

Cyprus - Israel Business Forum 2022

Cyprus as an International Business Centre & Investment Destination

Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry
Ms Natasa Pilides



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CYPRUS AND ISRAEL – BILATERAL RELATIONS



Israel and Cyprus share a strong and strategic relationship that transcends time.

The bilateral relations between Cyprus and Israel are now at an all-time high, flourishing across the spectrum of bilateral cooperation, including trade, joint business ventures and investment opportunities.



CYPRUS AT A GLANCE



9,251 km²
Area



**Geostrategic
Location**

Between 3 continents



**Population
888k**



EU Member
*State 2004/
Eurozone 2008*



Greek
Official Language

English
Widely Spoken



**/40+ EU Trade
Agreements**

**/66 double tax
treaties**



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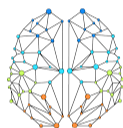
CYPRUS

A Reliable International
Business Centre



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CYPRUS – AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE IN THE EU



Shipmanagement

GOFFOS

Easybrain



WARGAMING.NET
LET'S BATTLE



UNITEAM MARINE

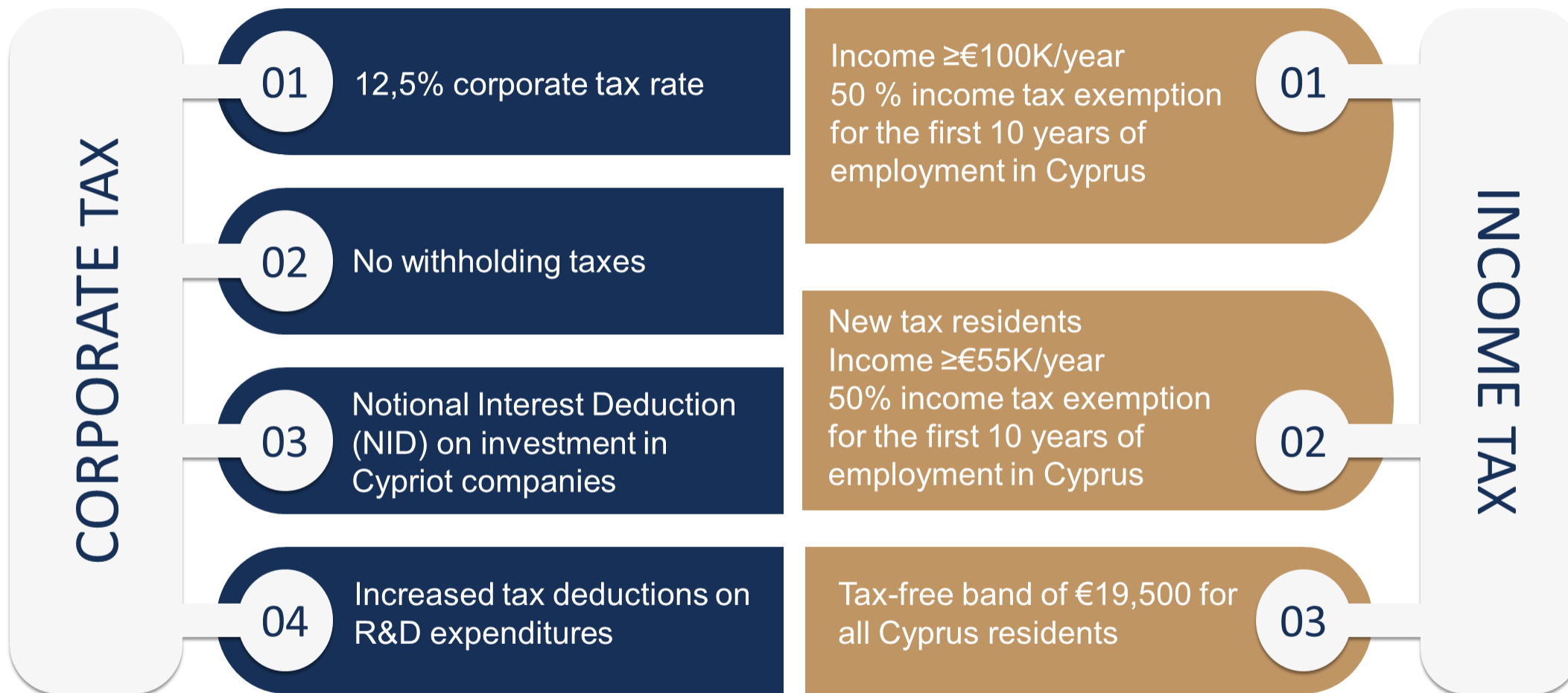


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WHY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES CHOOSE CYPRUS



ATTRACTIVE TAX SYSTEM



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ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



LOW COST DOING BUSINESS:

- (i) Labor costs for tech talents below EU average.
- (ii) Low companies' set up and operational fees.
- (iii) Cost effective and high quality business support services.

STRONG BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM:

- (i) Wide network of financial and professional services.
- (ii) 3.900+ registered accountants and 700+ accounting firms.
- (iii) 2.700+ registered lawyers and 160+ law firms.
- (iv) Wide range of serviced offices and co working spaces.

ATTRACTIVE & TRANSPARENT TAX REGIME:

- (i) Extensive network of double tax treaties.
- (ii) Competitive IP Regime in line with Nexus approach.
- (iii) National interest deduction for equity investment into Cyprus companies.

