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Some Aspects of the System of Education in Greece^(*)

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Outline of the Presentation

Background Information

Organization of Education

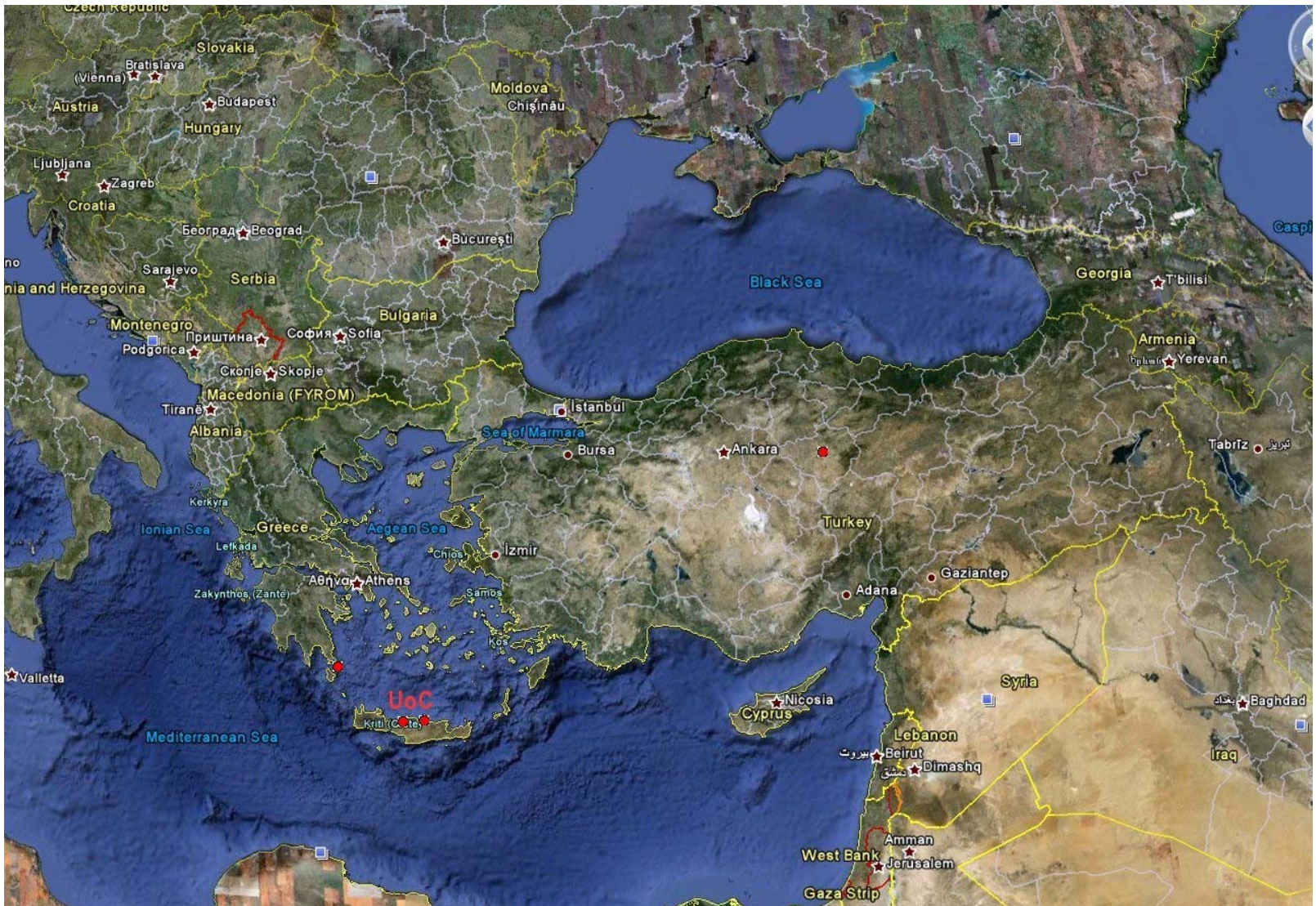
Administration of Education

Management of Education

Operational Aspects in Education

Aspects of the Curriculum

Questions and Answers (if any)



Greece

Area 131,990Km² (~ 20% islands)

~ 30% arable and 70% Sea and Mountain rocks,

Population: ~11 Mi within Greece

with a comparable figure as 1st and 2nd generation emigrants in other states.

