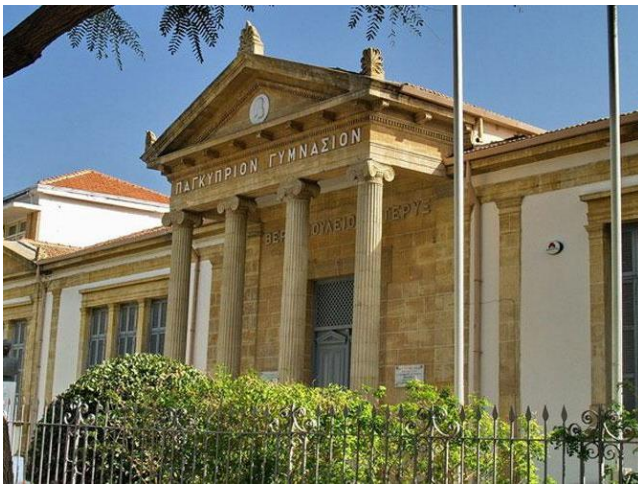# Cyprus

History of Teaching and Learning

During the **Turkish occupation** period (1571-1878) there was no educational development. There was only elementary education given by the monasteries.

In **1741** the "Greek School of Music and Teachers" was founded by the Archbishopric of Cyprus.

In **1812** the "Greek School" was founded by Archbishop Kyprianos. The school was afterwards called Pancyprian Gymnasium, the first secondary school of Cyprus.

Archbishop Kyprianos.

Pancyprian Gymnasium

In **1878**, Turkey sold Cyprus to the British. During the **British rule**, the British were responsible for the education in Cyprus and it was under supervision. There was limited state funding to schools.

The first training of adult education provision program in Cyprus was introduced in **1952** on a voluntary basis by a group of primary school teachers in rural areas of the island. The goal of the teachers was to help fight illiteracy, which was particularly high at that time.

In **1960** Cyprus was declared as an independent country and the Cypriots were responsible for their education. The country's economy was spectacular growth, leading to a great need for well trained personnel in all sectors of the economy. The number of Technical and Vocational Schools increased. At the same time the Pedagogical Academy and commercial and agricultural schools were founded.

Education in Cyprus is overseen by the Ministry of Education and Culture which was founded in **1965.** The educational system contains six years at the primary school, and six years at the secondary school (three years at the gymnasium and three at the lyceum).

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In **1974**, the Turkish invasion and occupation of 37% of the island has had a devastating impact on all aspects of life, including education. During the Turkish Invasion, many schools were destroyed. The refugees had no homes and schools but the government made camps in order to continue their education.

In **1989** The University of Cyprus was by the Republic of Cyprus. It admitted its first students in 1992 and has approximately 7000 students.
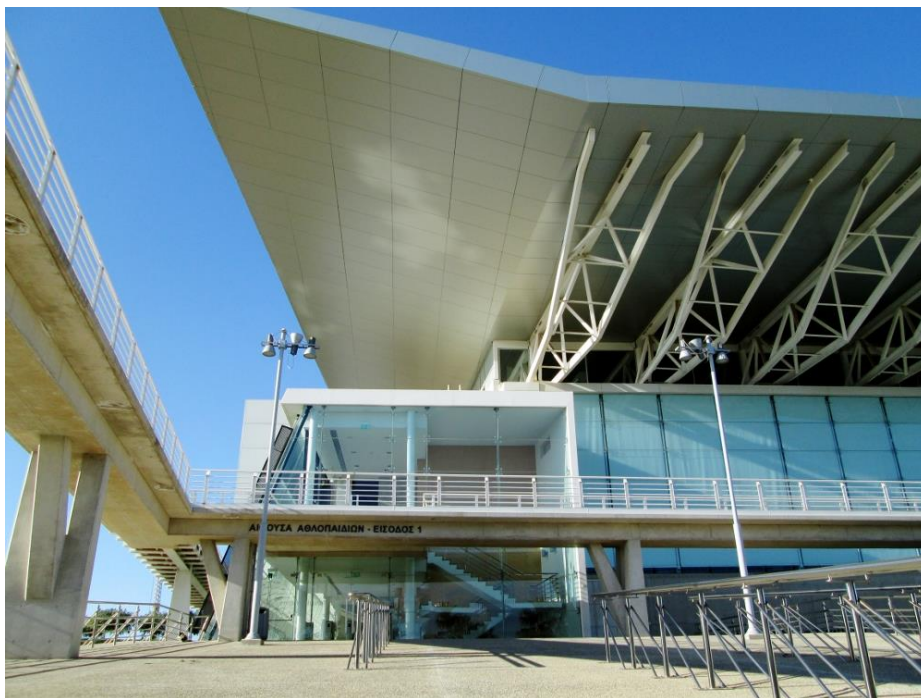
Based in the capital of Cyprus, Nicosia, teaching is mainly in Greek.

University of Cyprus

Main University square of the old campus

Athletics building

In **1993** the parliament voted the law for Compulsory Attendance and Free Education Provision. Education, up to the age of fifteen, is obligatory for all citizens.

In **2004** The Cyprus University of Technology was founded. The establishment of the CUT is an attempt to fill in gaps that still exist within Cyprus' higher education by offering degrees in undergraduate and post graduate levels that are not offered by the University of Cyprus or by other higher education institutions. It is based in Limassol, the second largest city in Cyprus.

Private universities in Cyprus were first accredited in **2005.** Today, there are five private universities and many Collages.

University of Nicosia

Perifereiako Gymnasio Akakiou

Erasmus+ Team, Skills4Life