



WP 4

(Population Related Policies and General Attitudes)

The data presented in this report are based on the PPA2 (Population Policy Acceptance Survey) results conducted in the country. The report describes the population trends and social as well as population policy systems of the country from 1990 to the time of the latest PPA survey.

Project related links: <http://www.bib-demographie.de/ppa/Main.htm>

National Report

Cyprus

1 DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN YOUR COUNTRY 1990 - YEAR OF FIELDWORK (2002)	1
A POPULATION	2
B HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY STRUCTURE	3
C FAMILY FORMATION	5
D MIGRATION	5
E EMPLOYMENT	6
F SOCIAL EQUALITY AND GENDER ROLES	7
G SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA	7
2 SOCIAL AND POPULATION POLICY SYSTEMS IN YOUR COUNTRY 1990-2002	8
2.1 <i>Population Policy</i>	8
2.2 <i>Family-related social policy system in 1990-2002</i>	8
2.2.1 Marriage- and parenthood-related policies: financial support and leave arrangements for families with children	9
2.2.2 Child upbringing: child care and education	11
2.3 <i>Work-Related Social Policy System in 1990-2002</i>	14
2.3.1 Unemployment benefits: type of program f, g	15
2.3.2 Additional social security transfers besides work-related social security	15
2.3.3 “Atypical Work” in your country	15
2.4 <i>Social Policy System Related to Gender Roles in 1990-2002</i>	16
2.4.1 Women and working life	17
2.4.2 Role of men	18
2.5 <i>Social Policy System Related to Ageing in 1990-2002</i>	19
2.5.1 Old-age pension system	19
2.5.2 Long-term care	21
2.5.3 Policies supporting families participating in long-term care	22
2.5.4 Policies supporting elderly people still living at home	23
2.5.5 Active-Aging Programs	23
2.6 <i>Migration-Related Social Policy System in 1990-2002</i>	24
2.6.1 Immigration Act in your country: basic principles of the policy (residence permit, others)	24
2.6.2 Policies decreasing and/or increasing emigration	27
2.6.3 Existence of Act on “integration of immigrants” in your country	27
2.6.4 Social security and immigrants in your country: entitlement to social security	27
2.7 <i>Interplay between demographic trends and society in your country 1990-2002</i>	28
2.8 <i>Mass media publicity in your country</i>	28
3 PPA2-SURVEY RESULTS	29
CI 1	29
CI 2	35
CI 6	40
CI 7	41
CI 8	42
A 1	43
M 4	44

1 Demographic trends in your country 1990 - Year of Fieldwork (2002)

(Sources are indicated after the required data in small letters, please check Appendix 1.)

<p>Introductory comments on demographic trends: Major trends and changes in population growth, natality, mortality, migration and family structure in your country 1990-2002</p>	<p>The population of Cyprus is estimated at 802 500 at the end of 2002 compared with 793 100 in the previous year, having increased by 1.2%. Out of the total of 802 500 inhabitants the estimated composition of the population by community at the end of 2002 was:</p> <p>Greek Cypriot community: 642 600 or 80.1%</p> <p>Turkish Cypriot community: 87 400 or 10.9%</p> <p>Foreign residents: 72 500 or 9.0%</p> <p>The population of the Government controlled area is estimated at 715 100 at the end of 2002, compared to 705 500 at the end of 2001 recording an increase of 1.4%.</p> <p>In 2002 the number of births in the Government controlled area decreased to 7.883 from 8.167 the year before, giving a crude rate of 11,1 per thousand population in 2002 compared to 11,6 in 2001. The total fertility rate, which describes reproductive behaviour unaffected by changes in the age composition of the population indicates continuing declining fertility trend. The total fertility rate for 2002 was calculated at 1,49 compared to 1,57 in the previous year. The total fertility rate decreased gradually from its local peak of 2,46 in the period 1982-1985 to 1,91 in the period 1995-1998 and decreased further to 1,59 in the period 1999-2002. Since 1996 the total fertility rate remains below the replacement level of 2,10.</p> <p>Cyprus has one of the lowest proportions of extra-marital births in Europe and fertility is almost exclusively marital fertility. In 2002 only 272 children were born out of wedlock constituting a mere 3.5% of the total number of births. The mean age of women at the birth of their first child was 26,7 years while the mean age at birth irrespective of the order of child was 29,1 years in 2002.</p> <p>The estimated number of deaths in the Government controlled area reached 5.168 in 2002 and the corresponding crude rate 7,3 deaths per thousand population. Expectation of life at birth is estimated at 76,1 years for males and 81,0 for females for the period 2000/01 compared with 75,3 years for males and 80,4 for females for the period 1998/99 and 74,6 and 79,1, respectively, in the period 1992/93.</p> <p>Though there are no accurate figures for migration in Cyprus, the Census of Population has shown that Cyprus has received more immigrants than sent emigrants during the period 1992-2001. Thus, net migration has been positive during the last decade. According to the Passenger Survey in 2002 the number of long-term immigrants (Cypriots and foreigners arriving for settlement or for temporary employment for 1 year or more) was 14 370 compared to 17 485 in 2001.</p> <p>As from April 2002 the Passenger Survey was extended to cover departures. On the basis of the survey results the number of emigrants (Cypriots and foreigners who had resided in Cyprus for at least one year) was estimated at 7 485 in 2002.</p> <p>Comparison of demographic indicators of Cyprus with developed and developing countries: Both the crude birth rate and the total fertility rate of Cyprus are at about the same level as other European countries but are considerably lower than those experienced in many developing countries. Expectation of life at birth of the Cypriots compares favourably with that of more developed countries though infant mortality is somewhat higher. The age structure of the population of Cyprus is close to that of more developed countries although the proportion of the old-aged (65 and over) is still lower because Cyprus has not yet reached the stage of aging experienced by the developed countries, where fertility declined much earlier than in Cyprus. Furthermore, the proportion of children below 15 is somewhat higher, as a result of the prevailing comparatively higher fertility rate. In general the demographic characteristics of the population of Cyprus are much closer to those observed in European countries than to those of developing countries in Middle East.</p>
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A Population

Indicators	Years					
	1992		1995		2001	
A1 Population on 1 st January (absolute figures) a, b	602 025		645 400		689 565	
A2 Increase of population (per 1 000 of mean population) a, b	27		17		11	
A3 “Old-age” dependency ratio (65+ of 15-64, %) a	17,23		17,3		17 48	
A4 “Young-age” dependency ratio (0-14 of 15-64, %) a	39,61		39,1		32 04	
A5 Proportion of population of foreign citizenship (% of total population) a	4,2		5,0		9,4	
A6 Percentage (%) of people 65 years and over of the total population a	10,97		11,1		11,67	
A7 Percentage (%) of people 80 years and over of the total population b	2,46		2,6		2,62	
A8 Life Expectancy at birth by sex b	M	F	M	F	M	F
	74,6	79,1	75,3	79,8	76,1	81,0

B Household and Family Structure

Households		Years		
		1990	1992	2001
B1 One-person households, % by age-groups			100,0	100,0
Note: here we refer to population living in private households (household-dwelling unit), e.g. proportion of persons living in one-person hh. of all persons in age group (see f.e. Eurostat Yearbook 2003, statistics and Glossary)	15-34	15,24	3,1	18,2
	35-44	25,44	16,9	11,3
	45-64	45,64	22,1	23,0
	65+	65	57,3	46,9
Not stated			0,6	0,6

Households		Years					
		1990		1995		2001	
B2 Living arrangements of women and men by age-groups (% of all households of women and men)		W	M	W	M	W	M
Age-group	Type of living arrangement	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
20-29	Married couple, no children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	16,1	13,7
	Married couple, children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	32,2	15,4
	Cohabiting couple, no children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2,6	2,2
	Cohabiting couple, children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0,2	0,1
	Single parent, children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	1,8	0,1
	Single, no children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	3,1	4,3
	Single, living with his/her parents	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	38,1	57,8
	Other	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	5,9	6,4
	%, N (thousands)	100 N=	100 N=	100 N=	100 N=	100 N=80,8	100 N=49,3
30-44	Married couple, no children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	4,8	7,1
	Married couple, children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	74,6	74,2
	Cohabiting couple, no children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0,5	0,9
	Cohabiting couple, children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0,3	0,3
	Single parent, children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	5,6	0,4
	Single, no children (any age)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	3,2	5,7
	Single, living with his/her parents	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	4,4	9,0
	Other	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	6,6	2,4
	%, N (thousands)	100 N=	100 N=	100 N=	100 N=	100 N=	100 N=

Note: here we refer to individual data, e.g. population (in a certain age group) by living arrangement.

