

Grow your  
StartUp in Cyprus



[www.investcyprus.org.cy](http://www.investcyprus.org.cy)



invest  
**Cyprus**

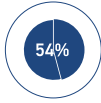
## Talent

Cyprus provides access to local, European and global talent.

### Local Talent



Since 2000, enrolment in Cypriot universities has grown faster than any other EU country.



54% of the workforce has a tertiary degree, one of the highest percentages in the EU.



More Cypriots earn degrees from foreign universities than citizens of any other European country.



Cyprus offers dynamic incubator and accelerator programs, aiming to facilitate the creation of innovative startups.

### Visa-free access to European talent

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The European Union has a workforce of 240 million people, all of whom are eligible to work in Cyprus under EU law.



4.7 million students graduate from European universities every year.

### Easy access to global talent



The Cyprus Startup Visa regime allows entrepreneurs from countries outside the EU to come to Cyprus and establish startups.



Work visas for non-EU nationals are available to enable companies to hire from outside the EU whenever the required talent is not available locally.

## English language

Businesses in Cyprus can operate in English.



English was the official language of Cyprus until 1960. Around 80% of Cypriots speak English.



Business transactions, government services, and banking can all be conducted in English.



In many universities in Cyprus, English is the main language of teaching.

## Quality of life

Cyprus residents enjoy an enviable lifestyle in a safe, clean and healthy environment with high living standards.

- Cyprus is the 2nd most youthful country in EU.
- Cyprus is the safest country for young people.
- Almost four million tourists, four times the country's population, visited Cyprus in 2018.

Many reports give high rankings to quality of life, considering factors such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, and the environment. This includes:



Safest country in the world (small countries category).



Most blue flag beaches per capita in the EU.



2nd best climate worldwide, with an average annual temperature of 25°C.



Best island economy in terms of lifestyle and human capital.



Second fastest growing country brand worldwide.



Cyprus ranks 21/ out of 169 countries in Bloomberg's healthiest countries index.



## Low cost of doing business

Having a business in Cyprus reduces the cost of launching and running the business.

### Labour costs



Costs for technical and professional talents are significantly lower than in other major European capitals.



Average hourly rate of €15.8 significantly lower than the UK (€26.7) or Germany (€33.0).



Non-wage employment costs are low, comprising 17% of the total cost of employment, compared to a EU average of 26%.

### Office space and business support



Office rental rates are among the lowest in Europe. A recent report found that Cyprus was 2nd cheapest.



Critical business support services, including accounting and legal, are also highly affordable.

## Attractive tax system and Angel Law

Cyprus has one of the lowest tax rates in Europe and a highly competitive set of tax incentives for businesses and individuals.

### Corporate taxes



The standard corporate tax rate is 12.5%, one of the lowest in the European Union.



Technology companies producing Intellectual Property can apply for an 80% tax exemption, reducing the corporate tax rate to an effective 2.5%.

### Tax incentives



Tax rates for individuals are among the lowest in the European Union. No income tax is payable on the first €19,500 of personal income.



Non-domiciled tax residents do not pay tax on dividends, interest or rental income earned abroad.



Investments in innovative companies and startups can be deducted from taxable income, up to an annual limit of €150,000.



Dividend and interest payments are exempt from taxation, enabling most technology entrepreneurs to minimize their overall tax burden.



Cyprus has signed more than 60 tax treaties to help ensure that individuals and companies avoid double taxation.



## Excellent regulatory environment

Cyprus has an efficient regulatory structure for starting and running a business and offers strong protection for intellectual property (IP).

### Setup and filing



Establishing a business is simple and fast.



Filing requirements for companies is very simple and can be completed online.



Cyprus has strong IP protection through its own legislation on intellectual property and a network of European and international agreements.



The Cypriot legal system is closely aligned to the English common law legal system and English case law is used (in many cases).

## Strong business support services

Cyprus has a wide range of professional services to make starting and running a business effective.

- Cyprus has more than 700 registered accounting firms including all of the major global firms.
- Cyprus has more than 2,700 registered lawyers and 160 law firms, providing a competitive market for legal services.
- A range of serviced offices and co-working spaces make initial office setup easy.

