

3a Relevant developments in national education policies – Cyprus

New developments relating to the ongoing educational reform process, which has the ultimate aim of upgrading and modernizing the educational system of Cyprus:

- a. *Modernization of the curriculum of preprimary, primary, and secondary education:* The 21 curriculum subject committees (consisting of academics specialists in each subject, inspectors and teachers), which were assigned the task of producing the new syllabi in each school subject, submitted the new curricula in autumn 2009. All stakeholders and the general public were given access to the new curricula and the draft curricula will reach their final form, when the input of all stakeholders is taken into account. Meanwhile, the preparation of the pilot implementation of the new curricula in schools all over Cyprus has started with a comprehensive in-service training programme for the teachers who will be involved in this first phase.
- b. The Ministry of Education and Culture initiated the dialogue with all stakeholders on a crucial chapter of the educational reform relating to the evaluation of the educational system, the evaluation of teachers and the improvement of the teacher appointment system. The Ministry issued a working document with draft proposals to form the basis for the dialogue.
- c. The growth and expansion of tertiary education in Cyprus continued with the decisions by the Government to approve the establishment of a Medical School by the University of Cyprus and a Rehabilitation Sciences Department by the Cyprus University of Technology. Furthermore, the issue of the unification of legislation concerning tertiary education in Cyprus has entered the final stage of its resolution with the input and suggestions of stakeholders.
- d. Due to its success, the Government decided to expand the innovative programme of Zones of Educational Priorities. The programme involved identifying areas in Cyprus with high concentrations of pupils of lower SES, pupils of immigrant origin, or pupils whose mother tongue is not the official language of the schools, i.e. the greek language and providing to the schools located in these areas extra support in terms of teachers, in-service training, materials and equipment.