

PROJECT:

Accessibility and Gateways – Cyprus National Report

CLIENT: DEPARTMENT OF TOWN PLANNING AND HOUSING – MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

DATE: OCTOBER 2006

SCOPE:

The study focuses on the transport systems of Cyprus and their problems, with emphasis on the inadequacy of public transport services provided, as well as their advantages and disadvantages and their impact on urban development and the environment.

RESULT:

The study identified the strengths and weaknesses of the road, water and air transport systems in Cyprus. The general results are as follows:

Road Transport: Cyprus has a very good motorway infrastructure connecting the main urban areas. There is however a lack of adequate public transport both in urban and rural areas, with the situation being most critical in urban areas. The public transport system in Cyprus has deteriorated and there is an over-reliance in the private car. There is an immediate need to improve the public transport system and increase public awareness so that other methods of road transport (buses, trams) could be seen as a viable alternative.

Water Transport: Maritime transport is served by a modern national port system. Cyprus ports are already well developed and well equipped but the further upgrading of Limassol port and the proposed joint redevelopment of Larnaka port and marina will further enhance Cyprus' role as a trading hub and a natural transshipment centre for trade. The upgrading of the two ports will also assist in improving intermodality for passengers and freight coming into Cyprus.

Air Transport: The main airports in Cyprus are Larnaka and Pafos, which had 5.0 and 1.8 million passengers respectively in 2005. Passenger air-transport is very important for Cyprus as an island state and especially for the tourism sector. Therefore, the expansion and modernisation of the two main airports of Cyprus, recently completed, is an essential step in improving the island's overall accessibility.

