

THE TRNC FACTBOOK

Lefkoşa, November 2014

THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC)

Prepared by : Public Relations Department
Halide Üstün/Bahar Öztay
Graphic Design by : Hasan Gürsel
Photographs by : Ersin Taşer, Public Information Office,
Cyprus Turkish News Agency,
Figures : Tourism Promotion and Marketing Dept.
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The Public Relations Department
TRNC Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tel: +(90) (392) 228 4133, Fax: +(90) (392) 228 1567
e-mail: pubinfo@trncinfo.org

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A. COUNTRY PROFILE



General Facts

Location: Cyprus is an island in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Area: Island 9,251 square kilometers, TRNC 3,355 square kilometers.

Neighbours: Turkey, 65 km to the north; Syria, 112 km to the east; Israel, 267 km to the east; Egypt, 418 km to the south; Greece, 965 km to the west and the Greek Cypriot administration to the south of the border.

Climate: Typically Mediterranean with long dry summers and short rainy winters. The average annual temperature is 19°C.

Demography: Turkish Cypriots: %95, Others: %5 (Greek Cypriots, British, Maronites, Armenians, Russians & others)

Religion: Muslim

Language: Turkish

Flag:



Population: De jure: 286,257 / Housing Census of December 2011

Districts	Total
Total	286257
Lefkoşa	94824
Gazimağusa	69741
Girne	69163
Güzelyurt	30037
İskele	22492

Currency: Turkish Lira ₺

Traffic: On the left. A valid national or international driving license accepted.

Calling Code: +90 392

Electricity: 220/240 Volts A/C. 50Hz. A standard three pin British plug.

Capital: Lefkoşa (Nicosia)



The Big Inn (Büyük Han), built by the Ottomans

District Administrations

Lefkoşa: Main administration and business centre.

Gazimağusa: Centre for tourism, industry and commerce with main port.

Girne: Tourism center with yacht harbor.

Güzelyurt: Citrus production and natural beauties.

İskele: Golden beaches and five star touristic hotels.

Health: For visitors, emergency medical treatment is free of charge at State Hospitals in all districts. There are also private hospitals and clinics in the main towns.

Media: Bayrak Radio is the first radio station opened in 1964. In 1976, Bayrak Radio and Television started the first black and



white broadcast. In 1983 it became an autonomous establishment; Bayrak Radio and Television Cooperation (BRTK), (www.brtk.com).

Currently, there are 14 private TV channels and many radio channels. There are also 15 daily newspapers and many weekly and monthly periodicals.

Additionally, there are various local and foreign news agencies. Cyprus Turkish News Agency (TAK) is the first official news agency established in 1973 (www.turkajansikibris.net)

High Broadcasting Council (YYK)/www.kktcyyk.org

Media Ethics Council/www.medyatikkurulu.org

Cyprus Turkish Journalists Association/
www.gazetecilerbirligi.com

Foreign Press Association/Tel: 0 392 228 51 11

Transportation: The TRNC has two modern and well-equipped airports meeting the world standards namely Ercan, which is under constant operation and Geçitkale, which is a standby airport. There are daily scheduled direct flights to and from Turkey and connecting flights to other countries via Turkey. At two main ports in Gazimağusa and Girne ferryboat companies operate regular services to Turkey. Trade to TRNC is mainly carried out via Gazimağusa port. In addition to Girne Yacht Harbour and Gemyat Delta Marina (in Kyrenia New Harbour), recently built Kar-



Ercan Airport

paz Gate Marina in Karpas Peninsula has an ideal location to host around 300 yachts from many countries of the world, besides offering various other facilities.

For visitors many taxis or rent-a-car services are available at the airport as well as at major towns.



Karpaz Gate Marina



Turkish Cypriot Cuisine: Similar to Mediterranean cuisine with many local and oriental specialties. Some of the main local specialties are meze (appetizer served on a collection of saucers), Hellim (traditional cheese), dolma (stuffed vine leaves), şeftali kebab, bulgur köfte, börek, pirohu, mulihiya, kolokas and etc. Traditional

Turkish Coffee is also highly recommended.

Sweet Dishes: Katmer, kadayıf and macun (fruits preserved in syrup).

Emergencies:

Police: 155

Emergency Service: 112

Fire Department: 199

Forest Department: 177



Photo by Ersin Taşer



St. Hilarion Castle / Photo by Ersin Taşer

B. HISTORY

Historical Background

- The island of Cyprus which is at the crossroads between the East and the West has been conquered and ruled by many civilizations throughout history due to its strategic location. It was ruled by the Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Knights Templars, Lusignans, Venetians, the Ottomans from 1571 to 1878, as well as the British between 1878 and 1959.
- Under the 1878 Cyprus Convention, Britain assumed the administration of the Island although the Island was still part of the Ottoman Empire. In 1914, Cyprus was annexed to Britain after the Ottoman Empire entered World War I. In 1925, Cyprus was formally declared a Crown Colony.
- Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots have co-existed for hundreds of years as two main ethnic groups in Cyprus. However, the rise of Greek nationalism with the Greek War of Independence in 1821 gave birth to “megali idea”, the idea of reviving Hellenism in Cyprus.
- On 1 April 1955 the Greek Cypriot terrorist organization EOKA was established and launched an armed campaign against the British presence on the Island with the aim of achieving ENOSIS (the annexation of Cyprus to Greece). Naturally, the Turkish Cypriots rejected the idea of ENOSIS.
- By 1959, the situation on the Island had become intolerable to the British administration and a compromise was reached through the London and Zurich agreements of 1959-1960. The Republic of Cyprus was established as a bi-communal partnership state between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. Accordingly, the Island gained its independence and Britain retained two military bases.
- The 1960 Republic recognized the political equality of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples of the Island as the co-founding partners.



Greek Cypriot Leader Archbishop Makarios and Turkish Cypriot Leader Dr. Fazıl Küçük signing agreements establishing the Republic of Cyprus.

- According to the “Basic Structure” of the Zurich Agreement, Cyprus was to be an independent Republic based on a presidential regime, with a Greek Cypriot President and a Turkish Cypriot Vice-President elected separately by their respective communities. The executive authority was vested jointly in the President and the Vice-President who had separate veto powers on laws and decisions concerning foreign affairs, defense and security, along with the administrative issues of the Republic. The “Basic Structure” as well as the founding documents of the Republic; the Treaties of Guarantee and Alliance, had laid down and confirmed the principle of political equality between the two communities in a partnership state based on functional federalism. At the international level, the 1960 Republic of Cyprus maintained one legal identity and became a member of the United Nations.
- Under the Treaty of Guarantee, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Greece became Guarantor Powers of the Republic by establishing internal and external balances over Cyprus. The guarantor powers whether jointly or separately had the right

and obligation to intervene if the state of affairs created by these agreements were disrupted.

