Academic Guidance

The National Network of Lifelong Learning provide information regarding the possibilities of education and training offered.

Within the framework of Lifelong Learning and Training Centres operating in the country’s Higher Education Institutions, the existing structures and student support services are also used by the adult students of Institutions.

As far as the Hellenic Open University ([1](Elliniko Anoichto Panepistimio) is concerned, students are always getting support by the University’s teaching personnel and communicate on a continuous base with them (one member of the teaching personnel supervises about thirty students). Students participate in 5 group counselling sessions, or in specific cases more than 5, during the 10 month studies (one academic year). The member of the teaching personnel communicates with the students he/she supervises by phone, through letters or emails, not less than 6 times during the academic year. His duty is to counsel, guide and support the students he/she supervises.

Adult educational guidance in the Second Chance Schools ([2](Scholeia Defteris Efkairias) is carried out by teachers. Teachers are responsible for providing counselling services to adult students of Second Chance Schools by supporting them throughout their progression. For the design of adult education curricula, the special characteristics of adult students have been taken into account in order to administer flexible programmes that meet individual learning needs. Additionally, counselling services in each Second Chance School are provided by a Career Advisor and an Advisory Psychologist.

Finally, the database of Educational Opportunities “Ploigos”, is the National Database of Educational Opportunities in Greece. It is a constant source of information on education and training opportunities offered in Greece. It is interconnected with the databases of European countries through the European Database Portal of Educational Opportunities. It is available to both the Greek public and the citizens of the European Union by giving them information about the whole range of levels and types of education such as, general education, technical-vocational education, initial training, ongoing lifelong training, adult education, open and distance learning etc., according to their knowledge and interests.

Psychological Counselling

Student counseling in the corresponding Higher Education Institutions ([3](KEDIVIM) also serves students’ needs of Lifelong Learning and Training Centers (KEDIVIM).

In the Hellenic Open University ([1](EAP) there is a Counseling and Psychological Support Centre (KESYPSY). Its main goal is to offer free of charge services of information, support and psychological counseling to all members of EAP (students, members of the teaching and administrative personnel) who occasionally face difficulties on developmental, personal and/or educational issues, such as experiencing stress, having difficulty in their studies or problems in their relationships, physical and psychological problems, time...
management problems or difficulty in decision making, lack of concentration, absence of interest, reduced performance. Among the main objectives of the Counseling and Psychological Support Centres is to offer support to students with disabilities and special needs, by informing them on psychological health issues, and successfully contribute to the development of life conditions of whom they are addressed.

One of the most important innovations of Second Chance Schools are the services offered by a Psychologist Consultant. They provide individual and group counselling to students in order to support them in cases they find it difficult to function within the specific educational environment, or to help them in their personal and social development.

**Career Guidance**

The National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance [4] of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs [5] is the national executive body of Career Guidance. Its website offers a portal of lifelong career development for adults, where they can complete tests on their interests, values tests and professional decisions tests. Moreover, they can develop career planning documentation (the so-called e-Portfolio), and find general information on the labour market and education/training in Greece and Europe.

Free Career Counseling, Career Guidance and Information services are provided by various public bodies to anyone who is interested in planning their career, regardless of age.

- The Greek Manpower Organisation (OAED) provides counselling services to the unemployed to facilitate their entry to the job market. These services involve Counselling & Career Guidance - Career Management, Job Search Counselling and Entrepreneurial Initiatives Counselling. Individuals who are interested in looking for employment in a European country can address the EURES Network of OAED.
- Counselling services and information are also provided at the Information Centre of Workers & Unemployed GSEE [6], at the Employment Office & Business Staff of ACCI [7] (Athens Chamber Of Commerce and Industry), the Entrepreneurship Support Network [8] for Small Businesses of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants (GSVEE).
- Career Guidance is also an essential service in the context of various training and support programmes, targeted at young entrepreneurs, employees, unemployed and socially vulnerable groups. The Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity is responsible for the programmes' implementation. Last but not least, it is important to note that the programmes are co-funded by the European Social Fund.
- The Employment and Career Centres (DASTA) in Higher Education Institutions (Universities) and Technological Educational Institutes include Liaison Offices, Internship Offices and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Units. They provide counselling support to undergraduate and graduate students in order to bridge the gap between higher education and industry, in order to enhance the employability of graduates.
- Counselling services by a Career Guidance Consultant is one of the innovations of Second Chance Schools. The Career Guidance Consultant offers individual or group support aiming at the facilitation of adult learners’ access into the labor market.