

Unlock Cyprus

A strategic gateway into Europe

2025



Expanding your business in Cyprus

Expanding into new international markets can be challenging due to the many issues to consider and resolve. Our Unlock Cyprus service can provide expert advice and insight to support you every step of the way. From helping you find the best location, to setting up a branch or subsidiary, we are committed to providing pragmatic and timely advice that allows you to focus on achieving your business goals.

International expansion is an important step, but with a dedicated international business adviser, who takes time to understand your business and customize the specific services you require, you'll know you have the support to manage the risks and maximize the potential a new market offers your business.

Our advisers support businesses at every stage of growth —whether you're launching, scaling, entering new markets, attracting investment, or preparing for strategic transactions. With deep local insight and global perspective, we stand by your side to help you navigate complexity and seize opportunity.



Get to know Cyprus

Cyprus is located in the Eastern Mediterranean, linking Europe, Africa and Asia. This strategic location, being the most eastern EU member state, has attracted companies and individuals from all over the globe over the years, with a significant increase over the past few years.

Cyprus is also an ideal jurisdiction for EU inbound and outbound investments, as well as for international tax planning and offers a well-structured and business-friendly legal, banking and business environment backed by a stable political environment that understands the importance of attracting international business and investors.



Economic Overview

Cyprus is an open, free-market economy, based mainly on services which account for over 75% of the country's GDP. At 3.4% real GDP growth, Cyprus's growth was among the highest in the euro area in 2024. In 2024, Cyprus reached a general government headline surplus of 4.3% of GDP, with revenues growing stronger than expenditures.

Cyprus is regarded as an EU success story, a view reinforced by recent credit rating upgrades by S&P (A-), Fitch (A-), and Moody's (A3) reflect investor confidence.

Growth is largely driven by tourism, financial services, ICT, real estate and shipping.

Infrastructure

Cyprus has two international airports, in Larnaca and Paphos, connecting the island to major hubs in Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. It also has two multi-purpose seaports in Limassol and Larnaca, with Limassol being the principal port, offering logistics and freight solutions, cruise services, and serving as one of the top global jurisdictions for ship management companies.

The island offers a multicultural, highly qualified, English-speaking workforce. Internet infrastructure is strong, with high-speed broadband widely available, supporting digitally businesses and residents.

Backed by a strong regulatory framework, Cyprus is actively upgrading its digital public services and e-government systems, while regular international flights and a growing tech ecosystem make it a dynamic base for innovation and remote work.

Cyprus Key Facts and figures



Population

The current population of Cyprus is 1.3 million. 15.3% below 15, 12.3% between 15-24, 59% between 25-64, 13% over 65.



Religion

Greek Orthodox (majority), with a number of minorities eg Armenians, Maronites, Jews, Muslims etc



Languages

Greek (official language)
English (widely spoken)



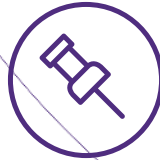
Time Zone

+2 hours GMT



Currency

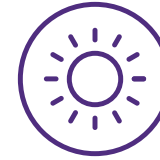
Euro (Eurozone member since 1 January 2008)



