



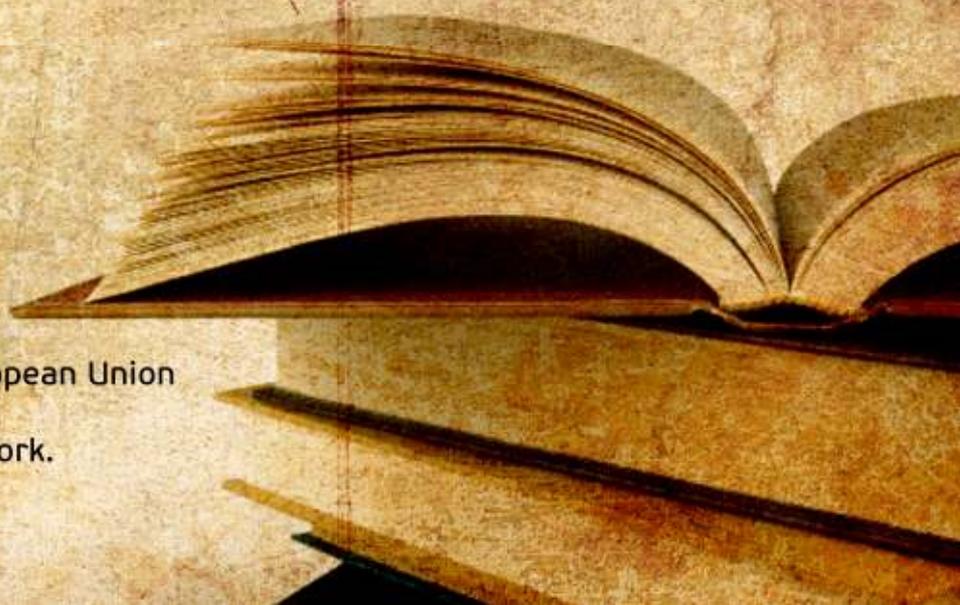
IMMIGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO THE EU

Main study 2012



INSTITUTE OF
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**National Report from Greece for EMN study on
Immigration of International Students to the EU**

September 2012

Executive Summary

Greek institutions are still characterized by introversion, which contrasts with the international trend that favors collaboration between institutions from different countries and "opening" to foreign students. The number of students- third country nationals in Greece is low compared to the number of Greek students studying at the national higher education institutions, but in recent years efforts are made to attract students from third countries to study in Greece. Until recently, emphasis was given to postgraduate programs, where teaching is often in English, which favored the presence of foreign students. The recent Law N. 4009/11 "Structure, function, quality assurance studies and internationalization of higher education" contains provisions which aim to promote and strengthen the internationalization of Greek Higher Educational Institutions, such as undergraduate programs in English. The above mentioned Law enables institutions to organize and offer courses as a result of collaboration between faculties or in collaboration with other institutions domestically or abroad and in a foreign language, and special programs for lifelong learning, traditional and distance. It also provides procedures and forms of partnership linking education with the international academic community and with advanced research at European and global level. Besides the educational benefits, attracting foreign students will have economic benefits for higher education institutions, local and national economy and employment. The role of knowledge and high skills in economic and social development make attracting "brains" an important field of international competition. The System of Higher Education in Greece is among the most accessible and affordable in Europe: admission tests are not required, education is free and knowledge of the Greek language is not a prerequisite for submission of application. Given the large number of universities and Technological Educational Institutions and sectors covering different kinds of sciences, students have the opportunity to choose from many specialties and disciplines.

Regarding the issue of entry visa for study, a third country national must be accepted into one of the higher educational institutions of the country and be able to cover the costs of studying and living in Greece. Holding a visa is a condition for receiving a residence permit. If a student- third country national is not equipped with the special student VISA, he will not be granted a residence permit for studies. Students- third country nationals have the opportunity to participate in student mobility programs of the EU.

It is not easy to collect reliable data on the abuse of the choice to entry Greece for "study purposes", as it happens when studying undocumented migration. Ways to prevent abuse of the right of coming to Greece to study is the strict framework of visa entry "for study purposes" and for issuance and renewal of residence permits.

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the study is to provide an overview of migration policies implemented by Greece for students from third countries in order to assist those who define and implement policies to achieve a balance between attracting students active in the EU for study and prevention of abuse reasons for migration studies.

In Greece, the number of students who are nationals of third countries is quite small in relation to both the total number of students attached to Greece, and to the number of students of third-country nationals in other Member States of the European Union. For decades Greece was a “student sending country” mainly to the Balkans. The last five years, there has, however, increased the number of students who choose to study in Greece, especially from the Balkans. In 2009, approximately 8,000 students were enrolled in Greek universities (undergraduate and postgraduate level) and technical colleges, professional schools and private colleges. They were from Albania, Serbia and Turkey, and Bulgarian and Romanian origin.¹

Greek universities and technological educational institutes do not choose the quota of foreigners whom they will welcome or the schools where they will steer. This is decided by the Ministry of Education. According to information given by the Directorate of Organisation and Conduct of Examinations, of the Ministry of Education, candidates who are graduates of secondary schools outside the EU are being accepted at a rate of 1% for the first scientific field and 0.5% for the remaining four.² Regarding attending non Greek language colleges in Greece (post-secondary education centres) in 2009 it was estimated that approximately 2500-3000 foreign students, mostly Chinese, were enrolled in their foreign language departments. Many of those were from the Balkans, and especially in Thessaloniki it was estimated that 700-800 international students were enrolled international students, 90% of whom were from the Balkans.³

The Greek universities have taken steps to internationalize studies in Greece and strengthen the openness of higher education. They sign bilateral international agreements with third-country universities for the promotion of cooperation and exchange in education and research and participate in international organizations, networks and associations. Greek universities participate often in international education fairs to attract students from third countries and to promote the Greek educational system and studies in Greece.

An important factor for the coming of third-country students in the country are the Educational Agreements and the Executive Educational Programs signed between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, under which grants are awarded to third-country nationals for studies at undergraduate and postgraduate level or for conducting research at universities and research centres.

1.1 Methodology

For the purposes of this report, the methodology used was mainly research through secondary sources rather than primary field research. There was studied the legal and institutional framework concerning the admission of third-country nationals in Greece for study purposes. Despite the effort

¹ Please note that Bulgaria and Romania re EU member states since 2007.