Families			Years		
			1992	1995	2001
B3 Families of women by family type, age-groups and number of children under age 18 (% of all families of women)			n.a	n.a	n.a
Age-group	Family type	Number of children	n.a	n.a	n.a
20-29	Married couple, children	1 }	n.a	n.a	17,9
		2 }	n.a	n.a	n.a
		3+ }	n.a	n.a	n.a
	Cohabiting couple, children	1 }	n.a	n.a	1,9
		2 }	n.a	n.a	n.a
		3+ }	n.a	n.a	n.a
	Single parent, children	1 }	n.a	n.a	80,2
		2 }	n.a	n.a	n.a
		3+ }	n.a	n.a	n.a
	% , N (thousands)		100, N=	100, N=	100, N=
30-44	Married couple, children	1 }	n.a	n.a	13,6
		2 }	n.a	n.a	n.a
		3+ }	n.a	n.a	n.a
	Cohabiting couple, children	1 }	n.a	n.a	1,7
		2 }	n.a	n.a	n.a
		3+ }	n.a	n.a	n.a
	Single parent, children	1 }	n.a	n.a	84,7
		2 }	n.a	n.a	n.a
		3+ }	n.a	n.a	n.a
	% , N (thousands)		100, N=	100, N=	100, N=3654

Data refers to households headed by women consisting of one family nucleus and children of any age.

C Family Formation

Family formation	Years					
	1990		1995		2001	
C1 Total fertility rate a	2,43		2,12		1,57	
	Cohorts					
	1935			1965		
C2 Completed fertility rate (cohorts 1935, 1965) a	n.a			n.a		
C3 % of ever married women (cohorts 1935, 1965)	n.a			n.a		
C4 Childlessness (%) by female birth cohorts (1935,1965)	n.a			n.a		
	Years					
	1990		1995		2001	
C5 Mean age of women at first birth a	24,7		25,5		26,3	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
C6 Mean age at first marriage by sex b	27,1	24,2	27,7	25,2	29,3	26,5
C7 Total first marriage rate (period) a	1,105	1,184	1,192	1,209	1,681	1,436
C8 Total divorce rate a	-	72,8	-	149,0	-	208,7
C9 Live births out of wedlock a	-	7,3	-	13,9	-	24,9

D Migration

Indicators	Years		
	1990	1995	2001
D1 Net migration (absolute figures) b	8 707	6 000	4 650
D2 Net migration rate (per 1,000 persons of mid year population)	150	9,2	6,6
D3 Total immigration (absolute figures)	n.a	n.a	17485
D4 Immigration rate (per 1,000 persons of mean population)	n.a	n.a	24,9
D5 Total Emigration (absolute figures)	n.a	n.a	n.a
D6 Emigration rate (per 1,000 persons of mean population)	n.a	n.a	n.a

E Employment

Indicators		Years					
		1991		1995		2001	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
E1 Labour force participation rate by sex and age-groups (%)							
Note: Labour force participation = people in the labour market, i.e. employed and unemployed people, as a percentage of the population of the same age (see Eurostat Yearbook 2003)	20-29	71,6	54,4	n.a	n.a	75,2	70,1
	30-39	80,2	53,8	n.a	n.a	97,7	76,3
	40-49	79,3	50,0	n.a	n.a	95,8	72,8
	50-59	75,2	39,4	n.a	n.a	89,8	51,5
	60-64	63,5	21,9	n.a	n.a	54,8	25,9
	20-64	75,8	48,4	n.a	n.a	86,9	65,5
E2 Employment rate by sex and age-groups (%)							
Note: Employment rate = persons in employment as a percentage of the population of the same age (see Eurostat Yearbook 2003)	20-29	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	84,0	69,9
	30-39	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	94,4	71,8
	40-49	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	93,3	68,1
	50-59	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	86,4	48,1
	60-64	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	50,2	23,3
	20-64	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	86,8	62,2
E3 Unemployment rate by sex and age-groups (%)							
Note: Unemployment rate = unemployed persons as a percentage of people in the labour force (see Eurostat Yearbook 2003)	20-29	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2,4	3,2
	30-39	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	1,7	2,9
	40-49	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	1,8	3,3
	50-59	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	3,4	5,0
	60-64	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	9,7	9,4
	20-64	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2,6	3,6
E4 Long-term unemployment rates c (long term unemployed as a proportion of long-term ue persons of total labour force)		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0,7	1,2
E5 Long-term unemployment rates (females, 20-39)		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
E6 Long-term unemployment rates (males, 20-39)		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
E7 Part-time employment rates (part time employed persons as a proportion of all persons in all employed persons)		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	5,0	12,9
E8 Part-time employment rates (females, 20-39)		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	6,6
E9 Part-time employment rates (males, 20-39)		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	3,5	n.a

F Social Equality and Gender Roles

Indicators		Years		
		1990	1995	2001
F1 % of women in national parliament		1,8%	1,8%	10,7%
F2 Income distribution ratio ¹ b		n.a	4,4 (1997)	n.a
F3 Gender pay gap (Gross monthly wages of women as % of men) b		66%	71%	74%
F4 Low-income households (%) ²		n.a	16,3% (1997)	n.a
F5 Proportion of children in (%)	Day nursery, crèche (age-group 1-3)	n.a	20,8%	33,9%
	Kindergarten (age-4 up to compulsory school age)	n.a	89,9%	86,5%
	Full-time school (compulsory school, mention school age: starting at 6 , ending at	n.a	99,7%	98,6%
	Full time school (after compulsory school – up to age of 20) (1)	n.a	59,4%	67,3%

(1) Includes students studying abroad. Males aged 18-20 are in compulsory military service.

G Socio-Economic Data

Exit from the labour force		Years		
		1990	1995	2001
G1 Average exit age from the labour force – total b		n.a	n.a	62,3
G2 Average exit age from the labour force females b		n.a	n.a	60,7
G3 Average exit age from the labour force males b		n.a	n.a	62,2
Social transfers		n.a	n.a	n.a
G4 All social expenditure of GDP (%) b		n.a	n.a	n.a
G5 Structure of social expenditure (% of all social expenditures) b		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Old age and survivors		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Sickness, health and disability		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Family and children		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Unemployment		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Housing		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Other social protection		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Administration		n.a	n.a	n.a
G6 Social expenditure by source of finance (%)		n.a	n.a	n.a
-State		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Municipalities		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Employers		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Insured		n.a	n.a	n.a
-Property income		n.a	n.a	n.a

¹ The share of entire national income received by the top 20% of the population to that of the bottom 20% (Source: a)

² Percentage of the population with an income less than 60 % of the national median.

2 Social and Population Policy Systems in your Country 1990-2002

(Please check Appendix 1 for data sources; apart from the texts on the development of policies the year of reference should always be the year of fieldwork)

2.1 Population Policy

Background and basic objectives, comments on population policies in your country 1990-2002: major changes etc.	There is no explicit population policy at the moment in Cyprus. Nevertheless, the government pays a lot of attention to family policy and the pension system.
Is there an explicit population policy in your country?	No
Governmental view on population growth d	Low
Governmental policy/policies on population growth d	To increase fertility and family welfare
Governmental view on fertility level d	Unsatisfactory-below replacement level
Governmental policy/policies on fertility d	Child allowance scheme was implemented for all families in 2003.

