

**Plan for providing financial support for organising
international sporting events in Cyprus
in the context of EU rules on de minimis aid (DE MINIMIS)**

A. GENERAL

1. For the purposes of this Plan an “International sporting event”, is defined as an event related to a sport, that falls under the category of the Olympic Sports or an athletic activity with great popularity internationally and particularly in countries which are sources of tourism for Cyprus.
2. The Plan 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 to de minimis aid.
3. De minimis aid 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 per three financial years.
4. The CTO reserves the right to consider cases of sporting events that are either not covered by this Plan, or for which there exist other reasons and specific conditions, and support financially their organisation through other plans or agreements.

B. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Plan is to encourage the organisation of international sporting events, including preparatory tournaments or competitions, which support the development of Sports Tourism and generate overnights for the hotel industry during the low season months.

C. BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries of the Plan are natural or legal persons intending to undertake the organisation of a sporting event, which contributes to the above objective.

D. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The application for financial support will be considered, provided the following conditions are met:

- The date of the sporting event in Cyprus falls within the period 15th October to 15th May. In the case of the Nicosia area, applications will be considered regardless of the period, during which the event is taking place.
- The minimum number of athletes / number of people expected to participate from abroad is 30 people.
- Beneficiaries may apply for support for a maximum of two events per year. CTO will not grant support for more than two events for the same beneficiary each year.
- The CTO should be displayed as sponsor in the event's promotional activities, in a manner that will be approved by CTO.
- If the application relates to an International or European or Regional or other sporting event or tournament organized in Cyprus by the respective Cypriot Sport Federation and participation is within the sporting obligations of the participants, then the application will be examined in cooperation with the Cyprus Sports Organisation and any financial support provided through CSO will be taken into consideration.
- International, European, Regional and other sports competitions and championships organized in Cyprus will NOT be eligible for financial support in case the organizational costs are fully covered by the relevant European or International federations

E. APPLICATION PROCEEDURE

1. The deadline for the submission of applications is the 30th November of every year. The CTO may examine applications that are submitted after the above date provided that funds are available and the events meet the conditions and evaluation criteria of the Plan.
2. All requests must be submitted using the relevant *Form 1* "Application for financial support for the organisation of a sporting event in Cyprus" which is attached.
3. Requests must be submitted electronically ONLY to the email address sportsincentives@visitcyprus.com
4. The CTO reserves the right to invite beneficiaries to present their proposal or request further clarification or information if necessary.

F. AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The amount of the financial support is set at up to 30% of the total expenses, with a ceiling of € 65.000 according to available funds and based on the evaluation criteria mentioned below.

G. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The CTO will evaluate the applications and determine the support amount for each event taking into account the following criteria:

- Expected number of participants and expected number of overnights.
- The type of the event. Priority will be given to events that can attract not only athletes who compete, but also amateurs and hobbyists, as well as to events which are expected to attract fans from abroad or additional persons escorting the participants.
- Whether the application concerns events that either have become annual events and have been taking place in Cyprus for several years, or have the potential to become annual events, as this fact has additional benefits and helps to establish Cyprus as a sport tourism destination.
- Whether special packages will be offered and promoted accordingly to attract participants.
- The scope and intensity of the event's promotion and the publicity that is expected to generate in the media abroad.

H. PAYMENT OF GRANTS

1. Beneficiaries must submit the following documents for the payment of the approved amount:

- a) Legal tax invoice from the beneficiary addressed to the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, which will state the title and date of the event and the approved amount.
- b) Report on the event which will include:
 - Confirmation from the Beneficiary that the event has been successfully organized.
 - Description of the event's promotion abroad and samples of the event's promotional material showing CTO as sponsor.
 - Name list and contact details of the athletes that participated in the event. It is clarified that in cases where the athletes participate with their Federation or their teams it is sufficient to submit the contact details of the Federation or team. It is important that these data indicate the athletes' country of usual residence, in order to be able

to establish the number of the athletes that came from abroad to participate at the event.

- In case the event organizers co-operated with hotels or tour operators / travel agencies for offering special packages for the event, the estimated number of persons who accompanied the participants at the event should also be reported, wherever possible.

c) In case of sports events that have a budget of up to EUR 50,000 the following documents must be submitted:

- the beneficiary's Solemn Statement about the budget analysis of the event (costs/revenue) and
- copies of original invoices of the event's expenses, which will in total cover at least twice the approved amount.

d) In case of sports events that have a budget over EUR 50,000, audited accounts signed by an approved audit firm must be submitted showing the cost and revenue analysis for the event.

e) In the case of sports events organized by municipalities and / or Community Councils a cost and revenue analysis must be submitted signed by the Accountant or the Major/Chairman of the of the revenue / event expenses certified by the accountant or the Mayor or the Chairman of the Municipality / Community Council.

f) The De Minimis statement suitably completed and signed.

g) Photographic or audiovisual material of the event and the right of use by the CTO.

PERIOD OF VALITY

The Plan will be valid for one year, until December 31 of each year or until exhaustion of the available funds. It will be automatically renewed for the following year, unless otherwise decided by the CTO.

OTHER TERMS

Event Organizers that benefit from this Plan are required to participate and provide data in the annual Sports Tourism Survey conducted on behalf of CTO.

"Application for financial support for the organisation of a sporting event in Cyprus"

1. GENERAL APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Applicant Name:			
Registrar of Companies number (Please provide a copy of registration certificate):			
Tax Identity Number (In case of a natural person)			
Address:			
Contact person:			
Tel:	Fax:	Mobile:	E-mail:
Applicant's Website:			
Event Website:			
Provide information on the Event's Organizing Committee:			
Previous experience in organizing the same or similar event:			
2. EVENT DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION			
Event Title:			
Preliminary date for the event:			
Region / facility:			
Event Description:			
Event Range: The event concerns a World competition/ tournament?			
Yes		No	
Periodicity of the event (annual, biennial, individual, etc.):			
Indicate where and when the event last took place:			
Country:		Date:	
Will the event be organized in Cyprus again:			
YES		NO	
Expected number of athletes / agents from abroad by country:			
Expected overnights of the athletes / agents from abroad:			
Names of hotels where the participants will stay:			
Expected number of spectators/ fans from abroad (where applicable):			

3. BUDGET	
Total expences: €.....	<i>Please attach a complete breakdown of all costs and revenues (eg donors, entrance fee, registration fee, sale of goods) of the event.</i>
Total Revenue: €	
4. EVENT PROMOTION	
Please provide details on the scope and intensity of the event's planned promotion and publicity before and after the event and in which countries. (in print media: newspapers / magazines, on the internet, with flyers and on TV, etc.):	
Describe the promotion CTO will have as a sponsor:	
Signature of Applicant: Name: Position: Date:	

NOTE:

The submission of all the above information is mandatory for the examination of the proposal.