

**Cyprus International Institute
for the Environment and Public Health**



in Association with the
**Harvard School
of Public Health**



*"Protecting the
Environment
and Safeguarding
Public Health"*

**An International Initiative for the
Environment and Public Health**
By the Republic of Cyprus and the Harvard School of Public Health
June 2004



Harvard School of Public Health—Cyprus Initiative for the Environment and Public Health

"Protecting the Environment and Safeguarding Public Health"



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) proposes to work with the Government of Cyprus to establish an international research, education, and technology Initiative for the Environment and Public Health. This International Initiative will bring together researchers, educators, and practitioners from Harvard, Cyprus and the Mediterranean Region to confront environmental issues affecting Cyprus and the region and will encompass two new research and training entities:

The Cyprus International Institute (CII) for the Environment and Public Health: The Institute, in Association with the Harvard School of Public Health, will *enhance the skills* and overall capacity of researchers in Cyprus to address present and future societal needs of Cyprus and the region. In addition, the Institute will attract thousands of scientists from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East and US who will come to Cyprus for training, research, and conferences.

The HSPH-Cyprus Program (HCP) in Boston: The HCP will train students from Cyprus and the region and will collaborate with CII on the development and execution of research programs.

Core components of the Initiative include:

Research-- Joint research projects will be conducted by collaborating scientists from the Harvard School of Public Health, Cyprus and the region. The Initiative will help Cyprus to develop local expertise in environmental health research and practice as well as to transfer developed technologies to Cypriot businesses. It is our goal over the first decade to solicit funds from the EU, US and other sources for research projects that will yield important discoveries benefiting the environment, human health, and the economy in Cyprus.

Education-- Both through the Cyprus International Institute in Cyprus and through the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, the Initiative will provide top-quality education and training in environmental, occupational, and public health to students, scholars, and mid-career professionals. Short courses and a one-year certificate program will be offered in Cyprus and masters and doctoral degrees as well as post-doctoral research training will be offered at Harvard. Over the first 10 years, approximately 50 students from Cyprus or the region will receive fellowships so they will return with new knowledge and skills that they can use to train countless others.

Outreach -- The Initiative will disseminate important information on the environment and health to professional audiences in the region as well as to audiences who may have little or no scientific background. Outreach activities will include international and regional conferences, media activities, guest lectures at universities and public organizations, and student orientation and career development activities in the environment and public health.

Funding -- During the next 10 years, the Initiative will be funded by the Republic of Cyprus, and through additional funds being sought from research grants, individual philanthropic gifts, corporate partnerships, foundations, and other sources. A permanent endowment fund will be



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established at Harvard to support the Program activities and student fellowships and similarly a reserve fund will be established at the Cyprus International Institute in Cyprus. It is our goal that the Institute can become self-supporting after the initial 10-year period.



