



GREECE

Regulatory reforms:

**Focus on implementation of
EU law and simplification measures**



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The header features a decorative banner with a blue background. On the left, there are stylized white and blue waves. On the right, there are several yellow stars of varying sizes, reminiscent of the European Union flag. A thick orange diagonal line runs across the banner from the bottom left towards the top right.

Recent Reforms

- **Tax Collection**
- **Public Order: e-ID**
- **Reforms abolishing barriers to access economic activities**



Ministry of Finance

General secretariat of public revenues

Tax Collection

**Ministry of Finance,
General Secretariat of Public Revenues,
Tax Collection Policy Directorate**

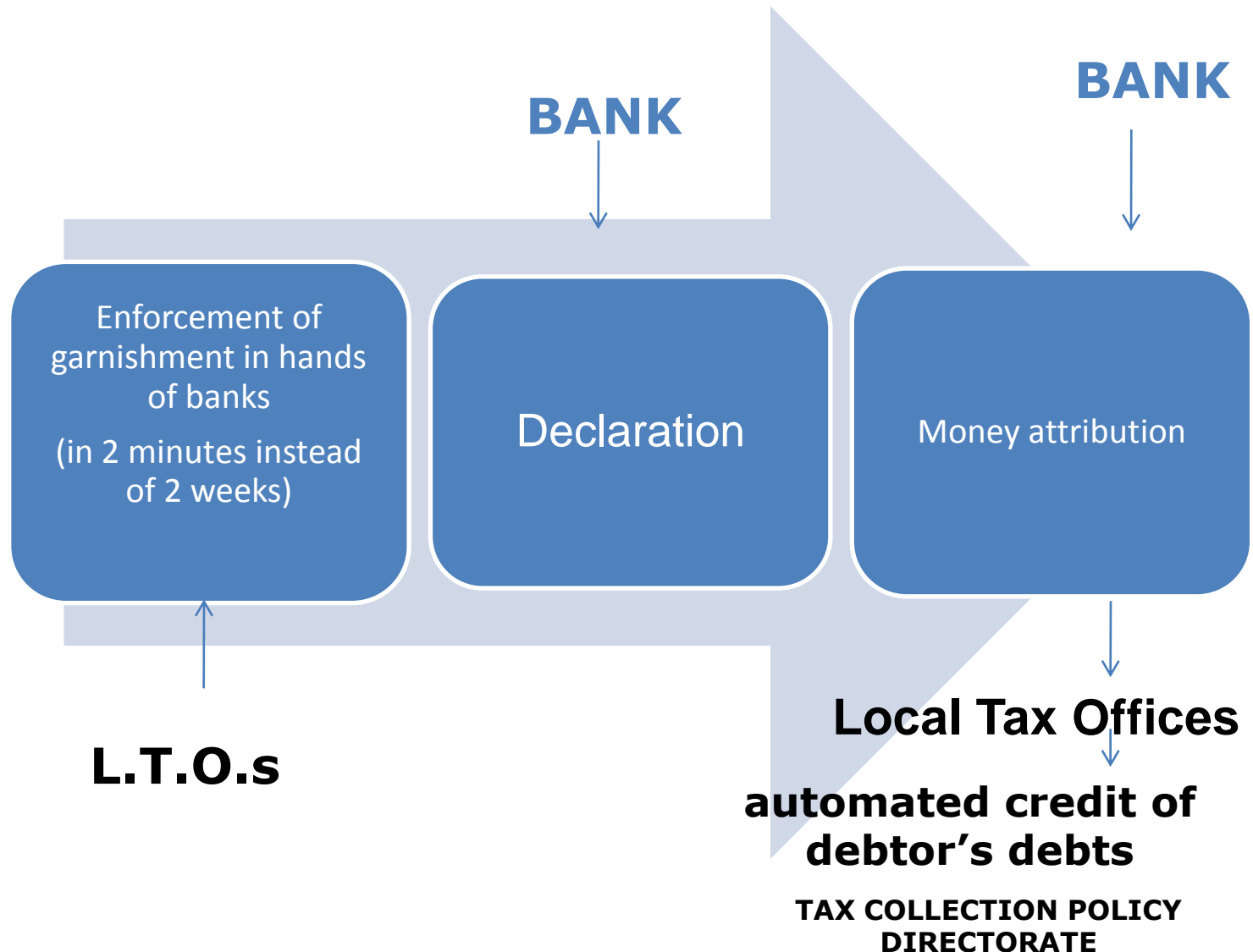


Recently Undertaken Actions

- **Electronically conducted procedures:**
 - **e-Garnishments**
 - **e-Fee payment**
 - **e-Tax Clearance Certificate**
 - **e-Installment Plans**

- **Mergers of Local Tax Offices (L.T.O.s)**

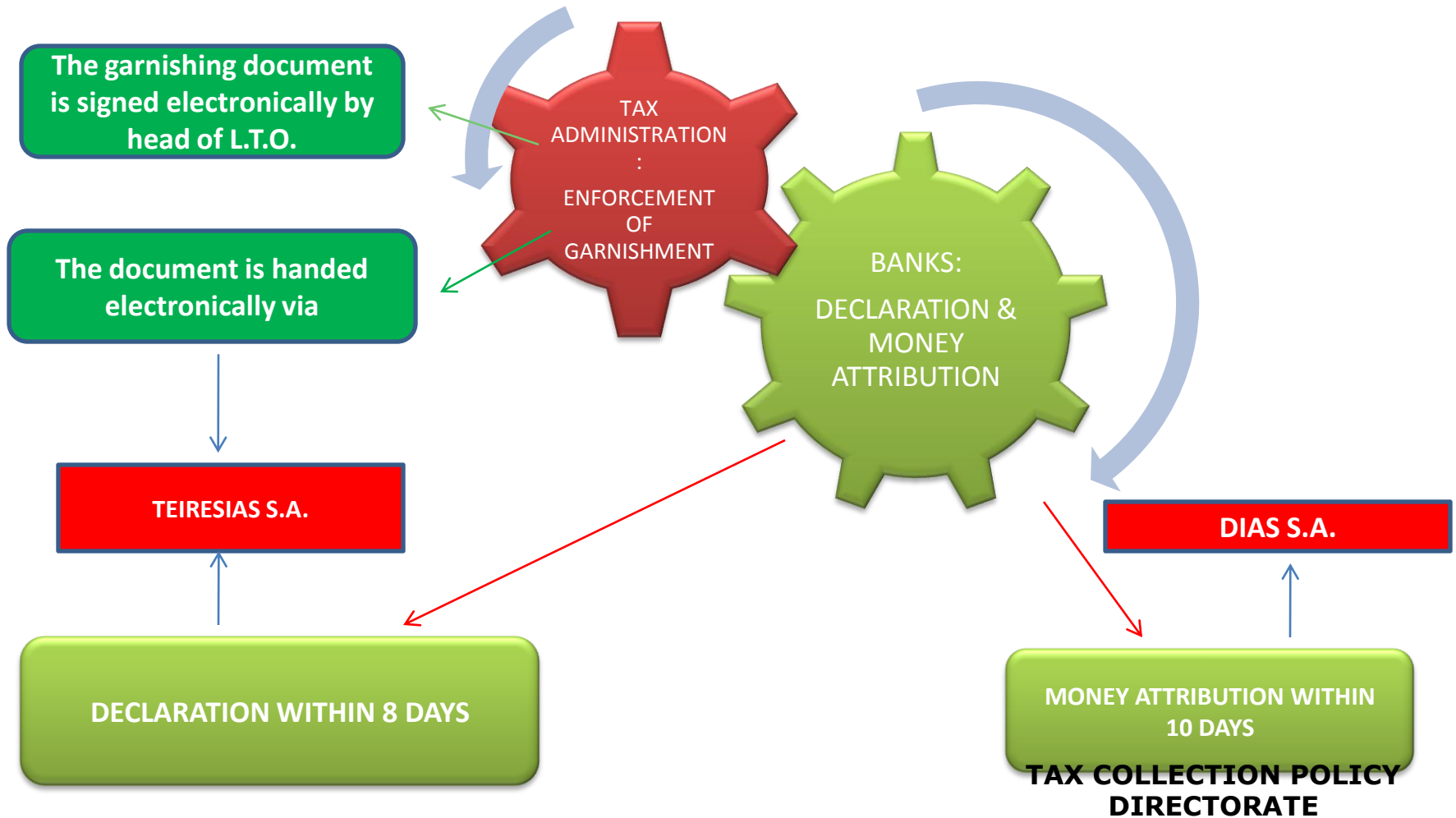
e-Garnishment in hands of banks electronically conducted from beginning to end



