



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

**COUNTRY REPORT**  
2021-2023 | **EUROPE**

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**Cyprus**

## Helping Commonwealth Member States and institutions use distance learning and technologies for expanding access to education and training.

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**The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)** is focused on adding value to member countries' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting the governments and institutions in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development.

During its current plan (2021-2027), COL will:

- i) build on its expertise in ODL, OER and TEL to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
- ii) invest in innovations and research;
- iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
- iv) promote gender equality; and
- v) implement a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan.

COL's work is organised into two sectors — Education and Skills — with Gender Equality and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) as cross-cutting initiatives.

The Education sector supports formal education from secondary to tertiary levels across the Commonwealth, particularly in the small states in Europe (Cyprus and Malta) and has four initiatives: Open Schooling; Teacher Education; Higher Education and the Virtual University for Small States of The Commonwealth (VUSSC).

The Skills sector supports formal, non-formal and informal education and training to equip learners for livelihoods and has three initiatives: Skills for Work; Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

The work in these sectors complement the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each member state. These are:

1. Building National Resilience
2. Strengthening Institutions
3. Improving Lives and Livelihoods.

## INTRODUCTION

Cyprus is an island nation in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is a small state of the Commonwealth, with a population of over 1.2 million ([World Bank, 2022](#)).

COL's work in Cyprus is in the areas of higher education and technology-enabled learning and is part of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network. Participants from Cyprus have attended COL regional and international events and learners have benefited from COL's free, open online courses and other available resources.

## PARTNERSHIPS

COL's partners in Cyprus include:

- Ministry of Education and Culture
- University of Cyprus

## KEY CONTACTS

### COL FOCAL POINT

**Professor George Angelos Papadopoulos**  
Dean  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Cyprus

## COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Professor Michalinos Zembylas, Open University of Cyprus appointed [COL Chair](#) for the period 2023 to 2026.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. The **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum was held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022. PCF11 to be held in Botswana in late 2025.

The **Regional Focal Points Meeting for Africa and Europe** was held in Seychelles from 20-21 February 2023. Official representatives from 20 Commonwealth countries in the region participated in the two-day meeting, including Professor George Papadopoulos.

## PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

**Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting - Africa and Europe** <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5316>



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