- Unfortunately, the 1960 partnership Republic lasted only 3 years since the Greek Cypriots' goal of achieving Enosis had not been abandoned. With this aim, they proposed amendments to the Constitution aimed at degrading the Turkish Cypriots' equal co-founder status to that of a minority. The disagreements



pertaining to the Constitution and other bi-communal matters led to the tragic events of 1963 during which many Turkish Cypriot civilians lost their lives. As a result, the Greek Cypriots had forcibly usurped the 1960 partnership Republic

of Cyprus, ejected Turkish Cypriots from all the state organs and, in breach of the Constitution, unilaterally amended its basic articles.

- This conflict led the United Nations to send the UN Peace Keeping Force (UNFICYP) to Cyprus in March 1964 and to physical separation of the populations in the capital city of Nicosia, represented by "the Green Line". The Turkish Cypriot survivors of the Greek Cypriot attacks took refuge in small and confined enclaves corresponding to only 3% of the territory of the Island.



UNFICYP soldiers in Cyprus.

- Since 1963, there has not been a joint central administration on the Island capable of representing the whole of Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots have henceforth ruled themselves separately, while the Greek Cypriot side has been claiming to be “the government of Cyprus”. The period between 1963 and 1974 was marked by deprivation, isolation, inaccessibility, fear and insecurity for Turkish Cypriots.
- On 15 July 1974, the Junta in Greece staged a coup d’état in Cyprus through its military forces together with Greek Cypriot collaborators for the purpose of immediately realizing ENOSIS. With the imminent danger of further bloodshed on the Island, on 20 July 1974, Turkey militarily intervened under Article IV of the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960. The Turkish intervention did not only prevent violence and even greater loss of life on the Island, but also stood in the way of the annexation of the Island to Greece.
- Even Archbishop Makarios (President of the 1960 Republic), in his address to the Security Council on 19 July 1974, stated that ‘the coup was organized by the military regime in Athens and carried out by Greek army officers who were serving in and commanding the National Guard’. Makarios defined it as *“an invasion which violated the independence and sovereignty of the Republic.”*
- At the inter-communal talks held on 2 August 1975 in Vienna, the Voluntary Exchange of Populations was agreed and the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots were transferred to the North and the South of the Island respectively with the assistance of the UN. This redefined the bi-communal character of the envisaged future settlement.
- The democratic evolution of the Turkish Cypriot people, who have been administering themselves since their expulsion from the partnership Republic continued. In 1975, the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus was established and on 15 November 1983, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) was proclaimed. The founding parliament of the TRNC unanimously



Voting on the proclamation of the TRNC at the Parliament.

passed a declaration of independence which clearly defined that the Turkish Cypriot side “firmly adhered to the view that the two peoples of Cyprus were destined to co-exist side by side and could and should find a peaceful, just and durable solution through negotiations on the basis of equality”.

C. CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS

Start of Negotiations

- The Cyprus issue has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over 50 years. The inter-communal talks which had started in 1968 under the auspices of the United Nations between the two leaders; late Rauf Raif Denktaş (Founding President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) and the then Greek Cypriot leader Glafkos Klerides continued on and off with the aim of finding a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem.



Rauf Raif Denktaş - Glafkos Klerides (1968).

- On 12 February 1977 and 19 May 1979, the Turkish Cypriot side and the Greek Cypriot side concluded the High Level Agreements which set the basis for a future settlement. The agreements foresaw the formation of an independent, non-aligned, bi-



Rauf Raif Denktaş - Archbishop Makarios with Kurt Waldheim (UNSG) (1977)

communal Federal Republic. The 1977 and 1979 High Level Agreements have established the current UN parameters defining the framework of an agreement to be based upon the principles of political equality of the two sides, on bi-zonality and bi-communality.

- In the subsequent processes, however, “the 1985-86 Draft Framework Agreement”; the UN-sponsored “Set of Ideas of 1992”; “the Package of Confidence Building Measures of 1994”; as well as others, were rejected by the Greek Cypriot side. Despite the various attempts of the UN and the constructive contributions by the Turkish Cypriot side, the efforts to establish a new partnership state have repeatedly failed.
- Finally, a unique opportunity to break the stalemate emerged with a comprehensive settlement plan, proposed by the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, known as “the Annan Plan”. The plan was submitted to separate and simultaneous referenda on both sides of the Island on 24 April 2004. The Turkish Cypriot people approved the plan by 65% while the Greek Cypriot side rejected it by 76%.

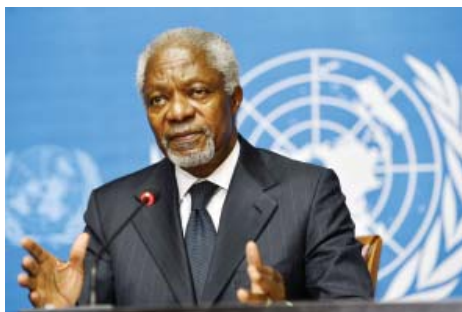


Turkish Cypriot demonstration in favor of the Annan Plan.

Period after the Annan Plan

- Although the Greek Cypriot side voted against the plan envisaging a power-sharing arrangement with the Turkish Cypriots, its application to become a full member of the European Union, at the exclusion of the Turkish Cypriot side, was approved in May 2004 and the Greek Cypriot side became an EU member.

- Immediately after the referenda, the then UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, stressed in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437) that: "The results of the referenda had undone whatever rationale might have existed for pressuring and isolating the Turkish Cypriots", and called upon the international community; *"to cooperate both bilaterally and within international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their overall development and growth"*.



UNSG Kofi Annan (2004)

- The Secretary-General also expressed his regrets in his statement of 24 April 2004 that the Turkish Cypriots would not equally enjoy the benefits of EU membership, but he expressed hope that ways would be found to ease the plight in which the people find themselves through no fault of their own.
- The European Union also applauded the Turkish Cypriots' affirmative vote and called for an end to their unjust isolation. The then EU Enlargement Commissioner Gunter Verhaugen on 26 April 2004 stated that: *"Now we have to end the isolation of the North. The Commission is ready to take various measures for that aim"*.

- Accordingly, the EU Commission prepared a proposal aimed at easing the isolation on the Turkish Cypriots on 7 July 2004. The proposal envisaged the transfer of financial aid and direct trade with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. However, the proposal was decoupled as a result of the Greek Cypriot side's initiatives and the European Council of Foreign Ministers only approved the Financial Aid Regulation on 27 February 2006. Unfortunately, the Direct Trade Regulation, which was designed to initiate direct trade and was vital for the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot people was not approved and is still pending.
- The Green Line Regulation, which was also prepared by the EU Commission with the aim of regulating trade between North Cyprus and South Cyprus, entered into force in May 2004. Although the Green Line Regulation has contributions to the producers in the TRNC to some extent, it failed to meet the expectations towards boosting the trade between the two sides on the Island.

8 July Process

- Two years after the Annan Plan referendum, on 8 July 2006 the two leaders in Cyprus Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat (Second President of the TRNC) and Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos (the then Greek Cypriot leader) came together at the UN residence in the Buffer Zone and agreed on five principles including; *"finding a comprehensive settlement based on bi-zonality and political equality, and on the formation of working groups and technical committees until the end of July"*. However, this process, known as the 8 July Process, yielded no results because of the intransigent policies of the Papadopoulos leadership.