e- garnishments: Participants



e-garnishments: The Process...



e-Payments: e-Fee payment

WHAT IS IT?

- a unique digital code

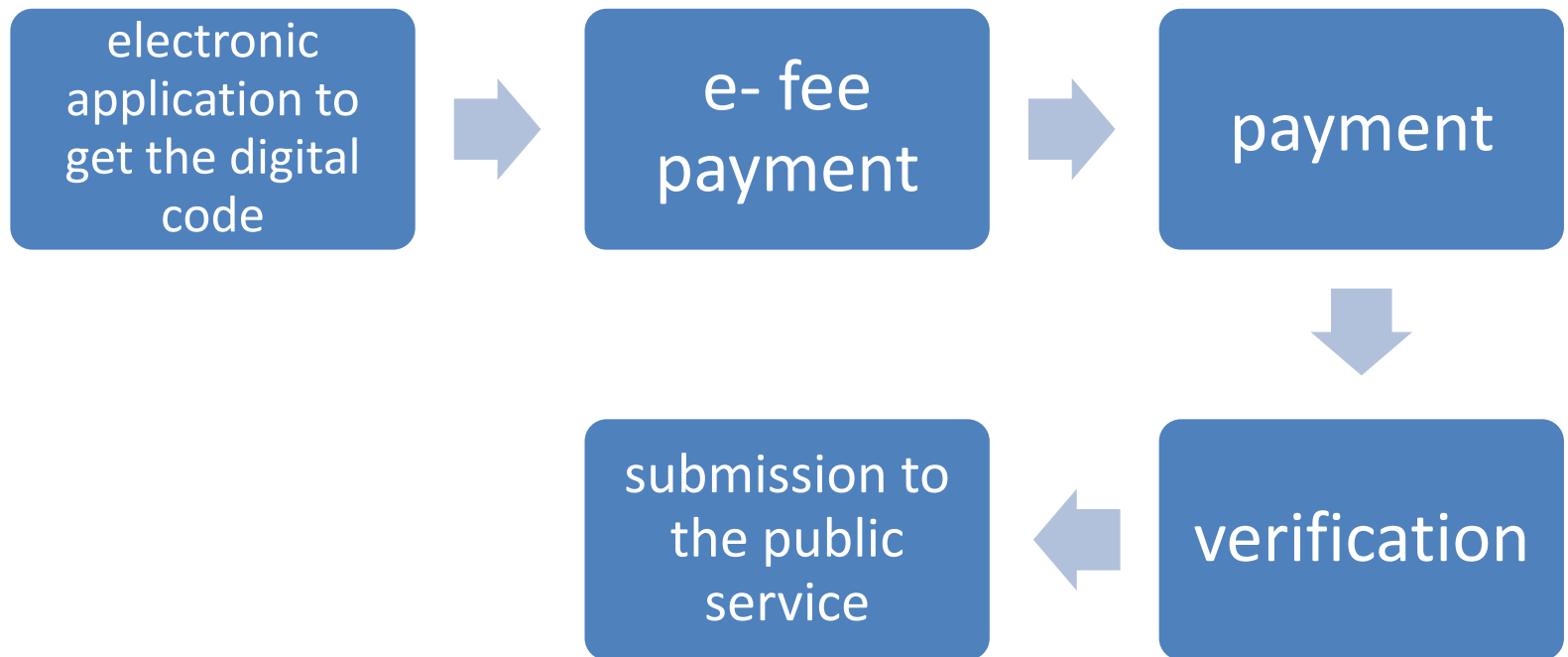
WHAT IS NEEDED?

