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REPORT ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF MOBILE EU CITIZENS: CYPRUS

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Report on Political Participation of Mobile EU Citizens

Cyprus

*Nicos Trimikliniotis**

Abstract:

In Cyprus, EU citizens enjoy rights to vote in and stand for European Parliament (EP) and local elections. The voting rights of non-resident Cypriot citizens are, however, more restrictive. Non-resident Cypriot citizens only have limited voting rights in the national legislative and EP elections held in Cyprus, but may stand as candidates in both. The political integration of non-citizens in Cyprus is limited with the exception of the Pontic Greek community which is politically active. Possible facilitators would be to automatise the registration procedure, provide more accessible information and encourage the political participation particularly of EU citizens.

Περίληψη:

Στην Κύπρο, οι πολίτες της ΕΕ απολαμβάνουν δικαιωμάτων του εκλέγειν εκλέγεσθαι για τις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου (ΕΚ) και των τοπικών εκλογών. Ωστόσο, τα δικαιώματα ψήφου των αλλοδαπών πολιτών της Κύπρου είναι πιο περιοριστικά. Οι Κύπριοι πολίτες που δεν είναι μόνιμοι κάτοικοι έχουν περιορισμένα δικαιώματα ψήφου μόνο στις εθνικές νομοθετικές εκλογές και στις εκλογές του ΕΚ που διεξάγονται στην Κύπρο, αλλά μπορούν να είναι υποψήφιοι και στους δύο. Η πολιτική ένταξη των μη πολιτών στην Κύπρο είναι περιορισμένη, με εξαίρεση την Ποντιακή Ελληνική κοινότητα που είναι πολιτικά ενεργή. Πιθανές διευκολύνσεις θα ήταν η αυτοματοποίηση της διαδικασίας καταχώρισης, η παροχή πιο προσιτών πληροφοριών και η ενθάρρυνση της πολιτικής συμμετοχής ιδιαίτερα των πολιτών της ΕΕ.

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1. Introduction

Non-resident Cypriot citizens only have limited voting rights in national legislative and European Parliament (EP) elections held in Cyprus (see Table 1), but may stand as candidates in both. Non-resident citizens who retain their right to vote, have to register once to be able to exercise their voting rights both in national and EP elections. This registration is valid for all subsequent elections. In-country voting is available and in countries with larger numbers of Cypriot resident, citizens may vote at diplomatic missions.

Non-citizen residents who are EU citizens enjoy some voting rights in Cyprus. EU citizens generally have the right to vote and stand as candidates in EP and local legislative elections held in Cyprus. EU citizens, however, do not have the right to vote, or stand as a candidate in local mayoral elections. Resident EU citizens have register to vote once for both EP and local elections. The registration is automatically renewed for subsequent elections as long as the voter's address of residence does not change.

Table 1. Conditions for electoral rights of non-resident citizens and non-citizen residents in Cyprus

Type of voter	Election type	Right Voting	Right Candidacy	Automatic registration	Remote voting
Non-resident citizens	National Legislative	NO ¹	YES	NO ²	YES ³
Non-resident citizens	European Parliament	NO ⁴	YES	NO ⁵	YES ⁶
Non-citizen residents	Local Legislative	YES ⁷	YES ⁸	NO ⁹	NA
Non-citizen residents	Local Mayoral	NO	NO	NO	NA
Non-citizen residents	European Parliament	YES ¹⁰	YES ¹¹	NO ¹²	NA

¹ Except for civil servants on state service and spouses and temporary absentees (by discretion).

² One-off active registration procedure is required.

³ In-country voting. Personal voting at diplomatic missions is possible in countries with larger numbers of non-resident citizens.

⁴ Except for civil servants on state service and spouses.

⁵ One-off active registration procedure is required.

⁶ In-country voting. Personal voting at diplomatic missions is possible in countries with larger numbers of non-resident citizens.

⁷ Only EU citizens residing in the municipality where the election is held.

⁸ Only EU citizens resident in Cyprus.

⁹ One-off active registration, automatically renewed for subsequent elections as long as the voter does not change his/her residence.

¹⁰ Only EU citizens.

¹¹ Only EU citizens.

¹² One-off active registration is required. The registration is automatically renewed for subsequent elections as long as the voter does not change his/her address of residence.

1.1. Demographic Characteristics of Non-citizen Residents and Non-resident Citizens

According to the latest census of 2011,¹³ the total population residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus, which does not include the Turkish-Cypriot population residing the Northern part of the country, was 856,960. Of that total, 577,574 or 67.4% resided in urban areas, and 279,386 or 32.6% in rural areas. The population was distributed in the various districts as follows:

- Nicosia: 334,120 (39.0%)
- Limassol: 239,842 (28.0%)
- Larnaca: 145,365 (17.0%)
- Paphos: 90,295 (10.5%)
- Ammochostos: 47,338 (5.5%)

Non-citizen residents

In 2015, the percentage of the foreign citizens within the total population was 20.3%: 14.6% resided urban areas and 5.7% in rural areas. There were 170,383 resident non-citizens, 76,606 men (45%) and 93,777 women (55%). 106,270 or 62.4% were EU citizens (EU27) and 64,113 (37.6%) were third-country nationals (TCNs). 196,966 were persons born abroad: 85,727 men and 111,239 women. Of them, 37,717 or 19.1% were Cypriot citizens. In response to the question if anyone had a permanent residence outside Cyprus beyond 12 months (excluding students), 240,405 persons replied positively. Of them, 79,787 had Cypriot citizenship, which is about 12% of all the residents of Cyprus (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2015, 22-23).

The main countries of citizenship were Greece with 29,321 nationals residing in Cyprus, the United Kingdom with 24,046, Romania with 23,706, and Bulgaria with 18,536 (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2015, 22-23). Most foreign nationals were recorded in the district of Nicosia with 34.1%, followed by the District of Limassol with 27.1%, Paphos with 17.4%, Larnaca with 16.2% and Famagusta with 5.2% (see Table 2 below). However, comparing the percentage of foreign citizens with the total population of each province, Paphos has the highest ratio of 33.6% non-citizens residents (36% in urban areas), followed by Limassol with 19.6%, Larnaca with 19.3%, Famagusta 18.8%, and Nicosia 17.8%.

¹³ On 1 October 2011. See Cyprus Statistical Services Census 2011.

Table 2. Percentage of Foreign Nationals Recorded by Sex, Province and Urban/Agricultural Area (1 October 2011)¹⁴

District and Urban/Rural Area	Percentage of Distribution Of Foreign Residents By Sex And District			Percentage of Foreign Nationals in the Population		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	100.00	44.96	55.04	20.27	18.74	21.73
District Nicosia	34.12	15.37	18.75	17.78	16.55	18.93
District Ammochostos	5.16	2.19	2.97	18.84	16.10	21.56
District Larnaca	16.22	7.43	8.79	19.30	18.05	20.50
District Limassol	27.09	11.84	15.25	19.62	17.75	21.35
District Paphos	17.41	8.13	9.28	33.60	31.80	35.37
Urban area	71.99	32.27	39.72	21.66	20.14	23.09
District Nicosia	27.98	12.43	15.55	19.92	18.48	21.25
District Larnaca	10.16	4.58	5.58	20.47	19.07	21.79
District Limassol	20.74	9.10	11.63	19.61	17.88	21.21
District Paphos	13.12	6.15	6.97	35.97	34.07	37.83
Rural Area	28.01	12.69	15.31	17.40	15.93	18.84
District Nicosia	6.14	2.94	3.20	11.93	11.46	12.39
District Ammochostos	5.16	2.19	2.97	18.84	16.10	21.56
District Larnaca	6.06	2.84	3.21	17.61	16.61	18.61
District Limassol	6.36	2.74	3.62	19.65	17.35	21.84
District Paphos	4.30	1.98	2.31	27.98	26.34	29.56

Of the total population recorded, 638,124 persons or 75.9% were born in Cyprus, and 196,966 or 23.4% were born abroad. Of those born abroad, 37,717 were Cypriots, representing 5.7% of the total population of Cypriot nationals, and 159,239 were foreign nationals, representing 93.5% of the population of foreign nationals in the territory controlled by the State of Cyprus (Census of 2011, 2015, p. 23).

The age structure of foreign nationals in Cyprus shows, according to the 2011 population census, that the vast majority of foreigners is between the working ages of 15-64, accounting for 82.6% of all foreigners, and 63% in the young working ages of 15-44 years. 11.4% are children under the age of 15, and 6% are persons aged 65 years and over.

¹⁴ This Table 3.1 from the Census 2011.

Table 3. Foreign Residents by Nationality and Sex¹⁵

Nationality		Actual numbers					
		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU citizens	Total	106,270	53,607	52,663	62.4	70.0	56.2
	Greece	29,321	16,347	12,974	17.2	21.3	13.8
	United Kingdom	24,046	11,543	12,503	14.1	15.1	13.3
	Romania	23,706	12,604	11,102	13.9	16.5	11.8
	Bulgaria	18,536	8,597	9,939	10.9	11.2	10.6
	Poland	2,859	1,293	1,566	1.7	1.7	1.7
	Germany	1,109	464	645	0.7	0.6	0.7
	Slovakia	946	436	510	0.6	0.6	0.5
	Latvia	916	282	634	0.5	0.4	0.7
	Lithuania	716	237	479	0.4	0.3	0.5
	France	559	278	281	0.3	0.4	0.3
	Hungary	513	186	327	0.3	0.2	0.3
	Sweden	419	176	243	0.2	0.2	0.3
	Ireland	400	164	236	0.2	0.2	0.3
	Italy	389	228	161	0.2	0.3	0.2
	Netherlands	378	191	187	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Czech Republic	241	81	160	0.1	0.1	0.2
	Estonia	217	54	163	0.1	0.1	0.2
	Finland	189	35	154	0.1	0.0	0.2
	Spain	153	69	84	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Portugal	153	93	60	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Austria	147	76	71	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Belgium	117	62	55	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Denmark	117	54	63	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Slovenia	64	33	31	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malta	52	23	29	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Luxembourg	7	1	6	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Third-Country Nationals	Total	64,113	22,999	41,114	37.6	30.0	43.8
	Philippines	9,413	397	9,016	5.5	0.5	9.6
	Russia	8,164	2,953	5,211	4.8	3.9	5.6
	Sri Lanka	7,269	1,151	6,118	4.3	1.5	6.5
	Vietnam	7,028	249	6,779	4.1	0.3	7.2
	Syria	3,054	2,355	699	1.8	3.1	0.7
	India	2,933	1,702	1,231	1.7	2.2	1.3
	Ukraine	2,742	614	2,128	1.6	0.8	2.3
	Georgia	2,093	975	1,118	1.2	1.3	1.2
	Bangladesh	1,854	1,737	117	1.1	2.3	0.1
	Moldavia	1,816	417	1,399	1.1	0.5	1.5
	Egypt	1,732	1,514	218	1.0	2.0	0.2
	Palestine	1,650	932	718	1.0	1.2	0.8
	Pakistan	1,544	1,478	66	0.9	1.9	0.1
	Iran	1,327	784	543	0.8	1.0	0.6
	Iraq	1,127	621	506	0.7	0.8	0.5
	China (incl. Hong Kong)	1,013	336	677	0.6	0.4	0.7
USA	900	438	462	0.5	0.6	0.5	
Other	8,454	4,346	4,108	0.5	0.6	0.5	
Total	170,383	76,606	93,777	100.0	100.0	100.0	

¹⁵ This is Table 4.1, Foreign Nationality by Nationality and Sex, 1.10.2011. Cyprus Statistical Services Census 2011

In 2011, female foreign nationals outnumbered male foreign nationals, with a ratio of 122 women for every 100 men. With regards to age, men outnumber women not only in the category of residents under the age of 15 (the same is true for the whole Cypriot population), but also for those aged 65 and over. The number of women, however, who fall between the ages 15-49 is much higher than the men in the same category, with a ratio of 131 women for every 100 men of the corresponding age group (Cyprus Statistical Services Census 2011).