**During the 19sixties a large wave of emigration to Germany and (West) Europe
many returned during the 19 eighties**

**Today a lot of immigrants
estimated as 15% of the population
or ~ 30%of workforce
many of them illegal immigrants**



Greece basic data

Area 131,990Km² (~ 20% islands)
~ 30% arable and 70% Sea and Mountain rocks,

Population: ~11 Mi within Greece

with a comparable figure as 1st and 2nd generation emigrants in other states.

Greater Athens area:~ 0.32% of the area 32% of the population

Thessaloniki, Patra, Iraklio, Larissa other large city complexes

Κρήτη (Crete) 8 336 Km² (6.3%) ~0.6 Mi (5.2%) population
(plus ~ 2Mi visitors during summer)

A large percentage living in mountainous and difficult to reach or isolated areas.

A characteristic also in of other parts of Greece.

A lot of Small Size Enterprises:

~ 85% with less than 10 employees or self-employed

During the 19sixties a large wave of emigration to Germany and (West) Europe
many returned during the 19 eighties

Today a lot of immigrants

estimated as 15% of the population or ~ 30%of workforce

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1828 – 1832 Independence, Kapodistrias as Governor

1832 – 1843 Monarchy of Otto (from Bavaria)

1843 – 1862 ‘Constitutional Monarchy’ of Otto war of Crimea

1863 - 1909 Monarchy of George I (from Denmark)

1909 ‘The revolution of Goudi’ – beginning of a democratic state (plus King)

1912-1922 War (Balkan wars, 1st World War, War with Turkey)

1923-1926 Reforms

1926-1935 Democracy

1935-1940 Unrest (King’s return, Dictatorship)

1940-1950 2nd World War, Civil War

1950-1959 Consequences of the Civil War

1963-1965 ‘Democracy and free Education’

1965-1967 ‘Αποστασία –political apostatization’

1967-1974 Dictatorship

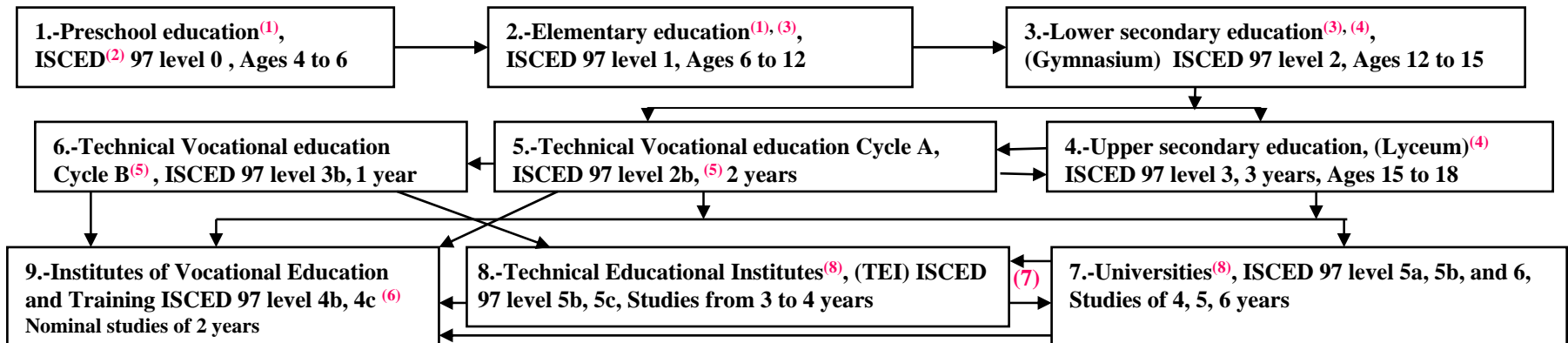
1974-1981 Democracy

1981-1989 Healing the consequences of the civil war – steps in European Union

1990-1999 Modernization - Catching up the time with the rest of ‘western world’

2000- ??? steps in a globalized society. Live in peace???

