SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT

2024-2025



UNIVERSITY *of* NICOSIA

CONTENTS

Message by the Rector	3
Introduction to the Report	4
UNIC at a Glance	5
University Sustainability and Responsibility	6
UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Times Higher Education Impact Ratings	7
SDG1: No Poverty	8
SDG2: Zero Hunger	9
SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being	10
SDG4: Quality Education	11
SDG5: Gender Equality	12
SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation	13
SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy	14
SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	15
SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	16
SDG10: Reduced Inequalities	17
SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	18
SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production	19
SDG13: Climate Action	20
SDG14: Life Below Water	21
SDG15: Life on Land	22
SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	23
SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals	24



MESSAGE BY THE RECTOR

I am pleased to introduce the University of Nicosia Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024-2025, which offers a broad overview of the work undertaken by the University towards supporting and promoting sustainability. From its inception, the University has always strived to be a pioneer in the field of higher education, while acknowledging its role in supporting environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Through its teaching and learning, research, innovation and societal engagement activities, the University is in a prime position to play a role, both locally and internationally, towards contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), realising its obligation to maximise its positive impact on the environment.

As an educational institution, the University equips students with the knowledge and skills that will empower them to contribute to building a sustainable future for themselves and future generations. In this global, digital, and technology-driven era, our work is not contained within our physical campus but extends globally through input from our expert teaching and research staff towards local and international public debate and policy.

In 2018, the University was an inaugural participant in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings – the first to measure global universities' success in delivering the SDGs. The THE Impact Ratings 2026 ranked the University of Nicosia among the top 401-600 universities globally in terms of its overall social and economic impact.

The accomplishments presented in this report represent the combined efforts of teaching, research, and administrative staff, as well as students and alumni across all departments. While this is not an exhaustive report, it showcases the progress thus far and provides an indication of the University's current and future direction regarding sustainability as driven by our strategy, internal and external stakeholders' expectations, as well as national and international policy.

I hope that you will find this report informative and inspiring, as well as indicative of our commitment to working diligently towards realising the UN 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Professor Philippos Pouyioutas
Rector

INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

It has increasingly become apparent that universities have a critical role to play in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through their faculty, staff, and students, as well as their broader stakeholder community and alumni, universities are primed to act as catalysts for societal change. The University of Nicosia Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024-2025 aims to present highlights of activities and pertinent information on sustainability. It combines data from various stakeholders across the University, including professional and academic staff, students and alumni, and the association with local communities and businesses. Through our actions for more sustainable business and operations, we are committed to helping our students, government, industry, and society. The report presents information about the University's efforts towards tackling each of the SDGs presented from the viewpoints of Research, Operations, Student Learning, and Community, where available.



In our efforts to espouse a sustainable approach across our University community, we must embed the concept of sustainability in our routine. This necessitates a robust and forward-thinking strategic approach to genuinely achieve the desired outcome. In essence, becoming a truly sustainable institution rests on the method by which we uphold equilibrium between all our activities and the planet we call home. It serves as a wise and essential roadmap, securing the enduring prosperity of societies, businesses, states, and academia. Bearing this in mind, the University of Nicosia remains committed to investing in its people and the broader community, striving to become a regional benchmark for sustainability excellence.

Professor
Constantinos N. Phellas
Senior Vice Rector



The UN Sustainable Development Goals are paramount for the world's future, especially as complexity increases in every aspect of life, and the environmental, health, poverty, and justice challenges remain unresolved. The University of Nicosia is fully engaged in contributing to sustainability goals through allocating resources and research efforts in various scientific disciplines, as well as training and education. The University continuously explores innovative approaches to maximise the impact of our research and educational outputs and ensure that we communicate all the above to decision-makers. Furthermore, we achieve the above through collaboration with our university, industrial, and government partners worldwide by emphasising social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Professor
Dimitris Drikakis
Vice President for Global Partnerships



As an inaugural participant in the Times Higher Education Impact Ratings, the University of Nicosia was provided the opportunity to take stock of its achievements and contributions towards the SDGs, and, consequently, look towards the future and explore ways in which it can improve its performance against the SDGs. As such, exercises such as the Impact Ratings, serve as a looking glass that reflects our image back at us, thus, propelling us to work harder, to do better.

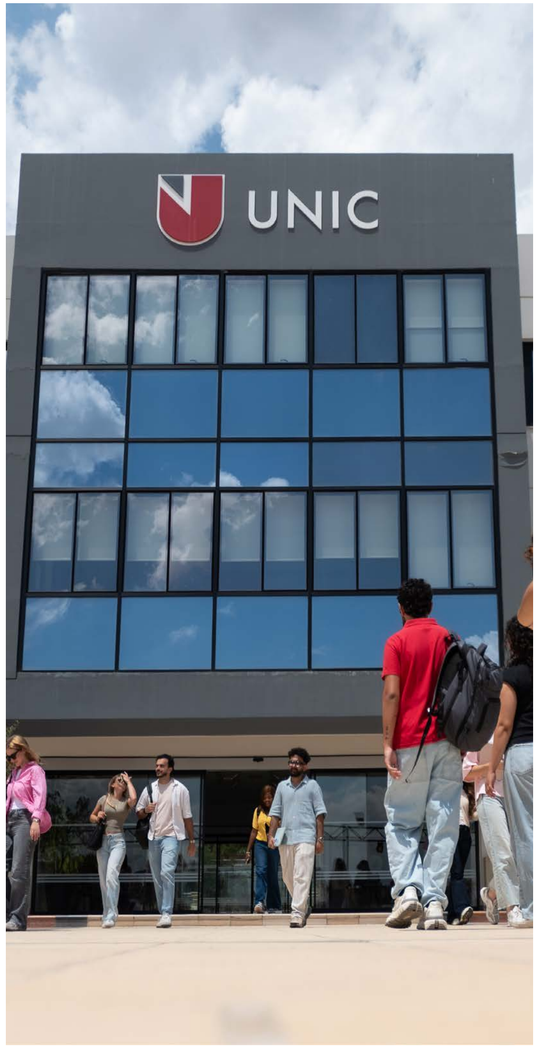
Elisa Bosio
Institutional Data Curator

UNIC AT A GLANCE

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) is a research-oriented university committed to teaching, research, innovation, sustainability, societal engagement, and contributing to culture. It offers more than 100 programmes at the Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degree levels, both on-campus and online, to more than 12,500 students from over 100 countries. UNIC conducts high-quality research in various academic disciplines, with a particular focus on emerging technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and their impact on society. The University actively engages with research centres, industry, and society, its actions resulting in programmes of study that address industry needs and are accredited by relevant professional bodies. UNIC has an outstanding academic reputation and a global outlook, reflected in its impressive results in the international rankings. Indicatively, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 has recognised UNIC as one of the top 2% of universities in the world. Located in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, an EU-member state, UNIC's main campus is ideally situated for students who are aspiring to study in a dynamic and multicultural environment while enjoying the benefits of a modern and welcoming city, Nicosia.



UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY



The University's Sustainability Strategy has five pillars:

1 Access to education

2 Environmental sustainability

3 Investing in people and the community

4 Advancement in research and technology

5 Social sustainability and contributing to informed public debate

The University positively impacts on sustainability through excellence in teaching and research, and the provision of high-quality infrastructure. The entire UNIC community shares our institutional values and the vision for a sustainable future, actively supporting the University's endeavours to promote it.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RATINGS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. It consists of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. The University of Nicosia aims to map its activities to the SDGs, prioritise the goals and develop a strategy to support these goals in the future.



The University was an inaugural participant in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ratings, which was launched in 2018. The THE University Impact Ratings is the first ranking to measure the success of universities globally in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), viewed as increasingly important given the critical action they stimulate in varied and essential areas for humanity and the planet.

Times Higher Education

Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026

The 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Ratings, released in June 2026, ranked the University of Nicosia among the top 401-600 universities globally in terms of its overall social and economic impact.

The Times Higher Education Impact Ratings 2026 featured 1646 institutions from 116 countries.





RESEARCH

Centre for Economic Studies

The Centre for Economic Studies (CES) was established to further the investigation and analysis of local and international economic developments, to identify new areas of research and development and to organise activities and events that may promote and strengthen the position of the University as an organisation that promotes economic development.



OPERATIONS

Financial Aid

With over 12,500 students, the University is committed to providing access to education to low-income students through the provision of financial aid in the form of scholarships. Indeed, over the past five years, an average of 65% of our students were recipients of financial aid, amounting to approximately 52.8 million Euros.

Affordable Student Accommodation

The UNIC Residences consist of three separate complexes – SIX, U and TRIANGLE – which are among the most modern student accommodations in Europe. UNIC Residences provide a multitude of dining, relaxing and entertainment options for residents, including restaurants and cafes, a mini-market, gyms, TV rooms, games areas and more. Accommodation is offered at a reasonable, all-inclusive price that includes all residence costs (electricity, water, Internet access, and cable TV).

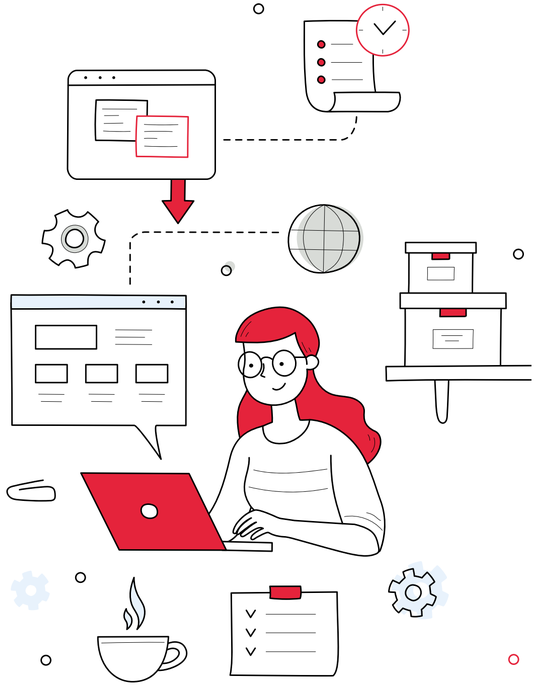




STUDENT LEARNING

Youth Guidance Programme at UNIC

MENTOR is a structured, award-winning community engagement initiative, serving both the University's social outreach pillar and broader societal needs. MENTOR brought together children from underprivileged families with university students, who acted as mentors, providing personal care to the children, and serving as role models. The mentoring relationships fostered along the way served to protect and prevent the children (tomorrow's citizens) from delinquent behaviour, therefore enhancing their opportunities for personal and professional success. At the same time, Mentors experienced some of the country's most critical social problems. With that, they were able to understand and cultivate the social responsibility that, as tomorrow's leaders, they will be called upon to incorporate into their professional positions. The programme at UNIC, which ran under the auspices of the Cyprus Commissioner for Children's Rights, was approved by the Cyprus Antidrug Council as a preventive programme for children from vulnerable groups.



COMMUNITY

Professor Constantinos Phellas, Senior Vice Rector, Appointed Cyprus Ambassador of the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN)

Professor Constantinos Phellas, Senior Vice Rector, serves as Cyprus Ambassador of the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN), an appointment made by the Cyprus Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance.

"Dance Escapes" – Dance Classes Support the UNIC Student Welfare Fund

The Department of Student Affairs began offering a series of dance classes in October 2023. Students and alumni could register to attend Ballroom and Latin dance classes twice a week, led by UNIC student Yevheniia Biriukova. A small participation fee was charged, and the proceeds were donated to the UNIC Student Welfare Fund.

Tropical Medicine: Practising Medicine in A Low Resource Setting – Madagascar

The University of Nicosia Medical School continues its ongoing collaboration with Reverend Archimandrite Anastasios Poyiadjis, MD, PhD, Honorary Professor of Tropical Medicine. He received his MD and PhD from the Medical School of the University of Athens, and he specialised in internal medicine. He was then ordained to the priesthood of the Orthodox Church and received his Degree of Theology. He has devoted most of his time, over the past thirty years, to working as a Missionary Priest and Doctor in various African countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Madagascar. He has gained a wealth of clinical experience in Tropical Medicine and is a specialist in adapting medical practice to low-income health settings, particularly in rural areas.