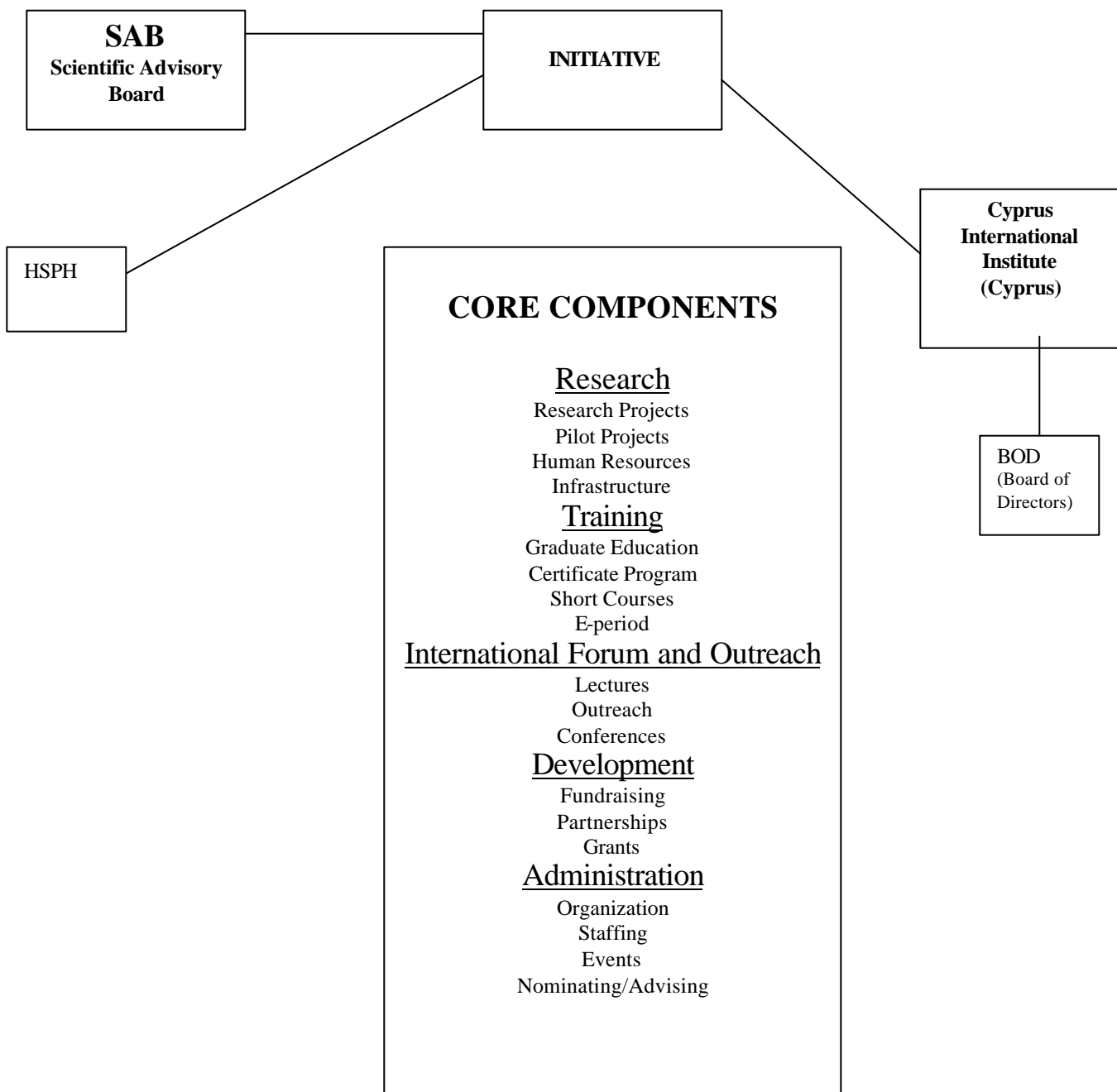
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An International Initiative For the Environment and Public Health *By the Republic of Cyprus and the Harvard School of Public Health* At A Glance





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Introduction

With the globalization of economies, the alarming depletion of and damage to environmental resources, and the disproportionate burden of environmental and health problems borne by some countries, the environment and public health has increasingly become an international priority that transcends national, political, or geographic boundaries. There is a critical need to develop new technologies and policies that will improve the environment and protect human health. Moreover, there is a crucial demand for talented individuals around the world with the training and tools to address local environment and public health problems.

Recognizing the importance of building international capacity in environment and public health research and practice, as well as the inherent advantages in enhancing the diversity of its student body, the Harvard School of Public Health is seeking innovative solutions to environment and public health problems. The establishment of an international collaborative effort in Cyprus dedicated to environment and public health research and education as well as technology development would provide a centralized location to address environment and public health problems on a local, regional and international level.

The Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) proposes to embark upon an international initiative on the environment and public health in collaboration with the government of Cyprus and other institutions and organizations worldwide to establish: 1) the Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health, in Association with the Harvard School of Public Health, which will be located in Cyprus; and 2) a companion Cyprus Program for the Environment and Public Health located at the Harvard School of Public Health.

(NOTE: For purposes of this document, the first will be referred to as the Cyprus International Institute or CII, while the second will be referred to as the HSPH--Cyprus



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Program or HCP. The term International Initiative or Initiative will be used to refer to the entire program being conducted in both countries.)

The Cyprus International Institute (CII) will work with HSPH to bring together a distinguished team of educators, researchers, and practitioners to confront a wide range of environment and public health concerns facing Cyprus and countries in the surrounding region. The Cyprus International Institute will create extraordinary opportunities to collaborate on novel research, teaching and training, and to develop new technologies for regional industries.

The HSPH-Cyprus Program (HCP) in Boston will provide guidance and expertise to the Cyprus Institute; provide graduate education and training for qualified students from the region who will come to the US for studies; collaborate in professional training for scholars, practitioners, governmental officials, and the public through programs offered by the CII; and collaborate with CII in conducting wide-ranging research in the field of environment and public health issues.



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Benefits to Cyprus

Initiative will address Cyprus's environmental issues

The International Initiative will enable Cyprus to develop the expertise and infrastructure it needs to address national and international environment and public health issues.

Cyprus is prosperous, with a thriving economy and an educated workforce. The shores of Cyprus are close to shipping lines, and its southern beach cities are part of a high-density tourist center that includes Greece, Lebanon, Israel, and Egypt.

Despite these assets, Cyprus faces major challenges to protect a very delicate ecosystem and comply with newly imposed environmental regulations imposed as part of its recent accession to the European Union (EU). Specific environment and public health issues facing Cyprus include: water quality (the highest-priority concern); industrial pollution control and risk management; air quality assessment and monitoring; environmental health impacts; waste management; occupational hazards; and nuclear safety and radiation protection .

While tourism has grown to become the single largest sector of the economy in Cyprus, rapid overall economic development during the last three decades, and particularly the rapid growth of tourism, has led to a variety of environmental issues which must be addressed to avoid serious, extensive and irreversible impacts on the environment. Development of a vibrant, sustainable tourist industry on the island is of paramount importance for the country's economic growth and environmental protection.

The proposed Initiative will work closely with a wide range of organizations on special research and communication activities focusing on environment and public health issues in Cyprus and countries in the region. Cyprus already has a commitment of €1.263 billion Euros from the EU to build the infrastructure necessary to bring Cyprus into compliance with EU environmental standards. Recently, the government of the Republic of Cyprus established the Research Promotion Foundation to coordinate and support research activities. The government also participated in the Sixth Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development, and Demonstration Activities of the European Union, and the European Research and Academic Network (QUANTIM/QMED), to expand research activities and enable Cypriot scientists to build networks of collaboration with colleagues in Europe and with the international research and academic communities.



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As outlined by the EU, Cyprus needs to protect its environment and safeguard human health by improving air/water quality, reducing solid waste, and developing suitable sanitation capacity to support a growing tourist industry. The new Institute will invigorate these efforts by bringing together experts from the region and Harvard to address pressing environment and public health needs of Cyprus and the region.

Initiative will serve as regional meeting ground for environment and public health research and training

Culturally rich and ideally situated at the crossroads between East and West, North and South, Cyprus offers an ideal site for the proposed Cyprus International Institute. The World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated its interest in health issues in countries of the UN's Eastern Mediterranean region, and is particularly enthusiastic about the proposed HSPH-Cyprus Initiative

Cyprus already has an important international role with abundant foreign students, tourists, and even retirees from a variety of countries in the region. With its association with the Harvard School of Public Health, the Cyprus International Institute will attract scientists and students from throughout the region and become a regional classroom and laboratory for the environment and public health. The Cyprus Institute will foster collaborative work on common problems that threaten the entire region while simultaneously educating a new generation of environmental scientists and encouraging top students from the region to obtain additional graduate level education at Harvard.

