

Cyprus

This report describes the structure of the national higher education system in Cyprus, focusing on the institutional types as defined by national categories. It builds on the Eurydice Report on the national higher education system but complements it with quantitative information on the role of higher education institution (HEI) types in national systems, based on data derived from the European Tertiary Education Register (<http://www.eter-project.eu>) for the period 2011-2019.

Types of Higher Education Institutions

According to Eurydice¹, the Cypriot higher education system comprises four types of HEIs:

- Public and private **Universities**
- Public and private **Non-university level institutions**.

Public universities are founded as public corporate bodies to be academically autonomous governed by their Council and Senate. They are funded by the government, but they can raise money from other sources as well. All public universities in Cyprus are dedicated to the excellence of teaching and research. The specific objectives and mission of each university are stated in its respective founding Law. They offer academic programs at Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral (Ph.D.) level. The Open university offers short professional courses in continuing education as well. The language of instruction is Greek and Turkish - the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus.

Private universities are founded as private law organizations of speculative or non-speculative character, registered with the Ministry of Education. As provided by Law 109(I)/2005 on Private Universities, the mission of each private university is the advancement of science, knowledge, learning, and education through teaching and research for the benefit of society as a whole; the cultivation, transmission, implementation, and exchange of knowledge through science; and, the provision of graduate and/or postgraduate education of a high standard that accepts international recognition. Private universities raise their funds from tuition fees.

Non-university level public institutions operate under other than the Ministry of Education and Culture ministries. There are currently five public institutions operating at the non-university level. Their aim is to offer high-level education and training and produce high-caliber professionals in each

¹<https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-education-systems/cyprus/types-higher-education-institutions>

respective field, according to the needs of the labour market in Cyprus. The language of instruction is English or Greek.

Non-university level private institutions of higher education are registered with the Ministry of Education and Culture, according to Law 67(I)/1996, which provides for their establishment, operation and control. They offer vocational and academic programs at various levels of study, such as the Certificate level (one-year duration), the Diploma level (two-year duration), the Higher Diploma level (three-year duration), the Bachelor level (four-year duration) and the Master level (one-year or two-year duration).

Main institutional characteristics. Legal status and the right to award a PhD

Table 1 below provides a quantitative overview of the main institutional characteristics by HEI type. All three public Universities (Πανεπιστήμιο) and all but one private Universities award PhDs. While Universities are still the leading actor in the national higher education system, they account for less than a third of all Cypriot HEIs. Out of the 18, mostly private Non-university institutions of tertiary education (Μη-Πανεπιστημιακά Ιδρύματα Τριτοβάθμιας Εκπαίδευσης) only two awards PhDs.

Table 1. Institutional type and legal status by HEI type, 2019

| Category | | N | Public | Private | PhD awarding |
|---|---|----|--------|---------|--------------|
| Non-university institutions of tertiary education | Μη-Πανεπιστημιακά Ιδρύματα Τριτοβάθμιας Εκπαίδευσης | 18 | 2 | 16 | 2 |
| University | Πανεπιστήμιο | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| Total | | 26 | 5 | 21 | 9 |