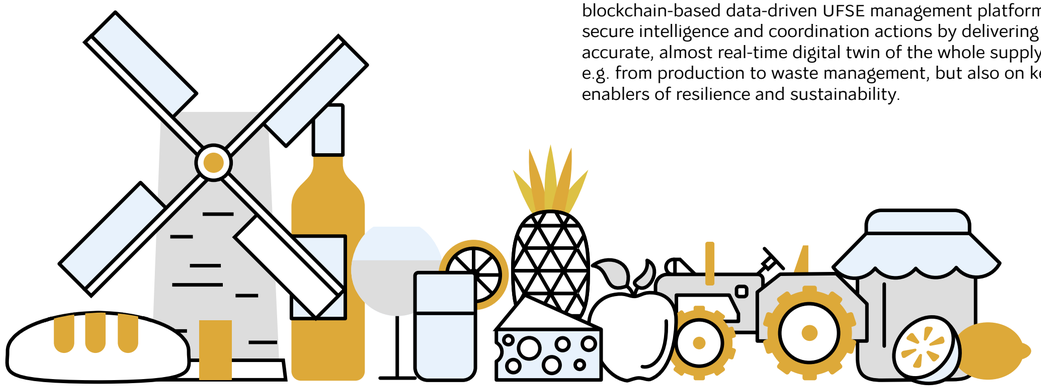




RESEARCH

Environmental Health (EH) Research Centre

The Environmental Health (EH) Research Centre guided by the underlying principles of One Health, recognises the intrinsic and complex connection between the health of people, biodiversity, and the environment. It relies on collaborative and transdisciplinary approaches at various levels (local, national, and global), with a final goal to achieve optimal health outcomes, and taking into consideration the sphere where these three key partners interact. While the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations can all be linked to the principle of One Health, the SDGs most related to the EH Research Centre include SDG2 Zero Hunger, SDG3 Good Health and Well-Being, SDG6 Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG13 Climate Action, SDG14 Life Below Water and SDG15 Life on Land.



Project TRUSTFOOD

UNIC is involved as a partner in TRUST-FOOD, a project, aimed at supporting the development of advanced digital skills of people in the labour force, with a focus on SMEs, as well as of job seekers, by providing access to high-quality and specialised training courses, that will reflect the latest developments in the area of Blockchain technologies applied holistically to the food supply chain and the agri-food sector. The courses, which will be launched during the second half of 2024, will be highly practical and will provide specific knowledge about key digital technologies of Blockchain and their applications to the food supply chain sector. The TRUST-FOOD project which started in January 2023 and will run until December 2025, is funded with €2.6 million by the Digital Europe programme and is made up of a consortium of 14 partners from the European Union (EU) and Ukraine.

Project Cities 2030

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation, is partner in the CITIES2030 project, funded by the EU's Horizon2020 programme. Urban food systems and ecosystems (UFSE) demand immediate action. The main goal of CITIES2030 is to create a future proof and effective UFSE via a connected structure centred on the citizen, built on trust, with partners encompassing the entire UFSE. CITIES2030 commit to work towards the transformation and restructuring of the way systems produce, transport and supply, recycle and reuse food in the 21st century. CITIES2030 vision is to connect short food supply chains, gathering cities and regions, consumers, strategic and complement industry partners, the civil society, promising start-ups and enterprises, innovators and visionary thinkers, leading universities, and research across the vast diversity of disciplines addressing UFSE, including food science, social science and big data. Cities and regions will improve resilience and sustainability, and their leadership will create short food supply chain and ecosystems enabling local investments, trans-borders and transnational deployment. A blockchain-based data-driven UFSE management platform will secure intelligence and coordination actions by delivering an accurate, almost real-time digital twin of the whole supply chain, e.g. from production to waste management, but also on key enablers of resilience and sustainability.

OPERATIONS

Affordable Catering on Campus

UNIC offers a choice of student cafeterias located across campus where students, faculty, staff, and visitors can enjoy a meal, grab a quick coffee, or just wind down and relax with some friends. Open during normal University hours, the cafeterias offer a healthy and affordable selection of warm meals, snacks, salads, sandwiches, coffees, and soft drinks, catering to vegetarians as well. They also offer recreational facilities, including free Wi-Fi access.







STUDENT LEARNING

UNIC Hosts the 13th Annual Diabetes and Metabolic Disease Conference

The School of Life and Health Sciences of the University of Nicosia, the Hellenic Diabetes Association, the Hellenic Society of Internal Medicine, the Institute for the Study, Research and Education for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases (Greece and Cyprus), the Cyprus Society of Pathology, and the Nicosia-Kyrenia Medical Association Hippocrates', organised the 13th Annual Diabetes and Metabolic Disease Conference between 11 and 12 October 2024. Hosted at UNIC, the two-day event attracted doctors, nurses, dieticians, and nutritionists, as well as students and other health professionals. The conference focused on current issues in the field as well as new developments concerning the prevention and treatment of various pathological conditions such as obesity, diabetes mellitus and its complications, new drugs, and childhood diabetes. Additionally, current research conducted on metabolic diseases were presented.

COMMUNITY

Baby Milk Project in Madagascar

In recent years, southern Madagascar is suffering from severe drought. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), about 5% of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition. Thus, securing milk for those children is important. To prevent acute and chronic malnutrition of children in the region of Tulear, a Baby Milk Project, supported by NGOs, has been running for some years now at the premises of 'L' Annonciation' Health Clinic in Tulear. The free supply of milk to orphan and malnourished children is being supervised by Dr Anastasios Poyiadjis, an Internist and Honorary Professor of Tropical Medicine at the University of Nicosia Medical School. The Clinic is furnished by the University of Nicosia and is partly supported financially through fundraising activities which are organised by the University of Nicosia Medical School students.

Workshop on Eating Disorders and their Management in Cypriot Adolescents

A workshop on eating disorders and their management in Cypriot adolescents was held on 29 January 2025 at the University of Nicosia. The workshop was organised by the School of Life and Health Sciences in collaboration with the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. The main objective of the workshop was to inform and raise awareness amongst students on issues relating to healthy eating, the adoption of healthy eating habits, as well as the prevention of eating disorders. Nine public schools took part in the workshop, which was attended by 180 high school students.



RESEARCH

UNIC Launches €4M Horizon Europe Project to Integrate HIV and NCD Care across Four Countries

On 2 and 3 July 2025, the University of Nicosia Medical School hosted the kick-off meeting for HIVE, a €4 million Horizon Europe research project coordinated by UNIC and involving 15 international partners. The initiative, officially titled 'Enhancing Multiple Long-Term Conditions (MLTC) management for HIV populations through Implementation research, evidence-based interventions, and integration of NCD care in LMIC contexts with a focus on Viability and Equity', is set to run through 2028.HIVE builds on a digital health tool developed by Columbia University and aims to expand and adapt it for use across four pilot countries – Kenya, Kazakhstan, Greece, and Malta. The project focuses on improving care for people living with HIV (PLWH) by supporting the self-management of multiple long-term conditions and embedding non-communicable disease (NCD) care and psychosocial counselling into HIV clinic settings.The kick-off event brought together academic, public health, and clinical partners for two days of intensive planning, coordination, and co-creation. The HIVE's Principal Investigator and Project Coordinator is Dr Eleni Tolma, Head of the Department of Primary Care and Population Health at UNIC.

Centre of Neuroscience and Integrative Brain Research

The aim of the Centre of Neuroscience and Integrative Brain Research (CENIBRE) is to investigate the nervous system in health and disease, and develop novel preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies to improve neurological and mental health. An interdisciplinary approach, a unique mix of expertise, the application of state-of-the-art technologies and innovative data analysis will be the main attributes of the Centre. The Centre builds on the integration of broad but complementary expertise of its founding members ranging from fundamental cellular and molecular mechanisms of neuronal signalling all the way to behavioural and wider determinants of population health and wellbeing.

OPERATIONS

Unit for Diversity Competence (UDC) in Healthcare and Healthcare Education

In September 2023, UNIC announced the formation of the Unit for Diversity Competence (UDC) in Healthcare and Healthcare Education, which will operate under the UNIC Health umbrella. The mission of the UDC is to nurture an inclusive and culturally competent environment within our healthcare community. The primary objectives of UDC are:

- Training & Support: UDC will offer support and training in diversity and cultural competence in healthcare to staff, faculty and students of the Medical School, School of Veterinary Medicine, and School of Life and Health Sciences.
- Guidance for Affiliates: UDC will provide support and guidance to all UNIC Health affiliated healthcare organisations in working effectively with diverse patients.
- Research & Development: UDC will develop or participate in research projects and collaborations and will publish in the area of diversity and cultural competence.

UFIT – The University of Nicosia Fitness Centre

The University's recently constructed UFIT Fitness Centre is a leading gym in Cyprus, offering students and members of the local community excellent services under the professional guidance of health and sports science specialists. UFIT certified trainers are dedicated and committed to helping individuals get the best out of themselves. The centre is equipped with brand-new, state of the art equipment and with all the necessary facilities to create a healthy and pleasant environment for everyone to exercise. UNIC students benefit from special discounted membership fees.



STUDENT LEARNING

UNIC Health Student Research Conference 2025

The University of Nicosia hosted the UNIC Health Student Research Conference on 12 March 2025. The event was organised by the Medical School Student Society and the Medical Students Research Society, in collaboration with students from the School of Veterinary Medicine and faculty of UNIC Health. The conference provided a platform for students to present their research through oral and e-poster presentations. The programme included 14 abstract presentations, covering topics including rare disease case reports, innovative cardiac surgeries, and results of primary research and evidence syntheses in different medical areas. Beyond the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to participate in an interactive workshop, 'Data Rx: A Crash Course in Python and AI for Future Physicians', led by Aswinshankar Sivalingam, MD2. The conference concluded with an awards ceremony.



Medical School Hosts European Infectious Disease Training Programme

The University of Nicosia Medical School hosted a training course as part of the IDEALiTER Erasmus+ project from 9 to 11 May 2025. The programme brought together experts from across Europe to advance education in infectious diseases. Specialists from Belgium, France, Portugal, Greece, and Cyprus contributed to the training. The course covered antimicrobial and antifungal resistance, maternal and neonatal infections, vaccination strategies, outbreak investigations, and public health preparedness. Sessions also addressed communication during health crises and the 'One Health' approach. Students participated in simulation sessions at the Medical School's Clinical Skills Lab, where they practised infection prevention techniques, including hand hygiene, PPE protocols, and outbreak response.

COMMUNITY

Medical Students Win European i-Days Competition 2024

A diverse team of students from the Medical School claimed both 1st Place and the Public Choice Award at the European i-Days competition held in Budapest on 28 and 29 November 2024. Their triumph followed their success at the national i-Days event in Cyprus. Organised by EIT Health, the i-Days competition encourages students to develop and present practical healthcare innovations. The innovation tacked the challenges in verifying nasogastric (NG) tube placement, which typically involves time-consuming methods like pH strips or X-rays. The pHera solution, which integrates a pH sensor directly into the NG tube, tackles the critical issue of misplacement, potentially leading to severe patient complications, and provides a safer alternative to traditional methods. The team's ability to present a working prototype was beneficial for the industry judges, demonstrating the project's practicality and readiness for implementation. The Medical School supports programmes such as i-Days and Junior Achievement Cyprus, which provide opportunities for students to engage in healthcare innovation. These initiatives help bridge academic learning with practical applications, as seen in the pHera team's efforts to address patient safety concerns.