## Access to funds

New technology companies can apply for a range of national and European grants and incentives.



A range of incentives and employment programs provide funding for businesses.



Innovative small businesses can apply for grants of up to €2.5 million for research and development projects through the European Union's Horizon 2020 program.



Banks and other organizations provide a range of funding options. These include the Cyprus Entrepreneurship Fund, through the provision of loans with favourable financing terms.



Research Promotion Foundation (RPF)



Cyprus Business Angels Network (CyBAN)

## Access to markets

As a member of the European Union, companies in Cyprus have full access to the European market and EU trade agreements.



As part of the European Single Market, Cyprus enjoys free movement of goods, services and capital with other European Union member states and members of the European Free Trade Association, without tariffs, complex bureaucracy or regulatory obstacles.



Cyprus also benefits from more than 40 European Union trade agreements, making it easy to do business with countries outside the European Union.



Since 2008, Cyprus has been a member of the Eurozone, further simplifying trade within Europe.

## Case studies and testimonials

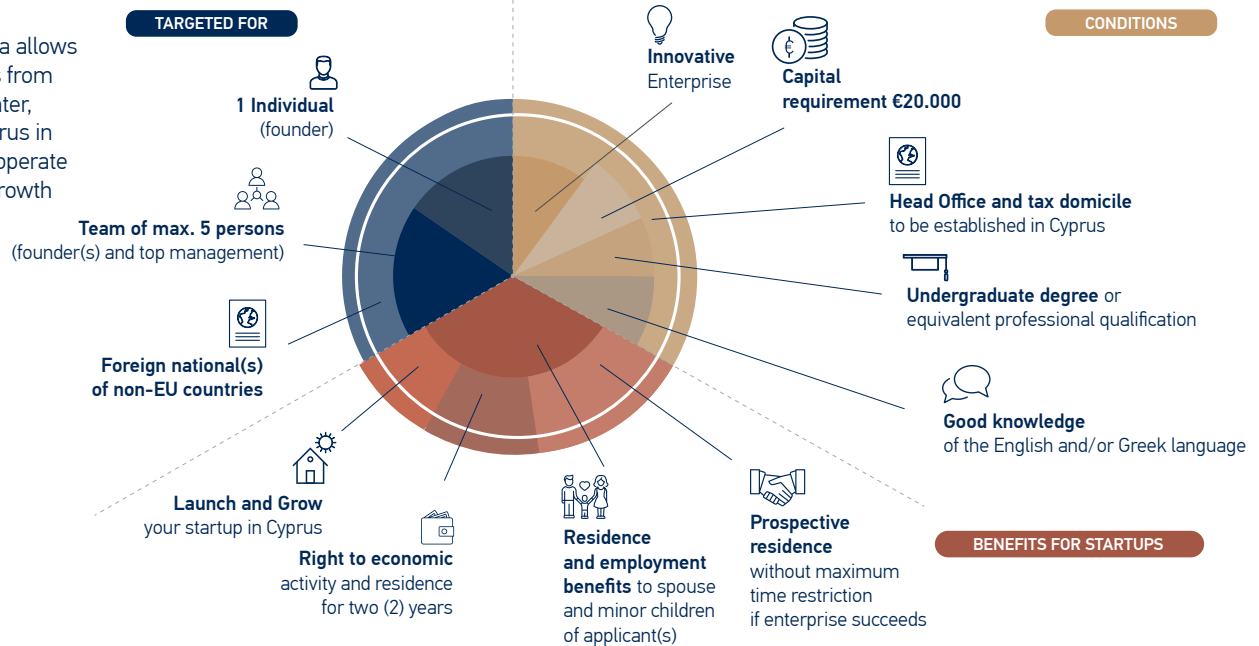
Many successful tech companies have started, relocated or expanded in Cyprus.

