

## Summary of the National Survey GREECE

Tertiary Education in Greece is public and funded primarily by the state. It comprises two parallel sectors:

- a) The University sector, which includes the universities, the technical universities, and the School of Fine Arts, and
- b) The Technological sector, which includes Technological Education Institutes (TEIs), and the School of Pedagogical and Technological Education (ASPETE).

As far as the issue of **joint programmes** is concerned, the Greek legislative framework encourages the recognition of joint degrees. In particular, as stated in **Law 3685/2008, article 10**, Greek HEIs can cooperate with recognised foreign HEIs to organise and run joint postgraduate study programmes and award postgraduate degrees. A Special Cooperation Protocol (S.C.P.) is compiled between the cooperating Institutions, which determines issues such as the language(s) of teaching and writing, the subject of the programme, the financial resources, the rights and obligations of the participants, the mobility of the academic staff or the students, the type of the Degree awarded, etc. Greek Universities can also cooperate with recognised foreign Universities for the preparation of doctorate thesis under joint supervision.

Sources of possible future joint study programmes are mostly the programmes funded by the European Commission (Erasmus Intensive Programmes, Erasmus Curriculum Development Projects, Erasmus Networks, Jean Monnet, Atlantis EU-USA, EU-Canada). Also, in the framework of the bilateral cooperation between France and Greece, Greek and French Universities have taken initiatives for the creation of joint post-graduate programmes in various domains. What is more, a number of joint programmes have been developed between Greek and foreign HEIs, not being based on a bilateral/multilateral initiative or a European Programme.

**The Greek HE Quality Assurance system was introduced by the Law 3374/2005.** According to it, in each Higher Education Institution, a 'Quality Assurance Unit' (QAU) is appointed by the relevant supreme administrative body of the Institution. The role of the QAU is to coordinate and support institutional evaluation procedures. Members of the QAU are academic and administrative staff representatives as well as students.

The academic units (faculties or departments), in cooperation with the Quality Assurance Unit, are responsible for conducting the internal evaluation. The academic units, by resolution of their General Assembly, appoint Internal Evaluation Groups or Special Evaluation Groups (if undergraduate or postgraduate programmes are separately evaluated), which in their turn, compile the internal evaluation report. This report is submitted to the Quality Assurance Unit of the institution, which draws up the Internal Evaluation Report (IER) every two years.

The most recent IER is taken into consideration by the External Evaluation Committee, whose members belong to the pool of independent experts filed by ADIP – the Hellenic Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, during the external evaluation process which takes place at least every four years.

**Law 3374/2005 also provided for the issue of a Diploma Supplement** based on the model developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES, automatically and free of charge, both in Greek and in English. The award of the Diploma Supplement is obligatory for all HEIs.

**According to the same law 3374/2005**, graduate and post-graduate study programmes are organized **based on the ECTS**. Credits are used to describe the student workload (the time students typically need to achieve the learning outcomes) so as to meet the requirements of a full academic year. 60 ECTS credits are attached to the workload of a full time academic year.

The recent legislation on quality assurance in Higher Education, the Credit Transfer System and the Diploma Supplement defines the framework and criteria for the evaluation of HEIs departments and for the certification of student degrees. **These measures aim at promoting student mobility and contributing to the creation of a European Higher Education Area.**

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Directorate for European Union – Section B' Programmes  
Erasmus Mundus National Structure