Cyprus Country Report

EUFORI Study

European Foundations for Research and Innovation

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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1 Contextual Background

1.1 The historical background

There is a long tradition of philanthropy in Cyprus. The concepts of altruism, expressions of kindness and ‘helping one another’ have been features of Cypriot society since antiquity and still feature to this day. As in most countries, socio-economic, cultural, religious, political and other factors have all shaped the scope and nature of voluntary and philanthropic activity on the island.

Christianisation and the establishment of the Church of Cyprus in 45 AD led to some organisation of philanthropy and charity, especially during periods of hardship, destitution and deprivation. In medieval times, Cyprus was passed to a series of foreign rulers (Franks, Venetians and Ottomans) and the Church became an important provider of social welfare as well as political representation.

The Republic of Cyprus was established in 1960, following a struggle for independence from British colonial rule. The British governed the island from 1879 and set the foundations of the Cypriot welfare state by establishing a civil service and public institutions and services. [1]

After the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960, mostly rich ship-owners and other wealthy Cypriots started philanthropic activities. The history of Cypriot philanthropy is strongly connected to the traditions of philanthropy in Greece, where there is a long tradition, even from the Byzantine period. [2]

Furthermore, after the independence of Greece (1830) a lot of wealthy Greeks, especially from the Diaspora funded the construction of public buildings and/or supported special events such as the first modern Olympic Games, which took place in Athens in 1896. [3] The wealthy merchants of the Diaspora supported also philanthropic activities in Cyprus, although Cyprus was a much more agricultural society and the role of the Church was much stronger compared to Greece. [4] During the period of British colonial rule there was an attempt to implement the British educational system. [5] However, the Cypriot Church and monasteries supported the Greek educational system more financially. [6]

Although, we cannot follow the historical development of the establishment of new R&I foundations due to a lack of data, it seems that during the last four decades a lot of new foundations have been established.

2 Tsouddoulas (2010).
3 Benekis (2013).
4 Tsouddoulas (2010: 103-4).
However, a significant number of them – the newer foundations – have become inactive over the last five years since the financial crisis.

1.2 The legal and fiscal framework

The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance \(^7\) are responsible for registering, monitoring and controlling all the types of foundations in Cyprus. The foundations in Cyprus function under a Law established in 1972 which was modified in 1997 (57/1972) \(^8\). However, the Law makes no distinction between associations (founded by at least 20 persons) and foundations that concern the management of a fund for philanthropic reasons. \(^9\) A register for both societies/associations and foundations is kept at the Ministry of the Interior. \(^10\)

More specifically according to the Law there are the following distinctions:

1. Charitable trusts, which are governed by the Charities Law, Chapter 41. It is meant for public benefit purposes.

2. Societies and Associations, which are governed by the Societies and Associations Law 57/72. The Council of Ministers appoints a Registrar regulating the registration of Societies and Associations. A Society/Association is defined in the 1972 Law as an association, which can be founded by at least twenty people for nonprofitable purposes. Societies and Associations can pursue both public and private purposes as per the will of the founder, and these purposes shall be specified in the Act of Incorporation.

3. Companies Limited by Guarantee, which are governed by the Companies Law, Chapter 113. In the majority of cases these Companies are incorporated as nonprofit-making organisations under section 20 of Chapter 113. These companies can pursue both public and private purposes.

Any type of donation is acceptable. There is no limit on the tax incentives, and the whole amount of the donation can be deducted. This is, however, subject to certain conditions, which are examined on a case-by-case basis.

