

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WIDE RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS TO BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN UCY AND GREEK HIGH SCHOOLS OF DIASPORA**

**Rector:** *«Fostering strong collaborations with our natural allies will certainly be mutually beneficial»*

In the context of its role as key agent of Cyprus's economic development, besides its traditional functions of teaching and research, the University of Cyprus has launched various projects and initiatives that aim to build stronger relationships between the University and the Cypriot and Greek Diasporas for mutual interest. With our diasporas constituting bridges to knowledge, expertise, resources and markets for our country, UCY has been working to contribute substantially to such linkages and network-building, in order for our country to draw on the value of our 'diaspora capital' and engage them actively to national development projects, but also in addressing various national and international challenges.

The prospective collaboration between UCY and twenty one (21) Greek High Schools of Diaspora operating in Egypt, Israel, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, South Africa and USA, recently been launched is one such initiative. The Directors of the Schools have been invited to evaluate the call for collaboration between the education entities and respond positively for the mutual benefit of all parties, Cyprus and the residing countries of our diaspora groups in general.

UCY will offer a number of seats to their high school students with outstanding academic credentials providing them with the opportunity to attend undergraduate study programmes of their choice, including the medicine programme. Additionally, a number of students will be given the opportunity to experience the UCY Summer School, attending a pre-college summer programme reflecting their personal interests. The collaboration focuses as well in other

aspects like the implementation of new teaching methodologies in schools and the school library management. The successful completion of the action will contribute eventually to the achievement of a key strategic goal for UCY, that is, the University's constant growth through dynamic internalization and development of international collaborations and new networked alliances, including collaboration with diaspora groups that constitute our natural allies.

Commenting on the action UCY Rector, Professor Constantinos Christofides has said: *"It is about children of Greek origin residing abroad; students infused with "Greekness" and the Greek spirit, but also the characteristics of their residing countries, home countries they were born and bred in. Meeting with these kids, who have a quite alert and keen mind for their age, and exchanging with them ideas and concern for today and the future has been definitely a unique experience. An experience I have had in my recent trip to South Africa when visiting SAHETI School; an experience that became the trigger for the establishment of such collaboration. Fostering strong collaborations with our natural allies will be certainly mutually beneficial. Pursuing their higher education at UCY will be beneficiary either they choose to stay in Cyprus or turn back to their residing home country overseas. They will be the Greek students of Diaspora to have studied at UCY, the 'bridge' between their two home countries."*

**End of Announcement**