Moreover, the Cyprus International Institute will open its doors to all academic institutions in Cyprus and the region and collaborate in research and development. This will serve to support their individual efforts in research and curriculum development and facilitate the expansion of human resources on the Environment and Public Health.

Cyprus will become a global laboratory for environment and public health research

By becoming an international center in environment and public health research, the knowledge and technology generated by CII can be shared with countries and regions around the world facing similar environmental challenges.

The Government of Cyprus and Harvard School of Public Health are committed to making this an international effort addressing the environment and public health challenges of the entire region. The Government of Cyprus has expressed enthusiasm for



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encouraging the other countries throughout Southeastern and East-Central Europe and the Middle East to become involved in the work of the Initiative and the Institute.

The Harvard School of Public Health is already conducting a number of environmental and other research projects in the region. This includes at least 3 large multi-country studies that include several countries within the region, as well as a number of single-country projects geared specifically to research issues in Greece, Turkey, Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, the Caspian Region and elsewhere. A complete list of HSPH's research projects can be found at: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu>.

Initiative will be a catalyst for peace and reconciliation

Because the environment knows no geographic boundaries, the new Institute and its association with Harvard School of Public Health can become a catalyst for promoting peace and reconciliation within Cyprus and throughout Southeastern and East-Central Europe and the Middle East. Research, educational efforts, and environmental improvement projects conducted through the Initiative will aid efforts to peacefully integrate all citizens of Cyprus, including both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and will help unify the island.

Initiative will encourage other Harvard efforts in the country and region

The International Initiative has the potential to encourage other Harvard efforts to establish significant new collaborations in the region. The numerous academic and governmental contacts that HSPH has already established in the region will expand as the initiative is rolled out, and HSPH may be able to serve as a conduit for other Schools and departments within Harvard University wishing to develop interdisciplinary programs in the region studying societal, economic, governmental, political, and other factors that influence global health. Through proposed pilot project funding, the program will specifically encourage collaboration among faculty members from Harvard and from entities in the Mediterranean region who would not ordinarily work together to examine environment and public health issues in Cyprus. Finally, the initiative includes a yearly month long intensive course where Harvard graduate and undergraduate students will visit Cyprus and will be taught together with CII students. This experience will offer



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students from Harvard and from CII the opportunity to share educational experiences and deepen their interest in the region and its environment and public health problems.



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Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH): Leading Environmental Health Research, Education, and Technology

Harvard University, which celebrated its 350th anniversary in 1986, is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. Currently, there are more than 18,000 degree candidates, including undergraduates and students in ten graduate and professional schools. The Harvard School of Public Health, established in 1922, has become a vital part of the University.

The Harvard School of Public Health is a world leader in public health education and training and is on the cutting edge of today's technological developments in public health. HSPH's early achievements included the development of life-transforming tools such as the cardiac defibrillator, the polio vaccine, and the iron lung. Today, HSPH's faculty utilizes the most advanced research methods and technological tools to address pressing challenges to the public's health. School researchers are working to develop vaccines for new and resurgent infectious diseases such as AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; others are designing and implementing prevention and treatment efforts to help alleviate the burden of major diseases today.

Each year, over 2,200 health leaders—including 1,400 continuing professional education students—come to HSPH to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to confront major public health threats. HSPH's more than 17,000 alumni—including former World Health Organization Director-General Gro Harlem Brundtland and six former U.S. Centers for Disease Control Directors—occupy leadership positions in hospitals, industry, health departments, and international health agencies around the globe. HSPH has trained international health researchers and policymakers representing 84 countries in mobilizing, allocating, and managing limited resources to improve health.