Memberships

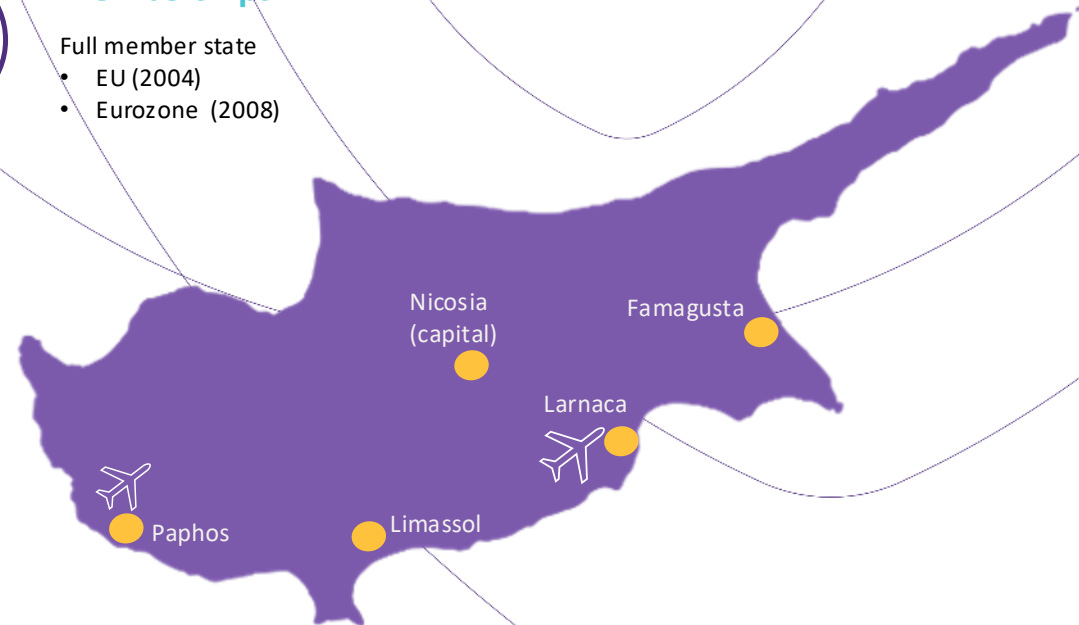
Full member state

- EU (2004)
- Eurozone (2008)



Weather & Temperature

- Mediterranean climate
- Winter +17 °C
- Summer +30 °C



A glimpse of life in Cyprus

Mediterranean food

Cyprus is well known for its traditional food, which offers the best of the healthy Mediterranean cuisine. Some of the most known dishes are traditional mezes, halloumi cheese and fresh seafood.

Wine history

Cypriot dessert wine Commandaria is recognized as the world's oldest named wine

Highly rated beaches

Cyprus is renowned for its soft white sand and holds the highest number of Blue Flag beaches per capita in Europe (69), with 100% of 112 swimming spots rated excellent for water quality by the European Environment Agency.

Troodos mountains

The mountains offer skiing in winter and hiking in the summer season, with beautiful forests, waterfalls and breathtaking views of all **the** island, scattered with beautiful rustic, traditional villages with welcoming residents and fantastic food.

Plant and animal life

The vegetation is largely evergreen and includes vine, citrus, carob and olive trees while the mountains are covered by thick pine tree forests. Also, Cyprus is a key location for migrating birds, where millions pass over the island, and many species winter here

Nightlife / restaurants

Cyprus has a cosmopolitan lifestyle, offering a big range of restaurants of various cuisines and budgets, cafes and bars, beach clubs etc. You can choose to relax, dine or dance the night away.

Sports

With its 300+ days of sun, Cyprus offers exceptional sporting opportunities including 4 18-hole golf courses, hiking, water sports, biking, football, ski, tennis, and many other sports.

Renewable Energy

Cyprus is aligning with EU climate goals, aiming to double its renewable energy share by 2030 -with up to 40% from solar - driving sustainable growth.



Why choose Cyprus

Market Opportunity

- Increasingly used as a headquartering base
- FDI magnet with over €107.5b in inflows (2014-2023)
- Strong appeal of FDI across industries eg ICT, education, health, tourism, shipping, energy and professional services
- Growing fund and fintech industries

Magnet for Talent

- Cypriots are amongst the most highly educated workforces in Europe
- Multilingual capabilities
- Pool of international talent including in core areas such as ICT, shipping etc
- Popular with digital nomads and highly skilled professionals from Third Countries and the EU

Business Friendly Environment

- One of the most immigration friendly regimes in Europe
- Fast and easy business setup
- Attractive gateway for non-EU investors seeking access to the EU via a stable and business-friendly jurisdiction
- Stable tax system with incentives for corporates and employees

Quality of Life

- High quality healthcare and education
- Cosmopolitan and high quality lifestyle
- Rated high in terms of safety
- Relatively low cost of living compared to other EU cities

Access to Finance

- Stable, reformed banking system with strong liquidity and low NPLs, improving access to corporate lending and trade finance.
- Presence of international financial institutions
- Expanding availability of alternative finance options

Why choose Cyprus



Legal system

Modern legal framework, based on the UK common law. Compliance with EU and international laws and regulations



Cost of doing business

Relatively low cost of doing business eg business support services, office rental, compared to other EU business hubs. Top quality services with well trained professionals to support companies (eg lawyers, accountants bankers etc).