Negotiation Process between 2008-2012

- In 2008, with the election of new Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias, who built his election campaign on the settlement

of the Cyprus issue, a new process leading the way to the full-fledged negotiations began.



President Mehmet Ali Talat and the Greek Cypriot Leader Demetris Christofias (2008).

- On 21 March 2008 the two Leaders signed an agreement envisaging the establishment of working groups and technical committees and the commencement in due course of full-fledged negotiations based on the results of the work done by these groups and committees.
- On 16 April 2008, six working groups under the headings: *"Governance and Power Sharing"*, *"Economic Matters"*, *"European Union Matters"*, *"Property"*, *"Territory"*, *"Security and Guarantees"* and seven technical committees under the headings *"Environment"*, *"Health Matters"*, *"Crisis Management"*, *"Economic and Commercial Matters"*, *"Crime and Criminal Matters"*, *"Humanitarian Matters"* and *"Cultural Heritage"*, were established and started their work.

- The first significant progress of this new process was the agreement on a long-standing dispute; the opening of the Lokmacı gate for the crossings in Lefkoşa.



The opening of Lokmacı Gate

- During this process the two Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to “a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, as defined by the relevant Security Council resolutions. They agreed in principle that:

- Partnership to be established would have a single sovereignty and a single citizenship,

- It would have a Federal Government with a single international personality, a Turkish Cypriot Constituent State and a Greek Cypriot Constituent State with equal status.

- A solution to be found would be put to separate simultaneous referenda.

- The full-fledged negotiations were initiated on 3 September 2008 with the participation of Alexander Downer, the then UN Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Cyprus. At the end of two years of work, 30 joint papers determining the areas of convergences and matters needing further discussion were produced on three headings namely Governance and Power Sharing, EU matters and Economic matters, while similar progress couldn’t be achieved on three other headings.
- In February 2010 the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited the Island and met the two Leaders. The Secretary General pointed out the need to intensify the efforts on the way to a settlement.

- On the eve of the TRNC Presidential elections, on 30 March 2010 Talat and Christofias came together for the last time and noted that they agreed to inform their communities separately on the progress of the talks.
- In April 2010, Dr. Derviş Eroğlu was elected as the new President of the TRNC. Immediately after his election he stated in a letter sent to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 23 April 2010 that he is ready to resume the negotiations from where they left off and confirmed that the Turkish Cypriot side accepted the convergences previously reached between Talat and Christofias.



President Dr. Derviş Eroğlu and the Greek Cypriot Leader Demetris Christofias with UNSG Ban Ki-moon.

- On 26 May 2010, the negotiation process was resumed. During this process the Greek Cypriot side put forward many impediments simply blocking the negotiations. Accordingly, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon invited the two leaders for tripartite meetings five times to New York and Geneva.
- Lack of a common understanding between the two sides on “the way forward” and the Greek Cypriot administration’s EU Term

Presidency on 1 July 2012, led to the substantial negotiations to come to a halt, until the election of the new Greek Cypriot leader in February 2013.

Recent Political Developments

- In February 2013, Greek Cypriot political party DISI Leader Nikos Anastasiadis whose policy was in favor of the Annan Plan in 2004 won the presidential elections in South Cyprus. This raised hopes towards a comprehensive settlement.
- In April 2013, the UN prepared and circulated to all parties a 77-page convergence paper which incorporated all the convergences and near-convergences achieved since 2008 between the two sides.
- Unfortunately, it took almost a year to resume the negotiations despite numerous calls made by the Turkish Cypriot leadership. The Greek Cypriot leader first refrained from sitting at the negotiation table for a long time by making various excuses, such as the financial crisis in South Cyprus, then put forward the precondition that the two sides should agree on a Joint Statement before the resumption of the negotiations.
- A year later, after almost four months of discussions, and diplomatic exercise by the Turkish Cypriot leadership as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Joint Statement was finally concluded on 7 February 2014.



President Dr. Derviş Eroğlu and the Greek Cypriot Leader Nikos Anastasiadis with SRSG and UNFICYP Chief of Mission, Ms. Lisa M. Bittenheim (2014).

- With their joint statement on 11 February 2014, the two leaders agreed that, the status quo is unacceptable their goal is to achieve a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, and that this federation will have a single sovereignty as defined and enjoyed by all UN member states under the UN Charter and which emanates equally from Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. The statement also envisaged that:

- This federation will have a single international personality and single citizenship.

- All citizens of the federation will also be the citizens of either the Turkish Cypriot constituent state or the Greek Cypriot constituent state.

- The federation will be composed of two constituent states of equal status and neither side will claim authority or jurisdiction over the other.

- The powers vested in the Constitution will be exercised by the Federal Government and the residual powers will be exercised by the constituent states.

- The principles upon which the European Union is founded, as well as the bi-zonal, bi-communal nature of the federation will be safeguarded.

- The momentum created by the joint declaration presented a historic opportunity to the two sides to maximize the chances of success for finding a just and long-lasting settlement. However, as a result of the Greek Cypriot side's insistence on questioning the previously achieved convergences, the two sides spent 4 months completing the preparatory phase of the negotiations, namely the screening and discussion of substantive core issues and tabling of proposals.

- In September 2014, the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide visited the island. At the end of the meeting with the leaders they agreed to move to the next phase of the structured negotiations in a result-oriented manner through a win-win approach.

- A month later, the Greek Cypriot leader unilaterally suspended the comprehensive settlement negotiations by using the tension arouse as a result of their unilateral oil exploration and exploitation activities around the island as an excuse.
- On the other hand, the Turkish Cypriot side participated in this process with practical plans at hand with the aim of achieving convergence on the core issues of the Cyprus problem.

D. OIL AND NATURAL GAS ISSUE

- Since 2003, the Greek Cypriot administration has been unilaterally carrying out exploration and exploitation of the natural resources around the island of Cyprus. It signed maritime delimitation agreements with Egypt, Lebanon and Israel. Furthermore, it started the drilling process in 2011 by completely disregarding the warnings of the Turkish Cypriot side that these unilateral activities usurping the legitimate rights of the Turkish Cypriot people, as one of the co-owners of the Island, were unacceptable and hampering the negotiation process.
- In response, the Turkish Cypriot side made two proposals through the UN Secretary General in 2011 and 2012 envisaging a mutual cooperation of the two sides until a comprehensive settlement is reached, on the exploration, extraction and processing of the natural resources around the Island. The Greek Cypriot side rejecting these proposals continued its activities and recently commenced drilling activities in Parcel 9. Moreover, it signed a Framework Agreement on the joint exploitation and mutual use of hydrocarbon reserves within its maritime borders with Egypt, in total disregard of the rights of the Turkish Cypriots over the island.
- Accordingly, Turkish Cypriot side once again called on the Greek Cypriot side to cease its unilateral activities at a time when the negotiation process has entered into a sensitive stage and as Parcel 9 overlaps with the areas which are licensed by the TRNC to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO). Upon the

Greek Cypriot side's insistence on its unilateral activities, the Turkish Cypriot side in cooperation with Turkey sent a seismic exploration ship to the area to conduct exploration on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people.