In the event of a loss which took place during the year of the grant or the donation, any part of the loss suffered equal to the level of the total grant or donation amount will not be carried forward and will not be consolidated with the income of future years. \(^11\)

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8  http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/1972_1_57/full.html (Last accessed 1 September 2014)
9  See further Emilianidis (2008).
10 http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/EB27634CFA8868D0AC2257B5D002CAF58 (Last accessed 1 September 2014).
1.3 The foundation landscape

As it was previously mentioned in Cypriot Law, there is no division between the different legal statuses. Recently, however, there was a division in this online register between foundations and societies/associations. The foundations on the present register of the Cypriot Ministry are 355 in total. The majority of them, however, are inactive, especially after the financial crisis. It is difficult to draw conclusions about the number of foundations that support research and/or innovation in Cyprus, because of the lack of detailed databases. In general, it can be said that the majority of the foundations focus their interest on the promotion of cultural heritage, or cultural events in general. In other cases their main goal is the relief of the effects of humanitarian crises, which have increased since the financial crisis. Research and innovation is low on the list of priorities of foundations in Cyprus with a a few exceptions such as the Leventis Foundation.

Different types of foundation can be distinguished in Cyprus. Below, a few types are set out together with an example of each type.

**Foundations affiliated to nonprofit institutions**

The Cyprus Institute. This Institute operates under the aegis of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF), which is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of leading personalities from the international academic, political and business world.

**An example of a corporate foundation**

Since its establishment in 1984, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation has developed a wealth of activities, in keeping with the objectives originally outlined for the Cultural Foundation by the Bank of Cyprus. The Foundation’s main strategic aims are to encourage the research and study of Cypriot civilisation in the fields of archaeology, history, art and literature, as well as to preserve and disseminate the cultural and natural heritage of Cyprus, with a particular emphasis on the international promotion of the island’s centuries-long Greek civilisation.

**An example of a private donor driven foundations**

Established in May 1979, the A. G. Leventis Foundation is the result of the vision of the Cypriot entrepreneur Anastasios G. Leventis (1902-1978), who laid the foundations of its focus on society, education and culture. It supports activities relating to the protection of cultural heritage in Cyprus, Greece and worldwide, which are concerned with, however, Greek cultural heritage; it also supports modern culture and recently it has supported activities relating to the humanitarian crisis in Cyprus, Greece and the third world.

The European University Cyprus developed out of the Cyprus College, which was founded in 1961 by Ioannis Gregoriou. Its purpose was to provide a well-rounded education of a high calibre, so that students acquire the necessary academic and practical knowledge in their fields of study.

The following case falls between these categories since it was founded by a corporation but was driven by the interests of its donor; the Tsirides Foundation was founded by the Amarox corporation. Amarox was created in 1979, first as a trading company engaged in the trade of construction materials. With the opening of the Prehistoric Treasures Store, the company was engaged in buying and selling collector fossils and minerals. Since then, Amarox stopped all its other activities and focused solely on this. It is a prime company that has introduced all the findings of both the Foundation and the Prehistoric Treasures Store. Its decades of engagement with the world of palaeontology and archaeology has led this year to the need for the creation of a nonprofit entity, which deals with a more systematic and organized promotion of science, knowledge and entertainment, as offered by the above areas.

With the launch this year by the media of its very large collection of minerals, crystals and fossils, the enormous interest in whoever comes into contact with this collection became clear to the founders. The need for establishing a Cyprus Museum of World Natural History is part of their future plans.

Finally, they decided to establish The Tsirides Foundation; an institution which will work to promote the idea of the creation of the Cyprus Museum of World Natural History, but also to organise events, activities, seminars, exhibitions and publications with the sole purpose of promoting scientific knowledge and the value of knowledge in the areas of palaeontology, archaeology and evolution and culture in general on our planet.

The Tsirides Foundation seeks cooperation with the Ministry of Education and other relevant organisations in Cyprus and abroad, so that a knowledge of prehistory will not remain unknown and obscure. It offers a variety of activities and opportunities to children and parents who come into contact with the fascinating subject of evolution, while at the same time being entertained and becoming more creative. The main aims and objectives of the Tsirides Foundation, as listed in the Foundation’s Constitution, is none other than the organisation and implementation of several activities that will directly promote all scientific and creative ways possible. They seek cooperation with anyone that respects and embraces the need for innovative activities in Cyprus in the field of prehistory, evolution and culture.