Of the 170,383 foreign nationals registered, 58,130 or 34.1% resided in the Nicosia District, 8,787 or 5.2% in the Famagusta province, 27,639 or 16.2% in the province of Larnaca, 46,162 or 27.1% in Limassol, and 29,665 or 17.4% in Paphos. The overwhelming majority (72%) lived in urban areas and only 28% resided in rural areas, while the corresponding percentages for the whole population were 67.4% in urban areas and 32.6% in rural areas (Cyprus Statistical Services Census 2011).

The education level of resident non-citizens compared to that of Cypriot citizens is as follows: foreign nationals who have never attended school accounted for 0.6% of the overall foreign national population aged 15 years and over, while the equivalent rate for Cypriot citizens was 0.9%; 25% of foreign nationals had completed primary education as compared to 32.6% of Cypriots; 44.5% of foreign nationals and 35.2% of Cypriots had completed upper secondary education; 12.5% of foreign nationals and 9.9% of Cypriots had completed post-secondary, non-tertiary or higher-education, non-university education; and 17.5% of foreign nationals had a university education compared to 21.5% of Cypriots (Cyprus Statistical Services Census 2011).

The percentage of foreign nationals aged 15 years and over participating in the workforce was 73.6% (76.8% for men and 71.0% for women). These percentages are higher than those of the total population (67.9% for men and 54.8% for women), as a significant number of foreign nationals reside in Cyprus as temporary immigrants. Foreign workers amounted to 95,785, while unemployed foreign nationals amounted to 12,694 or 11.7% of the economically active population of foreign nationals. Among the economically inactive population of foreign nationals aged 15 and over, a significant proportion of 38.4% are retired, and 24.1% are students. By group of professions, 38.6% of foreign workers were unskilled labourers, followed by 18.6% working as service and sales staff, and 16.2% as skilled craftsmen, while only 7.6% are highly qualified persons (Cyprus Statistical Services Census 2011).

The migration patterns of EU nationals to and from Cyprus have been the subject of some expert reports.¹⁶ In addition, there are studies on employment¹⁷ and unemployment, youth work patterns and jobs, flexibility and precarity migration and discrimination at work, although the latter tend to focus more on third-country nationals rather than EU nationals.¹⁸ Some 80% of the population of Cyprus have Cypriot citizenship; the remaining 20% are foreign nationals from other EU Member States or third countries. According to data from 2014, the top four EU nationalities in Cyprus are Greek (17% of the total non-Cypriot population), British (14%), Romanian (14%) and Bulgarian (11%). In 2011, the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants, thus Cyprus became a net emigration country for the first time since the war in 1974 (see Appendix 4). In 2011, there were 80,081 EU nationals who were socially insured, which also represents the adult population eligible to

¹⁶ Network of Experts on free movement of workers, the national reports on free movement of workers in Cyprus from 2004 to 2007 were written by Andreas Kapardis and from 2008 to 2013 by Nicos Trimikliniotis.

¹⁷ Trimikliniotis 2013a and 2013b.

¹⁸ Trimikliniotis and Pantelides 2003; Trimikliniotis 1999; 2011a; 2011b; 2012b; 2013a ; Trimikliniotis and Demetriou 2015; Trimikliniotis and Souroulla, 2006; 2010.

register to vote in elections held in Cyprus.¹⁹ In addition, the population census of 2011, which provides the best data available on the population, stipulates that the total population of EU nationals was 106,561, with about 97,000 being above the age of 18. The difference between 97,000 and 80,081 indicates the number of EU nationals who were working in Cyprus without social insurance. It is highly likely that there is an additional number of EU citizens, who were working in Cyprus without social insurance.²⁰ The census also counted 90,403 third-country nationals; 82,000 of which were adults (who are, however, not eligible to vote in any elections in Cyprus).

Non-resident citizens

The actual numbers of Cypriot citizens living abroad is rather large. The question of permanent residence abroad was a matter investigated by the population census of 2011:²¹ 240,405 persons (28.6% of the total population) answered that they had a permanent residence outside Cyprus for more than 12 months (excluded here are periods of study abroad). Of these, 79,787 (or 33.2%) had Cypriot citizenship, representing 12% of Cypriot citizens.²² This means that 12% of the total population of Cypriot nationals registered in the Census had previously lived abroad for an extended period (excluded are periods of study abroad).

Given that Cyprus was British colony, many Cypriots have chosen to emigrate to the UK and other Commonwealth countries, including Australia, South Africa, Canada and the USA. According to the 2001 British census, the Cypriot-born population in the UK in 2001 was 77,156, but the actual size of the population is estimated to vary between 160,000 to 300,000.²³ The numbers depend on who is included in the Cypriot community. According to the Service for Overseas and Repatriated Cypriots of the Foreign Ministry,²⁴ the largest Cypriot community abroad is found in the UK, which is estimated to be as large as 270,000 permanently resident Cypriot citizens; 85,000 citizens live in Austria, 45,000 live in South Africa and in Greece respectively, 30,000 live in the US, 22,000 in Canada, 1,000 in New Zealand, while 8,000 Cypriot citizens live in other areas.

¹⁹ Available at the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance at <http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sid/sidv2.nsf/All/0BE99BE68229991CC2257EAF002323D2?OpenDocument>

²⁰ Estimated to be between 10,000-20,000.

²¹ Cyprus Statistical Service (2015) *ΑΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ ΠΛΗΘΥΣΜΟΥ 2011*, ΤΟΜΟΣ Ι , ΓΕΝΙΚΑ ΔΗΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΑ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΙΣΤΙΚΑ, ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΕΥΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΡΓΑΤΙΚΟ ΔΥΝΑΜΙΚΟ, Πληθυσμιακές Στατιστικές, Population statistics Vol 1, Series I, No of Report 21, p. 5, available at [http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/All/3D52D8F17C418CFAC2257EEA00346671/\\$file/POPULATION_CEN_SUS-2011_VolI-EL-261015.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/All/3D52D8F17C418CFAC2257EEA00346671/$file/POPULATION_CEN_SUS-2011_VolI-EL-261015.pdf?OpenElement). The Statistical Service defines as 'permanent residence abroad' as the part of the population who had their permanent residence abroad for more than 12 months, but not as students. Exceptions are those who were born abroad and came to a permanent establishment in Cyprus before they reach their first year of age; these people have been included in this category. Cyprus Statistical Service (2015, p.71)

²² Cyprus Statistical Service (2015) p. 5, available at [http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/All/3D52D8F17C418CFAC2257EEA00346671/\\$file/POPULATION_CEN_SUS-2011_VolI-EL-261015.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/All/3D52D8F17C418CFAC2257EEA00346671/$file/POPULATION_CEN_SUS-2011_VolI-EL-261015.pdf?OpenElement)

²³ See Teerlin (2014, 23) and Anhias (1992).

²⁴ See map at Appendix 11, available at the website of the Service at, <http://www.commissionertothepresidency.gov.cy/anthropos/anthropos.nsf/All/3FAAE5D75FC25F8AC225813F00273897?OpenDocument>

1.2. Brief summary of electoral rights

Local elections

The Law on Municipal and Community Elections (Nationals of Other Member States) 98(I)/2004 (hereinafter ‘MCE Law’)²⁵ was introduced to allow the right to vote of EU nationals in local elections. Art. 3 provides that all citizens of another EU Member State residing in the Republic shall have the right to vote in the municipal and communal elections in the Republic, who have reached the age of 18, and have had their habitual residence in the Republic for at least six months.²⁶ For the purposes of the MCE Law, the condition for six months’ residence in the Republic is also fulfilled if the EU national has had his or her habitual residence in any other Member State. Art. 4 MCE Law provides for the exercise of the right to vote. It stipulates that the voters shall exercise the right to vote in the municipality or in the community, or, where appropriate, on the special electoral register of which they are registered (Art. 4(1)). No one may exercise the right to vote more than once in the same election (Art. 4(2)). Art. 4(3) MCE Law provides that the exercise of the right to vote is compulsory for voters registered on the special electoral register of the municipality where they have their habitual residence.

There are, however, persons whose electoral rights are limited:

- Those deprived of the right to vote under Art. 6 MCE Law. The Law stipulates that the right to vote of a person who has been deprived of this right under the provisions of any law or by virtue of a court decision, either in the Republic or in the Member State of origin shall be denied.²⁷
- Persons who are allowed to vote but are not allowed to stand as candidates as provided under Art. 8 MCE Law.
- Persons who are ‘incapacitated’ on the basis of a mental incapacity and or imprisonment for offences related to electoral fraud and other related offences.

EP elections

The elections of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are regulated by Law 10(I)/2004 (hereinafter ‘MEP Law’).²⁸ Art. 4 of MEP Law provides that all citizens of the Republic, and all nationals of other EU Member States residing in the Republic, who have reached 18 years of age and who have their habitual residence in the Republic of Cyprus, have the right to vote in EP elections.²⁹ For the purposes of this Law, the condition for six months of habitual residence in the Republic prior to the date of election is met if the Cypriot citizen or EU national had his or her habitual residence of six months in any EU Member State, provided that on the day of registration on the special electoral register, he or she is habitually resident in Cyprus.

²⁵ Περί Δημοτικών και Κοινοτικών Εκλογών (Υπήκοοι Άλλων Κρατών Μελών) Νόμος του 2004, 98(I)/2004.

²⁶ As defined in paragraph (7) of article 101 of the Civil Registry Law.

²⁷ The text in Greek reads as follows: “Στέρξη του δικαιώματος του εκλέγειν. 6. Στερείται του δικαιώματος του εκλέγειν πρόσωπο, το οποίο έχει στερηθεί του δικαιώματος αυτού δυνάμει των διατάξεων οποιουδήποτε νόμου ή δυνάμει απόφασης δικαστηρίου είτε στη Δημοκρατία είτε στο κράτος μέλος καταγωγής του.”

²⁸ Περί της Εκλογής των Μελών του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου Νόμος του 2004 (10(I)/2004).

²⁹ As defined in paragraph (7) of article 101 of the Civil Registry Law.

All Cypriot nationals are referred to as ‘voters’ in the MEP Law,³⁰ and EU nationals are referred to as ‘Community voters’.³¹ The right to stand as ‘candidates’³² (Cypriot nationals) or ‘Community candidates’³³ (non-national EU citizens) for elections have those individuals, who (a) have not been deprived of their right to vote on the reference date, (b) have reached 25 years of age, (c) have not been convicted of a serious offence or moral obscenity, and have not been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate following a court decision as a result of any electoral offence, and (d) do not suffer from any mental disease rendering them incapable of fulfilling their duties as MEPs.

Voting had previously been compulsory, but without penalties being enforced in case of a failure to vote. Voting was made voluntary in the 2014 EP elections. The provisions making voting compulsory in presidential elections were also abolished in 2017.

Art. 5(1) MEP Law obliges Community voters to exercise the right to vote either in Cyprus or their Member State of origin. Art. 5(2) provides that no one can exercise the right to vote more than once in the same EP election; Art. 5(3) provides that any voter who has been included in the special electoral register for voters and any EU national voter who has expressed his or her willingness to exercise the right to vote in EP elections in the Republic and is entered on the special electoral register for Community voters, shall exercise the right to vote. Cypriot and Community voters who are not deprived of the right to vote are registered in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the MEP Law in the respective special electoral rolls.

The right to vote is denied to persons who have been deprived of this right by the provisions of any law or by a court decision. Moreover, the law provides that a Community voter shall be deprived of the right to vote if he or she has exercised that right in his or her Member State of origin by virtue of a decision of a court of civil or criminal jurisdiction.

