

What means lifelong Learning in your country?

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Life-long learning is considered a tool of constant and permanent education and an important policy-making tool for the Hellenic Ministry of National Education, in terms of National and European Education in Greece. It has been established as a quite successful policy vis a vis the needs of education in Greece, as adult people are keen in learning new subjects and new methods in education. Its methodology and the pedagogical interpretation is interpreted in accordance to the European Union decisions on joint and permanent life-long learning program in member-states of the EU. The effectiveness of this program allows especially those of older age, than the average Greek citizen, to learn about new educative programs and to establish a concrete academic background on fast-pace core courses on specific programs, that will allow them to proceed further, if they so wish, at either a working level of their degree or a research level by further academic studies. At the same time Life-long learning allows Greeks to fill in gaps in lost educational fields, some of which did not have the possibility in past years to study, due to the sequential events that have occurred in Greece's modern past, but close enough political and economic history prior to its entrance to the EU in 1981.

Life-long learning is considered a new method with the signature of the EU joint academic programs. It has been welcomed in Greece as a new initiative to which the Ministry of National Education has officially included it in its programs via the peripheral administrations of secondary and life-long learning education. Its professors are mostly professors of secondary education but also include professors of University according to the course programs. It has invited lectures and seminars which are done in the afternoons of each week for 3 total hours, since most of the students are people that are working. The courses are mainly of practical concern to the everyday life and from which people can either include them to their working environment or either further to enhance their abilities by changing their working environment.

Life-long learning when established was initially accepted by people with suspicion due to its unknown results that would offer. Nevertheless, it has well worked over the years. What is now expected is for the Ministry of National Education to enhance the program even further as to offer even more courses and to also maybe include them as to recognize them with an university degree or joint degrees as to offer even more higher level results. Ordinary people expect the outmost out of this program. The only concern is the funding behind it that needs to sustain such program.

To what concerns inter-cultural relations, life-long learning is considered to become the opportunity to enhance cultural ties between Greeks and foreign people or financial

immigrants being in Greece and at the same time enhance the European perspective of further European Integration amongst countries that are already member-states of the EU. A last but important point, is that more countries should be involved in this program, namely, countries that are not members of the EU. The reason being that it allow countries to come closer to the EU's policies namely policies of education and policies of cohesion towards joint and common education.