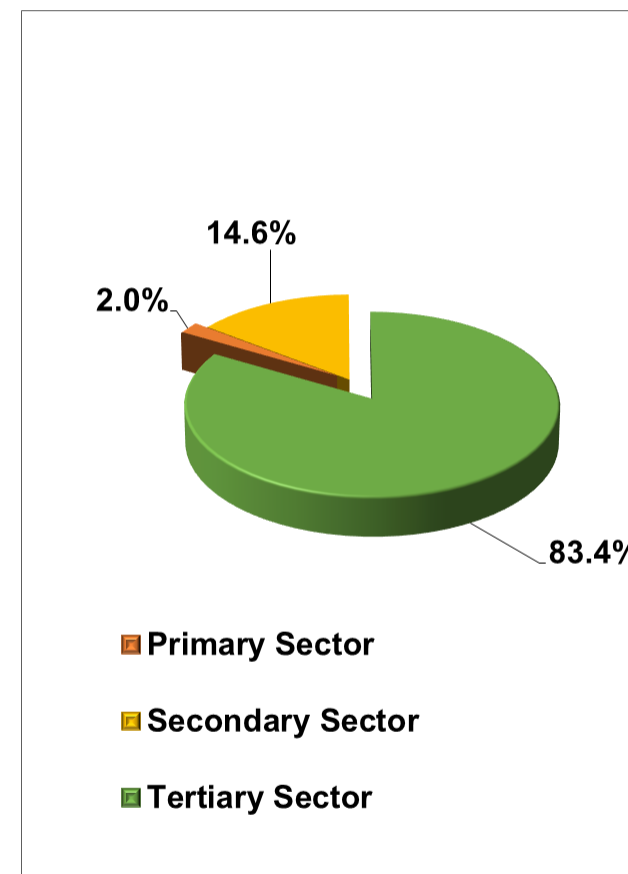
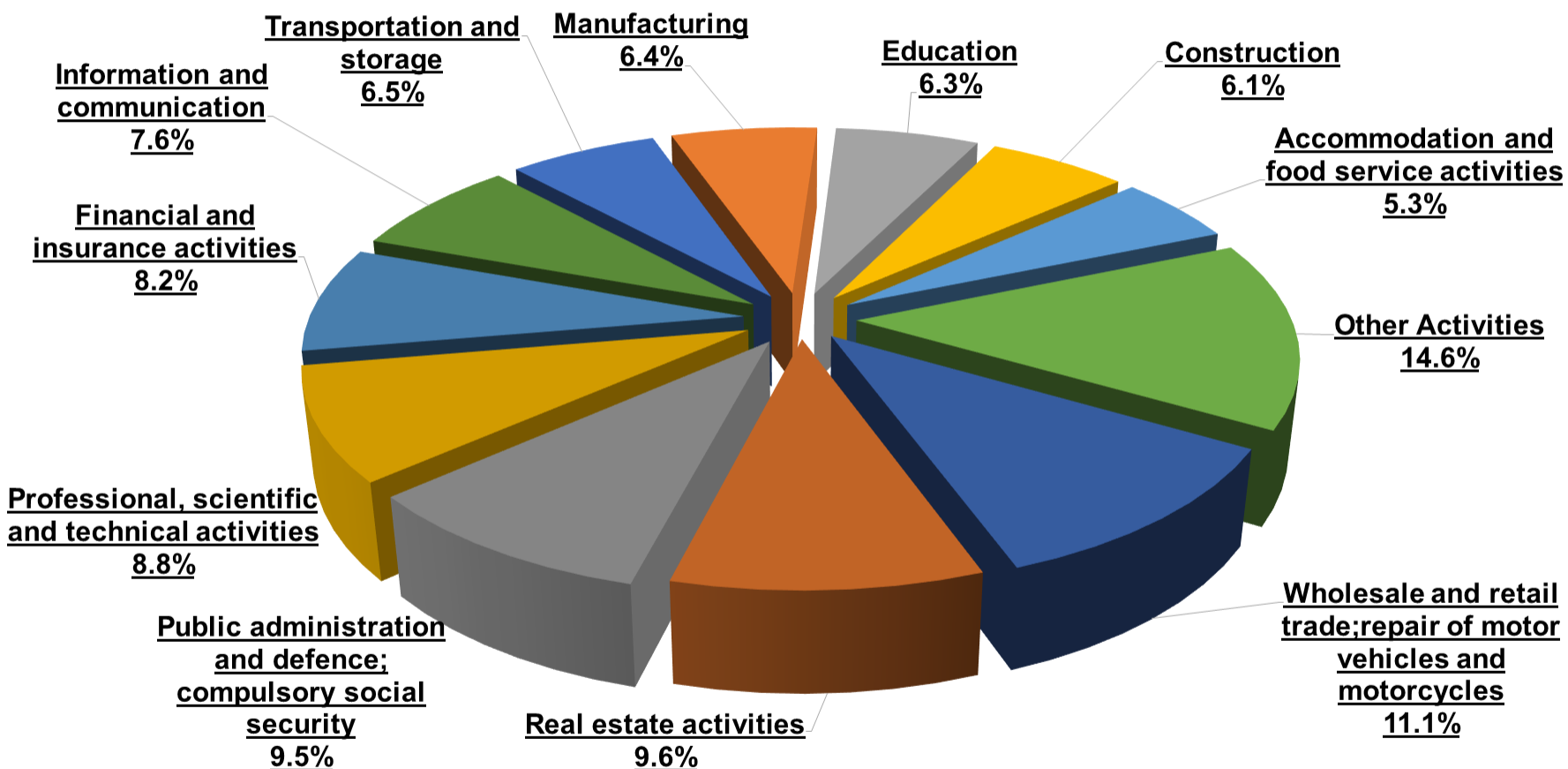


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CYPRUS – A DIVERSIFIED, SERVICE-BASED ECONOMY



Percentage Distribution of Gross Value Added by Economic Activity (%) in 2021



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We want Cyprus to be one
of the world's best countries
to live, work and do
business in

To do so we need to be a **world leading model nation** with a **thriving, resilient economy** and a **just, inclusive society**. All aspects of the Vision will be underpinned by cutting edge technology and environmental sustainability.

