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**STUDY PROGRAMMES OFFERED ALSO IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN THE
OFFICIAL ONES: A NEW ERA OF INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY
OF CYPRUS**

Rector: "The time has come for the University of Cyprus to become truly competitive and attract international students and distinguished overseas faculty"

The Parliament has given the go-ahead to the University of Cyprus to offer undergraduate and graduate study programmes also in languages other than the official teaching ones that are Greek and Turkish.

The new changes in the higher education legislation will eventually be a key contribution to the University's dynamic development and its true internationalization, as the UCY Rector stated yesterday, welcoming the decision of the MPs to approve the Bill. *The University has made significant progress in the course of its short history. This year, it has been ranked in the 55th place of the Times Higher Education "150 Under 50 Rankings", and this classification is our responsibility towards the Cypriot society for continuous development.*

The new rules meet the long-standing demand of the University aiming to have its teaching curriculum compete equally distinguished European higher education institutions and not only. The new legislation entails significant benefits for the University's stakeholders and eventually the country's economy:

- Increase in number of foreign students and overseas faculty and "brain-gain" will result in the increase of the international partnerships and frontier research conduction aiming innovation.
- Greater mobility of internationally established academics.

- Increase in number of Erasmus students, allowing the University to become an international academic center, where people from different cultures encounter and benefit greatly from it.
- Both Greek-Cypriot students and students coming from Greece will be able to attend undergraduate and graduate courses taught in other languages, helping them to participate actively in the Erasmus exchange programme, but also to continue with graduate studies abroad. In addition, the excellent knowledge of a foreign language in an academic level will constitute a competitive skill in their later career path.
- The Greek language and culture will also be spread as widely as possible, since relevant courses will be included in the foreign language study programmes.

The University of Cyprus has been prepared to proceed with the necessary steps so as to offer foreign language study programmes the soonest, making the best possible use of this potential. It should be noted that the English study programme of the Medical School is about to be offered in September 2017.

The University has expressed its special thanks to the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Government, the Parliamentary Committee on Educational Affairs and Culture, and the Parliamentary Parties that voted the Bill which enables the state universities of the country to perform their work effectively, a possibility fully exploited by world-class universities today.