Medical School Partners on New Paediatric Infection Control Course Funded by ESPID

The European Society of Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) has sponsored a new hybrid training course on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) with a focus on paediatric settings. This course is a collaborative effort involving experts from Europe, the USA, Australia, and the Penta-ID Network, coordinated by the Medical School of the University of Nicosia, the University of Padova in Italy, the Centre of Clinical Epidemiology and Outcomes Research (CLEO) in Greece, and the Pan-European Paediatric Research (PENTA). The course features two fully interactive components: an online training programme with integrated live webinar sessions, and a 2-day on-site IPC simulation workshop in Athens, Greece. The workshop aims to consolidate online learning and provide practical, hands-on experience. This collaboration underscores the Medical School's commitment to advancing education and equipping healthcare professionals with essential skills in paediatric IPC.



RESEARCH

GNOSIS Hosts 3rd Transnational Project Meeting for EU Erasmus+ Project: "Creative Learning for Boosting Bioeconomy within HEIs' Curricula – CL4BIO"

On 26 and 27 November 2024, Gnosis | Mediterranean Institute for Management Science, hosted the third transnational project meeting for the Erasmus+ Project "Creative learning for boosting bioeconomy within HEIs' curricula – CL4BIO". This initiative brought together partners from Poland, Portugal, Italy, and Cyprus to discuss the project's progress and next steps. The overarching objective of the CL4BIO project is to equip teaching academics with advanced and creative skills, fostering excellence in pedagogical approaches, particularly in novel and online education. This initiative encompasses transdisciplinary methodologies, novel curriculum development strategies, and the establishment and evaluation of connections between education, research, and innovation. Strengthening teaching competences is paramount for the effective education of students, particularly in the field of bioeconomy, in order to meet the fast-evolving market demands. Hosted by the University of Nicosia, the meeting cantered on two pivotal Work Packages: Work Package n°3 – "Creation of E-learning Training Contents on Sustainability and Bioeconomy Adopting Creative Learning" and Work Package n°4 – "Piloting the training materials with HEI students (from both partner and non-partner HEIs) and release of final project outputs". The project is coordinated by the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland, with partners including the University of Foggia, Italy, University of Nicosia, Cyprus and University of Aveiro, Portugal.

OPERATIONS

UNIC Athens: Licensed for Establishment and Operation in Greece by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports

The Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports has authorised the University of Nicosia to establish UNIC Athens, its non-profit branch/campus in Greece, in a decision which strengthens UNIC's long-standing academic partnership with the country. UNIC Athens will welcome its inaugural class in Fall 2025 at a purpose-designed campus in the area of Ellinikon, Athens. The University of Nicosia is Cyprus's largest research university in terms of student enrolment and has enrolled more Greek students than any university outside of Greece in the past decade. The UNIC Medical School has a broad partnership with the Hellenic Healthcare Group (HHG), which will serve as its exclusive university hospital network in Greece. HHG's flagship hospitals, including Hygeia, Metropolitan General, Metropolitan Hospital and Mitera, will serve as UNIC Athens' base for clinical teaching and clinical research. UNIC Athens will be the only university campus operating within the €8 billion The Ellinikon smart city, with a reserved 75,000 m² of buildable space for teaching/learning, research, and student residences, enabled by AI, robotics, and wellness technologies. UNIC Athens will be a key site for UNIC's flagship "Evolve" Research and Innovation initiative. UNIC Evolve is focused on how Artificial Intelligence can be used to improve the human condition, with a particular focus on healthspan and longevity.

University of Nicosia School of Business Receives AACSB International Accreditation

The University of Nicosia School of Business has secured accreditation from the internationally recognised Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, following a lengthy and demanding evaluation process. This achievement further establishes the University of Nicosia on the map of leading higher education providers in Business Administration. Fewer than 6% of the world's Business Schools, just 1,066 institutions in over 100 countries, hold AACSB accreditation, placing UNIC among the elite accredited institutions. AACSB accreditation is expected to further enhance the University's international collaborations, research activity and the impact of its graduates at both local and global levels. AACSB, founded in 1916, is the world's oldest accrediting body for Business Schools and the largest business education network, connecting students, academics, and businesses in more than 100 countries.

STUDENT LEARNING

Mastering Web3: UNIC's Brand New Free MOOC, Offering a Blockchain Verifiable Certificate

The University of Nicosia and the Institute for the Future (IFF) launched a newly revamped free course "Mastering Web3: Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies, NFTs, and the Metaverse". The rigorous 12-week online course is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the rapidly evolving Web3 landscape. Developed and delivered by leading experts, the course provides a deep dive into blockchain technology, cryptocurrencies, NFTs, and the Metaverse. Participants will move beyond the industry trends and gain a comprehensive understanding of these transformative innovations, empowering them to engage critically and confidently with the future of digital technologies. The course offers practical tutorials on various crypto, blockchain, and metaverse-related aspects, such as creating wallets, minting NFTs, and executing transactions. It also provides a comprehensive overview of both blockchain concepts and the metaverse, ensuring participants gain both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience.



COMMUNITY

Access to the University Library and Free Events for the Public

The University of Nicosia makes available its Library facilities to members of the public who can visit the University Library free of charge. Members of the public can also register with the Library to borrow books at an affordable membership fee. Additionally, the University hosts and organises dozens of events every year most of which are free to members of the public. In response to the pandemic, the University organised a series of timely webinars that were also available free of charge to the community.

UNIC Hosts the "Learning Innovations Summit" Conference for the Digital Transformation of Education in Cyprus

The University of Nicosia hosted the Learning Innovations Summit (LIS) which took place on 13 and 14 September 2024. Titled "Discovering the Future of Learning and AI in Education," LIS 2024 gathered local and international visionaries and experts to explore the digital transformation of education. The conference was organised by CARDET, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, the University of Groningen and University College Dublin, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. With the participation of leading academics, professionals and technocrats from 15 countries, the conference analysed the latest developments in the field of technology and how they are reshaping the educational landscape. The possibilities and prospects of the introduction of artificial intelligence in education and training, as well as the ways in which teachers and trainers can use them, were presented. In addition, participants were provided the opportunity to attend practical workshops on the use of innovative digital tools in teaching and the provision of training opportunities. The 2024 event was supported by the European project "LeaderAI" which is implemented in Cyprus by the University of Nicosia and CARDET with funding from the Erasmus+ programme.

Establishment of a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Nicosia

Mr Manish, High Commissioner of India to Cyprus, and Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, Rector of the University of Nicosia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15 June 2025, for the establishment of a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Nicosia. The post will be the first Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair hosted by a University in Cyprus and will be jointly supported by the University of Nicosia and ICCR. During the ceremony, Rector Pouyioutas expressed gratitude for the partnership and noted that the Chair will provide to the University of Nicosia community, but also to the citizens of Cyprus, a window to the rich culture and civilisation of India, thus further strengthening the ties between the peoples of the two countries.



RESEARCH

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

Affiliated to the University of Nicosia, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, that promotes and contributes to projects of social, political, and economic themes relating to gender and women's rights on a national, regional, and EU level. The Institute deals with the complexities of discrimination against women and attempts to eliminate them, using a combination of research, advocacy, and lobbying, as well as trainings, conferences, and other activities. The Institute is closely monitoring the policies and strategies adopted by the State and the European Union in relation to gender equality in all fields. The Institute is in close cooperation with relevant European committees and participates in the implementation of several European projects. The Institute is an active member of the Cyprus Women's Lobby, which consists of 16 women's organisations and NGOs and is the newest member of the European Women's Lobby, the largest coalition of women's NGOs in the European Union promoting women's rights and equality between women and men.

Project TINKER

The University of Nicosia, through the Department of Education, School of Education, is a partner in the funded project, TINKER (an auThentIc learNing and gender inclusive frameworK for tEaching infoRmatics in schools across Europe), which aims to revolutionise informatics education in upper primary and lower secondary schools through a comprehensive pedagogical framework. Rooted in authentic learning principles, the project encourages students to engage with real-life tasks, promoting exploration and intentional connections between theoretical knowledge and practical experiences. This pedagogical approach aligns with the latest JRC report that emphasises the importance of problem-solving and product creation in informatics curricula, as well as contributes to the EU's goal of ensuring that by 2030, 80% of adults will possess basic digital skills and there will be 20 million ICT specialists across the member states. The project also aims to address and overturn the severe underrepresentation of women and gender minorities in the field, by adopting a progressive gender-inclusive stance. In particular, it will promote gender-inclusive teaching practices creating positive student-centred environments that celebrate diversity. By addressing existing biases, TINKER aims to contribute to a transformative educational experience where gender diversity is not only respected but also valued as an asset. The project commenced in January 2024 and is co-funded by the European Union.

Project Sport GVP

The University of Nicosia, through the Department of Education, School of Education, is the Coordinator of the funded project, Sport GVP (Preventing Gender Based Violence in and through Sport). Sport GVP puts forward a comprehensive programme that entails multifaceted actions to contribute to the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence in and through sport. It involves a structured set of activities that wish to generate knowledge and data on the extent and forms gender-based violence appears in sport in the implementing countries and pave the way for responses and actions in and through sport to prevent and tackle violence against individuals on the basis of their gender. Specifically, the scope, work and objectives the project will primarily focus on promoting the Sport's programme's priority to combat violence and tackle racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport' which calls for actions to combat said behaviours, fight any form of discrimination and promote equality in sport. The project, which commenced in January 2024, will run for 24 months and is co-funded by the European Union.

OPERATIONS

University of Nicosia Certified as Equality Employer

In 2021, the University of Nicosia was certified as Equality Employer by the National Certification Body for the Implementation of Good Practices on Gender Equality in the Working Environment. The aim of the National Certification Body for the Implementation of Good Practices on Gender Equality in the Working Environment is to certify companies which have adopted policies that promote gender equality, provide equal training and development opportunities, a work life-balance, and equal pay between men and women for the same work or for work of equal value. With a view to effectively manage its employees and facilitate their continuous professional growth and development, the University of Nicosia employs a modern and comprehensive Human Resources Management system. The system revolves around respecting employees and the internationally accepted fundamental principles of HR management, while it is based on a continued effort for improvement, growth, and modernisation.

COMMUNITY

Empowering Through Biochemistry: Celebrating Women in Science

On 26 October, the School of Life and Health Sciences at the University of Nicosia, in collaboration with the Girls in STEAM Academy and with the support of SciCo Cyprus, the Biochemical Society and the European MEDNIGHT project, successfully organised the event 'Empowering Through Biochemistry: Celebrating Women in Science'. Held in the laboratories of the University of Nicosia's School of Life and Health Sciences, the event aimed to encourage young girls to explore biochemistry and recognise women's contributions to science. A total of 23 girls aged 14–16 took part, actively participating in the day's activities. The event opened with a warm welcome and a brief presentation outlining its objectives, introducing participants to the world of biochemistry and women in science. Next, the participants were introduced to the principles behind DNA extraction and the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), where they learned about their importance, particularly in disease detection. Participants subsequently took part in hands-on workshops focused on extracting DNA from cells collected from the inside of the mouth. They then stepped into the role of forensic scientists, following a series of procedures involving PCR, agarose gel preparation and DNA electrophoresis. By analysing and matching DNA samples, they were challenged to identify the culprit in a simulated crime scene investigation.



Exhibition 'The Marie Curies of the Mediterranean' at the University of Nicosia

The University of Nicosia hosted the exhibition entitled "The Marie Curies of the Mediterranean", presented by the non-profit organisation SciCo Cyprus as well as the University of Nicosia School of Life and Health Sciences. The exhibition celebrated the achievements of women scientists and researchers from Mediterranean countries and was hosted at UNIC from 22 to 30 September 2024. The exhibition was created by the MEDNIGHT (Mediterranean Researcher's Night) consortium, which consists of institutions from eight different Mediterranean countries. The exhibition recognised the achievements of women scientists and researchers from the Mediterranean, who have received the prestigious EU Marie Curie Fellowships. The exhibition was translated into nine languages and was exhibited in various countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The exhibition represented researchers from 22 countries, 19 of which are Mediterranean, with the main objectives of the exhibition being to inspire the younger generations, to highlight the cultural richness and scientific talent of the Mediterranean region and to increase the visibility of women in science and research through the lens of multiple roles.