Note: Numbers reflect inclusion in ETER

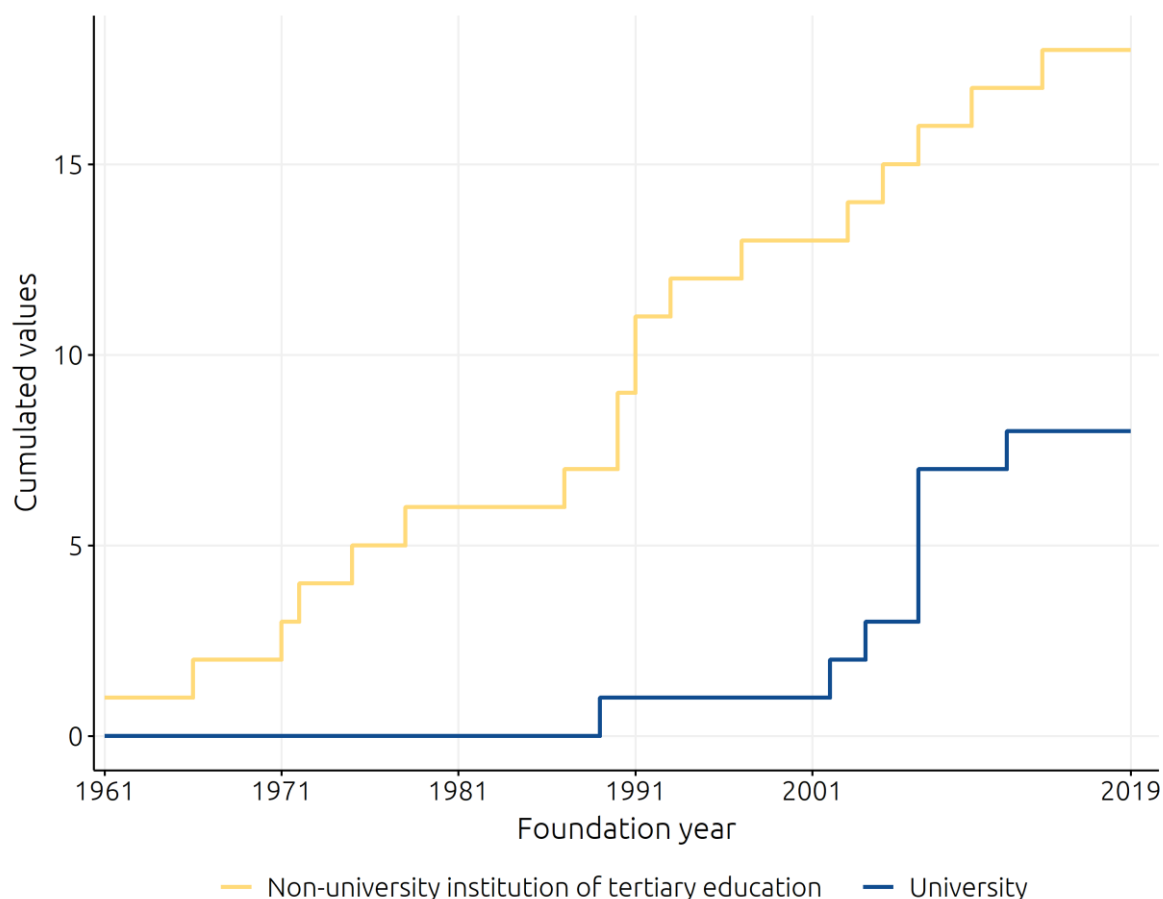
Institutional history. Older and younger institutional types

Data on the HEI foundation year provide information on the history of Cyprus' higher education and its evolution over time.

Figure 1 shows that the expansion of the system in terms of the number of HEIs is relatively recent. The Cyprus College, the oldest Cypriot HEI dates back to 1965 and only six HEIs were founded before 1980. The foundation of the first of today's Cypriot Universities was in 1989 with the University of Cyprus. The number of, mostly private, Non-university institutions of tertiary education has steadily increased since the 1990s. The most recent foundation was the City Unity College Nicosia in 2014. In contrast, six

of the eight Universities were founded within a relative short period between 2002 and 2007. The most recent foundation of a University was the private University of Central Lancashire – Cyprus in 2012.

Figure 1. Foundation year of HEIs by type

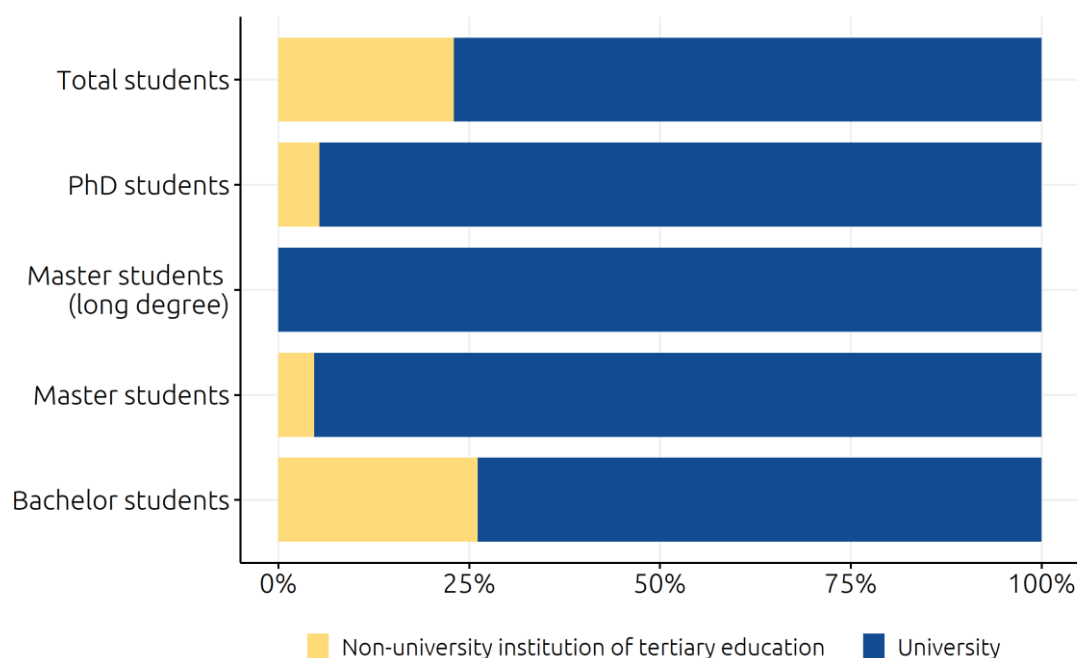


How are students distributed?