Highly favourable tax system

Cyprus has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in Europe, currently set at 12.5%. Tonnage tax system is also offered for shipping companies to be taxed based on the net tonnage.



Double tax treaty

Cyprus has an extensive network of double tax treaty with over 60 countries.



Intellectual Property (IP)

The Cyprus IP regime offers an incentive whereby, subject to certain conditions, profits from IP can be taxed as low as 2.5%.



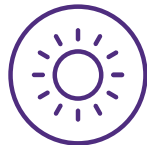
EU & Commonwealth membership

Cyprus is a member of the European Union, European Economic Council and Eurozone. It is also a British Commonwealth country (formerly under British administration).



Healthcare

The Cyprus operates the General National Health System, providing excellent and numerous options on healthcare services.



Climate

Cyprus offers 300+ days of sun per year, warm winters, and one of the lowest air pollution in Europe.



Hospitality

Cyprus is well known for its exceptional hospitality. Locals are friendly, kind and open-minded.



Culture

Cyprus has a rich culture and a vast amount of history which is reflected in the countless museums and historical sites on the island. Paphos, a city in the south-west of the island has World Heritage Status and has many archaeological sites tracing back to the 4th century BC.



Education

Cyprus is a Centre of Excellence in education and research, with top-ranked universities and the highest number of ranked institutions per capita in the EECA region. 12 public and private universities. Its fully accredited English programs and multilingual international schools attract thousands of university students annually. Excellent education options from kindergarten to University.

A growing tech and innovation EU Hub

- Tech sector growing substantially attracting established corporates, start-ups, tech entrepreneurs from across the globe
- Over 800 tech companies based in Cyprus
- The ICT sector is a significant part of the total GVA in Cyprus, with this growth outperforming the total GVA growth in Cyprus. ICT GVA growth is higher than the EU
- Cyprus ICT employment in 2024 was at 5.4%, above the EU average
- 42% of the ICT workforce in 2024 was non-EU tech professionals
- Dynamic ecosystem for startups and innovation, supported by top tier organisations eg University of Cyprus, government incentives, and EU-funded programs (eg Horizon EU).
- Over 10 research institutes, 7 Centers of Excellence, over 15 incubators and accelerators
- Over 3500 researchers
- 10th in the 2024 EU Innovation Scoreboard (3rd year in a row)
- 27th in the Global Innovation Index (out of 133)



Cyprus Vision 2035 – Long term strategy for Economy

Strategy

The three pillars of the strategy are:

- Global model nation
- Thriving and resilient economy
- Fair and inclusive society

Regional technology Hub

Many tech-related companies moved their operation in Cyprus the last 5 years. The government works closely with the private sector to implement strategies for Cyprus to become a tech hub for Europe.

Leaders in Sustainability

Cyprus government invested heavily to promote energy efficiency and renewables, promoting green mobility and sustainability.

Digital transition

Cyprus is undergoing a digital transition in the public services and education and health by upgrading the digital infrastructure and tools.

Manufacturing

Cyprus has small but thriving light manufacturing sector, including pharmaceuticals and food processing.

Tourism

Tourism has long been a central pillar of the Cyprus economy and recent focus on agrotourism, health and wellness and high-quality hospitality is bringing additional benefits and opportunities.

“ Cyprus to be one of the best places in the world to live, work and be active. ”

Cyprus tax facts and figures

Corporate tax

Since its accession to the European Union in 2004, Cyprus tax legislation conforms with the EU requirements and the OECD initiative against harmful tax practices.

