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EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

Addendum to the 10th National Report on the
implementation of the Revised European Social Charter
submitted by

THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS

(Articles 13 and 14 for the period of
01/01/2008 – 31/12/2011)

Report registered by the Secretariat on
19 July 2013

CYCLE 2013

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Report on Article 13 THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Paragraphs 2 and 3)

of the Revised European Social Charter

(Reference Period: 01.01.2008 – 31.12.2011)

Article 13§2

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extend of any reforms.

There have been no significant changes in the situation described in our previous reports, which the Committee found to be in conformity with Article 13§2.

As stated in the 6th National Report of 2008 on Article 13.2, an amendment of the Public Assistance and Services Law was undertaken in 2006. Within this framework the following additional information is provided:

Basic monthly allowance

As of 1/1/2010, the basic monthly allowance (based on the yearly consumer price index) has been determined as follows:

- €452 for the head of the household
- €226 for every dependent person over 14 years of age (incl. spouse)
- €135,60 for every dependent person under 14 years of age

Supplementary allowances

- Disability allowance €226 (50% of basic needs allowance)
- Rent (50% of the basic needs allowance with a maximum amount of €598), house loan and interest instalment (50% of the basic needs allowance with a maximum amount of €598) and heating allowances (€85 for each minor with disabilities, €128 for up to two persons household and €171 for more than two persons household).
- €77,92 for incontinence pads for adults and €41 for diapers for children
- Subsidies for municipality and other taxes (amount not specified)
- Benefit for unexpected circumstances (e.g. purchase of electrical appliances, etc.)
- Cost of social care of children (up to €102,50)
- Home help allowance (up to €240 for care from private or community care-taker and up to €326 and €82,70 contribution to social insurance scheme for care from a non-EU national care-taker).

- At Christmas, the beneficiary receives an extra allowance equal to the amount of the basic allowance and at Easter s/he receives €100 for every family member.

In the framework of the social cohesion measures promoted by the Republic of Cyprus, supplementary allowances are given to persons with disabilities (€142,38) and to one person households (€427,15 yearly lump sum).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

There have been no significant changes in the situation described in our previous reports, which the Committee found to be in conformity with Article 13§2.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Public Benefits under the Public Assistance and Services Law was provided as follows:

YEAR	Public Benefits		
	No. of cases	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure €
2008	21.194	33.567	€ 174.694.667
2009	24.096	38.000	€ 219.683.268
2010	26.075	43.457	€ 245.397.125
2011	24.778	39.588	€ 254.251.659

Source: Social Welfare Services

The median equivalised income for the period 2008-2010 for the Republic of Cyprus was as follows:

YEAR	Median Equivalised Disposable Income	
	EUR	PPS
2008	18.872,30	21.346
2009	19.371,10	21.825
2010	19.610,50	21.765

The risk of poverty threshold (calculated at 50% of the median equivalised income) for the period 2008-2010 for the Republic of Cyprus was as follows:

YEAR	Risk of Poverty Threshold €	
	1 person hh	2 adults and 2 dependent children
2008	8.271	17.370
2009	8.391	17.621
2010	8.491	17.830

Source: EUROSTAT

Article 13§3

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extend of any reforms.

There have been no significant changes in the situation described in our previous reports, which the Committee found to be in conformity with Article 13§3.

The following Laws were amended (minor amendments) during the reference period:

- (1) The Homes for the Elderly and people with Disabilities Laws, amended in 2011
- (2) Children's Law, amended in 2011
- (3) The Children (Day Care Centres) Orders of 1993 and 1994, amended in 2011
- (4) The Day Care Centres for Adults Law of 1997, amended in 2011.

The above mentioned Laws were amended in order to harmonise national legislation with the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market (2006/123/EU). The amended Laws facilitate clear criteria and procedures so as to better inform and provide services as quickly as possible to citizens according to the EU Directive 2006/123/EU.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework

There have been no significant changes in the situation described in our previous reports, which the Committee found to be in conformity with Article 13§3.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

N/A.

Response to the comments of ECSR in its Conclusions of 2009

- ***“The Committee asks whether social services for persons without resources are provided with sufficient means to give appropriate assistance as necessary”.***

Social Welfare Services provide services for persons in need (including persons without resources) free of charge. The Public Assistance and Services Law guarantees a dignified standard of living for all persons legally residing in Cyprus through monetary assistance (covering basic and special needs) and services.

The table below shows the annual expenditure for the Social Welfare Services, for the reference period:

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Expenditure €	€ 197.604.342	€ 262.048.779	€ 287.657.045	€ 340.543.078

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**Report on Article 14
THE RIGHT BENEFIT FROM SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES
(Paragraphs 1 and 2)**

of the Revised European Social Charter

(Reference Period: 01.01.2008 – 31.12.2011)

Article 14§1

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extend of any reforms.

There have been no significant changes in the situation described in our previous reports, which the Committee found to be in conformity with Article 14§1.

The following Laws were amended (minor amendments) during the reference period:

- (1) The Homes for the Elderly and people with Disabilities Laws, amended in 2011
- (2) Children's Law, amended in 2011
- (3) The Children (Day Care Centres) Orders of 1993 and 1994, amended in 2011
- (4) The Day Care Centres for Adults Law of 1997, amended in 2011.

The above mentioned Laws were amended in order to harmonise national legislation with the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market (2006/123/EU). The amended Laws facilitate clear criteria and procedures so as to better inform and provide services as quickly as possible to citizens according to the EU Directive 2006/123/EU.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

In 2009, the Social Welfare Services introduced a new scheme to subsidise Local Authorities for the provision of social care services at a local level.