Cypriot or Community voters may cast a ballot in EP elections only if the following provisions are observed:

- The voter can be identified by presenting the identity card issued to him/her by the Republic or his/her electoral register.
- The Community voter can be identified by presenting the document presented to the electoral roll at the offices of the District Administrations for inclusion in the special electoral roll for Community voters.
- He/she is on the special electoral roll for Cypriot voters or Community voters.
- He/she has not already voted in the same EP elections in the Republic.³⁴

³⁰ Art. 2 of MEP defines “voter” as every citizen of the Republic who has the right to vote in the elections to the European Parliament in the Republic under the provisions of the present Law. The Greek text reads as follows: «εκλογέας» σημαίνει κάθε πολίτη της Δημοκρατίας που έχει το δικαίωμα του εκλέγειν στις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στη Δημοκρατία, σύμφωνα με τις διατάξεις του παρόντος Νόμου.

³¹ Art. 2 of MEP defines “Community voter” as any national of another Member State who has the right to vote in elections to the European Parliament in the Republic in accordance with the provisions of this Law;

³² Art. 2 of MEP defines as “candidate” any citizen of the Republic who has the right to stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament in the Republic in accordance with the provisions of the present Law; The Greek text reads as follows: «εκλογέας» σημαίνει κάθε πολίτη της Δημοκρατίας που έχει το δικαίωμα του εκλέγειν στις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στη Δημοκρατία, σύμφωνα με τις διατάξεις του παρόντος Νόμου.

³³ Art. 2 of MEP defines as “Community candidate” any national of another Member State who has the right to stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament in the Republic in accordance with the provisions of this Law; «κοινοτικός εκλογέας» σημαίνει κάθε υπήκοο άλλου κράτους μέλους που έχει το δικαίωμα του εκλέγειν στις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στη Δημοκρατία, σύμφωνα με τις διατάξεις του παρόντος Νόμου. «κοινοτικός εκλόγιμος» σημαίνει κάθε υπήκοο άλλου κράτους μέλους που έχει το δικαίωμα του εκλεγείν στις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στη Δημοκρατία, σύμφωνα με τις διατάξεις του παρόντος Νόμου.

³⁴ Προϋποθέσεις ψηφοφορίας 11. Εκλογέας ή κοινοτικός εκλογέας επιτρέπεται να ψηφίσει σε εκλογές που διεξάγονται δυνάμει του παρόντος Νόμου μόνο αν διαπιστώνονται τα πιο κάτω:(α) (i) Η ταυτότητα του εκλογέα,

The designated authority³⁵ is obliged to duly inform EU nationals about the preconditions and details of the exercise of their right to vote in the EP elections held in Cyprus.³⁶

Non-resident citizens

Non-resident Cypriot citizens do not have an automatic right to vote in local government elections, as they need to be resident in Cyprus to be eligible to vote. However, Cypriot citizens who reside abroad are entitled to vote in EP elections if they are registered in the electoral register. The same conditions apply for national elections. In the past, citizens residing abroad who were entitled to vote had to return to Cyprus to cast their ballot. Some still do so today, ensuring that on the polling day they vote in their district of residence. However, since the EP elections of 2009, there is an alternative, as the Ministry of the Interior decided to operate a number of polling stations abroad. Cypriot citizens abroad may vote in embassies or consulates and other designated places. Eligible voters, who reside abroad or other persons who know that they will travel to another country, where a designated polling station abroad is in place, may cast their vote at such venues, provided that they have notified the authorities to ensure that they are included in the separate voters list of the specified polling station.

2. Non-national EU Citizens' Franchise in EP and Local Elections

2.1. Overview of Relevant Administrative Regulations

EP elections

The elections of MEPs are regulated by Law 10(I)/2004 or 'MEP Law'.³⁷ Please see section 1.2. above for a detailed overview of the relevant administrative regulations regarding non-national EU citizens franchise in EP elections.

Local elections

Since the introduction of an amendment known as the 'Special provision for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in Community elections by nationals of other Member States residing in the Republic' 98(I) of 2004, EU citizens are allowed to participate

διά της παρουσίασης του δελτίου ταυτότητας που του έχει εκδώσει η Δημοκρατία ή του εκλογικού του βιβλιαρίου, (ii) η ταυτότητα του κοινοτικού εκλογέα, διά της παρουσίασης του εγγράφου που παρουσίασε στην υπηρεσία εκλογικού καταλόγου στα γραφεία των Επαρχιακών Διοικήσεων για την εγγραφή του στον ειδικό εκλογικό κατάλογο για κοινοτικούς εκλογείς δυνάμει του άρθρου 9, και (β) ότι είναι εγγεγραμμένος στον ειδικό εκλογικό κατάλογο για εκλογείς ή κοινοτικούς εκλογείς, ανάλογα με την περίπτωση, και (γ) ότι δεν έχει ήδη ψηφίσει στις ίδιες εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στη Δημοκρατία.

³⁵ Art. 2(1) explicitly designates the Minister or any other person authorised by the Minister. In Greek: «αρμόδια αρχή» σημαίνει τον Υπουργό και οποιοδήποτε άλλο γενικά ή ειδικά προς τούτο εξουσιοδοτημένο από τον Υπουργό πρόσωπο.

³⁶ In Greek: "12. Η αρμόδια αρχή ενημερώνει εγκαίρως και με τον προσήκοντα τρόπο τους κοινοτικούς εκλογείς σχετικά με τις προϋποθέσεις και τις λεπτομέρειες άσκησης του δικαιώματος του εκλέγειν στις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στη Δημοκρατία."

³⁷ Περί της Εκλογής των Μελών του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου Νόμος του 2004 (10(I)/2004).

in local elections held in the communities in Cyprus.³⁸ Please see section 1.2. above for a detailed overview of the relevant administrative regulations regarding non-national EU citizens franchise in local elections.

2.2. Voter Registration

There are two separate electoral lists or rolls: one for local government elections (municipal and community council elections) and one for the EP elections.

EP elections

For EP elections, Community voters are required to specify whether they would prefer to vote in the EP elections held in Cyprus or whether, if their country of nationality allows it, to vote for the MEP candidates from their country of nationality. They are required to specify where they will exercise their right to vote in each election. Deadlines must be met to exercise the right to vote. In the 2009 EP elections, voters were required to complete an application form for registration in the Special Electoral List by 2 April 2009. The relevant form could be obtained from the Electoral Service of the Ministry of Interior and from the District Administration offices.

Cypriot and Community voters are entered into special electoral lists for the purposes of the MEP Law.³⁹ The Civil Registry and Migration Department are obliged to enter any EU citizen voter, who has the right to vote and wishes to exercise this right in Cyprus, in the ‘special electoral register for Community voters’. To be registered, the EU citizen must present to the electoral roll service at the offices of the district administrations an identity card of the Republic, a passport, or a identity card issued by an EU Member State, and must make a statement specifying:

- his/her nationality,
- that his/her right to vote has not been forfeited by the Member State of origin,
- where applicable, the last electoral roll in which he/she was registered in the Member State of origin,
- the address of his/her habitual residence in the Republic,
- the date from which he/she resides in the Republic or in another Member State,
- that he/she will exercise his/her right to vote only in the Republic.

This statement previously needed to be accompanied by the applicant’s identity card, issued by the Republic of Cyprus. The law was subsequently amended in 2014, allowing the voters to register also with a passport or a certificate of registration of Union Citizen and EU Citizen Family Member (Form MEU1).

Cypriot and Community voters who acquire the right to vote within 30 days from the date of acquiring the electoral qualifications are obliged to apply to their respective District Officer for the inclusion in the special electoral lists for voters or for community voters. Voters who have the right to vote in EP elections because their 18th birthday falls on the

³⁸ Ειδική διάταξη για την άσκηση του δικαιώματος του εκλέγειν και του εκλέγεσθαι κατά τις κοινοτικές εκλογές από τους υπηκόους άλλων κρατών- μελών που κατοικούν στη Δημοκρατία, 98(I) του 2004.

³⁹ Under MEP Law Art. 8(1). Also the relevant provisions of the Civil Registry Law shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the election, removal, correction and finalisation of the special electoral rolls for voters and Community electors.

reference day may submit their application for entry in the electoral roll beforehand but no later than one day before the specific electoral roll is drawn up.

A number of persons are deleted from the special electoral roll for voters and Community voters:

- Anyone deprived of the right to vote;⁴⁰
- Any person entered in the electoral rolls of another Member State for the purposes of the EP elections held there;
- Any person for whom any of the conditions for his/her inclusion in the special electoral rolls for national or EU national voters ceases to apply.

EU national voters may apply for their remission at least 15 days before the reference day. A national or EU national elector who is not included in the ‘special electoral lists for voters or Community electors’, or who has been removed from these lists, is not entitled to vote in EP elections.⁴¹

Local elections

For the local electoral register, non-national EU citizens need to register only once. Art. 8 MCE law provides the rules for enrolling on the special electoral list. Moreover, there are procedural conditions to be satisfied to exercise the right to vote. Voters have to provide the following documents to register for the special electoral list:⁴²

- a statement specifying:
 - his/her nationality,
 - the address of his/her habitual residence in the Republic,
 - the date from which he/she resides in the Republic or in another Member State;
- a valid passport or valid identity card issued by the Member State of the voter's nationality and/or a certificate of entry for a Union citizen who is the person concerned and/or an identity card of the Republic.

The law also stipulates that any person who deliberately provides false information in connection with the statement, is subject to an investigation conducted by the District Officer, or refuses to provide the required information, commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by a fine not exceeding €450, or both.

The MCE law provides for the deletion from the special electoral list (Art. 9) in the following circumstances:

⁴⁰ In accordance with Article 7 of this Law.

⁴¹ Διαγραφή από τους ειδικούς εκλογικούς καταλόγους για εκλογείς και κοινοτικούς εκλογείς 10.-(1) Από τους ειδικούς εκλογικούς καταλόγους για εκλογείς και κοινοτικούς εκλογείς διαγράφεται- (α) οποιοσδήποτε στερείται του δικαιώματος του εκλέγειν, σύμφωνα με το άρθρο 7 του παρόντος Νόμου· (β) οποιοσδήποτε, ενόσω είναι εγγεγραμμένος στους εκλογικούς καταλόγους που καταρτίζονται με βάση τον παρόντα Νόμο, εγγράφεται στους εκλογικούς καταλόγους άλλου κράτους μέλους, οι οποίοι καταρτίζονται από το άλλο κράτος μέλος για τους σκοπούς των εκλογών στο Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο που διεξάγονται στο κράτος αυτό· (γ) οποιοσδήποτε για τον οποίο παύει να ισχύει οποιαδήποτε από τις προϋποθέσεις εγγραφής του στους ειδικούς εκλογικούς καταλόγους, για εκλογείς ή κοινοτικούς εκλογείς, ανάλογα με την περίπτωση. (2) Οι κοινοτικοί εκλογείς δύνανται να υποβάλουν αίτηση για διαγραφή τους, τουλάχιστον δεκαπέντε ημέρες πριν την ημέρα αναφοράς. (3) Εκλογέας ή κοινοτικός εκλογέας που δεν είναι εγγεγραμμένος στους ειδικούς εκλογικούς καταλόγους για εκλογείς ή κοινοτικούς εκλογείς, ανάλογα με την περίπτωση, ή που έχει διαγραφεί από τους εν λόγω καταλόγους, δε δικαιούται να ψηφίσει δυνάμει του παρόντος Νόμου.

⁴² As per art. 8(2).