- a web application in General Secretariat Information System (G.S.I.S.) portal

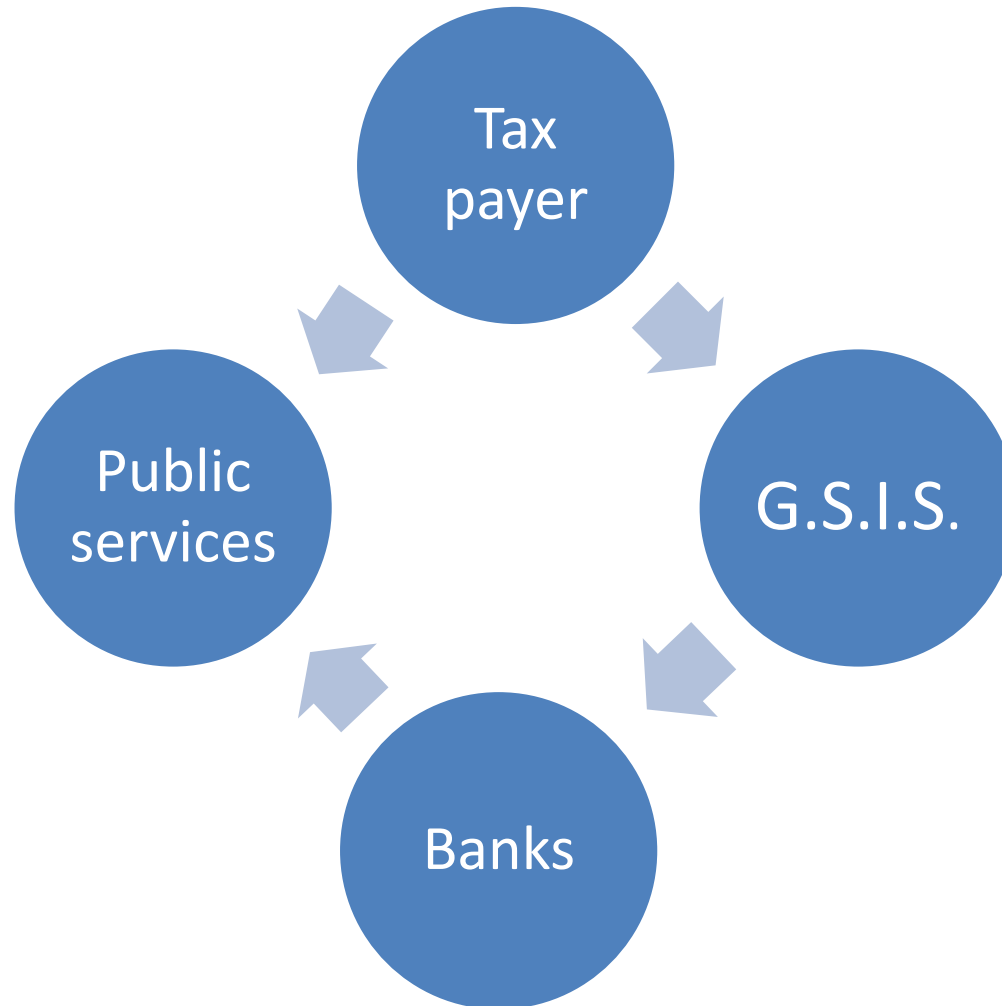
WHERE DOES THE TAX PAYER PAY:

- in banks: in situ or online

e-Fee Payment: the process



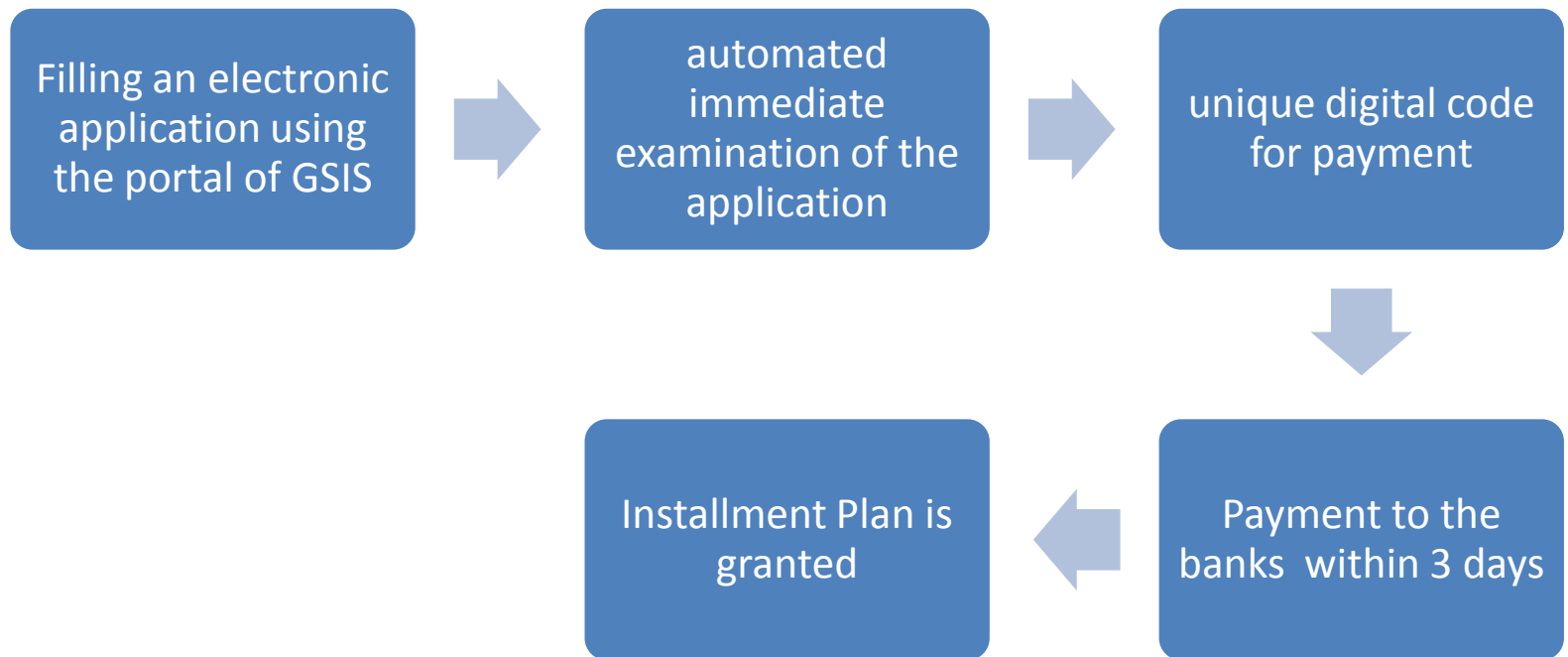
The participants



e-Tax Clearance Certificate



e-Installment Plans: the process



Benefits of automated procedures

we save:

- money
- time
- paper
- and human effort



to accelerate Value Added Tax – Refunds

- **refund bearing interests, if carried out in excess of 90 days of the request**
- **new electronic form of periodic VAT refund, incorporating VAT refund claims**
- **centralised monitoring, control of applications every 15 days by the risk analysis system**

Mergers of L.T.O.s

- 288 L.T.O. s,
179 of which had 2 sub-directorates and 10 departments each and the rest only 1 department,
were merged in
- 118 L.T.O.s
of which 61 have 1 sub-directorate and 5 departments and the rest no sub-directorate and 3 departments