² Faculties and Departments of Universities, TEI and the military and other schools are ranked according to their cognitive object of Science in five fields: 1st Field: Humanities, Law & Social Sciences, 2nd Field: Science, 3rd Field: Health Science, 4th Field: Engineering, 5th Field: Economics & Management Sciences.

³ It is noticed that the number of foreign students at the post- secondary education centers is not monitored by the Ministry of Education.

of the author of the study to gather figures and statistics, as required by the technical specifications of the report, it was not possible to collect them.

Meetings were held with officials of the E1 Directorate of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Directorate of Academic Affairs and Student Welfare of the Ministry of Education. The above Directorates have under their responsibility issues relating to the granting of scholarships. By the Directorate of Examinations Organization and Conduct were given data on the number of students from third countries who have been accepted to study at Greek higher education institutions for the years 2006-2009, but no data were available for the years 2010 and 2011 nor the aggregate number of students who are enrolled in higher education institutions. From the Department of Operations Research and Statistics, Division of Planning and Operations Research of the Ministry of Education was possible to obtain only information regarding the nationalities of students who are nationals of third countries who attended the Greek Technological Educational Institutions during the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

Regarding the abuse of the right of entry into Greece for reason of studying by third countries nationals, it could not be adequately established by the survey of the author of the study due lack of sufficient data.

1.2 Definitions

As stated previously, for the purpose of this study, "*International student*" refers to "*a third-country national⁴ arriving in the EU from a third country for the purposes of study.*" The Directive 2004/114/EC of 13 December 2004 on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purpose of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service was incorporated into Greek law by Presidential Decree 101/2008 "Adaptation of Greek legislation to Directive 2004/114/EC on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of study or voluntary service." The Directive distinguishes four categories of third country nationals:

- higher education students
- secondary education students
- unremunerated trainees
- voluntary service providers.

The EMN glossary defines, in the context of migration, a third-country national 'student' as '*a third-country national accepted by an establishment of higher education and admitted to the territory of a Member State to pursue as his/her main activity a full-time course of study leading to a higher education qualification recognised by the Member State, including diplomas, certificates or doctoral degrees in an establishment of higher education, which may cover a preparatory course prior to such education according to its national legislation*', based on the definition of 'student' under Article 2 of Council Directive 2004/114/EC⁵.

In PD101/2008 "Adaptation of Greek legislation to Directive 2004/114/EC on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for study or voluntary service", "student" is a third country national who has been admitted to a recognized by the national legislation higher educational institution and who has been authorized to enter and reside in the Greek territory, in order to have as

4 Note that, in accordance with the EMN Glossary, a "third-country national" is "any person who is not a citizen of the European Union within the meaning of Article 20(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and who is not a person enjoying the Union right to freedom of movement, as defined in Article 2(5) of the Schengen Borders Code." This definition means that nationals of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are not considered to be third-country nationals.

⁵ Available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:375:0012:0018:EL:PDF> [in Greek]

his principal activity the pursuing of a fulltime education program aiming at obtaining a degree, MSc or PhD degree awarding by the institution he is enrolled . The definition of study includes the preparation cycle, if provided by the legislation, as part of his studies.⁶

Regarding education levels, this report focuses on the third-country nationals who come to Greece to attend higher education which corresponds to the fifth level (first stage of tertiary education) and the 6th level (second stage of tertiary education) according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)⁷. The fifth level (first stage of tertiary education) is defined as degree of Bachelor and Master level in the member states with programs of total theoretical duration of at least two years from the beginning of the fifth level; and sixth Level (second stage of tertiary education) is defined as the degree doctoral (PhD) in Member States and this level typically requires the submission of a thesis of publishable quality, product of original research which contributes significantly to knowledge.

⁶ For the purposes of the report are also listed the following definitions as reported in PD 101/2008:

"Third country national" means a natural person who is not a Greek citizen or a national of another Member State of the European Union within the meaning of Article 17, paragraph 1 of the EC Treaty.

"Institute": higher education, lawfully, whose curriculum is recognized in accordance with current legislation.

"Voluntary service program" means a program of activities based on solidarity within the framework of a national or Community program, pursuing objectives of general interest.

"Residence permit" means any authorization issued by the Greek authorities allowing a third-country national to stay legally in the Greek Territory, in accordance with the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 2, point a) of Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002, "to establish a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals" (OJ L 157/15.6.2002).

⁷ Available at: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/isced97-en.pdf>

2. THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2.1 Structure of national education system

Tertiary Education in Greece is public and tuition fees free. According to Article 16 of the Constitution, higher education is public and provided exclusively by institutions which are legal entities under public law (legal) with full authority and academic freedom, which are under the supervision of the state and financed by it. State supervision executed by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sport. The Higher Education Institutes (AEI), within the meaning of Article 16, paragraph 5 of the Constitution, are the institutions of higher education, which consists of two parallel sectors:

1. the University sector, which includes universities, polytechnics and the School of Fine Arts (ASFA)⁸ and
2. the Technology Sector, which includes the Technological Educational Institutes (TEI) and the Higher School of Pedagogical and Technological Education (A.S.PAI.TE.).

Students are admitted to these institutions depending on their performance at national level examinations which take place in the third grade of high school.⁹ There is also the Greek Open University (EAP), which has the mission to provide distance undergraduate and postgraduate education and training.

The current structure and organization of higher education in Greece has been established through the creation Universities which belonged from the beginning of their establishment to Higher Education and the creation of Technological Education Institutes and other institutions that provide higher professional education. Technological Educational Institutes (TEI) joined in 2001¹⁰ in the Higher Education and since then their organization and operation, is under the same constitutional provisions applying to Universities. In 2003 the Military Educational Institutions joined the Higher Education, while since 2006 the Higher Ecclesiastical (Church) Schools were also included in Higher Education, and renamed to Higher Ecclesiastical Academies.

Higher Technological Education is a development of the last forty years, starting with the Higher Vocational Education. This development was a product of the rapidly developing technology and science on the one hand, and the growing needs of the economy and society for highly educated professionals, on the other hand. By the Law of 1983¹¹ ceased to exist in the official Greek educational system of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sport the Higher Professional Education. The Law of 1983 established the Technological Educational Institutes (TEI) which became the providers of Technological Education at tertiary level in the following years.