- persons who are deprived of the right to vote under the MCE law, or any other law, or on the basis of a court decision in Cyprus or in the country of origin (Art. 6 MCE Law);⁴³
- persons who apply for their deletion at least 15 days before the reference day;
- if any of the conditions stated in the declaration made by the voter pursuant to Art. 8(2) cease to be valid.⁴⁴

The Law on Communities of 1999 (86(I)/1999),⁴⁵ herein referred to as ‘CL Law’, regulates the elections of community officers in the rural areas, administratively called ‘communities’ (κοινότητες): This law regulates the election of members of the local community. Art. 3(1) provides that every citizen of the Republic or EU national is a member of the community within the boundaries of which he or she is permanently resident. The CL Law stipulates that a foreign national who becomes a citizen of the Republic shall, from the date of acquiring it, be a member of the community in which s/he has his/her permanent residence.⁴⁶ Membership of the local community is lost upon the acquisition of membership in another municipality or local community.⁴⁷ The right to vote in such elections is regulated by Art. 14 which provides that the right to vote belongs to all members of the community who:

- have reached the age of 18; and
- are registered in the electoral register of the community.

The law makes exercise of the right to vote in local government elections compulsory,⁴⁸ but the criminal provisions have been inactive. However, the EU Portal providing information on municipal elections abroad states that if one registers to vote for municipal elections in Cyprus, there is fine if one fails to vote:

“Foreign EU citizens *need to register* to vote in municipal elections.

To be registered on the electoral roll you must be over 18 years old and a citizen of an EU country.

If you are on the electoral roll, you *must vote*. Voting is compulsory for everybody on the electoral roll, and if you don't vote, you could incur fines of up to €340.”⁴⁹

The electoral list for the election of the members of the community councils is drawn up and revised in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Registration and Electoral List Law after it has been completed by the Central Election Service.⁵⁰ Everyone who has the right to vote, but is not registered in the electoral register pursuant to the Electoral

⁴³ The Greek text reads: Στέρξη του δικαιώματος του εκλέγειν. 6. Στερείται του δικαιώματος του εκλέγειν πρόσωπο, το οποίο έχει στερηθεί του δικαιώματος αυτού δυνάμει των διατάξεων οποιουδήποτε νόμου ή δυνάμει απόφασης δικαστηρίου είτε στη Δημοκρατία είτε στο κράτος μέλος καταγωγής του.

⁴⁴ The statement contains information relating to nationality; address of habitual residence in the Republic; the date from which he resides in the Republic or in another Member State; a valid passport or valid identity card issued by the Member State of the voter's nationality and / or a certificate of entry for a Union citizen who is the person concerned and / or an identity card of the Republic.

⁴⁵ Ο περί Κοινοτήτων Νόμος του 1999 (86(I)/1999).

⁴⁶ Law on Communities, Art. 3(5). The Greek text reads as follows: αλλοδαπός που αποκτά την ιδιότητα πολίτη της Δημοκρατίας γίνεται, από την ημερομηνία που την αποκτά, μέλος της κοινότητας στην οποία έχει τη μόνιμη διαμονή του.

⁴⁷ Law on Communities, Art. 3(6).

⁴⁸ Law on Communities, Art. 14 (3).

⁴⁹ Emphasis in the original website, see “Municipal elections”, at Your Europe, https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/elections-abroad/municipal-elections/cyprus/index_en.htm

⁵⁰ Law on Communities, Art.15.

Registration and Electoral List Law is obliged to register on the electoral list subject to the deadlines provided. The following persons are eligible to become a member of the council:

- who have the right to vote and whose name is registered in the electoral roll
- who have reached the age of 21 on the day when submit their candidature
- who are not subject to any of the following eligibility impediments:⁵¹
 - mentally incompetent persons
 - he/she is bankrupt and has not been re-established.
 - he/she has been convicted during the last ten years prior to the election for a morally abusive offence or has been denied the right to vote after a decision by a competent court of any electoral offence.

A mayor or a member of the council may not be a person who:

- holds a church office,
- holds a post in the public or educational service of the Republic, in the police force, the army of the Republic and a public law organisation,
- holds the post of secretary, official or worker in the Council,
- holds the office of Minister, Member of the House of Representatives, mayor, Council Member or member of another council,
- after being elected, he or she has been convicted of an offence of dishonesty or moral disgrace, or has been deprived of the right to vote, following a decision by a competent court for the commission of any electoral offense,
- he/she has any contractual relationship with the Council for the performance of works or the provision of services on a fee,
- has been deleted from the electoral roll,
- is non-recovered bankrupt.

2.3. Information during Election Campaigns:

Information is available for EP election in official websites and posted in different media outlets. There are information campaigns whenever there are elections. Practical information about the elections, who is entitled to register and the last dates for registration, who can vote, the electoral centres for voting etc. is available in official Government websites, TV broadcasting and radio, social media. Also media time is allocated for candidates to present their campaigns. Moreover, there are paid TV, radio, newspaper, social media and road billboards advertisements for parties and candidates to provide information.

EP elections

Public authorities provide general information and distribute it in the media, such as the broadcasting, newspapers and on the Ministry websites.

There are a few NGOs which provide information to non-national EU citizens. The community organisations detailed below which cater to the Pontic Greeks, the networks and now defunct newspapers for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens and the Pegia ‘Coalition of Independents’ are the few which have provided some information regarding the EP elections.

⁵¹ Law on Communities, Art. 16.

Local elections

The relevant information on municipal elections is available online mostly only in Greek.⁵² There was general information in English available online about the municipal elections held in December 2016 in the Republic for the members of the Municipal/Community Councils.⁵³

2.4. Political Parties and Candidacy Rights*EP elections*

There were no candidates in the last EP elections held in 2014 who are mobile EU citizens. In the past, political parties have not been very active in targeting mobile EU citizens. However, it is probable that political parties will target EU citizens for the next EP elections that will be held in 2019, as there are more EU mobile citizens who are politically active in local government and may stand as candidates or be actively involved in the elections.

As for the right to stand as a candidate in EP elections, Art. 13 MEP law provides for Cypriot citizens and nationals of other EU Member States who, on the reference day, fulfill the conditions set out in Art. 6, have the right to stand for EP elections held in the Republic, and -

- have reached the age of 21;
- have not been convicted of an offence of dishonesty or moral disgrace, or have not been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate by court order on the basis of any electoral offense;
- are not suffering from a mental illness which renders them incapable of performing their duties as MEPs.⁵⁴

Local elections

In terms of the party constitution, the organisational frame, the actual *modus operandi* and the habitus of the party cadres, many migrant workers are in Cyprus as temporary guest workers, *Gastarbeiter*, and therefore not the focus of political parties. However, when it comes to EU nationals, things are gradually changing as the more settled EU nationals are attractive as voters. Political parties can register any EU national as their candidate according to the constitution of the particular party. There are different procedures parties follow to approve their candidates for the elections: some are simply approved by the leading organs of the party or the leader, others adopt an election or selection approved by congress and/or the leading organ of the party.

The two largest parties, DISY and AKEL, have had a number of EU national candidates, three of whom were elected in the 2016 municipal elections, whilst another

⁵² Entitled in Greek “Εκλογές Αρχών Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης”,

<http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/96F70AC26CEDA4DDC2257A790024C558?OpenDocument>

⁵³ [http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/96F70AC26CEDA4DDC2257A790024C558/\\$file/Local%20\(Municipal-Community\)%20Elections.pdf](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/96F70AC26CEDA4DDC2257A790024C558/$file/Local%20(Municipal-Community)%20Elections.pdf).

⁵⁴ Art 13 in Greek: Δικαίωμα του εκλέγεσθαι στις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στη Δημοκρατία, έχουν οι πολίτες της Δημοκρατίας και οι υπήκοοι άλλων κρατών μελών, οι οποίοι κατά την ημέρα αναφοράς πληρούν τις προϋποθέσεις του άρθρου 6 του παρόντος Νόμου και -(α) έχουν συμπληρώσει το εικοστό πρώτο έτος της ηλικίας τους-(β) δεν έχουν καταδικαστεί για αδίκημα ατιμωτικό ή ηθικής αισχροσύνης ή δεν έχουν στερηθεί του δικαιώματος του εκλέγεσθαι κατόπιν απόφασης δικαστηρίου λόγω οποιουδήποτε εκλογικού αδικήματος-(γ) δεν πάσχουν από διανοητική νόσο, η οποία τους καθιστά ανίκανους να ασκήσουν τα καθήκοντά τους ως μέλη του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου.”

candidate was elected by a small break-away party of the governing right-wing party, and two others were elected in independent coalitions:

- The governing DISY party (right-wing/Conservative party) had two elected candidates who are Greek nationals of Pontic origin, Alkis Anastasiades in Larnaca⁵⁵ and Nina Karakidou in Paphos.⁵⁶
- The left-wing opposition party, AKEL, had four non-national candidates: one Pontic Greek candidate and two Armenians in Paphos; and Monica Meleki Vasileva, a Cypriot-Bulgarian dual national, who was elected twice in Larnaca.⁵⁷
- Valerios Daniilides a Greek national (of Greek Pontic extraction), was elected with *Allilengii*, a break-away party from DISY in Nicosia.
- ‘Anexartiti Dimotes Ayiou Dometiou’ (Independent Municipal Citizens of Ayios Dometios) is a local coalition of Pontic Greeks which elected Nicolaos Kalailtzis, a Greek national.
- Linda Leblanc, Canadian-Cypriot dual national,⁵⁸ was elected three times by the Pegia ‘Coalition of Independents’ supported by the Green party.

2.5. Turnout

After Cyprus joining the EU in 2004, the first local government elections were held in 2006. This study is concerned with the following elections when there was a meaningful participation by EU nationals, i.e. the 2011 and 2016 local elections. As for the EP elections, the first ones after Cyprus’ accession to the EU were held in 2005. This report is mainly concerned with the EP elections held in 2014. For the statistics on voter registration in the 2009 EP elections, please see Appendix 9.

EP elections

In 2014, there were 70,107 EU nationals who were socially insured, which also make up the adult population eligible to register to vote in Cyprus.⁵⁹ It is highly likely there is an additional number of EU citizens, who were working in Cyprus without social insurance, estimated to be between 10,000 and 20,000 EU citizens. However, only 7,712 EU citizens were registered to vote in the 2014 EP elections. In the 2009 EP elections, there were 6,458 EU citizens registered to vote.

⁵⁵ He is a psychologist with dual nationality, Cypriot and Greek nationality. He was born in Greece and his family immigrated into Cyprus when he was one. He is an active member of Disy and the Greek party branch in Cyprus, ‘Nea Dimokratia’. He is president of a local Pontic association ‘Panayia Soumela’ and the world Pontic association. (Interview with the author)

⁵⁶ She is a Greek national whose family migrated to Cyprus when she was 15. She is a practicing lawyer who studied in Greece and returned to practice in Paphos. She was the only female candidate of Disy, the only woman on the municipal council and the youngest candidate. (Interview with the author)

⁵⁷ She is a well-known actress. She is a Cypriot national (by marriage) and a Bulgarian national. (Interview with the author)

⁵⁸ She is a Canadian and a naturalised Cypriot. She has been an Outreach Trainer since 2000, and a member of the Professional Division since 1997.

