and theatrical education. TH.O.C. at present runs three stages (Main, New and Children's); moreover, it sponsors independent theatre groups. The Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC) is a legal entity that was established by the Cyprus Theatre Organisation Law of 1970 and comes under the Minister of Education and Culture. The Organisation is administered by a Board of Directors consisting of 9 members, appointed by the Council of Ministers.
- the Cyprus Tourist Organisation (C.T.O), is under the realm of responsibilities of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The C.T.O. amongst its other activities is also responsible for the development and funding of activities which are related to cultural tourism.
- the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (Cy.B.C.), which was founded in 1953, is under the realm of responsibilities of the Ministry of Interior. Apart from its radio and

television programmes, it also makes documentaries, films and recordings and organises competitions in the field of the arts.

From 1st January 2007 the *Cyprus State Orchestra* has been developed into an independent institution, which has assumed management and operation of both State Orchestras (Cyprus State Orchestra and the Cyprus Youth Orchestra). The Orchestra since its establishment in 1987 has operated in the structures of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry still remains as the Orchestra's principal sponsor covering almost the total sum of the Orchestra's budget. The Ministry of Education and Culture is also represented in the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra.

As far as the private sector is concerned, cultural activity is developed by a number of cultural societies which exist at the moment in Cyprus. Also, some of the Banks in Cyprus used to have a role in cultural activities by establishing cultural foundations. (i.e. the Cultural Foundation of the Bank of Cyprus, the Cultural Department of The Hellenic Bank). Nevertheless, in the current context of economic crisis it is expected that there might be a decline in the funding of cultural activities.

Moreover, a stream of funds is also derived from Lottery. More specifically, in 2010 the total sum of EUR 475 600 was provided by the Lottery Funds for good causes in arts, culture and society. This amount equalled to 26.13% of the total contribution in all areas (such as education, environment, sports, etc.). There was a reduction of the contributed amount in 2011 when this percentage dropped to 9.13%, while in 2012 it rose again to 18.43%.

3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation

Despite the fact that a number of Ministries are involved in certain aspects of cultural policy, there is not really a structured and concerted approach in dealing with cultural policy in a co-ordinated and integrated way. Thus, co-operation and co-ordination between different ministries is encountered on an ad hoc basis and does not attain any institutional structure. In this context, for example, there is a certain degree of co-operation between the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in promoting Cypriot culture abroad and for developing certain cultural activities that relate to cultural diplomacy. Another example is the co-operation between the Departments of Education from the Ministry of Education and Culture with the Department of Antiquities of the Ministry of Communication and Works in order to promote educational projects as far as cultural heritage is concerned.

3.4 International cultural co-operation

3.4.1 Overview of main structures and trends

The responsibility for international cultural co-operation falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Culture although, since the last five years, there is a tendency to work closer with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the implementation of various projects through Embassies and Cultural Institutions abroad.

Cyprus has concluded many bilateral Agreements with the aim of cooperating with other countries in the fields of education, culture and the sciences. In order to implement these Agreements, the contracting parties prepare and sign Official Programmes of Educational, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation. The Agreements and the Programmes provide the necessary legal framework in which the cultural and educational exchanges take place. The Cultural Services have the responsibility of preparing and implementing that part of the provisions of the Programme which governs the cultural cooperation and cultural

exchanges of Cyprus with the contracting country (with the exception of the provisions concerning cooperation in matters of cultural heritage which fall under the remit of responsibilities of the Antiquities Department of the Ministry of Communication and Public Works). In the context of this competence, the Cultural Services oversee the organisation of cultural events abroad with the objective to promote contemporary Cyprus culture, as well as hosting and organising cultural events in Cyprus by other countries. In the framework of these Programmes, exchanges of experts may also take place, aiming at the mutual information and the cooperation in the field of culture.

Furthermore, bilateral cultural agreements promote the networking between artists, and public and private institutions in the fields of arts and culture. Additionally, through cultural co-operation with the embassies of Cyprus abroad or specific institutions such as the Music Information Centre of Cyprus, cultural activities either of art and music from Cyprus or co-productions and networking are supported. Furthermore, artists from Cyprus are provided with financial support (travel grants) for their participation in cultural events abroad.

In addition to the above, cultural centres abroad (e.g. The House of Cyprus in Athens) aim at promoting art and culture from Cyprus while at the same time co-productions might also be supported in the context of bolstering intercultural dialogue.

Co-operation is also promoted through European and international organisations, such as the European Union, UNESCO and the Council of Europe. Beyond any doubt the Cyprus Accession to the EU in 2004 has been a milestone in facilitating international co-operation and further promoting trans-European cultural projects.

3.4.2 Public actors and cultural diplomacy

The main responsibility for the promotion of contemporary Cypriot culture is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Culture, through its Cultural Services. Nevertheless, a number of other public actors are involved in one way or another in cultural diplomacy, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Antiquities as well as a number of other bodies and cultural institutions (i.e. Theatre Cyprus Organisation, Cyprus Tourist Organisation, Cyprus Symphony Orchestra).

In particular, the Ministry of Education and Culture apart from its overall activity (see chapter 3.4.1) operates three Cultural Centres in Athens, London and Berlin respectively.

The House of Cyprus in Athens is a cultural and educational institution with a significant contribution in the field of cultural diplomacy since 1987. In implementing government's policy, the House co-operates with a number of other actors such as the Local and Regional Authorities in Greece, as well as cultural organisations in order to promote Cypriot culture. The Office of the Cultural Counsellor in the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus has both a cultural and educational role. The Office of the Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic in Berlin has as its main responsibility the organisation of events with the aim of promoting the culture and contemporary artistic creation of Cyprus in Germany. The Office co-operates with German Institutions as well.

A number of other initiatives are in place for promoting initiatives related to cultural diplomacy. More specifically, bilateral cultural agreements promote the networking between artists, and public and private institutions in the fields of arts and culture. Co-operation is also promoted through European and international organisations, such as the European Union, UNESCO and the Council of Europe. Additionally through cultural co-operation with the embassies of Cyprus abroad cultural activities either of art from Cyprus or even co-productions from artists from Cyprus and artists from abroad are supported.

Also, artists from Cyprus are provided with financial support (travel grants) for their participation in cultural events abroad.

In this context the Ministry supports the operation of institutions like the Music Information Centre of Cyprus which was founded in July 2008 following a decision of the Council of Ministers. The Centre aims at showcasing the diverse musical achievements of contemporary scene in Cyprus and promoting networking amongst musicians living in Cyprus to musicians from abroad. Moreover, for the promotion of Contemporary Cypriot Art abroad the Ministry participates in such events as is the Venice Biennale, the Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean. Additionally, the Cultural Services organise festivals such as is the European Dance Festival, the "Cinema Days of Cyprus" and the International Festival "KYPRIA".

Other important actors include some national organisations under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education and culture (i.e. Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, THOC, etc.) or non-governmental organisations, through which the majority of international cultural projects are implemented. These activities with the exception of THOC that operates its own budget usually receive funding either from the Ministry of Education and Culture or from European funds.

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes cultural activities abroad through its diplomatic missions and in close co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

In 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs started a series of informational lectures and events in order for foreign diplomats in Cyprus to get acquainted with the arts and culture of Cyprus. Furthermore, cultural diplomacy is part of the training programme of the newly appointed diplomats.

The Bilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has (amongst other areas) the responsibility for promoting cultural relations through bilateral agreements or through the protocols of cultural co-operation. Specific programmes of bilateral agreements in the field of Education, Science and Culture have been developed (and carried out by the Ministry of Education and Culture) with a number of EU as well as non-EU countries.

The Agreements and the Programmes provide the necessary statutory framework in which Cyprus' cultural and educational exchanges are implemented with other countries. The Cultural Services are responsible for the shaping and implementation of the Programmes' provisions concerning the cultural collaboration and exchanges of Cyprus with the respective countries (with the exception of the provision regarding collaboration in the field of Cultural Heritage). Bilateral co-operation in the field of cultural heritage is promoted from the Department of Antiquities which operates in the structures of the Ministry of Communication and Public Works (see chapter 3.2).

Furthermore, the Cyprus Tourist Organisation (C.T.O <http://www.visitcyprus.com/wps/portal>) is also involved in promotional activities for Cypriot culture abroad. According to the strategic plan of the Organisation for the period 2011-2015, cultural tourism is amongst its strategic objectives. The C.T.O. operates offices in 15 cities worldwide (London, Frankfurt, Berlin, Paris, Stockholm, Athens, Milan, Zurich, Amsterdam, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Tel Aviv, Warsaw and Dubai).

3.4.3 European / international actors and programmes

Cyprus, as a member of the European Union since 2004, actively participates in a number of EU projects and programmes. During the years 2007-2013, Cyprus has received EU financial support for projects which fall under programmes with cultural dimensions (*Culture Programme, Europe for Citizens Programme and the Media programme*). In that

context, state support is provided for the operation of contact points for the above mentioned programmes. The Ministry of Education and Culture maintains provisions for the support of Cypriot cultural agencies whose projects are selected for co-financing by the European Commission, while it continues to participate, through the Cultural Services, in the management committee (of national representatives) of the Creative Europe Programme .

Under certain conditions, culture in its broader sense can also receive funding from a number of other European programmes such as the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Cyprus since 2006 is a member of the International Organisation of *La Francophonie*. In this framework, certain initiatives regarding the promotion and transmission of the French language have been adopted.

Cyprus was amongst the first countries to ratify the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions on 19/12/2006. Certain provisions of the Cyprus Constitution promote the respect to Human Rights without making any distinction or differentiation between citizens and non-citizens of the Republic and without any distinctions or differentiation on grounds of community or religion or nationality, or on other grounds.

The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO constitutes the vital link between the state, civil society and UNESCO, acting as the state's consultative body. The Commission is financed by the Education and Culture Ministry for its organisational needs and the promotion of its programmes.

Cyprus has been a member of the Council of Europe since 1961 and actively participates in the programmes and activities promoted through the coordinated interstate cooperation of the member states. In 1969, Cyprus ratified the European Cultural Convention.

The Cyprus Presidency of the EU

During the Cyprus Presidency of the EU in the area of culture, the Cyprus Presidency aimed at highlighting the public value of Culture and the important role of culture in the fulfilment of the objectives of the E.U. 2020 Strategy. As regards culture, the main objectives of the Cyprus Presidency were:

- to further promote the social dimension of culture;
- to promote the notion of cultural governance as a method and a tool for a more effective implementation of cultural policy; and
- to foster cultural research and evidence-based policy on culture.

