

The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

Cyprus

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Presenter for VNR	Nikos Kuyalis, Minister of Agriculture
Capital	Nicosia
Area (in sq. km)	9.251
Language(s)	Greek and Turkish
Human Development Index International	31
Tourist Arrivals (2015) (thousand)	2780
Sources: Human Development Report, UNWTO	



The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

Title of VNR: Review On The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Cyprus

Presenter for VNR: Nikos Kuyalis, Minister of Agriculture

National Thematic Focus:

SDG Priorities are:

- SDG 1 – No poverty
- SDG 3 – Good health and well being
- SDG 4- Quality education
- SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy
- SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth
- SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- SDG 14 – Life below water

Institutional Arrangement:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees and coordinated the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in partnership with the Ministries and other governmental agencies. Implementation of the SDGs: Following a mapping exercise led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of 2016, a relevant line Ministry was assigned as lead for each of the 17 Goals.

For instance, for the SDG priorities identified by the Government of Cyprus, the coordinating Ministries are as follows:

- SDG 1: Ministry of Labour, Welfare, and Social Insurance
- SDG 4: Ministry of Education and Culture

- SDG 7 and 9: Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry, and Tourism
- SDG 14: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environment

Progress made on each SDG is shared through an inter-ministerial contact group.

SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

In Cyprus, SDG priorities are primarily incorporated in the Action Plan for Growth and the National Reform Programme, a sector-specific policy plan focused on achieving smart, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth published in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:

[Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism](#)

Tourism and SDG in Cyprus:

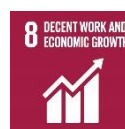
Opportunities

- Marine and coastal protection
- Partnerships



- On the international sphere, Cyprus actively promotes **international cooperation** on issues such as the protection of cultural property and regional cooperation for the **protection from marine pollution**. Concerning progress foreseen, there has been an upward trend in the use of renewable sources of energy, while steps are being taken towards a more **sustainable tourism product**.

- Waste Management
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Marine and coastal protection
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems protection
- Industry, Transport and Infrastructure



- Tourism is seen as a priority area. Innovative measures and policies are introduced to support growth, production and the provision of services, including thorough improvements in efficiencies, the reduction of waste and pollution, and the safeguarding of our natural capital and ecosystem services. Specific attention and support is promoted for certain priority areas: Formulation and implementation of an integrated strategy in the tourism sector, extension of the maritime sector and infrastructure and modernization of the professional services sector, which relate primarily with SDGs 8 and 9, but also with SDGs 12 and 14.

- Economic development
- Waste Management
- Sustainable Consumption and Production



- **Climate Change**

- Promotion of green development and creation of green jobs. Investing in waste management, greenhouse gas reduction, recycling and adaptation to climate change: The National Action Plan for a Green Economy is one of the key tools towards resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production patterns and more sustainable growth. The Plan, which aims to exploit and enhance synergies between the environmental and other economic sectors, can be related with SDGs 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 and includes measures in all key sectors, such as agriculture, water resources, biodiversity and green infrastructure, forests, energy, transport, industry, waste management, tourism, climate change and adaptation.

- **Industry, Transport & Infrastructure**



- The Smart Specialisation Strategy of Cyprus, approved in 2015, promotes the knowledge based development potential of the Cyprus economy through targeted support to Research and Innovation, leading to greater competitiveness. The priority areas of the Smart Specialisation Strategy include three horizontal pillars – ‘Smart Growth-Sustainable RTDI System-Modernization of the RTDI System’ targeted at six priority sectors – ‘Tourism, Energy, Agriculture –Food Industry, Construction industry, Transportation, Health, and Environment’.



- **Industry, Transport & Infrastructure**

- Cyprus’ New National Integrated Industrial Strategy. Studies for enhancing exports, tourism and electronic commerce have shown priority areas that will be the focus of Cyprus in implementing its overall strategies and policies for infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. Cyprus’ New National Integrated Industrial Strategy

- **Economic Development**
- **Urban Development**



- In the effort for economic reactivation that followed, emphasis was placed in the tourism sector. Up until 2009, the growth of urban areas in Cyprus had been sharply accelerated with the rapid growth of their population due to the influx of internally displaced persons in the aftermath of the 1974 Turkish invasion and the continuing military occupation of 36% of the territories of the Republic.

- **Green Economy**
- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**



- Cyprus has finalized its National Action Plan for a Green Economy as one of the key tools towards resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production patterns and more sustainable growth. The Plan, which aims to exploit and enhance synergies between the

environmental and other economic sectors, includes measures in all key sectors, such as agriculture, water resources, biodiversity and green infrastructure, forests, energy, transport, industry, waste management, tourism, climate change and adaptation. In **the tourism sector, important steps have been taken towards a more sustainable tourism product.** Active campaigns have been organised for the promotion of certification instruments, and specifically the Ecolabel, the EMAS and the Green Key, with an increasing number of hotel establishments becoming certified, led by the public sector in cooperation with private initiatives from NGOs and tour operators.

- **Economic development**
- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**
- **Marine and coastal protection**
- **Tourism diversification**
- **Waste Management**



- In view of the rising demand for greener tourism, the Cyprus Tourism Organization introduced sustainability standards as part of the quality standards that must be complied with by hotel establishments. Recognizing the importance of sustainable tourism, Cyprus has already initiated a number of policies, activities and tools towards this end. Within the framework of the tourism strategies and the tourism sustainable development policies implemented in Cyprus, the relevant strategic priorities and initiatives include:
 - Development of targeted alternative forms of tourism (special interest products/markets) which have proven their contribution to the three pillars of sustainable development, such as cultural, religious, rural, nature/walking/trekking, gastronomy, sports (including sports training and organization of events, cycling, diving, golf) and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism:
 - Mitigation of the seasonality problem and development of a more balanced annual tourism arrival pattern
 - Improvement of the occupancy and economic performance of hotel investments
 - Improvement of service quality in the tourism related establishments.
 - Promoting our local gastronomy and Cyprus grape spirits,
 - Ultimate strategic targets have been established concerning tourist arrivals, tourism revenue, occupancy rates of the accommodation sector, seasonality pattern of arrivals, market diversification.
 - Simple targets concern special interest products, assessable tourism for all, beaches, etc.
- Cyprus also implements European Union programs, such as Upgrading the Tourism Product for the Tourist Season Lengthening, including a program of cooperation with the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative for the development and implementation of :
 - The pilot program about the Green Beaches
 - The framework of sustainable criteria in the hotel industry.
 - The “Waste Mapping” handbook
 - The Cyprus Breakfast program

Resources and Useful Links

[Cyprus VNR 2017](#)