⁵⁹ Available at the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance at <http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sid/sidv2.nsf/All/0BE99BE68229991CC2257EAF002323D2?OpenDocument>

Table 4. Total numbers of voters in EP elections 2004-2014

	Registered	Voted	Absentee	Valid	Invalid	Blank
2004	483,311	350,387 (72.50%)	132,924 (27.50%)	334,268 (95.40%)	8,747 (2.50%)	7,372 (2.10%)
2009	526,060	312,479 (59.40%)	213,581 (40.60%)	306,325 (98.03%)	4,226 (1.35%)	1,928 (0.62%)
2014	606,916	266,891 (43.97%)	340,025 (56.03%)	258,914 (97.01%)	5,102 (1.91%)	2,875 (1.08%)

Table 5. EP elections in 2014: Number of persons registered to vote⁶⁰

District	Greek-Cypriots ⁶¹	Turkish-Cypriots	EU nationals	Total
Nicosia	213,169	106	1,773	215,048
Famagusta	30,332	5	574	30,911
Larnaca	91,403	104	1,067	92,574
Limassol	150,640	301	1,184	152,125
Paphos	48,141	168	3,114	51,423
Abroad	6,191	7	-	6,198
Special voting centres for Turkish-Cypriots	-	58,637	-	58,637
Total	539,876	59,328	7,712	606,919

Local elections

A small number of EU citizens are registered to vote in municipal and local community elections: they represent only a small fraction of those who are eligible to vote (as illustrated in Table 8). As for their representation in the municipal and community councils, it is virtually non-existent. Out of a total of 486 municipal councillors in the 30 municipal councils in the area under the control of the Republic,⁶² there were only 20 EU national candidates. Only three of these were elected.⁶³ Out of over 2,000 community councillors in the 350 local communities in the area under the control of the Republic, there were 35 EU national candidates. Only seven of these were elected: in village communities of Vasa, Vouni, Trachoni, Finikaria, Agios Tichonas (Limassol); Alethriko (Larnaca) and Tala (Paphos). The total number of candidates with a migrant background is very small. (For statistics on 2011 local elections, please see Appendix 10).

Table 6. EU Nationals Registered to Vote in Municipal Elections in 2011 and 2016 by Nationality⁶⁴

Member State	2011	2016
Austria	24	27
Belgium	19	25
Bulgaria	1,483	2,497
France	30	35

⁶⁰ Information provided by the Election Registrar's Office.

⁶¹ Note, in the total number of Greek-Cypriot voters are included 301 persons who are Greek-Cypriot residing in the Northern part of Cyprus occupied by Turkey

⁶² There are also nine municipalities in the occupied territories with 92 councillors, who still hold elections primarily for symbolic reason.

⁶³ They are dual citizens with another EU or third-country nationality, but have either become naturalised Cypriot citizens or are married to Cypriots which entitle them to acquire citizenship (Trimikliniotis 2015).

⁶⁴ Information provided by the Election Registrar's Office.

Germany	145	161
Denmark	14	16
Greece	4,388	6,048
Estonia	4	7
Ireland	56	62
Spain	8	9
Italy	32	37
Latvia	32	48
Lithuania	23	43
Luxemburg	1	1
Malta	1	2
UK	4,639	5,320
Netherlands	56	68
Hungary	26	49
Poland	114	174
Portugal	1	5
Romania	1,093	1,912
Slovakia	55	88
Slovenia	3	4
Sweden	47	62
Czech Republic	14	15
Finland	24	23
Croatia	0	2
Total	12,333	16,740

Table 7. Non-national EU Citizens Candidates and Elected Candidates in Municipal and Community Elections (2016)

Member State	Municipal Elections		Community Elections	
	Candidates	Elected	Candidates	Elected
Belgium	1	-	-	-
Bulgaria	3	-	-	-
Germany	2	-	1	-
Denmark	-	-	1	-
Greece	11	3	9	4
UK	2	-	22	2
Poland	-	-	1	1
Sweden	1	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	1	-
Total	20	3	35	7

Table 8. EU Nationals Registered to Vote in the 2016 Municipal Elections⁶⁵

Member State	Total
Austria	27
Belgium	25
Bulgaria	2,497
France	35
Germany	161
Denmark	16
Greece	6,048
Estonia	7
Ireland	62
Spain	9
Italy	37
Latvia	48
Lithuania	43
Luxemburg	1
Malta	2
UK	5,320
Netherlands	68
Hungary	49
Poland	174
Portugal	5
Romania	1,912
Slovakia	88
Slovenia	4
Sweden	62
Czech Republic	15
Finland	23
Croatia	2
Total	16,740

There have been few political debates or media reports on non-national voters, their participation in elections and their potential impact on electoral outcomes in Cyprus. Moreover, no studies have been conducted specifically on the political participation of non-national EU voters.⁶⁶ However, there has been some debate in the local press of Paphos about the participation and importance of the Pontic Greek vote in the Paphos mayoral and local elections.⁶⁷ There has been some negative media attention about certain Cypriot employers and ‘patrons’ who registered EU nationals to vote, allegedly not because they were interested in protecting the EU nationals’ “democratic right to vote”, but merely wanted to increase their own chances of getting elected.⁶⁸ In the same article, the author referred to the

⁶⁵ Information provided by the Election Registrar’s Office.

⁶⁶ The studies that exist are generally about EU nationals and third-country nationals’ participation, see Trimikliniotis and Demetriou 2015; 2011a; Trimikliniotis 2016; 2013a; 2013b.

⁶⁷ Interview with a candidate in Paphos.

⁶⁸ Nicolas Zannetos (2011) “Οι κοινοτικοί αποφασίζουν για την τοπική αυτοδιοίκηση”, Signalive, 19.12.2011. <http://www.signalive.com/blog/zannetosn/2011/12/96/oi-koinotikoi-apofasizoun-gia-tin-topiki-aftodioikisi>

registration of 127 EU nationals in the village of Athienou who were ready to simply “execute the orders of their masters”.⁶⁹

There is also little national coverage regarding the participation of EU nationals in elections. One of the alleged campaigning issues is the systematic failure to properly inform voters in English.⁷⁰ A successful, organised group is the Pegia ‘Coalition of Independents’, which primarily represents EU and other foreign nationals in the village of Pegia in district of Paphos and has managed to elect one of the leaders of the group, Linda Leblanc, three times. The group has persistently campaigned to promote greater participation of EU nationals, urging “EU expats to register to vote for municipal elections”. In 2006, the group complained that many EU nationals were excluded from participating in the elections and the political process at large, as they were not properly informed in English that they had to register to vote. Despite this, Leblanc was elected as a municipal councillor as the group received 10% of the votes. The same candidate has been re-elected twice since 2006, in the 2011 and the 2016 elections.⁷¹

In general, media attention on EU nationals cannot escape from the broader questions of the employment and social position of the vast majority of these persons who are seen primarily as migrant workers. Hence, the issue of the political participation of EU citizen is often viewed through the lens of the relationship between unemployment and the increase in the numbers of migrant workers, which is regularly stressed in the media. This has been highlighted in the current economic crisis given the rising unemployment numbers.

3. Non-resident Citizens’ Franchise in National and EP Elections when Residing in other EU Member States

3.1. Overview of relevant administrative regulations

The Data Archives Law of 2002 (Law 141(I)/2002) with some sectoral electoral legislation regulate the criteria in relation to the right to vote, the registration in the electoral registry as well as the relevant details pertaining to the maintenance and updating of the electoral registry. Eligibility for the right to vote depends on citizenship status, age, and habitual residence in Cyprus for a period of at least six months immediately before the date of the acquisition of electoral rights. To be eligible to stand in local elections, candidates must be resident in the municipality or local community.

As regards to national presidential, parliamentary, and EP elections, electoral or polling stations abroad operate when an application is made to the Ministry of Interior by at least 30 persons of each electoral district or, in the case of presidential elections, by at least 50 persons irrespective of their electoral district. The deadline for such applications is three months prior to the relevant elections. The decision to set up polling stations abroad is discretionary.

⁶⁹ The Greek text reads: “Την ίδια ώρα δεκάδες δημότες αγανάκτησαν και τήρησαν αποχή, ενώ 127 και πλέον κοινοτικοί εκτελούσαν τις εντολές των «μαστόρων» τους. »

⁷⁰ Interview with Linda Leblanc 11.6.2018.

⁷¹ “EU expats in Cyprus can vote in European and municipal elections”, *The Cyprus Mail*, 19 September 2016, <http://www.pegeicoalition.org/readpres.asp?id=175>, and <http://cyprus-mail.com/2016/09/19/eu-expats-urged-register-vote-municipal-elections/?hlst=register+to+vote>

3.2. Voter Registration

Registration for non-resident citizens is not automatic. A specific registration is required for the special electoral list. Art. 5 of the Law 98(I)/2004 provides that voters shall be entered in the special electoral list of the municipality where they have their habitual residence.

For registration in the Permanent Electoral List, which grants the right to participate in all national elections, and the acquisition of an voting booklet, the applicant must be a Cypriot citizen, have reached the age of 18 and be a resident of Cyprus last six months prior to the submission of the application.

3.3. Turnout

For EP elections, the statistics of Cypriot citizens living abroad who are registered and can vote in other EU Member States are the following: in 2009, there were 9,628 registered to vote from abroad (Appendix 9, Table 2); and in 2014, there were 6,198 (Appendix 9, Table 3).⁷² There were 11,683 voters who were entitled to exercise their right to vote at 38 polling stations located abroad for the presidential election of 2018.⁷³ most of the voters were registered for the polling stations in Athens (3,003), followed by the polling stations at the UNHCR building in London with 1,589 voters, and Thessaloniki with 1,479.⁷⁴

The author has not found evidence of any political debates or media reports on the participation of non-resident voters in EP and national elections, and their potential impact on electoral outcomes.

4. Conclusion

Research on civic participation and linkages with political processes, structures and organisations of migrants, including EU nationals illustrates the marginal role of the vast majority of migrants in Cypriot politics and elections held in Cyprus.⁷⁵ The majority of EU national migrants who occupy positions as workers, must be distinguished from privileged or ‘elite’ migrants (Trimikliniotis 2013a). However, there are important transformations taking place with regards to the integration, settlement, and civic and political participation of EU nationals, which are outlined below.

The low participation in the political and electoral processes of mobile EU nationals reflects their marginal position, which, by and large, is the product of the policies in place in Cyprus: since its accession to the EU, the Republic of Cyprus has pursued the policy of gradually replacing third-country nationals with EU nationals in low-skilled jobs. Therefore, despite their legal status as mobile workers with EU citizenship and voting rights, which places them in a better position than third-country nationals, the vast majority of EU nationals

⁷² See Charalambidou, 2013.

⁷³ Central Election services (2017) *ΠΡΟΕΔΡΙΚΕΣ ΕΚΛΟΓΕΣ 2018 – ΕΚΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΚΕΝΤΡΑ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΥ*, <http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/69331391A7845E8CC22581FC001EDBF8?OpenDocument>

⁷⁴ Politis (2018) “Στους 11,683 οι Κύπριοι του εξωτερικού που έχουν δικαίωμα ψήφου”, *Politis*, 11.1.2018, <http://politis.com.cy/article/stous-11683-i-kiprii-tou-exoterikou-pou-echoun-dikeoma-psifou>

⁷⁵ See Trimikliniotis 2016; Charalambous and Christophorou 2016; Trimikliniotis & Demetriou 2012.

occupy low-status and low-pay jobs in many sectors where unionisation is not strong. Even when Cyprus was on course to accede to the EU, the Second ECRI Report on Cyprus in 2001⁷⁶ noted the ‘vulnerable position’ of migrants.⁷⁷ Despite the significant innovations, improvements to the institutional and legal framework, as pointed out in the Third and Fourth ECRI Reports, EU nationals continue to be in a vulnerable position.⁷⁸ Studies show that we find categories of ‘vulnerable groups’ to include EU citizen workers, Turkish-Cypriots, and Roma as regards their employment situation. The vast majority of EU nationals are employed in low-skill and low-pay jobs; for instance, EU nationals employed in the hotel industry⁷⁹ face widespread discrimination.⁸⁰ There is widespread discrimination and inequality in the labour market within the different sectors (Demetriou, 2017), in which migrants from EU Member States and third countries and poor Cypriots are employed in. Low-skill and low-pay migrant workers have little, if any opportunity to progress or advance on the employment ladder in terms of promotion or career move.⁸¹ EU nationals, who are settled, however, particularly those who have professional positions and political ambitions are becoming more involved in politics.

Nevertheless, there are also new factors which adversely affect the integration and political participation of EU nationals. The issue of migration and EU mobility is becoming an increasingly important political issue in party politics and elections. Right-wing and anti-immigration parties, as well as mainstream parties often force the ‘immigration issue’ on the election agenda. In Cyprus, the far-right party ELAM, which is a subsidiary of the neo-Nazi ‘Golden Dawn’ (*Χρυσή Αυγή*), has anti-immigration as a key topic of its campaign programme.