During the Presidency, a Meeting of Senior Officials on Culture was held in Nicosia on the 28 and 29 of August 2012, under the title "The Governance of Culture in today's globalised world". The objective of the Conference related to the development of a strategic approach to cultural governance by developing specific recommendations regarding the promotion of proactive cultural research as a catalyst for the planning and development of cultural policies and for setting the framework of holistic and integrated approaches to Cultural Governance. The format of the meeting allowed the sharing of experience on evidence-based policy making. The outcome of the conference fed into the [Council Conclusions on cultural governance](#).

In November 2012, the Cyprus Presidency managed to reach a partial agreement in the Council on provisions of the *Creative Europe Programme* regarding the Guarantee Facility; it aligned the overall text with the new Financial Regulation, thus only financial aspects of the Programme remained pending. The Guarantee Facility aims at improving access to financing for small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the cultural and

creative sectors, contributing, thus, to economic growth, employment, innovation and social cohesion.

In response to the relevant European Commission Communication, published in May 2012, the Council adopted conclusions on a European Strategy for better internet for children.

3.4.4 Direct professional co-operation

Professional co-operation in the field of culture is manifested through a number of different ways; it may either take the form of inter-institutional exchanges which are promoted in the context of bilateral cultural co-operation or through state-aid support to not-for-profit organisations for their activities in each respective field (i.e. music, dance, theatre, etc.). The main objectives of direct professional co-operation can be summed up in the following:

- to strengthen co-operation in the fields of arts and culture and bolster artists' mobility and intercultural dialogue;
- to foster co-operation and build networks amongst European partners in the framework of culture and education;
- to facilitate artists' access to international or European cultural scene; and
- to promote the Cypriot culture abroad also in the context of co-productions.

In this context, innovative or experimental modes of cultural expression are promoted. In this framework, certain events have been supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture. In addition to the above, through the funding programmes, artists' mobility is fostered either in the form of travel grants to professional artists and other creative professionals or in the form of promoting co-productions and cultural co-operation. Additionally, the European Dance Festival showcases works from the international contemporary scene, aiming at the best possible and most complete briefing of the public regarding European contemporary dance. In 2012, the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Music Expo took place in Limassol. This was a four-day event which combined various modalities of high-level youth music productions embracing all musical styles. It brought together over 200 young musicians (young soloists, youth bands and orchestras from all musical backgrounds, classical, ethnic, jazz, rock, hip-hop, reggae etc.), music teachers, organisers and professionals in the context of a multilevel educational and artistic fair which included workshops, seminars, open-air public concerts, music labs etc.

The Cultural Services provide subsidies for literary events in Cyprus and abroad organised by various literary agencies and individuals, as well as for the participation of agencies and individuals in conferences and events abroad.

Other measures aim to promote the visual arts (e.g. participation in the Venice Biennale) and the performing arts. For example, the Cultural Services, in cooperation with the Cyprus Centre of the International Theatre Institute, organise the Ancient Greek Drama Festival (at the 16th Festival of Ancient Drama eight plays from Germany, Israel, England, Greece and Cyprus have been staged).

Through a fascinating parallel programme of events and cinema workshops, the Cyprus International Short Film Festival offered to the public the opportunity to make short film escapes, embark on creative quests and engage in dialogue with film directors and creators from Cyprus and abroad. The Summer Screenings Marathon, organised jointly by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Teatro Ena and the Cinema Friends Club, is held at the oldest surviving open air cinema of Nicosia, the "Constantia" and can be considered of prime importance, both in the sphere of the cinema as well as in the social and cultural life

of Cyprus. In addition to the classic repertoire and more recent distributions, the programme also features a number of films for the young cineastes.

Cyprus' cultural centres abroad and attachés of embassies contribute in many ways to direct cooperation activities (cf. chapter 3.4.2). For example, the House of Cyprus in Athens cooperated with the University of Athens Philology School in organising the 18th Seminar on Ancient Cypriot Literature and in Berlin the cooperation with German agencies and the participation of Cypriot artists in German activities ranks high on the agenda, with the main goal of creating multicultural programmes that focus on Cyprus.

In addition to the above, international co-operation is promoted through co-operation with leading international museums and institutions for the presentation of individual and group art exhibitions abroad, mobility of artworks is also supported and promoted.

In the field of cultural heritage, trans-national co-operation is also a prevalent issue as certain European projects, which are funded by Structural Funds as well as other European Funds, are aiming at fostering cultural interaction within Europe and beyond (for example *Suspended Spaces*, which explores island regions in Mediterranean Europe with a special interest in city-harbours, or *HISTORY LOST*, a multi-media exhibition tracing the looting of archaeological sites around the world). In addition, a number of foreign Archaeological missions have been in close co-operation with the Department of Antiquities as far as it regards excavations. The year 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of Polish excavations in Paphos.

Certain semi-governmental organisations like, for example, THOC (Cyprus Theatre Organisation), as well as independent cultural organisations operating at national level like, for example, CySO (Cyprus Symphony Orchestra) are also active in professional informal networking.

Local authorities also promote international collaborations through a number of cultural activities they organise; most of these are funded by central government. In this context, town twinning projects are promoted.

3.4.5 Cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation

Certain initiatives have been promoted in relation to the implementation of the above objective. More specifically, bilateral cultural agreements promote the networking between artists, and public and private institutions in the fields of arts and culture. Co-operation is also promoted through European and international organisations, such as the European Union, UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Culture supports art from Cyprus as well as co-productions with artists from abroad through cultural co-operation with the embassies of Cyprus abroad. Also, artists and cultural institutions such as Choirs, as well as dance groups from Cyprus are provided with financial support (travel grants) for their participation in cultural events abroad.

In addition to the above, the operation of cultural centres abroad (i.e. The House of Cyprus in Athens) aim at promoting art and culture from Cyprus while at the same time co-productions might also be supported in the context of bolstering intercultural dialogue.

The Ministry supports the operation of such institutions as the Music Information Centre of Cyprus which aims at showcasing the diverse musical achievements of contemporary scene of Cyprus and promoting networking amongst musicians living in Cyprus with musicians from abroad.

Intercultural dialogue is promoted also through a series of cultural events that are sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Culture and have already been mentioned in

chapter 3.4.4. Moreover, in the context of the Funding Scheme, the Ministry of Education and Culture has sponsored dance groups and individual dancers / choreographers towards their participation in Dance Festivals abroad, as well as in international meetings and conferences organised by foreign agencies, such as Aerowaves, Bob Theater Festival (Athens), the Michalis Kakoyiannis Foundation, the Kalamata International Dance Festival and the International Choreographers Competition of Germany (Hanover).

The *Cyprus Pedagogical Institute* (CPI) participates in the Erasmus Programme. Mobility of trainers and trainees through Staff Mobility and Staff Training actions have contributed to transnational intercultural dialogue in the areas of comparative educational policies, social inclusion / exclusion in education and individual plurilingualism in education.

The department of Educational Documentation in the Pedagogical Institute has also published the following issue in 2010, "Intercultural Education for the smooth integration of students of immigrant background in schools and the society of Cyprus".

The issue was co-financed by the European Social Fund and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and is part of the plans for a smooth integration of students from third countries in the European educational system.

3.4.6 Other relevant issues

The Ministry of Education and Culture supports the creation of departments for Greek studies in various universities through the provision of an annual financial grant, based on specific criteria.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs operates funding schemes in support of diaspora communities in other countries. The main objective is to support the contemporary cultural manifestations of diaspora communities in order not only to sustain links and ties with their homelands but also to facilitate the promotion of contemporary creation including traditional folk art as well as to promote cultural diversity through diverse modes of artistic creation, production, distribution and enjoyment.

Certain measures are adopted both by the Ministry of Education and Culture as well as by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so as to provide funding to certain cultural activities such as travel grants to folk dance groups, choirs and artists to participate at diaspora cultural events as well as direct funding to diaspora communities for the cultural activities they promote in the framework of their own programming of cultural events and activities. Moreover, in order to ensure that the diaspora communities have access to the diverse cultural content of Cyprus, cultural goods (i.e. books, CDs, etc.) from different Cypriot religious groups (i.e. Latins, Maronites, Armenians) are distributed to diaspora communities. Additionally, educational activities of diaspora communities are also supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

In addition to the above, support to diaspora communities is also provided through other programmes which address the needs of the young people. The NEPOMAK Discover Cyprus Programme was established in 2004 and is delivered by NEPOMAK in partnership with the Youth Board of Cyprus and the University of Cyprus. This programme is targeted at young Cypriots aged between 18-22, who do not have regular contact with their Cypriot community and / or wish to increase their level of understanding about Cyprus and the Greek language.

Moreover, in the context of the Cyprus Constitution there are certain provisions that promote the respect to Human Rights without making any distinction or differentiation between citizens and non-citizens of the Republic and without any distinctions or differentiation on grounds of community or religion or nationality, or on other grounds.

4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate

4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities

Cultural policy priorities, as derived from policy documents and budget allocation priorities during the last five years, are:

- completion of the study for the Creation of a Unified Authority for Culture and implementation of the proposed structural reforms;
- formulation of joined bi-communal programmes in the field of arts in order to promote the common and shared cultural heritage of the two Communities (Turkish and Cypriot);
- formulation of certain policy measures in order to bolster and promote cultural development;
- bolstering of cultural education; and
- promotion of Cypriot culture abroad.

Moreover during the Cyprus Presidency of the EU, an important priority area had been the promotion of cultural governance as a part of public policy in order to promote effective and evidence based cultural policy by focusing on the public value of culture and by adopting holistic approaches to cultural governance (see chapter 3.4.3).

An attempt to rationalise certain procedures in the context of long-term planning strategies instead of micro-management occurred in 2007 when the Minister at that time (Akis Kleantous) took the initiative to formulate for the first time a *Strategic Plan for Culture* which aimed at encountering culture in an all-encompassing way. The main pillars of this strategic plan were as follows:

- modernisation of cultural governance;
- enhancement of cultural institutions and further development of national cultural infrastructure;
- protection and promotion of the Cypriot Culture (contemporary / traditional / cultural heritage) in everyday life;
- promoting synergies between Education and Culture;
- support and promotion of contemporary cultural creativity in Cyprus; and
- promotion and dissemination of contemporary Cypriot culture abroad.

In this context the former Minister opened up a dialogue and consultation with the civil society in order to formulate the final version of this strategic plan for the years 2008-2011. With the change of government in 2008 a new initiative was introduced which related to a proposal for the establishment of a Unified Authority for Culture in order to encounter certain limitations resulting from the fact that culture is dispersed in a number of Ministries. Nevertheless, this proposal did not proceed any further, as with the change of government in 2013 another proposal has been introduced which relates to the appointment of Secretaries for Culture for a number of policy areas and Culture is amongst one of them.