In contrast to the number of institutions, in terms of the number of students enrolled, Universities still account for 77% of all students and Non-University Institutions of Tertiary Education for 23%. The five private Universities play a very important role accounting for 58% of total students.

According to different institutional mandates, we also observe systematic differences between educational levels: Non-university institutions of tertiary education account for 26% of the bachelor students, while doctorates and master's degrees enrolments are within the remit of Universities. While almost 90% of master students are enrolled in private Universities, public Universities account for 2/3 of all PhD students.

Figure 2. Students by level and type of HEI, 2019

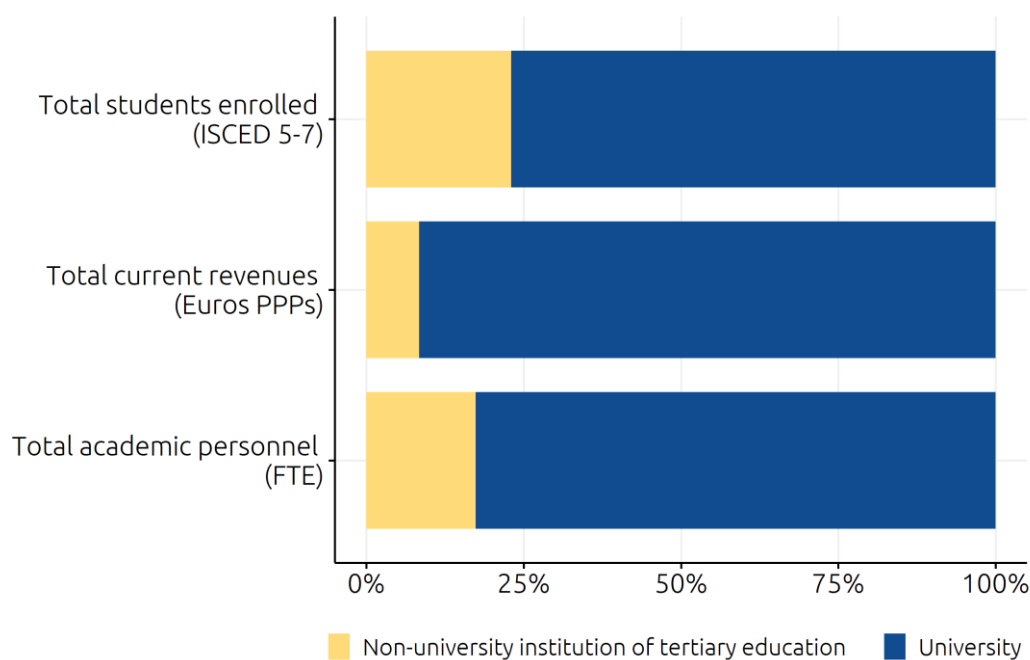


Academic personnel and financial resources

As illustrated in Figure 3, in the year 2019, Universities accounted for more than 80% of academic personnel of the whole HEI system, i.e., more than their share of students. This broadly corresponds to the fact that Universities also have an important research function.