Dr Soulla Louca Named Madame Figaro Woman of the Year 2024 in the Scientist/Academic Category

Dr Soulla Louca, Professor and Head of the Department of Digital Innovation, as well as Director of the Institute for the Future (IFF) at the University of Nicosia, was named Madame Figaro Woman of the Year 2024 in the Scientist/Academic category. The Madame Figaro Women of the Year Awards ceremony took place on 16 October 2024, at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre. The awards recognise and honour women in Cyprus for their outstanding contributions across a range of fields. Dr Louca holds a PhD in Computer Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology, as well as a master's degree and a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College, respectively, the latter obtained with a Fulbright scholarship. She is regarded as a pioneer in blockchain technology. In 2014, she spearheaded the launch of the blockchain initiative at the University of Nicosia. This initiative, later renamed the Institute for the Future, led to the creation of the world's first postgraduate degree programme in blockchain and, subsequently, the first postgraduate programme in the metaverse. She also made a significant contribution to the development of blockchain technology for issuing academic credentials.



RESEARCH

Project CyMIC

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF) is the Coordinator of the funded project, CyMIC (MIC Involvement in Damaged Water Pipes). Water is essential for life, for the economy, and plays an important role in climate regulation. Cyprus is among the 25 countries in the world facing extremely high water stress each year. Among some of the problems experienced within drinking water networks is distribution losses, especially in countries under severe water stress. Damaged pipes are a significant source of water loss, which impacts even further on the existing high-water stress. Among other factors accounting for water loss, corrosion and aging is a major cause of pipe damage. The CyMIC project aims to demonstrate the potential involvement of microorganisms in corrosion, a fact that is not usually considered by experts. Microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC) refers to corrosion caused by the presence and activities of microorganisms – microalgae, bacteria, archaea, and fungi. This project represents the first of its kind in Cyprus and will provide knowhow to the industry and government authorities on how to use multiple lines of evidence to evaluate cases of corrosion in pipes, and their prevention and mitigation. The project is co-funded by the Republic of Cyprus and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in the frame of the Operational Programme «ΘΑΛΕΙΑ» 2021-2027/ Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) / «Proof of Concept for Technology / Knowhow Applications» Programme (CONCEPT/0823).

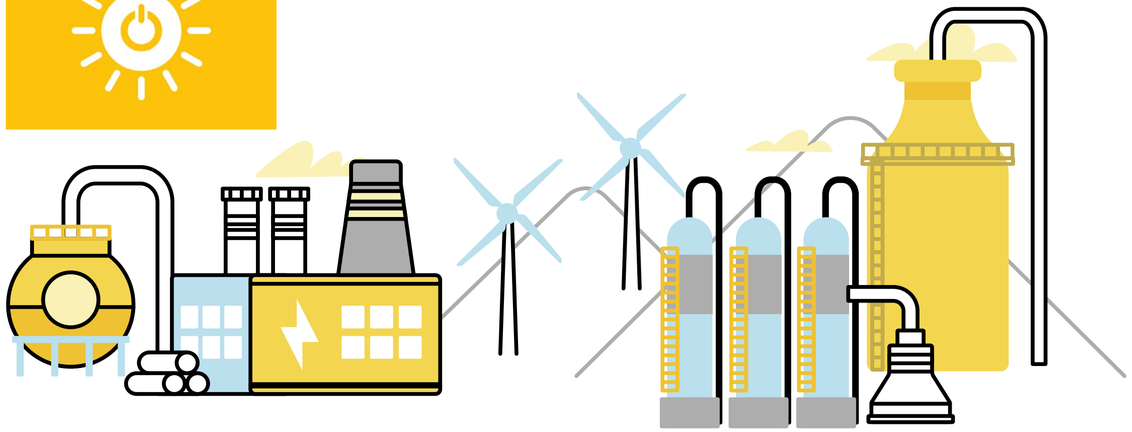
UNIC Study Finds No Evidence of Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion in Cyprus Water Pipes

A preliminary study conducted by the University of Nicosia's Environmental Health Research Centre found no evidence of microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC) in Cyprus's drinking water pipes, despite detecting microbial presence in all samples examined. The research, part of the CyMIC project funded by the Research and Innovation Foundation of Cyprus, examined whether microorganisms were causing or accelerating corrosion in the country's water distribution systems. Contrary to initial concerns, researchers could not confirm the potential involvement of microbiologically influenced corrosion in the drinking water pipes evaluated. Cyprus ranks among the five most water-stressed countries globally. The combination of extreme summer heat, droughts, and significant water losses from the distribution system critically affects drinking water availability. In collaboration with EOAL (The District Local Government Organisation of Larnaca), researchers collected pipe and water samples from sites where leakages were detected and from scheduled network upgrade works. Samples were photographed and identified in situ before being transported to the University of Nicosia laboratory.





7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



RESEARCH

Project LINK-EU

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF) was a partner in the project, LINK-EU (Linking local democracy and solidarity to EU institutions for the design of resilient energy policies) funded by the European Union Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV). LINK-EU sought to celebrate rural territories' resilience, to foster long-term cooperation and to build a shared narrative of the EU's rural communities through the organization of four main events across rural Europe. Through workshops, expert meetings and dissemination of good practices, LINK-EU aimed to improve citizens' and local authorities' knowledge of EU policies while promoting local initiatives. The main product of the project is the building of the Rural Resilience Roadmap, including a shared long-term vision of rural territories of Europe and solutions to perform the transition in rural Europe. LINK-EU was made of 4 events to be held in Portugal, France, Spain and Hungary, each involving 25-50 participants. The main activities of the project included the organization of the 4 events, and the conduct of online public consultations between the events to reach out to the broader public and co-construct the Rural Resilience Roadmap. The main aim of the project, the Rural Resilience Roadmap describing how to build more resilient rural communities, was communicated to EU decision-makers at the end of the project to be used as a contribution to the European Green Deal policies and programmes and related EU initiatives.



OPERATIONS

Energy Conservation Programme

Over the past few years, the University has been working towards putting into place an energy conservation programme. This has included the installation of:

- The access control system of amphitheatres in connection with lighting
- Low energy consumption bulbs across the campus
- Occupancy sensors in various spaces (e.g. Library)
- Thermo windows and polycarbonate for natural lighting in various buildings
- Occupancy sensors for cafeteria air conditioning
- Occupancy sensors for standard toilets in various buildings
- The access control system at entrances and High-Risk Workshops at the Medical School

COMMUNITY

University of Nicosia Signs MoU with Pontem Analytics

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in October 2023 between the Department of Engineering of the University of Nicosia (UNIC) and Pontem Analytics, committing both parties to closer collaboration in the broad area of Geo-Scientific research and data analytics. Pontem Analytics is an international leading consulting and investment company known for its expertise in data analytics and domain knowledge. Pontem Analytics has over 10 years of experience delivering design and operations consulting solutions including process optimization, flow assurance and production chemistry services to major projects in the Eastern Mediterranean region and hopes to leverage this experience to deliver additional value in the future. The signed MoU signifies the shared vision and the mutual desire for collaboration between UNIC and Pontem Analytics and in the realms of engineering and data analytics, with a specific focus on energy and the Eastern Mediterranean oil and gas industry.





RESEARCH

Management Science

UNIC's dedicated Mediterranean Institute for Management Science (GNOSIS) is fast positioning itself as a regional leader in the field. Gnosis is a dynamic organisation that aims to produce cutting edge scientific knowledge in the wider field of Management. Gnosis works with and for the industry and society to bridge academia and practice, instituting itself as a regional leader in its domain and a recognised top expert in the wider Mediterranean region. Through research, publications, training and synergies, Gnosis explores needs and challenges, thus enabling positive change. Its in-house researchers and professionals are specialists in Business Strategy, Marketing and Management, the Social Sciences and the Humanities.



OPERATIONS

Investing in Our People

Higher education is a people-powered service that relies heavily on the contribution of faculty and staff to deliver high-quality education and support services. The University continuously works towards offering training and development opportunities for its faculty and staff either through in-house training or through the Erasmus staff mobility programme.

Equal Opportunities Policy Statement

The University of Nicosia is committed to providing equal opportunities in employment. It opposes all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination, direct or indirect, on the grounds of sex, marital/civil partnership status, colour, race, religion/philosophical belief, ethnic or national origin, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment (change of sex) or age. It is the policy of the University of Nicosia to treat all employees and business contacts with respect and dignity and to ensure that no individuals are victimised or subjected to harassment or bullying.

STUDENT LEARNING

University of Nicosia Students Participate in Amdocs Discovery Day

On 11 April 2025, students from UNIC had the unique opportunity to experience what it's like to work at Amdocs, one of the world's leading telecommunications technology companies, whose solutions impact over 40% of the global population. Organised by the University of Nicosia's Career Success Centre, the visit to Amdocs's headquarters in Limassol allowed students pursuing degrees in Finance, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Software Development to gain meaningful insight into the company's operations, corporate culture, and career possibilities. Students engaged with Amdocs professionals to explore career opportunities while experiencing the organisation's dynamic work environment. The visit programme featured several elements including information on internship opportunities, graduate positions, a guided tour of the company's offices and a presentation. The visit was designed to help students connect academic theory with practical industry applications, enhancing their understanding of the skills and attributes required to succeed in competitive, tech-driven industries.

Exness CMO, Alfonso Cardalda, Inspires Future Marketing Talent at the University of Nicosia

Alfonso Cardalda, Exness' Chief Marketing Officer, gave a guest lecture to students in the Marketing Research and Data Analytics course of the Business Administration (Marketing and Digital Media) programme offered at the University of Nicosia. Exness is a global multi-asset broker which uses a unique combination of technology and ethics to create a favourable market for traders and raise the industry benchmark. During the session, Cardalda shared practical insights on navigating the evolving marketing landscape and engaged with students about their aspirations and career paths. Focusing on bridging the gap between academic theory and real-world practice, Cardalda emphasised the importance of vision, perseverance, adaptability, and embracing challenges in a fast-moving industry like fintech. Using examples from his own career, he demonstrated how innovation, data, and emotional connections with audiences form the foundation of impactful marketing campaigns.

UNIC Career Success Centre

The UNIC Career Success Centre (CSC) supports students and alumni in their continuous career exploration journey with vital insights and advice, employability seminars and trainings, company open days, and many more tools and services. The CSC actively supports and equips students with the tools they need to land an internship or job placement. From their first year at UNIC, students are encouraged to take advantage of the CSC services and opportunities and pursue as many internships during their studies as possible. The CSC works to develop mutually beneficial relationships with its partners and to connect students, faculty, and the industry. Through its highly developed network, the CSC gives students the opportunity to gain real-life knowledge and experience.

COMMUNITY

University of Nicosia's IFF and TheBlock Partner to Advance Blockchain and Crypto Education and Innovation in the UAE

TheBlock and the Institute For the Future at UNIC, one of the world's leading institutions in blockchain, crypto, and Web3 education, proudly announced a strategic partnership in April 2025. This collaboration aims to provide cutting-edge blockchain education and professional training to the UAE, equipping students and professionals with the tools they need to thrive in the Web3 economy. The partnership's goal is to create an environment where students, businesses, and government entities in the UAE can access top-tier blockchain education and resources provided by UNIC. Professionals affiliated with TheBlock will gain access to the University of Nicosia's educational offerings, including tuition discounts, scholarships, professional training and career support. The partnership is set for an initial three-year term, with representatives from both organisations ensuring ongoing collaboration and impact.