The system of Education in Greece



⁽¹⁾Primary Education, ⁽²⁾ISCED: Unesco' s International Standard for the Classification of Education edition 1997, ⁽³⁾Compulsory Education, ⁽⁴⁾Secondary Education, ⁽⁵⁾(Secondary) Technical and Vocational Education, ⁽⁶⁾Schools outside the formal education (officially unclassified), ⁽⁷⁾Enrollment after a selective process which may include examinations, ⁽⁸⁾Tertiary Education (AEI)

Technical Vocational Education - TEE (5.- and 6.- above) have replaced from 1998 onwards the various types of Technical Vocational Schools (TEL, TES etc) that were phased out completely from year 2002. In 2006 the TEE were again replaced by Technical Vocational Schools (3 years – level 2c, 2b;) and Technical Lycei (3 years, level 3b). All higher education Institutes (tertiary education) are public at the moment. The Greek constitution explicitly forbids the operation of private universities. The enrolment to 9.-Institutes of Vocational Education is done after a selective process. They offer Initial Training and, formally, they are outside the formal education System. The enrolment to 8.-Technical Educational Institutes and to 7.-Universities is done after common entrance examinations administered centrally by the Ministry for Education. This system was to be phased out completely by the year 2002. From the year 2000 the enrolment to the Universities and other tertiary education establishments will be done via a selective process based on the marks obtained in the school (Lyceum) leaving certificate. In 2006 the previous system of separation of the school leaving certificate from the entrance examinations (which were revived) is in effect.

The statistics of education (1995 Yearbook of the National Statistical Service of Greece)

Level	Schools	Pupils	Teachers	Figures for 1991. Only classified education is included. For teachers, only school staff is included.
Totals	17.388	2.009.774	128.258	
Pre-school	5.518	136.536	8.400	
Elementary	7.653	813.353	43.599	
Gymnasium	1.808	442.815	29.571	
Lyceum	1.158	273.589	20.231	Technical Vocational Lycei not included
TEL, TES etc	572	134.949	10.501	Technical Vocational Education before the reform of 1997
TEI	12	75.679	5.221	
Universities	17	116.938	8.497	
Special others	644	12.385	1.696	Special Education – for persons with special needs Nautical, Ecclesiastical etc. speciality schools
		3.530	542	

Organization of Education in Greece

Up to 4 years:

- **nursery schools (outside the formal education system)**
- **under the responsibility of the Ministry for Health and Social Services**
- **very few, mostly within the local municipalities**
- **private sector fills the shortage.**

4 - 6 years:

- **preschool education (ISCED '97 level 0),**
- **compulsory from 2006,**
- **not enforced,**
- **not adequate infrastructure.**
- **one generic type.**

6 -12 years:

- **Primary school (ISCED '97 level 1),**
- **called Δημοτικό=municipality school – a historical name,**
- **compulsory from the end of World War II,**
- **enforced from 1974 (after the dictatorship),**
- **many with immigrants (majority in some schools)**
- **one generic type.**

Organization of Education in Greece (continued)

12 -15 years:

- **Gymnasium – (Lower) Secondary education (ISCED '97 level 2),**
- **compulsory from 1974 (after the dictatorship),**
- **enforced from 1981,**
- **still large rates of drop-out students especially in some areas,**
- **drop-out rate not associated with financial status or race,**
- **many with immigrants,**

- **one generic type,**
- **but special Gymnasium schools also (music, athletic, ...),**

- **apprenticeship technical –vocational schools but not any more for this age.**

Organization of Education in Greece (continued)

From 15 years upwards no compulsory education

Education after 15 years of age

Lyceum - upper secondary education (ISCED '97 level 3)

- 3 years (classes 10 – 12),
- Different types:
 - General (ISCED '97 level 3a),
 - Technical-Vocational of different types on ISCED '97 level 3b, 3c, 2b, 2c
 - Ecclesiastical, Music, Athletic, Nautical... (ISCED '97 level 3a usually)

Post secondary pre-tertiary education:

- in the form of Technical – Vocational initial training (ISCED '97 level 4b, usually),

Higher (not 'highest' i.e. University) education:

- (a remnant from the past?) with constitutional validity
- up to 3 years
- technical – vocational education in engineering initially
- other vocations also (mostly in the area of tourism)