2.2 Family-related social policy system in 1990-2002

Background and basic objectives, trends and major changes 1990-2002	<p>Family structures are changing in Cyprus. Although family ties are still strong, they are weakening as a result of urbanization, new technology, higher divorce rates and increasing participation of women in the labour market. Among other things, there is an increasing demand for social support and new forms of formal care for dependent family members. In cooperation with all parties concerned, further promotion of a package of family services (both preventive and remedial), according to family needs, would better preserve family solidarity.</p> <p>Cyprus has an effective social protection system, which ensures satisfactory living standards for its residents. Prevention at all levels is at the core of all governmental and non-governmental policies. The Social Welfare Department is the official authority for policy-making, promotion, control of standards and coordination as regards family support services (e.g. counseling, public assistance and other social support), child protection services, foster care and residential care services for children in need of care, support services for victims of family violence, adoption services, custody services, probation services for delinquents (both juveniles and adults), day care and home care for children, older persons and persons with disabilities, etc.</p> <p>The Government has been operating a scheme encouraging NGOs (i.e. Community Welfare Councils and voluntary organizations) to develop family support programs and services on a local level. The result of this partnership has been a more decentralized, efficient and effective response to local needs and the development of local communities through both the actual services delivered and the employment opportunities developed. The major weakness observed has been the inadequate financial resources of NGOs, which need an annual government grant.</p>
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<i>2.2.1 Marriage- and parenthood-related policies: financial support and leave arrangements for families with children</i>	<p>Marriage Benefit: According to the Provisions of the Social Insurance Legislation a lump sum of CP 269 is paid as from January 2001 to an entitled insured woman on her wedding. The total cost of the scheme was CP 531.000 and CP 617.000 in 2001.</p> <p>Birth Benefit: Upon the birth of a child, in cases of miscarriage after 28 weeks of pregnancy, entitled insured mothers or fathers are given a lump sum assistance of CP 199 irrespective of income. The total cost of this benefit was CP 1.485.000 in 2000 (CP 1.406.000 in 2001).</p>
Total amount of expenditures for family cash benefits (in 13.7 % of GDP) e	CP 805.0 (millions) (Includes: Health, Social Security, Public Assistance and Housing) ³
Total amount of expenditures for family services (in % of GDP) e	-
Maternity grant f, g	
Coverage	Every expectant mother, who is a Cypriot resident, is entitled to maternity benefit.
Source of funds	Government: Total cost.
Qualifying conditions	The benefit is provided to entitled insured pregnant women for 16 weeks. Similar benefit, but for only 14 weeks, is also given in cases of adoption of a child up to 12-years of age as from the day of adoption.
Amount	The maximum amount is CP (Cyprus Pounds) 285 per week. In year 2000 the scheme cost CP 6.865.000 and in 2001 CP 6.504.000
Maternity leave and maternity allowance f, g <u>Maternity leave:</u>	According to the relevant legislation (The Protection of Maternity Law, 1997/2000 and 2002) every employed woman is entitled to maternity leave.
Coverage and duration	<p>Maternity leave is of total duration of 16 weeks, out of which the 9, are taken compulsorily during the period beginning from the second week before the week of expected birth. The same treatment, but for 14 weeks, is being applied to employed women when adopting a child under 12 years of age. Although the exact proportion of women taking all the 16 weeks of maternity leave is not registered, almost all women take the 16 weeks that are granted after birth, apart from some exceptional cases. Finally, each employed woman is entitled to interrupt her work for an hour, to come to work later or to leave her work earlier by an hour each day for 6 months after birth or after the day of adoption for the needs of increased care for the upbringing of the child.</p> <p>Assessed on the earnings on which contributions have been paid: A mother is paid 75% of the mean earnings of the previous working year. However, if the maternity leave is during the six months of the year, then the mother will be paid the mean earnings not of the previous year but of the year before. For instance, if the maternity leave occurs between Jan-Jun 2004, the mother will be given the mean average earning of 2002.</p>
<u>Maternity allowance:</u>	Mothers who have at least four children and have ceased to be eligible for child benefit because their children have reached the age of 18 are entitled to a mother's allowance. The allowance is not

³ 1€≈0.58 CYP (9/2004)

	payable to mothers who are entitled to social pension or to mothers receiving any other pension from any other source, provided that the rate of that pension is equal to or higher than the maximum monthly rate of the basic old-age pension payable through the social insurance scheme (without the rate for dependants). In 2002, there were 10 000 mothers who received a mother's.
Source of funds	Government
Qualifying conditions	The amount provided is that given for the last child and will continue being paid unless the mother receives a social pension or any other pension.
Amount	The total amount paid in 2000 under this scheme was CP 2,6 min. It is estimated that the present number of mothers entitled to benefit are 10,000 given that the current benefit is CP 31,66 for 13 months. Thus, the amount to be allocated in 2002 is estimated to reach CP 4,1 min.
Paternity (fathers) leave and paternity allowance <u>Paternity leave:</u>	NO
Coverage and duration	-
<u>Paternity allowance:</u>	NO
Source of funds	-
Qualifying conditions	-
Amount	-
Parental leave and parental allowance <u>Parental leave:</u>	It is aimed to assist parents with the raising and care of their children.
Coverage and duration	Every employed mother and/or father resident in Cyprus with one or more children is entitled to parental leave. Parental leave is not paid and it can last up to 3 weeks due to the birth or adoption of a child.
<u>Parental allowance:</u>	NO
Source of funds	-
Qualifying conditions	-
Amount	-
Child allowance⁴ f, g	The objective of the child benefit scheme is to provide income support for large families.
Coverage	The child benefit scheme is financed by the State and administered by the Social Insurance Department.
Source of funds	The child benefit scheme provides tax benefits, cash free.
Qualifying conditions	Such benefits are given to families, which have their permanent residence in Cyprus, with at least four dependent children. The benefit continues to be paid for each child of the family until the last child ceases to be dependent according to the Scheme.
Amount	In 2001 a sum of CP 30,74 was paid each month for each child.

⁴ The term child allowance is synonymous with the terms child benefit or family allowance.

	The total cost for 2001 was CP 17,1 min.
Child care leaves, extended parental leave schemes f, g	Apart from maternity leave, mothers are allowed after their return to their job to go to work an hour later or to leave an hour earlier for the first 6 months. Parents get no child home care allowance if mother or father stays at home caring their children under school age
Coverage and duration	-
Available subsidies	-
Source of funds	-
Qualifying conditions	-
Amount	-
Housing support for families with children	In addition to the allowance that can be provided under the Public Assistance Scheme for needy people/families to secure or improve their housing conditions, the Housing Finance Agency runs a special scheme to help newly weds and large families solve their housing problem. Governmental help is also given to newly weds for the building or purchase of houses near the frontier areas. The amount given fluctuates between £6000-7000. Furthermore, the Public Assistance and Services Law ensures that persons who cannot meet their basic and special needs (including housing) are eligible for public assistance. A recipient of public assistance is then eligible for a rent allowance or an allowance for mortgage payments deriving from a loan for housing purposes. There are also housing schemes for low-income households. Public housing is available only for individuals and families who became refugees in 1974. All housing schemes enable the beneficiary to acquire a housing unit or to repair or to make extensions on an existing housing unit. The assistance provided may be in the form of a long-term low-interest loan or a grant or a rent subsidy.
Coverage	Newly weds and large families
Source of funds	The government
Qualifying conditions	Newly weds with low income Large families with 4 children or more and families in need
Amount	
Family-related taxation f, g	Taxation in Cyprus is based on individual taxation
<i>2.2.2 Child upbringing: child care and education</i> Child care system in your country: background	The Director of the Department of Social Welfare Services (DSWS) is empowered by relevant legislation to take children, who are in need of care and protection and must be removed from their homes, under institutional care in foster families (The Children Law, Cap. 352). At the end of 1999 the total number of children under the care of the DSWS was 197. The boarding out expenses for needy children rose to CP 416.135 in 1999 (CP 421.159 in 2000), whereas expenditure for the maintenance and running of children's homes was CP 93.353 in 1999 and CP 105.486 in 2000).
Child care system in your country at present	The DSWS runs 11 State Day-Care Centres in all major urban towns to offer services mainly to working mothers of families with low income. In 1999, there were 326 licensed private day-care centres, 61 community projects and 62 licensed child-minders. The Government, through the DSWS, subsidizes voluntary organizations and Community Welfare Councils/Committees to

	<p>operate non-profit day-care centres as part of its community work. At this juncture, additional day-care centres opportunities are offered by the Ministry of Education and Culture through kindergartens (public 223 and private/communal 204).</p> <p>Percentage of children in Pre-Primary Education (including Day Nursery schools and kindergartens): Public Schools 18.5% Communal Schools 7.4% Private Schools 21,7%</p> <p>Kindergartens run five days a week. Lessons begin at 7:45 a.m. and end at 1:05 p.m. Today kindergartens fall into three categories: public, community and private.</p> <p>Public Kindergartens are founded by the Ministry of Education and Culture (M.O.E.C.) in co-operation with the Parents' Association and the local authorities. The Ministry of Education and Culture appoints the teaching staff and subsidises the needed equipment whereas the Parents' Association or the local authorities are responsible for the building and the basic equipment. In public kindergartens children of 4 years and 8 months to 5 years and 8 months of age are accepted. If there are vacant places these may be filled with children of a younger age (3 years old). According to Law 2231997, no child can be enrolled in a public kindergarten unless he/she has completed the age of three before 1st September of the school year in which the enrolment takes place.</p> <p>Community Kindergartens operate only in cases where the public kindergarten classes available do not meet the needs of all the children in the community. They are founded and set in operation by the Parents' Associations or the local authorities and they are registered in the Ministry of Education and Culture, which offers a substantial annual subsidy. They are not profitable organisations. They have qualified personnel and they are supervised by the M.O.E.C. Children of 3 - 5 years and 8 months of age are accepted.</p> <p>Private Kindergartens are established and set in operation by individuals in the private sector after the approval of the M.O.E.C. Their operation is regulated by the Law regarding Private Schools and Institutes (5/1971, 56/1983 and 123/1986).</p>
Pre-school education	<p>The DSWS is also responsible for the supervision of day-care programmes (The Children Law, Cap 352) for children at pre-school age. In total 26.155 children of pre-primary education age attended kindergartens or day nurseries in 1999/2000 (roughly about 50% of the cohort). For 1999 the per capita public expenditure in the case of pre-primary education was CP 1.369 (CP 1.272 current expenditure and CP 97 capital expenditure). Total public expenditure for pre-primary education was CP 11,3 min in 1999).</p>
Compulsory education	<p>Education of children is free up to the age of 18, i.e. until the completion of secondary education. Education is compulsory up to the 15th year of age. Primary education costs the State 1.627 per capita (total cost CP 99,4 min) and secondary CP 2,259 per capita (total cost CP 128, 2 min) in 1999.</p>

