

## CYPRUS

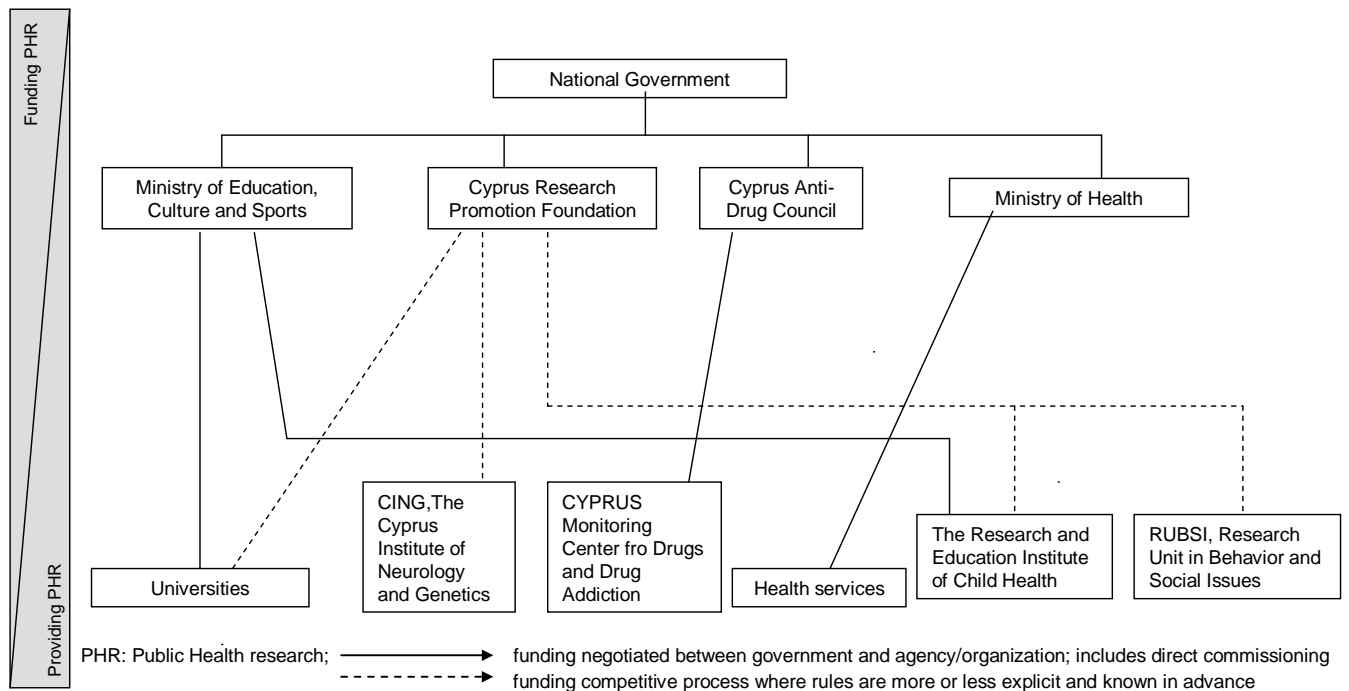
This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research [www.steps-ph.eu](http://www.steps-ph.eu)), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).



The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows. The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: **'Public-health research'** includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

### 1. Organogram



## 2. Research Commissioners

The National Government finances research in general. There are no separate funding figures regarding Public health Research. The Cyprus Statistical Service published figures concerning the percentage to the GDP of the State expenditure on Research and Development only up to 2008, which is 0,46%

([http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/mof.nsf/DMLstatistics\\_gr/DMLstatistics\\_gr?OpenDocument](http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/mof.nsf/DMLstatistics_gr/DMLstatistics_gr?OpenDocument)).

The National Government's funding for 2010 was €10.000.000 to the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, €300.000 the Cyprus Research and Academic Network and €3.000.000 to the Cyprus Research and Academic Foundation. Through the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, the National Government financed for the year 2010 research of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute with €106.000, the Cyprus Research Center with €273.826.