Organization of Education in Greece (continued)

Higher (University) Education

- **Two sectors: Universities and Technology Education Institutes (TEI)**
 - 19 Universities and 22 TEI plus special forms (not exactly Universities see later)
- **TEI – upgraded from a lower isced level (similar to polytechnics in UK)**
- **Still with problems due:**
 - **to constitutional phrasing**
 - **to economic interests from some professions (mainly engineers).**

Higher (University) Education according to the Constitution

- **only public through self-administration legal entities of the public sector**
- **under the Minister for Education who may exercise powers of audit**
- **with academic personnel of life tenure (up to 67 years of age)**
- **and with personal guarantees similar to judges**

- **private Universities are forbidden**

Organization of Education in Greece (continued)

Despite the prohibition for private Universities:

- many private institutions are advertised as Universities,
- some offer good specialized vocational training (not of university level)
- some act as franchise of foreign Universities
- franchises of EU Universities constitute a problem
they are not recognized and EU has sued Greece
- a recent (2009) very controversial legislation is obscuring matters

with the exception of Universities that are recognized only as public Institutions:

- public and private schools
- private schools by civilians, or/and
- private schools by legal entities, or/and
- private schools by foreign states of
special status within bilateral intergovernmental agreements
- all under the Minister for Education who may exercise powers of audit

Organization of Education in Greece (continued)

other forms of education or training:

- **People's Training usually to survive traditional vocations**
- **Free Open 'Universities' - cultural activities within the municipalities**
- **Military or Police schools – for officers have the professional status of University**
- **church schools of different levels**

- **Mountain University**
a new concept initialized in Greece by The University of Crete

- **schools for persons with special needs**

- **special vocational schools (merchant marine, agriculture,**
under the join responsibility of the ministry for education and another ministry

Administration of schools is very centralized

with the exception of the Universities that are self-administrated in all levels

- **Administration reside within the Ministry for Education** even for private schools
- **Attempts for decentralization to local authorities were nullified**
by the Supreme court on a 'twisted' interpretation of the constitution
- **Limited decentralized administration to persons in regions**
school teachers appointed by the Minister and acting on his authority
- **school advisors appointed by the Minister with full or limited flexibility**
they should be teachers in public schools
- **school masters and their alternates**
appointed by the Minister with full or limited flexibility for public schools
approved by the Minister for private schools
- **school teachers appointed (public schools) approved (private schools)**
by the Minister with full or limited flexibility

- **It is an issue for reform to delegate power to local authorities**

Operation costs:

- **Responsibility of the local authorities**
municipalities (mainly), local education authorities, association of parents, ...
- **with funds from the Ministry (mainly) or own**
- **Local prefectures have the responsibility to propose alteration to schools,**

By constitutional provisions 'Free Education' for all in public schools (from 1963)

- **no tuition, registration or other fees**
- **free textbooks, free netbook computers and S/W from this year,**
- **free medical care**
- **support for housing, meals and transportation**
- **...**
- **on top of scholarships**

Operation actors and stakeholders:

- **the Ministry**
- **the teachers**
 - **individually**
 - **through the school societies of teachers,**
 - **through their associations**
- **students individually and through each school association of students**
- **the association of parents**
- **the prefectures**
- **the municipalities**

- **advisory boards and councils in different levels**

Some particular aspects:

- **Schools with special operational status, for example**
 - evening schools (for working students),
 - experimentation schools – usually within University Departments of Education,
 - through their associations

- **Schools of second chance (for adults who want to continue or complete education)**
- **Further education schools for teachers**

- **Schools or special classes for foreign students (repatriated Greeks, immigrants, ...)**

- **Schools operating in other countries**

Some particular aspects:

- **Schools with special operational status, for example**
 - evening schools (for working students),
 - experimentation schools – usually within University Departments of Education,
 - through their associations
- **All day schools with optional subjects indicated by the students (or parents)**
after the end of the formal teaching program
- **Schools of second chance (for adults who want to continue or complete education)**
- **Further education schools for teachers**
- **Schools or special classes for foreign students (repatriated Greeks, immigrants, ...)**
- **Schools operating in other countries**