The University Sector of Higher Education aims to the establishment, production, and development of science and technology to a high level of theoretical and applied training of future scientists and to promote and develop scientific research. The Technological Sector of Higher Education aims to develop the scientific and technological research. The studies at technological education institutes, compared to studies in the Universities, have a more applied character. Nevertheless, care is taken

⁸ There is also the Greek Open University (HOU) and the International University, which are institutions of a special category and are not included in higher education institutions, as defined in the Framework Law 4009/11.

⁹ This is not applicable for admission to the Greek Open University and the International University.

¹⁰ N.2916/2001 (Government Gazette A '114/11.06.2001) "Structure of higher education and regulation of issues of this technology sector»

¹¹ N.1404/1983 (Government Gazette A 173/24.11.84) "Structure and function of the Technological Educational Institutions"

to ensure that the programme of studies at the technological education institutes contain a sufficient number of theoretical courses so that graduates are able to easily adapt to the ever changing and increasing demands of professional and social life.

The Technological Educational Institutes (TEI) are regulated by the provisions of Law 1404/1983 on the establishment and functioning of Technological Educational Institutes, which was amended and supplemented by subsequent provisions and, finally, by the Law 2916/2001, according to which TEI fall thereafter in Higher Education (Technological Sector) and are regulated in their organization and operation by the same constitutional provisions applying to Universities (University Division). In the Technological sector of Higher Education joined in 2002 the School of Pedagogical and Technological Education (ASPAITE)¹², which was founded in Athens replacing the previous Educators School for Vocational and Technical Education (Selete). ASPAITE includes five sections of various specialties as well as a General Department of Pedagogy, which offers teaching training to various categories of higher education graduates. Finally, the Law 2006 upgraded and restructured maritime education, making it equitable to Technological Educational Institutes.¹³

The organization and functioning of universities is based in principle on the Constitution of 1975 and the provisions of subsequent laws. The modernization of higher education at undergraduate and postgraduate level, was sought and promoted by the Framework Law 1268/1982 ("On the structure and operation of higher education institutions") as supplemented by Law 2083/1992 ("Modernization of Higher Education") and the Law 3404/2005" Regulations concerning the University and Technological Sector of Higher Education and other provisions. " The Law 2083/92¹⁴ established the Greek Open University (EAP) which provides long distance undergraduate and graduate education. The Law 3374/2005 established the system of transfer and accumulation of credits (ECTS), whereby are organized the programs of undergraduate and postgraduate level of Higher Education and the Diploma Supplement, which is attached to the degrees granted by institutions. Additionally, certain military schools, as well as higher ecclesiastical schools were enrolled in higher education by the Laws of 2003 and 2006 respectively. The Law of 2005 established the International Hellenic University. Finally, the Framework Law 3549/2007 attempted the reform of the institutional framework regarding the structure and functioning of higher education institutions; and was followed by the Presidential Decree PD 160/08 (GG 220/3-11-2008) "Standard General Internal Regulation of Universities' Law and the Law 3794/09 (Government Gazette 156/4-9-2009)" Regulations concerning the university and technological sector of higher education and other provisions ".

In 2011 it was enacted Framework Universities N. 4009/11 (GG 195 A/6-9-2011) "Structure, function, quality assurance studies and internationalization of higher education"¹⁵ which provided many changes especially regarding the administration and functioning of higher education institutions and the structure of studies. Regarding the structure, the duration of studying in higher education last at least 3 years and are organized in the three rounds of the European Higher Education Area. The first round refers to pursuing under graduate programmes that correspond to a minimum of 180 academic credits. One year is at least 60 credits. An institution may organize programmes and short courses as part of the first course or affiliates, representing a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 120 credits and lead to the award of a diploma short cycle. The second cycle is to pursue postgraduate programmes and includes courses that correspond to a minimum of 60 and a

¹² N.3027/2002 (Government Gazette A 152 / 28.06.2002) "Regulations concerning the organization of school buildings, higher education and other provisions"

¹³ N.3450/2006 (Government Gazette A '64/30-3-2006) "Upgrading and restructuring of maritime education and other provisions"

¹⁴ N.2083/1992 (Government Gazette 159 A ') "Modernization of Higher Education"

¹⁵ Amended in August 2011

maximum of 120 credits. The third circle is the doctoral studies. It may include courses that correspond to a minimum of 60 and maximum of 120 credits and the conduct of a doctoral dissertation and is completed in at least three years.

2.2 National policy framework regarding International Students

Besides the educational benefits, attracting foreign students will have economic benefits for higher education institutions, local and national economy and employment. The role of education and high skills in economic and social development make attracting "brains" an important field of international competition. Attracting foreign students is not only a presumption of prestige for the educational institutions and their position in the international hierarchy, but is linked to broader national political and cultural benefits, and enhances mutual knowledge and understanding of cultures and increases their cultural power and influence.¹⁶

The number of students from third countries in Greece is low compared to the number of Greek students studying in the Greek higher education institutions, but in recent years efforts are made to attract students from third countries to study in Greece. The burden of the efforts was until recently focused on the postgraduate programs, where teaching could be in English, which favored the presence of foreign students. The Law N. 4009/11 "Structure, function, quality assurance of studies and internationalization of higher education" contains provisions which aim to promote and strengthen the internationalization of Greek higher educational institutions, such as courses in English. It enables institutions to organize and offer courses as a result of collaborations between schools or in collaboration with other institutions domestically or abroad and in a foreign language, and special programs for lifelong learning, traditional and long- distance. It provides procedures and forms of partnership linking education with the international academic community and with advanced research applications at European and global level. It supports the internationalization of research and teaching and enables Greek institutions to attract foreign students and act as centers of excellence and quality education. Especially aspires to expedite the successful and effective integration of Greek Universities into the Common European Area of Higher Education and Research; and to enhance the interface of the provided educational and research departments of Universities with European educational and research institutions.¹⁷

The System of Higher Education in Greece is among the most accessible and affordable in Europe. Given the large number of universities and technological educational institutions and the sectors covering science, students have the opportunity to choose from many specialties and disciplines. Candidates have the option to choose up to 20 schools of their choice in one of their chosen fields, while knowledge of the Greek language is not a prerequisite for submitting the registration form. However, foreign students are required to attend language courses in specialized Greek language centers which are under the authority of the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki. After having successfully attended the tests in the Greek language, the student is enrolled at the department of his choice. The fact that education is free; that entrance exams are not required; that the entrance in the institutions is based on the degree of the diploma of secondary education; they receive free textbooks, medical care and opportunity for free feeding depending on their economic situation; and that students receive a residence permit for study that allows them the free movement within the Schengen zone constitute studying in Greece attractive to third country nationals.