An example of a public foundation

The Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) was established on the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to promote the development of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. The Foundation’s core objective is the promotion of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. The Foundation has developed a wide range of activities throughout its ten-year presence in the research field in Cyprus. These fall into two main categories: a) Financing Research Projects through the Development and Monitoring of Competitive Programme, and b) Managing European Research and Innovation Projects and the Promotion of International Cooperation in Research and Innovation.
1.4 Research/innovation funding in Cyprus

In Cyprus the major contributor to research and/or innovation activities has been the European Union through national framework programs during the last decade. The role of foundations is small in this specific sector; however, the Leventis Foundation is an exception which funds and strongly supports research in Cyprus.

The research and innovation system in Cyprus is relatively new. It has evolved mainly over the last two decades and relies predominantly on public expenditure. In 2009, 69 % of the total R&D expenditure (GERD) was financed by the government, the highest percentage in the EU, and considerably above the EU average of 34.9 %. There is indeed a persistent problem of under-investment in research and innovation by the business sector. Business R&D expenditure (BERD) as a % of the GDP was equal to 0.09 % in 2010, the lowest level in the EU. [13]

Research and Development expenditure did not increase in the following years; it was 0.49 % in 2011 and 0.46 % in 2012. Moreover, according to the data provided for 2012, the business enterprise sector represented 0.06 % of the GDP, the government sector 0.08 %, the higher education sector 0.26 % and the private nonprofit sector 0.06 %. [14]

The National Research and Innovation Strategy (2011–2015) is still in its preparation stage. The Cyprus authorities consider that the absorption capacity of Cyprus in the field of R&D is limited, and that it is better to encourage the development of existing products in an innovative way. Non-technological innovation as well as innovation in services could be real options for Cyprus. [15]

In 2010 the government budget for R&D totalled 0.46 % of the GDP, as compared with the EU average of 0.76 %. In 2009, 12.1 % of R&D was financed from abroad compared to an EU average of 8.4 %. The main source of foreign funding has been the EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). Cyprus has also been successful in raising funds from the FP7. Around one third of the EU funds raised by Cypriot participants through the FP7 up to February 2012 was directed to SMEs, or EUR 18.7 million out of EUR 52.55 million. Cyprus has the most FP7 collaborative links with the United Kingdom, Germany and Greece. [16]

The national scientific landscape does not provide enough room for large research infrastructures. However, due to the strong performance of its ICT and computing base, Cyprus places a particular emphasis on

14 epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tsc00001&language=en (Last accessed 1 September 2014)
e-infrastructure. Cyprus participates actively in the FP7, and recent results confirm its successful participation in the ICT programme in particular. [17]

In terms of research output, Cyprus is underperforming. In 2010 Cyprus had the fourth lowest number of scientific publications in the EU ahead of Luxembourg, Latvia and Malta. However, Cyprus had the second highest average annual growth rate in the EU after Luxembourg in numbers of scientific publications between 2000 and 2010.

Bibliometric indicators between 2000 and 2009 on information and communication technologies (ICT) as a FP7 thematic priority, show that Cyprus has one of the highest specialisation index values at 2.59. In addition, the collaboration index for information and communication technologies (ICT) at 1.44 for Cyprus is the highest level in the EU.

The growth index for Cyprus in the field of materials (excluding nano-technologies) is also very high. Cyprus, together with Israel and Denmark, has the highest ARIF score (the average of relative impact factors) in this field.

The low level of innovation in Cyprus is linked to its specific economic structure, which has a limited capacity to increase private research and innovation. The government is making efforts to support a more active involvement of businesses in innovation activities by introducing new subsidy schemes for enterprises.

The performance of Cyprus in four out of the five indicators which make up the index of the economic impact of innovation is slightly above the EU average: the contribution of high- and medium-tech products to the trade balance, knowledge-intensive services exports, employment in knowledge-intensive activities, and sales of new-to-market and new-to-firm products. The resulting index value is below the EU average due to the very low performance of Cyprus in patents inventions.

