ULUSLARARASI KIBRIS ÜNİVERSİTESİ
CYPRUS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION / IMPACT RANKINGS EVIDENCE FACT FILE

SDG 7 / INDICATOR 7.4.5

Support for Low-Carbon Start-ups

Cyprus International University • North Cyprus – Türkiye • www.ciu.edu.tr



SDG 7	7.4.5	3
Affordable and Clean Energy	Start-up support	Start-up support channels

Purpose of this evidence file

This fact file documents the assistance Cyprus International University (CIU) provides to start-ups that foster a low-carbon economy and technology, supporting THE Impact Rankings SDG 7 measure 7.4.5. It covers the CIU Startup Studio (CIUSS), the Sustainable Energy Research Center (SERC) and the Center of Applied Research on Business, Economics, and Technology (CARBET). The source document is reproduced in Appendix 1.

INDICATOR 7.4.5

Start-up support at a glance

CIU supports start-ups through a start-up studio and two research centres focused on sustainable energy and the green economy.

The question and the answer

Question. Does your university as a body provide assistance for start-ups that foster and support a low-carbon economy/technology?

Answer: yes. CIU's Startup Studio gives start-ups mentoring, networking, workshops, workspace and links to investors, and has run a pitch competition open to entrepreneurs living in North Cyprus. The Sustainable Energy Research Center offers solar consultancy and certification, and CARBET offers advisory services and training on the green economy and energy engineering, both open to local start-ups.

3	2023–24	2009
Support channels: CIUSS, SERC, CARBET	CIU Startup Studio launched; its opening event was 29 May 2024	Sustainable Energy Research Center founded

Headline result

CIU launched its Startup Studio (CIUSS) in 2023 to foster investment in sustainable start-ups, with programmes from ideation to scaling, mentoring, networking, funding opportunities and workspace. Two research centres are ready to assist local start-ups on low-carbon technology: the Sustainable Energy Research Center (SERC), which offers solar consultancy and a PV Expert Certification Program, and CARBET, which offers advisory services, training and workshops with a focus on the green economy, energy engineering and sustainability.

Evidence scope

No.	Evidence item	Value / note
1	CIU Startup Studio: mission, services and contact	Support register S1
2	Sustainable Energy Research Center: consultancy, certification and research for energy start-ups	Support register S2
3	CARBET: advisory services, training and green economy focus	Support register S3
4	How a low-carbon start-up uses the three channels	Support route page
5	Studio opening event (29 May 2024) and Startup Pitch Competition (5 November 2024)	Website, new page
6	Programme terms: eligibility, fees, funding links	Studio FAQ
7	Source document and website screenshots	4 sheets • Appendix 1

What the evidence demonstrates

- CIU, as a body, has a dedicated start-up studio that states a sustainability aim.
- Two research centres with low-carbon expertise (solar PV, solar thermal, biogas, energy efficiency, green economy) are open to local start-ups.
- Support covers the main needs: mentoring, funding opportunities, workspace, technical consultancy, certification and training.
- CIU's own campus energy systems offer a working example of low-carbon technology for start-ups to learn from.

SUPPORT REGISTER

Channels that support low-carbon start-ups

Three CIU units and the support each provides.

Ref.	Unit	Support provided	Link to low-carbon
S1	**CIU Startup Studio (CIUSS)** Graduate Sciences and Education Center, CIU campus • startupstudio@ciu.edu.tr	Programmes and services for start-ups at every stage, from ideation to scaling. Mentoring by experienced entrepreneurs and industry experts. Networking events, workshops and collaborative initiatives. Funding opportunities, workspace and business tools. Integration with the local and global start-up ecosystem.	Launched in 2023 to foster investments in sustainable start-ups
S2	**Sustainable Energy Research Center (SERC)** Founded 2009 as a Center of Excellence	Active consultancy on solar power projects, such as the PV projects of the Civil Defense Organization and Middle East Technical University. A three-day PV Expert Certification Program (introduction, system definitions, techno-economic analysis, on-site practice). Research on photovoltaics, solar thermal systems, energy efficiency and management, energy policies and biogas. Consultancy to the Ministry of Economy and Energy.	Core solar and renewable energy expertise; ready to assist local start-ups
S3	**Center of Applied Research on Business, Economics, and Technology (CARBET)**	Advisory services, executive programmes, teaching and training, workshops and seminars. Collaboration with research centres at overseas universities and organisations.	Focus on green economy, energy engineering, water management and sustainability; ready to assist local start-ups

Evidence source

CIU evidence document for measure 7.4.5, reproduced in

Appendix 1

Websites:

CIU StartUp Studio

Sustainable Energy

CARBET

SUPPORT ROUTE

How a low-carbon start-up uses CIU support

From idea to market: which CIU unit helps at each stage.

