

# An International Initiative for the Environment and Public Health

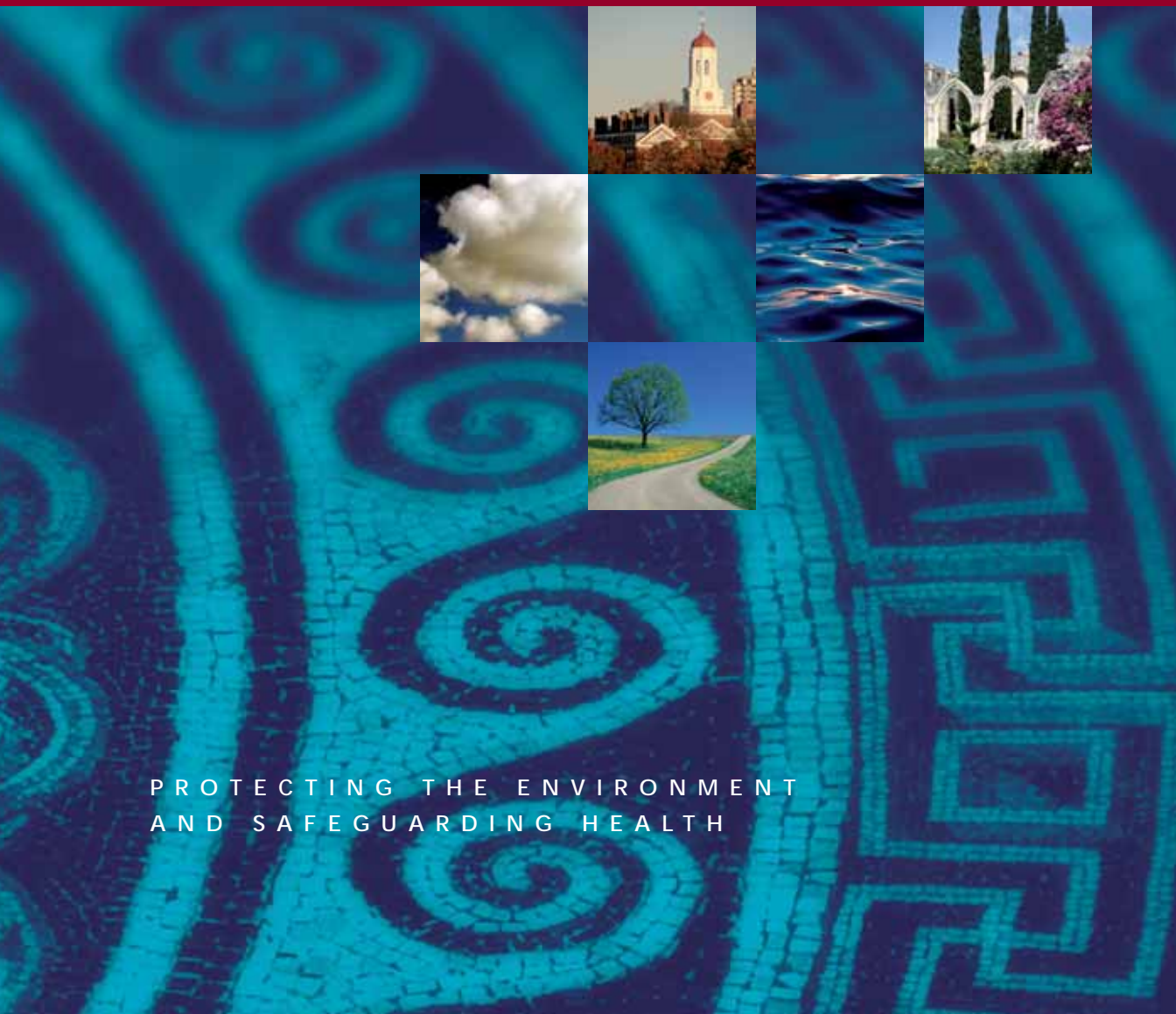


THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

AND



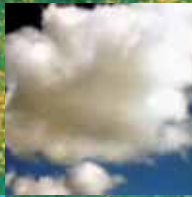
HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND SAFEGUARDING HEALTH

*“At a time when we should be moving forward in improving the environment, but instead are in danger of seeing our hard-won progress reversed, the establishment of the Initiative is especially critical. It focuses on some of the most urgent environmental challenges of our time — challenges that are regional and global as well as local.”*

*—Former U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, Maryland*



# One Environment

requires a shared response

## **Building International Capacity**

With the globalization of economies, the alarming depletion of and damage to environmental resources, and the disproportionate burden of environmental and health problems borne by some countries, the environment and public health are international priorities that transcend national, political, and geographic boundaries.

