



20
YEARS
together

CYPRUS



Twenty years ago, Cyprus joined the European Union, where it has historically and culturally always belonged. With EU membership, Cyprus has benefitted from investments and better public services, improved environmental protection and better energy resilience, as well as disaster protection. At the same time, Cyprus has become essential for the economic, energy and humanitarian connections between Europe and the rest of the world. Cyprus continues to support and benefit from EU cooperation. The EU is stronger with Cyprus as a member. And Cyprus is stronger thanks to EU membership.

Creating opportunities and growth since 2004



Cyprus has enjoyed sustained economic growth since joining the EU, with **its Gross National Income increasing by 4% per year** on average.



As a part of the Single Market, **Cyprus has benefitted from the free movement of goods across the European Union**. Today, Cyprus enjoys lower trade costs for the import of goods from two of its main EU trade partners: Greece and Italy.



Since 2004, Cyprus has gained greatly from the opportunities offered by the EU's international trade deals, with the **value of Cypriot international exports of goods** climbing from €420 million in 2004 to over €3 billion in 2023.



The number of people employed in Cyprus has increased by 34%, rising by 2% every year on average.



In 2008, **Cyprus became one of the first countries from the 2004 enlargement group to adopt the euro as its currency**, allowing more EU citizens to enjoy the full benefits of the Single Market.



With the support of EU funds, **the percentage of households in Cyprus with internet access has increased**, going from 53% in 2004 to 92% in 2023.

Supporting Cyprus' economy and society

Over the past twenty years, the EU's Cohesion Policy has strengthened the economic, social and territorial cohesion of EU Member States. **Over €1.6 billion in Cohesion Policy funding has been invested in Cyprus**, benefitting citizens living in the country.

Driven by the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Cyprus has experienced significant progress in agriculture and rural development. **An investment of €1.3 billion in CAP funding has been directed towards the country**, nurturing sustainable growth and prosperity in rural regions.

With the support of **up to €1.02 billion in grants**, as well as **up to €200 million in loans from the EU's NextGenerationEU**, Europe is helping Cyprus transform its economy and society, by investing in:



Climate
45%



Digital
25%



Social
22%

Investing in Cyprus' health sector

Thanks to EU investments over the past 20 years, Cyprus has been able to improve its public health system. With NextGenerationEU funding, the EU is now helping Cyprus to improve the infrastructure of public hospitals, as well as access to public health services. EU funds are currently being used to increase capacity in two-thirds of all public hospitals in Cyprus, including through the creation of new clinical units. This will benefit, among others, children in need of critical medical treatments, as well as those in need of mental health support.



Supporting tourism and local sites

Since joining the EU, Cyprus has benefitted from EU funding for its tourism sector. €34 million in Cohesion Policy funding, for example, has been invested in the regeneration of Eleftheria Square - Nicosia's central square. The project aims to promote the city's main square as a new attractive destination for residents and visitors of the Cypriot capital. Eleftheria Square is gradually developing into a vibrant gateway between the Nicosia's contemporary city centre, and its walled old city.

Providing humanitarian aid

Over the past 20 years, Cyprus has contributed to the EU's humanitarian aid efforts across the world, providing important assistance to people in need. Most recently, Cyprus has played a central role in the joint effort to launch a maritime corridor to Gaza, in order to expand aid delivery modalities of humanitarian aid for Palestinians in need.



Standing in solidarity

As a member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism since 2004, Cyprus has provided emergency assistance and logistical support following crises and disasters. During the summer of 2023, for instance, Cyprus hosted firefighting planes from the rescEU reserve, ready to be deployed in the case of wildfires across Europe. When fires broke out in Greece, emergency teams were able to rapidly deploy water-bomber airplanes and teams of firefighters located in Cyprus.

Advancing Cypriot and European research

The EU has been able to support thousands of Cypriot researchers over 20 years, funding almost 2 000 projects in less than two decades. With support from EU programmes like the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, for instance, Cyprus has been able to make important advances in archaeological studies across the eastern Mediterranean. Through the integration of advanced technological and scientific methods with traditional archaeological approaches, the University of Cyprus has looked into the urban and extra-urban landscape at Eastern Mediterranean centres in order to discover more about prehistoric Mediterranean polities, such as ancient Paphos. This is an area of key cultural significance in Europe.





Creating study opportunities

Over the past twenty years, young Cypriot citizens have gained more opportunities to study across the European Union. Since 2004, more than 8 000 higher education students from Cyprus have participated in the Erasmus+ programme. Through Erasmus+, almost 16 000 EU citizens have also enjoyed the opportunity to attend universities in Cyprus.

Enriching our cultural heritage

Cypriot culture is an important part of the EU's rich heritage and cultural diversity. With EU support, Cyprus hosted the 2017 European Capital of Culture in Pafos. With the title "Open Air Factory", EU citizens were able to celebrate the richness of Cypriot culture in open venues across the city.



Enjoying Cyprus' quality food

Over the past 20 years, EU citizens have been able to enjoy more high-quality foods, drinks and agricultural produce of Cypriot origin. Today, 24 products from Cyprus, including **Halloumi-Helimi cheese**, are featured on the EU's list of products with protected designations of origin.

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