

Vocational Education and Training in Greece.

Lessons from a long experience

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Basic Concepts

- Pre-vocational education and technological prep-education as elements of general education
- (Technical and) Vocational Education
- Initial Vocational Training
- Life Long Learning / Retraining
 - Continuous education
 - Continuous Training
 - Transition Training
- Scholar and Vocational Orientation

Vocational Education in Greece

- Just EPAL (Vocational Lyceum) in secondary education
- Abolition of old post-secondary schools (for gaffers and medium level technical managers)
- The void created by the theoretical turn of Technological Education Institutions further turning now into universities
- The prospect of two –year long technological education programs from universities

Vocational Training in Greece (initial)

- Formal mostly through Vocational Training Institutes (IEK) in post-secondary level
- Dancing, theater and film-making schools, schools of professional unions, professional chambers' seminars also post-secondary
- Naval Academies and Tourism Vocational Schools in tertiary level (colleges)
- National School of Public Health, National Center for Public and Local Administration in postgraduate level (formal) and their respective Institutes (non-formal)
- Non-formal through various Vocational Training Centers (KEK, ΚΔΒΜ etc.)
- Apprenticeship

Vocational Training in Greece (beyond current planning)

- Majorly served by one or two year long programs
- Structured for initial training
- VTI acting as de-facto further specialization and/or transition training unit (without the necessary provisions)
- There are also secondary training schools including Apprenticeship Schools (OAEΔ-GMEO) and a couple of experimental Vocational Training Schools (ΣΕΚ) slowly eclipsing due to legal restrictions

Life Long Learning in Greece (education)

- Transitional and alternative routes (e.g. de-facto Vocational Training Institutes –IEK and Second Chance Schools especially for manual workers)
- Revisiting not chosen routes (e.g. General Lyceum graduates enrolling in Vocational Lyceums)
- Continuation of a route abandoned

Life Long Learning in Greece (training)

- Long-term and very short (few hours long) programs
- Mainly initial training through long-term
- Further training/ specialization in ad-hoc provisioned short and very short programs

There are limited provisions for:

- Changing Specializations
- Transition (bridge courses) or re-training
 - Transition to a new specialization
 - Transition to a higher level of specialization

Some problems identified (education)

- In Greece there is no prevocational education and only limited technological prep-education outside vocational and special education
- During later years, vocational education tends to transform to prevocational
- There is a tendency to move vocational education to a post-secondary level
- There is no discrete second chance vocational education in Greece

Some problems identified (training)

- Training is oriented mostly to either initial training (VTIs) or very short term programs (various VTCs)
- There are minimal provisions for programs of further or refreshing training (level 2 LLL programs) and none for transition / retraining to new specializations
- The lack of prevocational and the inadequacy of technological prep-education renders training graduates of general secondary education difficult

Some problems identified (job market)

- Stated difficulty in acquiring mid-level technical and technical-management personnel with updated knowledge and current skills.
- Low levels of adult participation in training (and also life long learning) even among unemployed.
- Low levels of absorption of vocational education and training graduates.

Major reasons for the problems

- Policies for avoiding “early” direction towards vocational paths.
- Slow rates of developing job profiles and incorporating various routes to the national and European qualification framework.
- Slow rates of adjustment of training courses with the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET).
- Underdeveloped qualification system in correlation with an underdeveloped system for the identification of market needs.

Suggestions

- **Acknowledge the necessity of cooperation between policy making for VET and various other functions such as**
 - **Qualification organizations**
 - **Research centers and tertiary education institutions**
 - **Employer organizations such as professional chambers**
- **Inform stakeholders of development strategy, including**
 - **Policy makers for VET**
 - **Employer organizations**
 - **Students and Future students**
- **Form a suitable Scholar and Vocational Orientation System that**
 - **Is based on the developmental model that fits both crisis and development efforts**
 - **Is directed to the widest possible base of students and prospect students**
 - **Identifies the needs in area, subject and level of employment**
- **Give special priority in the technological sector**

A suggested full structure for VET (mark dark blue)

- Extends to secondary, post-secondary and tertiary education and training
- Includes formal education and second chance education at least at the secondary level
- Includes formal and non-formal training at all levels
- Adapts to a fully developed qualification system that incorporates informal education, tacit knowledge and skills identification and certification
- Does not include blind (as in not leading to higher levels) routes
- It is matched with a national qualification framework and its levels

Formal Education

Lower secondary school with prevocational elements & SVO

Second Chance School of Lower level Secondary with vocational elements

Technological/Vocational Higher Secondary School

Traditional Higher secondary School

Two year long training (initial)

Two or three year long technologically oriented tertiary education programs

Formal Training

Yearlong training (transition)

Yearlong training (specialty)

Non-formal Training

SVO seminars

Update Seminars

Implementation Seminars

Seminars exploiting existing knowledge

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