There is an important gender dimension that also has to be considered here. Even though the majority of migrants in Cyprus are women, in the 2014 EP elections, for example, the number of men registered to vote was larger compared to the number of women (4,241 and 3,471 respectively). It must be noted that an important transformation in Cyprus bears direct effects on the status of female migrants. This is due to the increasing number of Cypriot women participating in the workforce, “along with growing urbanisation and the continuation of a gendered division of labour in the Cypriot economy and within the home”.⁸² Cyprus is a typical country in Southern Europe, particularly with respect to the role of women as the sole providers of domestic work and childcare.⁸³ The situation of migrant women in different sectors of the Cypriot economy must be addressed; however, as various studies indicate that the matter has been of low priority in the Cypriot policy-making.⁸⁴

There are many obstacles to the right to vote, to be elected and to participate in the electoral and political processes in Cyprus especially affecting EU nationals whose social

⁷⁶ ECRI (2001, 2006, 2011, 2016)

⁷⁷ From the 1990s when the Republic of Cyprus opened its door to migrant labour to cover labour shortages in many low-skilled jobs, causing a so-called “racialisation of migrant workers” (Trimikliniotis 1999; Trimikliniotis and Demetriou, 2008; 2011)

⁷⁸ ECRI (2006; 2011; 2016).

⁷⁹ See Cyprus Equality Body 2011 and 2015.

⁸⁰ See Trimikliniotis 2013a, 2013b, 2016; Trimikliniotis and Demetriou 2015.

⁸¹ See Trimikliniotis, 2011; 2013a; 2013b; Trimikliniotis et al 2016.

⁸² See Anthias and Lazarides, 2000, p. 29; Trimikliniotis and Souroulla 2011.

⁸³ Nonetheless, the traditional pattern is being transformed and altered in dramatic ways and to a degree unknown to previous generations. Therefore, the increasing participation of native women in the labour market and their high level of tertiary education attainment create conditions favouring employment of foreign women to undertake the more traditional roles bounded to the private sphere. Thus, in part as a result of social modernisation at the level of Cypriot society, working migrant women begin to fill in a newly emergent gap created as more and more women become active in formal employment. Therefore, the migrant women take up jobs related to the informal private sphere of household chores and care provided to children and elderly

⁸⁴ See Trimikliniotis and Souroulla 2011; Trimikliniotis 2012.

position is characterised by marginality, vulnerability, and subalternity and processes of exclusion, racialisation, and ‘otherisation’, etc. It is essential to consider the various categories of foreign residents, both those who are recognised and those lesser known, where differentiation, otherisation, discrimination is known to occur: ethnicity/race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, but also social class, the socio-economic and cultural position in the political system and process are such categories. At the same time, it is important to avoid any rigid, fixed and ossifying methods of categorising persons into ‘boxes’ of vulnerability, exclusion and marginalisation. This not only distorts the accurate depiction and analysis of the actual social dynamics, but may inadvertently contribute to maintaining fixed social categories that deny agency, stifle debates and openings offered of the social and political struggles. Studies on discrimination in Cyprus demonstrate that despite some institutional innovation and progress made since acceding to the EU in 2004, discrimination in different forms is still widespread in Cyprus.

There is very little civic and political participation of migrants, both of EU nationals and third-country nationals, given the role of subaltern migrants in society. There are a number of barriers that may explain why the vast majority of third-country nationals is denied access to electoral rights altogether, and why there is such limited civic and political participation of EU nationals. Historically, in the late 1980s, in response to the labour shortages, a system of migrant labour based on a sharp distinction between two classes of migrants was introduced: (a) elite migrants, who would invest, and/or bring their entrepreneurship, know-how, and networks, whose presence would be stable and permanent; and (b) temporary migrant workers, who would perform the jobs that Cypriots were not interested in doing.

Furthermore, we need to understand the specific historico-political context of Cyprus and the protracted ‘ethnic conflict’ or ‘national problem’ that keeps this micro-state divided, coupled with the fact that immigration is a rather recent phenomenon stretching back 25 years, the political divide over the policies towards migrants and immigration does not necessarily correspond to other European contexts. This generates what can be referred to as a very specific ‘migration state of exception’, which denies the potential for opening up matters in public discourses: Cyprus is exceptional and in a permanent ‘state of emergency’ (Constantinou, 2008), given that one third of the country is occupied and the population issue is in contestation with Turkey. Hence, the logic of being reluctant to grant rights to other nationals is that this may affect the negotiations with Turkey.

A major problem in how migrants fit in the political system as a whole, as well as how they fit in each political party of Cyprus is that the vast majority of migrants, the poorer migrants, who are labourers, are absent from the political scene. This does not necessarily apply to elite migrants, who are part of what one scholar refers to as ‘the invisible elites’ (Panayiotou, 2016). Cypriot authorities did not intend for the vast majority of migrant workers to acquire a permanent right of residence, or a right to vote and stand for elections. From the outset, the policy that allowed migrant workers into Cyprus in 1990 viewed them as a temporary feature of the labour force; this has not hardly changed since. A small number of them now have settlement rights as long-term residents and an even smaller number are citizens; but these are the exceptions (Trimikliniotis, 2016; Trimikliniotis and Demetriou 2015). The exceptions are mostly migrants of Greek origin, particularly Pontic Greek origin, who have been settled in Cyprus since the 1990s: the majority of Pontic Greeks are occupationally still in marginal positions and are residentially concentrated in certain neighbourhoods.

The exercise of electoral rights, representation and political participation is subject to the social, economic, cultural and political reality derived from the social status, employment and social position of persons exercising these rights. The vast majority of EU nationals are taking positions that were previously reserved for third-country nationals. One should not forget that the Bulgarian and Romanian workers in Cyprus (about 40,000) had been third-country nationals until these two countries joined the EU. From the late 1980s, when policy-makers decided to open up the labour market, there was a consensus between social partners that migrant labour would be in the form of temporary (guest) labour. Migrant workers would not be permitted to stay beyond four years and would not be able to obtain long-term residency rights.⁸⁵ This changed with the introduction of the EU Long-Term Residence Directive. In Cyprus, however, long-term residence was denied to a few thousand domestic workers: in a case before the Supreme Court, it was revealed the immigration authorities had refused to grant a long-term residence permit to a third-country national for the sole reason that granting the migrant such right would mean that his spouse and descendants would also acquire that right, something that the Court ruled to be illegal.⁸⁶ This is the administrative logic that underlies Cypriot policy-making and nourishes the absence of political representation and participation of migrant workers, including that of EU nationals, except for the certain settled migrants with some power in the form of ‘social capital’: those who are settled for some time establish networks and linkages with trade unions, political parties and NGOs, as well as individual connections (marriage, friendships, contacts etc.); the use of culture, language, religion/ethnicity and geographical concentration for Pontic Greeks.

Bureaucratic and information barriers and lack of interest by EU nationals are the main reasons cited by the interviewees for the low participation of EU nationals in the electoral processes. Interviews with EU nationals who were candidates in municipal elections, and EU nationals who are active in trade unions and NGOs could not offer a general explanation for the low electoral participation of EU nationals living in Cyprus. However, they all agreed that a key obstacle is the absence of automatic registration in the specific electoral lists, particularly for EU nationals who do not have the same knowledge of Greek and the same access to information via social networks, contacts to authorities, the Greek-speaking media etc. like nationals do. One EU national interviewed reported that she had wanted to register for the local elections, but once she was requested to take time off work to submit her papers and registration documents to enrol on the electoral list, she said that she could not do so.⁸⁷ In any case, the same interviewee considered that she saw little point in participating in the elections and believed that participating would not have made any significant change in her life.

A Romanian citizen, who was the editor of ‘Romania’, the Romanian newspaper in Cyprus (2007-2014),⁸⁸ considered the requirement to register on the electoral list as an obstacle for many Romanians and Bulgarians; if, for instance, there was automatic registration available for all those who had been registered with the Ministry of Interior (who are granted the so-called ‘yellow slip’), this would facilitate voting. Moreover, more information available in Romanian and Bulgarian would facilitate and enhance participation

⁸⁵ See Trimikliniotis 1999; Trimikliniotis and Demetriou 2011.

⁸⁶ Cyprus, Supreme Court, Leelawathie Perera v The Republic of Cyprus (Leelawathie Perera v Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας) Αρ. 467/2010, 7 July 2014. Available at www.cylaw.org/cgi-bin/open.pl?file=apofaseis/aad/meros_4/2014/4-201407-467-10.htm&qstring=LEELAWATHIE%20and%20PERERA.

⁸⁷ Interview with Martha, Bulgarian female citizen 1.6.2018.

⁸⁸ Interview with Veronica Ivanova, 5.6.2018. The interviewee reported that the newspaper used to sell up to 1,000 copies but had to close down after the economic crisis in 2013 when sales and advertisements decreased and many Romanians left Cyprus. In contrast to the Russian newspaper, which could continue due to the support by wealthy Russians in Cyprus, mostly residing in Limassol, Romanians are generally poorer and were more prone to the economic crisis.

in elections. However, the same interviewee noted that Romanians are generally not interested in the political and electoral processes because there is a prevailing mistrust and cynicism about politics that has historical roots: the politics in Romania since the days of Ceausescu are seen as corrupt; most Romanians see no reason to participate in elections, because they are by and large poor workers who must work hard for their daily survival which leaves little time, energy or interest to do anything else. Most Romanians, she noted, “do not think that anything will change for their lives by getting involved in politics or to participate in the elections”. She stressed that “unless it is compulsory to register, most Romanians will not register or vote”. She also noted that younger Romanians, particularly second-generation Romanians in Cyprus behave like younger Cypriots who are cynical about political processes, hence the rising levels of absenteeism in elections. The only way forward is for persons to learn more and to develop an interest via education and schooling. The Bulgarian candidates interviewed made very similar comments. The fact that voting is compulsory in municipal elections and EU portal refers to a possible fine to be imposed if the voter does not turn up to vote, may act as a disincentive to register.

It was rather surprising that all Pontic Greeks interviewed saw no barriers in the registration process, as the information and forms are all available in Greek. All Pontic Greeks interviewed had been very active in assisting in the registration of hundreds of voters. However, some reported that there was confusion caused in the last EP elections, when some Pontic Greek voters went to vote with their ID cards to discover that only those who had pre-registered were allowed to vote.⁸⁹ The Pontic Greek interviewees emphasised how important traditions are for the community, particularly for those involved in civic and cultural organisations, who were also very active in the registration process (networks and access to authorities, trade unions, etc.). Contrary to the Romanian and Bulgarian residents, who were not interested in stressing the particularities and specific needs derived from their ethnicity and culture, the Pontic Greek interviewees stressed their Greekness, the need for funding, facilities and support to conserve traditions and embed these in the new generations of Pontic Greeks. They all, however, underplayed the bureaucratic barriers and problems and discrimination faced in Cypriot society. Civic identity and participation are tied to traditions, families, culture, religion and identity. All interviewees agreed on this point, despite the fact that persons had very different political leanings and ideological outlooks. The two elected Pontic Greek Community councillors with the right-wing party, DISY, one in Paphos and one in Larnaca, emphasised how the local party had looked after the Pontic Greeks. The councillor from Paphos, where large numbers of Pontic Greeks are concentrated, spoke about how the current mayor ensures and maintains good relations with the local Pontic Greek population.⁹⁰ This was confirmed in interviews with the opponents, members of the left-wing opposition party, AKEL, who explained that one of the reasons why the current mayor was elected, despite the fact that all parties other than DISY united against him, was due to the large support he enjoys amongst the Pontic Greeks in Paphos.⁹¹ One interviewee stressed that the Pontic Greeks could have elected at least three or four times more representatives had they united under one banner, but they were divided because political parties split their vote. Other candidates who stood for elections in Paphos complained that Pontic Greeks would not vote for anyone else other than someone from their own community; he advised that political parties should pick a candidate from that community if they want to have any chance of getting elected.

