

The island of Cyprus

Situated in the north-eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea and to the south of Turkey, Cyprus is the largest island in the eastern Mediterranean as well as being the third smallest country in the EU, after Malta and Luxembourg. Cyprus joined the EU as a de facto divided island but the whole of Cyprus is EU territory.

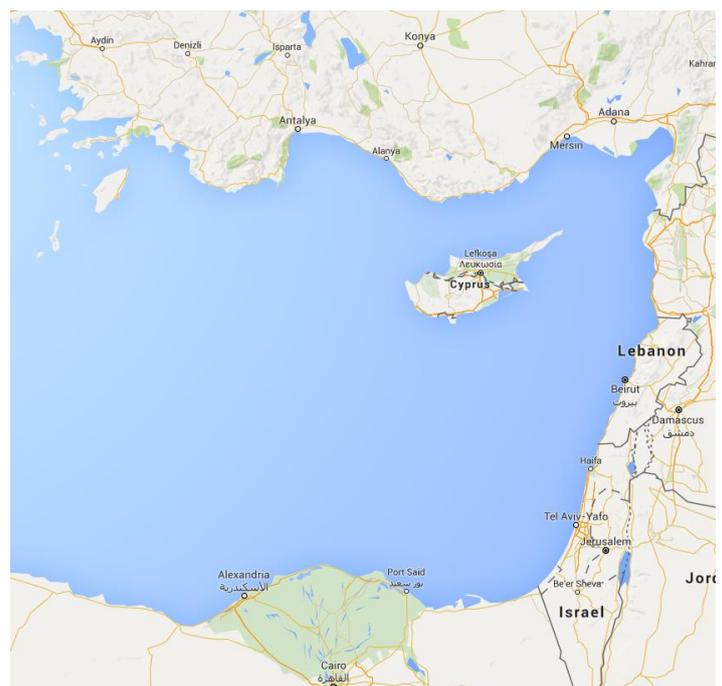
The most important sectors of Cyprus's economy in 2014 were wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation and food services (28.6 %), public administration, defense, education, human health and social work activities (20.7 %) and real estate (11.5 %).

The starting point

Cyprus is an energy isolated island state with no electricity interconnections. The population of Cyprus is approximately 838.897 inhabitants, according to the 2011 Population Census. The electricity system has limited capacity like all the isolated electricity systems and the amount of the RES-electricity can be provided to the electricity transmission network cannot exceed specific amount.

In Cyprus about 97% of the primary energy use was imported in 2008. However, the European Union RES target (2020) for Cyprus is 13% giving Cyprus an opportunity to promote its own energy production and increase its energy independence of export in the near future. According to the national action plan Cyprus expects to meet this target. With feed-in tariff for large wind power plants the Cypriot National Renewable Energy Action Plan targets the largest renewable electricity share from wind power by 2020. Development has been fast. The Cypriot target of solar power including both photovoltaic and concentrated solar power is combined 7% of electricity by 2020, which will be one of the top ones in the European Union markets. Solar heating is the usage of solar energy to provide space or water heating. Solar heating per capita in 2010 was the highest in Cyprus of all European countries.

Until now 22 Sustainable Energy Action Plans have been prepared by the Cyprus Energy Agency conducted in the framework of "Covenant of Mayors" or the "Pact of Islands".



Thanks to Smilegov

Smilegov has offered Cyprus the opportunity to join an island's network with a common vision; to be sustainable. Experiences from advanced islands were transferred to Cyprus through the capacity building activities and the cluster workshops. Furthermore, through SMILEGOV, the Cyprus Energy Agency managed to provide technical assistance and facilitate the advancement of important sustainable bankable projects in Cyprus.

Promotion of sustainable mobility by implementing the Integrated Mobility Master Plan of Nicosia, as well as the improvement of the Energy Efficiency of Street Lighting through an Energy Performance Contracting for the first time in Cyprus.

Think tank, cluster workshops and other stakeholders meetings have a key role in bringing those projects to the next level. Important was also the participation of key people from local authorities of Cyprus to the plenary workshops in Samsøe Denmark and Madeira Portugal. The participants were inspired by good examples and practices around European islands presented or visited during the workshop activities.

This is what we achieved so far

- Local capacity building
- 3 new Pact of Island signatories
- Knowledge and experiences transfer
- Bring to the next level important sustainable projects in Cyprus
- Strong network with islands in Atlantic ocean, Mediterranean, Baltic and North sea

Future hopes and expectations

- Strengthening partnerships among the sustainable island's network
- Successful implementation of existing island Sustainable Energy Action Plans
- Bring to the network new Pact of Islands signatories, elaborate and implement new iSEAPs
- Exceed the EU objectives by reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020