4.2 Specific policy issues and recent debates

4.2.1 Conceptual issues of arts policies

Information is currently not available.

4.2.2 Heritage issues and policies

Cyprus is situated at the crossroads of three continents; due to its significant geopolitical location by being at the crossroads of civilisations, it has received the influence of many cultures and civilisations. The remains of the oldest known settlements date back to the Neolithic period, between 9000 and 6000 years ago. Cyprus was settled by Mycenaean Greeks in the 2nd millennium BC. Due to its significant strategic geopolitical location, the island was subsequently occupied by several powers including the Assyrians, the Egyptians, the Persians, Alexander the Great who seized the island from Persians; after the Ptolemaic period the island was ruled by the Romans, the Byzantines, the French Lusignan, the Venetians and then the Ottoman Turks. In 1878 the island was placed under the British administration until 1960 when it was granted its independence.

Throughout the island's long history its rich cultural heritage has been looted and destructed; the culmination of destructions occurred during the Turkish military invasion in 1974 and the subsequent occupation of 36.2% of Cyprus' territory; a substantial amount of historic and religious monuments in various regions of the occupied area have been destroyed, looted and vandalised. Moreover, illegal trade of cultural goods and art treasures stolen from museums and private collections of the occupied area has been traced in illegal antiquities trade markets and in auctions around the world.

As far as cultural policy is concerned, the responsibility for cultural heritage preservation lies mainly in three Departments of the central government. More specifically:

- The Ministry of Education and Culture through its Cultural Services has as its main responsibility the promotion of contemporary cultural expression in traditional and folk art.
- The Cultural Services support the following activities in connection with folk culture: Traditional music and dance ensembles are being subsidised for their costumes and for their participation in events of a traditional character in Cyprus and abroad. Also, travel grants are being provided to dance teachers and researchers are encouraged to attend dance seminars abroad. Furthermore, Shadow Theatre artists are being supported as well as other activities such as local festivals which promote traditional culture and folk arts.
- The Ministry of Communications and Public Works through its Department of Antiquities is responsible for ancient, Byzantine and medieval culture as well as the culture that had been developed during the Turkish Ottoman rule. In accordance with the Antiquities Law (cf. chapter. 5.3.3), the Department of Antiquities is responsible for the management and running of the Archaeological Museum in Nicosia and of the District Museums, as well as for the excavation, conservation, restoration and promotion of Cyprus ancient monuments as a whole.
- The Ministry of the Interior is responsible, through its Department of Town Planning and Housing, for the conservation and protection of the architectural and local cultural heritage as well as for the planning and control of physical development and land-use planning.

4.2.3 Culture industries: policies and programmes

Despite the fact that there is not any kind of integrated policy for the development of the cultural industries sector, the Cultural Services foster, on a rather vertical approach, the domain of cultural industries through various programmes of the respective arts' sectors.

More specifically, measures include:

Books & Literature

The "Programme for Subsidising Publishing Houses and Non-profit Organisations Engaged in Publications" was established on a pilot basis in 2009-2010, aiming at incentives for publishing companies in order to promote works of significant Cyprological content and references. The Cultural Services, within the framework of the «Enriching Cultural Journals and Newspapers» funding programme, aim at the increase of the publication of important magazines and newspapers, which highlight the cultural life of Cyprus and Cypriot artists in Cyprus and abroad, therefore, contributing to public awareness around cultural activities, artistic creations and intellectual activities in Cyprus. The Cultural Services, within the framework of the project for subsidisation of translations of Cypriot writers' work from the Greek language to foreign languages, aims to provide incentives for the promotion and dissemination of literature in Cyprus and abroad and to enhance the mobility of Cypriot literature and Cypriot writers in the international arena. The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, in order to assist the two communities to better get acquainted with each other through their literature, has continued in 2010, for a second consecutive year, the programme of subsidising the translation and publication of works of important Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot writers, from Greek into Turkish and from Turkish into Greek.

Music

In the context of music policy, certain festivals are being supported on the basis of a grant application procedure by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation is a private law non-profit organization and plays a pivotal role in the development of musical life in Cyprus. Moreover, the Foundation of the Orchestra has an active role in society through educational and community outreach programmes.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, the State Gallery of Cypriot Contemporary Art acquires works of art in order to enrich its collection (e.g. in 2010, 54 works were acquired). The Cultural Services are responsible for the coordination and preparation of the participation of Cyprus in international art events, where our country is officially invited to take part.

Theatre

The Cultural Services support the efforts of potential incubators of new talents and significant artistic creation.

Dance

In the field of dance, the Cultural Services through its funding programmes as well as through the promotion of certain institutions (i.e. the "European Dance Festival"), support dance events.

Cinema

Through the "Programme for the Development of Cyprus Cinema" the Ministry of Education and Culture finances national productions and European co-productions, low budget feature films, short films, debut films, documentaries, animation, experimental films, as well as the local distribution and circulation of Cypriot films in theatres and film festivals internationally. The Ministry is equally in charge for the circulation of the cinematographic production to Cyprus embassies abroad and other European organisations.

The implementation of the "Programme for the Development of Cyprus Cinema" has been carried out through the Cinema Advisory Committee. The Committee comprises both government officials and representatives from the private sector i.e., producers, directors and some personalities from the cinema sector appointed directly and namely by the Council of Ministers.

The Committee is mandated to recommend for funding to a competent Ministerial Committee the best proposals submitted by Cypriot Producers / Directors in the categories of feature-length films, short films and documentaries; as well, the committee encourages co-productions with other countries.

The committee is also responsible to study in depth the situation of cinema in Cyprus and make suggestions for the enactment of legislation governing all matters related to cinematography and in general audiovisual works in Cyprus.

The Programme has been approved by European Commission in 2009 and it is valid until 2015.

Festivals

As far as festivals are concerned, the Ministry of Education and Culture provides either indirect support to cultural organisations through the existing funding programmes, or direct support in the context of co-organisation with other partners (i.e. cultural organisations, embassies) and for the organisation of certain cultural events in the context of the International Festival "KYPRIA" which has been organised by the Ministry since 1985.

4.2.4 Cultural diversity and inclusion policies

All persons residing in the Republic of Cyprus have all rights ensured (of expression, of conviction, of religion, of movement, of privacy, of access to information, to education, etc.). The Constitution makes no reference to "minorities" or "national minorities" but to "Communities" (Greek and Turkish) and to "religious groups" (Armenians, Maronites and Latins). By virtue of Art.2, all citizens must choose adherence to either the Greek or the Turkish Community. The Latins are normally Greek-speaking Roman Catholics of (mainly) European descent; together with Armenians and Maronites, they have chosen to belong to the Greek Community.

As stated earlier, the religious groups in Cyprus receive support by the Ministry of Education and Culture for their cultural activities.

In an attempt to promote cultural diversity, since 2004 a more rational approach to funding has been developed with the formulation of certain funding programmes by defining eligibility criteria and clearer objectives including cultural diversity amongst these objectives. Moreover, particular emphasis was placed on cultural diversity and on strengthening intercultural dialogue by laying special emphasis on the promotion of bi-communal co-operation. Especially, after Cyprus Accession to the EU in 2004, mobility of artists and other cultural professionals was fostered with all resulting influences on cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

In particular, through funding programmes for the various art sectors (i.e. music, literature, theatre, etc.) cultural diversity and inclusion policies are further promoted. These programmes refer to activities that take place in Cyprus as well as to activities that take place abroad. In the framework of the existing funding programmes, cultural co-operation amongst Cypriot artists to respective cultural operators and artists from abroad is promoted. In this framework, certain events are supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture such as the Ethnic Music Festival, "Cyprus in Action - Youth Music Encounters", which is a youth music camp that unites young people from Europe and the Mediterranean. Furthermore, in the field of cinema a number of festivals that are organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture aim to showcase to Cyprus audience, a diverse mix of productions from various different countries (i.e. International Cyprus Film Days, Cyprus International Short Film Festival, etc.). The International Cyprus Film Days aims to contribute to: (1) the development, promotion and mobility of

the art of film making in Cyprus and the wider area; (2) screen the work of filmmakers from across the world and to introduce their work to the Cyprus public; (3) serve as a hub for films from the three neighbouring continents of Cyprus. The Cyprus International Short Film Festival aims to accentuate the independence of short films as an art form and to create a special environment and audience for them. By presenting an interesting variety of international short film productions, it offers its visitors a diverse forum and serves as a popular meeting point for filmmakers and audiences from both Cyprus and abroad.

In addition to the above, literary translations from Greek to foreign languages are subsidised as well as the translation and the publication from Greek into Turkish and from Turkish into Greek. Moreover, the Ministry published an anthology of short stories by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot authors, with the objective to foster, through literature, communication and solidarity amongst the two communities. Additionally, travel grants are provided to artists so as to facilitate access and participation to cultural events abroad. The Ministry of Education and Culture through such events as is the Biennial of Young artists of Europe and the Mediterranean, Venice Biennale, MIDEM International Music Fair, promotes creativity and intercultural dialogue while at the same time aims at showcasing the rich and dynamic contemporary cultural creation of Cyprus to a broad audience.

Moreover, innovative modes of cultural expression (vanguard and experimental ways of expression) and related events have been supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture. In addition to the above, through the funding programmes, artists' mobility is fostered either in the form of travel grants or in the form of promoting co-productions and cultural co-operation.

Furthermore, through co-operation with leading international museums and institutions for the presentation of individual and group art exhibitions abroad, mobility of artworks is also supported and promoted.

Apart from the above, the Ministry of Education and Culture, through institutional and financial support to certain initiatives, aims to strengthen the cohesion-related activities of the third sector and to reinforce cultural interventions in society by private not for profit organisations (cf. chapter 4.2.8).

Through the funding programme of the Ministry of Education and Culture, support is provided to Armenians. More specifically, the Armenian Cultural and Educational Society of Cyprus "Hamazkayin" receives annual support for various initiatives such as the SIPAN Armenian Folk Dance group. Maronites also receive support from the Ministry of Education and Culture both for their cultural as well as for their educational activities. In the context of the newly established Maronite cultural centre at the village of Kormakitis in the Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus, support is going to be provided for the operation of a folkloric museum which is going to display a collection of items representing the local culture and the daily life of the residents of the village in the past century. Kormakitis village is one of the traditionally Maronite villages in Cyprus.

Another form of promotion of the culture of minority religion groups is achieved through the distribution and screening of documentaries produced with the financial support of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

In the arts sector, the government of the Republic of Cyprus has also subsidised the creation of a monument in Larnaca commemorating the arrival in Cyprus of the Armenian refugees fleeing the 1915 genocide in Turkey.

