



**Fédération Européenne  
des Médecins Salariés**  
European Federation  
of Salaried Doctors

<b>Date:</b>	<b>13-09-2022</b>	<b>Document:</b>	<b>F22-049 EN</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>National Report Cyprus</b>		
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12.09.2022

FEMS General Assembly-September 2022

Country Report - Cyprus Turkish Medical Association

Since the beginning of the pandemic in our country, the government and the minister of health have changed 4 times. Unfortunately, health policies and the fight against the pandemic got changed and interrupted multiple times respectively.

In the pandemic struggle, we are having a relatively comfortable period in the north of Cyprus, as in Europe, compared to the winter months. The society has reached a higher level of immunity, both by vaccination and by getting the infection.

Since Omicron is still the dominant variant in our country, cases progress with milder symptoms and hospital and intensive care occupancy rates are low. As a result, issues related to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic rather than its health effects have been on the agenda recently.

The inflation rate is over 100 % due to the dramatic devaluation of the Turkish Lira recently. This, in turn, leads to a drastic loss in the purchasing power as the prices increased.

With the increase in poverty, the demand for public hospitals is also increasing. However, public hospitals are far from being able to respond to this strong demand. Waiting lists have been getting longer and longer.

There is a serious shortage of medicines in the country partly from the pandemic conditions and partly from appreciation of foreign currencies. There are problems due to these deficiencies, especially in the treatment of chronic diseases.

As in the previous year, Cyprus Turkish Medical Association conducted a guide study that includes the precautions and regulations that should be taken in order to continue face-to-face education in schools without interruption while the pandemic is present, in cooperation with teachers' unions, before the opening of the schools this year.

As has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic, our informative statements continue in this period to raise awareness of the public. In the same way, we continue to cooperate with policy makers or, if necessary, to oppose them on behalf of the public so that the fight against the pandemic is carried out on a scientific basis and with better health policies.

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We also continue to work to achieve a sufficient quality and standardization for the medical education and specialization training given in medical and dental faculties in our country.

We continue our efforts to improve the working conditions and personal rights of private and public physicians.

We have made attempts to fill the legal gap regarding aesthetic and cosmetic medical procedures performed by non-physicians. We also made warning statements about this topic to the public.

Dr. Özlem Gürkut

President