Cyprus has allocated only around 18 % of its available Structural Funds (2007-2013) under the operational programme for ‘Sustainable development and Competitiveness’ to knowledge, society and innovation. As a result of a limited institutional capacity to absorb these funds, the Cypriot authorities have indicated their intention to redirect a part of this already limited share to other priorities.

The Cypriot economy is dominated by very small family-run enterprises with a limited export capacity. This economic structure does not favour R&D. The Cypriot economy is dominated by the service sector; mainly tourism, transport and finance, with manufacturing representing only around 7 %.

Structural changes towards more research-intensive economies are in general driven by the high- and medium-to-high-tech manufacturing sectors. In Cyprus, there are three of these sectors: machinery and equipment, chemicals and chemical products, and electrical machinery and apparatus. The following three

(Last accessed 1 September 2014).
manufacturing sectors have increased their effect on the economy: construction, other non-metallic mineral products and fabricated metal products, which also had the highest growth in research intensity. \[18\]
2 Data Collection

2.1 The identification of foundations supporting R&I
The criteria for the identification of the foundations that support R&I was based on information from the press and the Internet, since there are no registers or databases online or locally. Moreover, the philanthropic studies is not an academic discipline in Greece or Cyprus, and therefore the academic literature on this issue remains limited. [19] The educational system in Cyprus mainly follows the UK system, but in some aspects in follows the Greek the system. This research was limited to the Internet and the press in order to verify the activities of some foundations; the information found in the press confirmed that they remain active. On the contrary, in other cases some foundations revealed that were no longer active. At the Ministry of Finance there is online information only in the form of an address book, which is not, however, sufficient. Therefore, it was necessary to search further online about foundations by using websites that mention potential scholarships or prices for researchers (these were used as keywords). Moreover, we did a search for foundations with keywords such as ‘foundation’ or ‘foundations for research and innovation’ in Greek. The keywords used were ‘foundation’, ‘scholarship’, ‘research’ and ‘innovation’. Moreover, there are some editions that are dedicated to the activities of specific foundations. There is also a book on nautical endowments on the island of Andros, which contains an introduction to philanthropy in the 19th and 20th centuries in Greece. [20] The criteria for the identification of the foundations that support R&I was based on information from the press and the Internet. The foundations located in Cyprus totalled 355, but almost 100 of them were excluded, because they did not fit the following criteria:

The criteria for the selection of the foundations were:

- Foundations that support research.
- Foundations that support innovation.
- Foundations that support research and innovation.
- Foundations with unclear purposes.

2.2 The survey
Following the above-mentioned criteria we sent the online questionnaire to 99 foundations and the postal questionnaire to 151 foundations.

Out of the 250 foundations in Cyprus, which is the total number of foundations that could be identified during the present research. In some cases it was not possible to consider whether they supported re-

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19 There is one old unpublished PhD thesis, and the rest of the publications are concerned with the history of specific foundations or the history of their founders. See Tsakouris (1995) and the rest of the bibliography.
20 Beneki (2013).
search and innovation or not, and therefore it was decided to also send the questionnaire in these cases. In other cases it was clear that the foundations did not support research and/or innovation and so the questionnaire was not sent to them. Therefore, out of a total of 355 foundations the questionnaire was sent to 250 foundations with limited expectations in some cases. Out of this number only 30 responded and 7 identified themselves as foundations that support research and innovation. However, the biggest foundations in Cyprus did not answer the questionnaire. The result of the online survey was not very representative of the types of foundation in Cyprus. It seems that the foundations with the biggest impact in research and innovation prefer not to give financial data, and therefore the foundations that responded to the questionnaire were not representative at all.

2.3 The interviews
Due to the poor results of the survey, interviews were conducted or information was taken from the Internet about the major foundations and different types of foundations.

The selection of the interviewees was based on the preliminary information on the major types of R&I foundations. In order to conduct an interview with a representative from all the most important kinds of foundations, I selected potential interviewees from every major type.