In the context of education, the training of all teachers on the application of New Curricula focuses on the promotion of a democratic school that respects and enhances diversity and gives all students opportunities for success. In this context the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute

has been offering a series of teacher training activities which aim at empowering teachers to combat discrimination and some of them can be regarded as examples of good practice (i.e. seminars on democratic citizenship, on gender equality, etc.).

4.2.5 Language issues and policies

The official languages of the Republic of Cyprus are Greek (Greek-Cypriot community) and Turkish (Turkish-Cypriot community). Almost all official announcements and documents as well as the official website of the Republic of Cyprus, of several ministries and of the House of Representatives are published in both languages. English is widely used.

The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (CPI) provides an intensive training programme to secondary school teachers of the Greek language for teaching Greek as a second language to children of immigrant background. As regards diaspora communities, the CPI has been offering for over ten years a six-month teacher training course for teaching Greek as a second language for Greek origin diaspora teachers from Eastern and Central Europe countries.

Moreover, for the reception of newly arrived students and their families the following measures are being adopted (a) publication of a Cyprus Education Guide in two versions and different languages; (b) Induction Guide for new coming pupils from other countries which is translated in eight languages (English, Turkish, Russian, Georgian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Ukrainian and Arabic).

During the European Year 2008 on Intercultural Dialogue, the CPI organised a conference on Intercultural Education and conducted research on teachers' attitudes on interculturalism.

As regards diaspora communities the CPI has been offering for over ten years a six-month teacher training course for teaching Greek as a second language for Greek origin diaspora teachers from Eastern and Central Europe countries.

In addition to the above, literary translations from Greek to foreign languages are subsidised as well as the translation and publication from Greek into Turkish and from Turkish into Greek.

As explained below (chapter 4.2.6), the CyBC (Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation) broadcasts in different languages. This includes Turkish TV programmes of 2.5 hours a week, with subtitles in Turkish for some local productions. In the occupied area there are no media for the Greek minority; it is only possible to pick up Greek radio stations from the south, such as CBC channels 1, 2 and 3. Foreign films / series are normally dubbed in Turkish, and private TV stations broadcast entirely in Turkish.

Cyprus is a member of the Organisation of Francophonie. In that context, the country actively participates to all relevant projects and activities. The Cypriot Ministry of Education and the French Institute organise an annual competition in French language for public high school students. The main theme of the competition changes every year but is always related to the topic of Francophonie throughout the world.

4.2.6 Media pluralism and content diversity

The first steps in broadcasting in Cyprus were taken in spring 1951, during the British rule. The first radio programmes were aired on 4 October 1953 and the first TV programmes in October 1957. Upon independence of Cyprus in 1960, the "Cyprus Broadcasting Service" became the "Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation".

Cyprus' Audiovisual Media Sector since the late 1980s, is organised in two tiers: the public radio and television broadcasting, represented by CyBC (the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation), and a number of private radio and television channels. As stipulated in national legislation, the mission of CyBC is to provide public broadcasting services within the Republic, responding directly to the democratic, social and cultural needs of Cypriot society and to the need to secure pluralism of, inter alia, cultural and linguistic diversity in mass media.

CYBC RADIO services include four channels, each with its own special identity. More specifically, the First Channel has been on the air since the early 1950s. Today, it carries news, current affairs, cultural, athletic and musical programmes, in Greek. It also carries programmes made especially for the Maronite and Latin (Catholic) religious groups. The Second Channel which broadcasts news, current affairs and entertainment in English, Turkish and Armenian. It also carries programmes for visitors in English, French and German. The Third Channel has been on the air since September 1990 and steadily tops ratings for all radio stations in Cyprus, boasting thousands of overseas Cypriots as its most loyal listeners. The Fourth Channel first aired in 2002 it transmits Greek and international music in the easy listening format.

CYBC TV services include two channels, CyBC1 and CyBC2, each with its distinct identity: CyBC1 broadcasts in Greek news and current affairs, popular series and films.

CyBC2 broadcasts children's and sports programmes in Greek, and news bulletins in Turkish and English. It also features a daily bi-communal programme called "BIZ/EMEIS" (We) in Greek and Turkish, focusing on issues of interest to both Turkish and Greek Cypriots, in addition to cultural programmes and films.

Under the Radio and Television Stations Law, Law 7(I) of 1998 an independent regulatory body, the Cyprus Radio and Television Authority (CRTA), was established to handle matters regarding media pluralism and content diversity and to regulate and control radio-television matters.

According to the Radio and Television Organisations' Law, the CRTA every three years edits and publishes a report on the development of pluralism and content diversity, which is submitted to the Council of Ministers and to the House of Representatives.

According to the Radio and Television Organizations' Law, the CRTA evaluates the ability and commitment of the applicants to provide programs with pluralism and content diversity, and the independence of journalists and other creators in the television or radio organizations.

Moreover, the Radio and Television Organizations' Law provides that the TV or radio programs must be governed by the principles of pluralism and content diversity and the greater possible access of the public. One of the most important aspects of the Authority's wider duty is to safeguard the right to freedom of expression.

4.2.7 Intercultural dialogue: actors, strategies, programmes

Intercultural dialogue is defined as the cornerstone of all policies of the Ministry of Education and Culture as this is also overtly expressed in the budget policy priorities. The Ministry of Education and Culture takes specific measures for the promotion of intercultural dialogue both in educational policy as well as in cultural policy. These measures are manifested either by initiatives which support and safeguard the cultural and ethnic identity of certain groups or by promoting certain activities which aim at bolstering intercultural dialogue. More specifically, as far as the first aspect is concerned, one of the measures is the implementation of educational measures and policies that facilitate the smooth integration of groups from different cultural identities in a creative environment as

well as the introduction of innovative approaches to teaching. Moreover, during the year 2012, 332 Greek-Cypriots and 110 Maronite were living in occupied areas of Cyprus. Currently, three schools operate in the occupied areas, despite the difficulties which exist due to Turkish occupying regime's restrictions (i.e. censorship, non-acceptance of some teachers). *Intercultural education* was first officially introduced in the Cyprus education system in 2003 with directives to primary schools and in 2004 through the first report on the need of Educational Innovation (see *Chapter 18, Educational Reform Text*).

According to the Educational Legislation, all children and young people living in Cyprus regardless their language, religion, nationality etc. have the right for access to education (article 20 Cyprus Republic Constitution).

The general aim of the policy for the induction of students of migrant origin is the creation of educational environments in which all students should have equal opportunities of access and success in education. This is also emphasised in the New Curricula according to which the "democratic school" should enhance the multicultural character of the society in order to enrich knowledge, respect and enjoy life.

It is an undeniable truth that intercultural education is also connected to policies which aim at safeguarding cultural diversity (cf. chapter 4.2.4). In this context, school education in Cyprus aims at fostering intercultural awareness among students, teachers, and parents as well. In addition to this, special measures are implemented for enhanced access and participation of newly arrived students of migrant background. Intercultural issues are also part of in-service teacher education.

In *cultural policy*, Intercultural dialogue is an underlying principle which is overtly expressed in the relevant documents of the Ministry. An emphasis is given both to bi-communal (amongst the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot community) as well as intercultural dialogue which is perceived as an agent for enhancing mutual understanding and solidarity. In the context of the peace talks and the confidence building measures (CBMs) in Cyprus, a bi-communal Cultural Committee was also established in May 2015. Moreover, UNDP's role has also been important in relation to cultural heritage conservation and protection of monuments which are considered of importance for Cyprus.

Furthermore in the funding schemes of the Ministry which operate in order to distribute the state grants to cultural operators, special emphasis is given to cultural diversity and the promotion of intercultural dialogue both amongst European partners and with third neighbouring countries. Therefore, the promotion of intercultural dialogue is implemented through funding programmes for the various art sectors (i.e. music, literature, theatre, film, etc.).

As a member of the Organisation of Francophonie, Cyprus supports different activities, aiming especially at young people.

4.2.8 Social cohesion and cultural policies

In relation to inclusion policies and in order to revive and regenerate urban spaces and provide the civil society, disadvantaged people, marginalised groups of society, including elderly people, young people, migrants, with better access to arts and culture, support is provided through cultural infrastructure projects as well as through a funding scheme for regional authorities.

The important contribution of culture to processes of social cohesion, including the integration of disadvantaged groups (i.e. economic migrants, people with special needs, minority groups, marginalised people, etc.), is a fundamental principle in all relevant policy documents of the Ministry, as well as in the funding schemes for providing state-aid to cultural operators. Therefore, social cohesion is an established goal in all educational

and cultural activities. More specifically, several initiatives, involving local government and third sector actors, including NGOs and individual volunteers, some in the context of EU funded programmes, focus on encouraging social inclusion of immigrants, fighting against human trafficking, and other relevant issues.

Furthermore, the Cultural Services collaborate, with the Department of Social Welfare in organising workshops of visual-audio expressions and games for children in Children's Shelters (Nicosia Youth Hostel and Limassol Shelter) giving them the opportunity to express themselves creatively. The workshops that take place within this framework also offer the chance for personal growth and development as well as an amelioration of self-esteem and foster creativity through participation in communal and team-work activities.

The Cultural Services provide the following initiatives for the *ageing citizens*:

- grants for cultural institutions and individuals;
- free admission for the aged to cultural activities of the Cultural Services;
- reduced rates at events (Cyprus International Film Festival, Festival of Ancient Greek Drama, Concerts, Cyprus Symphony Orchestra);
- a monthly allowance to honorary cultural creators over 63 who have financial needs; and
- free admission to museums managed by the Cultural Services (State Gallery / National Struggle Museum).

Certain initiatives also aim at bolstering social inclusion such as the support provided to economic migrants through the Induction Guide for new coming pupils from other countries which is translated in eight languages (English, Turkish, Russian, Georgian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Ukrainian and Arabic). In addition to the above, certain measures facilitate the integration of students at risk to the school system. A specific programme has been formulated against early school leaving, school failure and deficiency in ZEP (Zones of Educational Priority).

Apart from the above, the Ministry of Education and Culture through institutional and financial support to certain initiatives aims to strengthen the third sector and reinforce cultural interventions in society by private not for profit organisations. In this context support is provided to the Foundation of Cyprus Symphony Orchestra or to the newly established Foundation for Children and Young People which amongst others promotes music performances for migrant children and young people. Furthermore, school based intervention programmes are to cover the educational needs of migrant students and children from refugee and asylum-seeker families (cf. chapter 8.3.3).

4.2.9 Employment policies for the cultural sector

Information is currently not available.

4.2.10 Gender equality and cultural policies

Equal treatment and any form of gender discrimination in the Republic of Cyprus is safeguarded by virtue of Article 28 of the Constitution. In addition, Cyprus has ratified all international and regional (European) human rights treaties that address gender equality.