The Harvard School of Public Health is the designated site of a U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Educational Resource Center, which provides policy leadership worldwide. The School is also the oldest U.S. National Institutes of Health-sponsored Center for Environmental Health. For these reasons, HSPH is an exceptionally attractive resource for training health and environmental professionals—and its offerings will be even further enhanced through this new effort in Cyprus.

Scientists in HSPH's Department of Environmental Health have long been at the forefront of efforts to safeguard human health against environmental threats. In the early part of this century, they devised sewage and water treatment systems that curbed diseases such as cholera and typhus. The field of industrial hygiene truly began at HSPH,



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led by Dr. Alice Hamilton, the first woman professor at Harvard University. Other milestones include the development of the vital role of surfactant in neonatal lung function; crucial discoveries about the respiratory tract's responses to inhaled toxic dust and gases; and seminal research into asthma and lead poisoning. Today, with 100 graduate students and 35 full-time faculty members, the Department of Environmental Health is one of HSPH's largest and most active departments. These Harvard scientists work in a global laboratory that extends across the United States to Canada and Mexico, and overseas to Greece, Spain, Kuwait, Taiwan, Japan, China, Chile, and India.



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Elements of the Initiative

The proposed International Initiative has three key elements: Research, Training, and Outreach. These three activities will be conducted by two new entities. The Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health, in Association with Harvard School of Public Health (CII), will be located in Cyprus as an independent non-profit organization under the aegis of the Government of Cyprus. The Harvard School of Public Health Cyprus Program for the Environment and Public Health (HCP), will be established at Harvard School of Public Health and located in the U.S. Both initiative components will receive funds from the government of Cyprus and other local or international organizations.

The Cyprus International Institute (CII) in Cyprus, will address the complex environmental and health issues of Cyprus and countries in the region. The Cyprus International Institute, run in consultation with HSPH, will primarily focus on research, but will also conduct regional education and outreach. In all of these components, the newly formed HSPH—Cyprus Program in Boston will work closely with the Institute and other institutions to build capacity for teaching and training, attract research support, and support environmental and health policy and programs in their region.

Research

The Cyprus International Institute will engage in research projects that address the environment and public health problems of Cyprus and neighboring countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Africa. Moreover, HCP and CII scientists will work closely to develop expertise and infrastructure needed to conduct research in the environment and public health field. It is planned that while the majority of the research will be conducted by local scientists in Cyprus, Harvard faculty in Boston will also be engaged in the research activities. Of particular importance will be the close collaborations between Cypriot and US researchers to develop high quality research proposals in areas of interest. This requires strong commitment and participation by the HSPH faculty in order to identify regional problems and develop scientifically sound proposals.

For Cyprus, rapid economic development over the last three decades (particularly the uncontrolled growth of tourism industry) has led to a variety of environment and public health issues which must be addressed to avoid serious, extensive and irreversible



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impacts. The government of Cyprus has made a commitment to streamline environmental legislation and policy so that it is in compliance with those of the European Union.

Cyprus environmental issues fall into four 'key' sectors:

Air Quality: The main air quality issues which the Republic of Cyprus must address include:

- Implementation of EU air quality and emission standards.
- Control of mobile and stationary air pollution sources.
- Provisions for public information/notification when thresholds are exceeded.
- Establishment of a coordinated monitoring program.
- Assessment of air pollution-related health effects.

Water Quality: The water quality issues which the Republic of Cyprus has to face include ground water nitrate contamination from agricultural sources; surface water contamination; marine environment pollution; water conservation-water management; and water quality monitoring.

Waste management: Environmental issues for Cyprus include hazardous waste from mining and other industrial operations; solid waste management including both human and animal waste management; and waste management policy.

Industrial pollution control and risk management: Cyprus has no integrated management and control system in place concerning chemical substances, industrial wastewater and volatile organic compound emissions.

Addressing these four environmental issues in an evidence-based way that can be sustained while the country continues its economic development is key to the overall development plan for Cyprus.