Operation of Education in Greece (continued)

Some figures (1988):

	Units	Teachers	Students	Ratio
Preschool Edc	5 420	7 800	144 586	18.5
Elementary	8 421	37 409	831 841	22.2
Gymnasium	1 655	24 617	421 461	17.1
Lyceum	916	17 122	255 619	15.0
Comprehensive	22	1 265	17 707	14.0
Tech.-Voc.	-	6 274	93 417	14.9

Books Printed

	New titles	Reprints	Copies
Primary	74	344	80 870 000
Secondary	210	645	110 477 000

Drop – out rates:

on the average 15% do not complete compulsory education

Very high in some areas

- In mountainous Rethimno ~40%
- In plain land south part o Iraklio ~30%

A multiparametric phenomenon

My opinion:

- Students expect very little from schooling to improve their perspectives
- School does not appeal to students
- School context – teachers implementation focused to other social classes

Issues emerging:

~ 25% of primary school students in schools with less than 6 teachers
school merging into larger units difficult sometimes

Different Organization and Administration of Elementary Schools and Gymnasiums

Different teachers' background between primary and secondary education

Teachers in primary school and preschool education

- from Departments of Education
- with studies on Psycho – pedagogy
- general class teacher (the same teacher for all the subjects in one class)
- but specialty teachers for music, foreign languages, physical education

Teachers in secondary schools (Gymnasium, Lyceum, Technical Vocational

- from corresponding Departments (Physics, Literature, Engineer, ...)
- little or no pedagogy -> special training before appointment
- specialty (subject) teacher

The education and training of teachers is a crucial problem

Multicultural needs:

From 1990 onwards:

School students of very different social and cultural background

- repatriated Greeks
- immigrants from different countries
- minorities

A large scale ongoing action to:

- redesign of textbooks, syllabus and content of school subjects
- special training of teachers towards multicultural aspects

An added advantage:

- Better education to Greeks in Greece
- Better education to Greeks in other countries

- Better textbooks eliminating issues of controversy with neighboring countries
a very controversial issue by itself in Greece with political implications

Pre-School Education:

- **Socialization**
- **Psycho-motive development**
- **Emotional development**

- **Curriculum includes**
 - **Music,**
 - **Physical Education,**
 - **Dancing,**
 - **Familiarization with local culture**

Primary School:

- **Personal Development (cognitive, psycho-motive, emotional, social)**
- **without Discrimination**
 - for sex,
 - race,
 - or social status.

- **Curriculum includes subjects on:**
 - Greek Language and Literature
 - Mathematics
 - Study of the Environment
 - Science (5th & 6th grades)
 - Geography (5th & 6th grades)
 - History
 - Informatics
 - (optional) Courses on the pupil's religion
 - Music
 - Physical Education
 - Social and Political Life

Secondary Education Gymnasium and Lyceum (general):

- **Continuation of Personal Development without Discrimination**
- **Syllabus subject oriented**
- **with same subject areas as in primary school but in more detail**

In effect (due to the high demand for tertiary education?)

- **Gymnasium doorstep to Lyceum**
- **Lyceum doorstep to University**

As a consequence

- **A continuous reform from 1977 onwards**
 - **mostly on technicalities**
 - **when serious attempts → strong resistance (from teachers and students)**

Coherence between the curriculums in Primary and in Secondary Education a problem

Technical – Vocational Education:

- Always designed with good intentions
- Often with very good designs on curriculum on specialties, ...
- Sometimes with good modern syllabus

However it is considered:

- For ‘children of a lesser God’
- Bear the stamp of academic failure

As a consequence:

- In a perpetual reform (mostly uncoordinated or unprepared)

Science Education in the curriculum:

Up to 1997:

- Mostly narrative with 'blackboard experiments'
- Without any connection to students observations of the natural world

From 1997 - Systematic reorganization including:

- Real Science Experiments in the classroom
- Promotion of relating students Observations to Science subjects
- Focused on concepts and procedures
- Factual data only to the extent supporting concepts and procedures

However:

- Inertia still prevails

You may see our works in <http://www.clab.edc.uoc.gr/aestit/>

Thank you:



A view from The University of Crete campus at Rethimno - Thank you