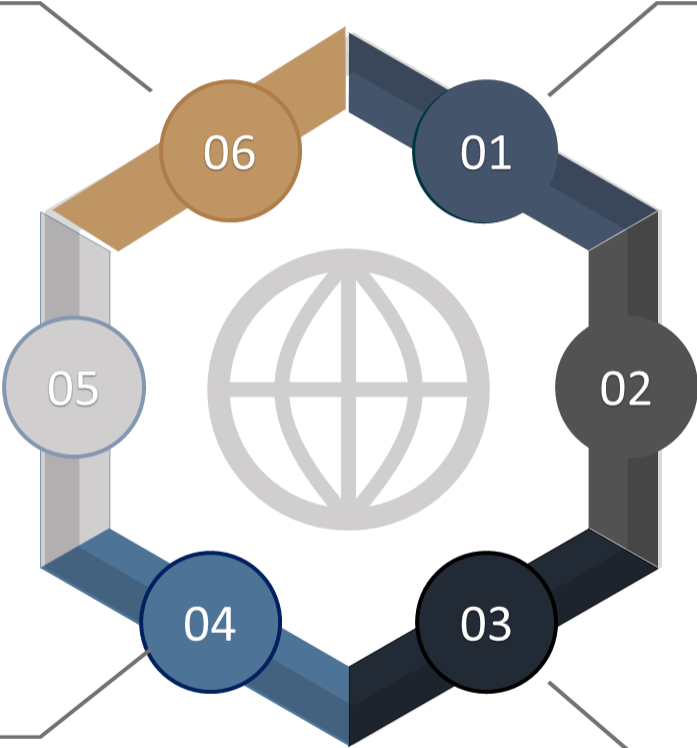
NEW STRATEGY FOR ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND TALENT



Reduced
Naturalisation Period
for Non-EU Nationals

Tax
Incentives

Business
Facilitation
Unit



New Immigration Policy
for International
Businesses & Digital
Nomad Visa

Family Reunification &
Employment of Family
Members

New Law for facilitation of
Strategic Investments



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CYPRUS' NEW STRATEGY FOR ATTRACTING BUSINESS AND TALENT



- *Creation of a more competitive and modern business environment to ensure transition to sustainable development.*
- *Comprehensive strategy that actively promotes continuous reforms and provides support and incentives to foreign companies, such as new tax incentives and employment permits.*
- *Provides for the simplification of procedures, the fast track of relevant licences and the upgrade and modernisation of key infrastructure.*



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BUSINESS FACILITATION UNIT

Registrations as from launch – Jan 2022

- ***Over 1.200 registrations*** as foreign interest companies at BFU.
- ***Over 100 Israeli businesses*** registered.

Main sectors of operations

- *Software Development*
- *Artificial intelligence*
- *FinTech*
- *Financial and Investment Services*
- *Energy*



Business Facilitation Unit (BFU)

