

1. What are the prospects for the development of the mining industry in Cyprus?

Copper has been mined in Cyprus for almost 4000 years. Indicatively, between 1929-1974, the Mavrovouni mine produced copper and gold worth around €5 billion at today's prices. Since 1974 there has been limited production of copper in Cyprus leaving untapped resources behind. New technologies can contribute to exploiting the reserves of old mines and discovering new ones with minimal impact on the environment.

2. What is the demand for copper today in the global market?

Copper is the third most used metal worldwide. Its unique conductivity properties place it at the center of renewable energy systems and make it a key element in combatting climate change. Demand will continue to grow with increasing renewable energy requirements, along with the electrification of vehicles and buildings, and the expansion of communications networks, which all require considerable amounts of copper.

3. How has technology transformed metal mining processes?

Like many industries, mining practices have taken significant strides forward in the last 30 years. From exploration to extraction and shipping ore abroad, computing and technology have entered every stage of the process. New tools and specialised software are used to map the surface and subsurface while innovative equipment allows for instant results leading to more targeted and efficient exploration and mining. Social and employment welfare have also improved significantly in the modern mining era.

4. How is it ensured that mining activities are not affecting the environment?

When a company applies for a mining permit, an environmental impact study must be conducted. Moreover, various government departments are always monitoring mining practices and since Cyprus is an EU member state, it needs to comply with all relevant EU regulations, which are some of the strictest worldwide.

5. How can Cyprus benefit from the operation of mines?

In addition to the creation of new jobs, the local business community also stands to benefit from a sector that needs a range of services such as transportation, construction and other forms of infrastructure while attracting additional foreign investment in the country.