Specific institutions have been established which promote policies and research in the field of gender equality. For example, the main goal of the National Machinery for Women's Rights (NMWR), which functions in the structures of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, is the promotion of gender equality in Cyprus. It consists of representatives of the major women's organisations, trade unions and government departments. Furthermore, the Cyprus Research Centre (EKIF) was officially registered in 2006 as a non-profit NGO dedicated to the promotion of gender equality in all spheres of life and the elimination of

discrimination against women; it is a partner of the UNESCO CHAIR in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment established at the University of Cyprus in 2009. A Cyprus Gender Equality Observatory was set up in 2003 and plays an active role both with respect to women's rights as well as with respect to providing support to all vulnerable groups, while the Gender Equality Committee in Employment and Vocational Training, which functions in the structures of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, has as its main role to monitor the application of Law (Equal Treatment of Women and Men in Employment and Vocational Training Law (Law 205(I)/2002). Also, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) is a non-profit organisation which promotes and contributes to projects of social, political, and economic themes relating to gender with an emphasis on the Mediterranean region.

4.2.11 New technologies and digitalisation in the arts and culture

Different projects have been in operation, for example:

- The Cyprus Archaeological Digitisation Programme started in mid-October 2009 in order to manage effectively the retrieval and manipulation of information of thousands antiquities scattered all over Cyprus and thus serve both the needs of the Antiquity Department and of researchers as well as the broader public. In the context of this programme, a fully digital archive has been created, which includes antiquities in storage and also those on display.
- Digitisation projects are also pursued by the Department of Town Planning and Housing of the Ministry of the Interior.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture has seized the opportunities offered by the new digital technologies for enhancing access to and participation in culture through the European Digital Library "Europeana". This is considered an important tool in the service of education and culture by making Cypriot cultural heritage and contemporary Cypriot culture available to the broader public at European level.
- The Cultural Portal of the Ministry of Education and Culture also has archives of artists from all sectors illustrating contemporary creation. These archives are in a digitised form.
- The Press and Information Office is also taking significant actions with regards to digitisation of press releases archive, publications, photos, etc.

In addition to the above, a number of other initiatives in terms of digitisation either by private or academic institutions have been launched. The University of Cyprus carried out the project Cypriot Folk Dances, which aims at creating a publicly accessible digital archive of folk dances using 3D motion capture data (with metadata). Apart from preserving the intangible cultural heritage through this project, increased awareness is achieved among the public with respect to its dance heritage.

4.3 Other relevant issues and debates

Information is currently not available.

5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field

5.1 General legislation

5.1.1 Constitution

The Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus contains references which are related to cultural policy issues, for example the protection of human rights, freedom of expression and freedom of speech, the principle of equality, free education. More specifically, Part II of the Constitution sets out a broad range of human rights, including all eighteen rights provided by the *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* of the Council of Europe and its Protocols. Article 9 of the Constitution makes specific reference to the right to a decent existence, social security and social insurance, protection of the workers and assistance to the poor.

The right to education, including the right to free and compulsory primary education, and liberty of individuals and institutions to give instructions or education is safeguarded by Article 20 of the Constitution. Moreover in Article 19, the Right of expression is also safeguarded.

Moreover, cultural legislation in Cyprus dates back to colonial British rule when the first cultural legislation was passed – the *Antiquities Law for the heritage protection*.

5.1.2 Division of jurisdiction

As far as the *political context* is concerned, Cyprus has a presidential system of government. The President is elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term. Executive power is exercised through an 11-member Council of Ministers appointed by the President. The Legislative Power is carried out by the House of Representatives; Under the Constitution of Cyprus the judiciary is established as a separate and autonomous power. Essentially, the Ministry of Education and Culture is the executive governmental body that is responsible for cultural matters (the division of responsibilities amongst the various governmental bodies is further elaborated in chapter 3.2).

5.1.3 Allocation of public funds

Cyprus has a *centralised model* of financing of and investing in culture. In the current economic situation, there has been a 30-35% reduction of the budget of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

5.1.4 Social security frameworks

All persons who are employed work freelance or are self-employed fall within the framework of the general legislation for social security. Cultural professionals are therefore subject to the general law. Collective agreements for performing artists, such as actors and musicians of the orchestra, have been established.

5.1.5 Tax laws

The current Value Added Tax law in Cyprus provides, as an exception from the regular rate (19%), a lower 5% tax rate for books and periodic publications. but it does not cover e-books. The lower 5% tax rate also applies for tickets to cultural events, including movie theatres, as well as for services provided by the artists themselves (i.e. works sold directly by the artists, commissioning fees etc.)

Furthermore, Value Added Tax is not imposed on the supply of goods and services of a cultural nature, which are promoted by not for profit organisations (i.e. services provided

by such an association to its members etc.). Currently no reduced VAT is applied to any services in digital form, although there are some discussions going on for exceptions.

According to the Income Tax Law of 2002 - No. 118(I), article 8 (13), the income of any religious, charitable or educational institution of a public character shall be exempt from taxation. Article 9 (14) of the *Income Tax Law* also permits deductions from the chargeable income of any person for donations or contributions made for educational, cultural or other charitable purposes to the Republic or a Local Authority or to any charitable institution approved as such by the Council of Ministers:

Also a wide range of tax exemptions are offered to the owners for the restoration of Listed Buildings and Ancient Monuments (Schedule B) such as:

- exemption of the restoration cost from income tax of the owner;
- exemption of rents from income tax;
- exemption from property tax; and
- refund of property transfer tax.

To be eligible for tax relief, the Director of Town Planning and Housing (for Listed Buildings) and the Director of Antiquities (for Ancient Monuments) must issue a restoration certificate (issued once restoration works have been completed satisfactory).

5.1.6 Labour laws

The terms of employment for artists and other cultural workers are those that are defined by the general labour legislation. For certain categories of cultural workers, for example the musicians and administration staff of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, the terms of their employment are regulated by a collective agreement.

5.1.7 Copyright provisions

In Cyprus, copyright is automatic and requires no registration. The Copyright Law 59/76 protects Cypriot nationals for their works which are published anywhere in the world and the nationals of foreign countries for their works which are published in Cyprus. Only the owners of a Copyright have the exclusive right to reproduce, translate and offer their works to the public. Anyone who infringes their rights is liable to the payment of damages and also to other penalties under the Law. Under the Copyright Law 59/76 as amended by Laws, L.63/77, L.18(I)/93, L.54(I)/99 L.12(I)/2001, L.128(I)/2002 and L.128(I)/2004 the following works are protected: (a) Scientific works, (b) Literary works, (c) Musical works, (d) Artistic works, (e) Cinematographic films, (f) Photographs, (g) Sound recordings, (h) Broadcasts.

The Sections which nowadays constitute the Department of the Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver were established in the beginning of the 20th century and used to be part of various government services such as the Customs and the Supreme Court. In 1946 they were united into the Department of the Official Receiver and Registrar of Trade Unions, Companies, Trade Marks and Patents. As from 1960 the Department comes under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

Cyprus is a member state of the European Patent Office (EPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

5.1.8 Data protection laws

In Cyprus the Processing of Personal Data (Protection of Individuals) Law 138(i)/2001 is being implemented by the Office of the Commissioner of Personal Protection Data. The legislation applies to the private as well as the public sector. Educational seminars and

presentations are offered in schools so as to raise awareness for the children's rights of personal data protection.

5.1.9 Language laws

According to Article 3 of the Constitution, the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish. English is also widely used.

5.1.10 Other areas of general legislation

Information is currently not available.

5.2 Legislation on culture

The first law on antiquities enacted during the British colonial period was the Antiquities Law of 1905. This law however, did not manage to prevent illicit excavations nor the smuggling of antiquities from the island.

The Department of Antiquities was finally established in 1935, the same year that the new Antiquities Law was enforced, which sets strict rules for the undertaking of excavations.

The Department of Antiquities is part of the Ministry of Communications and Works and is responsible for all archaeological sites, Ancient Monuments, Government Museums and all archaeological activity on the island. It oversees the excavation of archaeological sites, the conservation and restoration of archaeological remains and scheduled ancient monuments, ranging chronologically from the Neolithic period to the 20th century – as defined by the Antiquities Law. Additionally, it carries out the maintenance and expansion of archaeological museums and the creation of new ones, the promotion and use of Ancient Monuments and archaeological sites for didactic purposes and cultural tourism. The Department organises seminars, lectures, exhibitions etc. for the promotion of these aims.

Cultural legislation in Cyprus dates back in the 1900s when the British colonial government passed the first Antiquities Law. In the meantime, various other legal provisions have been adopted in Cyprus legislation, which are related to culture. More specifically, legislation related to Culture are as follows:

- Law on the control of erection and placement of monuments in open spaces (L.79 (I)/2006);
- Law which provides for the minimum percentage of adornment with works of art of public buildings (L.57(I)/2009);
- The Cyprus Library Law (L.51/1987);
- The Law on the Foundation and Functioning of Schools of Artistic Dance (L.65(I)/1997);
- The Law for the Recognition of Private and Local Authorities Museums (L.58(I)/2009);
- The Copyright Law (L. 59/1976);
- The Intellectual Property Law (C.264);
- The Law adopting European Council regulation concerning custom's action against goods suspected of infringing certain intellectual property rights (L.133(I)/2006);
- The Export of Cultural Goods Law (L. 182 (I)/2002);
- The Return of Cultural Goods Law (L. 183 (I)/2002);
- The Cyprus Theatre Organisation Law (L. 71/1970);
- The Cyprus Sports Organisation Law (L. 41/1969);
- The Youth Board of Cyprus Law (L.33(I)/1994);

- The Radio and Television Stations Law (L. 7(I)/1998);
- The Press Law (1989);
- The Antiquities Law (C.31);
- The Antiquities (Amendment) Law (L.103(I)/2012);
- The Listed Buildings Law (L.240(I)/2002);
- The Town and Country Planning Law (L. 90/1972);
- The Law amending the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Law of 1959 (C. 300) (L.8(I)/1998);
- The Law unifying and reviewing the laws governing the establishment, installation and operation of radio and television stations (L.7(I)/1998);
- The Protection of the Commercial Exploitation of Cinematographic Films Law (L.159/1990); and
- The Act on the classification of cinematographic films (L.238/2002).