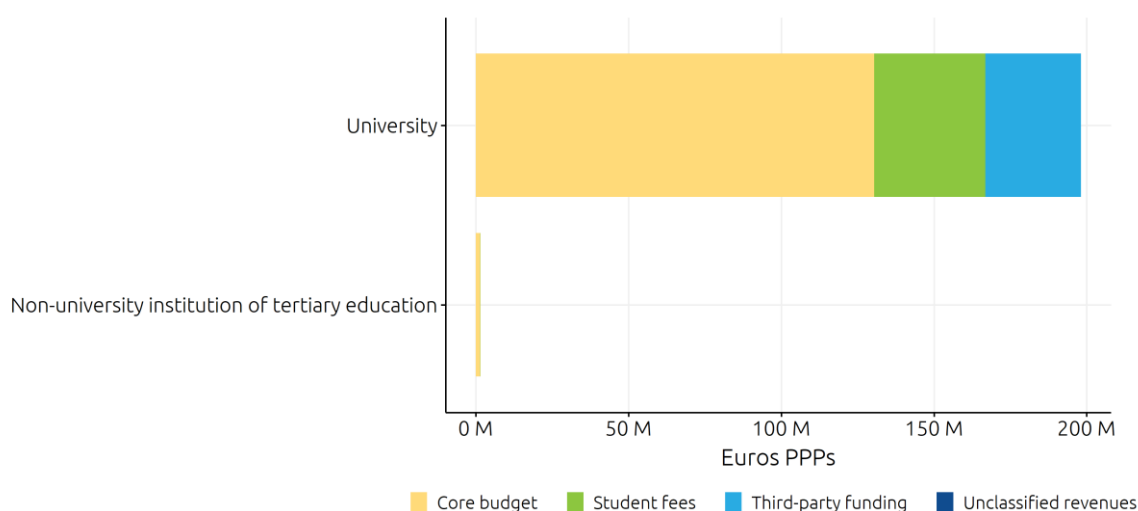
While data on revenues is only available for public institutions this research function of Universities is also reflected in the highest share in total revenues of Universities of all public HEI institutions and in the composition of revenues, where public Universities receive a larger proportion of revenues from (research-related) third-party funds compared to public Non-University type institutions of higher education. Overall, state allocation remains dominant for all public institution types in Cyprus. While student fees play an important role for private institutions, data is not available for these institutions.

Figure 3. Resources, academic personnel and total students enrolled by type of HEI, 2019



Note: Data on current revenues only includes public institutions

Figure 4. Composition of resources. Public Universities (Πανεπιστήμιο) and public Non-University Institutions of Tertiary Education (Μη-Πανεπιστημιακά Ιδρύματα Τριτοβάθμιας Εκπαίδευσης)

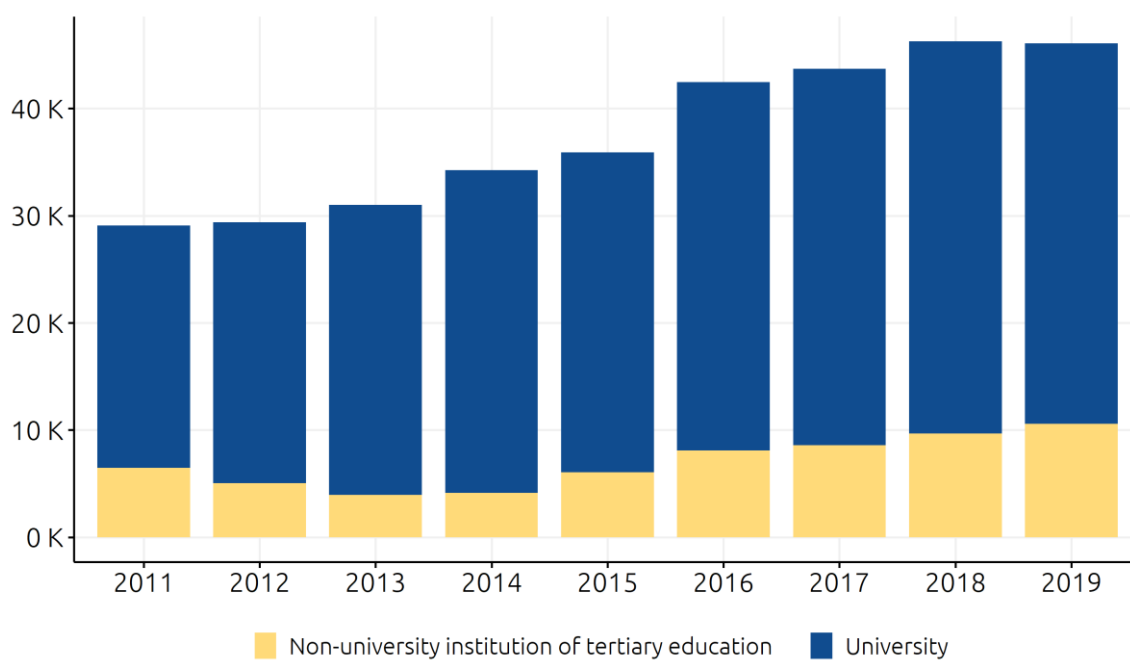


Changing roles over time

The number of enrolled students increased by about 60% from 2011 to 2019 for both, Universities and Non-university institutions of tertiary education. While private Universities and Non-university

institutions of tertiary education doubled their number of students in this time periode, enrolment in public HEIs remained stable. As a result, the share of private institutions on total enrolment increased from about 62% in 2011 to about 80% in 2019.

Figure 5. Share of students enrolled by institutional type





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