Building international capacity in environmental and public health education, research, and practice is vital to protect the environment and to safeguard health.

With this goal in mind, the HSPH-Cyprus International Initiative for the Environment and Public Health (“the Initiative”) was launched in 2004 as a partnership between the government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Harvard School of Public Health.

The goals are to:

- *Monitor, assess, and ultimately improve air quality;*
- *Protect and enhance water quality;*
- *Identify and reduce environmental risk factors for cancer;*
- *Reduce tobacco prevalence and change social norms regarding smoking;*
- *Assess and address occupational hazards that can hamper the workforce;*
- *Train the next generation of environmental and public health leaders;*
- *Disseminate environmental and public health information to the public and the media;*
- *Establish permanent research capacity to study and analyze environmental threats and their effects on public health now and in the future.*

*“The global environment does not have geographic borders. This effort has the potential to improve the health of the people of Cyprus and many nations in the region.”*

– Barry R. Bloom, Dean  
Harvard School of Public Health

*“Cyprus, historically, has been at the crossroads of European and Asian cultures. We believe that, with the help of the Harvard School of Public Health, we can become a regional center for research and excellence in the environment and public health.”*

– H.E. Tassos Papadopoulos  
President of the Republic of Cyprus



# Cooperation

## for education, research, and technology transfer

### **Two New Entities Created**

To bring together international experts from the U.S., Cyprus, and the region to confront environmental issues, two new research and training entities were created — one located in Cyprus, the other at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

### *The HSPH-Cyprus Program (HCP)*

This program brings qualified students from Cyprus and the region to study, train, and earn a degree at HSPH, and collaborates with the Cyprus International Institute in Nicosia to develop and execute in-depth research.

### *The Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health (CII)*

Established as part of the Initiative, the Cyprus International Institute enhances the skills and capacity of researchers in Cyprus to

address present and future societal needs of the region. In addition, the Institute attracts scientists from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the United States who come to Cyprus for training, research, and scientific conferences.



President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos (left) and HSPH Dean Barry R. Bloom at the signing ceremony for the Initiative in June 2004.

# One Goal- Two Locations

Through programs in both Cyprus and Boston, the Initiative promotes:

## Cutting Edge Research

The Initiative helps Cyprus and the region develop local expertise in environmental health research and will ultimately generate important discoveries that can be applied immediately to benefit the environment, human health, and the economy. The Initiative's research projects are conducted by an international network of scientists in Cyprus, Boston and at collaborating institutions in the region and currently focus on the following areas:

- *Air pollution and its effects on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases;*
- *Water pollution in the Eastern Mediterranean region and its effects on the environment and public health;*
- *Cancer research and control in Cyprus and in the Eastern Mediterranean region;*
- *Tobacco research and control;*
- *Occupational health.*

## Education

### *Harvard-Cyprus Program for the Environment and Public Health, HSPH*

This program brings highly qualified students from the Eastern Mediterranean region to pursue graduate and postgraduate studies at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, equipping them with the skills they need to address key environmental and public health issues in their home countries.

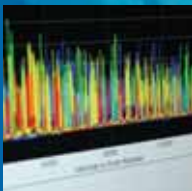
### *The Cyprus International Institute's Education and Outreach Programs*

The Cyprus International Institute's Postgraduate Program in Environmental Health in Nicosia offers 12 months of intensive, specialized graduate-level training in environmental health for students from throughout the Mediterranean region, preparing them to assume leadership positions in government, research, or industry.

The Cyprus International Institute also offers lectures, workshops and symposia for lay and professional audiences on critical topics in environmental and public health.

