

- **Describe briefly the historical circumstances of the creation of this community in your country**

The Kingdom of Cyprus, Royaume de Chypre in French, was a crusader state established by the House of Lusignan (French) between 1192 and 1489. They declared Latin to be the first official language of the island, then replaced it with French and later, they declared Greek as an official second language. Even though their rule finished in the 15th century one can still find linguistic influence on modern Greek spoken in Cyprus.

- **Describe the current status of the community in your country**

Regardless of historic and linguistic influences of the French towards the Cypriot communities, today, the current status of the French-speaking community in Cyprus is comprised mainly by Africans who come from French-speaking countries and they use the French Language to communicate and to understand our language better, since it is closer to them via French rather than their native African languages. In addition, 10% of Cypriot nationals have some degree of fluency in French.

- **Define cultural specifics of dealing with community members (in general)**

The vast majority of French-speaking people in Cyprus come from the French community of Cameroon. In general, they are very friendly and open to mingle with the Cypriot community even though they are seen with some prejudice. There has been clashes of the Cameroonian population over the dominance of French over English, since the English-speaking population is decreasing rapidly. 83% of the population in Cameroon are French-speaking.

- **Define cultural specifics in the provision of health care to community members (with an emphasis on women)**

Cameroonian women have a lower social status in their country which corresponds with lower literacy and poorer health. They generally cannot rely on others to help them with their healthcare needs in their country and the consensus is that they feel they can only rely on themselves for their healthcare. There is some superstition among various tribes that bad health in women means they are not living according to their gender roles, which consequently it means not seeking help for those problems because it is proof of wrongdoing.

- **Determine the migrant language's specificities compared to the host country language**

French is the first language (L1) to 78 million people, 235 million people speak it fluently, and around 90 million people, mainly from Africa, speak it as a second language (L2). French is written using a Latin-based alphabet, while modern Greek is based on its Ancient Greek Alphabet. However, since both languages (Latin and Ancient Greek) derive from Ancient languages that were in close proximity over centuries in Europe there are many linguistic influences in both languages from one another. Thousands of words in Modern Greek come from the French language and vice versa.



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