<p>Any other financial support and leave arrangements for families with children in your country</p>	<p>The DSWs encourages and facilitates the establishment and operation of day centres for school-age children in order to protect and take care of young pupils after school and until working parents finish their work. At the end of 1999, 55 (53 communal and 2 private) such centres were in operation and the number of children benefiting was 1.304. Finally, the Department operates residential and day care institutions for a small number of children and young people whose needs cannot be met within their families and or in foster homes.</p> <p>Public Assistance is provided according to the provisions of the Public Assistance and Services Law of 1991-1994 and entails the payment of a sum of money per month, depending on the size of the family, to cater for food, clothing and footwear, water, electricity, and basic health supplies. In addition, extra sums are being paid for special needs, e.g. for rent, mortgage interest, special diet allowance, heating, personal comfort, special disability, home repairs, special grants. The total number of persons financially assisted at the end of 1999 was 21 029 (7.300 displaced and 13 729 non-displaced) in 14 616. The total amount spent on Public Assistance (monetary allowances to displaced persons, to distressed persons and to inhabitants of occupied areas) in 1999 amounted to CP 32,5 min.</p> <p>After the abolition of the income tax credits for each dependent child, the Government decided under the Provision of Special Allowances Law to provide a special allowance of CP 60 per year for each child of large families (4+ children) to support their incomes over and above the Child Benefit. For 1999 the number of large families was estimated at 11 500 and that of children to 42 300. For year 2000 it is estimated that the total amount to be paid under the Scheme was CP2,5 min.</p> <p>Existing legislation provides for the exemption from import duty or purchase tax for the one time purchase of a 'minibus' by families of four dependent children and above. Alternatively, an amount of assistance of CP 2 000 can be provided to each such family for the one time purchase of another type of car which serves its needs. The Scheme for Financial Assistance to Large Families for Purchasing a Car introduced in year 2000 cost the Government CP 1,4 min in that year.</p>
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2.3 Work-Related Social Policy System in 1990-2002

<p>Background and basic objectives, trends, major changes and comments (1990-2002)</p>	<p>The Department of Social Insurance constitutes a special service of the Ministry of Work and Social Insurances. Its main duties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the implementation of governmental policy in the area of social insurances using certain plans and measures for the application of this policy, -the submission of proposals to configure the above policy with the aim to extend and continuously improve the social insurance based on international developments and the social and economic situation of the island, -the investigation of social and economic needs which can be dealt with via social insurances, -the continuous assessment of plans and measures in order to illuminate the present and future goals of the department. <p>Employment policy and programmes are designed and adopted within the framework of the overall national economic and social policy as outlined in the government's Development Plans. One of the basic objectives of the Plans is to encourage the full productive utilization of human resources in conditions of full employment.</p> <p>In 2002 the island's Economically Active Population was estimated at 326 100 persons. During the same year the Gainfully Employed Population in Cyprus averaged 315 300 against 309 500 in 2001. Registered unemployment increased to 10,561 persons or 3,2% of the economically active population in 2002 from 9 546 persons or 3% in 2001. According to the available data kept by the Department of Social Insurance, the average number of foreign workers legally working in Cyprus in 2002 was estimated to be 31 886 or 10,1% of the gainfully employed population.</p>
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<p>2.3.1 <i>Unemployment benefits: type of program f, g</i></p>	<p>Unemployment benefit is granted to employees who are registered with the state social insurance fund. Employees who are covered by the social insurance but are under 16 or 63 years of age are not allowed the unemployment benefit. Unemployed employees can receive the benefit when at least a period of 26 weeks have passed from the day they contributed to the social insurance fund till the day they became unemployed. The employees must have paid by that time last year's social insurance contributions. The amount of the unemployment benefit is based on the weekly average paid and credited social insurance contributions. The unemployment benefit is composed of a basic as well as an additional benefit. The weekly amount of basic benefit should be equal to 60% of the average weekly social insurance contributions.</p>
<p>2.3.2 <i>Additional social security transfers besides work-related social security f, g</i> (e.g. basic income support, others)</p> <p>Source of funds</p>	<p>Every person legally residing in Cyprus is entitled to public assistance if his/her resources do not meet his/her basic and special needs as determined by the law. Public assistance may be provided in the form of money or services depending on individual needs. Rates for basic needs are reviewed annually to comply with the rising cost of living. Special needs may include a rent allowance, a medically prescribed diet allowance, home-care, day-care, house equipment, house repairs, allowance for mortgage interest deriving from a house loan, etc. Residential care may also be subsidized partly or fully.</p> <p>Legislation incorporates employment incentives to encourage social inclusion and gradual independence from public funds. For example, special categories of vulnerable are entitled to public assistance even if they are employed full-time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with disabilities • Single-parent families • Families with four or more children • Families in high risk of dissolution
<p>2.3.3 <i>“Atypical Work”⁵ in your country</i></p> <p>Policies towards “atypical work” in your Country</p>	<p>In general atypical work is not widely practiced in Cyprus. Part-time employment today accounts for 7.2% of total employment. Women have the biggest share in part-time employment at 69%. Part-time employment of women accounts for 11.3% of total female employment, compared to 4% for men. Less than one fifth of women in part-time employment (18.6%) would like to work in a full-time job. According to the relevant law on part-time employment, a part-time employee must receive the same benefits, proportionately, as full-time employees when working for the same employer. The proportion of Cypriot men working part-time is considerably lower compared to women (4%).</p> <p>Temporary work decreased in 2002, bringing its share in total employment to 7.0% from 8.2% in 2001. The proportion of women in temporary work to total employment of women decreased to 10.8% in 2002, from 12.5% in 2001. Women's share in temporary work, however, increased to 67.4% from 65.4% in 2001. The higher share of women than men in temporary employment partly explains the lower average earnings of women than men.</p>

⁵ Here by “atypical work” we mean working part-time and being employed for “short-term” (< 12 months).

2.4 Social Policy System Related to Gender Roles in 1990-2002

<p>Background and basic objectives, trends, major changes and comments on gender-roles related social policy system in your country (1990-2002)</p>	<p>Government policy on gender equality has been expressed through measures aiming at a legislative framework to combat discrimination, the provision of an infrastructure for childcare facilities, relevant institutional mechanisms and improving women's participation and status in economic activity. Special emphasis has been given to raising women's employment rate both in view of labour shortages and as part of a longstanding policy for full utilization of human capital given that Cyprus is a small economy with limited natural resources.</p> <p>In Cyprus, the last two decades have witnessed a significant improvement of the role and status of women in the labour market. During the period 1992-2002, the female employment rate increased by almost 10 percentage points, reaching a level of 59% in 2002 from 49.4% in 1992. This development can be attributed to factors such as: high demand for labour as a result of high growth and full employment which urged employers to change their attitudes towards women; the increase of earnings; the fast growth of the services sector; the higher educational level; and Government policy for equal opportunities between men and women.</p>
<p>Existence of equality act/legislation in your country?</p>	<p>There is not a general equality act but various laws which regulate specific issues, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parental Care Law granting both men and women equal rights and responsibilities regarding the exercise of parental care • The Law on the Property Rights for Spouses – alimony, aiming at granting equal rights and responsibilities to men and women with regard to the acquisition, administration and sharing of family property. <p>There is also a number of other laws aiming at improving the life status of women particularly in working life which are mentioned below.</p>

