

**The Cyprus Seeds initiative for the commercialization of innovative academic research in Cyprus**

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Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ucy.zoom.us/j/92154839195?pwd=NTZQNUZ2VVUrQW9aOUFBR1M2VmJlZz09>

Meeting ID: 921 5483 9195 **Passcode:** 870386

**Summary**

Cyprus Seeds is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help commercialize research out of Cypriot research institutions and universities. It offers an annual 12m program which comprises grants, mentoring, business skills training and networking with potential customers and investors. Cyprus Seeds is a national effort, dedicated to creating value for Cyprus. Every year, a number of projects is selected by an international jury following a call of proposals. With the mission to turn scientific research into entrepreneurial innovation, Cyprus Seeds receives applications originated from talented Cypriots within all the universities and research institutions on the island. Applications are evaluated by experienced experts from Europe, USA and Israel based on scientific merit, IP value, commercial potential and global impact. Selected projects are given a monetary grant, have to attend mandatory workshops and are assigned mentors with relevant business experience throughout the 12m funding period. Cyprus Seeds offers annually a wide range of resources and activities, aiming to help research teams advance their research in order to become attractive propositions to private investors. Cyprus Seeds has the support of a wide network of Greeks and Cypriots of the Diaspora, in the USA, who have become very successful entrepreneurs through commercializing their innovative research.

Short Bio

Maria Markidou Georgiadou is the Managing Director of **Cyprus Seeds**, a non-profit organization which supports the commercialization of innovative academic research in Cyprus. Prior to Cyprus Seeds, Maria was a full-time consultant, for 3 years, with Bank of Cyprus on matters related to innovation and EU funding. She initiated and coordinated **IDEA**, the first Accelerator-Incubator Program in Cyprus for Cypriot start-ups, during its first 3 years. Maria has 25 years of experience with the Cyprus Development Bank (cdbbank) where she was Head, for 8 years, of the International Banking Unit. At cdbbank, she also set up the EU Unit and attracted EU grants for SMEs in Cyprus. During her last 3 years at the Bank, she was Head of Business Development & Marketing. Maria worked in the European Commission in Brussels. For 3 years, she was an evaluator for the HORIZON 2020 SME Instrument, which funds the commercialization of innovative research projects in Europe. For 12 years, she was one of the two partners of the World Economic Forum in Cyprus, contributing to the annual Global Competitiveness Report of the WEF. Maria studied in the US with a Fulbright scholarship and got her Master's degree in Economics from the University of Oxford, UK.