The list of the selected foundations is as follows:

1. Very large grantmaking foundations with international prestige: the A.G. Leventis Foundation.
2. Very large operating foundations mainly financed (and more or less controlled) by the national government: the Research Promotion Foundation (RPF).
3. Grantseeking foundations closely connected to a state-run research institute, hospital, university or university department. Their main activity is to raise funds in order to support research in public institutions: the Cyprus Institute.
4. Foundations mainly or exclusively dealing with the education or seeking funds for research: the European University Cyprus (EUC).
5. Foundations mainly or exclusively dealing with the dissemination of research findings: the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation.
6. Foundations supporting outstanding scholars and/or very talented young researchers through giving highly prestigious awards: the Cyprus State Scholarship Foundation.
7. Corporate foundations supporting research and innovation in the field its founder is interested in: the Tsirides Foundation.
3 Results

3.1 Types of foundations
There are all types of foundation in Cyprus. More specifically, endowments that are ruled by municipalities, church authorities or universities and independent foundations. Unfortunately, the data collected from the online survey cannot support a presentation of absolute figures or percentages representing the population of foundations in Cyprus. However, there are independent foundations that are considered to belong to the most prestigious and influential foundations in Cyprus. The majority of them depend on business industries (shipping, real-estate, banking and so on).

Seven foundations (of the 30 in total that answered the questionnaire) support research and innovation. Moreover, the same foundations are operating rather than grantmaking foundations. These foundations are private.

As specified in section 2.3, there are different types of foundation in Cyprus. The types of foundation that responded to the survey can be categorised in the following way:

- Large grantmaking foundations (1).
- Large operating foundations financed by the national government (1).
- Grantseeking foundations closely connected to a state-run institute.
- Corporate foundations.
- Operating foundations with a specific limited research focus (3).

Examples of operating foundations
The Cyprus Institute comprises three specialised multi-disciplinary research centres, developed in partnership with leading international institutions in their respective areas.

The Energy, Environment and Water Research Centre (EEWRC) partnered with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Centere (STARC) partnered with the Centre de recherche et de restauration des musées de France (C2RMF).

The Computation-based Science and Technology Research Center (CaSToRC) partnered with the University of Illinois.

In the European University of Cyprus there are the following centres: the Centre for Applied Research, the Centre for the Study of Childhood Adolescence, the Ermis Research and Incubator Centre and the Institute of Social and Political studies (with purpose of promoting research).
3.2 Origins of funds

Although we have very few data about the origins of the funds, it seems that most often the foundations in Cyprus were founded by other nonprofit organisations (five cases) rather than individuals or families (two cases). Furthermore, the annual strategy of foundations is most often decided by a board of elected members (eight cases) rather than a board of appointed members (one case).

Based on the answers to the survey the total income was EUR 178 036. This amount comes from endowments (EUR 20 468) and from donations from other nonprofit organisations (EUR 157 568). However, it seems that four of them rely on services or fees to fund their activities, three of them depend on the government to support them, three rely on donations from other nonprofit organisations, two from endowments and just one from an individual. This total amount came from profit-making organisations. However, there is an undefined amount used by other foundations that did not answer the previous question about the total amount; their income comes from individuals (one case), from endowments (two cases), other nonprofit corporations (one case), from the government (two cases), services or fees (one case) and from other sources (one case).

An example of a grantmaking foundation

The Cyprus State Scholarship Foundation supports Cypriots and foreigners in order to do their studies in Cyprus and abroad (graduate, post-graduate and doctoral studies). Through this foundation the scholarships from foreign countries and international organisations are given to Cypriot citizens as a result of international or bilateral agreements. Since the academic year 2009-10, after the financial crisis, the numbers of given scholarships have gradually been reduced.

More specifically, out of a total of 848 in 2009-10, in 2013-14 only 630 scholarships were given out (525 for graduate studies, 80 for post-graduate and 25 for doctoral studies) in all the academic disciplines.

