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Modular Education and Training in Greece

- 1. Education System in Greece**
- 2. Initial and continuing vocational education and training**
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The main aim of this paper is to provide a brief description of the Education System in Greece with a focus on the levels of education and institutions providing modular education and training.

1. Education System in Greece

Education in Greece is organized in three successive stages: primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary level can be divided into Pre-primary education (ISCED 0¹) and Compulsory Primary education (ISCED 1) offered by Primary schools. Secondary education level consists of compulsory part or Lower Secondary Education (ISCED 2) provided by Gymnasiums and post-compulsory part or Upper Secondary Education (ISCED 3) which is offered by Unified Lyceums and Technical Vocational Schools (TEEs). Post secondary education is provided in Institutes of Vocational Training (IEKs) but as it is leading to certification allowing access to the labour market and not to any further academic studies it is usually not considered as a part of the education system.²

Pursuant the Law 2916/ 2001 the latter education stage (ISCED 4,5,6) is divided into university education provided by Universities (AEIs) and non-university education that is offered by Higher Technological Institutes (TEIs). Education provided in universities is more theoretically and academically oriented, while the courses provided in TEIs focus on the transfer of the scientific data into practice and applied research. In 1998 the Hellenic Open University, the biggest provider of open and distance higher education in Greece, was opened.

¹ International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED 1997 of UNESCO

² Established pursuant Law 2009/1992



2. Vocational Education and Training System in Greece

The National Vocational and Education Training System (ESEEK) is established pursuant Law 2009/1992. Vocational education and training (VET) in Greece is divided into initial and continuous.

a. Initial vocational education and training

The institutions offering initial VET are supervised by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs through a number of bodies established for this purpose. Secondary VET is provided by TEEs while IEKs offer post-secondary VET. The IEKs are directly supervised by the Organization for Vocational Education and Training (OEEK) which designs and oversees the implementation of programmes in IEKs and provides accreditation for the professional qualifications acquired through formal vocational levels.

b. Continuing vocational training

The Ministry of Labour is responsible for the continuing vocational training provided in Greece outside the formal initial VET. Continuing vocation training is offered by Vocational Training Centers (KEKs). These institutions as well as the courses provided by them are officially accredited by the National Accreditation Center of Vocational Training Structures and Accompanying Support Services (EKEPIS).

3. Institutions providing modular education and training

The main providers in Greece of modular courses are the IEKs and the tertiary educational institutions.

Each Institute of Vocational Training (IEK) focuses on one or more fields in which it offers a number of specializations. IEKs provide modularized courses at European Levels 1, 2 and 3 based on a unified approach to assessment. On completing IEKs courses the trainees are awarded a certificate of vocational training, which allows entry to final accreditation examinations. The final accreditation examinations consist of national examinations in theoretical subjects and regional examinations for the practical skills. Based on them an IEK Diploma of Vocational Training is awarded.



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Modularized courses at tertiary education stage are provided by Universities (AEIs) and Higher Technological Institutes (TEIs). The Hellenic Open University offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses, vocational training or post-training on the basis of distance learning. The education provided is based on thematic units (modules). A thematic unit covers a specific undergraduate or postgraduate level of education with subjects corresponding to three semesters of Higher education institutes. After the successful accomplishment of each module the students are awarded a certificate.

The Vocational Training Centers (KEKs) design and offer courses for employees, unemployed and school leavers from all level of education in many different subjects in the frames of continuing vocational training.

Reforms in Greece are under way in order to promote modularization in education and training. Modularization is regarded as one of the methods contributing for raising the efficiency and flexibility of education and training and also for ensuring mobility of people throughout Europe.



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Sources of information:

1. Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs: www.ypepth.gr
2. National Resource Centre for Vocational Guidance: www.ekep.gr
3. The National Accreditation Center for Continuing Vocational Training (EKEPIS): www.ekepis.gr
4. Organization for Vocational Education and Training (OEEK): www.oEEK.gr
5. Hellenic Open University: www.eap.gr
6. EURYDICE: The Information network on education in Europe: www.eurydice.gr
7. CEDEFOP: The European center for the development of vocational education: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/>
8. Vocational Education and Training in Greece: short description by Vassileia Vretakou and Panagiotis Rousseas