



**The All Cyprus Trade Unions Forum in dialogue with the society for the future of our country**

**Conference**

**Access to Education and Healthcare in the envisaged unified Cyprus**

**26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, OELMEK Premises, Nicosia**

**Draft Memorandum**

We, the representatives of organisations that participated in the above mentioned conference, after having exhaustively discussed the issues related with the Access to Education and Healthcare in the envisaged reunified Cyprus concluded unanimously to commonly place emphasis to the following demands:

**A. Education**

1. The envisaged federal state of Cyprus shall ensure access to education for all children, as well as for all adults to lifelong learning, which requires the existence of a single education and lifelong learning scheme. The constitution of the federal state of Cyprus shall guaranty to all of its citizens effective access to education, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity national origin, race and sexual orientation.
2. Education is a basic human right and shall be enshrined in the constitution of the federal state of Cyprus, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the Declaration and Charter of UNESCO (1952).
3. The free public education shall cover preschool, primary, gymnasium, lyceum, technical and vocational education, as well as tertiary education.
4. Public education shall be financed by public funds.
5. Public education shall respond to the challenge of qualitative education, which shall be provided equal and free to all citizens.
6. Particular attention shall be placed on securing a thorough and effective integration into the educational system of



learners with special needs and disabilities, vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups, migrants and refugees.

7. Any transitional provisions deemed necessary to change existing arrangements shall be clearly identified and completed within a reasonable time frame, so as to avoid disruptions and provide for a smooth transition to the new regime, without any negative impact on teachers and learners.
8. Any regulations, changes and reforms shall be made within the proper process of social dialogue, which shall be conducted in due institutional framework and with recognised social partners and result to agreed decisions.

## B. Health Care

9. A single health care system shall be established in the envisaged federal state of Cyprus, aiming at safeguarding the human right to health based on the fundamental principles of social solidarity, universality, equal treatment and comprehensive coverage:
  - **Social solidarity:** Contributions to the health care scheme shall be made on the basis of income and health services shall be provided to all citizens on the basis of needs, rather than the financial standing and ability to pay.
  - **Universality:** All citizens in the reunified Cyprus shall have access to the single health care scheme regardless of age, disability, race, gender, religion, nationality, etc.
  - **Equal treatment:** All citizens shall enjoy equal access rights to health services.
  - **Comprehensive coverage:** the safeguarding of effective access rights to the single health care scheme requires from the scheme to deliver a wide range of health services.
10. Despite the challenges and difficulties that may arise, we believe that a common and unified health care scheme in the envisaged federal state of Cyprus has clearly more

