

The COVID-19 response was centralised and coordinated at the highest levels of government in coordination with the Scientific Advisory Committee consists of independent academics from universities and members of the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases Unit. The Unit coordinates surveillance activities and is responsible for communications with the ECDC, WHO and EU. (from State of Health in the EU - Cyprus - Country Health Profile 2021 https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021_chp_cyprus_english.pdf).

During the COVID pandemic, the Cyprus Ministry of Health was in charge of the various actions, and they nominated the Molecular Virology Department of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics as the National Reference Laboratory for COVID.

The COVID-19 pandemic re-emphasised the importance of emergency preparedness in Cyprus. Pandemic planning has been a particular priority and, at the end of 2022, a new WHO Country Office opened in Cyprus specifically to help strengthen and upgrade preparedness against emerging and epidemic diseases. However, other emergencies are also on the horizon, such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and climate change, and health systems also need to prepare for these. Consequently, greening health infrastructure has been highlighted as part of the hospitals upgrading process. Similarly, tackling AMR is a high-priority policy area for Cyprus, and a National Strategy against AMR has been in place since 2012. Designing a new electronic platform for the surveillance of nosocomial antibiotic consumption and healthcare-associated infections is being financed through the Recovery and Resilience Plan. Antibiotic consumption in Cyprus has been falling, but remains high, and rates of designated AMR infection are the highest in the EU. (from State of Health in the EU - Cyprus - Country Health Profile 2023 https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/2023_chp_cy_english.pdf).

R&I Policies and Strategies

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

Country has a dedicated strategy for R&I related to pandemic threat?

R&I strategy exists but not on Pandemic Preparedness

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research?

No. During the Covid Pandemic, the Cypriot research community was encouraged to use OpenAIRE COVID-19 Gateway and the Zenodo Cyprus Collection (the collection hosts Research Outputs from the research community of Cyprus).

R&I portal <https://www.research.org.cy/en/>

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name	URL	Short Description
	https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/eng	
	https://covid19.ucy.ac.cy/	
COVID-19	https://www.research.org.cy/covid-19	
HIV AIDS	https://www.moh.gov.cy/Moh/MOH.nsf/All/E7BDF2576B26B489C22584C800462764/\$file/HIV-	

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs?

Since 2020, the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Digital Policy has been responsible, among others, for designing, coordinating, and implementing the National Policy and Strategy for Research and Innovation. Moreover, under each Ministry, including the Ministry of Health, Research and Innovation Coordinators have been appointed. These Coordinators are establishing a Committee chaired by the Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus, with the goal of enhancing coordination and bridging the gap between real-life needs and research activities.

R&I Infrastructures, Initiatives and Clinical Trials *The initiatives are listed in alphabetical order, are not exhaustive and should be updated regularly*

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction BSL 3; Emergency intervention units; Clinical trial units; High level isolation units

Name Infrastructure	Type Infrastructure	URL	Max Capacity	Available for	Open to
The Center of Excellence Biobank CY		https://biobank.cy/covid-19/			
The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (Molecular Virology)	BSL 3, clinical trials unit, high level isolation unit, Molecular Virology	https://www.cing.ac.cy/		Academia and Cyprus Ministry of Health	Yes, upon mutual agreement

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives relevant for infectious diseases BBMRI

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in
<https://www.combacte.com/>
<https://vaccelerate.eu/>

Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources *The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly*

Basic Research

url <https://www.research.org.cy/en/>
Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy https://www.dmid.gov.cy/dmid/research.nsf/home_en/home_en?openform
funding for basic research accessible for industry?
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Applied Research

url <https://www.research.org.cy/en/>
funding for applied research accessible for industry?
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Translational Research

url <https://www.research.org.cy/en/>
funding accessible for industry?
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Clinical Research (in general & in pandemic phase)

url <https://www.research.org.cy/en/>
funding accessible for industry?
source of funding Public (research) agencies
phase funded?

Innovation Projects

url <https://www.research.org.cy/en/>
funding for innovation projects accessible industry?
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Flexible funding (also available for industry) is possible in case of an emergency.

R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat

The actors are listed in alphabetical order, the list is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

R&I actors, authorities and ministries involved in case of an outbreak; mobilisation processes of research forces;(existing) national or regional structures that advise governments on R&I during emergencies; assessment of research outputs produced during a crisis; incentives ensuring qualitative scientific dissemination during a crisis; international scientific collaboration in case of an outbreak; other actors

Name	Description	url
Ministry of Health	Directorate of Medical and Public Health Services	https://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/moh.nsf/index_en/index_en
Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy	The Ministry is responsible for the formulation, coordination and implementation of the National Policy and Strategy for Research & Innovation guided by the thematic priorities identified through the Smart Specialisation Strategy.	https://www.gov.cy/dmrid/?opendocument
National Board for Research and Innovation (NBRI)	The National Board for Research and Innovation (NBRI) is the principal advisory body for defining Research and Innovation (R&I) strategy in Cyprus.	https://www.nbri.gov.cy/
Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)	The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) is the national authority in charge of supporting and promoting research, technological development and innovation in Cyprus.	https://www.research.org.cy/en/
State Healthcare Services Organisation (SHSO)	SHSO helps to monitor infectious disease spread	https://www.shso.org.cy/en/profil-organismou/

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BE READY PLUS is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-17 “Pandemic preparedness and response: Maintaining and enhancing the preparatory work for a co-funded European partnership for pandemic” under grant agreement 101195079. Starting date: 01.01.2025. | End Date 31.12.2025

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