¹⁶ Dimitropoulos, A. (2006) *Higher Education in Greece in Comparative Perspective: Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, Finland*, Research of ELIAMEP for university education in Greece, Athens

¹⁷ Consultation document for dialogue on the National Strategy for Higher Education The Public University, Technological Institute of the State-Government, accountability, quality, openness, 65th Session Rectors, Rethymnon, October 23, 2010

The establishment of the International University of Greece in 2005 is a practical example of the interest of the Greek state for the internationalization of higher education. By its establishment and function the Greek state seeks to increase its participation in the international market for higher education and attracting students from neighboring countries mainly (Balkan, Arab, South East Mediterranean and Black Sea). The courses are held in English language, an important element, since many potential students from third countries are often discouraged by the use of Greek as the teaching language in the Greek higher education institutions. It is worth mentioning here that many institutions outside the International University conduct their post-graduate programs in English or other language, to avoid discouragement and mainly to attract potential students.

The national policy regarding students from third countries in Greece is formed by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The E1 Directorate of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, among other things, is responsible for issuing scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Greece. The decisions to award scholarships (number of scholars, countries of origin, field of study) are taken based primarily on political criteria, the reciprocity that exists in respect of bilateral agreements with the countries of origin of students and their needs.¹⁸ For example, African countries, as Ethiopia, are in need of particular disciplines (teachers or engineers). Since the objective of the scholarships granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is that the students come to Greece to receive education and return to their country of origin, scholarships are formed accordingly.¹⁹

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not the only body that awards scholarships to students from third countries to study in Greece. Scholarships are also granted by the Ministry of Education; where responsible is the Division of Academic Affairs and Student Welfare. Every year the number of granted scholarships by country of origin is announced in accordance with the agreements signed by the Greek state with the third states. These scholarships are offered for pursuing both undergraduate and postgraduate programs of study, including the conduct of research in universities or research centers.

In the Greek National Strategy for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, presented by the Ministry of Culture, there was made reference regarding the implementation of actions of intercultural dialogue at universities, places of higher education in general and the student community and there was made a clear reference regarding the need to enhance and promote the existing student exchange programs, of hosting or sending students with scholarships for the purpose of study or pursue internships.²⁰

In 2010 the public consultation carried out for the “National Strategy for Higher Education, The State University and The State Institute of Technology”, at the session of Rectors were highlighted the possibilities available for the Greek Universities to contribute to transformation Greece from a “students sending country” to a “students receiving country”.²¹ It was stressed that the Greek state should take advantage the comparative positive aspects of the Greek Higher educational institutions and to expand their opportunities for international networking and the development of educational and research collaborations. Therefore, the Session of Rectors proposed the adoption and full implementation of the National Qualification Framework and its accordance with the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Education and the Qualifications Framework of the

¹⁸ Information gathered at the meeting of author of the report with competent official of the E1 Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13.08.2012, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

¹⁹ op.sit.

²⁰ Greek National Strategy for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, available at:

http://interculture.culture.gr/gr/strategy_greece.pdf

²¹ Consultation document for dialogue on the National Strategy for Higher Education The Public University, Technological Institute of the State-Government, accountability, quality, openness, 65th Session Rectors, Rethymnon, October 23, 2010, available at: http://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs/keimeno_diaboyleyshs_101023.pdf

European Higher Education Area as a tool for international openness, understanding, recognition and promotion of studies in Greek institutions; as well as the full implementation of the European Credit System in Greek institutions for facilitating the recognition of studies at international level. In addition, the Session proposed the funding of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, with an international character and scope; the teaching of the courses in multiple languages, in order to attract students and staff from other countries; the funding of joint postgraduate programs with top universities and research centers abroad in areas where Greece has significant advantages; the certification of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of Greek institutions by international committees of scientists, so that their quality is known to the global scientific community; and the enhancement of the international promotion of the Greek higher education institutions and programs abroad in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Hellenes Abroad. Some of these proposals were incorporated into the framework law on higher education N.4009/11 (GG 195 A/6-9-2011) "Structure, function, quality assurance of studies and internationalization of higher education."

3. LEGAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL THAT APPLY TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

3.1 Admission

As already mentioned, the Greek universities for decades were characterized by introversion. During the last decade, efforts are made by both the central government and the authorities of the universities for the internationalization of education and to attract foreign students and scientists. The Greek universities are involved in international education fairs in Greece and abroad and sign agreements and memoranda of cooperation with universities abroad. Indicatively is mentioned the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Peloponnese and the Jiao Tong University of Shanghai which includes the exchange of students, teachers and researchers, the promotion of Greek and Chinese studies, the development- in the context of reciprocal cooperation- of the political, economic and technology studies in Greece and in China and the establishment of permanent structures for the study and research of Greek and Chinese culture and the participation of the University of Peloponnese in the Greek cultural week organized by the Jiao Tong University in 2013.²² Similar agreements were signed between the University of Piraeus and the China Youth University for Political Sciences in Beijing; and the University of Macedonia with universities of Russia, as well as several colleges. The Technological Educational Institute of Serres, for example, has entered into partnerships with institutions from Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova while is seeking collaborations with Chinese institutions. It already has two postgraduate programs in English and plans to hold three undergraduate programs in English, in an attempt to attract foreign students.²³

Within the framework of Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, the Greek universities offer the possibility of pursuing programs for learning the Greek language, like the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki which offers a certain number of monthly scholarships to undergraduate or graduate students to pursue the intensive summer program for learning Greek Language at the School of Modern Greek Language (16 August to 15 September each year).²⁴ The Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki having identified since the year 2000 that the number of students who come to Greece to study under the Erasmus program was limited, conducted a survey among foreign students enrolled at the institution to ascertain why Greece was not one of the first preferences of the students. As mentioned, the main cause was the ignorance of the language, and secondly the lack of information about the Greek educational institutions. On the occasion of the research findings, the Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki launched an internet network providing information and educational material for intensive courses of Greek language.²⁵ It is worth mentioning, that the websites of universities and technological educational institutes, are in their majority available in both Greek and English language, and several of them provide information about the admission process of foreign students in Greek higher educational institutes.