A company is considered Cyprus tax resident if its management and control is exercised from Cyprus. The significant tax advantages offered by Cyprus to international companies with a Cyprus tax-residence include:

- double tax treaties with over 67 countries
- favourable tax regime, including corporation tax of 12,5%, one of the lowest rates in the EU
- exemption from tax on profits on disposal of shares, bonds and other securities (except in the case where the company issuing the shares owns immovable property directly or indirectly situated in Cyprus)
- exemption from tax in most cases on dividends received

- no withholding taxes on dividends and on interest payable to non-Cyprus tax residents
- exemption from capital gains tax on gains arising from the disposal of immovable property situated abroad
- tax losses carried forward for 5 years
- no thin capitalisation rules
- exemption from tax on profits from operations of permanent establishments situated abroad



Personal Tax

Individuals who are Cyprus tax residents are subject to tax on their worldwide income, whether remitted to Cyprus or not.

A tax resident is someone who lives in Cyprus for a period exceeding in aggregate 183 days in a calendar year.

Under certain conditions, Cyprus also grants tax resident status with an aggregated stay of >60 days per year. In order to be eligible for this, an individual needs to conform to the following for the calendar year in question:

does not reside in any other single state for a period exceeding 183 days | is not tax resident in any other state | resides in Cyprus for at least 60 days | has other defined Cyprus ties



The standard income tax rates are:

Taxable Income €	Rate €	Tax €	Cumulative taxable income €	Cumulative tax €
First 19.500	-	-	19.500	-
Next 8.500	20	1.700	28.000	1.700
Next 8.300	25	2.075	36.300	3.775
Next 23.700	30	7.110	60.000	10.885
Over 60.000	35			

Individuals who are non-Cyprus tax residents are subject to tax on their Cyprus-source income.

Also, new tax residents who take up employment in Cyprus, subject to conditions, may be entitled to generous tax reliefs of up to 50%.

Cyprus does not impose withholding taxes on interest or dividends payable to non-residents.

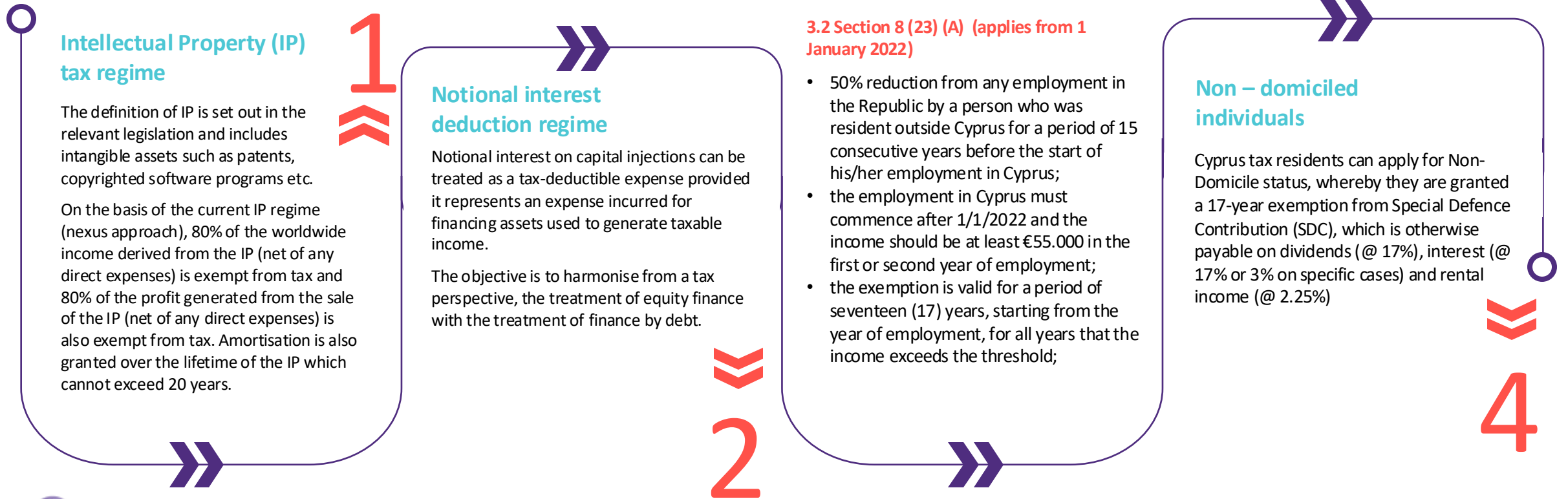
It is worth noting that investments made in SMEs which operate in Cyprus and qualify as innovative businesses could be exempt from tax subject to conditions. The maximum exemption cannot exceed the amount of €150.000 per year.



