

# Funding for Short-Term Migration Needs in Cyprus

## Beneficiaries:

- Social Welfare Services (Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance)
- Civil Registry and Migration Department
- Asylum Service (co-beneficiary)
- Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus
- Solidarity Funds Sector (Ministry of Interior)

## AT A GLANCE

### Geographical coverage:

Cyprus

### Budget (in € million):

Total EU support awarded since 2015: €10.7 million

- Total EU support paid: €8 million

5 grants awarded since 2015 to the Cypriot Authorities (3 ongoing)

### Type of funding:

Emergency Assistance (EMAS) under:

- Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- Internal Security Fund (ISF)



## Overview

EU funding contributes to the strengthening of the **reception system** to cope with an increased need for special attention for **vulnerable people and unaccompanied minors**, and to enhance fair and fast asylum and return procedures.

## Enhanced capacity of the national Social Welfare Services

EU short-term funding provides support to the existing structures and operational capacity of the Social Welfare Services. Enhancing the operational capacity of the Social Welfare Services contributes to responding **more efficiently and promptly to the needs of the target groups**, which will have a direct impact on their **living conditions**. This includes not only the examination of applications from asylum seekers for material reception conditions, but also the assessment and provision of guidance and social support to vulnerable asylum seekers.

As the Social Welfare Services is the competent authority for the protection and care of unaccompanied minors entering the Republic of Cyprus, the action contributes to **the provision of direct and immediate services of unaccompanied minors upon their arrival in Cyprus**. The action also provides the **appointment of guardians** to the unaccompanied minors.

## Fast and Fair Asylum and Return Procedures

EU funding supports the **improvement of the asylum and return procedures** by strengthening the existing structures and operational capacity of the Asylum Service and the Civil Registry and Migration Department. The additional staff recruited for the Asylum Service contributes to the efforts of examining asylum applications more **effectively and rapidly (fast track procedures)** and **reducing the existing backlog of asylum applications**.

The operational capacity of the Civil Registry and Migration Department, the competent authority for issuing residence permits for persons granted international protection, and for the return of persons whose asylum application has been rejected, is enhanced with additional staff. Effective and rapid examination of residence permit applications ensures that persons granted international protection can have **full access to their rights as long-term residents in the Republic of Cyprus**, including facilitating access to public services, family reunifications and applying for nationality.

In addition, EU funding strengthens the Law Office of the Republic, the competent authority to defend the decisions of the Asylum Service at second instance, in order to **deal with the backlog of decisions**, which will speed up the **return of non-eligible applicants**.



## OPERATION OF THE FIRST RECEPTION CENTRE OF POURNARAS

EU funding has supported the operating needs of the First Reception Centre of Pournaras, providing a total of EUR 3.2 million for staff, equipment and consumables in the context of its transformation from temporary emergency centre into a **fully-fledged First Reception Centre**.

## BASIC NEEDS FOR THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

In 2014, 337 third-country nationals saved near Cyprus' territorial waters on 25 September 2014 benefited from this EU short-term funding, which covered their nutrition and other basic needs, including provision of health care, as well as the operating costs for the emergency open accommodation site that hosted them.