Regarding the financing of the studies, there is no common framework granting scholarships. Students- third country nationals have the opportunity to receive a scholarship from the Greek State for the duration of their studies. Scholarships are given for all cycles of higher education by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the National Scholarship Foundation, universities, charities such as Alexander Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and other non-state actors. Regarding the scholarships granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate in

²² Lacasas A. (2012) The Greek Universities travel abroad, Eleftherotypia, 08.04.2012, available at: http://news.kathimerini.gr/4Dcgi/4Dcgi/_w_articles_ell_1_08/04/2012_478477

²³ op.sit.

²⁴ For more information: <http://www.auth.gr/affiliations>

²⁵ For more information: <http://hellonet.teithe.gr/GR/index.html>

charge is the E1 Directorate of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Regarding the scholarships granted by the Ministry of Education, in charge is the Directorate of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. After configuring the notice provided for scholarships and the number of available positions per country with a Ministerial Decision, according to educational agreements signed by the Greek state with third countries, the notice is sent to the Greek embassies and then forwarded to the respective Ministries of Education of the related countries.²⁶ Notices are also uploaded on the internet at the website of the Ministry of Education. The selection of students coming to study in Greece with a scholarship granted by the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is made by the competent authorities of the country of origin.²⁷ The students, after they become eligible to attend the Greek higher education institutions, receive a certificate from the university which facilitates the process of their application for a residence permit (Law 3386/2005), for study purposes; however, in order to enter to higher education, they must previously be granted a visa.²⁸

The Greek Ministry of Education is the National Center of Information, a member of the European Network of National Information Centres. Through the National Certification Agency for Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (ex EKEP- National Centre for Vocational Guidance) participates since 2000 in the Network Euroguidance. Information on the maximum attendance at Greek Universities is available on the website of the Ministry of Education and on the websites of most universities and technological educational institutes.

3.1.1. The procedure for issuing visas and residence permits.

The basic legislation which regulates currently the legal status of foreign students- third country nationals- studying in Greek universities, higher technological educational institutes, Senior Cleric Academies and Senior Cleric Schools; at the Higher Pedagogical and Technological Education School of Engineering and Technology (ASETEM. / A.S.PAI.T.E.); the Higher School of Tourism Professions (EOT) and the Technical Vocational Schools (TEE) is the Law 3386/2005, as amended and set into force (and in particular the provisions of Articles 28-35) and the Presidential Decree 101/2008. The Law 3386/2005 (GG A 212) "Entry, residence and social integration of third country nationals in the Greek territory", as applied²⁹, defines the procedure for granting a residence permit for special purposes.³⁰ According to Law 3386/2005, the entry of a third country national in Greece for purposes of study at the aforementioned universities and institutes is allowed under the condition that he has previously been granted special entry visa. The studies also include postgraduate programmes. The definition of studies includes also the preparation cycle, where so provided by applicable legislation, as part of these studies.

The entry and residence of third country nationals is subject to verification of documentary evidence that certify that the candidate fulfills the conditions for granting him permission to enter and stay in the country for study purposes. In accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the PD 101/2008, the required conditions for third-country nationals for the authorization of entry and residence are:

- to hold a passport or other travel document recognized by Greece, the validity of which lasts at least three months after the expiry of the visa, and have obtained a visa for the purpose of study or voluntary service

- to provide consent of the parents or those who exercise parental authority for the planned stay if under 18 years

²⁶ Information gathered during the meeting of the author of the report with responsible officer of Academic Affairs and Student Welfare of the Ministry of Education on 13. 08.2012 at the Ministry of Education and during the meeting with officer of E1 the Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13.08.2012, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

²⁷ op.sit

²⁸ Law 3386/2005 (Government Gazette A 212) "Entry, residence and social integration of third country nationals in the Greek Territory".

²⁹ More details regarding the applied legislation available at the Ministry's website: www.ypes.gr

³⁰ Law 3386/05, Chapter 8.

-to have full health insurance for all benefits covered for nationals
-not to constitute danger to public order and safety and public health, and
-to have to pay a fee in accordance with the provisions of article 92 of Law 3386/2005.

For issuing entry visa for study purposes, the applicant must be accepted into one of the above mentioned institutes and be able to cover the costs of studying and living in Greece. A foreigner who wishes to come to study in Greece must submit to the Greek consular authorities at his country of origin, among others, passport or other travel document, certificate of Greek educational institution (original) that agrees to enroll him, receipt of the payment of the required fees³¹, evidence that he has the necessary funds to cover the costs of his studies in Greece and copy of his criminal records from the authorities of his country of origin.

A visa is a condition for a residence permit. A student, third country national, who is not holder of the special student VISA is not granted a residence permit for studies. The student will have to return to his country, to procure the special student visa from the Greek Consular Authority, in order to enter again in Greece. In order to be granted a residence permit to study in Greece the third country national must submit an application to the municipality or community of residence, before the expiry of the visa, stating the purpose for requesting the permit. The application must be accompanied by a copy of his passport with the visa of entry in the country, which must be for study purposes; three color photographs; a certificate (original) issued by the educational institution that he has been enrolled; evidence that he is able to cover living and study expenses for the duration of his studies (in accordance with the provisions of No. 4415/06 Common Ministerial Decision (GG 398/Tv/3.4.06) on "Determining the amount and mode of proof of sufficient resources provided as a condition to the provisions of the Law n.3386/05, as applied each time, eg savings bank account, bank transfer, payroll-proof- since part time employment is allowed to those who study-); evidence to demonstrate that he can cover the costs of his refoulement and his return costs; a certificate of insurance entity that he is insured for the coverage of costs of hospitalization and medical care (the insurer can be either public or private); health certificate issued by a Greek state hospital, which verifies that he is not suffering from a disease which can be a hazardous for public health; fee in the form of Type B duplicate receipt by the receiving requests competent service, under the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 92 of Law 3386/2005; and consent of the parents or the person(s) who exercises custody for the planned stay in case the third country national is under the age of 18.