Work environment: Although Cyprus does not have a large industrial work force, a large number of its people may be affected by work environment conditions. Assessing indoor air pollution and other factors influencing work environments will also be a focus of the Initiative's activities.

HSPH has a new program researching both acute and chronic injury such as repetitive motion disorders and low back pain. While the natural history of these disorders is quite



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complex, specific workplace interventions do reduce the incidence and cost associated with treatment and the loss of productivity. Through biomechanical modeling and injury epidemiology, the effects of engineering design on exposure to identified physical risk factors within the office environment, construction and transportation industries and recreational activities can be examined at HSPH.

The overall International Initiative will be a catalyst for securing substantial research grants and investments from other sources, including the European Union, the United States, and other government entities, as well as multi-national corporations and foundations to address the issues described above.

Research efforts may include preliminary assessments of environmental problems in Cyprus and the surrounding region; determining sources and severity; identifying methods and targets for abatement and remediation; and developing new and innovative technologies to safeguard the health of humans, nature, and the physical environment. If deemed mutually beneficial, these technologies and other intellectual property that may result from these efforts could then be patented and licensed. The use of these patents and licenses could be negotiated with industry so that the technologies would provide an additional boost to the local economy beyond that of having healthier workers and citizens and an improved environment.

Participating scientists will typically include individuals from Harvard, as well as from Cyprus or other countries assembling multi-disciplinary and multi-national teams to address key problems. The Initiative will bring together a broad spectrum of expertise in the areas of air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste management, life cycle analysis, exposure and risk assessment, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental law, toxicology, management, and other areas.

An important attraction of this Initiative will be its ability not only to analyze and serve as a laboratory to find the best means to remediate problems of environment and public health in Cyprus and the region, but also to serve as a catalyst for peace and reconciliation. Environment and public health issues are an ideal integrating force since by definition they are cross-border issues. Pollutants and disease recognize no national boundaries. The International Initiative can be a neutral broker dealing with all parties to address environmental problems.

Pilot Projects

The Initiative will offer the opportunity for researchers at Harvard, in Cyprus and in the region to apply for pilot project seed funding. This will enhance collaboration among



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scientists who might not normally work together, which will result in the development and funding of new research ideas. Undergraduates, graduates, postdoctoral students, scholars, and faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health and other schools within Harvard, as well as scientists from the Institute and from within the region, will be eligible to apply for funding to conduct research through the joint initiative.

Research Capacity Building

Setting up a research Institute from ground zero is a challenging task and requires many well planned steps. Subsequent to the appointment of an Institute director, 2-3 research scientists will be recruited to staff the Institute. It is anticipated that 15 to 20 researchers will be employed by the Institute by the end of the first decade; however, the recruiting process will be done gradually. This will make it possible to select scientists based on the Institute needs. Furthermore, a multi-year plan will be developed for acquiring the necessary resources (people, space, and equipment) which are critical to the success of the Institute. Again, resources will be tailored to the mission and evolving needs of the Institute.

US and Cyprus scientists will work closely using the following approaches: 1) Institute scientists receive training at HSPH; 2) HSPH faculty and researchers will visit the Institute frequently; 3) HSPH doctoral researchers will share their time between US and Cyprus; 4) HSPH and Institute research groups will work on the same research projects using video-conferencing or other communication media to stay in touch

Education/Training

Both the CII in Cyprus and the HCP in the U.S. will provide high quality education in environment and public health issues. The Cyprus International Institute will focus on the delivery of programs in Cyprus for the region's students, scholars, mid-career professionals, and government officials. Training will include short courses and the certificate program in Cyprus. The HCP in Boston will assist in the development and delivery of these programs to attract students from throughout the region. The HCP in Boston will also offer masters, doctoral, and post-doctoral opportunities for qualified students who enroll at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Certificate Program in Cyprus