- At this juncture, the expectation from the Greek Cypriot side is to return to the negotiation table with the necessary political will, given that all the controversial issues related to the island of Cyprus should be discussed at the negotiation table. The Turkish Cypriot side remains committed to a mutually acceptable settlement on the basis of the parameters agreed upon and expects the Greek Cypriot side to reciprocate in the same constructive manner.

E. RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Turkey



The relations between the two countries date back to the period of Ottoman rule on the Island. During this period which continued for three centuries (1571-1878), ten thousands of Ottoman Turks from mainland Anatolia settled the Island.

Following the British Rule on the Island (1878-1960), Turkey became guarantor powers of 1960 Republic of Cyprus. During the difficult years between 1963 and 1974, the Republic of Turkey was the main supporter of the Turkish Cypriots in their struggle. Turkish Cypriots managed to survive during these years with financial and moral support of Turkey. Turkey intervened in the Island in 1974, in accordance with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, in the wake of a coup d'état carried out by the Greek junta in Cyprus aimed at annexing the Island to Greece. Turkey, which provided support to the Turkish Cypriot people in all stages of the Cyprus problem and constructively contributed to settlement efforts, continued its moral and financial aid to the Turkish Cypriots also after the establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Existing strong historical, cultural, religious, linguistic and national

ties between the Turkish Cypriot and Turkish peoples naturally reflects on the relations between the TRNC and the Republic of Turkey. It is possible to summarize the relations between the two countries as natural allies who protect the rights and interests of each other in every field. The political solution to be found to the Cyprus problem is the key factor to protect the rights and interests



Minister of Foreign Affairs Özdil Nami and Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

of the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey on the Island and to further these rights on a solid foundation.

Turkish Embassy in Lefkoşa is functioning as a bridge in further developing the existing relations in all fields between the two countries. The TRNC has an Embassy in Ankara and Consulate General in İstanbul as well as Consulates in Mersin and İzmir.

The United Kingdom

British rule in Cyprus started in 1878, when the Ottoman Empire leased the island to Britain. Accordingly, Turkey would retain sovereignty of the island, while Britain would be responsible for its administration. Britain was to secure a strategic outpost in the Middle East and in return would protect the Ottoman territories from Russian threat. In 1914, Cyprus was annexed by Britain after the Ottoman Empire entered World War I. In 1925, Cyprus was formally declared a Crown Colony. British administration ended with the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960, following the London and Zurich agreements (1959-1960).

As part of these agreements, Britain retained two sovereign military bases on the island namely Akrotiri and Dhekelia. In addition,

under the Treaty of Guarantee (1960) Britain, Turkey and Greece became 'guarantor powers' of the 1960 Republic.

After the destruction of the 1960 Republic, British High Commission established an office also in North Cyprus. Since then, the UK has been closely following the developments with regard to the negotiations between the two sides in Cyprus and has always expressed desire towards just and permanent solution of the Cyprus problem.

There are lots of Turkish Cypriots living in the UK and the TRNC has an active representative office in London since 1964.

The British Council, which is the UK's international organization for cultural affairs and educational opportunities, has offices both in North Cyprus and South Cyprus and is specialized in examinations, Education UK and support for English language teachers.

The United States of America

The United States of America has an Embassy in Cyprus since the establishment of the 1960 "Republic of Cyprus". Following its destruction in 1963, the US established an Office also in North Lefkoşa, which continues to function today and deals with US – Turkish Cypriot relations and consular affairs. The TRNC has also two offices in the USA; one in New York (established in 1974) and the other in Washington D.C.

The US has always expressed its support for the negotiation process and appointed Special Representatives for Cyprus during periods of intense negotiations in order to contribute to the efforts for finding a solution.

Additionally, the US also maintains a number of aid programs on the Island from which both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots have been able to benefit.

The United Nations



The United Nations have a presence on the Island since the arrival of the UN Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in March 1964 in accordance with the Security Council's resolution 186 (1964). The mandate of UNFICYP is to maintain the ceasefire and to provide the Mission of Good Offices of the UN Secretary-General for the negotiations on the Cyprus issue.

When the cease-fire came into effect in August 1974 following Turkey's intervention, the UNFICYP drew up the cease-fire lines and the area between the cease-fire lines was placed under its authority as the Buffer Zone.

On 12 March 1975, the Security Council adopted resolution 367 requesting the Secretary General *"to undertake a new mission of good offices and to that end to convene the parties under new agreed procedures and place himself personally at their disposal, so that the resumption, the intensification and the progress of comprehensive negotiations, carried out in a reciprocal spirit of understanding and moderation under his personal auspices and with his direction as appropriate, might thereby be facilitated"*. All subsequent efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his personal Representatives for the inter-communal talks emanate from this resolution.

Currently, the United Nations operation in Cyprus is for peacekeeping through UNFICYP and peacemaking through the Mission of Good Offices of the Secretary-General.

In support of the mandate of UNFICYP and the Good Offices Mission of the UN on the Island, various programs have been carrying out humanitarian work and confidence building activities, and providing financial assistance to strengthen the capacity of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots to participate in the process of reconciliation. Among these programs are the UN Development Program Action for Cooperation and Trust in Cyprus (UNDP-ACT), the UN Development Programme Partnership for the Future (UNDP-PFF), the Committee of Missing Persons (CMP) in Cyprus, and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Cyprus.

The European Union



Cyprus first applied to become a member of the then European Community in 1962. As a result of the destruction of the Republic in 1963, the negotiations were held between the European Community and the Greek Cypriot community on behalf of the “Republic of Cyprus” at the exclusion of the Turkish Cypriot community.

During the accession negotiations, although the EU had repeatedly underlined its preference for accession by a reunited Cyprus, the efforts towards the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem failed with the rejection of the Annan Plan by the Greek Cypriots in April 2004 and the Greek Cypriot administration became a full member of the European Union on behalf of the whole



Foreign Minister Özdil Nami and EU Commissioner for Enlargement Stefan Füle.

island in May 2004. In accordance with the Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty 2003, the EU legislation was suspended in the northern part of the island.

The Directorate General for Enlargement set up a “Taskforce for the Turkish Cypriot Community” in May 2004 to deal with the consequences of this unique and complex situation.

The EU Council prepared “The Green Line Regulation” to deal with the movement of persons and goods between the North and the South as well as the Financial Aid and Direct Trade Regulations with the aim of easing the restrictions on the Turkish Cypriots and encouraging their economic development. The Financial Aid Regulation was put into effect in 2006; however the Direct Trade Regulation is still pending.

In June 2003, the TRNC Government established the European Union Coordination Centre, to coordinate, organize and monitor

contacts made with the EU, its institutions and collaborates.