L.T.O. s mergers

288
before

118
currently

Sub-directorates in L.T.O.s

358
before

61
currently

Departments in L.T.O.s

1908
departments
prior

476
departments
now

Mergers' Benefits

- Cost Reduction
- Infrastructure
- Human Resources



Public Order

Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection



- **Electronic Documents for Citizens**
- **Electronic Mapping and Management of Illegal entrants in the country**
- **Interconnection of IT systems for the control of vehicles' insurance coverage status**
- **Digitisation of moto licenses and on-line access from other agencies**



Ongoing Actions

- **Online Provision of Policing and Judicial information to citizens**
- **Setting up of a national electronic system for the management of citizens identification (e-ID), interlinked with European and International databases**



**Reforms abolishing barriers to
access economic activities**

**Simplification of Procedures and
fast track Licensing**

cutting red –tape for business

Ministry of Finance provides Legal Basis

Services
Directive

Law
3844/2010

Law
3919/2011

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- Law 3919/2011, “ **Principle of professional freedom, abolishment of unjustifiable restrictions/limitations to the access and exercising of professions**”, was published and is valid as of March 2, 2011 (O.G.G.-Official Gov’t Gazette- 32 A).

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- Greece –as regards the aspect of professional freedom/liberalization - is under an **ongoing process of structural reforms far beyond the scope of the Services Directive (123/2006)**
- Law 3919/2011 is based on the constitutional principle of professional freedom and abolishes all the unjustifiable restrictions or limitations to the access and exercising of professions.

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- Article 3 **abolishes the licensing procedure**, establishes the **notification procedure** and gives the opportunity to **announce** the starting of a professional activity and to **start operating** within three months from the submission of the required documents to the competent authorities

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Specifically with Article 2 of the Law are abolished :

limitations on the **number of persons** entitled to exercise a profession (population criteria , numerus clauses)

dependence of authorisation from a "**real need**" according to the assessment of the administrative authority

geographic restrictions , minimum distances between similar establishments

The ban on having **more establishments** from the same person

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- **The obligation to offer other specific services**
 - **Provisions for exclusive provision, or prohibition to provide goods and services by certain categories of professional establishments**
 - **The imposition or prohibition of specific legal form**
 - **The limitations associated with the equity participation**
 - **The imposition of mandatory minimum prices/ fees for the provision of goods or services**

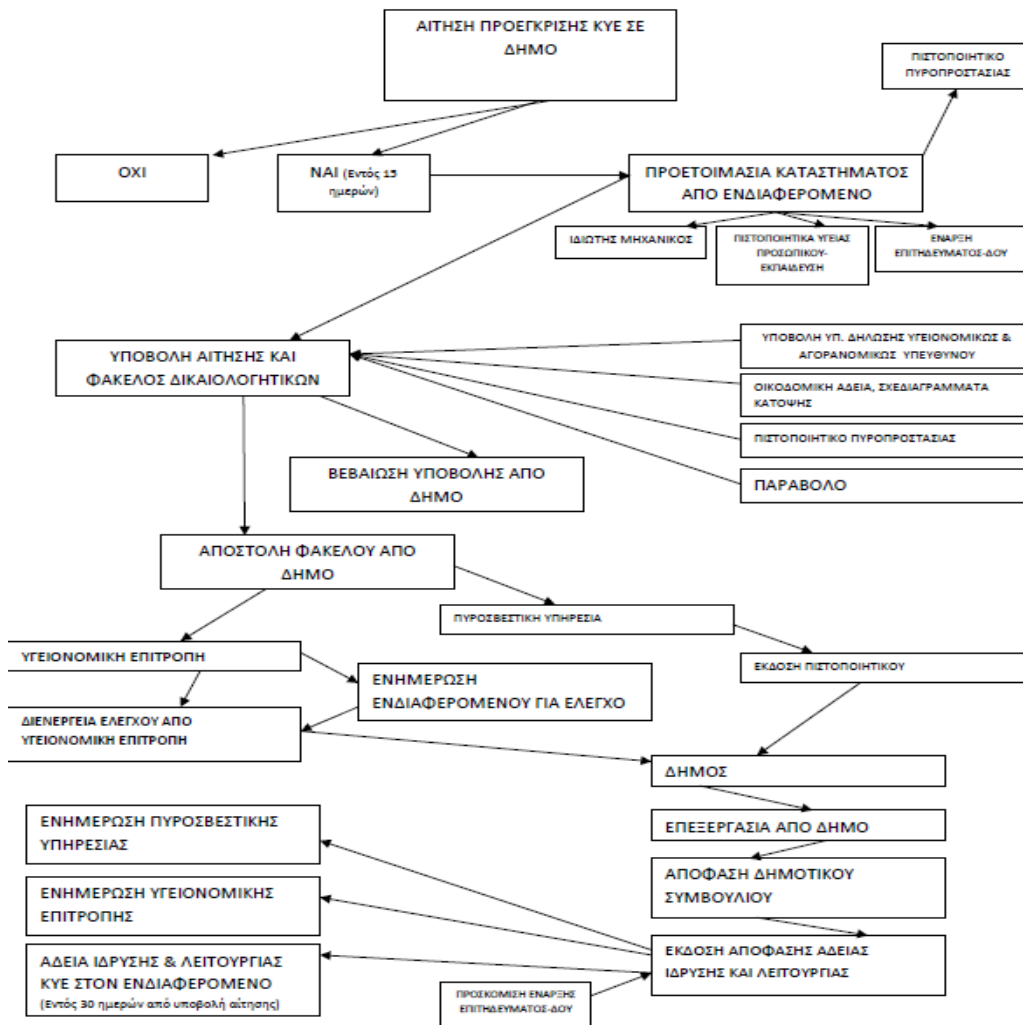
Ministry of Administrative Reform & E-government

