



CYPRUS

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KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Adhere to challenges in the international arena.
- Social values and requirements of the society.
- Support economic prosperity and development by strengthening social inclusion and cohesion.
- Provide access to lifelong learning at all levels and for all citizens.

CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANS

- Turn into reality the vision of a better educational system that would meet the future needs of pupils and society.
- Participation of all stakeholders in the dialogue is an innovative feature which aims at building consensus to the highest possible degree and the continuity of educational policy.
- Improve the equity of the educational system, encouraging lifelong learning throughout the stages of the educational system.
- Reinforce the content of education and training and upgrading the infrastructure with an emphasis on the cultivation of lifelong learning competencies from the early years of compulsory education.
- Implement a number of relevant EU policies.
- Offer flexible, multifaceted programmes which combine general education, enriched to a certain extent, with elements of technology education in order to satisfy the needs of contemporary citizens, offering them opportunities for Lifelong Learning.
- Offer equal educational opportunities for all, according to ability, in a way that abolishes social exclusion.
- Meet the needs of children with functional illiteracy and special needs in an effective way.
- Modernise education in order to successfully respond to international challenges, affecting its content, such as the progress in technology and science and the globalisation of economy.

- Service to the general goals of the country, such as the upgrading of its role as an international and peripheral educational centre.
- Introduction of new curricula from pre-primary to upper secondary education.
- Upgrade of the pre-service teacher training (secondary education).
- Induction programme for newly appointed teachers.
- Establishment of optional and unified all-day schools.
- Restructuring of the Ministry of Education and Culture.
- Establishment of the Centre of Educational Research and Evaluation.
- Reducing the number of pupils per class.
- Measures for dealing with student delinquency.
- Policy for multicultural education.
- Proposition for a new scheme for school and teacher evaluation.
- Establishment of new universities – new system for university entrance examinations.
- Qualitative upgrade of the system in order to become more flexible and adaptable.
- Unification of the whole education system ensuring unity, continuity and consistency between all levels and services.
- Combat low achievement and early school leaving.
- Help students to acquire the key competences for lifelong learning.
- Strengthen the links between VET and the labor market
- Promote and further develop the higher education area to respond to the needs of society.
- Provide the necessary skills that give greater adaptability of future workers, fostering creativity and innovation, and developing entrepreneurship.
- Further enhancement of conditions conducive to co-existence, cooperation and social cohesion.
- Further promotion of educational research and evaluation.

TOP 5 PRIORITIES (WHERE COL COULD CONTRIBUTE)

1. Development of courses and policies for further strengthening the link between vocational training and lifelong learning on the one hand, with the labour market and its actual needs on the other hand.
2. Sharing experience and best practices between the participating countries in areas related to the aims mentioned above, with emphasis on the development of “digital and Internet connected schools”.

3. Further development and application of Qualification Frameworks and the establishment of a National Agency for Qualification Assurance and Accreditation.
4. Further development of educational material, policies and infrastructure for Open and Distance Learning and e-Learning as well as Informal and Non Formal Learning but also Post Secondary Education Programs.
5. Training of all relevant types of stakeholders on the use of ICT and innovative technologies in order for them to further train people and produce material (“train the trainers”).