Start-up need	CIU unit	Support
Develop the idea and business model	CIUSS	Mentoring, workshops, programmes from ideation to scaling
Raise funds and find space	CIUSS	Funding opportunities, workspace and business tools; network of investors and industry professionals
Test and design solar, biogas or efficiency solutions	SERC	Consultancy on solar PV projects; research on PV, solar thermal, efficiency and biogas
Train staff in PV	SERC	Three-day PV Expert Certification Program
Understand green economy and sustainability markets	CARBET	Advisory services, executive programmes, training, workshops and seminars
Learn from working low-carbon systems	CIU campus	1.3 MWp solar PV, solar thermal and a CHP and biogas project (fact files 7.2.3 and 7.2.4), used as a living laboratory by students and researchers

How the evidence answers the question

- Yes: CIU, as a body, assists start-ups through the CIU Startup Studio, which was launched to foster sustainable start-ups.
- SERC and CARBET add technical and economic support specific to renewable energy, energy efficiency and the green economy.
- The support is open to local start-ups and not limited to CIU students.

FURTHER EVIDENCE • CIU WEBSITE

Startup Studio activity and terms of support

Additional material from the CIU website on the Startup Studio and the technical centres.

Ref.	Item	What the website states	Evidence
U1	**Studio opening event** 29 May 2024, 19:30	Opening celebrated at the CIU Open Air Performing Arts Center, with speeches by the studio's general manager, two angel investors (Northern Ireland and Estonia) and an AI expert. Described as the first startup studio offered by a university on the island. Entrepreneurs with innovative ideas can apply; a team of experts evaluates and implements them.	Opening news, 25 May 2024
U2	**Startup Pitch Competition** 5 November 2024	Held at the Çevik Uraz Center conference hall and open to entrepreneurs living in North Cyprus, experienced or new. Entrants present to a jury, receive feedback from the expert team and can meet investors and potential partners. Applications by email by 3 November. Themes are not stated.	Competition news, 2024
U3	**Programme terms** Studio FAQ	Open to early-stage start-ups, aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators with scalable business models. Programmes run from a few months to a year or more. Some charge fees or take equity or revenue share; scholarships, grants or sponsorship may be available. The studio may not fund directly but connects start-ups with venture capital, angel investors, grants and corporate partners.	Studio FAQ
U4	**Studio mission and team** About page	States that the studio was founded in 2024 to support innovation and entrepreneurship in Cyprus and beyond, and lists a team of ten. Contact: startupstudio@ciu.edu.tr.	About the studio
U5	**Technical support in practice** SERC projects	SERC directed an 834 kW solar plant for Levent Sanayi (2018) and coordinated or advised plants for METU NCC, KKTCell and Levent College; see fact file 7.4.3. These are company projects, not start-ups.	SERC projects page

Points to strengthen before submission

Named start-ups. No low-carbon start-up supported by CIU is named. One or two case examples (company, founder, support received, dates) or a count of start-ups helped would turn "ready to assist" into evidence.

Low-carbon focus. The Studio's web pages do not mention sustainability; that aim appears only in CIU's source document, and the competition themes are not stated. A green-energy track or a published call for low-carbon ideas would close the gap.

Dates and funding. The source document says the Studio launched in 2023, while the website says it was founded in 2024 with an opening event on 29 May 2024; align them. The Studio does not state direct funding, so list the investors or grants it connects to.

APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT

Assistance for start-ups: evidence document

Source document • 4 pages • sheet 1 of 4

Evidence for THE Impact Rankings Questionnaire

University : Cyprus International University
Country : North Cyprus- Türkiye
Address : www.ciu.edu.tr

[7]

[7.4.5]

Assistance for Start-ups that Foster and Support low-carbon Economy/Technology:

We launched our start-up studio in 2023 to foster investments in sustainable StartUps. At Cyprus International University Startup Studio (CIUSS), we encourage innovation and entrepreneurship to empower the next generation of startups. Our mission is to provide a dynamic ecosystem where aspiring entrepreneurs can thrive and turn their ideas into successful businesses. Explore CIUSS and discover how we can support your startup journey.

Furthermore, two of our research centers, the Sustainable Energy Center (SERC) and the Center of Applied Research on Business, Economics, and Technology (CARBET), are ready to assist local start-ups.

Document page 1 of 4

Evidence note

Copy of the CIU evidence document for measure 7.4.5, page 1 of 4.

