

## Work-related language learning in

# Cyprus

### Majority language learning (L2) for newly-arrived migrants

The Ministry of Education and Culture offers free Greek language courses specially designed to

- Help develop a network of contacts
- Widen the opportunities for employment
- Become familiar with the practical aspects of everyday life
- Participate equally in political, cultural and social activities.

Courses are provided by state-funded adult education centres, also called 'Training Centres'<sup>1</sup>

These courses are part of a 'Programme for Greek Language Teaching Applicable to Migrants and Other Foreign Language Speaking Residents of Cyprus.' This programme is itself part of another: 'Employment, Human Capital and Social Cohesion 2007 – 2013', co-financed by the European Social Fund and the Republic of Cyprus. This aims to support inclusion in the labour market.

'Residents of Cyprus over 15 years of age, who are migrants and/or foreign language speakers, are entitled to apply for participation to the programme.

'In a more general socio-economic context, language skills development is deemed necessary so that migrants and foreign language speakers who live in Cyprus acquire the ability to communicate with ease in their daily lives. Additionally, the double objective of promoting social integration and equal opportunities for their participation in active occupation policies is being served. The language and communication skills they will acquire will facilitate their contact with the local population and will enable them to have equal participation in occupation, as well as in the political, cultural and social activities in Cyprus.

'The Programme will be implemented by the Adult Education Centres of the Ministry of Education and Culture during the school periods 2010 – 2011, 2011 – 2012, 2012 – 2013, 2013 - 2014 and 2014 – 2015. The training programmes will take place between November and May of each school period. Greek language courses will be offered free of charge during 50, 90-minute sessions which will take place twice a week for each group. Each group will consist of 10 to 15 persons.

<sup>1</sup> 'Training Centres began their operation in 1960, with the declaration of the Republic of Cyprus, mainly in the countryside. In 1974 they extended their operation in the cities and today they cover each corner of the unoccupied territory of Cyprus, offering training opportunities to thousands of individuals of 15 years old and over. 'Training Centres in their effort to satisfy the right for free participation of people with special needs, organise each year special groups which are attended by illiterate, invalids, convicts, deaf, mentally handicapped patients, children of parents from enclaves, pensioners, etc. Training opportunities for learning the Greek language are offered to Pont Greeks, to children of repatriated Cypriots and to Turkish Cypriots as well as learning courses of the Turkish language to Greek Cypriots.' Source: Cyprus Pedagogical Institute Ministry Of Education And Culture (no date), *Guide to Education in Cyprus*. Limassol: Ministry Of Education And Culture. This publication is described as a 'welcoming Guide for foreign language speaking students').

'Greek language courses will be offered at three different levels: Level A', for persons who are beginners or have minimum knowledge of Greek, Level B', for persons who have basic oral and written Greek language skills, and Level C', for persons who can communicate at a satisfactory degree orally and in writing. The basic goal at all levels will be to upgrade and strengthen these skills'.<sup>2</sup>

Classes start in November each year. Small groups, consisting of 10 to 15 trainees attend classes lasting 90 minutes, twice a week. The courses are conducted by experienced teachers of the Greek language, specially trained in adult education.

## Work-related literacy provision for low-literate L1/L2 adults

Literacy courses are provided by state-funded adult education centres, also called 'Training Centres'.<sup>3</sup> These centres are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

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### **Further information**

[Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture website](#)

[Council of Europe surveys](#) on member state policy and practice relating to the linguistic integration of adult migrants

[European Web Site on Integration country information sheets](#)

[German government information service \(Bundeszentrale für politischen Bildung/bpb\) country profiles](#) on migration in Europe and beyond

[CEDEFOP VET in Europe project country reports](#)

[European Migration Network country fact sheets](#)

[Migration Policy Institute](#)

[Global Forum on Migration and Development Migration Profiles Repository](#)

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### **Cyprus profile acknowledgement: Eleni Karnou (LFW Workshop participant, 2015)**

Participants at the Language for Work Workshop held at the ECML in Graz on 24-25 June 2015 were asked to prepare a brief review of policies and practice in their own country/region relevant to work-related language learning for migrant/ethnic minority workers and/or low-literate majority-language speaking workers. Reviews were completed for Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy (Emilia-Romagna), Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Norway, Romania (Bucharest), Sweden.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/pio/pio.nsf/0/f603c6117c2080d7c22577b6003a8bae?OpenDocument>

<sup>3</sup> See note on Training Centres above