<p><i>2.4.1 Women and working life</i></p> <p>Existence of legislation/programs promoting women's status in working life h</p>	<p>Legislation Existed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal Treatment Act for Women and Men in Employment and Vocational Training • Equal Pay Act • Maternity Law • Parental Leave Law • Part-time Work Law <p>Currently, the National Development Plan 1999-2003 postulates as major objectives the need for further increase of female participation levels, a more balanced representation of women and men in all sectors and occupations, and further narrowing of the gap between men's and women's earnings.</p> <p>Ongoing measures implemented for the promotion of the above objectives include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ongoing improvement and upgrading of the facilities offered to employed parents in order to reconcile work and family life (since 1968). Priorities include the expansion and improvement of child-care facilities (through the government Grants-in-Aid Scheme for NGOs providing such facilities). In order to secure informal carers, a care allowance is provided to persons who care for their dependent family members based on the degree of dependency and the carer's socio-economic conditions (since 2001); • the encouragement of women to participate in initial and continuing training programmes and to enter new areas of employment, since 1979. The HRDA allows no discrimination on the grounds of sex or other characteristics in access to training; • raising awareness on equality issues through appropriate training of staff in the education system, the promotion of special campaigns and the encouragement of the media to contribute to this effort, since 1988; • subsidisation of NGOs through the National Machinery for Women Rights to promote and implement gender equality programmes, since 1988; • the introduction of a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, as from 2003, which will be the tool for the integration of women's issues into all government policies,
<p>Existence of programs promoting women's labour force participation h</p>	<p>The Human Resource Development Authority promotes: 1. special training programs addressed to unemployed or inactive women aiming at encouraging and facilitating their participation in the labour market, 2. training programs aiming at enhancing the leadership and supervisory skills for female managers 3. special schemes operated, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the encouragement of entrepreneurship among women through financing women to start up their own enterprises and through the creation of a financial institution, namely the Women's Cooperative Bank, to facilitate access to financial resources.</p>
<p>Existence of programs/legislation promoting equal pay for both sexes h</p>	<p>(See above about legislation)</p> <p>Different seminars were organised on the issue of equal pay. Employers and Industrialists' Federation also developed a code of practice regarding equal pay.</p>

<p>Existence of legislation and/or programs promoting reconciliation of work- and family life h</p>	<p>In Cyprus, women have traditionally been - and still are - the main care providers in the family. New family structures, the weakening of family ties and the increasing participation of women in the labour market, however, have created a need for new types of formal care. Measures on reconciliation of work and family life are already incorporated in legislation (eg. Law for the protection of Motherhood), policies and programs of the Social Welfare Services. Emphasis is laid on women who are still the main carers of dependent family members (e.g. children, older persons and persons with disabilities). In order to encourage women's participation in the workforce, the Social Welfare Services promote the development of a wide range of family services by the non-governmental sector, which may deliver services more efficiently and effectively on a local level. The Social Welfare Services provide technical and financial assistance to Community Welfare Councils and other non-governmental organizations within the framework of the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.</p> <p>Provisions in favour of primary family carers, who still tend to be women, are incorporated in the Public Assistance and Services Law of 1991 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All things being equal, the monthly amount of public assistance allowance is higher for working single parents. • It is possible for informal carers to receive monthly fees towards care services for a dependent family member (e.g. an older person or a person with disabilities) who is a public assistance beneficiary. • A public assistance recipient may be provided with governmental, non-governmental or private home care and/or day care. This provision may take away some of the burden on informal carers in order to encourage their participation in the labour market. <p>Finally, the introduction of a new law on parental leave as from 1.1.2003 has contributed to the support measures available for working parents. The new legislation provides for a 13-week period of unpaid leave for the care of a biological or an adopted child. The parent may use this right until the child reaches the age of six, or 12 in the case of an adopted child. A parent may also take seven days per year on account of a child's illness, an accident or other serious family reasons.</p>
<p><i>2.4.2 Role of men</i></p> <p>Existence of programs promoting men participating in child care</p>	<p>There are not any programs promoting men participating in child care.</p>

2.5 Social Policy System Related to Ageing in 1990-2002

<p>Background and basic objectives, trends, major changes and comments on ageing-related social policy system in your country 1990-2002</p>	<p>The key objective of the services given to the elders is the promotion of an independent social functioning for as long as possible within the family and the community at large. Older persons may be provided with home-care and day-care at a local level. Residential care is used only when other solutions are not sufficient to meet individual needs on a 24-hour basis.</p> <p>For the provision of the best possible quality care for the persons who use these services the Government of Cyprus has created a tripartite cooperation with the social partners and non-governmental organisations in the development and delivery of social inclusion policies and programs. Through the establishment of a variety of advisory councils, by legislation or by decisions of the Council of Ministers, the Government consults with the social partners and NGOs in an increasing number of policy areas such as ageing, disability etc.</p> <p>There are four departments that deal with ageing issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supreme Body of Policy for ageing issues 2. Coordinating Body of the Elderly 3. Consulting Body of the Elderly 4. Parliament of the Elderly
<p><i>2.5.1 Old-age pension system</i></p> <p>Ageing perceived as a 'problem' in your country? d</p>	<p>Ageing has received much attention in Cyprus during the last decade because of its negative impact on the Cypriot economy, especially on the Social Insurance Pay Office, resulting from the gradual ageing of the population. While the population structure is still relatively balanced, and the pay office would be financially vigorous until 2020, the continuing drop of fertility requires the trace of a long-term policy that would protect the social insurance system.</p>
<p>Old-age pension system f, g</p> <p>Type of program</p>	<p>The current Old-age Pension System (Social Insurance Scheme) has been in operation since October 1980. It consists of a basic part and the supplementary earnings-related part.</p> <p>The Scheme is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coverage of all persons gainfully employed in Cyprus, which ensures the greatest possible solidarity among the insured persons; • linking of contributions and benefits to income from work; • preserving of the purchasing power of pensions through annual reviews of their rates in line with the increase in the general level of earnings and the cost of living; • providing an adequate level of benefits in cases of invalidity and death, irrespective of the actual period of insurance, and • financing of the Scheme on a tripartite basis (employer, insured person and the State), using the State contribution mainly for subsidising low-paid insured persons. <p>The Social Insurance legislation provides equality of treatment for nationals and non-nationals as regards their rights and obligations. For persons with deficient insurance, a minimum pension is payable, which is 85% of the full basic pension. Furthermore, the</p>

	<p>payment of old-age pension is not conditional on retirement from employment.</p> <p>Social insurance benefits are adjusted every year or every six months as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic pensions are adjusted at the beginning of each year in accordance with the increase in general level of earnings. Supplementary pensions are adjusted the same day, in accordance with the increase in the cost of living index and • pensions (basic and supplementary) are also adjusted every July by the increase in the cost of living index, if the latter is at least 1%. This increase is taken into account when determining the pension increase at the beginning of the year.
Coverage ⁶	The aim of this scheme is to provide pensions to persons who complete the age of 65 (it was recently reduced from 68). In 2001 the amount of social pension was CP 127,02 per month and the total cost in 2001 was CP 25,7 min.
Source of funds	Triparty contribution: 1. Employer (6.3% of the annual salary given to their employees), 2. Employee (6.3% of their annual salary), 3. State (4% of each employee's salary).
Qualifying conditions	<p>The main objective of the Social Pension legislation is to provide pension to persons residing in Cyprus who complete the age of 65 and are not entitled to pension or other similar payment from any source, provided that they satisfy certain residence conditions (at present 20 years after the age of 40 or 35 after the age of 18) (the Social Pension Law, 1995). People who complete the age of 63 are allowed to receive pension if they satisfy the qualifying conditions and if the insurance period is equal to at least 70 per cent of the total (completed) insurance period.</p> <p>Old-age pension</p> <p>Basic Pension: 60% of the average lower part of insurable earnings, increased by 1/3, 1/6 and 1/6 for the first, second or third dependant respectively. In the case of a married female beneficiary, the increase for her dependent children in any event is equal to 1/6th of the basic pension for each child (maximum of two dependent children).</p> <p>If the claimant is entitled to another pension the rate of which is lower than the amount of the social pension then a supplementary sum is being paid to reach the amount of the social pension, which is equal to 81% of the full basic pension payable under the Social Insurance Scheme.</p> <p>Supplementary Pension: 1.5% of the total amount of paid and credited insurable earnings in the upper part of insurable earnings over claimant's whole career, which is converted into a weekly amount by dividing by 52.</p>

⁶ Including also those with no employment history in their lives

Determining factors	Social Pension Scheme: - Age (65 years old) - amount of earnings and - number of years of insurance (insured person should work at least three years before the retirement age and should pay to the Social Insurance at least the minimum amount)
Non-contributory periods credited or taken into consideration	Every insured person has the right to be credited in the Social Insurance Services: 1. after the age of 16 and if a person attends an educational institution or occupational courses or is a soldier 2. for every period that receives from the Social Insurance Pay Office: maternity allowance, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, employment injury benefits (temporary incapacity (injury benefit), disablement benefit and death benefit) 3. when a person is unemployed or has an illness from which is not entitled to an allowance (the credited period cannot be more than 6 months)
Minimum pension	CP 149, 89
Maximum pension	CP 620, 44
Legal retirement age (standard pension)	65
Legal retirement age (early pension)	63 (see above Qualifying Conditions)
Policies promoting “Ageing Workers” (≥ 55 years) participation in the labour market	Self-employment Plan: Persons who are 63 years old and above and their monthly salary is under the amount of CP 250, for one person, and the CP 350, for a couple, can participate in this plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each person can gradually receive CP 800 (the maximum amount given). In the case of a couple the amount could increase up to 50% of the total amount given. The same person can be funded after a period of five years The amount given can be used for the purchase of equipment or/and other materials (for e.g. agriculture, gardening, waving, jewellery, cooking of Cypriot foods and sweets, writing and editing of books).
2.5.2 Long-term care f, g	Traditionally the family not only had to take care of children, but also to cater for elderly people and disabled members of the family. As in the case of children, the State is gradually undertaking more responsibility in all these cases in order to facilitate women’s work outside the house and to assist the family to cope with the new circumstances created as a result of the 1974 invasion and the transformation of society.
Coverage	The social protection system ensures adequate income and resources for all persons in need, particularly for the older pensioners. The aims of these services are: a. the improvement of the quality of life of the elderly b. the assurance of the necessary care c. the reduction of boredom, melancholy, stress and social exclusion
Source of funds	The care for the elderly and disabled is provided in the form of institutional care (in 1999 there were 7 State Homes for Elderly and Disabled and 25 Community/Municipal Homes, whereas the services of 105 Private Homes were used by the DSWS), the provision of care at home through the Home Care Programme, and the provision of day care services in open Centres for Elderly

