



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH**

**Address by the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth Dr Athena Michaelidou at the
Press Conference for the “Weeks of the German Language 2026”**

22 October 2026, 10 a.m. Ministry of Education Sport and Youth Conference Hall

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to today's press conference marking the launch of the Weeks of the German Language 2026, organised through the valued collaboration of the Embassies of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, together with the Goethe-Institut Cyprus.

This annual initiative, which this year takes place from 3 to 19 November, offers an excellent opportunity for students, teachers and the wider public to discover the German language and explore the rich cultural traditions of German-speaking countries. Through a variety of activities, it brings people together, encourages intercultural dialogue and highlights the importance of linguistic diversity in our increasingly interconnected world.

The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth strongly supports this initiative, as multilingualism remains a fundamental pillar of our educational policy. In our vision of a modern, student-centred and inclusive school system, language learning is essential for personal development, employability, active citizenship and social inclusion. Learning a foreign language means more than acquiring a communication skill; it means gaining insight into different cultures, embracing new perspectives and discovering new opportunities.

German, in particular, offers our young people valuable educational and professional prospects. It provides access to higher education, diverse career paths and a rich cultural and scientific environment. By learning German, our students can broaden their horizons, strengthen their intercultural understanding and prepare themselves to participate confidently in an increasingly globalised society.

In this context, I am particularly pleased with the progress of our Pilot Programme for Learning German in Public Secondary Schools, which was launched during the 2023–2024 school year in four public secondary schools in Nicosia and Limassol and subsequently expanded to two additional schools in Paphos. The number of participating students is showing a steady increase, reflecting the growing interest in the programme. Offered free of charge immediately after the regular school day, the programme ensures accessible learning opportunities and facilitates students' participation, irrespective of their financial background. From next year, we intend to extend the programme in other cities

An important priority is the formal certification of our students' German language proficiency at different levels through Goethe-Institut examinations. Some of our students have already successfully taken these examinations, and we are currently in discussions with the Goethe-Institut to finalise and formalise the certification process. This will further strengthen the programme and provide students with recognised qualifications to support their future educational and professional aspirations.

On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the teachers and headteachers of the pilot schools, as well as to the Directorate of Secondary General Education and the European and International Affairs Bureau of the Ministry, for their dedication and valuable contribution to the implementation and development of this programme.

I would also like to thank the Embassies of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, together with the Goethe-Institut Cyprus, for their continued support and close cooperation. Their commitment is instrumental in promoting German language learning and strengthening the educational and cultural ties between Cyprus and German-speaking countries.

At this point, it is worth noting that, as part of the Weeks of the German Language 2026, our German language teachers will participate in a professional development seminar organised by the Goethe-Institut in the first week of November. The seminar will focus on innovative and practical approaches to German language teaching, offering teachers an opportunity to exchange ideas, share good practices and strengthen their professional skills. This initiative represents another valuable contribution by the Goethe-Institut to the ongoing professional development of German language teachers in Cyprus.

In conclusion, we remain committed to strengthening language education and broadening our students' horizons. The Weeks of the German Language remind us that languages bring people closer together and that embracing cultural diversity fosters mutual understanding, strengthens social cohesion and enriches our society.

I wish every success to the Weeks of the German Language 2026 and encourage everyone to take part in the activities and discover the many opportunities that learning German can offer.

Zusammen für Deutsch! Μαζί για τα Γερμανικά!