As of January 2022

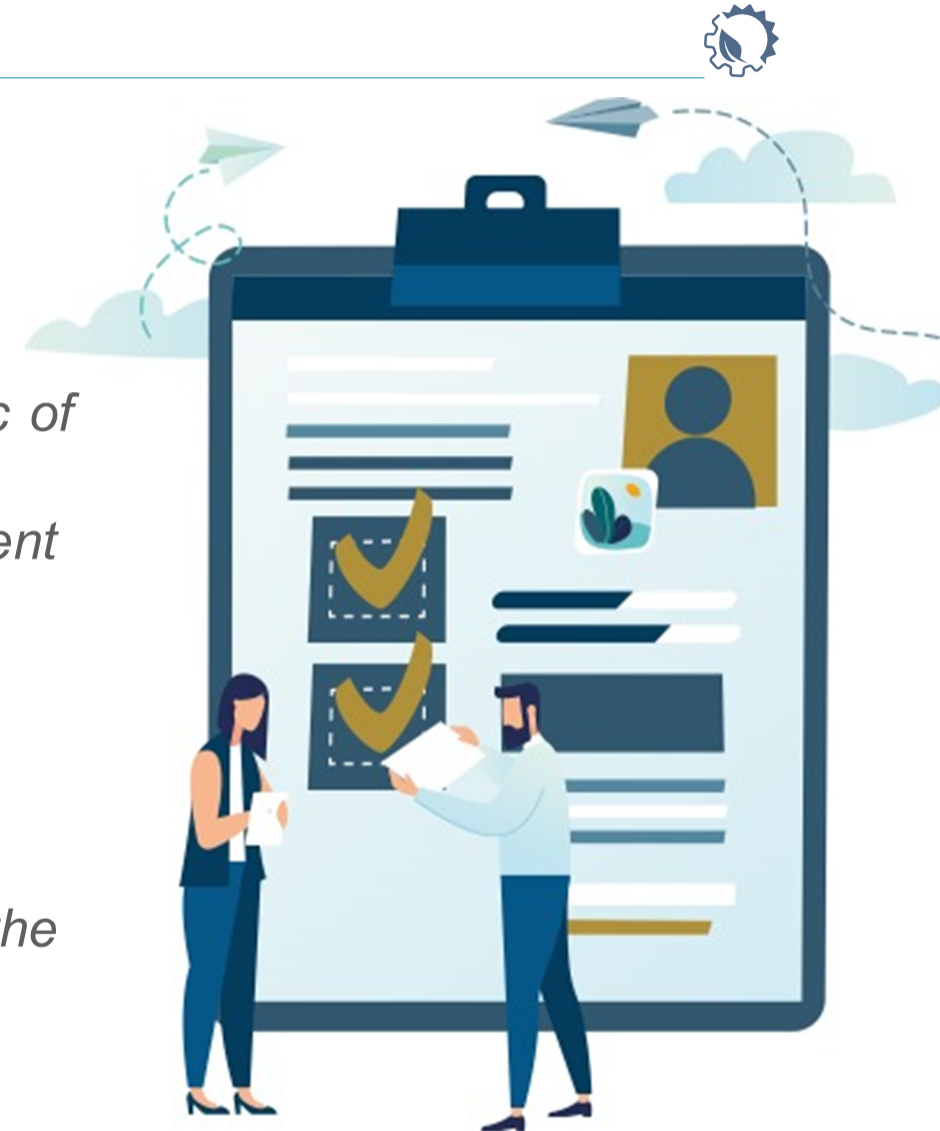
[MORE INFORMATION](#)

BUSINESS FACILITATION UNIT

An integral part of the new Strategy.

Eligible Companies:

- *Foreign companies / undertakings operating in the Republic of Cyprus or foreign companies / undertakings intending to operate in the Republic of Cyprus, in appropriate independent offices, separate from residences or other offices.*
- *Cypriot shipping companies.*
- *Cypriot high-tech / innovative companies.*
- *Cypriot pharmaceutical companies or companies active in the sectors of biogenetics and biotechnology.*



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Main responsibilities

- *Provision of Services for setting up businesses:*
 - *Company registration, name approval.*
 - *Registration in the Social Insurance Register.*
 - *Registration in the Tax / VAT Register.*
- *Guidance/information on the necessary licenses to operate in Cyprus.*
- *Accelerating the issuance and renewal of residence and employment permits.*

✓ **Central Contact Point for business – direct and streamlined assistance**

✓ **Digitisation of procedures**

✓ **Online Platform**



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Cyprus – An emerging research and innovation hub



CYPRUS IS A STRONG INNOVATOR

performing above EU average, based on the latest European Innovation Scoreboard 2022.