	People (in 1999 the Department used the services of 1188 carers for the last two programmes) (the Homes for Elderly and Disabled People Law, 1991-1994). In total 5 275 elderly and disabled persons were taken care of through the services provided by the State in 1999. This represents a small proportion (7%) of the population 65 years of age and above or 10% of those above 70 years and about 17% of those above 75 years.
Qualifying conditions	Assistance is determined on individual basis according to the needs of the person.
Modes of <i>institutional care</i> for older people in your country	The modes of institutional care for older people include rehabilitation programs, recreation and care activities. The key objective of these activities is to promote independent social functioning for as long as possible within the family and the community at large. Older persons may be provided with home-care and day-care at a local level. Residential care is used only when other solutions are not sufficient to meet individual needs on a 24-hour basis. The home-care program has been expanding in recent years due to its successful implementation throughout Cyprus. There are governmental, non-governmental and mostly, private home-carers. Through the public assistance law, the government may pay home-care and day-care services in full or in part. There are governmental, non-governmental and private Homes for Older Persons. The government encourages local communities and NGOs to develop supportive services on a local level tend to be more flexible and efficient. There are two types of Homes for the Elderly: 1. Day centres where they provide many different kind of services such as: lunches, laundry and recreation programs and 2. Houses for the Elderly, which are undertake the whole responsibility for the care for the older persons. The Welfare Department inspects the day-care and residential institutions by legislation. The aim is to provide the best possible quality care for the elderly.
<p><i>2.5.3 Policies supporting families participating in long-term care</i> f, g</p> <p>Any policies/subsidies supporting families participating in elderly care?</p> <p>If any, please provide the following information:</p>	<p>Family members in Cyprus are an important source of support and assistance for older people. The children of an older person usually look after their parents that is why there is a new scheme that has been introduced by the Welfare Department whereby families will be assisted in their informal care of their elderly and/or disabled members at home so as to forestall their placing at institutional homes (addition of more rooms, purchase of required equipment etc.). The maximum amount which can be given is CP 6000.</p> <p>Persons entitled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons that are 63 years old and above receiving public assistance <p>Holidays funding for the Elderly</p> <p>The aim of this plan is to fund the accommodation and catering expenses of older people and their carers in hotels or other places in and outside Cyprus for holidays. The maximum amount for funding is CP 150 for six days.</p> <p>Persons entitled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons that are 63 years old and above and receive public assistance The persons that participate in a particular year are not allowed of the next year's funding
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons that are 63 years old and above and receive public assistance
Source of funds	Government: Total Cost

Qualifying conditions	See Above
Amount	See Above
<p><i>2.5.4 Policies supporting elderly people still living at home</i> f, g</p> <p>Any policies/subsidies supporting elderly people still living at (their own) home</p> <p>If any, please provide the following information:</p>	<p>Social Card is granted to all persons above 63 years of age. This card enables them to be present at cultural events and to enjoy different benefits such as free transportation with buses to urban and rural areas. Retired government employees as well as elderly people with special needs (e.g. handicapped etc.) can also enjoy free health care.</p> <p>Certain municipalities provide support (services, care) to the elderly, who might not be receiving any kind of assistance from their familiar environment, and who face temporary or permanent health problems. This is done in an attempt to assist their stay in their own environment (house) and to enjoy a better standard of living.</p> <p>Telecare Service: A new program that is purchased by private companies in Cyprus and is useful for older people that live alone. With this system there can be a constant communication of the older people with the monitoring centre and provides help when in needed.</p>
Coverage	Government
Source of funds	-
Qualifying conditions	-
Amount	-
<p><i>2.5.5 Active-Aging Programs</i></p> <p>Existence of active-aging programs in your country?</p>	Self-employment Plan as mentioned above

2.6 Migration-Related Social Policy System in 1990-2002

Background and basic objectives, comments on migration-related social policy system in your country 1990-2002	<p>The Republic of Cyprus has not yet adopted an integration policy for migrants lawfully residing in Cyprus since long-term immigrants are very few. Temporary labour migrants working here to cover specific short-term needs of the economy, are only authorized to reside and work for a limited period of time, which currently extends up to six years. The other two categories of immigrants lawfully residing and/or working in Cyprus, which are much less in number, are aliens granted an immigration permit (permanent residence on grounds of employment or self employment in specific sectors of the economy specified in the Aliens and Immigration Regulations or on grounds of secured annual income from sources other than employment or self employment) and aliens who acquire the Cypriot citizenship by naturalization, following at least seven years of legal residence in the country. However Cyprus is in the process of adopting integrating measures, mainly for temporary labour migrants, as part of its national employment immigration policies, in accordance with similar European Union legislation and policy.</p>
2.6.1 Immigration Act in your country: basic principles of the policy (residence permit, others)	<p>The current immigration Act will be abolished in a few days. A new Immigration Act has been voted by the parliament to be implemented in the next month due to the entry of Cyprus in the EU. The content of the new Aliens and Immigration is still under discussion and it will be finalised before the end of 2004.</p>
Asylum seekers and refugees - Existence of quota refugees? - Size of the annual quota	None

<p>Asylum seekers: principles of the policy</p>	<p>An alien who enters Cyprus either legally or illegally, may submit an application addressed to the Asylum Service at all entry points of the Republic upon arrival or within the Republic at any Police Station, and in case of the applicant's detention or imprisonment at the detention centres or the prisons where he is held. Applications are immediately referred to the Asylum Service.</p> <p>At the time of submission, the applicant is informed, in a language understood by him/her, of his/her rights and obligations as an asylum applicant as those are provided for in the Law, of the asylum examination procedure which s/he should follow, as well as of his/her rights and obligations related to this procedure such as: his/her right to free-of charge assistance by an interpreter in his/her language, his right to call a lawyer or a legal adviser to assist him during the whole procedure, his/her right at all the stages of the examination procedure to communicate with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.</p> <p>Subsequently, the applicant is invited by a letter sent by the competent officer of the Asylum Service, to a personal interview. Following the interview, the competent officer prepares a report stating the facts of the case, which is submitted to the Head of the Asylum Service. The Head Service may decide to: (a) recognize the applicant as a refugee, (b) recognize the applicant as a person in need of complementary protection, (c) reject the application and grant the applicant with a temporary residence permit for humanitarian reasons or (d) reject the application.</p> <p>A person is recognized as a refugee if he/she can prove that they have left his/her country of origin as a result of a well-founded fear of persecution by reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion (article 1A of the Geneva Convention related to the Status of Refugees).</p> <p>The applicant is communicated the decision regarding his application in writing. The letter contains sufficient explanations on the reasoning of the decision and also informs the applicant of his right to appeal the decision within 20 days from the date of receipt, in case normal examination procedures have been followed. Responsible for the examination of the administrative recourses is the Reviewing Authority, which is an independent Authority.</p>
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<p>Residence permits: principles of the policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the submission of the application, a permit for temporary residence is granted to the applicant which is valid for the period commencing from the date of entry in the Republic until the date on which a final decision is reached on his/her application for recognition as a refugee. • In the case that a person is recognised as a refugee a new 3-year residence permit is granted which is renewed within the month preceding its expiration for a further 3-year period, unless his refugee status has been revoked • In the case that a person is granted with subsidiary protection, a new 1-year residence permit is granted to him which is renewed for as long as this status is maintained • Where the Head of the Asylum Service decides to grant the applicant with a temporary residence permit for humanitarian reasons, a new residence permit valid for a limited period of time i.e. 3 months is issued and is subsequently renewed for as long as these reasons exist
<p>Existence of family reunification programmes</p>	<p>Section 4 of the Refugee Law of 2000-2004 sets out the basic principles for the treatment of refugees, one of which is the principle of family unity.</p> <p>Section 25 of the same Law provides that: asylum shall be granted to members of the family of a refugee who enter the Republic either at the same time as the refugee or thereafter. 'Member of the family of a refugee' means (a) the spouse of the refugee (b) the minor children of the refugee, (c) the father and mother of the refugee if they are his dependants and (d) in case of a minor refugee, his father and mother.</p>
<p>Country-specific information</p>	<p>None</p>