Benefits of being Cyprus tax resident

- No capital gains tax imposed unless the profits are derived from the sale of immovable property located in Cyprus
- No wealth or inheritance taxes
- Various personal expenses are allowed as a deduction for tax purposes including life insurance premiums, social insurance contributions, approved provident fund contributions, approved medical scheme contributions, professional subscriptions and approved charitable donations
- Opportunity to be granted non-domiciled status, allowing exemption of dividends, interest and rent income from Special Defence Contribution

Four key tax incentives for foreign investors



One of the most attractive migration regimes in the EU

Employment of highly skilled non-EU staff

Streamlined, fast-track review process for Permit applications, and also the one off process to make a company eligible to employ non-EU staff.

Capacity to swiftly relocate **a large number of non-EU highly skilled** employees. Non EU **support staff** can also be hired. Permits issued for up to **3 years** validity.

EU Blue Card enables skilled employee mobility across the EU for business trips.

Digital nomad visa available

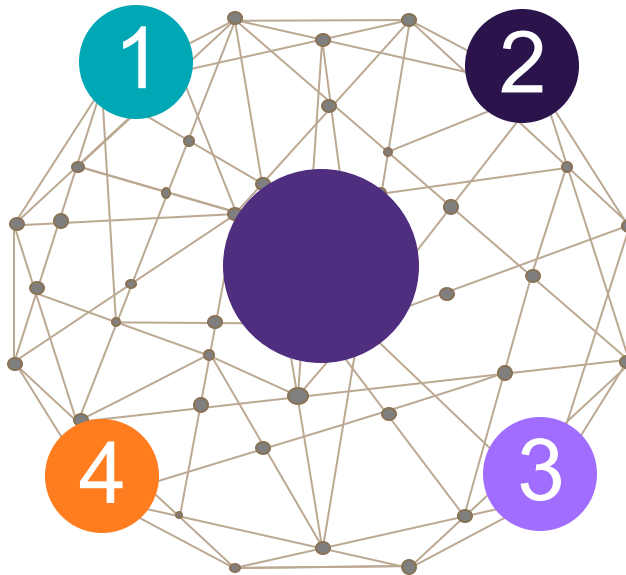
Accession to Schengen area under way

Start-up visa - for up to 5 TCN founders or team members.

Family oriented

Easy for family members to relocate with highly skilled employees, including parents

Spouses of skilled employees have free labour market access.



Multiple options for residence

Employment related: Temporary Residence & Employment Permit; Permanent Residence for Employment; Temporary Residence Permit (allowing foreign employment).

Non-employment related: Temporary Residence Permit, Permanent Residence Permit – suitable for non-EU individuals with sources of income from abroad..

Long term focused

No time limit on permit renewals if conditions are met.

Easy to transfer to another employer.

Citizenship possible based on years of residence for skilled employees.

Who we are - the Grant Thornton Cyprus team

Grant Thornton Cyprus is one of the leading professional services firm in the country. They offer a full range of assurance, tax, specialist advisory and outsourcing services to clients – ranging from public companies and multinationals to private business across a broad spectrum of industries. See the full spectrum of services [here](#).