*“The location of the centre in Cyprus with its attractive climate, well-developed infrastructure and proximity to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa will promote the active and sustained involvement of Harvard faculty in the programme.”*

– Dr. Kazem Behbehani  
Former Assistant Director-General  
World Health Organization





# World Leaders

## in environmental public health

### Eight Decades of Experience

To ensure the success of the environmental public health effort being mounted, the government of Cyprus enlisted the support of the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), the world leader in public health education and training and in developing technologies and research that promote the public's health.

Since the School's establishment in 1922, its faculty members have won two Nobel Prizes. HSPH's more than 17,000 alumni—including former World Health Organization Director General Gro Harlem Brundtland and six former U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Directors—occupy leadership positions in hospitals, industry, health departments, and international health agencies worldwide.

### Wide-Reaching Achievements

The School's achievements are numerous and wide reaching. They include:

- *Development of the cardiac defibrillator and the iron lung;*
- *Research that led to the development of the polio vaccine;*

- *Design of sewage and water treatment systems that curbed infectious diseases;*
- *Creation of the field of industrial hygiene;*
- *Crucial discoveries regarding the respiratory tract's responses to inhaled toxic dust and gases;*
- *Seminal research into areas ranging from asthma to AIDS and lead poisoning.*

### International Research Agenda

Today, HSPH's faculty members conduct an international research agenda in more than 60 countries. Some are working to develop vaccines and new treatments for resurgent infectious diseases such as AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, while others are designing and implementing prevention and population-based treatment efforts to help alleviate the burden of a wide range of other diseases. The School educates nearly 900 students each year from more than 50 nations, and these students return to their home countries to become the public health leaders of tomorrow.



*“The Initiative is an integral part of a very bright future for environmental and public health in the Eastern Mediterranean. Its mission offers a way for scientists from around the world to transcend national and political boundaries.”*

– His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios,  
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America

# Benefits to Cyprus

## and the Region

### **Cyprus Has Become a Global Laboratory**

As an international center in environmental and public health research and education, the Initiative is generating knowledge and technology that can be shared with countries and regions around the world facing similar environmental challenges.

### ***Regional Meeting Ground***

Culturally rich and ideally situated at the crossroads between East and West, North and South, Cyprus offers an ideal site for an international research institute, and the country serves as a regional meeting ground for environmental and public health research and training.

### ***Harvard Presence in the Region***

The Initiative brings many Harvard faculty and students to the region to teach and conduct research, providing a rich exchange of ideas with the region's cadre of scientists, professionals, and government officials, as well as with the general public.

### ***A New Generation of Experts***

Through educational programs in Boston and in Cyprus, the Initiative is training a new generation of scientists and specialists who will use their expertise to protect the environment and to safeguard health.

*"Air pollution is one of the most pressing public health problems in Greece and throughout the region. My ultimate goal is to return to the region to use my engineering background and public health training from HSPH to conduct air pollution research and to contribute to making the region a cleaner and healthier place to live."*

*– Vasileios Papapostolou,  
Harvard-Cyprus Program doctoral student*



## Learn more about the Initiative's programs

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## Opportunities to invest in the work of the Initiative

Individuals, corporations, and foundations interested in making a philanthropic investment in the work of the Initiative may contact:

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# Realizing the Vision

During the next ten years, our Initiative will make significant advances in environmental and public health in the region in the following areas:

## Training and Research

Our faculty will conduct research and educate a new generation of scientists equipped with the specialized knowledge and skills necessary to affect change.

## Public Policy

We will work with governmental officials in countries throughout the region and in the European Union to develop and implement critical policies to protect the environment and public health.

## Technology Transfer to the Business Sector

Initiative leaders will create public and private partnerships to develop technological applications for many of the Initiative's research results including equipment, monitoring devices, and pharmaceutical interventions.

## How You Can Help

The overall cost of the Initiative's visionary activities in Boston and in Cyprus will total US \$80 million over the next ten years. The Republic of Cyprus has generously donated a substantial portion of this total to provide both current use and endowment funding. We are committed to working with individuals, foundations, and corporate partners to leverage this investment.