<p><i>2.6.2 Policies decreasing and/or increasing emigration</i></p>	<p>No policies exist for increasing or decreasing emigration. There are only some incentives given by the Cyprus government such as decreased taxation to facilitate Cypriots who lived years abroad to readjust back to the Cyprus reality e.g. to start their own businesses etc.</p>
<p><i>2.6.3 Existence of Act on “integration of immigrants” in your country</i></p> <p>If any, please provide basic principles of it</p>	<p>Non-Existent</p>
<p><i>2.6.4 Social security and immigrants in your country: entitlement to social security</i></p>	<p>Immigrants in Cyprus who work in Cypriot businesses/organizations are guaranteed the same benefits and are entitled to the same rights that are offered by the social security department to employees with Cypriot citizenship. For instance, they are granted sickness allowance, allowance resulting from the occurrence of an accident, financial aid for marriage and motherhood etc. On the contrary, foreigners who work in non-local offshore companies are not entitled to social security allowances and rights.</p>
<p>Existence of any special assistance for immigrants in your country?</p>	<p>Depending on each case, the Department of Social Welfare, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, provides special assistance to some families of immigrants, especially during the beginning of their residence in Cyprus. This is done to assist them to adopt to the Cyprus environment, provided they are seeking for employment and that registered with Cyprus authorities and the police. A ‘maintenance’ amount of £194 is given to some migrants, which covers basic needs, such as food, residence and pocket money. If the migrant is married, an extra amount of £91 is given for the spouse, provided that he/she is not working. In case children in the family, the department pays £54 for each child under 14 years of age, and £91 when the age of the child ranges from 14-18 years of age. This financial support is in most cases provided until the migrant finds a job and is able to maintain and support himself/herself and his/her family. Apart from financial support, family support is also provided to migrants, such as in the case of violence, in the same way it is provided for Cypriots.</p>

2.7 Interplay between demographic trends and society in your country 1990-2002

<p>Do you see any demographic effects caused by the population policy and/or social policy in your country (1990-2002), e. g. migration or fertility policy. If yes, mention some examples, please.</p>	<p>Due to the fact that there has not been an explicit demographic policy in Cyprus and that specific policy measures have been offered to deal with the demographic problems (e.g. child allowance to increase the fertility rate) have only been implemented in the last 2 years, it is dangerous to make any correlation between the demographic effects and the population and social policy measures in Cyprus. Neither the government nor other research organizations have tried to explain the effects of these policy measures yet.</p>
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2.8 Mass media publicity in your country

<p>The main topics in mass media related to the issues discussed in this report. (time: PPA-survey data collection).</p>	<p>The main topics discussed in the mass media related to the issues discussed in this report were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The declining birth rate has been discussed thoroughly in the press as it was associated with the continuance of the Greek-Cypriot population and as such constituted a national problem. In particular, a lot of attention was paid to the feelings of fear of depopulation of the Greek Cypriot community, accompanied with a respective increase of the Turkish Cypriot community, due to increasing birth rates as well as the arrival of settlers from Turkey 2) The media was also concerned with large families and more specifically the reasons behind their limited number (particular the financial burden of raising children) and the incentives (financial and non-financial), which could encourage large families (e.g. more public kindergartens).
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3 PPA2-Survey Results

The DIALOG participants should present the results for questions CI1, CI2, CI3, CI4, CI5, CI6, CI7, CI 8, A1, M2, M4 from the Population Policy Acceptance Survey (PPA2) done in your country.

CI 1

Changes in society are everyone's concern. The government could play an important or a minor role in this. Please indicate what you think about the government's responsibility regarding the following issues.

			Completely and quite responsible (in %) ²²
a) Looking after the elderly			
	Total		64
	Sex	Men	64
		Women	64
	Age groups	– 29	
		30 – 39	
		40 – 49	
		50 – 59	
		60 +	
	Education ²³	Low	60
		Medium	63
		High	67
	Income ²⁴	Low	64
		Medium	66
		High	63.7
	Living arrangements ²⁵ (Age: 20-49)	One-person-households	
		Married couples with children	
		Married couples without children	
		Consensual unions with children	
		Consensual unions without children	
		Lone parents	
	Number of	0	64.4

²² Completely and quite responsible = International PPA-database, questions CI1a-g, codes 1 and 2.

²³ *Education categories*: low = International PPA-database, codes 1 to 3 (compares to ISCED 0 to 2), medium = International PPA-database, codes 4 and 5 (compares to ISCED 3 and 4), high = International PPA-database, codes 6 to 8 (compares to ISCED 5 to 6).

²⁴ *Composition of income groups*: low = International PPA-database, income quintiles 1 and 2, medium = International PPA-database, income quintile 3, high = International PPA-database, income quintiles 4 and 5.

²⁵ Children in *Living arrangements* include all children (of any age) living in the household of the respondent. Note here: the sub-sample of the respondents aged 20 to 49.

²⁶ Children in the *Number of children* include only the number of biological (or adopted) children (any age) of the respondent (irrespective of whether they live in the same household of the respondent).

			Completely and quite responsible (in %)
b) Availability of adequate housing for large families			
	Total		50.8
	Sex	Men	53
		Women	50
	Age groups	– 29	
		30 – 39	
		40 – 49	
		50 – 59	
		60 +	
	Education	Low	47
		Medium	51
		High	51
	Income	Low	57
		Medium	52
		High	48.8
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households	
		Married couples with children	
		Married couples without children	
		Consensual unions with children	
		Consensual unions without children	
		Lone parents	
	Number of children	0	50.9
		1	55.2
		2	50.9
		3	44.7

			Completely and quite responsible (in %)
c) Facilitating the labour force participation of women			
	Total		53.5
	Sex	Men	50
		Women	57
	Age groups	– 29	
		30 – 39	
		40 – 49	
		50 – 59	
		60 +	
	Education	Low	57
		Medium	53
		High	55
	Income	Low	60
		Medium	53
		High	51.8
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households	
		Married couples with children	
		Married couples without children	
		Consensual unions with children	
		Consensual unions without children	
		Lone parents	
	Number of children	0	52.1
		1	56.1
		2	57.4
		3+	50.6

			Completely and quite responsible (in %)
d) Providing opportunities for women to combine a job outside the home with raising children			
	Total		56.4
	Sex	Men	50
		Women	63
	Age groups	– 29	
		30 – 39	
		40 – 49	
		50 – 59	
		60 +	
	Education	Low	58
		Medium	56
		High	57
	Income	Low	65
		Medium	58
		High	51.9
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households	
		Married couples with children	
		Married couples without children	
		Consensual unions with children	
		Consensual unions without children	
		Lone parents	
	Number of children	0	51.6
		1	61.0
		2	60.9
		3+	54.4

e) Providing opportunities for men to combine a job outside the home with raising children			Completely and quite responsible (in %)
	Total		40.0
	Sex	Men	35
		Women	46
	Age groups	– 29	
		30 – 39	
		40 – 49	
		50 – 59	
		60 +	
	Education	Low	33
		Medium	38
		High	45
	Income	Low	44
		Medium	41
		High	39.2
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households	
		Married couples with children	
		Married couples without children	
		Consensual unions with children	
		Consensual unions without children	
		Lone parents	
	Number of children	0	40.4
		1	42.9
		2	40.5
		3+	36.9

			Completely and quite responsible (in %)
f) Taking care of young people looking for a job			
	Total		71.7
	Sex	Men	72
		Women	73
	Age groups	– 29	
		30 – 39	
		40 – 49	
		50 – 59	
		60 +	
	Education	Low	84
		Medium	71
		High	72
	Income	Low	76
		Medium	75
		High	69.0
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households	
		Married couples with children	
		Married couples without children	
		Consensual unions with children	
		Consensual unions without children	
		Lone parents	
	Number of children	0	70.5
		1	71.3
		2	76.0
		3+	70.3

			Completely and quite responsible (in %)
g) Providing adequate health care for all			
	Total		83.0
	Sex	Men	84
		Women	83
	Age groups	– 29	
		30 – 39	
		40 – 49	
		50 – 59	
		60 +	
	Education	Low	84
		Medium	84
		High	84
	Income	Low	84
		Medium	86
		High	82.8
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households	
		Married couples with children	
		Married couples without children	
		Consensual unions with children	
		Consensual unions without children	
		Lone parents	
	Number of children	0	83.1
		1	83.1
		2	84.0
		3+	81.1

CI 2

According to your opinion, in the recent years the Government has paid less, more or the same attention than they did before to the following issues?