Within the framework of the studies for harmonization with the EU, around 70 laws and regulations have been adopted until today. The renewed program covering the period of 2014-2016 envisages the preparation of 83 laws and 228 regulations.



Foreign Minister Özdil Nami delivering a speech at the European Union Socialist Group meeting in Brussels (18.2.2014).

As an indication of importance given to the EU relations, the TRNC Council of Ministers set up an EU harmonization group consisting of five ministers headed by the Foreign Minister, with the aim of carrying out and monitoring the harmonization studies efficiently.

One of the important issues for the Turkish Cypriot side is the representation at the European Parliament. The fact that the Turkish Cypriots remain unable to be represented in the European Parliament is an unacceptable situation in terms of EU values and democracy. The allowing of the occupation of two seats which belong to the Turkish Cypriots by Greek Cypriots strains the trust of the Turkish Cypriots towards the EU.

Turkish Cypriots' expectation from the European Parliament is to find a solution to this situation as soon as possible and to allow the Turkish Cypriot elected representatives to attend the meetings and activities of the European Union.

Council of Europe



Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE)

‘Cyprus Republic’ is a member of the Council of Europe and has been represented in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since the 1961, with three members and 3 substitute members, while 2 members and 2 substitutes are for the Greek Cypriot community and 1 member and 1 substitute are for the Turkish Cypriot community.

PACE didn’t allow the seats of the Turkish Cypriots to be occupied by the representatives of the Greek Cypriot community and after the Annan plan it made an arrangement for the Turkish Cypriot parliamentarians to share the same international platform (even though with unequal status) with the Greek Cypriot parliamentarians.

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities consist of local and regional representatives of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. The number of seats allocated for each country is equal to the number of its seats in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and “Cyprus” is represented with 3 seats (and 3 substitutes). Unfortunately, all the seats in the Congress allocated for “Cyprus” have been occupied by the representatives of the Greek Cypriot community since its establishment in 1994.

The OIC and ECO



The TRNC continues to develop its relations with other countries, especially with the Islamic countries and has representations in several of them. Since 1979, TRNC is an observer member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and has been regularly participating to the OIC Summits and Foreign Ministers Meetings.

Between 1979 and 2004, the TRNC was represented under the title of “Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus” in the OIC.

In the aftermath of the 24 April 2004 referenda, at the 31st OIC Foreign Ministers meeting held in Istanbul between 14-16 June, 2004, the OIC adopted a resolution calling upon “the international community to take immediate steps to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots” and decided that the “Turkish Muslim community of Cyprus” should continue to participate in the work, activities and meetings of all OIC organs under the name envisaged by the UN Secretary-General’s settlement plan “Turkish Cypriot State”.

After 2004, OIC and TRNC relations took a speedy turn and the TRNC has been participating in activities, works and meetings of all OIC organs as well as hosting several important OIC events.

The most recent ones were “Water and Food Security in the OIC Member Countries” held on 22-24 November 2013 and training workshop entitled “Export Promotion and Investment Strategies within the Context of Globalization” organized jointly by the Islamic Center for Development and Trade (ICDT) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 3-5 March 2014. Similarly, bilateral relations between the TRNC and OIC member states have been developing in many fields of life.



OIC workshop in TRNC.

Besides the OIC, the TRNC has been participating in economic, technical and cultural activities of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) under the name of “Cyprus Turkish Muslim Society” since 1993. In line with the decision taken during the Council of Ministers Meeting of ECO in Tajikistan capital Dushanbe on 12 September 2004, the TRNC has started to attend the ECO meetings under the name of “Turkish Cypriot State” similarly as referred to in the Annan Plan. During the 12th Summit Meeting of the ECO held in Baku on 16 October 2012, the TRNC was granted observer member status.

F. THE STATE STRUCTURE

The Constitution

The Constitution of the TRNC was prepared by the Constituent Assembly set up after the declaration of independence on 15 November 1983. The Constitution establishes a system of separation of powers and of checks and balances between the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judiciary branches.

The Executive

Executive duties and powers are carried out and exercised by the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister in accordance



Council of Ministers

with the Constitution and laws. The number of ministries cannot exceed ten. A newly formed government has to obtain a vote of confidence at the Parliament.

President

The President of the Republic is the Head of State. The President is elected for a period of five years. Dr. Derviş Eroğlu was elected on 18 April 2010 as the third TRNC President, following Mehmet Ali Talat (2005-2010) and the Founding President Rauf Raif Denktaş (1983-2005).

The Legislature

The Constitution states that sovereignty rests with the people. The Assembly of the Republic is the place where the people, through their elected representatives, exercise this sovereignty.

Assembly

The legislative powers of the State are exercised by the Legislative Assembly composed of fifty deputies elected for a period of five years.



Political Parties

Democratic elections are held every five years.

Name	Abbrev	Leader	No. Of MPs
Republican Turkish Party-United Forces	CTP-BG	Özkan Yorgancıoğlu	21
National Unity Party	UBP	Hüseyin Özgürgün	15
Democrat Party-National Forces	DP-UG	Serdar Denktaş	11
Communal Democracy Party	TDP	Cemal Özyiğit	3

Political Parties in the Parliament

Other Political Parties

YKP - New Cyprus Party,
BKP - United Cyprus Party.
SDP - Social Democrat Party
UAP - National Justice Party

The Judicial System

Judicial powers are exercised on behalf of the people of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus by independent courts.



Courts

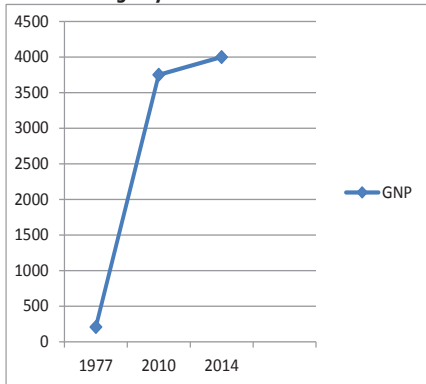
The Supreme Court

The highest court in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court functions as the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeal and the High Administrative Court.

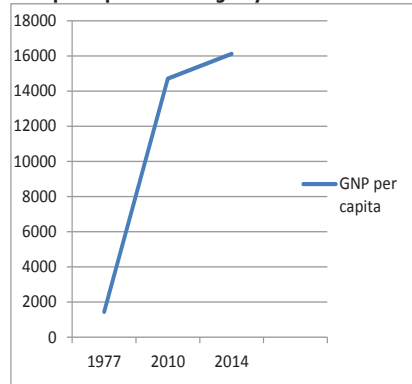
Subordinate Courts

The Assize Courts, District Courts and Family Courts exercise judicial power other than that exercised by the Supreme Court.