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A one-year **certificate program**, offered and awarded by the CII in Cyprus with curriculum advice and faculty from Harvard School of Public Health, will enable prospective students from throughout Europe—especially Cyprus, Greece, and nations in the Eastern Mediterranean Region—and the Middle East and North Africa to gain excellent preparation in environmental health. Successful students may then apply for advanced study in the U.S., including, if appropriate, application to the Harvard School of Public Health. Certificate program participants will receive scholarships and stipends for living expenses covering their attendance in a series of short courses, as well as other special courses, lectures, and distance learning classes. Certificates will be awarded for successful completion of at least eight courses (or a minimum of 40 semester credits). At least 20 semester hours will be taught by HSPH faculty. This program could be offered in collaboration with the University of Cyprus or other regional Universities. See [Appendix A](#) for more detailed description.

Short courses in Cyprus

Two- to five-day **short courses** developed and taught by faculty from HSPH and the Cyprus International Institute will offer the latest practical information to keep public health professionals abreast of advances in a wide range of areas. Most of the courses will be taught by faculty in Cyprus, while others will be taught using distance-learning technology. Initially four courses will be developed with two courses offered annually. As interest grows, more courses will be developed to meet emerging needs and interests. See [Appendix B](#) for more detailed description.

Winter Session in Cyprus

The Harvard School of Public Health has a winter session referred to as “E-period” that is taught during the month of January. The course work over this month long session is flexible and allows students to take tutorials, conduct short research projects and take specialized classes. We propose to take advantage of this important short but intensive period by offering two 2.5 credit courses in Cyprus (2 hours of teaching in the morning and 2 in the afternoon daily.) These classes will be attended by both students from the Cyprus Institute and students from HSPH. This will enable students to exchange experiences and work together on two intensive courses. We anticipate that every year 10-15 HSPH students with two HSPH faculty members will travel to Cyprus in January



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and will stay during the entire month in Cyprus. This will provide an exciting opportunity for both the Institute and HSPH students to work together.

Graduate Education in US: Master's, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Training

The HSPH Department of Environmental Health focuses on complex health problems that require the contributions of many specialties. Its faculty, research staff, and students reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the field and include chemists, engineers, epidemiologists, applied mathematicians, physicians, occupational health nurses, physiologists, cell biologists, molecular biologists, and microbiologists, as well as faculty in adjacent departments. The Department's teaching and research activities are carried out through five concentrations: environmental epidemiology, environmental science and engineering, occupational health, physiology, and population genetics.

The Cyprus International Institute will provide an important means to recruit and educate students and scholars from Cyprus and from other countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Africa. Those considered to be most promising may apply to HSPH to become part of the Harvard-Cyprus Program at HSPH. If accepted, they would become eligible for consideration for scholarships and stipend aid created through grants and an endowment established by the Cypriot government as part of the initiative.

Distance Learning

Distance learning using videoconferencing and the web will be employed to realize the program's educational objectives in the certificate program and the short courses, and will be used as part of the graduate studies being conducted at HCP in Boston as well as in the research activities of the Institute.

International Forums and Outreach

An important goal of the Initiative will be the dissemination of significant information to a wide range of audiences including those who possess little or no scientific background. Employing the techniques of risk communication, the Cyprus International Institute will help to translate research into understandable information that can be used by the public in making individual decisions about their environment at home, work, and in their



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community. Moreover, the CII will assist the Republic of Cyprus to integrate scientific findings into sound environmental and occupational health policies for the country. The CII will strive to educate the people and policymakers of Cyprus and the region about environmental and health issues through a large spectrum of outreach activities: international and regional conferences, media releases, guest lectures at universities and public organizations, corporate partnerships, and technology transfer programs.

Outreach

A wide variety of outreach activities will be undertaken including press releases, e-magazines and websites. This will be important for the visibility of the entire initiative, both in Boston and in Cyprus, and will provide a great service to the local and regional community. Outreach activities are of paramount importance to help individuals understand risks and the scientific basis for those risks. These outreach activities will help reduce confusion and frustration which can emerge from misinformation.

