

Refine - Interim report from Greece Jenny Pange, University of Ioannina, October 2004

According to the General Secretariat for Adult Education from the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs:

«Lifelong learning aims at the promotion of the active participation of people in the personal and social development, the promotion of active citizenship and the increase in the possibilities of social inclusion and employment.

One of the basic tools for the promotion of lifelong learning is adult education.

In Greece, the agency responsible for actions in this domain is the General Secretariat for Adult Education.

The **General Secretariat for Adult Education (G.S.A.E.)** is the national agency - at a national level as well as for Greeks abroad- responsible for the design, co-ordination and implementation of lifelong learning projects and actions such as:

- ☐ Basic adult education, that is combating illiteracy, and the completion of compulsory education.
- ☐ General adult education and training, that is the provision of continuous training, the training of special groups threatened by social exclusion, the implementation of the learning of the Greek language as a second language as well as education in the domain of new technologies.
- ☐ The socio-cultural education and training concerning culture, health and the environment as well as information on social, cultural and european issues.
- ☐ Open and distance education and training and the connection and cooperation with modern systems of open and distance learning.
- ☐ The education of educators of adults.

Furthermore, the **G.S.A.E.** is responsible for the **Second Chance Schools.**

Since 2001, the **G.S.A.E.** has supervised the Institute for **Continuing Adult Education (IDEKE)**, the aim of which is the technological and scientific support of the programmes of the **G.S.A.E.** and the implementation of the actions promoting lifelong learning.

G.S.A.E. Programmes are:

“MELINA – Education and Culture” Programme

“MELINA – Education and Culture” is a pilot programme of the Ministries of Education and Culture aiming at the promotion of art and culture within school and at the upgrading of the educational procedure via arts and artistic expression.

In the period from 1995 to 2000, it was implemented in 92 Primary Schools of Greece and in two Primary Schools of Cyprus. Since 2001, all the Primary Schools of the region of Hania in Crete together with agencies of Local Authorities have been participating in the programme.

The programme involves the training of teachers in issues relating to art and culture and the production of educational material for activities taking place in the classroom. It also involves 5 classes of:

- Arts and crafts
- Music

- Dance - Motion
- Theatre
- Audiovisual expression

The website of the programme is www.prmelina.gr

Programmes of Road Safety Education

They are addressed to parents and teachers of Primary Education and they aim at their sensitization to and familiarization with basic issues relating to road safety education. They involve the organization of events, one-day sessions and seminars in co-operation with Directorates of Primary Education, Local Authorities and Parents' Associations and the production of educational material.

Programmes of Education in the domain of Audiovisual Media

- Seminars on radio addressed to professionals working at regional radio and T.V. stations and to pupils of High School, and conferences on radio.
- Seminars on artistic photograph at local and regional level.
- Events on Documentaries, which involve three-day showings of films in regions and the organization of an annual Documentary Festival entitled "Cinema and Reality" in cooperation with the French Institute of Athens.

Programmes for Women's Support

They aim at women's integration into economic, social and professional life, as well as at the removal of gender inequities via the following actions:

- promotion of entrepreneurship
- provision of (i) information via a Telematic Network and Observatory for the support of women's enterprises (MEDAT Observatory www.ade.pt/medat.htm) and (ii) information on the possibilities of financing women's enterprises
- training and distance learning in the management of women's enterprises in the Centre of Promotion and Certification of Social Women Enterprises "Trade House", which will function in Attica within DIONI II project, which is implemented in five regions of Greece – EU Initiative EQUAL (europa.int/comm./employment_social/equal/index.cfm)
- research into and implementation of new models of support in business and of provision of information on vocational and educational issues
- sensitization of women population to issues regarding Equity, Employment, Social Economy, Promotion of Alternative Credit and Women's Microcredit

Programmes for the Environment

They are addressed to parents, farmers, the personnel of Local Authorities and to the general population. They aim at citizens' sensitization to issues relating to the protection of the environment in order for them to take action in this domain. They involve the organization of seminars and events and the production of educational material.

Programmes for Immigrants – Repatriated - Refugees

They aim at immigrants' social inclusion via actions for:

- the learning of the Greek language and the development of social skills
- vocational (re)training
- the sensitization of the public and various agencies to issues relating to immigrants in order for prejudices and stereotypes to be removed or whittled away
- the carrying out of studies and research
- the publication of educational material
- the training of trainers

Programmes for ROMA

They aim at the social inclusion of ROMA via:

- EU projects which are being implemented at a regional level (e.g. Multi – Roma Action –Hellas)
- literacy projects for adults
- projects of vocational training
- production of audiovisual material for sensitization
- training of trainers working on projects of vocational training for ROMA
- conferences on issues relating to ROMA
- publication of books, booklets and leaflets

Programmes for Prisoners, Ex-offenders, Ex-addicts and Young People

Threatened by Social Exclusion

It is a programme of education and provision of support to the aforementioned groups. They aim at the decrease in consequences of imprisonment and at the (re)integration of these groups into society via:

- education and training programmes
- provision of support and counseling
- organization of cultural activities and creation of theatre and music teams
- seminars of education and sensitization for employees working in agencies of correctional care and for guardians in Courts for Under-age People
- training of trainers working on projects of education, training and employment
- investigation of the possibilities of ex-offenders' re-integration into free labour market
- investigation and registration of the educational and professional career of ex-offenders and of under-age offenders

Moreover, the G.S.A.E. coordinates the Cooperation Network for the Support of Young People, which comprises 11 bodies (public and non governmental organizations) which are concerned with issues relating to young people.

Programmes of the V.T.C. of the G.S.A.E.