3.3 Expenditure

This needs to be clarified, as from the abovementioned amount only a total of EUR 32 602 was mentioned. 77.5 % was related to research, 9.7 % was related to innovation and 12.8 % went to other purposes. Of the amount spent on research, 90 % was related to direct research activities and 10 % to research-related activities. Applied research was funded over basic research (80 % to 20 %).

When this expenditure is compared to last year’s expenditure, there is a change in the amount of funding in only in one case, with a decrease by 40 %, which it is expected to decrease even more down to 30 %. There are two cases where the expenditure level remained the same and is expected to remain the same. One case expected their funding to be discontinued.
3.4 Focus of support
The focus of support based on the survey is not clear. The scientific fields are almost all equally represented; only in medical and agricultural science does there seem to be more focus, while there is no reference for engineering/technology and the humanities. However, the sample from the interviews makes sure that there is also a more intense focus on the Humanities.

An example of focus of support
The aims of the Cultural Foundation of the Bank of Cyprus, which are connected to Cypriot interests, are met by placing particular importance on the research of primary and other sources in the fields of archaeology, history, and art and literature. The Collections of the Cultural Foundation provide the main source for the development of these programmes, which are eventually published by the Cultural Foundation.

The amount spent on research in 2012 was equally distributed between different research-related activities (research mobility and career development, technology transfer, science communication/education), with a focus, however, on the dissemination of research and the amounts spent on infrastructure and equipment.

3.5 Geographical dimensions of activities
On a regional/local level only in one case is there a percentage (30 %) of research-related activities. However, this outcome is related to the poor response rate. There is another case with a 95 % of its activities on the national level and the rest on the EU level, probably in Greece but this has not been clarified.

In general, only the A.G. Leventis Foundation is active internationally, and other foundations are present in Greece. However, the majority of them are active on a national level as a result of the small territory of Cyprus.

The European Union is expected more to provide a structure to enhance collaboration, and less to provide fiscal facilities. Moreover, the EU is also expected to invest in an information infrastructure through databases, to contribute to awareness raising about foundations, to evaluate projects from foundations and to collaborate with foundations in projects.

An example of collaboration between foundations and research institutes
The Leventis Foundation, within the framework of supporting academic research, co-financed for the period 2012-2014 a project coordinated by the University of Crete and the Natural History Museum of Crete, which joined forces with other environmental organisations in Greece, Spain and Portugal – Arcuros, Fundacio’n Gypaetus, Quercus and Centro de Estudos da Avifauna Iberica (CEAI) – in the fight for the eradication of the illegal use of poisoned baits, the main cause of non-natural deaths for a number of highly endangered species in
the European Union. This international LIFE+ biodiversity project, titled ‘Innovative Actions Against Illegal Poisoning in EU Mediterranean Pilot Areas’, is being implemented through the period October 2010 – September 2015. The project aims to evaluate and spread the effectiveness of several innovative actions based on voluntary agreements with the main rural groups associated with the issue of illegal poisoned baits (municipalities, hunters, stockbreeders and so on).

3.6 Foundations’ operations and practices

In the majority of cases foundations are ruled by a board with elected members; there are also cases of governing boards with appointed members. Based on the given answers (only two) they are engaged in partnerships with other foundations, universities, research institutes, government services, other non-profit organisations (in two cases), and hospitals and other foundations (one case each). These partnerships are created in order to pool expertise and/or share infrastructure, to increase impact, or create economies of scale.

**Examples of the types of governance of an institute**

The Cyprus Institute’s governance structure includes the CREF Board of Trustees, the CREF Executive Committee and its President. The Scientific Advisory Council and the Scientific Expert Panels have advisory roles.

CyI’s senior authority rests with the internationally acclaimed CREF Board of Trustees, which is responsible for guiding and assessing the effective implementation of the Institute’s vision and mission. The Board currently comprises leading personalities from the international academic, political and business world.

The Board is supported by the Scientific Advisory Council, which provides advice and recommendations on strategic research matters and priorities.

The strategic decisions taken by the Board of Trustees regarding the development of the CyI necessitate follow-up actions which are pursued by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee provides guidance for the management of the Institute for furthering its progress on all levels.