International Conferences

Together the HSPH-Cyprus Program in Boston and the Cyprus International Institute will organize bi-annual international conferences on environmental and public health topics. Researchers, professionals and students from the Eastern Mediterranean region, Europe and Africa will come to Cyprus to attend these conferences. Experts from around the world will be invited to give lectures on the most recent scientific results and environmental policies. These conferences will become forums where participants from around the world will share their experiences and exchange ideas for new activities. For the participants from the developing countries, a large fraction of their expenses will be subsidized by the Institute.

Topics for the International Conferences will be selected based on regional environmental needs after consultations with regional organizations and colleagues at Harvard and elsewhere in the US and in Cyprus and the Mediterranean region. Some ideas for conferences include: Health Effects of Air Pollution; Environmental Impacts of Globalization; Water Quality and Resources; Industrial Development and Global Climate Change. The International Conferences will address important issues that our society faces and will be highly publicized through the international press.



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"Protecting the Environment and Safeguarding Public Health"

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Lecture Series

In addition, quarterly lectures by HSPH or international scientists will be given in Cyprus. These lecture series may be organized in collaboration with professional associations (e.g. Cyprus Medical Association), the University of Cyprus, government (e.g. the Ministry of Tourism) or industry. The lecture series will cover a broad spectrum of environmental and public health topics. We would like to launch this activity soon after the signing of the agreement and have identified two important topics for an initial lecture series: 1) US and European air quality regulations and the challenges of the Cypriot government to meet the European Union requirement; 2) Sustainable development of the tourism industry. Lectures will include one or more speakers and panel discussions in order to provide opportunities for discussion and debate. An intangible benefit of these interactions will be the identification of parties with an interest in the particular topics who wish to embark upon research or training collaborations with the Cyprus International Institute.



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Leadership and Administration

Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

A Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) will be created to provide advice on the research and education strategies of the Initiative. The membership of this board will be recommended by Harvard in consultation with the Government of Cyprus. A large number of academic, research, government and industry organizations will be solicited to help identify potential members of the SAB and final membership will be 6-8 individuals.

Periodic Review

To assure that the objectives of the Cypriot Government and Harvard University are met, each party is encouraged to conduct independent periodic reviews.

The initiative can be phased out at the request of either partner in a manner described in the accompanying legal agreement, should that become a necessity. Both sides anticipate a long and fruitful relationship, however, with many programs persisting in perpetuity. However, both the Cypriot Government and Harvard University maintain flexibility in terms of their future commitments.



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Funding Sources

We envision that the International Institute could be supported through a variety of sources: grants from government agencies in the US (including USAID), the EU, Cyprus, and other nations; foundation and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) grants; gifts from wealthy donors in Cyprus and elsewhere; and sponsorships from multi-national corporations. Specific funds will be provided by the Cypriot government to Harvard for the Cyprus Program at HSPH. These funds will be designated for the creation of an endowment at Harvard—a permanent investment fund—the income of which will be used to support student fellowship funds. Similarly, funds from the Cypriot Government will be provided for the creation of an endowment fund for the Cyprus International Institute in Cyprus. This broad base of funding will enhance the stability and ensure the longevity of the Cyprus Program at HSPH and CII in Cyprus.

Conclusion

The new Initiative will foster international collaborations; train professionals from Cyprus and the region in important environment and public health research and programmatic initiatives; recruit talented students from Cyprus, Greece, and the South Eastern Mediterranean region; and help to strengthen the environment and public health infrastructure of the region.

The new Initiative will also attract major financial support from the international community—resources that will be invested in Cyprus to improve its environment and public health, to promote the professional development of its environmental leaders and health professionals, and to strengthen its economy. Moreover, the Cyprus International Institute will continue to grow steadily over time, increasing the impact and reach of its programs as it becomes more established as a valuable resource to Cyprus and the region.



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