(Source: [http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/mof.nsf/DMLstatistics1\\_gr/DMLstatistics1\\_gr?OpenDocument](http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/mof.nsf/DMLstatistics1_gr/DMLstatistics1_gr?OpenDocument))

2.1 Ministry of Health, [www.moh.gov.cy](http://www.moh.gov.cy)

2.2. Ministry of Science

2.3. Other ministries

2.3.1. The Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation ([www.research.org.cy](http://www.research.org.cy)) (thereafter called RPF), created in 1996, is the primary funding body for research in Cyprus at national level, covering all academic fields, including public health research. The Foundation's core objective is the promotion of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. It is financed by the Cyprus Government and by the European Union Structural Funds.

The Foundation is an independent organisation governed by a twelve-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Council of Ministers for a five-year period. The RPF finances research in all levels of society. Regarding public health research it also finances among others, private universities and academic research centres.

2.3.2. The Cyprus Anti-Drug Council (<http://www.ask.org.cy>)

The Council of Ministers (<http://www.presidency.gov.cy/presidency/presidency.nsf/prc07>) funds organisations such as the Cyprus Anti-Drug Council which in turn finances research related to drug, alcohol and other psycho-active substances use. The primary receiver of these funds is the CMCDDA (Cyprus Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction-[www.ektepn.org.cy](http://www.ektepn.org.cy)).

2.4. Regions

2.5. Foundations

## 3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. The Cyprus Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction ([www.ektepn.org.cy](http://www.ektepn.org.cy)) is the official government body responsible for the collection, analysing and evaluation of data and information regarding the use of dependent substances in Cyprus. It cooperates

with academic Institutions and other research centres and receives funding mainly from the Cyprus Anti-Drug Council.

3.1.2 The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics ([www.cing.ac.cy](http://www.cing.ac.cy)) is a non-profit making institution, specializing in neurology, molecular biology and all aspects of human genetics (including thalassemia). It works receives funding from the Cyprus Government, international agencies and private sponsors, and work in cooperation with the University of Cyprus and medical services in Cyprus.

### 3.2. Mixed organizations

#### 3.3. Universities

Cyprus has three state universities: The University of Cyprus, the Cyprus University of Technology and Open University Cyprus. The Open University does not do research in the field of public health. State university research is financed from the State budget for higher education, and for research by Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, European Union and other funding.

There are also three private universities in Cyprus: The University of Nicosia, the European University Cyprus and the Frederick University. European University Cyprus and the Frederick University are not involved in Public Health Research. The private universities evolved from private colleges after a law passed by the Cyprus Parliament in 2007. Apart from faculty research, private universities run research projects through affiliated research centres.

3.3.1 University of Cyprus ([www.ucy.ac.cy](http://www.ucy.ac.cy)). The Department of Biological Sciences and the Faculty of Education, Psychology and Social and Political Sciences are involved in public health research.

3.3.2 Cyprus University of Technology ([www.cut.ac.cy](http://www.cut.ac.cy)). The Department of Nursing is primarily involved in public health research.

3.3.3. The Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health in association with Harvard School of Public Health ([www.hsph.harvard.edu/cyprus](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cyprus)) operates under the Cyprus University of Technology. It conducts research in association with the Harvard School of Public Health in Cyprus and participates in European-funded programs.

3.3.4. University of Nicosia (former Intercollege) ([www.unic.ac.cy](http://www.unic.ac.cy)). Public Health at UNIC is mainly carried out by the Faculty of Health Sciences and by affiliated Research Centers. UNRF, the University of Nicosia Research Foundation ([www.unrf.ac.cy](http://www.unrf.ac.cy)) is the University's non-for-profit research organization, in fields including health care socio-economic sciences. The main source of research funding of UNRF is the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation. RUBSI, Research Unit in Behavior and Social Issues ([www.rubsi.org](http://www.rubsi.org)) is an affiliated research unit, working in consultancy and training in the social aspects of health, individual and collective behavior, and political – social phenomena. RUBSI is involved in public health research both at national (RPF and commissioned projects) and European level (EC and DGSANCO).