GNP according to years in US Dollars



GNP per capita according to years in US Dollars



G. ECONOMY AND TOURISM

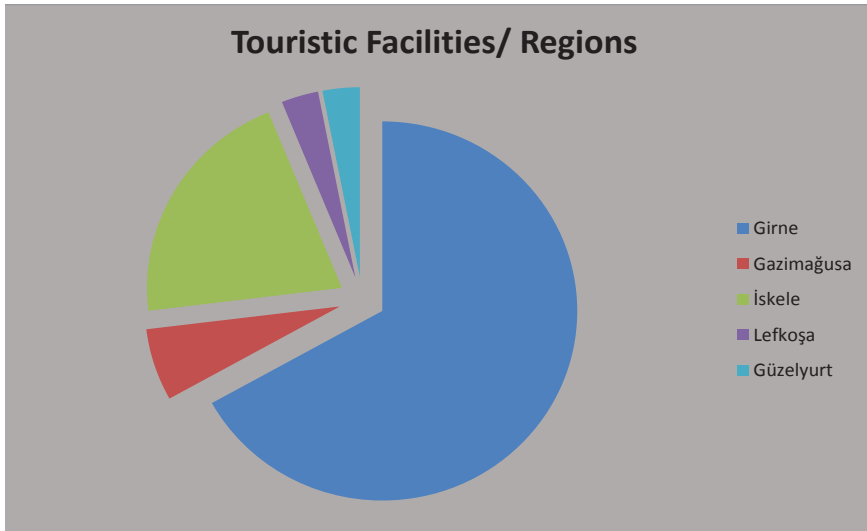
The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has a small island economy with a limited domestic market and limited natural resources. Despite its small size, Northern Cyprus has a fair growth rate. The economy is dominated by the services sector with 72.3% in 2014 (estimated). Services include Trade, Tourism, Higher Education, Transportation, Communication, Financial Institutions, Health, Business Services, Public Services and others.

Gross National Product (GNP) is estimated as 4 million US Dollars and GNP per capita as 16,113 US Dollars in 2014.

The contribution of industry to GDP is 10% and agriculture 7.4% in 2014 (estimated). Tourism and higher education continue to be priority sectors and two main engines of economic development in the TRNC.



Regions	Touristic Facilities	% Ratio	Bed capacity	% Ratio
GİRNE	87	67	12675	67
GAZİMAĞUSA	8	6	1419	8
İSKELE	27	21	3762	20
LEFKOŞA	4	3	802	4
GÜZELYURT	4	3	126	1
TOTAL	130	100	18784	100



According to 2014 estimates, tourism contributed around 8.7% to GDP with an occupancy rate of 31% until August 2014 and higher education contributed 5.6% to GDP in 2014. Apart from tourists from Turkey and the UK which have the biggest share, there is significant increase in the number of tourists from the European and Eastern countries in the last few years.

In addition to a wide range accommodation from 5 star luxury hotels and holiday villages, North Cyprus offers many special interest tourism including bird watching, golfing, turtle watching, diving, historical site visits, nature visits, trekking and cycling eco/ agro-tourism and traditional village festivals.

The Turkish Cypriot economy with a small market size endures isolation and restrictions due to the political situation on the island, mainly imposed by the Greek Cypriot side. This has led to a large public sector and encouraging the development of a stronger private sector is among the economic strategies of the TRNC.



Gazimağusa Port.

In 2014, around 60% of the TRNC exports are to Turkey and around 40% to other countries. Dairy Products, Citrus Products, Rakı (Alcoholic Beverage), Soft Drinks, Carobs, Scrap, Chicken, Readymade Clothes, Gypsum, Vegetables, Potatoes and etc. are the main goods exported.

Turkey is the biggest trading and import partner of North Cyprus, with around 70% imports from Turkey. Furthermore, Turkey's financial support which is mainly directed to infrastructural investments makes great contribution to the economy of the TRNC.

The TRNC Government places high importance to local and foreign investments. YAGA is an Investment Development Agency established by the government with the aim of becoming the "one-stop-shop" for both local and foreign investors who are interested



in investing in Northern Cyprus. (www.investinnorthcyprus.com)

Total exports under the Green Line Regulation, prepared by the EU Council in 2004, with the aim of facilitating trade and other exchanges between North Cyprus and South Cyprus and to regulate the movement of goods, people and services, were 3,837 million Euro in 2013.

Recently, Turkey and the TRNC launched an important project named “The Project of the Century”, which envisages the transfer of 75 million cubic meters of water from Turkey via a pipeline that is being constructed across the Mediterranean Sea. With the implementation of this project which is envisaged to be completed in 2015; agricultural and industrial production will increase and production will be encouraged by lower input costs.

H. EDUCATION

The education system in the TRNC can be broadly defined in three parts; pre-school education, primary education and secondary education, which are all compulsory and free.

2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Public Schools

Type of School	Schools	Teachers	Students	Student/Teacher
Primary Education	114	1479	19556	13,2
Secondary Schools	44	2121	18643	8,8

Private Schools

Type of School	Schools	Teachers	Students	Student/Teacher
Pre-Primary Education	70	266	2379	8,9
Primary Education	8	353	3340	9,5
Secondary Education	8	377	3002	8,0

Post school education is carried out mainly at universities and vocational institutes.

The TRNC is proud of its ten universities namely, the Eastern Mediterranean University(EMU), The Near East University(NEU), the European University of Lefke(EUL), Girne American University(GAU), Cyprus International University(CIU), Middle East Technical University-North Cyprus Campus(METU-NCC), Istanbul Technical University Northern Cyprus Campus(ITU-NCC), University of Mediterranean Karpasia(AKUN), the University of Kyrenia, and British University of Nicosia. Additionally, Anatolia University Open Faculty, which is a faculty of the Anatolia University in Eskişehir, Turkey, provides distance learning higher education. Moreover, Atatürk Teachers Training Academy, Tourism and Hotel Management High Schools are also offering high quality vocational education.

Higher education is a rapidly growing sector in the TRNC. The TRNC Universities, except the Anatolia University offer instruction in English. The number of students pursuing higher education in the above-mentioned universities is 73,894 from 110 different countries in the 2014 -2015 academic year. Out of this amount,

17,440 are Turkish Cypriots, 36,823 are Turkish and 19,631 foreign students.

All of our universities are members of the European University Association (EUA), International University Association (IUA) and the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW).

The TRNC is an observer member of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), which is one of the most important institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

All of our universities have accreditation from Higher Education Council of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (YÖDAK) and Higher Education Council of Turkey (YÖK). According to a protocol between the YÖK and YÖDAK, all universities in the TRNC will be audited by a joint commission of YÖK and YÖDAK with the aim of enhancing of quality and reliability.