Leonardo Hotels & Resorts and UNIC Forge Strategic Partnership to Enhance Career and Educational Opportunities for Students

Leonardo Hotels & Resorts Mediterranean, a prominent brand name in the hospitality industry, and the University of Nicosia announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on initiatives that promise to enhance career pathways and educational experiences for students. This landmark partnership signifies a commitment to nurturing future leaders in the hospitality sector by offering comprehensive internship programmes and robust career development opportunities. The MoU aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry, ensuring that graduates are equipped with the practical skills and industry insights required for the dynamic hospitality landscape.

UNIC Supports Cyprus Job Fair 2024 as Academic Partner

The University of Nicosia supported the Cyprus Job Fair 2024, a career networking event that took place on 12 and 13 December 2024 at the Cyprus International Fair in Nicosia. This dynamic two-day event, organised by IMH, aimed to bridge the gap between ambitious talent and leading employers. The fair brought together over 50 exhibitors and aimed to assist university students, graduates, and young professionals in exploring diverse career opportunities across all sectors of the economy.



RESEARCH

Horizon 2020 Projects

UNIC is currently a coordinator or partner in multiple Horizon 2020 research consortiums, the EU's flagship research programme. These entail tackling contemporary societal challenges and enhancing Europe's global competitiveness, in collaboration with partners that include some of the leading research universities in the world, such as the University of Cambridge, University of Barcelona, Telecom Paris Tech, University of Münster, and Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Digital Currencies and Blockchain

UNIC is widely regarded as having the most developed university Blockchain and Digital Currency Initiative in the world. In addition to teaching, it has made significant progress in research and development in key areas such as digital credentialing, decentralised social networking, blockchain transaction analytics, and other key areas of certificate issuance.

Artificial Intelligence

UNIC's AI Lab aims at developing cutting-edge technology as well as state-of-the-art research in the fields of Data Science (Data Stream Mining, Deep Learning), Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning, Uncertain Reasoning, Bayesian Networks), Smart Cities (Learning from Urban Data), Computational Social Science, Sentiment Analysis, and Social Network Analysis.

UNIC-led International Team Pioneers AI Technology for Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Advancement

An international research team led by the University of Nicosia, in collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), has developed an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) model that could transform technology for high-speed aircraft, space exploration, and beyond. The study, published in the prestigious Physics of Fluids journal and selected as an Editor's Pick, demonstrates the power of cutting-edge AI in solving some of the most complex scientific challenges. Using a groundbreaking Transformer deep learning model, the team investigated shock waves and the way they interact with flexible structures in extreme conditions, such as hypersonic flight. The technology has immediate relevance for aerospace design, making vehicles safer, more efficient, and resilient at high speeds. Beyond aerospace, the study has broad applications in fields such as renewable energy, automotive design, civil engineering, and even medicine, offering solutions for systems where fluids interact with flexible materials. The study was led by Professor Dimitris Drikakis, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering at UNIC.

OPERATIONS

Building Blocks of the 4th Industrial Revolution

UNIC believes that technological progress will cause rapidly accelerating societal change over the coming decades. A wide range of technologies — artificial intelligence, biotechnology, nanotechnology, robotics, augmented and virtual reality, blockchain, drones, computational medicine, modern space exploration — have already started reaching commercial viability. Each one of these technologies will be individually disruptive. In aggregate, these technologies will have a compounding effect on the economy, social structures, legal systems, income distribution, governance, education, and warfare — and raise fundamental questions on how society is organised.

This 4th Industrial Revolution is dynamically engaging in key areas which relate to the following pillars:

- Crypto-Assets and Blockchain
- Machine Learning and Big Data
- Metaverse
- Modelling and Simulation
- Future of Biomedicine/Biotechnology.

The University of Nicosia is at the forefront of these developments and engages in high-quality research, cutting-edge initiatives, academic/industry collaborations, and the development of academic as well as professional training programmes that explore and tackle the challenges presented by the 4th Industrial Revolution.

STUDENT LEARNING

UNIC-led Team Wins First Place at Bank of Cyprus Hackathon

The University of Nicosia is proud to announce that a team led by one of its own students won first place at the fifth annual Bank of Cyprus Hackathon. Held from 18 to 20 October 2024, at the IDEA Centre in Nicosia, the event saw participation from over 28 teams across Cyprus, all vying to present the most innovative solutions in tech and finance. The winning team, "Moctezuma," delivered a groundbreaking project that seamlessly integrates digital currency with real estate tokenisation. Their innovative platform tackles the intricacies of the real estate market by incorporating financial institutions into a tokenised management solution, significantly reducing transaction times from months to just one day. This approach leverages the anticipated Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation set to sweep Cyprus from 2024 to 2026, underpinned by the digital euro, thus streamlining the process within an evolving regulatory framework. The Bank of Cyprus Hackathon annually gathers Cyprus's brightest minds in tech and finance, nurturing innovation and collaboration. This year's event marked a milestone in participant engagement and demonstrated the growing focus on digital finance and blockchain technologies.



COMMUNITY

University of Nicosia and Ecliptic Defence and Space Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Research and Industry Collaboration

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) and Ecliptic Defence and Space (EDS) have formalised a strategic partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU was signed by the Rector of the University of Nicosia, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, and the CEO of Ecliptic Defence and Space, Dr Andreas Papanastasiou, during a ceremony held at the University of Nicosia. Ecliptic Defence and Space is a leading company in the defence and aerospace sectors, specialising in cutting-edge technology and innovation. EDS is committed to advancing technological progress through research and development and fostering collaborations between industry and academia. This partnership is aimed at fostering cooperation in research and development, providing students with real-world industry experiences, and driving innovation in fields such as defence and aerospace. The collaboration is expected to have significant impacts on both the academic and industry landscapes, further solidifying the University of Nicosia's commitment to being at the forefront of research and technological advancement.

Successful Conference on Shipping Maintenance and AI Solutions Held at University of Nicosia

The Department of Engineering of the University of Nicosia, in collaboration with the Cyprus Maritime Academy, successfully hosted the Conference on "Maintenance Strategies in Shipping and AI-Driven Solutions" on 7 April 2025. The event attracted industry professionals, researchers, and technology innovators. The conference served as a significant platform for attendees to exchange insights on the latest advancements in maintenance strategies within the shipping industry. Discussions centred on the critical role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in optimising maritime operations, enhancing efficiency, and improving reliability. Participants explored emerging trends and recent research achievements shaping the future of shipping maintenance. A key highlight was the presentation of the "Maritime Health Usage and Monitoring System" (MHUMS) project. Funded by the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation under the CO-DEVELOP programme, the MHUMS project aims to develop advanced AI-driven problem solvers for the maritime sector. The presentation detailed the system's mission to enhance vessel operational capabilities through sophisticated data collection, interpretation, and utilisation from state-of-the-art monitoring systems.
It focuses on improving ship machinery, communications infrastructure, and hull structural health monitoring.



RESEARCH

UNIC Medical School Joins Pioneering European Effort to Enhance Clinical Trial Inclusivity

The University of Nicosia Medical School, represented by Professor Zoi Dorothea Pana, is participating in the pioneering Research in Europe and Diversity Inclusion (READI) project. READI is a significant initiative aimed at transforming clinical research throughout Europe. This collaborative effort brings together 73 organisations from 18 countries, supported by €66.8 million in funding from the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) and contributing industry partners. The project's primary objective is to address the underrepresentation of certain groups within European clinical trials, including ethnic, sexual, and gender minorities, and age and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations. These groups often face barriers such as geographic limitations, mistrust, and lack of access to information, leading to their exclusion from essential clinical studies. The READI project officially launched on 16 January 2025 in Madrid, marking the start of efforts to build an integrated clinical study ecosystem. Coordinated by the Servicio Madrileño de Salud (SERMAS), through Hospital Universitario La Paz in Spain, as the Project Coordinator, Novartis in Switzerland as the Project Lead, and supported by The Synergist in Belgium as the Digital & Sustainability Coordinator, the READI consortium comprises diverse partners, including research institutions, patient advocacy organisations, and pharmaceutical companies.

OPERATIONS

Disabled Access

UNIC's modern campus is made up of 20 purpose-built and customised buildings situated amid the urban landscape in the bustling suburb of Engomi in Nicosia. Disabled access is available across the campus except for two buildings that provide partial access. Moreover, the UNIC Residences are equipped with special accessibility apartments designed for students with physical disabilities.

UNIC Announces an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

In its efforts to address the practice and implementation of a holistic approach towards equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), the University of Nicosia has put forward an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy that seeks to fill in any gaps and uncertainties over how we understand and embrace all of our community members. The UNIC community is a vibrant, diverse, and warm collective that stands out in so many ways: from creativity to innovation, and from scientific to artistic approaches, every single individual should be allowed to freely express themselves, however they wish. UNIC is dedicated to raising awareness among its staff, faculty, students, associates, and partners, by pursuing a set of strategic objectives aimed at promoting equity, safety, security, and embracing the unique qualities of each individual in our University and extended community.

STUDENT LEARNING

Italian Design Day 2025: Inequalities, Design for a Better Life

On 21 March 2025, Cyprus celebrated the 9th edition of the Italian Design Day in the World, focusing on this year's theme "Inequalities, Design for a Better Life." The Italian Embassy in Nicosia, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia's Department of Architecture, hosted renowned Italian architect Mario Trimarchi from ADI Milan, who together with Prof. Alessandra Swiny (University of Nicosia) conducted a masterclass and delivered a thought-provoking lecture on design's role in addressing inequalities. The theme of this year's event emphasised design's evolution from an elitist product to a collective and shared process that significantly impacts everyone's life and experience. The event was hosted at the University of Nicosia, Department of Architecture – UNIC Architecture Research Centre.

COMMUNITY

25th International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities & Nations

The University of Nicosia hosted the 25th International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities & Nations, on 11 June 2025, a landmark event bringing together leading academics, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers from around the world. Organised by the Diversity in Organisations, Communities & Nations Research Network, this hybrid conference offered a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on the critical issues shaping diversity today. Under the 2025 special focus "Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity: Navigating Intercultural Leadership," the conference explored how inclusive leadership and culturally responsive practices can help navigate complex social and organisational landscapes. Participants were treated to a rich programme of keynote addresses, themed paper presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities, both in-person and online. The event aimed to foster collaboration and innovation in addressing contemporary diversity challenges in a rapidly changing world.

Breaking Barriers: Mobile Clinic Joins Cyprus Pride 2025 for Inclusive Healthcare

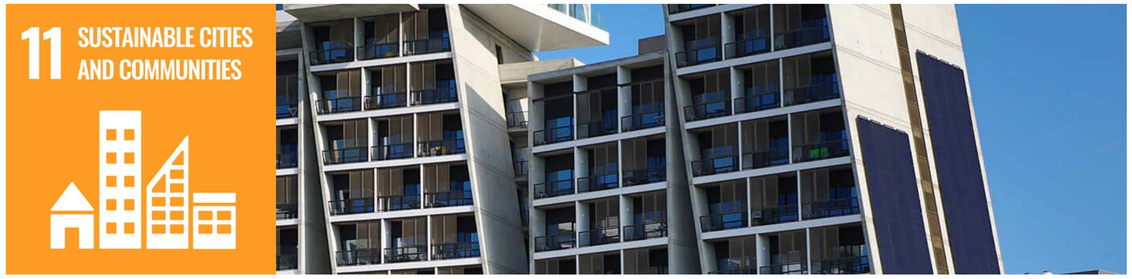
On 31 May 2025, the Medical School's Mobile Clinic took part in Cyprus Pride 2025, partnering with the AIDS Solidarity Movement's Cy Checkpoint to provide free, anonymous and rapid HIV and STI testing. Over 120 rapid tests were conducted, together with peer-counselling on adopting safer sexual practices. The team's dedication to breaking down barriers in sexual health reflects the Mobile Clinic's mission, which is providing health services without stigma. These expeditions allow students to develop crucial clinical and communication skills, while making a real difference. Ensuring visitors felt supported and informed about the importance of regular health checks was one of the main goals of this expedition. Medical students took sexual health history and attended the community testing process, after obtaining consent from those seeking care. The Mobile Clinic remains committed to reducing barriers to testing and access to health services, helping build a more informed and healthier society.



