

Illegally operating „universities“ in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus

The so called “universities”, operating in the area of the Republic of Cyprus, which remains under Turkish military occupation since 1974, are unlawfully operating bodies, since they had not been established nor have they been operating under the relevant Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Cyprus on Higher Education.

They operate under the purported “law” of the so called “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (“TRNC”) which, according to International law including the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, is an illegal entity not recognized by the international community with the sole exception of Turkey. Therefore, they, as well as the “qualifications” which they award, are not recognized by the Republic of Cyprus.

The fifteen “universities” currently operating in the occupied areas are:

- 1) the “Eastern Mediterranean University”, Ammochostos (Famagusta),
- 2) the “Girne American University”, Kerynia,
- 3) the “Cyprus International University”, Nicosia,
- 4) the “European University of Lefke”, Lefke,
- 5) the “Near East University”, Kioneli,
- 6) the “American University of Cyprus”, Nicosia,
- 7) the “Mediterranean Karpasia University”, Nicosia,
- 8) the “University of Kerynia”, Kerynia,
- 9) the “Cyprus Health and Social Sciences University”, Morfou,
- 10) the “Middle East Technical University Northern Cyprus Campus”, Kapouti in Morfou,
- 11) the „Istanbul Technical University”, Agios Andronikos Karpasias,
- 12) the “Scientific University of Cyprus”, (former “British Nicosia University”),
- 13) the “Ataturk Pedagogical Academy”, Nicosia,
- 14) the “Cyprus University of Social Sciences”, Mia Milia,
- 15) the “Final International University”, Kazafani/Agios Epiktitos in Kyrenia

Evaluation, accreditation and recognition of the illegal “universities”

- a) The “universities” in the occupied areas operate under the occupation regime of the illegal “TRNC”, which according to international law is an illegal entity. United Nations Security Council resolutions 541(1983) and 550 (1984) state clearly that the purported declaration of the so called “TRNC” is legally invalid.
- b) Their evaluation, accreditation and recognition is provided by the so called “Higher Education, Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council (YODAK)” of the illegal «TRNC”. Due to the illegality of the framework, within which they operate, any direct or indirect recognition of the “universities” or of the “qualifications” they award is contrary to the conditions and goals of the European initiatives on Higher Education, since prerequisites of these initiatives is cooperation on a national level, and the existence of a national recognized international framework.
- c) The illegal “universities” in the occupied areas operate outside the legal and institutional framework of the Republic of Cyprus on Tertiary Education and Accreditation of Higher Education. The “institutions” have not applied to be registered in the Universities Registry kept by the Ministry of Education and Culture, nor have they been issued a license for operation, in accordance with any relevant Laws of the Republic of Cyprus. Therefore, these “universities”, as well as the “qualifications” they award, are not recognized by the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus”.
- d) Under international law, Turkey is in no way legitimized to establish “campuses” of its universities in the occupied areas, or use its institutional framework of higher education in an effort to provide legitimacy to higher education activities taking place in the “TRNC”. The control it exercises in the occupied areas of Republic of Cyprus stems from its illegal military occupation of those areas.

Legally registered universities

Totally, eight (8) Universities are legally registered in the Republic of Cyprus and operate within the European Union and International guidelines, concerning higher education issues. These universities are:

- 1) University of Cyprus - www.ucy.ac.cy

- 2) Open University of Cyprus - www.ouc.ac.cy
- 3) Cyprus University of Technology - www.cut.ac.cy
- 4) Frederick University - www.frederick.ac.cy
- 5) European University Cyprus - www.euc.ac.cy
- 6) University of Nicosia - www.unic.ac.cy
- 7) Neapolis University Pafos - www.nup.ac.cy
- 8) University of Central Lancashire-Cyprus – www.uclancyprus.ac.cy

There is also a large number of Private and Public Institutions of Higher Education. Further information is available on the official site of the Department of Higher and Tertiary Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus: www.highereducation.ac.cy .