2013-2014 NUMBER OF STUDENTS REGISTERED IN THE TRNC UNIVERSITIES ACCORDING TO NATIONALITIES

Universities	TRNC	Turkey	Third Countries	Total
EMU	2880	7664	5510	16054
EUL	382	2981	481	3844
CIU	907	4481	2548	7936
GAU	1424	6908	2419	10751
NEU	6763	10786	3918	21467
AKUN	141	95	138	374
METU -TRNC	158	1836	194	2188
ITU-TRNC	3	107	2	112
Grand Total	12658	34858	15210	62726

Source: Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council(YÖDAK)

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)
(www.emu.edu.tr)

The University was established as a Higher Technological Institute in 1979 and received its parliamentary charter as a trust-endowed university in 1986. Currently, the campus spreads over an area of 3000 acres in Gazimağusa with approximately 16000 students from 85 countries and more than 1000 highly qualified and experienced faculty members from 35 different countries.

Currently, there are 91 associate and undergraduate programs and 73 postgraduate and doctoral programs. It is a full individual member of the institutions like Community of Mediterranean Universities (CMU), European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE) and the American Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).



Near East University (NEU)
(www.neu.edu.tr)

Near East University (NEU) is a private international institute of higher education established in Lefkoşa, in 1988. Today, the Near East University has more than 21000 students from 90 different countries; with qualified academic staff from 27 different countries.

The university is offering 98 undergraduate and associate degrees while providing 187 postgraduate and doctoral (PHD) degrees. Apart from the academic programs, there are various extracurricular facilities. There is an Olympic size indoor swimming pool in the campus with 1000 spectator seat capacity.

On the other hand, the university has established and incorporated a fully-fledged new hospital into the university's campus. It serves patients from all over the world. Having a closed area of 55,000 square meters with 209 private, single



patient rooms, 8 operating theatres, 30 bed Intensive care unit, 17 bed Neonatal Intensive care unit, a laboratory where a wide array of tests can be carried out and a diagnostic imaging center, the Near East university training and Research hospital adopted international standards according to the Joint Commission International (JCI).

The university is a full member of institutions like UNESCO, International Society for Engineering Pedagogy (IGIP) and Joint Commission International (JCI).

Girne American University (GAU) **(www.gau.edu.tr)**

Girne American University (GAU) was founded in 1985 as a private institution of higher education. GAU within the framework of its international mission has five campuses namely in Canterbury, England, Istanbul, Singapore, Washington and a central campus in Kyrenia (Girne). The university is serving around 11,000 students from 85 countries with its qualified academic staff from 35 countries.



In 1995, GAU started its expansion into the international higher education sector and developed educational partnerships in India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, the USA, the UK, the Czech Republic and Hong Kong.

GAU is accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) Prime Accrediting body for specialist business colleges and schools in the USA. The University is an institutional member of the Society of Business Practitioners; the European Council of International Schools (ECIS), the International Federation for Business Education (IFBE) and the International Award Association for Young People (IAA). GAU is also a founder member of the America Educational Consortium (AEC), an international body formed to encourage and exchange information between international institutions offering education based on the American system.

European University of Lefke (EUL) **(www.lefke.edu.tr)**

The European University of Lefke was founded by the Cyprus Science Foundation in 1989. EUL currently provides 6 associate, 38 undergraduate degree programmes, 12 postgraduate degree programmes and 5 PhD programmes together with 10 vocational and advanced vocational school programs under 9 faculties.

EUL has around 4000 students from 35 different countries and with distinguished and experienced international academic staff.



The University is accredited by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Higher Education in the Sultanate of Oman, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Iran and the Secretariat of General Peoples Committee for Higher Education of the Geatest Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

It also has international memberships from the Global Compact (UNGC), American Council on Education (ACE), International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) and collaborations with various universities like Marshall and University of Houston in USA, Queen Mary and Liverpool John Moores University in the UK as well as Istanbul Technical University, Galatasaray University and Ankara University and etc. in Turkey.

Cyprus International University (CIU) **(www.ciu.edu.tr)**

Cyprus International University was established as privately owned university in 1997. The University has around 8000 students from



64 different countries. MBA and MA programmes are offered in cooperation by the Cyprus International University and University of Wolverhampton.

Cyprus International University is also a full member of institutions and organizations such as the European Council for Business Education (ECBE), The Council on Hotel Restaurant and Institutional Educational (CHIRE), the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), The National Recognition Information Centre Cyprus International University for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC), the European Association for International Education(EAIE) and the International Association for Computer Information Systems(IACIS).

Middle East Technical University Northern Cyprus Campus (METU-NCC) **(www.ncc.metu.edu.tr)**

METU Northern Cyprus Campus was established in 2000 by the Governments of the Republic of Turkey and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It is a major higher education project financed by the Republic of Turkey and METU Northern Cyprus Campus is built on an area of 339 hectares (137 acres).

Currently, METU NCC is offering 15 undergraduate programs and 3 graduate programs to about 2200 students, and aims at



a student population of 3500 in graduate and undergraduate programs. METU-NCC is attached to the main campus in Ankara in all academic and administrative affairs. All degree programs of METU-NCC are approved by the METU Senate and provide the same quality standards of the main campus in Ankara.

İstanbul Technical University Northern Campus (ITU-NCC) (www.kkktc.itu.edu.tr/)

The university was established in 2011 at a building which has been used for 50 years as a hospital and on 4.5 hectares land in Gazimağusa. The university also has campus in Yeni Erenköy village. ITU-TRNC has started to provide the undergraduate teaching in parallel with ITU since 2011. The university currently has around 100 students studying at 3 undergraduate programs.

University of Mediterranean Karpasia (www.akun.edu.tr)

The University of Mediterranean of Karpasia was established

in April 2012. There are currently approximately 400 students studying at the university in the 2013-2014 academic year.

University of Kyrenia (www.kyrenia.edu.tr)

University of Kyrenia, as the first university of Cyprus specializing on maritime studies, was established in 2013, in Kyrenia. The University has accreditations from the World Maritime Organization, and with



the regulations and requirements of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communication of Republic of Turkey. The University of Kyrenia conducts its studies in full accordance with International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping of Seafarers (STCW 95) with the STCW 2010 Manila Amendments. Faculties of the University are Maritime Studies, Maritime Management and Administration, Marine Sciences, Aviation and Space Sciences and other faculties at sister university, the Near East University.

British University Of Nicosia (www.bun.edu.tr)

British University of Nicosia with its new and modern concept of education was established in 2013 in Kyrenia. For 2014-2015 Academic Year, the University offers 6 Faculties and 4 Vocational Schools.



Photo by Ersin Taşer.

I. ARTS & CULTURE

Turkish Cypriot people have an active social and cultural life. There are lots of arts and culture activities including theatres, concerts, exhibitions, festivals, folk dance performances, as well as fairs and contests. The TRNC has many internationally renowned Turkish Cypriot artists and musicians participating in international events.

For theatre lovers there are lots of plays on the stage by the State Theatre and theatres functioning under the municipalities. Concerts and recitals of internationally



The International Bellapais Music Festival.

renowned musicians and musical festivities are held regularly. Parallel to the development of arts and cultural life in the country, Turkish Cypriot artists often open exhibitions displaying their art works in the form of painting, sculpture, ceramic, photography and etc.