International legal instruments ratified by Cyprus are:

- Law for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Convention) (L.86/1979);
- Law for the ratification of the Universal Copyright Convention (L.151/1990);
- Law for the ratification of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (L.50(III)/2005);
- 1954 European Cultural Convention;
- 1954 (Hague) Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention;
- 1954 First Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague;
- 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;
- 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
- 1972 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;
- 1992 European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised);
- 2005 UNESCO Convention for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions;
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the United States of America concerning the imposition of import restrictions on pre – classical and classical archaeological objects and Byzantine period ecclesiastical and ritual ethnological material; and
- Ratifying legislation on the Cultural agreements between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Governments of other countries according to the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus (Art. 169 §2).

5.3 Sector specific legislation

5.3.1 Visual and applied arts

Under the Minimum Obligatory Enrichment Percentage of Public Buildings with Works of Art Law 2009, [L. 57(I)2009] each state agency (including Legal Entities of Public Law) is responsible for launching a public competition for the enrichment of a public building, used by the agency for permanent housing or the provision of services, with a work of art.

5.3.2 Performing arts and music

- The *Cyprus Theatre Organisation Law* (L. 71/1970) provides for the creation of a legal body of public law; and
- The *Law on the Foundation and Functioning of Schools of Artistic Dance* (L.65 (I)/1997) backed up this field of cultural activity.

Certain Council Decisions are also relevant for the establishment of certain infrastructures in the field of culture (i.e. Council Decision of 2008, No. 67.949 for the establishment of the Foundation of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra)

5.3.3 Cultural heritage

- The Law for the Recognition of Private and Local Authorities Museums (L.58(I)/2009)
- The Export of Cultural Goods Law (L. 182 (I)/2002);
- The Return of Cultural Goods Law (L. 183 (I)/2002);
- The Antiquities Law (C.31);
- The Antiquities (Amendment) Law (L.103(I)/2012);
- 1972 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;
- 1992 European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised); and
- Law for the ratification of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (L.50(III)/2005).

Specific heritage legislation

The following laws are implemented by the Department of Antiquities:

1. *The Antiquities Law* (1935) and relevant Regulations and amendments.

According to the Antiquities Law, "Antiquity means any object, whether movable or part of immovable property which is a work of architecture, sculpture, graphic art, painting and any art whatsoever, produced, sculptured, inscribed or painted by human agency, or generally made in Cyprus earlier than the year A.D. 1850 in any manner and from any material or excavated or drawn from the sea within the territorial waters of Cyprus and includes any such object or part thereof which has a later date been added, reconstructed, readjusted or restored subsequently. Provided that for works of ecclesiastical or folk art of the highest archaeological, artistic or historic value, the year A.D. 1940, shall be taken into account in place of the year A.D. 1850..."

In the law, "ancient monument" means:

- (a) any object, building or site specified in the First or Second Schedule to this Law;
- (b) any other object, building or site in respect of which the Council of Ministers has made an Order under section 6 of this Law, and shall include any part of the adjoining land which may be required for the purpose of fencing, covering, or otherwise preserving the monument from injury, as also the means of access to such monument;

Under article 6.1.a the Council of Ministers may, on the recommendation of the Director, from time to time by Order in the Gazette, declare any object, building or site which he considers to be of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto to be an ancient monument and shall at the same time declare whether such monument shall be added to the First (public ownership) or to the Second (private ownership) Schedule to this Law, as the case may be.

More specifically with respect to Ancient Monuments, under Article 8-1 of the Antiquities Law, no person beneficially interested in any ancient monument shall make any alterations,

additions or repairs affecting its architectural character unless it is permitted from the Director of Antiquities.

Article 11-1 of the Antiquities Law stipulates that buildings in the vicinity of an ancient monument are in line with the character and style of such monument as regards height and style of architecture and that the amenities thereof are preserved.

With respect to excavations, under Article 14-1 of the Antiquities Law, no person has the right to carry out excavations on his own land or elsewhere for the purpose of discovering antiquities without first obtaining a licence in writing from the Director of Antiquities.

2. Return of Cultural Goods Law, No 183 (1) of 2002

3. Export of Cultural Goods Law, No 182 (1) of 2002

4. *The Town and Country Planning Law* (enacted in 1972 and put into full operation in 1990), Article 38 (put into operation in 1976) and 39 are implemented by the Department of Town Planning and Housing (Ministry of the Interior) and the Planning Authorities. According to Article 38, a building may acquire Listing status only when it is included in the Preservation Order, which is issued by the Minister of Interior. To this end, the owners must either submit an Application for Listing of their property, to the Preservation Sector of the Department of Town Planning and Housing, or else, a separate procedure may be followed for listing an individual building, when it has already been included in a unified Preservation Order. Preservation Orders may be issued independently by the Minister of Interior and these concern the wider area in which a historic building is located.

5.3.4 Literature and libraries

The *Cyprus Library Law* (L.51/1987) dates back to 1927 with the establishment of the Cyprus Public Library on the initiative of the British Colonial Governor Sir Ronald Storrs. It operated under municipal control until 1954. Under the Cyprus Public Library Law of 1968, the Library came under the control of the Ministry of Education and Culture and its collections were merged with those of the Ministry's Library. In 1974 the Library was relocated back to its original premises on the D'Avila Bastion of the Venetian walls of Nicosia. The Cyprus Library was established by law in 1987.

5.3.5 Architecture and spatial planning

- The Listed Buildings Law (N.240(I)/2002) Law 68 (1)/1992
- The Town and Country Planning Law (L. 90/1972)

Urban planning and environment legislation

In terms of urban planning there is The Town and Country Planning Law (1972). The Law was fully implemented in 1990 and it has since become the major tool for promoting an integrative and sustainable approach towards spatial development. Under the terms of this Law, there are special provisions, (Articles 38, 39) which relate to the island's cultural heritage.

Under the Inspection of the Erection and Installation of Monuments in Open Spaces Law (L. 79(1)/2006), the Monuments Committee deals with a number of applications for the erection of monuments, with on the spot visits and provision of advice to those concerned. Moreover, it has made suggestions for the subsidisation of erecting monuments that fulfilled the necessary specifications.

Apart from the existing legislation the Ministry of Education and Culture promotes certain measures that aim at fostering urban cultural infrastructure. More specifically, the Plan of Cultural Infrastructure which has been implemented since 2001, the Plan of Cultural Infrastructure has been implemented since 2001, stipulates the provision of state subsidy

(upon approval by the relevant Ministerial Council) for the undertaking of works of cultural infrastructure at Municipalities and communities in order to enhance access and participation.

National Struggle Museum

The new building of the National Struggle Museum was inaugurated on 30th April 2001. During 2011 it received twenty seven thousand visitors, most of whom were students and foreign tourists.

Houses of Letters and the Arts

The Cultural Services lease buildings in Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos with the aims of providing premises to associations that serve the letters and the arts. The Houses are used by associations to host their meetings, conferences, visual art exhibitions, literary events, cinema projections, theatre rehearsals et al.

5.3.6 Film, video and photography

- The Protection of the Commercial Exploitation of Cinematographic Films Law (L.159/1990); and
- The Act on the classification of cinematographic films (L.238/2002).

5.3.7 Mass media

- The Law amending the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Law of 1959 (C. 300) (L.8(I)/1998).
- The Law unifying and reviewing the laws governing the establishment, installation and operation of radio and television stations (L.7(I)1998)

5.3.8 Other areas of culture specific legislation

In May 2009, the House of Representatives voted into a Law (L.58 (I)/2009) the government bill under the title "Recognition of Private Museums and Museums of Local Government Authorities (Procedure and Requirements) Law", which had been drafted by the Cultural Services of the Education and Culture Ministry. The orientation and aims related to the enactment of this Law are of a regulatory nature. The law specifies the requirements that need to be satisfied in order for the museums falling in the above categories to obtain state recognition. The ultimate aim of the Law is the improvement of the condition and operation standards of private museums and those of local authorities, as well as the upgrading of the services they provide and the work they perform. The Law also provides for incentives to the Museums to pursue their recognition, since recognised museums would be able to receive a state grant under terms and conditions specified in a special scheme. The Museums Committee is defined as the competent body for the examination of applications submitted for recognition. Following its appointment, the Committee proceeded, amongst other things, to prepare the "Scheme for the Granting of a State Allowance to Recognised Museums", which would constitute the financing tool through which the state allowance would be given to the recognised museums.

6. Financing of culture

6.1 Short overview

Despite the fact that there is no comprehensive study regarding cultural expenditure, it is known that cultural development in Cyprus is mainly financed by the state (ca. 80%) and a small percentage (ca. 20%) by local government authorities and private sponsors. In 2010, the total expenditure has been estimated to reach 0.98% of the public budget, which accounted for 0.49% of GDP. One needs to be aware of the fact that apart from the Ministry of Education and Culture, a number of other governmental bodies contribute financially to cultural development (e.g. Cyprus Tourism Organisation in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Antiquities Department in the Ministry of Communications and Public Work and the Department of Town Planning and Housing in the Ministry of Interior). As regards the Media, the Ministry of Interior is in charge of support measures (which are not included in the above estimates).

6.2.1 Aggregated indicators

Information is currently not available.

6.2.2 Public cultural expenditure broken down by level of government

The budget of the Ministry of Culture for Contemporary Culture in 2010 was EUR 32 362 034 (34 876 522 EUR for 2011). In this figure it is not included the budget of the Department of Antiquities of the Ministry of Communication and Public Works (EUR 18 520 070 for 2010) and the budget of the Ministry of Interior for Urban Cultural Heritage (EUR 13 885 120 for 2010).

Public expenditure figures from the local authorities are not available.

6.2.3 Sector breakdown

Information is currently not available.

6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing

Information is currently not available.

7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure

7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies & strategies

Since the late 1990s, a considerable amount of debate has emerged with respect to the need for structural and administrative changes regarding the status of cultural institutions; this related with such institutions as the International festival "Kypria", the State Orchestra and the State Gallery for Contemporary Art. The fact that all the above institutions have been functioning in the structures of the Ministry of Education and Culture, gave rise to arguments in favour of a transformation of these institutions into independent legal entities, operating at arm's length from the central government while at the same time being provided with adequate safeguards regarding state's responsibility for retaining the institutions' economic viability and financial and cultural sustainability. In 2007, only the Cyprus State Orchestra was transformed into an independent not for profit organisation subject to private Law.

In 2007 – in the context of the development of the first strategic plan for culture – the debate centred on the division of responsibilities amongst the tiers of government as well as on the need to apply bottom-up approach to cultural governance. Although there has not been a re-allocation of public responsibilities apart from the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, there have been significant attempts to rationalise the funding system for providing state aid to cultural operators and cultural workers in order to manage more effectively the public funds for Culture and increase transparency and accountability. The current economic crisis has resulted in the indispensable need to re-establish priorities and reformulate policies.

7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector

Information is currently not available.