- licensing systems replaced by a **notification**:
 - Fitness centres-gyms, sports Schools
- **Pre –licensing to allow start ups**:
 - **Health regulated Establishments selling food & beverages** (19 activities e.g. butchers', greengrocer's, bakery & pastry shops, fishmongers', etc)
 - **Health Regulated Establishments providing services**, activities such as hairdressers' salon, tattoo workshop etc

Characteristics of selected activities

- **Low-risk establishments**
- **Low density people congregation**
- **Oriented to SME which are more affected by AB**

ΑΔΕΙΑ ΙΔΡΥΣΗΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑΣ ΚΥΕ ΔΙΑΘΕΣΗΣ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΩΝ & ΠΟΤΩΝ (εντός 15+30 ημερών= 45)

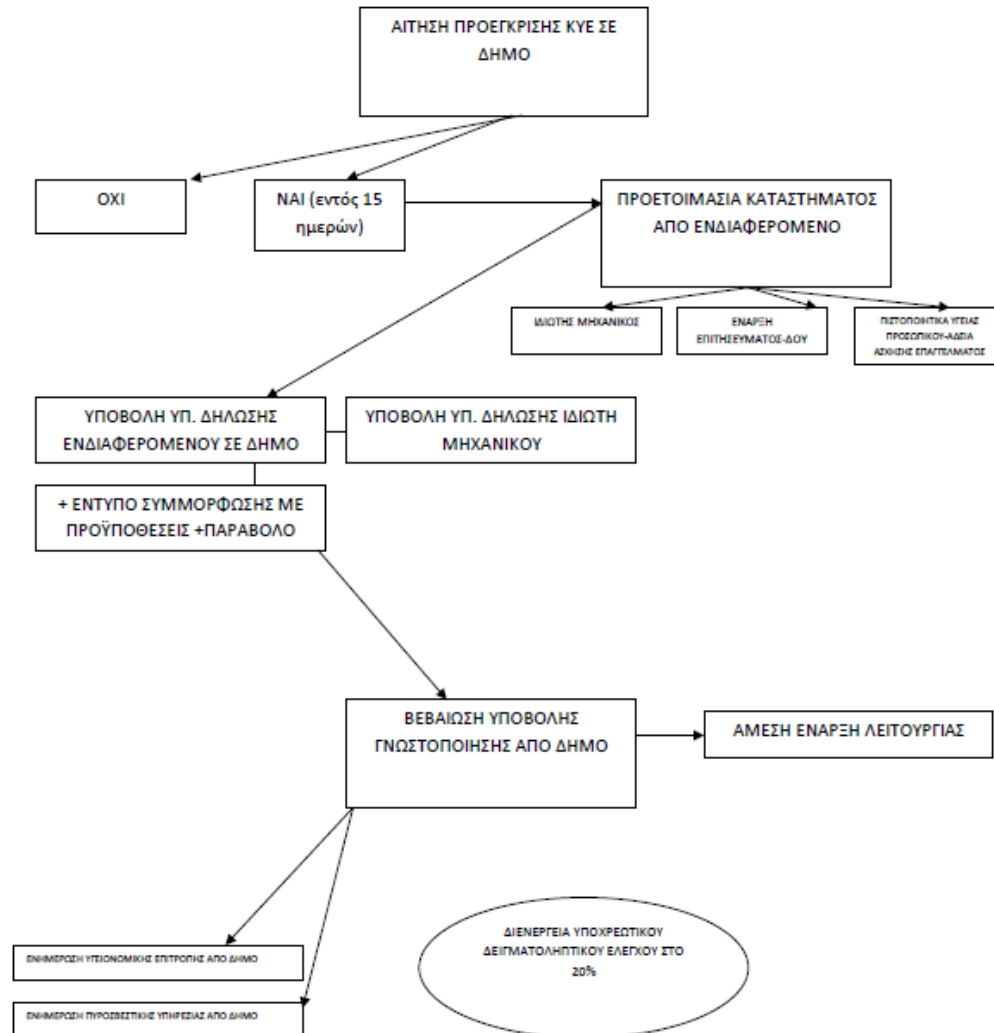


BEFORE

**ΓΝΩΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ ΙΔΡΥΣΗΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΟΣ
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ ΥΓΕΙΟΝΟΜΙΚΟΥ ΕΝΔΙΑΦΕΡΟΝΤΟΣ**

(15 ημέρες+1=16)

NOW



The way forward

- No file submission
- No processing
- No administrative act
- Immediate commencement of business
- Businessman commits to self-compliance with specific regulatory requirements
- Elimination of red tape, extensive and time-consuming *ex ante* inspection
- Empowering of *ex post* inspection



The aim

- **Elimination of formalistic/legalistic/red tape licensing systems**
- **Enhances trust among business and Public Administration**
- **Public interest is safeguarded with compulsory sample inspections at 20%**
- **GR Competitiveness enhanced**

Ministry of Development and Competitiveness

New Law “Simplification of procedures for taking up economic activities:

- **Bill tabled to the Parliament on 30 April 2014**