In the TRNC, municipalities, NGOs, universities and many other associations regularly organize local and international festivals and eco-days which attract many tourists, foreigners that are living in North Cyprus and also local people. Some to mention are; North Cyprus International Bellapais Music Festival, Gazimağusa International Culture and Arts Festival, International Cyprus Theatre Festival, Güzelyurt Orange Festival, İskele International Festival.



Places to visit

Lefkoşa:

Mevlevi Tekke Museum
Museum of Barbarism
National Struggle Museum
Selimiye Mosque
Bedesten (Covered bazaar)
The Grand Inn

Girne:

Girne Castle & Museums
Bellapais Monestry
St. Hillarion Castle
Peace and Freedom Museum

Gazimağusa:

St. Barnabas Museum
Salamis Ruins
Othello Castle

Güzelyurt:

Güzelyurt Museum
St. Mamas Icon Museum
Soli Ruins

İskele:

Apostolos Andreas Monastery
Kantara Castle





TRNC REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES

TURKEY

ANKARA

(Embassy)

Rabat Sokak No:20 Gaziosmanpaşa 06700

Ankara, Türkiye

Tel: 00-90-312-4462920 / 4460185

Fax: 00-90-312-4465238

e-mail: info@kktcbe.org.tr web: www.

kktcbe.org.tr

ISTANBUL

Consulate General

Yeni Gelin Sokak, No:4A/1 Balmumcu

Beşiktaş, İstanbul, Türkiye

Tel: 00-90-212-2273490

Fax: 00-90-212-2273493

E-mail: istanbul@kktcbe.org.tr

MERSIN

Consulate

Atatürk Caddesi, Karadeniz Apt. No: 71/3

Mersin 33010, Türkiye

Tel: 00-90-324-237 2482 / 83

Fax: 0324 2372520

e-mail: mersin@kktcbe.org

IZMIR

Consulate

Gaziosmanpaşa Bulvarı, Süreyya Reyent İş

Merkezi, No:30, Kat 4/408

Konak-İzmir, Türkiye

Tel: 0232 489 77 89 / 489 49 14

Fax: 0232 489 58 92

E-mail: izmir@kktcbe.org.tr

BELGIUM

Office of the Representative

Avenue Louise, 207 BTE 8 B-1050,

Bruxelles, Belgium

Tel: 00-32-26-484756 / 484870

Fax: 00-32-26-487088

e-mail: trncbrussels@skynet.be

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WASHINGTON

Office of the Representative

1667, K. Street, NW. Suite: 690

Washington D.C. 20006,

United States of America

Tel: 00-1-202-8876198

Fax: 00-1-202-4670685

e-mail: trncdc@verizon.net

NEW YORK

Office of the Representative

708 Third Avenue Suite 1710,

N.Y. New York 10017, USA

Tel: 00-1-212-6872350

Ikametgah Tel: 00-1-212-8089343

Fax: 00-1-212-9496872

E-mail: trncny@aol.com

UNITED KINGDOM

Office of the London Representative

29, Bedford Square,

London WC1B 3ED, United Kingdom

Tel: 00-44-207-631-1920

Fax: 00-44-207-462-9785

E-mail: info@trnclondon.co.uk

Web: www.trnclondon.co.uk

TOURISM OFFICE

Tel:00-44-207-631-1930 (2 lines)

Fax:00-44-207-462-9789

e-mail: info@go-northcyprus.com

GENEVA

Office of the Representative

ICC Cointrin, Route De Pre-Bois 20,

Cp-1807, 1215 Geneva 15, Switzerland

Tel: 00 412 27107150 Fax: 00 412 27107151

E-mail: genevarep@sunrise.ch

ITALY

Office of the Representative

Via del Tritone, 46 00187 Rome, Italy

Tel: 00 39 06 86989604 / 86989616

Fax: 00 39 06 92912518

E-mail: ciprodelnord@gmail.com roma@

trncitalia.it

Web: www.ciprodelnord.com

AZERBAIJAN

Office of the Representative
Nizami Küçesi 90A Landmark III, Baku,
Azerbaijan
Tel: 00-99-412-4982495
Fax: 00-99-412-5982995
E-mail: kktcbaku@gmail.com

ABU DHABI

Office of the Representative
Khalifa Bin Zayed Street,
The Blue Tower, Suite 704-A,
P.O. Box 45061,
Abu Dhabi,
United Arab Emirates
Tel: 00-971-26272977
Fax: 00-971-26270844
e-mail: kktcabud@emirates.net.ae

PAKISTAN

Office of the Representative
315-B Khayaban-E-Iqbal F7/2
P.O. Box: 2165 Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: 00-92-51 2650563 / 2650556
Fax: 00-92-51 2650487 / 2650562
e-mail: trncemb@nayatel.pk

QATAR

Office of the Representative
P.O. Box 12466 Doha, Qatar
Tel: 00 974 44837693
Fax: 00- 974 44837692
E-mail: trncdoha@hotmail.com

TEL AVIV

Office of the Representative
2 Kaufman Street, Textile Center, Floor 8,
Tel Aviv, Israel
Tel: 00 972 3510 5228
Fax: 00 972 3510 5227
E-mail: trncisrael@bezeqint.net

OMAN

Office of the Representative
Shatti Al-Qurum Way No 3030 P.O. Box 531,
House No: 2435, Postal Code:115
Muscat, Oman
Tel: 00 968 24699631 / 96130217
Fax: 00 968 24699645
E-mail: trncrepmuscat@gmail.com

KUWAIT

TRNC Governmental Trade Office in Kuwait
Office of the Representative
Cliffs Complex, Floor 15, No.152,
Arabian Gulf Road - Jeddah Lane, Block 9,
Plot 38, Salmiya, Kuwait City
Tel: 00 965 999 32 480
Fax: 00 965 257 17 946
E-mail: trnckuwait@gmail.com

BAHRAIN

Office of the Representative
Suhail Centre, Building No.81,
Office No.31, Road 1702, Diplomatic Area,
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: 00 973 175 22 834
Fax: 00 973 175 22 835
E-mail: trncbahrain@batelco.com.bh

KYRGYZSTAN

Office of the Representative
Moskovskaya 209, KV.1,
Postal Code: 720001 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Tel: 00 996 312 906817
Tel: 00 996 555 423306
Fax: 00 996 312 90 6847
e-mail: kktcbt14@gmail.com

SWEDEN

Office of the Representative
Bragevagen 6 114 26, Stockholm,
Sweden
Tel: 00 46 8 43747461
Fax: 00 46 8 50212981
E-mail: trncstockholm@gmail.com

GERMANY

Türkisch Zyprische Repräsentanz
Friedrichstr. 154, 10117, Berlin, Germany
Tel: 0049 302 062 6940
Fax: 0049 302 062 6941
E-mail: trncberlin@yahoo.de

HUNGARY

Office of the Representative
Andrassy ut. 118-1/2-3
1062 Budapest, Hungary
Tel: 00 36 1 30 10 183
GSM: 0036 70 35 76 605
Fax: 0036 1 30 10 184
Email: trncbudapest@t-online.hu