7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions

The government has been traditionally responsible for national cultural institutions (see chapter 2 and chapter 3.2). The Church is also an important key player in the cultural life of the island, not only because all major festivities relate to the Orthodox tradition (i.e. Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, etc.) but also because of the rich tradition in Byzantine art and music (see Byzantine Museum and Art Gallery).

In addition to the above, a number of private organisations in the sectors of music, dance, theatre etc. promote cultural events – frequently most of the times with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture, following an application for a state grant.

8. Promoting creativity and participation

8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers

8.1.1 Overview of strategies, programmes and direct or indirect forms of support

Support to artists is either direct or indirect. Direct support is provided by means of the state funding system for providing financial aid to cultural projects promoted by the artists themselves, and by not for profit organisations or other cultural operators. Moreover, travel grants are provided to artists on the basis of certain criteria (cf. chapter 4.2.4). In addition to the above, there are certain policy measures in place which support artistic work, like for example, the purchase of works of art for the collection of the State Gallery of Contemporary Cypriot Art, the promotion of Cypriot art abroad through the participation in such international artistic events as is the Venice Biennale, and the Midem Music Fair. Moreover, public buildings can be enriched with works of art, based on a specific law (cf. chapter 5.3.1). An honorary pension scheme awarded to cultural workers for their longstanding contribution has been in place, but is currently being re-evaluated. Apart from the above, certain institutions such as the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra (CySO) or the Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC), support artistic creation.

8.1.2 Special artist's funds

Funding of artists' activities is mainly provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry on the basis of a call for applications supports artistic projects through a grant scheme for the various art forms (e.g. Dance, Visual Arts, Music, Cinema, Literature, etc.).

More specifically, there are certain programmes that operate in the context of this funding scheme:

- subsidy programme for individual artists in the fields of letters, music, theatre, visual arts, folk culture / cultural heritage, dance and film;
- subsidy programme for cultural agencies, organisations and foundations in the fields of letters, music, theatre, visual arts, folk culture / cultural heritage, dance and film; and
- subsidy programme for the cultural development of Municipalities and Communities.

For cinema, there is a Cinema Ministerial Committee, which – following recommendations by the Cinema Consultative Committee – provides support for short productions and the production of documentary films.

Moreover, certain cultural projects and initiatives promote the contemporary Cypriot Art abroad, like for example the Venice Biennale, the Biennale for Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean, the MIDEM Music Fair or cinema festivals.

In the field of contemporary dance, apart from the other programmes and funding schemes, a pilot programme for the strengthening of creativity and research has been created, which aims at supporting new productions and research.

8.1.3 Grants, awards, scholarships

Measures include, but are not limited to:

- State literary awards and awards for children's / youth literature and illustration;
- Honorary Monthly Grants;
- Grants for studies in contemporary Cypriot culture; or
- Purchases for the State Collection of Contemporary Cypriot Art.

The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture support film directors, producers, musicians and other cultural professionals for participating in various educational seminars and laboratories abroad.

On the basis of the Council of Ministers decision No. 67.949 dated 12/11/2008, the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation has undertaken the management and operation of the Programme for the Development of Musical Talents, which functions at a pilot stage within the context of the String Music Workshop for a small number of children (about 30 children). In May 2012, a Contract was signed between the Ministry of Education and Culture and an experienced professional teacher for the provision of additional services for the Programme, aiming at covering the instruction requirements of around 100 children (lessons in violin, viola, cello, contrabass and chamber music). Moreover the Cyprus Symphony Youth Orchestra operates the Music Workshop in which experienced musicians teach young musicians the respective music instruments of the Orchestra.

Furthermore, Cultural Services operate a system of monthly honorary grants which based on certain criteria are awarded to people of the Letters and the Arts who have completed 63 years old. In this context, Cultural Services are also responsible for the Excellence Awards in Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Support to artists is also provided in the context of cultural diplomacy and the operation of Cypriot Cultural Centres abroad (see chapter 3.4).

8.1.4 Support to professional artists associations or unions

All major associations of writers, visual and performing artists receive subsidies through the funding system for providing state grants.

Support is also provided to the Fine Arts Chamber, as well as some other associations of self-taught and amateur artists (i.e. EKATE, ENAZ, Cyprus Centre of Cypriot Composers).

8.2 Cultural participation and consumption

8.2.1 Trends and figures

In recent years there has been an increase in cultural participation, however as there has not been a comprehensive study in this respect, concrete quantitative data cannot be provided.

8.2.2 Policies and programmes

Information is currently not available.

8.3 Arts and cultural education

8.3.1 Institutional overview

Arts education in Cyprus is manifested in a variety of ways. More specifically, it is part of the formal education provided in schools as well as of a more informal nature which it is either in the form of extra-curricular activity in the school context or it is part of the educational activities of the overall programme of a number of not-for profit organisations which on certain occasions may also co-operate with the respective Education Departments of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

8.3.2 Arts in schools (curricula etc.)

Museum Education Programmes

The programmes for Museum Education are implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture, amongst others, the Cyprus Department of Antiquities, the Leventis Municipal Museum of Lefkosia, the Pieridis Museum and the "THALASSA" Agia Napa Municipal Museum. The educational programmes which have been running since 1996 in the museums of the non-occupied areas of Cyprus are intended for all primary education pupils. The implementation of these programmes is based on experiential active learning and employs a cross-curricular / interdisciplinary approach. In order to further improve the programmes, digital presentations, interactive maps and drama games were incorporated. The pupils explore the museums, observe the exhibits, search for information, engage in role-play, activate their creative and expressive abilities and work in teams through pleasant and well organised activities. In this context, the pupils acquire useful experiences and develop positive attitudes towards culture.

Art Education Programmes

The Department of Primary Education, in collaboration with the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, continue the implementation of the educational programmes of Art Education in galleries and museums of Lefkosia and Lemesos, addressed to all primary education pupils. These programmes through an experimental approach aim at promoting synergies between the school environment and the cultural sector, as well as at providing an aesthetic development and cultural education to children.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Music schools

The establishment of two Music Schools is an innovation that was introduced in order to broaden the outlook on music and enhance the teaching of Traditional and Byzantine music. The Music School aims at preparing and training young people who wish to pursue a music career while attending general education. The first Music School was established in February 2006, at the Pancyprian Gymnasium in Nicosia while the second Music School in September 2006 at the Laniteion Lyceum A in Limassol. Both schools have a concert hall, a library and suitable rooms well equipped for the teaching of solo instruments. Lessons are offered on chamber music, choir, orchestra, Byzantine music, traditional music, lute playing, music technology, theory, harmony and history of music. Both Music Schools function in five afternoons schedule and they have also the form of a whole-day school.

LYCEA REGIONAL CHOIRS / ORCHESTRAS

The establishment of Lycea Regional Choirs and Orchestras is another innovation of the Ministry of Education and Culture, which has been implemented in Secondary Education, by a decision of the Council of Cabinet Ministers (December 2002). Music teachers who are specialised in choral singing and orchestra conducting have been appointed as conductors and children are selected after relevant auditions. The aim of the programme is to provide opportunities for further music education, develop music and aesthetic education, raise the standards of singing and performing and provide strong motives for both music teachers and children towards better and more qualitative work. At the same time such activities offer opportunities for further communication skills and creativity. The repertoire varies ranging from the classical to Cypriot and Greek, as well as students' compositions.

ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS

Since November 2002, by decision of the Council of Cabinet Ministers, another innovation was put into practice. Distinguished artist musicians of classical, popular and traditional music visit schools of secondary education and provide qualitative music lessons within classroom conditions. The musicians work with the students in various ways such as presenting the various traditional or orchestral instruments, offer creative music games, perform short works, improvise and create music together with the students. Thus, both children and musicians share intense, vivid, musical experiences. The class work of the music teachers is supported by this programme. The main objective of the programme "Artists in Schools" is to promote musical diversity.

COLLABORATION WITH THE CYPRUS STATE ORCHESTRA (CYSO)

Every year, about 6 000 children have the opportunity to attend educational projects during school time with their teachers, as well as afternoon family concerts with their parents. These concerts aim to offer suitably designed musical experiences, promote aesthetic education and understanding, develop musicality, creativity and critical thinking among youngsters, as well as to provide the students themselves with opportunities to develop musical skills.

The educational programmes for secondary education consist of:

- Educational concerts in concert halls in the morning, during school time. Prior to the educational concerts, the CYSO musicians contribute to the programme by visiting schools in small groups in selected classrooms during the music lesson. They present their musical instruments and perform excerpts from the programme of the educational concert. Musicians often make music together with the children and encourage them to improvise their own music in small groups. This musical interaction between the children and the Orchestra musicians is a practice which encourages better understanding and enjoyment of the musical works. Also concert general rehearsals, are attended by students, in the morning, during school time.
- Family concerts for students of all ages with their parents which usually take place on Saturday afternoons. The musical works are presented by a specialised music educator with musical interaction among children, parents and the Orchestra.

8.3.3 Intercultural education

According to the Educational Legislation all children and young people living in Cyprus regardless their language, religion, nationality, etc. have the right for access to education (article 20 Cyprus Republic Constitution).

Intercultural Education was officially introduced in Cyprus Education system in 2003 with directives to primary schools and in 2004 through the first report on the need of Educational Innovation.

- Subsidisation programme for the translation and publication of works by established Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot literary authors from Greek into Turkish and from Turkish into Greek.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture also facilitates the co-operation with the Turkish Cypriot community and promotes the rights of all individuals by supporting a variety of bi-communal film Festivals, with both Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot Film Directors and producers.
- The Ministry also supports on an annual basis, the "Cyprus International Kids Film Festival" a festival with a bi-communal character, which includes film screenings and film workshops, open to kids for all Cypriot citizens, including Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots.

- The "Programme for Film Funding and Support to Cinematographic Works / regulation for Film Funding", as well as the application form has been translated into the Turkish language, facilitating the application process to all Turkish-Cypriot Producers, living on the Island. Through the "Programme for Film Funding and Support to Cinematographic Works", the Ministry has also supported cinematographic co-productions of feature films between Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot Film Producers. A number of documentaries with Turkish-Cypriot film Directors have been produced with the support of the Ministry.
- Further cooperation between the two communities was also enhanced with the publication of a bilingual anthology of short stories written by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot writers in 2013 through the initiative of the Letters section of the Ministry. The anthology covered the period between 1960-2010 and included representative samples of writing from both communities.
- To further ensure political representation of the three religious minority groups and promote their strong involvement in the planning and implementation of various projects, financial assistance is provided for their educational and cultural needs (e.g. for Armenians).