- **Approved in principle by relevant Parliamentary Committee on 2 May 2014**

➤ new landscape for entrepreneurship



Lifting barriers

Establishing a new fully simplified framework for business licensing procedures.

The bill sets a binding deadline for adoption of all secondary legislation / joint ministerial decisions and presidential decrees by the end of 2014.



The aim is

- ✓ **to set objective standards and regulations**
- ✓ **to set a system of self regulation for businesses**

Inspections and controls will take place while the business is running, not before the autorisation for establishment

Lifting bureaucratic barriers for start-ups:

The new law allows for:

- **inspections by certified agencies**, not only by public administration
- **“pre-licensing”** for establishment in business parks

Changing the business environment

- ❖ **a central electronic licensing and auditing management system is introduced**
 - **As a portal for business start – ups**
 - **On line applications and completion of many procedures**
 - **On line progress follow – up**



There are 12 fields of application:

- **land and air transport,**
- **plumbing projects,**
- **port projects,**
- **environmental infrastructure,**
- **Mining and related activities,**
- **tourist facilities and urban development ,**



There are 12 fields of application

- **farming,**
- **aquaculture,**
- **industrial and related facilities,**
- **cafes, restaurants, bars, hairdressers, etc**
- **transportation of fuel, energy and chemicals**
- **special projects and activities**



- **Economic activities that require special licensing regimes are excluded such as renewable energy and telecommunications infrastructure.**



Thank You for your attention!