Senior Vice Rector Professor Phellas Addresses Participants at the "A Europe for ALL Ages" Conference

The Senior Vice Rector of the University of Nicosia and President of the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee, Professor Constantinos Phellas, participated in the conference "A Europe for ALL ages". The conference took place on 10 January 2025 and was organised by the Cyprus Third Age Observatory in collaboration with AGE Platform Europe, the European Parliament Office in Cyprus, and the National Bioethics Committee of Cyprus. The conference was co-funded by the EU. Ministers, Commissioners, Members of Parliament and the European Parliament, experts, and policymakers gathered at the Journalists' House in Nicosia to discuss one of the most critical challenges of our time: the demographic shift towards an ageing population. Professor Phellas pointed out that society and the state must redefine their attitude towards the Third Age given that, thanks to medical progress and technological development, more and more elderly people maintain good physical health, possess valuable qualifications and are willing to make a meaningful contribution to society. The conference sought to provide concrete steps towards building a society that views aging as a positive rather than a downgrade.





RESEARCH

UNIC School of Law Engaged in Erasmus+ Funded Project "Sust-HEIn"

The School of Law is a partner in the Erasmus+ funded project "Sust-HEIn – Fostering whole institution approach to sustainability in higher education through systems-thinking". The project team's principal investigator is the faculty member Dr. Odysseas Christou, and the School is also represented by Dr. Evi Eftychiou. The project will promote an institutional model to support HEIs' strategic planning in effectively responding to evolving needs and conditions to deliver systemic, institution-wide integration of sustainability. It will use a systems-thinking approach to facilitate the transition of HEIs to green, sustainable institutions that contribute to confronting the growing complexity of societal challenges such as climate change and clean energy use. The project, which will run from January 2023 to October 2026 is under the ERASMUS-LS programme and is co-funded by the European Union.



OPERATIONS

Collaboration with Local Authorities to Address Planning Issues and Development

UNIC is in constant communication and planning with local authorities to guide the development of the University campus in ways that are consistent with the master plans and objectives of the town at large. This includes prioritising development in a former industrial area so as not to compete with residential areas. The UNIC Residences were built in relatively abandoned areas next to the Cyprus DMZ (Demilitarised Zones), again, to not compete with existing residential planning and, in this case, to serve as a catalyst for the development of previously marginal areas. The three newly completed student residences provide affordable student housing that serves to alleviate the pressure of student housing/rental needs from within the community, which leaves more housing available for permanent residents of the community.

Building New Buildings to Meet Sustainable Standards

The 'SIX' Residences received the top-level ranking "A" from the national energy efficiency bureau based on the use of materials and technologies that provide high thermal coefficients. The building is also fitted with solar panels for heating water as well as PVs for generating electricity.

Building on Brownfield Sites

Two of the recently built UNIC Residences are built on brownfield sites. Moreover, 'Six' and 'Triangle' border the Cyprus DMZ (Demilitarised Zone) and, as such, they are considered by the Republic of Cyprus as being in an under-developed zone for which they encourage development.

STUDENT LEARNING

Architecture Programme Addresses Sustainable Design

The Architecture degree provides students with a comprehensive set of skills to prepare them for a career in Architecture. Courses that are offered as part of the degree include Sustainable Design (ARCH-411), History and Theory of Sustainable Design (ARCH-441) and Cultural Heritage (ARCH-252).

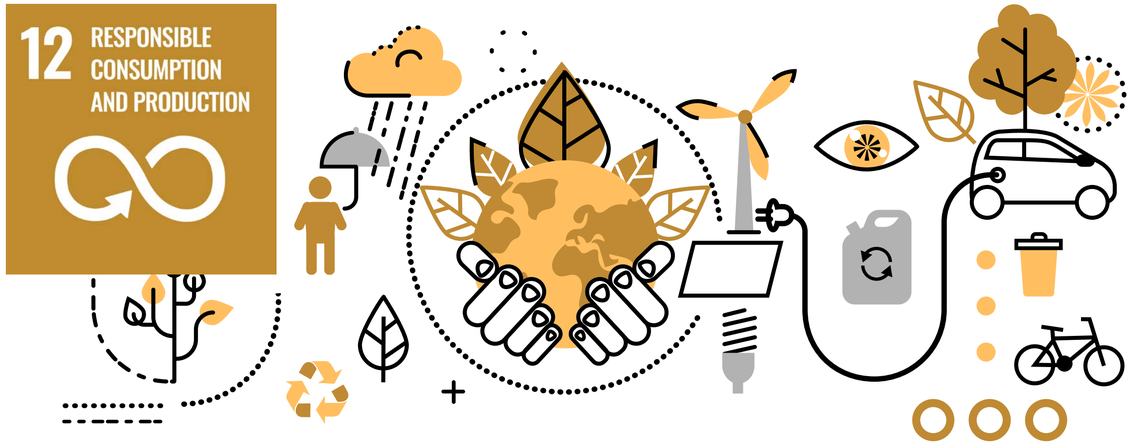


COMMUNITY

University of Nicosia Hosts Student-Organised Conference on Commandaria Wine Heritage

The University of Nicosia hosted a conference examining the cultural and historical importance of Commandaria on 9 April 2025. The event, titled "Celebrating 800+ Years of Commandaria: A Journey through Cyprus' Legendary Wine Heritage", brought together experts in wine, tourism, agriculture, and gastronomy. The day began with registration and a welcome by a student from the BBA Hospitality Management Programme, followed by a series of presentations from industry experts. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion moderated by a student from the BBA Tourism, Leisure and Events Management Programme. The conference concluded with a Commandaria-themed exhibition. The conference was organised by students of the Conferences and Exhibitions Class, Spring 2025, as part of their course requirements, in collaboration with the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative, Cypria Filoxenia, and the University's Department of Management.





RESEARCH

Project QUEST

The University of Nicosia is a partner in the project, QUEST. QUEST (Promoting Quality internships in Sustainable Tourism & Heritage Management) is an innovative Erasmus+ project aimed at increasing Higher Education (HE) students' employability in the tourism sector, one of the most fast paced sectors in terms of innovation and most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. QUEST is carried out by a partnership of eight organisations – three HE universities, four organisations working in the fields of tourism and/or cultural heritage, one Cultural Route of the Council of Europe – and led by Libertas International University (Zagreb, Croatia). It is a 3-year project, starting in December 2021 and ending by November 2024.

Project Breath IN

The University of Nicosia is a partner in the project, Breath IN. The Breath In (Towards a better and sustainable indoor air quality environment) project is made up of a consortium of four Higher Education Institutions from three European Countries. The Coordinator is the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar (Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, IPT) from Portugal, while partners include the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria (IPLeiria, Portugal), University of Nicosia (UNIC, Cyprus), and the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTHS, Greece). The project aims to address the challenges in indoor air quality and its impact on human health and well-being. The project commenced on 1 September 2023 and is funded under the European Union Erasmus+ KA220 action programme.

Project MESS4GE

The MESS4GE project is dedicated to establishing a framework for reporting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe. With a focus on the horizontal priority of the environment and the fight against climate change, the project aims to generate new knowledge and skills that actively support sustainable development and the battle against climate change. MESS4GE addresses both of these requirements by creating a standardised approach to ESG reporting, providing organisations with comprehensive information for informed decision-making and promoting sustainability. This newfound knowledge can be utilised by researchers, organisations, advocates, and others to enhance monitoring systems, develop conscious policies, and initiate environmental protection measures at all levels. The project's main objective is to establish a consistent methodology for ESG reporting across European businesses. This will involve the creation of an innovative, modular, and applicable body of knowledge encompassing corporate Environmental, Social, and Governance aspects. The project is co-funded by the European Union and UNIC is involved as a partner.

OPERATIONS

Recycling Programme

The University of Nicosia began its recycling programme in 2007. Initially, the programme only provided for the recycling of higher quality office paper. We have grown over the years to include almost every grade of paper. Other materials that have been added to the programme since its inception are packaging paper, toner, batteries, medical waste, glass, and plastic.

STUDENT LEARNING

UNIC Civil & Environmental Engineering Students Gain Practical Experience at Saudi Arabian Concrete Batching Plant

University of Nicosia Civil and Environmental Engineering undergraduate students had a unique opportunity to engage in an immersive educational experience during a site-visit event held at the premises of the Abdullah Abdin Ready Mix Concrete in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. The company is recognised for its state-of-the-art production facilities and commitment to sustainable construction practices. This visit, which took place between 5 and 9 February 2025, aimed to enhance students' knowledge on concrete technology and related industries. This was achieved through well-organised seminars offered by industry experts and guided tours at the operational facilities of the company. In particular, the educational site-visit included insights into concrete mix design and its role in construction, exploring sustainable practices in concrete production, including the use of alternative materials and recycling and acquaintance with innovative technologies that enhance durability, reduce carbon footprint, and promote efficient resource use, and discussions on the importance of sustainability and innovation in material selection. In addition, the students had the unique opportunity to visit The Line and NEOM projects, as well as experience Saudi Arabia's cultural heritage with a visit to the AlUla Historic Area.



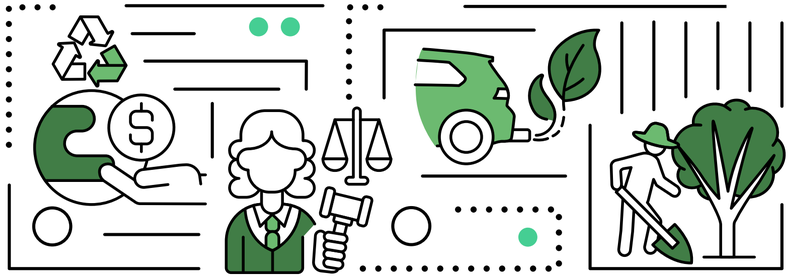
COMMUNITY

Celebrating ESG Excellence at UNIC

On 23 January 2025, the University of Nicosia was the host of the "International Event for SMEs: ESG Excellences," a key moment for the MESS4GE project that brought together industry leaders, experts, and representatives from across Europe. This event provided a platform for sharing insights, challenges, and success stories surrounding Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The event featured presentations from five different countries – Cyprus, Spain, Italy, Greece, and Ireland – each offering a unique perspective on the state of ESG reporting within their respective markets. These reports not only highlighted the regional challenges but also demonstrated the innovative solutions SMEs are adopting to integrate sustainability into their core operations. Representatives from each country presented their national ESG reports, offering valuable insights into how SMEs are navigating their sustainability journeys. One of the standout moments of the event was the presentation of a special ESG report created by KESEA, a Cyprus-based company, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia.







RESEARCH

The University of Nicosia participates in the European Research Project Erasmus+, Geo-CLIC

The University of Nicosia participates in the European Research Project Erasmus+, Geo-CLIC (Geoinformatics Climate Change), which aims to contribute to the reversal of climate change and the return of the global climate to a more sustainable level through the use of geoinformatics technology and the utilisation of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing to analyse available information, data, draw useful conclusions and adopt the necessary policy changes. The project is coordinated by the Free University of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), while partners in the project in addition to the University of Nicosia are the Technical University of Valencia (Universitat Politècnica de València), the University of Zagreb (Sveučilište u Zagrebu) and the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf). The coordination of the project at the University of Nicosia is carried out by the Rector, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, assisted by the Senior Administrator to the Rectorate, Mr Kyriakos E. Georgiou. As part of the project, between 5 and 9 February 2024, students from all participating universities attended a winter school on Climate Smart Agriculture, at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture. The lectures and hands-on workshops included, among others, subjects in Challenges Faced in Agriculture due to Climate Change, Remote Sensing Applications in Agriculture, GIS Applications in Agriculture and Derivation of Soil Erosion Risk Map.