In order to exercise a scientific overview and steering for its research centres, the CyI President relies on the specialised advice of the Scientific Expert Panels (one for each of the three research centres). They provide independent scientific advice related to the development of the research Centres.

3.7 Roles and motivations

The foundations see their role in the support of research and innovation mainly as complementary to public support, and only in some cases do they consider themselves as initiating, and even less as substituting or competitive.
In this chapter examples of foundations are presented that more or less support research and innovation in Cyprus. However, innovative examples are very scarce due to the small impact of foundations in research and innovation and the small scale of Cyprus itself.

**The A.G. Leventis Foundation** [21]

Its activities range from the reconstruction of a large number of classical, Byzantine and post-Byzantine monuments, the enrichment and presentation of Cypriot antiquity collections in museums around the world, the systematic granting of scholarships, and the sponsorship of nature conservation and sustainable development projects in southern Europe, Africa and worldwide. The A. G. Leventis Foundation is the outcome of the vision of the Cypriot entrepreneur Anastasios G. Leventis (1902-1978), who laid the foundations of its focus on society, education and culture.

This Foundation has retained its adherence to these priorities, keenly supporting the dissemination of Greek and Cypriot cultural heritage, as well as extensive public benefit programs, pioneering environmental protection projects and medical research. The main innovative example for the support of research by the A.G. Leventis Foundation is the support of chairs worldwide related to Greek culture. More specifically there is the A. G. Leventis Post-doctoral Research Fellowship in Ancient Greek Literature at the University College in London and at the Ana’huac University in Mexico. The A. G. Leventis Ana’huac Chair of Cyprus was established in 2011 in order to promote the study of Cypriot culture, history and traditions in Mexico through academic research, cultural events and publications. Moreover, it supports an MA in Heritage Management. This an intensive three-semester post-graduate programme, which uniquely combines the worlds of archaeology and business and is taught in Greece at Eleusis, coordinated by the University of Kent. Support for the A. G. Leventis Foundation aims to ensure the sustainability of the programme for three years.

Moreover, the A. G. Leventis Foundation has also supported short-term post-doctoral research in different academic disciplines. [22]

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5 Conclusions

5.1 Main conclusions
The tradition of philanthropy in Cyprus is strong and is connected to business activities there. Additionally, philanthropic traditions are also connected to both community and church authorities.

The financial crisis caused some foundations to cease their activities. These were mostly dependent on state funding, or in some cases on the funding of enterprises that saw their profits decrease.

Therefore, the foundation sector supporting research and innovation initiatives is small and not that significant in terms of R&I funding in Cyprus. The main sources of income for R&I funding in Cyprus are the state budget, EU programmes and some private investment funds.

Public benefit grant giving organisations are mostly focused on research and innovation in public benefit areas such as education, culture and history; in other words – social science and the humanities. This research did not reveal any foundations motivated by issues to be solved through research and/or innovation in Cyprus. Issue-driven institutes are usually state institutions or are affiliated to universities or other research institutes.

5.2 Strengths and weaknesses of the R&I foundation sector in Cyprus
In Cyprus there is one strong foundation; the A.G. Leventis Foundation. Nevertheless, it seems that its support comes from some innovative programmes and collaborations, along with governmental and European funding research and innovation institutions. Its focus, however, is on different activities rather than supporting R&I. However, the small scale of Cyprus itself represents an opportunity for collaborative institutions such as foundations and research institutes.

The main weakness of the sector is the lack of foundations driven by issues to be solved through research and/or innovation. Moreover, this represents a threat to the support of research and innovation in Cyprus; thus it is important for the financial growth of Cyprus to increase its research and innovation sector.

5.3 Recommendations
The General Secretary of Research suggested a formal or informal association of foundations for the better coordination of activities supporting R&I, by following a variety of models from other European countries or the USA. Moreover, it would be useful to have different registers differentiating the different types (foundations, societies/associations and limited companies). The small scale of Cyprus itself favours collaboration between research institutions, universities and foundations.
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