For the period 2009 – 2011, the following subsidisations were provided:

YEAR	No. of Local Authorities	No. of programmes	Amount €
2009	22	25	€ 495.000
2010	23	30	€ 599.000
2011	23	28	€ 583.000

Source: Social Welfare Services

Through the Grants-In-Aid Scheme, the following state grants were provided to NGOs for the provision of social care services.

YEAR	No. of Programmes	Grant
2008	292	€ 8.063.823
2009	288	€ 8.269.900
2010	295	€ 8.351.433
2011	288	€ 8.373.100

Source: Social Welfare Services

At the beginning of 2012, Social Welfare Services launched the co-funded programme (European Union and the Cyprus Government) “Subsidisation of social care services within the framework of family and employment reconciliation”, which aims at the integration or re-integration of women with dependents (i.e. children, elderly parents, dependents with disabilities) through the subsidisation of social care services.

During the Programming Period 2007 – 2013, the Social Welfare Services launched the project “Work and Social Activation of People in Vulnerable Groups through the Development of Social Skills and Other Actions”. This project has been co-financed during the programming period 2010 - 2020. The project aims to provide vocational training to public assistance recipients and to reintegrate them in the labour market. For the purposes of this project, the vulnerable groups of the population that will be able to participate are: school drop-outs, people aged 15-24 or over 50 years of age, single parents, public assistance recipients, ex-prisoners, young people under the care of the Director of Social Welfare Services, families facing psycho-social difficulties, people with disabilities and previous substance abusers.

In addition, for people who are further away from the labour market facing a higher risk of exclusion, the Municipalities, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations are subsidised for the salary of a professional who works in high risk areas and uses advanced activation skills in order to trace possible participants who can be benefited from the above project by attending the seminars in social skills. This Project aims to combat poverty and social exclusion and reintegrate adults, particularly young people, back to community life and promote opportunities for a better life.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Expenditure on Public Assistance

YEAR	No. of cases	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure €
2008	21.194	33.567	€ 174.694.667
2009	24.096	38.000	€ 219.683.268
2010	26.075	43.457	€ 245.397.125
2011	24.778	39.588	€ 254.251.659

Source: Social Welfare Services

Geographical Distribution of Social Welfare Services

	Central Administration Office	District Welfare Services	Local Welfare Services Offices	Instituitons
Nicosia	1	1	4	17
Limassol	-	1	4	4
Larnaca	-	1	2	8
Paphos	-	1	1 (branch)	3
Ammochostos	-	1	-	1
Evrychou	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	1	6	11	33

Source: Social Welfare Services

The total number of the staff employed by the Social Welfare Services is about 900 persons, as follows:

- Social Welfare Services: 283
- Institutional Officers: 226
- Hourly Paid Staff and Secretarial Staff: 400

Response to the comments of ECSR in its Conclusions of 2009

- ***“The Committee asks for information on the required qualifications for social services staff”.***

The qualifications required for social service staff at the entry level, are as follows:

Social Service Officer

Bachelor degree from a recognised University level institution in one of the following fields:

- Social Work/ Social Welfare
- Sociology

Depending on the needs of Social Welfare Services at the administrative level, University Degrees may be required in the fields of:

- Business Administration
- Public Sector Administration
- Social Administration
- Law
- Social Policy
- Political Sciences
- Economics
- Criminology

Institutional Officers

A school leaving certificate or a post-secondary education degree in:

- Pre-school education
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Social Work

➤ ***“An assessment is currently being made of the activities carried out by service providers and the funding and staff at their disposal. The Committee asks to be informed of the results.”***

The Social Welfare Services implemented a research study on the status and other related issues of NGOs within the framework of the provision of Grants-In-Aid Scheme. The study assessed the type of programmes, the number of volunteers, the services provided, the amount of grant received, etc. The study concluded, among others, that the majority of NGOs involve between 10 to 50 volunteers; 42.1% of the NGOs provide services for the elderly, 16.1% provide services to persons with disabilities, etc.

Information regarding the funding of the programmes is provided under Question 3, under paragraph 2 of Article 14.

Article 14§2

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extend of any reforms.

There have been no significant changes in the situation described in our previous reports, which the Committee found to be in conformity with Article 14§2.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework

There have been no significant changes in the situation described in our previous reports, which the Committee found to be in conformity with Article 14§2.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

The Social Welfare Services provided the following financial support through the Grants-In-Aid Scheme:

YEAR	No. of Programmes	Grant
2008	292	€ 8.063.823
2009	288	€ 8.269.900

2010	295	€ 8.351.433
2011	288	€ 8.373.100

Source: Social Welfare Services

In 2009, the Social Welfare Services introduced a new scheme to subsidise Local Authorities for the provision of social care services at a local level. For the period 2009 – 2011, the following subsidisations were provided:

YEAR	No. of Local Authorities	No. of programmes	Amount €
2009	22	25	€ 495.000
2010	23	30	€ 599.000
2011	23	28	€ 583.000

Source: Social Welfare Services

Response to the comments of ECSR in its Conclusions of 2009

- ***“The Committee asks what measures have been taken to foster user participation in the running of social services.”***

NGOs and Volunteerism Community Councils in Cyprus provide services to people within the community at a local level. They are run by Boards which consist of persons from the local community. The philosophy of the establishment of such NGOs and Volunteerism Community Councils, is for the user to feel part of the NGO or the Volunteerism Community Council and when appropriate, to be involved in the operation of the services provided.