
Lifelong Learning in Greece 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY NATIONAL REPORT

Lifelong Learning (LLL) is considered a policy priority at European as well as at international level. It is strongly linked to a person's employment, prosperity and full participation in society. The challenges placed today by the ageing population, the skills and competences deficit of the workforce and the global competition are further enhanced by the ongoing financial crisis and thus, highlight the crucial role of Lifelong Learning in addressing these issues.

The percentage of the population aged 24-65 participating in Lifelong Learning in Greece (3%) appears to be well below the European average (9,1%) and the Europe 2020 target (15%). Accordingly, the percentage of low achievers in basic skills in Greece is 27,7%, while the European average lies at 20% and the target for 2020 is <15%.

The law (Law Nr. 3879/2010) on Lifelong Learning that was voted by the Greek Parliament in September 2010, sets the basis for the planning and implementation of a **national holistic strategy on lifelong learning** and for the creation of the **National Network of Lifelong Learning (NNLL)**, which encompasses all LLL governing bodies and LLL service providers operating under the auspices of different ministries. The mapping and registration of the NNLL members, as well as their consequent briefing on national LLL policy and the priorities linked to quality assurance, validation & accreditation, interoperability & mobility, enhancement of attractiveness, participation and accessibility are a prerequisite for fruitful interaction within the network.

In this framework, the **General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning**, acting as the executive authority for Lifelong Learning in Greece, conducts for the first time, at national policy level, an initial registration of all LLL activities organized and implemented by state agents and major social partners. The information contained in this report is a result of data provided by ten different ministries, by Regions and municipalities and by 25 major social partners including tertiary trade union organizations. It refers to non formal and informal types of learning, which took place in 2012. Since the National Quality Framework, the accreditation of LLL programs and outcomes and the overall alignment of Greek LLL policy with the ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) are at an early stage of development (a detailed and exhaustive registration of all continuing vocational training and adult – non-formal and informal – education is not feasible at this stage). For this reason, the report contains only a few initiatives taken by social partners, foundations, collectives and other private players as samples of informal learning activity.

The annual report refers to the overall political and social environment, to the European and international policy context as well as to the legal framework underlying LLL in Greece. The LLL policy and activities presented are implemented by the following actors:

A. Governing bodies of LLL

- > General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning (GSLL)
- > Regional LLL department units (Attica, Central Greece, Central Macedonia, East Macedonia and Thrace, Western Greece, Western Macedonia, Epirus, Thessaly, Ionian Islands, Crete, Peloponnese)
- > Municipal LLL department units (Athens, Thessaloniki)
- > National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP)
- > National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)

B. LLL providers by field:

- > *Education:* Ministry of Education, General Secretariat for Youth, Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation (INEDIVIM), Hellenic Open University, University of Athens, University of Thessaloniki, University of Crete, University of Thessaly, University of the Aegean, Centre for the Greek Language (KEG), National Book Centre of Greece (EKEBI)
- > *Employment:* Manpower Employment Organization (OAED), National Institute of Labor and Human Resources (EIEAD), Specialized Centers for Re-integration of the Disabled and of Former Addicts into Society and into the Labor Market
- > *Health:* National School of Public Health (ESDY), Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (IKPI), Organization Against Drugs (OKANA), Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals (KETHEA), Greek Union of Nurses (ENE), Health Units SA (AEMY AE), Therapeutic Education Study Group and other health related LLL providers
- > *Agriculture:* Hellenic Agricultural Organization "Dimitra" (EGEKA), Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IGE)
- > *Justice:* Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, National School of Judges (ESDL)
- > *Shipping:* Directorate for the Education of Marines and Sailors
- > *Tourism:* Ministry of Tourism
- > *Security:* Centre for Security Studies (KMA)
- > *Interior Affairs & Decentralization:* Ministry of Interior, National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)
- > *Foreign Affairs:* Diplomatic Academy
- > *Tertiary Trade Union Organisations:* Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE), Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen & Merchants (GSEVEE), Senior Management of Civil Servant Unions (ADEDY), National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce (ESEE), Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)
- > *Foundations, museums, collectives, unions, chambers, NGOs, cultural groups, private entities and other social partners:* Hellenic Management Association (EEDE), Hellenic Adult Education Association (EEEE), Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE), Journalists Unions of Daily Press (of Athens, Macedonia and Thrace, Thessaly and Central Greece, Peloponnese, Epirus and the Islands) & Periodical and Electronic Press Union, METAction etc.

The General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning (GSLL) has arranged to extend in 2013 the work done in this report by proceeding with a systematic mapping of Lifelong Learning in Greece and with the initiation of networking among the members of the NNLL. Furthermore, the GSLL will issue the National Plan for Lifelong Learning within the first trimester of 2013.

Synthesis of this report highlighted:

- > the horizontal nature of LLL policy and practice
- > the amplitude and variety of LLL service providers
- > the diversity of beneficiaries and stakeholders
- > the focus of LLL services on general population (rather than targeting disadvantaged groups in order to foster social inclusion and cohesion)
- > the amplitude and diversity of disciplines, subject matters and fields of learning in the programs offered
- > ***the dynamics of rapid development of LLL in Greece, based on strategic planning.***

Emerging challenges can be summarized as follows:

- > increase of the percentage of the population aged 24-65 participating in LLL
- > decrease of the percentage of 16-64 year old early education leavers
- > interministerial cooperation for the coordination on LLL matters at national level
- > validation and accreditation of LLL service providers, registry of providers in the NNLL and their connection to the LLL portal
- > consideration of complementarity and synergies among providers with view to upgrading quality and saving resources in LLL
- > strategic restructuring of the LLL services in terms of their field, their content, tools, methods, procedures and their beneficiaries, in order for those services to be
 - of high quality
 - adapted to the citizens' needs and interests
 - easily and equally accessible to *all*
 - directly connected to the labor market and to society
 - part of the broader education and training framework, thus enabling mobility.