Research Reveals Climate Change Impact on Cyprus Through Seven Centuries

The University of Nicosia has concluded a significant four-year research collaboration with the University of Rouen Normandy, the Geological Survey Department and the Forest Department, unveiling crucial findings about Cyprus's climate history and its societal impact over seven centuries. The research project, known as HIGH-PASM, combined innovative geological analysis with historical documentation to reconstruct Cyprus's climate patterns and their effects on society from the late Lusignan period to early British colonial rule. The research findings were presented at a two-day conference titled "Climate Change in Cyprus and Societal Impact from Past to Present", held at the University of Nicosia on 8 and 9 May 2025. The event, conducted under the auspices of UNIC Rector Professor Philippos Pouyioutas and the French Ambassador to Cyprus, MM. Clélia Chevrier Kolačko, included a panel discussion on "Climate Change and Adaptation of the Cypriot Society" and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the institutions.



OPERATIONS

UNIC: A Safe, Pedestrian-Friendly Campus

UNIC is in favour of sustainable mobility, including pedestrian and bicycle access. Over the past few years, we have worked with town planning/public works to increase the number of pedestrian crossings close to campus. This has been achieved with pedestrian crossings established opposite the University's main entrance and close to the UNIC Residences. We have also invested in the development of additional pedestrian lanes on campus. We have invested heavily in new residential facilities on-campus to allow students to attend university without needing a car at all and our master planning process has an objective of continuing to make the campus more walkable and accessible. Additionally, we are part of the Nicosia bicycle path network and most of our buildings and all our housing options have bicycle storage/racks available.





STUDENT LEARNING

Breath IN Webinar | Sustainable Environments in the Era of Climate Change: Challenges & Interventions

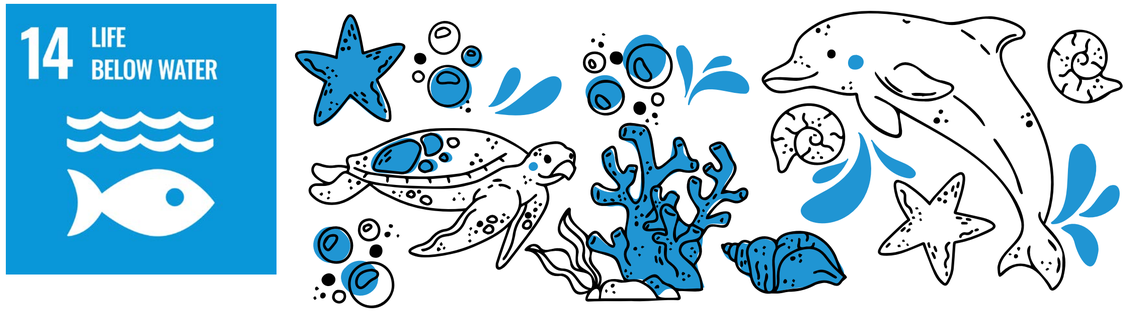
The University of Nicosia Medical School organised the 6th webinar of the Breath IN project on 6 May 2025. The webinar included presentations on topics including social sustainability and the limits of our planet, air quality and classroom lighting, and natural ventilation amongst others. The webinar was hosted within the framework of the Breath IN Project – towards a better and sustainable indoor air quality environment – which consists of a consortium of four Higher Education Institutions from three European Countries. The promoter is the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar (Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, IPT) from Portugal. The co-promotors are the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria (IPLeiria, Portugal), University of Nicosia (UNIC, Cyprus), and the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH, Greece). The 36-month project was funded by the European Union.

COMMUNITY

3rd Scientific Symposium: Emerging Climatic and Environmental Health Risks in the Mediterranean

The UNIC Medical School and the Medical School of the University of Cyprus together with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health organised the 3rd Scientific Symposium titled "Emerging Climatic and Environmental Health Risks in the Mediterranean". The event took place on 23 January 2025 at the University of Cyprus. During the symposium, academics, researchers, and Harvard graduate students specialising in Environmental and Public Health presented findings from data analyses of scientific studies conducted in Cyprus and other Mediterranean regions. This analysis includes data provided by relevant government agencies such as the Department of Labour Inspection, the General State Laboratory, the Meteorological Service of Cyprus, the Statistical Service of Cyprus, and the Health Monitoring Unit of the Ministry of Health.





RESEARCH

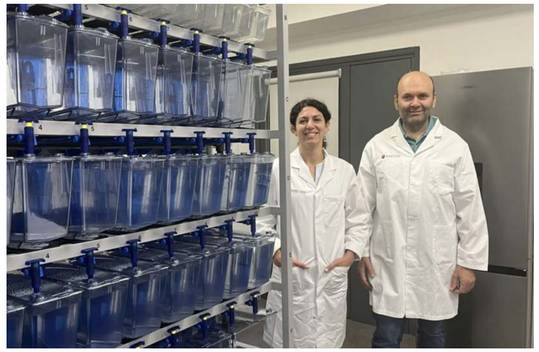
Project DIGI4ECO

The University of Nicosia is a partner in the project, DIGI4ECO. DIGI4ECO (Digital Twin-sustained 4D ecological monitoring of restoration in fishery depleted areas) is a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to unlocking new discoveries and advancements in the management and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. The project recognises the critical importance of these ecosystems for both environmental conservation and socio-ecological activities and is committed to harnessing digital innovation to address these challenges. DIGI4ECO's methodology focuses on utilising sleeping data, developing tools to process data from various sources, promoting standardisation, and harmonising data by unifying libraries and resources. The project aims to conduct sea-basin scale monitoring tests, provide guidelines for stakeholders, and make tools open-source for continuous improvement. The project commenced in January 2024 and is funded by the European Union Horizon programme.

OPERATIONS

Zebrafish Research Facility Launched

UNIC Health announces the establishment of a research facility on campus dedicated to research and education. The facility is designed to house zebrafish (Danio rerio), a small freshwater fish named for its striped pattern. With 65 aquatic tanks, the facility can accommodate up to 1,000 fish. Zebrafish have a repertoire of molecular, genetic, and cellular manipulations, and a degree of similarity to the human genome, making them a model for studying human development, disease, and homeostasis across disciplines. Associate Professors Konstantinos Voskarides and Annita Achilleos have worked together to set up the facility, the second of its kind in Cyprus, to expand their research interests and develop opportunities for researchers and students. Besides the scientific research, the zebrafish facility also aims to be part of student education through laboratory courses and research opportunities for students throughout the year. The first fish arrived in mid-October 2024, and research and educational activities are set to begin soon after the colony is established.









RESEARCH

New Study Investigates Equine Piroplasmosis in Menorcan Horses to Aid Disease Control

The study titled 'Sero-molecular survey and associated risk factors of equine piroplasmosis in purebred Menorcan horses' commenced in July 2024 in Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain. Led by Dr Sergi Olvera-Maneu, Assistant Professor at UNIC's School of Veterinary Medicine, and his team, this research focuses on equine piroplasmosis, an infectious disease caused by the protozoa Babesia caballi and Theileria equi, transmitted by ticks. This disease restricts the international movement of horses from countries like Spain to disease-free regions, causing significant economic losses for the equine industry. There are limited studies on the prevalence of this disease in some regions of Spain, and information on its status in purebred Menorcan horses is almost non-existent. Funded by the Institut Menorquí d'Estudis (IME) in Spain, the project's main goal is to estimate the seroprevalence of equine piroplasmosis in purebred Menorcan horses in Menorca. By understanding the disease's status, the team aims to establish effective control and surveillance programmes to minimise its spread.



OPERATIONS

Enhancing the Greenery around the Neighbourhood

The University of Nicosia recently invested in enhancing the green landscape on and around campus in an effort to enhance the local surroundings and improve the experience of students traveling to campus on foot.



School of Veterinary Medicine Announces the Launch of the Renovated Equine Clinic

The new Equine Clinic at the Nicosia Race Club was officially inaugurated on 5 May 2025 and is ready for use by students in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programme. This significant upgrade results from a partnership between the University of Nicosia and the Nicosia Race Club, following an agreement signed in October 2023. The School of Veterinary Medicine now manages the clinic, which serves as both an educational and research centre. Renovations have upgraded the infrastructure and equipment to enhance care quality for horses and support the professional training of veterinary students, ensuring the facility meets modern veterinary standards. As a managed facility of the School of Veterinary Medicine, the clinic provides an invaluable learning environment where students can develop hands-on skills vital for their careers. To strengthen its clinical and educational capabilities, the School of Veterinary Medicine has appointed four equine focused veterinarians to the clinic who will conduct surgical procedures and provide expert clinical training to veterinary students. The transformation of the Equine Clinic will support the equine industry and the broader veterinary field, contributing to students' readiness to meet professional challenges.

Renewal of Strategic Partnership between School of Veterinary Medicine & Cyprus Veterinary Services

The University of Nicosia School of Veterinary Medicine announced the renewal of its collaboration with the Cyprus Veterinary Services for the next six years. The extended agreement, which will remain in effect until October 2030, further strengthens the partnership between the two organisations in education, research, and clinical practice. The agreement was signed by Professor Andreas Charalambous, Executive Vice President of Health at the University of Nicosia, and Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Director of the Cyprus Veterinary Services.

UNIC and PLAKENTIA Group Launch Veterinary Training Partnership

In 2025, the University of Nicosia School of Veterinary Medicine and PLAKENTIA Group of Veterinary Clinics entered into a partnership. This collaboration brings together the academic expertise of the University of Nicosia with the clinical experience of PLAKENTIA's extensive network of veterinary facilities including veterinary clinics in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Syros island. The partnership expands the clinical training and clinical research opportunities of the School, beyond Cyprus and represents a significant step in enhancing veterinary education and clinical practice in Cyprus, Greece, and the region.

STUDENT LEARNING

University of Nicosia Launches First Veterinary Medicine Programme in Cyprus

The first Veterinary Medicine programme in Cyprus, offered by the University of Nicosia, welcomed its first students on 31 October 2022. The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM is a five-year (300 ECTS) programme and is taught in English. It has been evaluated and certified by the Agency for Quality Assurance and Certification of Higher Education (DIPAE) and ensures the recognition of the title by all EU/EEA countries and worldwide.



Advancements in Clinical Practice and Education: The Role of Ultrasound in Both Humans and Animals

UNIC Health organised an ultrasound event entitled "Advancements in Clinical Practice and Education: The Role of Ultrasound in both humans and animals" on 9 October 2024. The event featured two distinguished speakers from the Ultrasound Institute of the University of South Carolina, USA, who shared their expertise and insights into the evolving field of ultrasound. The event was open to students at the Medical School and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

UNIC Health and VetTrust in Switzerland Announce Student Training Agreement

In February 2025, UNIC Health announced a new agreement with VetTrust, based in Switzerland, to provide clinical training for Veterinary Medicine students. This collaboration will allow UNIC students to gain practical experience at VetTrust's facilities, specifically focusing on their 5th-year clinical training, enhancing their educational experience and preparing them for future careers. VetTrust is the leading animal health group in Switzerland, operating over 40 locations and setting new standards in veterinary medicine. The organisation employs a holistic concept, providing all-round care throughout an animal's life, focusing on proximity through a dense network of practices, clinics, and 24-hour emergency services.



COMMUNITY

School of Veterinary Medicine and Nicosia Race Club Join Forces

The School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) and the Nicosia Race Club (NRC) announced the signing of an Agreement which solidifies an existing partnership between the SVM and NRC, aimed at enhancing equine veterinary care, education, and research. As part of this Agreement, the NRC's equine veterinary clinic will be exclusively utilised for veterinary activities, educational programmes, and research initiatives by the SVM. Additionally, the SVM will contribute to upgrading the clinic's infrastructure and equipment, ultimately leading to improvements in horse care services.



