

Deputy Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus

Scheme for providing financial aid for organising international sports events in Cyprus in the context of the EU Regulations on de minimis rule

A. GENERAL

1. An international sports event is stated for the provisions of the scheme is an event that falls in the category of Olympic sports or any other sports activity that indicates great popularity on an international level and especially in the tourist origin countries for Cyprus.
2. The Policy is based on the Commission's Regulation (EU) no. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union on de minimis rule.
3. De minimis rule refers to low amounts of subsidies which are considered not to affect trade between Member States and / or do not distort or threaten to distort competition within the European Union. The ceiling on the total de minimis aid granted to any beneficiary by all the Competent Authorities may not exceed EUR 200,000 within three financial years.
4. The Deputy Ministry reserves the right to consider cases of international sports events, which are either not covered by this policy, or for which other terms and conditions apply, and support them financially through other Schemes or Agreements.

B. OBJECTIVES OF POLICY

Aim of the scheme is to encourage the organising of international sports events, including tournaments or training camps aiming at the development of Sports Tourism and the increase of overnight stays for the hotel industry during the low tourist season.

C. BENEFICIARIES



Beneficiaries are persons or legal persons intending to undertake the organisation of a sports event, which responds to the above objective.

D. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The application shall be examined provided the following conditions are met:

- For 2022, the international sporting events that will take place in Cyprus will be entitled to financial support if the date of the sporting event in Cyprus falls between November 1 and April 30. In case the event takes place in the Nicosia District and in rural / mountainous / remote areas, the application will be examined regardless of the period of its implementation.
- The minimum number of athletes/professional entourage expected to participate from abroad is 100 people. In cases, where events are held in the Nicosia District and in rural/mountainous/remote areas the minimum number is 30 people.
- The Deputy Ministry of Tourism should be promoted as a sponsor throughout the progression of the event, in a way that will be approved in advance by the Deputy Ministry.
- if the application concerns International, European either Regional or other sports competitions and championships organised in Cyprus by the respective Cypriot Sports Federations and fall under the training obligations of Participants, these shall be considered after taking into account the level of sponsorship of the Cyprus Sports Organisation.

Note: International, European, Regional and other sports events and championships organised in Cyprus and the costs of the event are fully covered by the respective European or international federations shall NOT be entitled to receive support under this scheme.

Participants must use a legal port¹ of entry. Failure to comply with this, leads to loss of the approved hospitality amount.

¹The legal ports of entry into the Republic of Cyprus are the airports of Larnaca and Paphos and the ports of Larnaca, Limassol, Latsi and Paphos, which are situated in the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

E. APPLICATION

1. The deadline for submitting applications is the 30th of October of each year for events to be held the following year. The Deputy Ministry of Tourism may consider applications which will be made after the above date, provided that they are submitted at least 6 months prior to their realisation; funds are available and judged to be eligible and meet the criteria on the basis of the scheme's provisions.

All applications must be submitted completing:

- Annex A - «Application for Funding of Sports Event»
 - Annex B
2. The requests must be submitted electronically **ONLY**, addressed to sportsevents@visitcyprus.com . In cases, where no reply is sent by the Deputy Ministry within three weeks, from the sent date, of a fully completed form, please contact Ms Elena Economou +35722691186.
 3. The Deputy Ministry reserves the right to call the beneficiaries to present their proposition or seek further clarifications or details if necessary.

F. ELIGIBLE AMOUNT OF AID

The amount of financial support shall be fixed at a rate of up to 30% of the total expenditure, up to a maximum of €30,000 in accordance with the available funds and the following evaluation criteria.

Note : the eligible costs may include 1 (one) PCR test COVID-19 per person according to the Protocol in force upon arrival of athletes in Cyprus.

G. PROCEDURE FOR EVALUATING OF APPLICATIONS

1. The applications shall be examined after the last date of receipt as mentioned on paragraph E fully completed until exhaustion of the available funds.
2. When assessing requests and determining the grant amount, the criteria referred to in paragraph H below shall be taken into account.
3. The amount to be approved initially may be reduced according to the final number of overnight stays, the final number of participants, the duration of the

event and the actions of its promotion abroad. It should be noted that the amount initially approved cannot be increased.

H. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND AMOUNT FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The calculation of the financial support of the event will be made by a mathematical formula, taking into account the following criteria:

- Number of foreign participants (The minimum number of athletes/professional entourage expected to participate from abroad is 100 people. In cases, where events are held in the Nicosia District and the Mountainous Resorts the minimum number is 30 people.)
- Duration of event
- Kind/category of event
- Additional premium is given at events:
 - o held in January and February
 - o which are organized with respect for the environment, utilize local products, involve the local community and promote sustainable development (eg through the use of recyclable materials, reduce the use of plastic, utilization / promotion of drinking water point, use of recycling bins , garbage collection, avoiding the use of balloons outdoors, etc.).

I. TERMS CONDITIONS AND GRANT PAYMENT

Beneficiaries should submit the following documents for payment of the approved hosting fee:

- a. A tax invoice from the beneficiary to the Deputy Ministry of Tourism stating the name of the event and the amount of sponsorship approved.
- b. Description of the promotion that was undertaken for the event abroad and promotion material of the event where the Deputy Ministry of Tourism is the sponsor.
- c. List of names and contact details of the athletes involved. It is clarified that for events in which athletes participate with their federations or groups it is sufficient to submit the contact details of the federations or groups). It is necessary to show the country of

residence of the athletes in order to clearly identify the number of athletes who came from abroad to participate in the event.

- d. In case the organisers have partnered with hotels and / or Tour Operators / travel agency for the creation and sale of special event packages, their names and the estimated number of people who accompanied the event attendees should be indicated, where this is possible.
 - e. Certificate from the beneficiary that the event was in line with sustainable indexes
- (a) For a sports event with a total cost of up to EUR 50,000 the following must be submitted:
- Affidavit by the beneficiary on the detailed budget of the event (revenue / expenditure)
 - Original invoices for event expenses, which will cover at least twice the amount of sponsorship
- (b) The following must be submitted for a sports events with a total cost of more than EUR 50,000:
- Audited and confirmed accounts by an approved audit firm in relation to the analysis of the income / expenses of the event.
 - Original invoices for event expenses, which will cover at least twice the amount of sponsorship
- (c) In the case of events organised by Municipalities and / or Community Councils: presentation of a statement of revenue / event expenses certified by the Accountant of the Municipality / Community Council or the Mayor / President of the Community Council.
- (d) High definition photographic and / or audio-visual material from the event for use by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism.
- (e) Proof of how the event was promoted. The following shall be considered as evidence:
- Copies of foreign media (in cases of print advertising of the event).
 - Screenshots from the Social Media where the event is shown.
 - Photos (in cases of advertising in public places abroad).

- Letter referring to the contacts (company name and person with whom the appointments were made) made in the context of sales calls abroad.
- Copies of airline tickets and hotel invoices in cases of foreign Decision Makers hosting.

I. VALIDITY OF THE POLICY

The policy is valid on an annual basis with effect until December 31 of each year or until exhaustion of the available funds. The Scheme shall be automatically renewed for next year, unless otherwise decided by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism.

K. OTHER REGULATIONS

The beneficiaries by the Scheme are obliged to provide statistics in the framework of annual data collection statistics for Sports Tourism for the Deputy Ministry of Tourism.