The permit is valid for one year and can be renewed each time for one year. The total residence time cannot exceed the total study duration increased by half. There can also be granted residence permit of equal duration to the maximum duration of the study programme. At this time is added an extra year to learn the Greek language. For the renewal of the permit, the alien shall, two months before its expiry, submit to the municipality or community of residence his renewal application together with all supporting documents (except health certificate) referred to in Article 6 of the PD 101/2008 (Duration and renewal of residence permit for study purposes).

There are cases in which the Greek Consular Authorities may deny to grant entry visa for purposes of study to third country nationals. According to the interpretative circular of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Entry and residence of foreigners in Greece: Cases and Conditions and Process for Granting National Visas, Special Situations visa Schengen»³², published on 3/8/2012, requests for visa must be discarded when they do not fulfill the conditions applied, or in case the required

³¹ Analytically the conditions are described in the Explanatory Circular of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (3.8.2012) for the entry and stay of foreigners in Greece - Circumstances and conditions and procedure for granting national visa-Special cases of granting Schengen visa. Available at:

http://www.mfa.gr/images/docs/ethnikes_theoriseis/egkyklios_national_visas_2012_07_31.pdf

³² op.sit.

documents are not presented. The refusal of a visa, must be adequately justified. Most common reason for rejection of applications for permits / approvals for study is not to convince the consular authorities that the applicant intends to enter Greece for the purpose specified in the application. The consular authorities are supposed to have a better knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the country of origin and are better able to access and evaluate information, such as migration profiles of the country, particularly issues regarding the internal organization and the authorities responsible to provide of supporting documents, the authenticity of these documents, etc.³³

Should the conditions for the provision of entry visa are fulfilled; there remains the issue of the required documents. Unfortunately, the issue of the required documents doesn't always take place on time. The granting of residence permits is the responsibility of Aliens and Migration Services of the devolved administrations. Due to the large number of applications, is not always possible to issue the residence permits before the studies starting date. The rapid process of granting residence permits is only applied for postgraduate students who are about to participate in a special graduate program, agreed by a particular institution with the Ministry of Interior (Article 9 of Decree 101/2008), the competent department of which grants the authorized stay. And in this case the third country national concerned student should submit the documents provided by law (Articles 4 and 5 PD101/2008).

Information on conditions and procedures for entry and residence of third-country students is available on the websites of the Ministries of Education, Interior and Foreign Affairs, as well as on the websites of institutions of Higher Education. Still, those interested can receive information by the local consular authorities.

*Statistics on Admission*³⁴:

If available, reference period 2006-2011

- Eurostat Data
- Number of third-country national students (stocks and flows) in (Member) States compared to other statuses and compared to other total stocks and flows; profile of the students (nationality, sex).
- Number of visas and residence permits issued to third-country nationals pursuing study opportunities in the (Member) State, account being taken of the duration of validity of the visas and /residence permits after the (first) submission; number of rejections; number of renewals; what is the success rate of appeals from rejection decisions.
- Number of third-country nationals allowed to stay in the (Member) State following the completion of a preparatory year of language classes; number of students who get a visa/residence permit for a preparatory year; number of rejections?
- Duration of validity of the visas/residence permits.

3.2 Stay

3.2.1 International students:

Regarding the performance of students who do not receive scholarships, it is not easy to gather information, since the system of higher education in Greece is quite loose in terms of the conditions

³³ EMN (2011), *VISA POLICY AS A CHANNEL MIGRATION IN GREECE*, Greek Ministry of Interior, available at emn.intrasoft-intl.com/Downloads/download.do;jsessionid...?fileID...

³⁴ Despite the efforts of the author of the study (communication with competent departments Ministry of Education, with liaison offices of universities), it was not possible to find the required information.

for the registration of students in the semesters of the graduate programmes. There are no requirements, for the enrolment of the students to the next semester, such as having succeeded to a certain number of courses. However, for the renewal of residence permits, which the student should make at least two months before its expiry, apart from the certificate of the related Faculty or Department showing the attendance of the student, the enrolment and participation in examinations, the student should also produce transcripts in which appears his progress in the course. Regarding the students- third country nationals, for the continuance of their scholarship (of course depending on the terms of the grant awarded) it is required at the end of each semester and examination period, to submit to the institution granting the scholarship the relevant transcripts showing indicating his progress. Often, the foundations which grant the scholarships show a degree of leniency towards students, especially during the first years of their studies, while the rates of success in the completion of their studies, in particular with regard to undergraduate and graduate studies, is particularly high.³⁵

The foreign students, according to article 35 of Law 3386/2005 and the provisions of Article 8 of Decree 101/2008, may work under certain conditions. For this purpose they must obtain approval from the District they reside. The license is only allowed for part-time employment and is granted on application by showing the residence permit of the student- third country national and the contract signed with the employer who will employ him. The fact that the students can work alongside their studies and that means he will now fall to the provisions of the labor law (ie, stamps must be paid to insurance funds, submit tax returns, etc.).

Statistics on Stay³⁶

If available, reference period 2006-2011

- Completion of studies of international students, including the number of students who start their study after completion of the preparatory year.
- Number and profile (nationality, age, sex, course level) of international students who access the labour market during the period of study.

3.2.2 International students' family members:

The family members of third-country students can come to Greece only by using a tourist visa, like any other foreigner, which lasts up to three months. According to the PD 131/2006 which incorporates into Greek law the provisions of Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification, this right is granted to aliens who entered the country to work as employees, self-employed or freelance or to open a business or to exercise any other economic activity. Regarding students- third country nationals who have only the right to work part-time, it is not possible for their family members to come to reside in Greece. This indirectly concluded by from the provision of Article 5 of the PD 131/2006 (Conditions for family reunification), according to which the alien must submit evidence that he "has an annual personal income stable and regular, sufficient for the needs of his family, which cannot be less than the annual salary of an unskilled worker, increased by 20% for spouse and 15% for each child".