⁸⁹ Interview with Geroclitos, community leader of Pontic cultural association ‘Metamorphosis’, 10 June 2018.

⁹⁰ Interview with Councillor Nina Karakidou, 7 June 2018

⁹¹ Interview with a leading member of AKEL, who wished to remain anonymous, 6 June 2018.

Recommendations

The best way to encourage EU citizens to participate in elections is to make elections, policy-making and political participation in general more relevant, accessible and meaningful for them as citizens. Automatic registration and simplification of registration and bureaucratic procedure using the registration of EU citizens (the ‘yellow slip’) would certainly be helpful. Language support and assistance would also make the elections more accessible.

- A key obstacle is the absence of automatic registration in the specific electoral lists, particularly for EU nationals who do not have same access to authorities via social networks, contacts, or who face language barriers (in comparison to national voters). More information provided in different EU languages would facilitate and enhance the participation of EU national voters in EP and local elections.
- To register for the local or EP elections, EU nationals often need to take time off work to submit papers and registration documents to enrol on the electoral lists. Being able to register automatically and online would facilitate registration, particularly if the vote ceases to be compulsory (hence there is no fine for not voting once one has registered).
- Better information could be provided to address possible confusions, e.g. some of the persons interviewed reported about the confusion caused in the last EP elections, when some Pontic Greek voters went to vote with their ID cards to discover that only those who pre-registered were allowed to vote. The same issue arose when many Turkish-Cypriots who turned out to vote but were not allowed to. Some went to court. These matters could be resolved with a better system of communication. The authorities could also make use of automated technology systems in registering persons.
- Encouraging an interest in the political process and decision-making process in Cyprus, which directly affect the lives of resident EU nationals, is crucial to increase the participation of EU nationals in EP and local elections. Studies and needs assessments on the political participation of three main groups of EU nationals resident in Cyprus (the Pontic Greeks, Romanians, and Bulgarians) would be extremely useful in assisting targeted policy-making.

Appendix 1: Interviews and Personal contact

The interviews took place between May and July 2018.

Group	By nationality	Gender	Total
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 members of the Greek Pontic community: 3 elected; 3 candidates; 2 community leaders in civic/cultural organisations) - 2 Romanian nationals (1 candidate; 1 editor of newspaper) - 2 Bulgarian nationals (1 elected twice Larnaca; 1 potential voter who encountered barriers and never registered) - 1 Canadian-origin Cypriot citizen (elected twice representing the EU nationals) - 2 AKEL party members (1 officer in charge of local government and one deputy mayor) - 2 DISY party members (1 officer of local government and one local councillor) - 2 trade unionists from PEO - 1 trade unionist from SEK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 males - 10 females 	20
Officers/organisers political parties, coalitions, cultural organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AKEL - DISY - PEO - SEK - Coalition of Independents for Pegia - Anexartiti Dimotes Ayiou Dometiou - President of cultural organisation 'Metamophosis' (Nicosia) - President of cultural organisation 'PROSOPO' (Nicosia) 		
	Linda Leblanc Monica Meleki Vasileva Nina Karakidou Nicolaos Kalailtzis Ceasar Alkis Anastasiades		

Appendix 2

Population by Country of Birth, Age, Sex and District (1 October 2011). From the Census of the Population

			Total
TOTAL	TOTAL	Total	840,407
	CYPRUS	Total	638,124
	EU-COUNTRIES	Total	106,561
		UNITED KINGDOM	31,495
		ROMANIA	24,532
		BULGARIA	19,284
		GREECE	18,788
		POLAND	2,922
		GERMANY	1,895
		SLOVAKIA	973
		LATVIA	916
		LITHUANIA	693
		FRANCE	644
		HUNGARY	620
		SWEDEN	571
		IRELAND	542
		CZECH REPUBLIC	457
		ITALY	405
		NETHERLANDS	379
		FINLAND	273
		ESTONIA	211
		SPAIN	192
		AUSTRIA	185
		PORTUGAL	166
		BELGIUM	156
	DENMARK	114	
	MALTA	66	
	SLOVENIA	65	
	LUXEMBOURG	17	
	NON EU - COUNTRIES	Total	90,405
		GEORGIA	11,814
RUSSIA		10,520	
PHILIPPINES		10,009	
SRI LANKA		7,327	
VIETNAM		7,016	
UKRAINE		3,794	
EGYPT		3,292	
SYRIA	3,272		

		INDIA	2,996
		SOUTH AFRICA	2,509
		MOLDOVA	2,348
		UNITED STATES	2,021
		IRAQ	1,946
		BANGLADESH	1,831
		LEBANON	1,597
		AUSTRALIA	1,576
		PAKISTAN	1,533
		IRAN	1,364
		ARMENIA	1,143
		CHINA (INCLUDING HONG KONG)	1,099
		SERBIA	1,009
		CANADA	777
		BELARUS	675
		PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	664
		TURKEY	501
		NEPAL	472
		NIGERIA	417
		JORDAN	411
		ZIMBABWE	343
		CONGO	320
		ISRAEL	296
		SUDAN	294
		CAMEROON	287
		KAZAKHSTAN	282
		ALBANIA	275
		SWITZERLAND	218
		DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	215
		OTHER COUNTRIES	3,942
	NOT STATED	Total	5,317
MALES	TOTAL	Total	408,780
	CYPRUS	Total	320,126
	EU-COUNTRIES	Total	51,404
		UNITED KINGDOM	14,735
		ROMANIA	12,451
		BULGARIA	8,620
		GREECE	10,570
		POLAND	1,250
		GERMANY	844

		SLOVAKIA	425
		LATVIA	278
		LITHUANIA	214
		FRANCE	285
		HUNGARY	217
		SWEDEN	224
		IRELAND	201
		CZECH REPUBLIC	149
		ITALY	216
		NETHERLANDS	177
		FINLAND	64
		ESTONIA	56
		SPAIN	73
		AUSTRIA	80
		PORTUGAL	86
		BELGIUM	71
		DENMARK	48
		MALTA	29
		SLOVENIA	35
		LUXEMBOURG	6
	NON EU - COUNTRIES	Total	34,323
		GEORGIA	5,789
		RUSSIA	3,693
		PHILIPPINES	425
		SRI LANKA	1,156
		VIETNAM	246
		UKRAINE	815
		EGYPT	2,294
		SYRIA	2,558
		INDIA	1,744
		SOUTH AFRICA	1,139
		MOLDOVA	487
		UNITED STATES	979
		IRAQ	1,067
		BANGLADESH	1,727
		LEBANON	882
		AUSTRALIA	768
		PAKISTAN	1,481
		IRAN	795
		ARMENIA	522
		CHINA (INCLUDING HONG KONG)	343
		SERBIA	402
		CANADA	368
		BELARUS	103

		PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	416
		TURKEY	270
		NEPAL	311
		NIGERIA	310
		JORDAN	273
		ZIMBABWE	157
		CONGO	139
		ISRAEL	162
		SUDAN	140
		CAMEROON	185
		KAZAKHSTAN	99
		ALBANIA	164
		SWITZERLAND	81
		DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	110
		OTHER COUNTRIES	1,723
	NOT STATED	Total	2,927
FEMALES	TOTAL	Total	431,627
	CYPRUS	Total	317,998
	EU-COUNTRIES	Total	55,157
		UNITED KINGDOM	16,760
		ROMANIA	12,081
		BULGARIA	10,664
		GREECE	8,218
		POLAND	1,672
		GERMANY	1,051
		SLOVAKIA	548
		LATVIA	638
		LITHUANIA	479
		FRANCE	359
		HUNGARY	403
		SWEDEN	347
		IRELAND	341
		CZECH REPUBLIC	308
		ITALY	189
		NETHERLANDS	202
		FINLAND	209
		ESTONIA	155
		SPAIN	119
		AUSTRIA	105
		PORTUGAL	80
		BELGIUM	85

		DENMARK	66
		MALTA	37
		SLOVENIA	30
		LUXEMBOURG	11
	NON EU - COUNTRIES	Total	56,082
		GEORGIA	6,025
		RUSSIA	6,827
		PHILIPPINES	9,584
		SRI LANKA	6,171
		VIETNAM	6,770
		UKRAINE	2,979
		EGYPT	998
		SYRIA	714
		INDIA	1,252
		SOUTH AFRICA	1,370
		MOLDOVA	1,861
		UNITED STATES	1,042
		IRAQ	879
		BANGLADESH	104
		LEBANON	715
		AUSTRALIA	808
		PAKISTAN	52
		IRAN	569
		ARMENIA	621
		CHINA (INCLUDING HONG KONG)	756
		SERBIA	607
		CANADA	409
		BELARUS	572
		PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	248
		TURKEY	231
		NEPAL	161
		NIGERIA	107
		JORDAN	138
		ZIMBABWE	186
		CONGO	181
		ISRAEL	134
		SUDAN	154
		CAMEROON	102
		KAZAKHSTAN	183
		ALBANIA	111
		SWITZERLAND	137

		DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	105
		OTHER COUNTRIES	2,219
	NOT STATED	Total	2,390
<i>(Last Updated 11/10/2012)</i>			

Appendix 3

Population recorded by nationality, gender and district (1.10.2011)

(Last update 21/06/2012)

*Includes all those who declared Cypriot nationality as a second nationality.

District	ΥΠΗΚΟΟΤΗΤΑ														
	Total (T)			Cypriots*			EENs			TCNs			Total	Αντρες	Γυναίκες
	T	Male (M)	Female (F)	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F			
Total (T)	840,407	408,780	431,627	667,398	330,798	336,600	106,270	53,607	52,663	64,113	22,999	41,114	2,626	1,376	1,250
Nicosia District	326,980	158,262	168,718	267,266	131,261	136,005	33,089	17,252	15,837	25,041	8,933	16,108	1,584	816	768
Famagusta District	46,629	23,188	23,441	37,565	19,306	18,259	6,821	3,264	3,557	1,966	470	1,496	277	148	129
Larnaca District	143,192	70,116	73,076	115,300	57,358	57,942	17,398	8,868	8,530	10,241	3,787	6,454	253	103	150
Limassol District	235,330	113,636	121,694	188,797	93,225	95,572	25,957	13,028	12,929	20,205	7,147	13,058	371	236	135
Paphos District	88,276	43,578	44,698	58,470	29,648	28,822	23,005	11,195	11,810	6,660	2,662	3,998	141	73	68

Appendix 4

Migration movements, 1981-2016 (From the Demographic Report 2017)

Year	Long term Immigrants (1)			Emigrants (2)	Net Migration (3)
	Σύνολο Total	Males	Females		
1981	246	129	117	...	196
1982	390	181	209	...	-31
1983	597	297	300	79	518
1984	251	117	134	96	155
1985	329	168	161	91	238
1986	354	176	178	179	175
1987	454	232	222	182	272
1988	383	187	196	126	257
1989	...	...	...	...	4.526
1990	...	...	...	...	8.707
1991	...	...	...	...	10.559
1992	...	...	...	...	9.999
1993	...	...	...	...	8.000
1994	...	...	...	...	7.000
1995	...	...	...	...	6.000
1996	...	...	...	...	5.300
1997	...	...	...	...	4.800
1998	8.801*	4.255	4.491	...	4.200
1999	8.524*	3.978	4.482	...	4.200
2000	12.764	6.298	6.466	...	3.960
2001	17.485	9.563	7.922	...	4.650
2002	6.940	3.249	3.691	1.474	5.466
2003	7.981	3.802	4.179	1.696	6.285
2004	9.003	4.188	4.815	1.913	7.090
2005	10.320	4.878	5.442	2.192	8.128
2006	13.077	6.306	6.771	2.778	10.299
2007	19.328	9.221	10.107	4.106	15.222
2008	21.060	9.462	11.598	4.474	16.586
2009	22.581	9.555	13.026	4.797	17.784
2010	20.206	8.712	11.494	4.293	15.913
2011	23.037	10.330	12.707	4.895	18.142
2012	17.476	5.795	11.681	18.105	-629
2013	13.149	6.474	6.675	25.227	-12.078
2014 ^r	9.212	2.764	6.448	24.038	-14.826
2015	15.183	6.495	8.688	17.183	-2.000
2016	17.391	8.562	8.829	14.892	2.499

Note: 1. For the period 1981-1988 figures are based on the declaration of travelers on the arrival cards.