In 2024 Grant Thornton Cyprus secured a milestone **investment** from Grant Thornton UK. This investment, builds on previous joint ventures between the Cyprus and UK member firms of Grant Thornton International. Now the collaboration significantly expands the partnership across all firm's service lines and is expected to set Grant Thornton Cyprus apart in the local market. It is a **testament** to GTUK's confidence in the future of both the Cyprus economy and of the local member firm.

As part of Grant Thornton's global network spanning **156 markets** with **76,000 professionals**, we combine local expertise with global capabilities to deliver comprehensive solutions.

With a partner-led approach they deliver assurance, tax, specialist advisory and outsourcing services to clients ranging from multinationals to private businesses across diverse industries. They differentiate themselves through deep industry expertise, technical excellence, and a genuine understanding of their clients' needs.



19

Partners, Directors and Service
Line Leaders with nearly **32% of
women** at partner level



Award winning culture

Great Place to Work
Sound Industrial Relations 2014
Equality Allies at Work
Equality Employer
ISO 14001:2015.

“

As a member of a global network, you can expect the resources, skills and experience of a large, international firm, but with the accessibility and attention of a local firm meaning you get the best of both worlds.

What really sets us apart though; is our culture. We invest in listening, building relationships and understanding your concerns to deliver an experience that's more personal, agile and proactive. We work at the pace that matters. Yours.

We don't predict the future. We help you shape it.

Stavros Ioannou, CEO Grant Thornton Cyprus

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Grant Thornton – A truly global network



Global

+750
Offices

7.2 bn
Revenue (USD)

+156
Markets

+76,000
Employees



Cyprus

2
Offices

11.9 m
Revenue (EUR)

19
Partners

+200
Employees

Grant Thornton is a global leader in assurance, tax, and advisory services, empowering businesses to succeed locally and internationally. Wherever you operate, our experts bring innovative ideas and strategic insights to drive your growth. With 22 International Business Centres (IBCs) led by top professionals worldwide, we seamlessly connect you to Grant Thornton's extensive resources, ensuring consistent and coordinated support for your business needs.

How we can support at set up stage

- Provision of advice from a tax and legal perspective on the structuring of the Cyprus set up
- Set up a Cyprus company (including preparation of all documentation and forms and submission to the Registrar of Companies; first board resolution, first shareholder resolution approving the directors, preparation of the standard AoA, and company registrations (non-EU registering registered office, directors, shareholders and secretary)
- Registering the company with tax department, the social insurance department and TAXISnet system for e-submissions
- Filling for the Ultimate Beneficial Owners Public Registry
- Support to open a bank account with a banking institution that you chose
- Liaison with independent real estate agents to help you navigate on the local office or housing for staff in the local market
- Provision of immigration advice and compliance support in relation to the employment of non-EU / EU staff by the Cyprus entity, as well as other relocation support (schooling, drivers' license, banking etc). Support to prepare and submit the application for a CY company of foreign interests to become an eligible employer for non EU staff
- Register employees with the department of taxation and social insurance and TAXISNET
- Prepare any net to gross tax computations
- Review / drafting of any legal documents such as rental agreement, employment contracts etc
- Preparing a detailed project plan and project managing the set up with regular debriefs on milestone progress

Ongoing Services



Accounting and reporting

- Bookkeeping in accordance with local GAAP (IFRS as adopted by the EU)
- E-storage of documents
- Drafting of management accounts
- Review of annual draft financial statements from a direct and indirect tax view

Immigration

- Support with renewal of Permits for existing employees and family members and handle applications for new employees, and support with applications for Visas through local embassies
- Provide ad hoc advice on immigration and any other relocation support to employees / families

Payroll

- Set up payroll system
- Process monthly payroll and arrange for password protected delivery of emails
- Process TD59 Forms for employees
- Issue certificate of emoluments for employees (TD63)
- Support with preparation of employer's annual return (TD7)
- Preparation and submission of personal tax returns for employees (TD1)
- Run ad hoc payroll computations eg budgeting
- Design and maintain tailored digital dashboards
- Running of a payroll health check (in case you handle on your own)