In recent years a large number of migrants led to a diversification in the composition of the student population in Cyprus. Economic migrants are arriving in Cyprus in larger numbers than before. In such a context, certain measures have been developed by the Ministry of Education and Culture in order to facilitate the smooth integration of these students. Along with the intensive teaching of Greek language, a "Reception Guide" for migrant families, translated into the eight most dominant foreign languages that appear on the island has been prepared. Moreover, *multiculturalism* is being promoted both in the framework of the school curriculum as well as in the form of various support measures. In an attempt to integrate in an effective way foreign speaking students in our educational system, the Ministry of Education and Culture utilised resources provided by the European Integration Fund.

The general aim of the policy for the induction of students of migrant origin is the creation of educational environments in which all students should have equal opportunities of access and success in education. This is also emphasised in the New Curricula of the Educational Reform according to which "the democratic school aims at enhancing the multicultural character of the society in order to enrich knowledge avoid stigma, respect and enjoy life".

In particular the specific objectives related to:

- the development of specific and coherent measures for migrant students' educational induction;
- the creation of institutional structures that enable effective education for all;
- the development of Intercultural awareness among students, teachers and parents;
- the development of intercultural material and methods; and
- the development of special measures for newly arrived students of migrant background.

All the above are also promoted through in service teacher education on intercultural issues through different types of training (school based, conferences, intervention programmes, all-day seminars etc.).

School based seminars

In order to cover the educational needs of migrant students and children from refugee and asylum-seeker families, school based intervention programmes are organised. For example within the framework of multicultural education a school-based teacher training was applied in a public nursery school in Nicosia, Cyprus in which a large number of migrant

pupils is enrolled. The main goal of these sessions was to create a basis for reflection and interaction among the teaching staff about issues related to the social and learning development of migrant pupils.

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

During the past few years, a growing number of pupils, coming mainly from the former Soviet Union and other foreign countries, have enrolled in Primary Schools in Cyprus. About 11.7% of the pupils attending Public Primary Schools do not speak Greek as their mother language. Bearing in mind that nowadays, the society is becoming even more multicultural, the Ministry of Education and Culture needs to approach the subject of multicultural education with great sensitivity. This means that it is of vital importance to provide an education that supports the language and distinctive cultural features of the various ethnic groups, but also to provide an education that helps bilingual pupils to learn Greek as their second language for a smoother transition to the Greek Cypriot society. The following table from the Ministry's Annual Report (2011) shows the percentage of foreign pupils during the past four years.

Table 1: Share of foreign pupils at school, 2005-2010

School year	Number of foreign pupils	Percentage of all pupils
2005-2006	3 759	6.7
2006-2007	3 951	7.3
2007-2008	4 040	7.7
2008-2009	4 605	9.0
2009-2010	5 916	11.7

In response to these demands and the changing social environment, both national and international, the Ministry of Education and Culture is promoting the implementation of educational measures and policies, which will facilitate the smooth integration of groups from different cultural identities in a creative environment, regardless of background. The Department of Primary Education makes provisions, so that bilingual pupils are distributed evenly in the various districts, schools and even classrooms, so that teachers can support their linguistic and cultural needs more effectively. Multicultural education is currently being practiced in Cyprus in the form of various support measures. These measures can be categorised as measures for language support, which refer to the learning of Greek as a second language and measures for facilitating the smooth integration of groups with different cultural identities. The model that is currently being used is the mainstreaming programme, in which bilingual pupils participate in the classrooms along with the native Greek-speaking pupils. The Adult Education Centers offer afternoon classes for learning Greek as a second language to the children of the repatriated ethnic Greeks, but also to all those interested in the subject.

The Department of Primary Education has promoted several cultural measures to promote multicultural awareness. The Department also realises the need to provide teachers with the opportunity to further develop their learning and teaching approaches to all children. Within this context, it organises in-service training seminars and conferences to teachers who teach bilingual pupils. Developing multicultural awareness, providing information among the pupil population of the way of life, patterns of thought and attitudes of different people, attempting to understand these differences and communicating with these people, are important features of schools.

In 2008, the Council of Ministers approved the "Policy Report of the Ministry of Education for Multicultural Education". According to the relevant suggestions of the Report of the Educational Reform and within the framework of the creation of a democratic school that

will incorporate and include all pupils, certain measures, that aim to the rapid and smooth induction of foreign pupils to the school system and the Cyprus society, are in the process of implementation.

Also school based seminars on preventing and facing bullying for teachers and parents, with special emphasis on ethnic diversity and gender roles are offered.

8.3.4 Higher arts education and professional training

The first university of the island, "The University of Cyprus", was founded in 1989. This University received the first undergraduate students in 1992 and the first postgraduate students in 1997.

In 2007, the "Cyprus University of Technology" was established to offer fields of studies related to applied sciences and technology.

In 2007 three private universities were registered and given probationary license to operate based on the legislation regarding the establishment and operation of private universities in Cyprus. These universities are: "Frederick University", "European University-Cyprus" and "University of Nicosia". In 2010, a fourth private university, "Neapolis University-Cyprus" started its operation on the basis of a probationary license. Recently, in September 2012, the University of Central Lancashire – Cyprus received Initial Permission of Operation by the Ministry of Education and Culture. There are Music Faculties both in the "European University" as well as in the "University of Nicosia".

Despite being still in its infancy, Cyprus Higher Educational System seeks to link education to industry and ensure alignment of curricula with societal needs. Such achievements will have a positive effect on the number of graduates, as well as on the number of students pursuing their studies further. Moreover, establishing and reinforcing links between education, industry and research will also affect the quality of HE and, as such, promote striving for excellence.

Lifelong Learning consists one of the main goals of the government policy regarding HE in Cyprus. For this purpose the Department of Higher Technical Education has developed a strategy for promoting Lifelong Learning in Cyprus HE.

The establishment of the Open University of Cyprus (<http://www.ouc.ac.cy>) constitutes the most important step of the island, towards the promotion of lifelong learning. In 2014, the Open University initiated in Cyprus the first MA programme in Cultural Policy and Development (<http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/s1/programme/ppa/description>).

8.3.5 Basic out-of-school arts and cultural education (music schools, heritage etc.)

The educational programme "IKADE" is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture and is exclusively sponsored by the Bank of Cyprus. The programme aims at developing the spiritual and cultural bonds among pupils attending schools in Greece, Cyprus and young Greek migrants attending schools elsewhere in the world. It is a vision that concentrates on supporting the migrant Greeks in the countries they live and prosper, contributing towards maintaining a bridge of communication among the migrants, Cyprus and Greece. "IKADE" operates at two levels:

- the level of the Internet, where a Greek planet is created, which everyone, wherever he / she lives, can visit or navigate; and
- the level of teleconferences, carried out between young Greeks attending Greek speaking community schools anywhere in the world and their classmates from both Cyprus and Greece.

During the school year 2009-2010, 39 Primary Schools from Cyprus and ten from Greece participated at this stage of the "IKADE" programme, which was implemented in Cyprus. By this time, the training of colleagues from Romania has been completed and soon their schools will be included in the communication groups. Moreover, training continues with other migrant Greek educators who will also have the opportunity to participate in this tele-cooperation. The thematic areas of teleconferencing include subjects of general interest that refer to: children's school life, our country, our common ancestors, our language, our customs and morals, our natural wealth, our dreams for the future in our country, as well as subjects that arise from the different topics of the curriculum. It is important to mention that special consideration was given to the interaction between the pupils of the tele-classes. The aim was to maximise the achievement not only of the cognitive targets, but the emotional targets as well.

8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives

8.4.1 Amateur arts and folk culture

In Cyprus there is a significant number of cultural organisations that aim at promoting amateur arts through such activities as is music related activities, theatre performances, folk and traditional music and dances. These initiatives are being supported, in the context of its funding programmes, either directly by the Ministry of Education and Culture or through the support which is provided to Municipalities and Local Communities.

8.4.2 Cultural houses and community cultural clubs

Information is currently unavailable.

8.4.3 Associations of citizens, cultural advocacy groups, NGOs, and advisory panels

Information is currently unavailable.

9. Sources and links

9.1 Key documents on cultural policy

Council conclusions of 26 November 2012 on Cultural Governance, OJ C 393

Gordon, Christopher. (2004) *Cultural policy in Cyprus – European experts' report*. European programme for cultural policy reviews. Strasbourg: Council of Europe. Available at:

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_cooperation/culture/policies/reviews/CDCULT\(2004\)7_EN.PDF?L=EN](http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_cooperation/culture/policies/reviews/CDCULT(2004)7_EN.PDF?L=EN) (Accessed: 20 May 2010).

Ministry of Education and Culture (2005-2013) *Annual reports 2005-2013*. Available at: <http://www.moec.gov.cy/etisia-ekthesi/index.html> (Accessed 8 August 2013).

Republic of Cyprus (2006) *Demographic Report 2011 prepared by the Statistical Service*. Nicosia.

Republic of Cyprus (2010-2013) *Budget of the Ministry of Education and Culture – Cultural Services Budget*. Nicosia.

Republic of Cyprus (2003) *Budget of the Ministry of Education and Culture – Cultural Services Budget*. Nicosia.

Theodoulou-Charalambous, E. (2009) *Towards a New Model of Cultural Governance and Music Policy for Cyprus: A comparative study of European cultural policies and strategies for music in the public sector*. Unpubl. PhD thesis, Leeds Metropolitan University.

Theodoulou-Charalambous, Elena (2008) *The Cyprus State Orchestras, on a new perspective*. Nicosia: Ministry of Education and Culture.

Περσιάνης, Κ.Π. (2010) *Πόλεις και Πολιτισμός*. Intercollege Press: Λευκωσία 2007.

9.2 Key organisations and portals

Ministry of Education and Culture – Cultural Services
<http://www.moec.gov.cy/en/>

Ministry of Education and Culture – Cyprus Pedagogical Institute
<http://www.pi.ac.cy>

Union of Cyprus Municipalities
<http://www.ucm.org.cy/>

Open University of Cyprus
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – MA Programme on Cultural Policy and Development
<http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/s1/programme/ppa/description>

University of Cyprus – UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<http://www.ucy.ac.cy/unesco>

University of Nicosia – UNESCO Chair in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue
for a Culture of Peace

<http://www.unic.ac.cy/education/unesco-chair/>

Creative Europe Desk

<http://www.ced-cyprus.org>

Cyprus Symphony Orchestra

<http://www.cyso.org.cy/>

Cyprus Theatre Organisation

<http://www.thoc.org.cy/>

Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

nfo@leventismuseum.org.cy

NiMAC - Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre

<http://nimac.org.cy/>

Riatio Theatre

<http://www.riatio.com.cy/articles/38/organization>

Costas & Rita Severis Foundation

<http://www.severis.org/en/>