

## INTRODUCTION

CYPRUSLAB is a Network for the communication and dissemination of information in the field of Testing. It was established in November 1994, as a Technical Committee of the Cyprus Organization for Standards and Control of Quality (CYS) which is the national organization, established in 1975 (law No. 68/75). Until recently, CYS coordinated and held the secretariat of the Network, providing also the necessary resources. The participation of laboratories from both the public and private sector was encouraged. The contribution of CYPRUSLAB in the efforts of Cyprus to become a member of the European Union is well appreciated. Through its participation in EUROLAB activities, CYPRUSLAB represents an important channel of communication between Europe and Cyprus while promoting the perspective of becoming a bridge to other Mediterranean countries. CYPRUSLAB is currently undergoing through a change of status, i.e from a Network under the umbrella of CYS into an autonomous Association of Cyprus Laboratories. The Memorandum of Understanding has already been discussed and it is expected that during the next months it will be in place. It is expected that CYPRUSLAB will now be more open, flexible and representative, as well as more efficient to meet its objectives.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of CYPRUSLAB are:

- ◆ To strengthen the infrastructure of laboratories
- ◆ To increase the awareness among people in the field of the need for quality assurance in laboratory work

- ◆ To promote and facilitate the implementation of quality systems in laboratories
- ◆ To promote the implementation of an accreditation scheme for laboratories.

## MEMBERS

The members of CYPRUSLAB number up to 110, covering the whole range of laboratory activities carried out in Cyprus, both in the public and private sectors. Their classification by category is illustrated in the following table:

### *Members of CYPRUSLAB (by category)*

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Building and Construction/Geology	25
Chemical laboratories	15
Clinical laboratories	19
Food industry	18
Pharmaceutical	6
Plastics	5
Electrical/Electronic/Telecommunication	4
Leather	1
Metals	3
Paints	3
Non Destructive Testing	1
Calibration Laboratories	2
Forensic	1
Miscellaneous	7

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## ACTIVITIES

Since its establishment and despite the inadequacy of resources, CYPRUSLAB has contributed a lot in providing information and increasing the awareness of people involved in all fields of laboratory work. As a result there was a rapid increase in the number of its

members (see above). CYPRUSLAB has proved to be an efficient forum where various aspects referring to laboratory work are discussed.

#### □ *Participation in the work of EUROLAB*

CYPRUSLAB participates in the work of EUROLAB. It is expected that after the transient state with the change of the status of CYPRUSLAB, this participation will be more active and therefore beneficial to its members. CYPRUSLAB has been represented in various EUROLAB events (Copenhagen 1997, Zurich 1998, Berlin 1999, Athens 1999, Vienna 2000, Edinburgh 2000). Efforts are being made to ensure that more information from EUROLAB is smoothly distributed to CYPRUSLAB members in time so that more people are actively involved in relevant discussions.

#### □ *Seminars - βλ.κατάλογο που ακολουθεί*

#### □ *Directory of Laboratories*

A directory of laboratories is currently under preparation to provide with all necessary information (field, methodology, techniques, quality assurance etc.).

#### □ *Publications*

CYPRUSLAB provides for the publication of a Newsletter as well as other literature on specific topics, distributing useful information to its members.

#### □ *International Relations*

CYPRUSLAB is an Associate Member of EUROLAB. Emphasis has also been given to developing regional and international cooperation and exchanging of experience with other countries. This is very important, especially for small countries like Cyprus trying to succeed in the competitive world market. CYS is an Associate Member of ILAC, an observer in EA (European cooperation for Accreditation) and is in

contact with EURACHEM (through the relevant Cyprus Committee, operating under the Pancyprian Union of Chemists). CYS has established some cooperation with a series of national accreditation bodies.

□ *Interlaboratory Comparisons*

CYPRUSLAB coordinates the efforts to promote interlaboratory comparisons and encourages its members to participate in relevant programmes. Some recent examples refer to the cooperation between laboratories in the plastics and in the food industry as well as between clinical laboratories.

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*For information*

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