The law provides, however, the right to third country nationals studying in Greece to be accompanied by their family members (spouse and children) in case the aforementioned third country national comes to Greece to receive medical specialty (Article 33 par. 2 Law 3386/2005),

³⁵ Information gathered at the meeting of author of the report with the competent official of the E1 Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13.08.2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

³⁶ Despite the efforts of the author of the study (communication with competent departments Ministry of Education, with liaison offices of universities), it was not possible to find the required information.

which is identified by a special hospital certification mentioning that the third country national is admitted to it and is granted with specific visa.

*Statistics International students' family members*³⁷

If available, reference period 2006-2011

- Number of family members granted permission to accompany an international student. Please provide details of the relationship between the international student and family members (spouse, parent, child) where known.

3.3 Period following the completion of study for international students:

Students- third country nationals who have completed their studies are not allowed continuing residing in Greece, after the completion of their studies. According to the Articles 12 par 7 and 73 par 3 of the Law 3386/2005, it is indirectly concluded that the foreign student does not have the right to renew the license for other reason and therefore, while after the expiry of the visa he must depart from Greece³⁸, unless he continues his studies at the postgraduate level or, in the case of medical studies, he remains in Greece for obtaining medical specialty. It is permitted, however, to transform the residence permit for studies into a residence permit for other reasons, only in case that the third country national, before receiving a residence permit for study, had been admitted to Greece for family reunion.

There are, however, two cases in which a third country national who has completed their studies, or who has completed the prescribed maximum study time in Greece, may remain in the country: if he is married to a Greek citizen or national of a Member State of the European Union, or he has been recognized as political refugee or fulfils the conditions for his recognition as a refugee or stateless. It is worth noting that a third country national who has been accepted in Greece for family reunification reasons and then changed his residence permit into a residence permit for study may after completing their studies remain in the country by changing the license held in another type of permission residence.

*Statistics on period following the completion of study:*³⁹

If available, reference period 2006-2011

- Number and profile (nationality, age, sex, course level) of international students who access the labour market;
- How many / what proportion of international students' applications for access to the labour market are refused;
- Length of stay of international students within EU (Member) States, differentiating between study period and period afterwards, including length of residence status.

³⁷ Despite the efforts of the author of the study (communication with competent departments Ministry of Education, with liaison offices of universities), it was not possible to find the required information.

³⁸ The residence permit for studies is revoked or not renewed in cases of public health reasons (only those provided by the World Health Organization) or of a risk to public safety, or if established by a final judgment that false information or false documents were used. In addition, it may be refused or revoked if the holder is not making satisfactory progress in his studies or fails to meet the conditions laid down in national legislation on the status of part-time employment in the pursuit of economic activities (Article 12 W . D. 101/2008).

³⁹ Despite the efforts of the author of a study on communicating with the competent authorities and services, it was not possible to find the required information.

3.4 Misuse of the 'student route' to migration

Gathering reliable data on the misuse of choice "study purposes" aimed at immigration is not easy, as it happens when a research tries to investigate undocumented migration. In Greek higher educational institutes is not a prerequisite for the enrolment of the students in the next semester, to have succeeded in a certain number of courses. This practically means that reliable verification of the proper attendance of the students at the university courses cannot be done by his progress. The progress of students can be evaluated primarily based on the transcript.

Additionally, the fact that the students from third countries are not allowed to work (only part-time), is not by itself sufficient as a measure to prevent misuse of the choice and the opportunity given to third country nationals to come in Greece for reasons study. In a country where, according to studies mainly held by the Labour Institute of the General Confederation of Greek Workers, the undeclared work has taken very large dimensions, it is not easy to determine whether students are third-country nationals are actually working or not.

The rigorous framework for issuing residence permits, the limited temporal duration (years of study plus their half and the intended preparatory year), the requirement of showing certificates and transcripts by the relevant educational institution for pursuing studies, and the incapability to change the type of residence permit⁴⁰ constitute measure against the abuse of the right of entry and residence in the country for "study purposes". In addition, the third-country national who has obtained a visa or residence permit for study may change educational institution and faculty, only once during the first year of study in accordance with the legislation and with the additional condition that there cannot exceed the total residence time of study plus half, allotted for initial studies.

Regarding the use of fake degrees / documents during the application process, the verification of their authenticity can be easily done, since the local Greek consular authorities, in cooperation with the competent authorities of the country of origin in order to ascertain the legitimacy of the documents.⁴¹

Regarding the procedure of licensing and inspection of the private institutes where third country nationals are enrolled, it is of the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education, with ministerial decisions, issues licenses for the establishment and operation of post-secondary education centres after related assessment while under the PD 38/2010 "Adaptation of Greek legislation to Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications", the Council for Qualifications Recognition recognizes to the graduates of post-secondary education centres professional rights. The licensing of post-secondary education centres takes place upon the opinion of the National Organisation for Qualifications' Certification and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) which has the competence of the assessment of these centers. The EOPPEP states its opinion on whether these centers fulfill the terms and conditions for their authorization. In 2009, according to figures published by the newspaper Eleftherotypia, at the foreign language departments of post-secondary education centres 2500-3000 third country nationals were enrolled, most of whom were Chinese. A large number of students were nationals of Balkan countries; especially in Thessaloniki was

⁴⁰ Allowed only in case of change of personal circumstances (eg marriage).

⁴¹ Information gathered during the meeting of the author of the report with competent officer of the Directorate of Academic Affairs and Student Welfare of the Ministry of Education on 13. 08.2012 at the Ministry of Education and during the meeting with competent officer of the E1 Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13.08.2012, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

estimated that 700-800 international students were enrolled, 90% of whom were of Balkan nationality.⁴²

Statistics on misuse of student route to migration⁴³:

If available, reference period 2006-2011

- Any information on the numbers of students engaging in undeclared work, or in excess of permitted working hours (a) during study; (b) after study;
- Is any information available in your (Member) State to indicate the extent to which international students engage in undeclared work, e.g. working in excess of maximum work hours, where permitted?

⁴² Boubouca, A. (2009) The Descent of myriad students, Eleftherotypia 14.06.2009, available at: <http://www.enet.gr/?i=news.el.article&id=54246>

⁴³ It was not possible to find the required information despite the efforts by the author of the study.