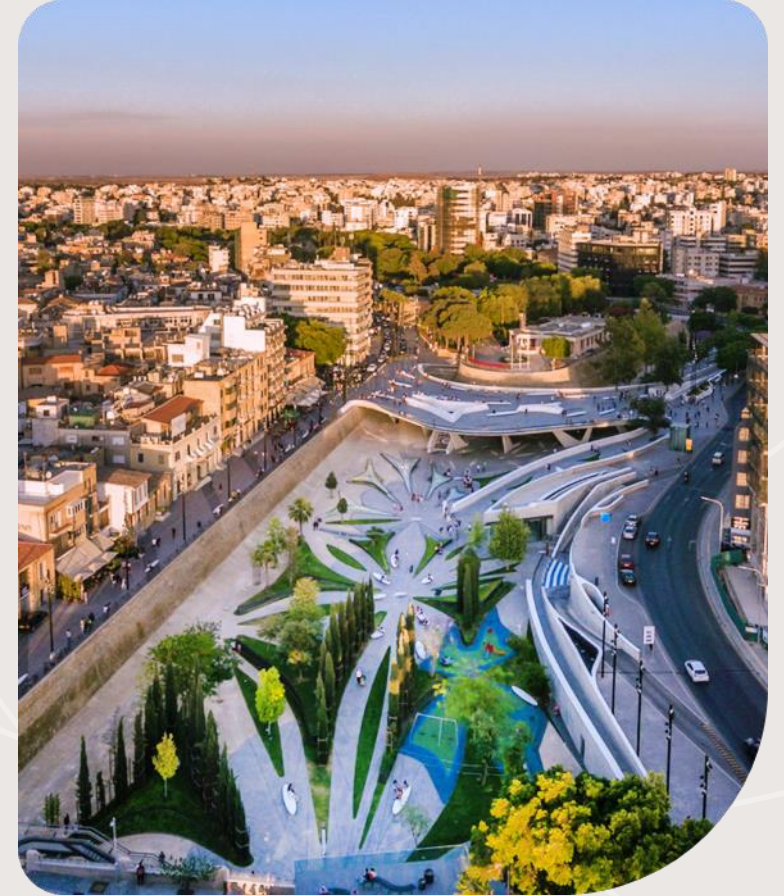
Ongoing Services

Compliance

- Annual Audit of Financial Statements and assistance in their preparation
- Preparation and submission of the tax return for the company (TD4)
- Review of management accounts and support to compute annual provisional tax for the company
- Prepare the company's annual return (HE32) and submit to the Registrar
- Support to complete the staff annual personal income tax returns
- Corporate administration support, including drafting of directors' minutes approving the annual audited financial statements and annual general meeting minutes
- Ongoing support with banking compliance requests

Other ad hoc services

- Support to recruit from the local market
- HR Outsourcing Services (payroll, immigration, running employee engagement surveys, dashboards with HR metrics, KYC for new employees)
- Digital Risk Services (Cybersecurity and Data Protection): Provision of a variety of services including, Cybersecurity Health-Checks, Penetration Testing, CISO-as-a-Service, DPO-as-a-Service / DPO Representative, Regulatory Reviews and much more.



Our niche advisory capabilities at a glance

Find out more



Adding value in other core areas

Assurance

Grant Thornton Cyprus can provide you with innovative assurance services covering the following:

- statutory audit
- voluntary statutory audits
- non-statutory audits, including compilation reports
- financial reporting services - IFRS.

[Find out more](#)

Tax & VAT

At Grant Thornton Cyprus, tax is a key part of our organisation and our award-winning teams can offer you a range of solutions, whatever the size of your business or the challenges you're facing.

Using a combination of reason and instinct, we can work with you to develop a strategy that helps you both understand and manage your tax liability in a transparent and ethical way.

[Find out more](#)



Contact

For more information about how we can help you Unlock Cyprus, please contact:



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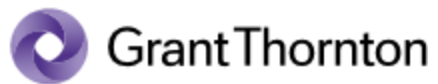
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