2. For the period 1983-1988 figures are based on the declaration of travelers on the departure cards.

3. At the years for which there is no data on immigrants and emigrants, net migration is estimated.

r. Revised figures.

*. Includes those whose sex was not stated

*TABLE 95 from Demographic Report 2017

Appendix 5

Emigrants by citizenship, 2012-2016

Citizenship	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	18.105	25.227	24.038	17.183	14.892
Cypriot	1.050	3.579	2.096	1.025	2.117
EU	5.078	8.745	7.068	2.829	3.598
Non EU	11.977	12.903	14.874	13.329	9.177
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0

Note: r. Revised figures.

*TABLE 95 from Demographic Report 2017

Appendix 6

Social insurance

Table 1 Socially Insured Persons 2014⁹²

Community	Insured Category				Total	Percentage s
	Employees in private sector and those employed in semi-public sector ⁹³	Employees in public sector	Self-employed	Voluntarily insured		
Greek-Cypriots and others	216.672	49.812	25.447	888	292.819	71,0%
Turkish-Cypriots	753	16	23	18	810	0,2%
TCNs	44.734	335	633	9	45.711	11,1%
EUNs ⁹⁴	70.107	882	2.008	50	73.047	17,7%
Total	332.266	51.045	28.111	965	412.387	100,0%
Percentages	80,6%	12,4%	6,8%	0,2%	100,0%	

Table 2 Insured persons 2016

COMMUNITY	INSURANCE CATEGORY				Total	Percentage of Total
	Employees in Private sector and Semi-public Sector	Employees of Public Sector	Self - Employed	Voluntarily Insured		
Greek-Cypriots and others	229.343	50.478	27.404	1.124	308.349	70,0%
Turkish-Cypriots	760	20	26	14	820	0,2%
TCNs	47.692	174	920	22	48.808	11,0%
EU Citizens ⁹⁵	78.991	1.011	2.593	58	82.653	18,8%
Total	356.786	51.683	30.943	1.218	440.630	100,0%
Percentage of Total	81,0%	11,7%	7,0%	0,3%	100,0%	

⁹² Available at the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance at <http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sid/sidv2.nsf/All/0BE99BE68229991CC2257EAF002323D2?OpenDocument>

⁹³ Nationalised industries etc.

⁹⁴ Πιθανώς να περιλαμβάνονται και άτομα που είναι μόνιμοι κάτοικοι Κύπρου και προέρχονται από χώρες του ευρύτερου Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου.

⁹⁵ Possibly includes permanent residents of Cyprus that come from European Economic Area Countries.

Table 3 Insured persons in 2009⁹⁶

COMMUNITY	INSURANCE CATEGORY				Total	Percentage
	Employees in Private sector and Semi-public Sector	Employees of Public Sector	Self - Employed	Voluntarily Insured		
Greek-Cypriots and others	220377	54867	28383	953	304580	67,3%
Turkish-Cypriots	3039	27	47	30	3143	0,7%
TCNs ⁹⁷	70675	1344	1814	46	73879	16,3%
EUNs ⁹⁸	68490	1126	1161	16	70793	15,7%
Total	362581	57364	31405	1045	452395	100%
Percentage	80,2%	12,7%	6,9%	0,2%	100%	

Source:

<http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sid/sidv2.nsf/All/0BE99BE68229991CC2257EAF002323D2?OpenDocument>

⁹⁶ 2010 <http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sid/sidv2.nsf/All/BB7436092E7B4469C2257A6200224FB0?OpenDocument>

⁹⁷ Πιθανώς να περιλαμβάνονται και άτομα που είναι μόνιμοι κάτοικοι Κύπρου και προέρχονται από Τρίτες Χώρες.

⁹⁸ Πιθανώς να περιλαμβάνονται και άτομα που είναι μόνιμοι κάτοικοι Κύπρου και προέρχονται από χώρες του ευρύτερου Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου.

Appendix 7

Statistics on EP elections in 2009

Table 1 Non-national EU citizen registered voters by nationality and gender in 2009 EP elections

Member State	Total	Men	Women
Greece	2,912	1,756	1,156
UK	1,349	628	721
Romania	835	547	288
Bulgaria	985	491	494
Poland	114	72	42
Total	6,458	3,599	2,889

Table 2 Number of persons registered to vote in 2009 EP elections⁹⁹

District	Greek-Cypriots ¹⁰⁰	Turkish-Cypriots	EU nationals	Total
Nicosia	207,225	571	1,596	209,392
Famagusta	27,865	261	490	28,616
Larnaca	85,721	90	953	86,764
Limassol	143,017	274	1,076	144,367
Paphos	44,842	108	2,343	47,293
Abroad	9,627	1	-	9,628
Total	518,297	1,305	6,458	526,060

Table 3 Number of persons registered to vote in 2014 EP elections¹⁰¹

District	Greek-Cypriots ¹⁰²	Turkish-Cypriots	EU nationals	Total
Nicosia	213,169	106	1,773	215,048
Famagusta	30,332	5	574	30,911
Larnaca	91,403	104	1067	92,574
Limassol	150,640	301	1184	152,125
Paphos	48,141	168	3,114	51,423
Abroad	6,191	7	-	6,198
Special voting centres for Turkish-Cypriots	-	58,637	-	58,637
Total	539,876	59,328	7,712	606,616

⁹⁹ Information provided by the Election Registrar's Office.

¹⁰⁰ Note, in the total number of Greek-Cypriot voters are included 344 persons who are Greek-Cypriot residing in the northern part of Cyprus which is not under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

¹⁰¹ Information provided by the Election Registrar's Office.

¹⁰² Note, in the total number of Greek-Cypriot voters are included 344 persons who are Greek-Cypriot residing in the northern part of Cyprus which is not under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

Appendix 8

Statistics on local elections in 2011

Out of the 106,270 EU nationals residing in Cyprus, there were only 12,333 EU citizens registered to vote for the 2011 local government elections. The main nationalities with over 100 persons were the following:

Table 1: EU Community Candidates and Elected Persons in Local Government Elections in 2011

Citizenship	Census 2011	Registered to vote in municipal and community elections (2011)	Voted in 2016 local elections	Candidates for municipal council (2016)	Elected to municipal council (2016)	Candidates for community council (2016)	Elected to community council (2016)
Greece	29,321	4,388	N/A	11	3	9	4
UK	24,046	4,639	N/A	2	-	22	2
Romania	23,706	1,093	N/A	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria	18,536	1,483	N/A	3	-	-	-
Poland	2,859	114	N/A	-	-	1	1
Germany	1,109	145	N/A	2	-	1	-
Belgium	117	25	N/A	1	-	-	-
Denmark	117	14	N/A	-	-	1	-
Sweden	419	47	N/A	1	-	1	-
Total	10,6270	12,333	6,458	20	3	35	7

Table 2 – EUNs registered Municipal Elections in 2011¹⁰³

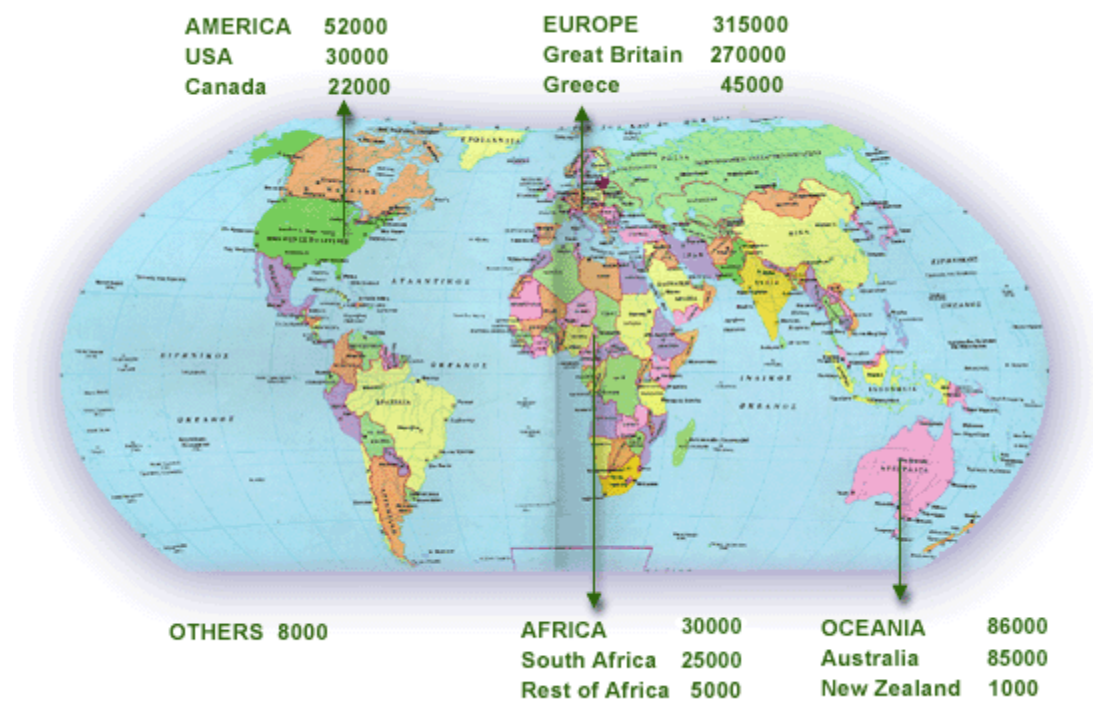
Member State	Total	Nicosia	Famagusta	Larnaca	Limassol	Paphos
Austria	24	2	3	2	9	8
Belgium	19	2	-	1	4	12
Bulgaria	1,483	204	390	245	149	495
France	30	10	-	5	8	7
Germany	145	12	1	12	61	59
Denmark	14	1	2	2	3	6
Greece	4,388	1,057	166	581	566	2,018
Estonia	4	-	1	-	1	2
Ireland	56	3	3	4	10	36
Spain	8	2	1	-	4	1
Italy	32	10	-	10	3	9
Latvia	32	3	7	1	12	9
Lithuania	23	2	6	3	4	8
Luxemburg	1	1	-	-	-	-
Malta	1	-	-	-	2	-
UK	4,639	103	135	364	1,102	2,935
Netherlands	56	2	1	4	12	37
Hungary	26	1	5	6	6	8

¹⁰³ Information provided by the Election Registrar's Office.

Poland	114	7	27	13	32	35
Portugal	1	-	-	-	-	1
Romania	1,093	330	112	199	158	294
Slovakia	55	5	32	4	10	4
Slovenia	3	-	-	1	2	-
Sweden	47	3	15	5	12	12
Czech Republic	14	-	4	-	3	7
Finland	24	-	3	3	15	3
Croatia	0	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12,333	1,760	914	1,465	2,188	6,006

Appendix 9

Map showing Cypriot population across the globe



Source: Service for Overseas and Repatriated Cypriots of the Foreign Ministry¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ Available at the website of the Service at, <http://www.commissionertothe presidency.gov.cy/anthropos/anthropos.nsf/All/3FAAE5D75FC25F8AC225813F00273897?OpenDocument>

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