RESEARCH

Institute of Criminal Studies and Criminology

The Institute of Criminal Studies and Criminology at the University of Nicosia was founded in 2013. It is the first academic institute in this field in Cyprus. The goal of the Institute is to conduct research in current issues related to criminal justice, criminology, criminal law, evidence law, sexual offenders, sentencing, and human rights, to promote research, and to organise lectures, seminars, and conferences.

Contributing to Policy-Focused Research

The University of Nicosia is engaged in policy-focused research through its various academically affiliated institutions that focus on, among others, gender rights (Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies), politics and diplomacy (Cyprus Centre for European and International Affairs) and emerging technologies (Institute For the Future).

An In-depth European Analysis of the European Account Preservation Order

A comprehensive guide titled European Account Preservation Order – A Multi-jurisdictional Guide with Commentary has been released by Bruylant/Larcier. Edited by Dr Nicolas Kyriakides (Co-Director of the Procedural Law Unit, University of Nicosia), Heikki A. Huhtamäki (Lawyer, academic), and Nicholas Mouttotos (University of Bremen), this publication provides a detailed analysis of Regulation No 655/2014. The book explores the European Account Preservation Order (EAPO) and its implementation in 26 EU Member States, excluding Denmark. With contributions from a wide range of European experts, this guide is an invaluable resource for legal professionals, EU policymakers, and scholars in the field of international civil procedure, highlighting the varying interpretations of the Regulation and the potential for the Court of Justice of the European Union to harmonise these differences.

Project CAPONEU

Faculty members from the Department of Languages and Literature, School of Humanities and Social Sciences are engaged in an ambitious research initiative which received a grant under the HORIZON programme competition in 2022 entitled CAPONEU. It aims to examine how a specific literary genre (the political novel) in various national and cultural contexts deals with political issues and thereby shapes the perception of local and global politics. The CAPONEU's goal is to assess the political novel as an important element of the European cultural heritage and as a tool for community building and European advocacy. The consortium brings together an interdisciplinary research team that seeks not only to unpack the rich literary heritage of the 20th century but also to make the political novel experiences relevant to our present. The project is coordinated by the University of Zagreb in Croatia.

OPERATIONS

UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue for a Culture of Peace Renewed until 2025

In 2005, the first ever UNESCO Chair in Cyprus was inaugurated at the University of Nicosia. The purpose of the UNESCO Chair is the promotion of a comprehensive framework of educational activities, research, provision of information and documentation in cultural, linguistic and religious diversity and the intercultural dialogue for a culture of peace, on a local, national or regional level. Through a multitude of activities, events, collaborations and international meetings, the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia has and continues to diligently serve the triptych of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and culture of peace. In 2022, it was announced that the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia would be renewed until 2025, which would mark the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Chair at UNIC.

Representation, Academic Freedom and Anti-Corruption

- The University's Academic Freedom Statement commits our university to the principles of academic freedom.
- The University's Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy is included in the University's Code of Business Conduct.
- The highest governing body of the University is the Council. The composition of the Council includes representatives of students (undergraduate and postgraduate), faculty and staff.
- The Student Union is recognised by the University with representatives of the Student Union participating both in the Council and the Senate.

STUDENT LEARNING

Innovative Resolutions and Dynamic Debates: Highlights from UNIC MUN 2024

The University of Nicosia hosted its annual Model United Nations Conference (UNIC MUN 2024) from 22 to 24 November 2024, welcoming over 70 university and high school students from across the Eastern Mediterranean region. Under the theme "Forging Pathways Towards a New Era in Diplomacy," the conference featured distinguished speakers and experts while addressing pressing global challenges. The opening ceremony was highlighted by addresses from key diplomatic figures including, amongst others, Mr. Colin Stewart, Special Representative and Head of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. Delegates participated in six specialised committees, each supported by subject matter experts. Committee discussions ranged from space security and family poverty in Latin America to cultural heritage preservation and AI's impact on global elections. The conference, organised solely by UNIC students, was supported by the UNIC School of Law and the Diplomatic Academy, alongside various community and hospitality partners.



School of Law Webinars

The School of Law organised a series of webinars that took place between May and July 2025 focusing on relevant topics such as "Security Challenges in Turbulent Times – Insights from the Eastern Mediterranean", "Contemporary Practices and Issues of Public Governance in European States and Societies under the microscope at UNIC," and "Navigating the New Digital Rulebook: AI, Legal Tech & EU Platform Regulation". Participants engaged with presentations delivered by academics from the School of Law. The presentations were followed by a discussion, offering participants the opportunity to exchange perspectives on topics presented.

COMMUNITY

UNIC's IFF Executive Director George Giaglis Joins the Meta Reality Labs Policy Advisory Council

The University of Nicosia is proud to announce that Professor George M. Giaglis, Executive Director of its Institute for the Future (IFF), has been invited to join the Meta Reality Labs Policy Advisory Council. This council provides Meta with insights and guidance on the ethical and responsible development of the metaverse, addressing complex public policy questions as Meta continues to innovate in cutting-edge technology and hardware. Established in 2021, the Meta Reality Labs Policy Advisory Council plays a crucial role in advising Reality Labs teams throughout product and policy development. The council comprises a diverse group of experts, including developers, professors, academics, and civil society advocates from around the world, who bring extensive knowledge in areas such as privacy, youth safety, and disability advocacy. This collaboration will enable IFF to contribute to the development of a more open and inclusive metaverse, aligning with both the council's mission and the University's research interests.

Survey: From Bad to Worse – The Public's View of the Justice System

The urgent need to address delays in the administration of justice in Cyprus was highlighted at the 4th Annual Symposium of the Procedural Law Unit of the University of Nicosia, which took place on 14 December 2024. The conference, titled "Judicial Delays that threaten the Rule of Law", focused on the delays in adjudicating cases in Cypriot courts, the current operational framework and potential improvements. Discussions also included European standards of judicial independence. During the Conference, findings from a quantitative opinion survey on the quality of civil justice in Cyprus, conducted for the third consecutive year by IMR/University of Nicosia, were presented and analysed. Through substantive discussions and key points of view, the main factors affecting the prompt administration of justice in Cyprus, and the reasons why they pose a threat to the rule of law, were thoroughly examined. Organised by Oxygen for Democracy in cooperation with the Procedural Law Unit of the University of Nicosia, the conference was held under the auspices of the Cyprus Bar Association.



RESEARCH

University of Nicosia Leads Research in New EU-Funded Mental Health Initiative

The University of Nicosia is a participant in 'Resilient Cities, Healthy People' (ReCiHePe), a new three-year project funded by the EU4Health Programme. UNIC will lead the research strategy and implementation of this initiative, which addresses mental health promotion in urban areas. Under the leadership of Dr. Despina Cochliou, Department of Social Sciences, as Project Manager, UNIC joins five European partners in this transnational collaboration aimed at supporting vulnerable populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including refugees, immigrants, victims of domestic abuse, elderly individuals, and NEET youth (youth Not in Employment, Education or Training). The project seeks to develop local social care organisations' capacity as community safety nets, while empowering community members to act as peer supporters. Through generating local initiatives that address social factors of mental health, the project will implement comprehensive research to evaluate the impact of community-based initiatives on vulnerable groups. UNIC's research leadership role encompasses directing the overall research strategy, implementing appropriate methodologies, and evaluating the effectiveness of peer support initiatives. This work will be crucial in assessing how community-based interventions impact the well-being of vulnerable groups. The project brings together expertise from across Europe, with ANIMA (Greece) serving as project coordinator, alongside partners Traustur Kjarni (Iceland), Asociatia Minte Forte (Romania), E-Trikala (Greece), and Roscommon LEADER Partnership (Ireland).

OPERATIONS

University of Nicosia Hosts Ceremonial Event for NEOLAiA European University Alliance

The University of Nicosia proudly hosted a ceremonial event to celebrate its participation in the NEOLAiA European University Alliance. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the alliance seeks to enhance the quality of education and research, promote cultural exchange, and contribute to the development of a more inclusive and sustainable European society. Held on 23 October 2024, the event gathered distinguished guests, including rectors from the other eight alliance universities, faculty members, students, and local dignitaries. The highlight of the ceremony was the signing of the Consortium Agreement by the rectors of the partner universities. Among others, the main strategic objectives of the NEOLAiA Alliance are to empower and acquire a common digital identity for its members, to digitise the educational environment, to foster tolerance, diversity and inclusion, to invest in research and contribution to society and culture, to support democracy, to offer innovative solutions for global health and to provide high quality education. The Alliance is funded with €14.4 million from the European Commission for 4 years, under the European University Alliances programme. Together with the University of Nicosia, the network includes top, young, outward-looking and innovative universities, ranked among the best universities in the world according to the main university rankings: University of Jaén, Spain; University of Tours, France; Bielefeld University, Germany; Örebro University, Sweden; University of Salerno, Italy; Šiauliai State University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania; "Ştefan Cel Mare" University of Suceava, Romania; and University of Ostrava, Czech Republic.



STUDENT LEARNING

University of Nicosia Takes Active Role in NEOLAiA Student Advisory Group

The University of Nicosia recently participated in a significant NEOLAiA Student Advisory Group (SAG) meeting hosted by the University of Jaén, Spain, between 6 and 8 of October, contributing to key decisions shaping the future of student representation across European Higher Education. The meeting, which brought together representatives from nine European universities representing over 150,000 students, focused on strengthening student engagement and improving organisational efficiency within the NEOLAiA Alliance. UNIC's delegation played a multifaceted role in the proceedings, chairing discussion sessions and actively participating in critical decision-making processes. The University also showcased its programmes and initiatives through an information desk, engaging with international students and highlighting UNIC's role as the Alliance's Digital Innovation partner. The annual face-to-face meetings emphasise NEOLAiA's commitment to mobility and cross-cultural collaboration among partner institutions.



Education around the SDGs

The University of Nicosia has a commitment to meaningful education around the SDGs, which is reflected in various courses that relate to the SDGs that make up part of some programmes offered at the University. Examples include: Public Health Nutrition (BIOL444), Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure (CEE463), Renewable Energy Sources and Technologies (ECE467), Theory and Practice of Intercultural Education (taught in Greek) (EDUC505DL), Sustainable Packaging Design (GDES523), Health Promotion, Communication and Behavioural Studies (NUTR580), Renewable Energy Resources (OGEN220), Global Climate Change and Adaptation (OGEN225), Sustainable Futures (OGEN315), European Energy and Environment Policy (OGEN350), Positive Psychology: Health Promotion and Prevention (PSYC604) and Health Safety and Wellness (THOM395).

COMMUNITY

University of Nicosia Represents Erasmus Initiatives at Eurodesk Multipliers Seminar in Brussels

The University of Nicosia participated in the Eurodesk Multipliers Seminar, held from 21 to 22 May 2025 in Brussels. Ms. Marianna Michael, Head of UNIC's Erasmus Office, was selected by the Cyprus National Agency to represent the University at this significant European meeting, reaffirming UNIC's leadership in promoting European opportunities. The seminar convened 49 Eurodesk multipliers from 20 countries for two days of training, networking, and updates on Eurodesk initiatives. The seminar agenda featured key updates on the Time to Move 2025 campaign and discussions on incorporating artificial intelligence into inclusive communication strategies. Presentations from the European Commission and the Youth Partnership of the European Commission and the Council of Europe offered valuable insights into emerging trends and strategic priorities in European youth policy. The event also provided a platform to foster future collaborations and explore new opportunities to further enhance educational and professional development for students and staff.



Renewal of Memorandum of Cooperation between the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics and the University of Nicosia

The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics and the School of Life and Health Sciences of the University of Nicosia have renewed their Memorandum of Cooperation for a further two years. The memorandum covers collaboration in teaching, student supervision, participation in examination boards, the provision of shared student services, and distance learning. In addition, the two institutions will collaborate on research in areas of mutual interest. The agreement was signed on 12 December 2024, by Professor Leonidas Phylactou, Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, on behalf of the Institute, and Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, Rector of the University of Nicosia, on behalf of the University.



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