			Less²⁷ (in %)		Equal (in %)		More (in %)	
a) Poor families			-49	50+	-49	50+	-49	50+
	Total							
	Sex	Men						
		Women						
	Age groups	– 29						
		30 – 39						
		40 – 49						
		50 – 59						
		60 +						
	Education	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Income	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households						
		Married couples with children						
		Married couples without children						
		Consensual unions with children						
		Consensual unions without children						
		Lone parents						
	Number of children	0						
		1						
		2						
		3+						

²⁷ Note: In this question, only categories Less-Equal-More are considered valid answers (=100%), e.g. categories ‘Don’t know’ or missing response, or refusal to answer should be treated as ‘missing values’.

			Less (in %)	Equal (in %)	More (in %)
b) Families with small children					
	Total		10.8	67.0	22.2
	Sex	Men	13	67	21
		Women	9	67	24
	Age groups	– 29			
		30 – 39			
		40 – 49			
		50 – 59			
		60 +			
	Education	Low	13	67	20
		Medium	12	66	21
		High	9	68	23
	Income	Low	11	67	22
		Medium	12	64	24
		High	10.5	68.3	21.2
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households			
		Married couples with children			
		Married couples without children			
		Consensual unions with children			
		Consensual unions without children			
		Lone parents			
	Number of children	0	8.7	69.3	22.0
		1	15.7	69.2	15.1
		2	11.3	65.0	23.8
		3+	11.8	63.3	24.9

			Less (in %)	Equal (in %)	More (in %)
c) Problems of working mothers					
	Total		12.2	67.6	20.2
	Sex	Men	13	67	19
		Women	11	68	21
	Age groups	– 29			
		30 – 39			
		40 – 49			
		50 – 59			
		60 +			
	Education	Low	12	72	17
		Medium	14	68	18
		High	10	68	22
	Income	Low	13	67	20
		Medium	11	69	20
		High	12.8	66.4	20.8
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households			
		Married couples with children			
		Married couples without children			
		Consensual unions with children			
		Consensual unions without children			
		Lone parents			
	Number of children	0	10.7	67.8	21.5
		1	15.1	68.6	16.3
		2	13.7	64.8	21.5
		3+	12.7	69.5	17.8

			Less (%)	Equal (in %)	Morel (in %)
d) Child care facilities					
	Total		9.0	61.5	29.5
	Sex	Men	10	62	28
		Women	8	61	31
	Age groups	– 29			
		30 – 39			
		40 – 49			
		50 – 59			
		60 +			
	Education	Low	5	67	28
		Medium	10	60	30
		High	8	63	29
	Income	Low	9	63	28
		Medium	9	61	31
		High	9.8	60.4	29.7
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households			
		Married couples with children			
		Married couples without children			
		Consensual unions with children			
		Consensual unions without children			
		Lone parents			
	Number of children	0	7.4	60.1	32.6
		1	11.6	66.3	22.1
		2	9.9	57.0	32.3
		3+	10.2	63.0	26.8

			Less (in %)		Equal (in %)		More (in %)	
e) Care for the aged			-49	50+	-49	50+	-49	50+
	Total							
	Sex	Men						
		Women						
	Age groups	– 29						
		30 – 39						
		40 – 49						
		50 – 59						
		60 +						
	Education	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Income	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households						
		Married couples with children						
		Married couples without children						
		Consensual unions with children						
		Consensual unions without children						
		Lone parents						
	Number of children	0						
		1						
		2						
		3+						

			Less (in %)		Equal (in %)		More (in %)	
f) Health care			-49	50+	-49	50+	-49	50+
	Total							
	Sex	Men						
		Women						
	Age groups	– 29						
		30 – 39						
		40 – 49						
		50 – 59						
		60 +						
	Education	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Income	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households						
		Married couples with children						
		Married couples without children						
		Consensual unions with children						
		Consensual unions without children						
		Lone parents						
	Number of children	0						
		1						
		2						
		3+						

			Less (in %)		Equal (in %)		More (in %)	
g) Employment			-49	50+	-49	50+	-49	50+
	Total							
	Sex	Men						
		Women						
	Age groups	– 29						
		30 – 39						
		40 – 49						
		50 – 59						
		60 +						
	Education	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Income	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households						
		Married couples with children						
		Married couples without children						
		Consensual unions with children						
		Consensual unions without children						
		Lone parents						
	Number of children	0						
		1						
		2						
		3+						

			Less (in %)		Equal (in %)		More (in %)	
h) The environment			-49	50+	-49	50+	-49	50+
	Total							
	Sex	Men						
		Women						
	Age groups	– 29						
		30 – 39						
		40 – 49						
		50 – 59						
		60 +						
	Education	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Income	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households						
		Married couples with children						
		Married couples without children						
		Consensual unions with children						
		Consensual unions without children						
		Lone parents						
	Number of children	0						
		1						
		2						
		3+						

			Less (in %)		Equal (in %)		More (in %)	
i) Education			-49	50+	-49	50+	-49	50+
	Total							
	Sex	Men						
		Women						
	Age groups	– 29						
		30 – 39						
		40 – 49						
		50 – 59						
		60 +						
	Education	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Income	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households						
		Married couples with children						
		Married couples without children						
		Consensual unions with children						
		Consensual unions without children						
		Lone parents						
	Number of children	0						
		1						
		2						
		3+						

CI 6

Do you expect that twenty years from now the population of your country will be larger, almost the same or smaller than it is now?

			Larger (in %)	Almost the same (in %)	Smaller (%)
	Total		30.5	38.8	30.7
	Sex	Men	32	39	29
		Women	29	40	31
	Age groups	– 29			
		30 – 39			
		40 – 49			
		50 – 59			
		60 +			
	Education	Low	34	33	33
		Medium	31	39	30
		High	29	38	32
	Income	Low	28	40	32
		Medium	31	37	33
		High	31.6	39.6	28.7
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households			
		Married couples with children			
		Married couples without children			
		Consensual unions with children			
		Consensual unions without children			
		Lone parents			
	Number of children	0	36.0	39.9	24.1
		1	29.3	35.6	35.1
		2	30.4	36.5	33.1
		3+	26.7	38.8	34.6

CI 7

Would you prefer the population of your country to increase, to remain more or less the same or to decrease in the future?

			To increase (in %)	To remain the same (in %)	To decrease (in%)
	Total		74.3	23.2	2.5
	Sex	Men	74	23	3
		Women	74	24	2
	Age groups	– 29			
		30 – 39			
		40 – 49			
		50 – 59			
		60 +			
	Education	Low	82	16	2
		Medium	75	22	3
		High	73	25	2
	Income	Low	71	24	4
		Medium	77	21	2
		High	74.8	23.1	2.1
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households			
		Married couples with children			
		Married couples without children			
		Consensual unions with children			
		Consensual unions without children			
		Lone parents			
	Number of Children	0	69.1	29.9	1.0
		1	71.3	25.3	3.4
		2	80.7	16.2	3.1
		3+	79.0	18.1	2.9

CI 8

The proportion of young people (below the age of 20) will drop sharply in the future. At the moment, in every 100 inhabitants are young people; in 50 years time this will be How do you rate this development?

			(Excellent) good (in %)	Neither good nor bad (in %)	(Very) bad (in %)
	Total		4.0	8.7	87.3
	Sex	Men	4	8	88
		Women	3	10	87
	Age groups	– 29			
		30 – 39			
		40 – 49			
		50 – 59			
		60 +			
	Education	Low	6	8	86
		Medium	4	11	84
		High	2	6	93
	Income	Low	6	10	84
		Medium	5	11	84
		High	2.6	7.0	90.4
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households			
		Married couples with children			
		Married couples without children			
		Consensual unions with children			
		Consensual unions without children			
	Number of children	Lone parents			
		0	2.2	7.4	90.3
		1	3.4	10.9	85.6
		2	3.9	10.0	85.9
		3+	4.6	5.9	89.5

M 4

How do you feel about the number of foreigners living in our country?

			Too many (in %)		Not too many, nor too few (in %)		Too few (in %)	
			-49	50+	-49	50+	-49	50+
	Total							
	Sex	Men						
		Women						
	Age groups	– 29						
		30 – 39						
		40 – 49						
		50 – 59						
		60 +						
	Education	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Income	Low						
		Medium						
		High						
	Living arrangements (Age: 20 – 49)	One-person-households						
		Married couples with children						
		Married couples without children						
		Consensual unions with children						
		Consensual unions without children						
		Lone parents						
	Number of children	0						
		1						
		2						
		3+						