

**Subsidy scheme for attending courses provided by  
the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)  
Online tourism academy  
within the context of the De Minimis Aid Rule**

**A. GENERAL**

The Deputy Ministry of Tourism aiming at improving destination's competitiveness through knowledge creation and exchange invites people to attend the online self-paced courses offered by the Online Tourism Academy of United Nations World Tourism Organization. The courses cater to those who are looking to improve or supplement their current skillset in order to adapt to this fast-growing and evolving sector and are addressing the challenges that tourism sector faces such as globalization, digital revolution, travel marketing and sustainability, among others. Through these first programs, participants will acquire managerial skills in digital marketing, finance, strategy, operations, innovation, digital transformation etc. These flexible courses allow participants to reconcile academic, professional and other personal commitments. The courses are available on the following link <https://www.unwto-tourismacademy.ie.edu/course-catalog>.

The Scheme is based on the Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid.

"De minimis aid" means a low-level state aid, which is exempt from the notification requirement to the European Commission because it is considered not to affect trade between Member States and/or does not distort or threaten to distort competition within the European Union. The maximum total amount of de minimis aid that a single undertaking may obtain from all the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus in any period of three fiscal years is that it may not exceed the amount of €200,000.

**B. OBJECTS**

- 1) Up-skilling and re-skilling of human resource in skills required in tourism sector
- 2) Dissemination of knowledge about new trends and challenges in tourism
- 3) Upgrading the tourist product and optimizing the services provided

**C. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Persons who reside in Cyprus.

**D. PROCESS OF SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS**

- 1) For the purposes of submitting an Application to claim subsidy, beneficiaries shall submit the properly completed the relevant Application form on [www.tourism.com.cy](http://www.tourism.com.cy) , as well as the properly completed the Solemn

Declaration of a Single Undertaking. Copies of the Application and the Declaration may be obtained from the website of the Deputy Ministry of Tourism [www.tourism.gov.cy](http://www.tourism.gov.cy) .

- 2) All applicants shall receive a written response of approval / decline of their Application.
- 3) Submitted Applications will be examined by following first in first out method.

#### **E. SUBSIDY AMOUNT**

The amount of subsidy is 50 % of each course. The maximum amount can be given to a beneficiary for a certain year is €1.000.

#### **F. PAYMENT**

In order for the amount of subsidy to be possible, the beneficiary shall submit to the Deputy Ministry of Tourism the following supporting documents:

- 1) A receipt by the UNWTO Online Tourism Academy for the paid amount
- 2) A tax invoice by the beneficiary to the Deputy Ministry of Tourism for the 50% of the cost.
- 3) Certification of the UNWTO or the affiliated university

#### **G. DEADLINE**

Applications can be submitted until 14/10/2022.

#### **JA. SCHEME MODIFICATIONS**

The Deputy Ministry of Tourism, has the right to freeze / extend the duration validity of the Scheme depending on the available budgets. Any modification of the Scheme shall be announced on the Deputy Ministry of Tourism website [www.tourism.gov.cy](http://www.tourism.gov.cy) under the present Scheme.

#### **JB. MORE INFORMATION**

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