The G.S.A.E. has been certified as a Vocational Training Centre at a national level and it has structures in the regions of Attica, Sterea Elada and Central Macedonia). The aforementioned structures offer:

- initial and continuing training
- training in new technologies
- projects and activities promoting employability


Programmes of Centres of Initial Vocational Training


Four Centres of Initial Vocational Training function in the municipalities of Moschato, Chaidari, Saint Anargiri, and Mandra. An additional Centre of Vocational Training functions on a legal agreement between the Prefectural Committee of Popular Education of Athens and the Municipality of Saint Anargiri, where young people are provided with initial training in:


- installation of photovoltaic systems
- installation of solar systems for heating - cooling
- installation of wind generators and aeolian parks
- installation of natural gas systems


Programmes of I.C.A.E.


 Second Chance Schools (S.C.S.)


 Adult Education Centres (A.E.C.)

 Programme of Immigrants' Education

 Programme of Parents' Education

 Programme for the Development of Structures

 Programme of Volunteer Action "I protect myself and others"

 Learning Cities

 Education for Democratic Citizenship (E.D.C.)

Second Chance Schools (S.C.S.)

This is a flexible and innovative educational programme which aims at combating the social exclusion of individuals who lack the qualifications and skills necessary for them to meet the contemporary needs of labour market. The programme provides individuals of 18 and over who have not completed the nine-year compulsory education with the possibility of obtaining a lower secondary education certificate and of well integrating into social, economic and professional life.

More specifically, the main objectives of the programme are:

- the re-linking of individuals who have not completed the basic education with the educational procedure
- the creation of networks of cooperation between school, local community, business world and education

The curriculum covers the following:

- the development of skills in language, mathematics and communication, with special emphasis on foreign languages and ICTs
- basic training and preparation for professional life in cooperation with local authorities

- development of skills in the domain of the personal interests of the people being educated, such as, for example, sports, music, theatre, etc.

The programme lasts 18 months.

Today, 5 Second Chance Schools function in Greece (in Peristeri, Menidi, Patra, Thessaloniki and Iraklio), while the total number of the people being educated in these is around 500. More S.C.S will be created in the years to come.

Greek S.C.S. are members of the European Network of Second Chance Schools (www.e2c-europe.org).

Adult Education Centres (A.E.C.)

Adult Education Centres are responsible for the coordination of adult education programmes within the wider region where they are situated. They promote lifelong learning and they facilitate co-operation between local bodies and organizations. The educational programmes cover the following thematic areas:

- Literacy
- Family literacy
- Numeracy
- ICTs
- Counseling of special groups
- Management of free time

The programmes provided by Adult Education Centres aim at helping those being educated develop new basic skills and update the already existing ones.

Programmes for Immigrants – Repatriated - Refugees

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Programme of Parents' Education

The programme aims at familiarizing parents with psychological and pedagogical issues, in order for them to cope with:

- the psychological, social, mental and material needs of their children (of school age or adolescents)
- the children's efforts to meet Primary School and High School demands
- their communication with school and their co-operation with teachers
- the more effective provision of help to their children
- their communication with children

The project is being implemented in cooperation with Parents' Associations, Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, agencies of Local Authorities, etc. In 2002, the programme, which lasts thirty hours, was implemented at a pilot level in the municipalities of Saint Paraskevi, Ilion, Kallithea and Pallini. The scientific responsibility of the programme is placed upon the Pedagogical Department of Primary Education of the University of Athens.

Programme of Volunteer Action “I protect myself and others”

This is a Programme of Volunteer Education and Action for the Confrontation of Emergencies and Extreme Physical Phenomena. The following bodies also participate in the programme: the Ministry of the Interior Public Administration and Decentralization (General Secretariat for Civil Protection), the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (Organization of Anti-earthquake Planning and Protection), the Ministry of Public Order (Fire Brigade), the Ministry of Mercantile Marine (Harbour Police Corps), as well as the Doctors without Borders, and the Greek Red Cross. It is implemented in co-operation with municipalities and its aim is to train adults in skills of management of risk of physical destructions. The programme covers the following thematic areas:

- Fires (in cities and forests)
- Earthquakes
- Rescues
- Floods
- Sea accidents
- Protection of sea environment
- Management of camps
- First aids

The programme lasts 102 hours and so far around 900 volunteers have been trained in 30 municipalities of the country. It is supported by a Network of Academic Institutions and Research Centres. The website of the programme is www.ethelontismos.gr

Education for Democratic Citizenship (E.D.C.)

The G.S.A.E. and I.C.A.E. promote the Council of Europe’s initiative “Education for Democratic Citizenship”. Education for Democratic Citizenship aims at the integration of the individual into the social and political life of the country and at the wider participation of citizens in formal institutions. It involves the following thematic areas:

- Family
- Educational institutions
- Work and Workplaces
- Political and Non – Governmental Organizations
- Local communities
- Cultural activities

Learning Cities

“A Learning City, Town or Region recognizes and understands the key role of learning in the development of basic prosperity, social stability and personal happiness, and mobilises all its human, physical and financial resources wisely and innovatively to

develop the full human potential of all its citizens” (European Lifelong Learning Initiative).

The G.S.A.E and I.C.A.E. devise and gradually build a National Network of Learning Cities. The creation of this Network is being dynamically supported via the participation of the G.S.A.E. / I.C.A.E. in the Socrates / Grundtvig4 (2001 – 2004) project NewTELS (Towards a European Learning Society), in which 16 additional European partners are involved (www.newtels.euproject.org). »

Moreover in Greece there is the National Accreditation center of continuing vocational training. (http://www.ekepis.gr/qnr/index_gr.htm)

The Ministry of Labor has decided the development of these centers under the law No 11232 in 1997. All these centers are evaluated by experienced staff.

There are also centers for distance learning in continuing education programs which are delivered from the Universities or other Educational Sectors (<http://www.pi-schools.gr>)