3.4 In North Turkey, there is a state university in Famagusta and private universities in Nicosia, Guzelyurt, Kyrenia, and the European University of Lefke – which has health management sciences,

### 3.4. Health Services

3.4.1. The Health Monitoring Unit of the Ministry of Health aims at developing a Health Monitoring System that will be based on European standards. It aims at creating and organizing the appropriate infrastructure for collecting, analyzing, disseminating and utilizing information regarding the current situation, trends and defining factors of the population's health. It participates in European, peripheral and international projects with both state and European funding.

### 3.5. Independent organizations

3.5.1 The Research and Education Institute of Child Health ([www.childhealth.ac.cy](http://www.childhealth.ac.cy)) aims at the prevention of chronic diseases in children, and young people. For a number of years the Institute was commissioned to conduct research in school children for the Ministries of Health and Education. It conducts studies on diet and obesity in the child population and receives funding from state funds, from Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, Banks and European Agencies.

## 4. Research Strategies

4.1 The Planning Bureau, under the Ministry of Finance, is responsible for research policy in Cyprus and the Bureau's National Development Plan 2007-2013 includes R&D. Strategic aims include SMEs' participation and innovation capacity, a rise in percentage of GDP for Research and an increase in the number of researchers.

(<http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm?fuseaction=ri.content&topicID=33&countryCode=CY>)

However, an international Peer Review Team in June 2010 reported the 'absence of a coherent strategic framework' and 'lack of focus/prioritisation' for research.

([http://www.era.gv.at/attach/CyprusPeerReview\\_June2010.pptx](http://www.era.gv.at/attach/CyprusPeerReview_June2010.pptx))

A Scientific Research Council, proposed in the 2007 Planning strategy, held a first meeting in November 2010.

4.2 The Research Promotion Foundation programme for research, DESMI II for 2009-2010 includes health and medical research as one of five themes.

(<http://www.research.org.cy/EN/index.html>)

## 5. Programmes and calls

5.1 The Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation (RPF)

DESMI in 2009 released an amount of €85 million for research. The field of Health and Biological Sciences is divided into Public Health (€1.900.00), Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology (€1.250.00) and Food Science and Biotechnology (€650.000). It is noted that due to the financial crisis RPF's budget was reduced by 35%. The field of Public Health has four themes: "Preventive Medicine – Diagnosis – Treatment", "Epidemiology of Public Health", "Environment, Sport and Health" and "Health Services".

Programmes funded under DESMI are usually of a maximum of 3 years duration.

- The "Health and Biological Sciences" Programme aims at providing support for research projects with view to improve and develop pioneering methods and strategies that contribute in public health, the improvement of the standards of living

of the citizens, the upgrading of the health services and the safeguard of a health-enhancing food chain.

- The aim of the Public Health Action is to contribute to the support of initiatives related with the formation of strategies and policies for public health, with the documentation of reliable and existing records related to disease in Cyprus, developments with the protection and promotion of good mental health and the study of the impacts caused by various factors and especially on public health of more vulnerable groups of people. To this direction, projects between enterprises and research organisations, aiming to the growth of research to peak areas, to the further development of relevant, horizontal infrastructure, which could be helpful in every scale of the experimental procedure and to the improvement of tools that support relevant decision making and ensure an effective management of information and knowledge, are supported.

## 6. European contacts

### 6.1. National FP7 Contact point (Health area)

6.1.1. The Contact point for FP7 in Cyprus is the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation (RPF, [www.research.org.cy](http://www.research.org.cy)).

Contact person: Kalypso Sepou, Head of European Programmes and international Cooperation Unit, [kalypso@research.org.cy](mailto:kalypso@research.org.cy)

### 6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point

The National Contact point for the DGSANCO and the EAHC programmes is the European Coordination Sector of the Ministry of Health.

Contact details: Evi Missouri, General Coordinator, European Coordination Sector, Ministry of Health, [emissouri@mphs.moh.gov.cy](mailto:emissouri@mphs.moh.gov.cy)