

Relations Between the State and Institution: The Case of Cyprus

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The State and the University: Cyprus

Present Environment:

Population less than 1 million

3 State	4 Private
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ University of Cyprus▪ Cyprus University of Technology▪ Open University <p>Mainly Funded by the State Research and Teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Frederik University▪ European University Cyprus▪ University of Nicosia▪ Neapolis University <p>Funded through Tuition Fees. Mainly Teaching Universities</p>

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HE Demographics:

Very high Ratio of Students/population, [80% of upper secondary school leavers pursue further education: Education Statistics:CY:2007] one of the highest in the world.

Many students studying abroad: Greece, UK, USA have the highest intakes

Public willingness to pay for education, even at primary and secondary levels;

State University Tuition Fees for U/G Programmes are free (except for Open University) and paid by government through the University budget

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Legal Framework

Private Universities:

Law regulates private Universities, giving them an **NGO** status, and their **CHARTER** should abide by it. Attempts are under process to separate the Academic Function from the Financial/Business aspects.

State Universities:

Each University has its **own law** passed by Parliament, but all three universities have almost the **same Governance Structure**. Academic freedom is ensured on **scientific and educational** matters, with independence from the State. State control is exercised through the approval of **the budget**. Also need **Government & Parliamentary** approval for the creation of new Schools and Departments

Funding of State Universities

State Funding

Annual budget approval by Budget Chapter and Budget Line.

Budget split into 5 main Chapters:

- 1 **Personnel Costs** (staff costs: posts, salaries, emoluments etc)
- 2 **Operational Costs** (travel, rents, lighting, security, publicity, water etc)
- 3 **Running Costs** (hospitality, research, international relations, conferences, EU programmes, maintenance of buildings/equipt etc)
- 4 **Capital Expenditure** (construction, equipment, IT, vehicles, books etc)
- 5 **Unforeseen Expenses** (unforeseen expenses, donations, income from other sources, incl. research, EU progs. Etc)

Each budget line in every Chapter has a sum approved and an “Explanatory Note” describing the type of eligible expenses that may be incurred. Last years Universities are notified of government grant but “allowed” to distribute it to the different budget lines. Once approved by Parliament this is fixed

Funding NOT based on DELIVERABLES, OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES or BENCHMARKS but on MINUTE Administrative Controls.

ZOOM-IN on individual pieces and NO ZOOM-OUT to see whole MOSAIC

Governance of State Universities

Governing Bodies:

University Council: Majority external non academic members, some appointed by Government others by Senate, with student representation

University Senate: Elected or ex-officio members, with student representation

Rector's Council: Ex-officio representation; Rector, VR's and Director of Administration & Finance (Secretary & Registrar)

School Councils: Elected members, with student representation

Departmental Councils: Elected members, with student representation

Election procedure set by regulations and foreseen by law

Selection of Academic Staff & Students : State Universities

Once any staff post is included in the budget it is **COMPLETELY DIVORCED** from the state

Academic Staff: Legal Provision: Electoral Committee from Academics from **THREE** different countries, proposal approved by Senate and confirmed by Council

Administrative Staff: Selection Committee, proposal approved by University Council

Student Selection: State Universities

- Centrally administered entrance examinations system, based on student declarations of choices of study and Universities. Places awarded by a strict Ranking System based on exam performance
- Students/universities do not have much of a choice, computerised ranking, greater flexibility at clearing round
- Independent of political interference

Economic Flexibility

State Universities may:

- Set up Companies but with great deal of restrictions since legal framework not absolutely clear (ie Radio Station; Incubator Companies etc)
- Form bilateral agreements or PPP's with individual private companies or organisations, under the framework of externally funded projects
- Accept donations for specific or general purposes

Quality assurance and national Objectives

At present there is **NO**:

- **National Quality Assurance Agency** for HEI's. Some provision is available for the approval and recognition of Private Institutions, for them to become registered as Universities, but **NONE AFTER** they become Universities. For State Universities there is **NO QA** procedure at all!!!!
- Funding is **not linked** to long term objectives, deliverables or link to a national strategic plan for HE nor Research (there is simply none)
- National Qualifications Framework nor a common HEI law (a draft "**White Paper**" has been prepared, still under discussion)

Given the above Universities have adopted Bologna, self evaluations and controls **VOLUNTARILY!!!** Until national regulation is enacted