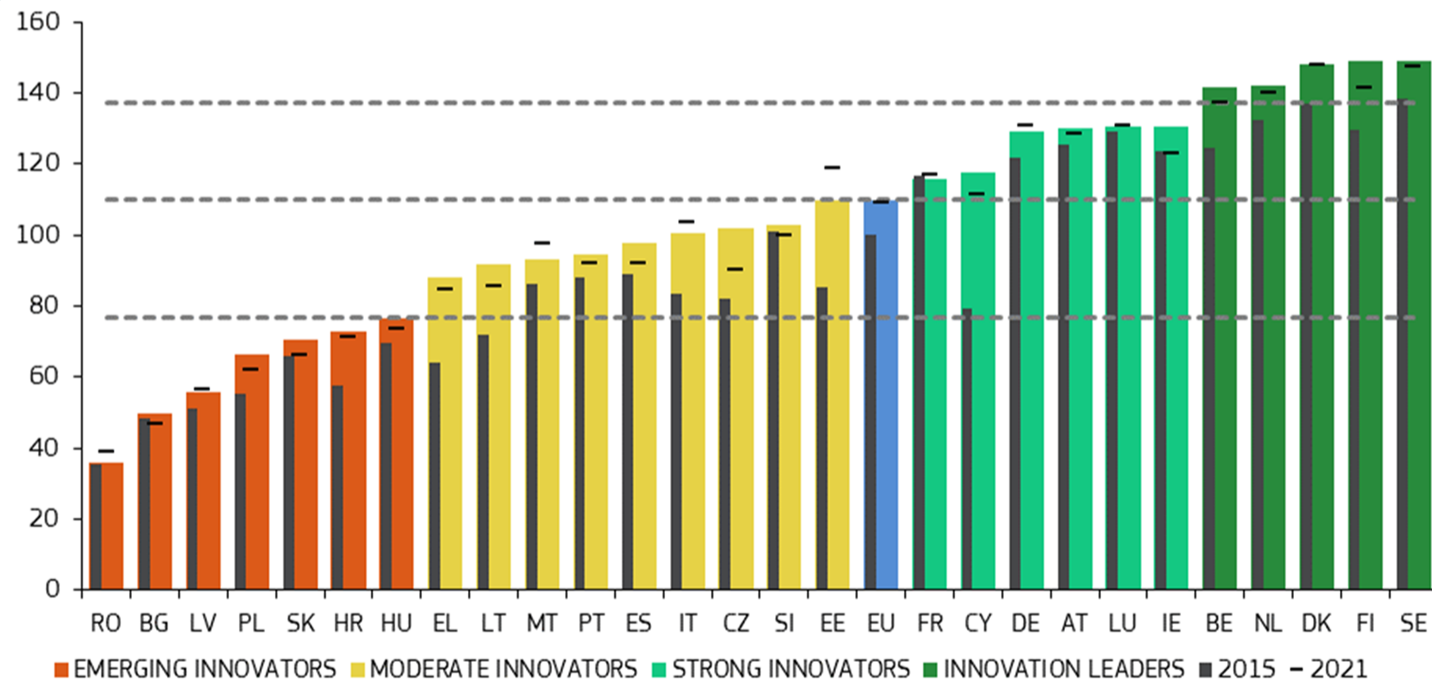
Ranked 10th

in the overall innovation ranking, between Germany and France.

Most improved across Europe

in innovation performance, at 38% from 2015 to date, well above the average improvement of EU member states (10%).

European Innovation Scoreboard 2022



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GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2022



Cyprus ranks 27th

out of 132 at the Global Innovation Index 2022 and 26th among the 48 high-income group economies.

Leads in

- *Mobile app creation.*
- *Venture capital deals.*
- *ICT exports in % of trade.*
- *FDI net flows % of GDP.*



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*The island is home to global technology companies,
serving as an emerging technology hub.*



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NUMEROUS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cyprus has many new and existing projects in search of strategic investors and partners, in sectors such as:

- ***Renewable Energy***
- ***Healthcare***
- ***Tourism and Hospitality***
- ***Education***
- ***ICT and Fintech***



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Thank you



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