<b>Wargaming Group</b> ( <a href="http://www.wargaming.net">www.wargaming.net</a> )		
<b>Whipper</b> ( <a href="http://www.whipper.live">www.whipper.live</a> )		
<b>Viber</b> ( <a href="http://www.viber.com">www.viber.com</a> )		
<b>Proto.io</b> ( <a href="http://www.proto.io">www.proto.io</a> )		
<b>NIPD Genetics</b> ( <a href="http://www.nipd.com">www.nipd.com</a> )		
<b>MindGeek</b> ( <a href="http://www.mindgeek.com">www.mindgeek.com</a> )		
<b>AVG</b> ( <a href="http://www.avg.com">www.avg.com</a> )		
<b>Plath</b> ( <a href="http://www.plath.de">www.plath.de</a> )		
<b>NCR</b> ( <a href="http://www.ncr.com">www.ncr.com</a> )		
<b>3CX</b> ( <a href="http://www.3cx.com">www.3cx.com</a> )		
<b>UTX Technologies Ltd.</b> ( <a href="http://www.u-tx.com">www.u-tx.com</a> )		
<b>Amdocs Ltd.</b> ( <a href="http://www.amdocs.com">www.amdocs.com</a> )		
<b>Openway</b> ( <a href="http://www.openwaygroup.com">www.openwaygroup.com</a> )		
<b>Plus 500</b> ( <a href="http://www.plus500.com">www.plus500.com</a> )		
<b>eToro</b> ( <a href="http://www.etoro.com">www.etoro.com</a> )		
<b>TSYS</b> ( <a href="http://www.tsys.com">www.tsys.com</a> )		
<b>Cardpay Ltd.</b> ( <a href="http://www.cardpay.com">www.cardpay.com</a> )		
<b>Playtech</b> ( <a href="http://www.playtech.com">www.playtech.com</a> )		
<b>Learn2Play</b> ( <a href="https://l2p.game/">https://l2p.game/</a> )		
<b>Asbis</b> ( <a href="http://www.asbis.com">www.asbis.com</a> )		



## Startup visa

The Cyprus Startup Visa allows talented entrepreneurs from non-EU countries to enter, reside and work in Cyprus in order to establish and operate a Startup with a high growth potential.



## Steps

## 01 Submit application for the establishment of a Startup

- Via email
- Include Business Plan
- Proof of funding of at least €20,000

## 02 Evaluation of the application for the establishment of a Startup

- The Competent Authority evaluates the application and Business Plan. The evaluation process will be completed within **five (5) weeks**
- In case of positive evaluation, the applicant will receive notification of initial approval, which grants the right of business activity for **two (2) years**

## 03 Apply for an Entry Visa

- Application to the Consular Authorities of the Republic for an Entry Visa
- Examination of application within **three (3) weeks**

## 04 Submit Application for Work and Residence Permit

- After initial approval, submit an application to ensure registration and residence permit
- Application for residence permit will be examined within **three (3) weeks**
- In case of approval, a residence permit is issued and valid for **one (1) year**
- The residence permit can be **renewed**, prior to expiration, for an additional year

## About Invest Cyprus

Businesses and individuals considering investment into Cyprus have a partner on the ground at all stages of the investment cycle. **Invest Cyprus** is a non-profit national body and the government's dedicated partner responsible for attracting and facilitating Foreign Direct Investment in key economic sectors.

Being the lead agent in establishing Cyprus as a world-class investment destination, **Invest Cyprus** proactively promotes the enhancement of the country's competitive environment, advocating reform and maximising FDI, for the economic and social benefit of Cyprus. In close collaboration with all government authorities, public institutions and the private sector, **Invest Cyprus** is the investor's first point of contact.

**Disclaimer:** The information available in this guide intends to provide a general introduction to the business environment in Cyprus, and every reasonable effort is being made to ensure its accuracy and timely amendment. In no circumstances shall the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA) be legally bound as a result of any information contained in this guide. Updated information can be found at all times on the website of Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency, at [www.investcyprus.org.cy](http://www.investcyprus.org.cy)

### Get in touch with the ecosystem:

- Startup Cyprus  
[www.startupcyprus.org](http://www.startupcyprus.org)
- Cyprus Enterprise Link  
[www.projectcel.com](http://www.projectcel.com)

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