

# Cyprus

## Introduction

The results of the DEA analysis in St Aubyn et al. (2009) for Cyprus ought to be considered with caution as the results of the efficiency analysis change substantially between the two periods considered (Romania is in the same case). The results are likely to be driven by a mix of inputs in the education system in Cyprus which is very different to the other countries in the sample.

The tertiary education system of Cyprus is developing very dynamically, with rising numbers of students and academic staff. International students in Cyprus account for 30% of the student population and 56% of Cypriot students study abroad, in particular in Greece, the United Kingdom and the United States. The share of students in private higher education institutions in Cyprus is very high relative to other Member States.

## Indicators

Few comparative indicators are available for Cyprus. Cyprus has the smallest ratio of students per academic staff, which can be assumed to provide an indication of the quality of the student experience, in particular as to whether tertiary education institutions on average have enough staff to give students the required attention. The ratio of graduates per students however is below average.

Universities have to accept all students with secondary education who succeed the central examination and the number of students is negotiated with the Government.

The number of articles per academic staff is below average, as well as the quality of research as measured by the citation index.

Universities have limited autonomy as regards staff policy as there are detailed regulations in place and hiring conditions are governed by legislation of public service, e.g. position announcements are drafted by Council of Ministers and approved by House of Representatives before publication.

Funding rules are input-oriented.

Evaluation is carried out, but there is no external evaluation.

**Table - Summary of indicators in St Aubyn et al. (2009)**

	Scores of efficiency indicators					
	Average ISI citation		Recruiter review		Peer review	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
<b>CY</b>	2,33	18	:	:	:	:
<b>best performer</b>	NL - 5,51	1	IE - 2	1	FI - 2	1
<b>worst performer</b>	RO - 1,63	26	CZ -1.06	16	GR - 1.02	16

	Descriptive indicators						
	Academic staff	Students	Graduates <i>per capita</i>	Publications	Students		Graduates <i>per student</i>
					<i>per academic staff</i>		
<b>CY</b>	1,6	8,5	1,6	0,2	5,4	1,0	18,4
<b>EU27</b>	1,9	33,7	7,1	0,6	17,8	3,7	19,8

### ***Policy developments***

Cyprus has a young tertiary education system and enrolment is growing. The main recent reform was to enable the establishment of private tertiary education institutions. This has led to an increase in the supply of places and Cyprus has the largest share of students enrolled in private Universities in the EU.

A Committee of academics was appointed to prepare a proposal for unified legislation to increase the autonomy and accountability of institutions.