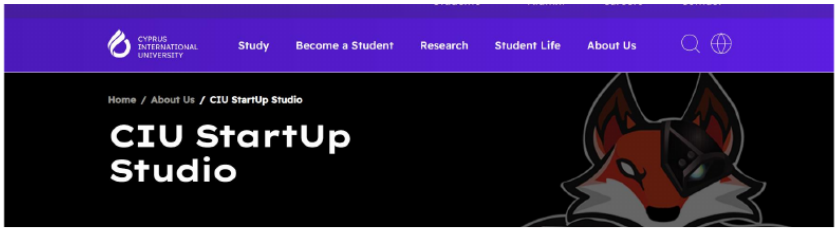
APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT • CONTINUED

Assistance for start-ups: evidence document

Source document • 4 pages • sheet 2 of 4

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THE IMPACT RANKINGS



CIU StartUp Studio (CIUSS)

Established with a vision to ignite innovation and drive economic growth, Cyprus International University Startup Studio (CIUSS) is a leading hub for startup development in Cyprus. Our dedicated team of industry experts, mentors, and advisors is committed to nurturing entrepreneurial talent and fostering a culture of innovation. Here's why aspiring entrepreneurs choose CIUSS to kickstart their startup journey:

- **Comprehensive Support:** CIUSS offers a comprehensive suite of programs and services tailored to the needs of startups at every stage of development, from ideation to scaling.
- **Expert Mentorship:** Gain access to a network of seasoned entrepreneurs, industry experts, and mentors who provide personalized guidance and support to help you navigate the challenges of entrepreneurship.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with a vibrant community of like-minded entrepreneurs, investors, and industry professionals through networking events, workshops, and collaborative initiatives.
- **Access to Resources:** From funding opportunities to workspace facilities and business tools, CIUSS provides startups with the resources they need to succeed in today's competitive landscape.
- **Proven Track Record:** Benefit from CIUSS's track record of success, with numerous alumni startups achieving significant milestones, securing investments, and making a positive impact in their respective industries.
- **Ecosystem Integration:** CIUSS is deeply integrated into the local and global startup ecosystem, providing unparalleled access to opportunities, partnerships, and market insights.
- **Innovation Hub:** Located within the dynamic campus of Cyprus International University, CIUSS serves as a hub for innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurial activity, fostering a culture of creativity and ambition.

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Evidence note

Copy of the CIU evidence document for measure 7.4.5, page 2 of 4.

APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT • CONTINUED

Assistance for start-ups: evidence document

Source document • 4 pages • sheet 3 of 4

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THE IMPACT RANKINGS

For further details please follow the links below:

https://youtu.be/qU36MzaQMKs?list=TLGGjZqcy0okstcyMzA5MjAyNQ

https://ciu.edu.tr/en/student-life/ciu-startup-studio/startup-studio-programs

https://ciu.edu.tr/en/student-life/ciu-startup-studio/startup-studio-offerings

Sustainable Energy Center (SERC)

Sustainable Energy Research Center (SERC) was founded in 2009 as the "Center of Excellence" at Cyprus International University. Since then, the center has carried out many research projects on Solar Energy and certification/education programs. In addition to the PV Power Plant project, SERC is carrying out many studies. Some of these studies are listed below:

• Active consultancy for numerous solar power projects, such as the PV project of the Civil Defense Organization and the PV project of Middle Eastern Technical University.

• PV Expert Certification Programs (Three-days program that includes an introduction, system definitions, techno-economic analysis, and on-site practices)

• Multiple Research Projects on Photovoltaics, Solar Thermal Systems, Energy Efficiency/Management, Energy Policies, Biogas

• Consultancy to the Ministry of Economy and Energy of Northern Cyprus on Renewable Energy and Energy Policy

More information can be obtained here: https://www.ciu.edu.tr/en/research/research-centers/sustainable-energy



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Evidence note

Copy of the CIU evidence document for measure 7.4.5, page 3 of 4.

APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT • CONTINUED

Assistance for start-ups: evidence document

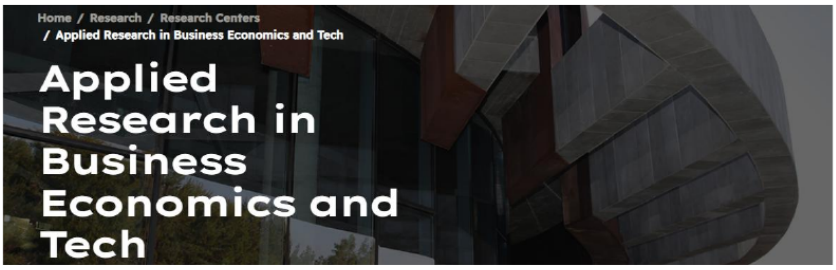
Source document • 4 pages • sheet 4 of 4

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Center of Applied Research on Business, Economics, and Technology (CARBET)

Current technological advances have led to an unavertable interdisciplinary synergy between different fields. In this manner, the research center focuses on and contributes to various research segments involving interdisciplinary relations in Economics, Business, Innovation, and Technology. The Center's focus is not limited to multidisciplinary research but also relevant search topics from the fields mentioned or industrial-related research that fall in CARBET's interest. The critical concentration of the research center is on environmental management studies such as ecological systems, green economy, energy engineering, water management, and sustainability. The center provides advisory services, executive programs, teaching and training, workshops, and seminars. CARBET also collaborates with research centers at overseas universities/organizations.

More information can be obtained here: https://www.ciu.edu.tr/en/research/research-centers/applied-research-business-economics-and-tech



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Evidence note

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