Kyriakos, 68, Electrician – Electrical Supplies, Larnaca

**1. Can you tell me a few things about yourself? For example, when and where you were born? Did you study for anything? Have you travelled or lived overseas?**

*My name is Kyriakos and I’m 68 years old. I have this electrical supplies shop but I’m an electrician by profession. I’ve got three children – two daughters and a son – and I’ve got two grandchildren. My son works here with me as an electrician and the other two followed other professions. My father was a shepherd, but he liked education so he sent me to school to learn about electrical engineering. I graduated from the technical school but I’ve attended many seminars on electrical engineering.*

**2. Have you ever owned another business in the past? How long have you been an owner of a business? How many businesses have you owned in the past?**

*At first I worked as a house electrician. I own a large van and I would take on electrical installations in houses and apartment blocks. Then I opened the shop.*

**3. Can you tell me about the history behind your business?**

*I was a house electrician and I had five employees to help me; we worked all over Cyprus until 2002. After I had helped my children through higher education, I was less pressured and, in the same year, I decided to open this shop here selling electrical supplies. I still work as an electrician but I don’t take on large-scale jobs like apartment blocks. I might go out to a few houses in the area with my son, but our business is mostly selling electrical supplies.*

**4. What advantages did you see in continuing your business? Why don’t you retire?**

*The land here belongs to my wife. My father-in-law gave us two large plots of land before he passed away; we built our house in one and left the other plot for later development. After I had grown tired of working as an electrician for so many years, we had paid off our debts and our children had finished their studies, I had the opportunity to open my own shop. Now I’m more relaxed, because it’s different from running from one job to another all over Cyprus. The main advantage is that I have regular customers. Because I worked as an electrician all my life, I have a good reputation in the area and so other electricians who work on houses or apartment blocks come to me for whatever they need. My son is still learning the trade but he will show initiative and take on responsibility gradually.*

* **So the shop has a good income?**

*Yes the income is very good. I’ve been getting my pension for several years now and I’m quite satisfied on the financial front. The income went down a little for two or three years during the economic crisis but we’re fine.*

**5. Are you facing any obstacles or problems in keeping your business going?**

*I don’t have any problems in particular at the shop. I don’t have any expenses. The professional licenses are a little high but we pay what others pay too. I’m here nine hours a day excluding Sundays but because I like my job, I work as much as I can.*

* **What do you mean by professional licenses?**

*The licenses you pay for when you practice a profession and own a shop. You pay additional community taxes regardless of whether you pay taxes for your own home. It’s considered to be separate from your main residence.*

**6. Considering the experience that you have built up over the years but also the experience that you are going through now, would you say that you are still able to maintain the business and deal with the problems that affect it?**

*The income is enough; my son has time to learn the job and there’s time for our customers to get to know him so he can take over by himself later on. At this point he’s not ready to take it on alone, but I hope he will be in about 10 years so I can go fishing and hunting every day, something that I love [he smiles with satisfaction].*