4. TRANS-NATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

4.1 Bilateral/multilateral agreements including Mobility Partnerships

The Greek government has signed Educational Agreements⁴⁴ and Cultural Executive Programs with Member States of the European Union and third countries. Within the scope of these agreements is each year the provision of scholarships to students from these countries in order to pursue studies or language and culture summer seminars. Regarding the disciplines of study, there are no limitations. Candidates have the right to participate in only one scholarship program of only a one country. The scholarship programs include undergraduate studies, graduate studies, research conduct and summer courses. The granted scholarships offer a certain amount of money paid monthly to beneficiaries for residence, food and study expenses; a short amount of money for costs of settlement which is given once; cover of tuition fees, if applicable; and a small amount of money⁴⁵ annually for transportation expenses. The selection of students proposed for study in Greece within the scope of Education Agreements and Executive Educational Programs is of the competence of the authorities of the students' home countries. It should be noted that due to the economic situation of the country, from E1 Directorate of Educational and Cultural Affairs have not been granted scholarships to young scholars in the last two years. However the scholarships are still provided to recipients before 2010.⁴⁶ The terms of scholarships and supporting documents are specified in the notice published by the body which grants the scholarship.

Conditions vary, but the basic documents to submit an application are the special application form, photocopy of passport, copies of qualifications (at least secondary school leaving certificate), foreign language certificates, a certificate from the relevant Ministry of Education that the graduation certificate filed as evidence can ensure the continuation of their studies in higher education nominee, official document attesting the nationality of the candidate and his parents, a recent health certificate certifying that the candidate is not suffering from any contagious disease and a statement that the applicant does not intend to receive a scholarship from another institution of the Greek government during the receiving of this scholarship. Candidates who provide additional proof of competency of Greek, enter immediately in the first year of study, while those who do not have sufficient knowledge of Greek, are enrolled in a course of Greek language for one year, and after their successful participation in examinations, they are enrolled in the first year of the school selected. For prospective students in graduate programs are required additionally certificates of higher education, two letters of reference, curriculum vitae and statement of acceptance of the candidate in a postgraduate program by a Greek university. In the case of a grant of scholarship for the conduction of research, it is required additionally confirmation of acceptance by Research Center.

Greece has signed bilateral educational agreements⁴⁷ with Azerbaijan, Egypt, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Georgia, Jordan, India, Iraq, Iran, Israel, China, Colombia, Croatia, Morocco, Mexico, Norway, South Korea, Ukraine, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ All Educational Agreements are ratified by law.

⁴⁵ This applies only to research scholarships and only in the case that the fellow needs to move for the purposes of the research.

⁴⁶ Information gathered at the meeting of author of the report with the competent official of the E1 N / Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13.08.2012, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁴⁷ Only bilateral agreements signed by Greece with non-EU are mentioned.

⁴⁸ Information gathered at the meeting of author of the report with the competent official of the E1 N / Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13.08.2012, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Several Greek institutions of higher education have entered into agreements with non-EU member states for the exchange of students, exchange of expertise and closer collaboration in research. In recent years there has been observed an increased interest in bilateral agreements between Greek universities and countries of the East, mainly China.

The International Bilateral Agreements of Cooperation of the universities promote inter-university collaborations and aim to share knowledge, exchange information and to promote science and research. Provide inter alia, exchange of scientists and students, administrative staff, research material and the organization of joint research programs and scientific meetings (seminars, conferences, symposiums and other). They are ruled by the Regulation of international bilateral agreements of each university. Indicatively is reported that the University of Patras in Greece has signed bilateral agreements for educational and research collaboration with universities in Egypt, Albania, Algeria, Jordan, the U.S., Israel, Canada, Korea, Belarus, Lebanon, Russia and Serbia and participates in international and European educational institutions, associations and networks. Additionally, the University of Athens has signed such agreements and bilateral educational exchange programs with universities in Azerbaijan, Albania, Armenia, Jordan, Croatia, Libya, Morocco and Turkey.

4.2 Cooperation with EU (and EU-financed mobility programmes) or international organisations

The programs of the EU to facilitate mobility are open to all registered students in Greek higher education institutions, including students of third countries. Students who come from countries which are not EU members have the right to go to the EU for studies under certain conditions, and Member States should facilitate the admission of the students from these countries to participate in EU mobility programs. Erasmus Mundus is a European cooperation and mobility program that aims to improve the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with third countries. The program is open to students and third country nationals, provided they have the necessary documents such as visa issued in an EU Member State for study and valid residence permit. However, often the third-country nationals legally residing in a Member State of the EU deal with problems encountered in their efforts to participate in educational programs in another EU Member State. Although the Schengen Treaty clarifies the situation regarding short stay, the students face problems with the stay of longer than three months duration when they assert to participate in a mobility programme at Member States which do not participate in Schengen.⁴⁹ According to article 21 of the Schengen Agreements, along with Article 71 par. 5 of Law 3386/2005, third country national attending a Greek educational institution with a valid passport and a valid residence permit can travel in a European Union Schengen member, eg in Germany and stay there a maximum of three months, declaring to the authorities their presence there, provided that they are not registered in the list of undesirable aliens, has sufficient means for living and his return back to Greece is arranged.

Under the provision of the same paragraph of Article 71 of Law 3386/2005, "third-country nationals residing legally in Greece and temporarily exiting from Greek territory have the right to enter again, if the permit is still valid at the time of re-entry". Therefore, a third country national with a valid residence permit for study purposes can travel at his country of origin and return, without the need to be granted a new entry permit (VISA). According to PD 101/2008, it is acknowledged the student mobility right. It is acknowledged that a third country national who has been admitted to study in Greece by submitting a request, can cover part of their studies in another EU country (Article 7 par. 5 PD 101/2008) as well as third-country national who has been admitted to study in another EU Member State can cover a part of his studies in Greece (Article 7 par. 1-4 PD 101/2008). In the

⁴⁹ «Keeping Europe on the Move», available at: http://www.teipat.gr/pages/stud_exchange/leonardo/gphome.html#third

latter case there is no need to be granted the special permit for study (student VISA) that Greek law requires from those who wish to study in Greece. Furthermore, a third-country national holding a residence permit as a researcher in another EU Member State can continue his research in Greece. The article 10 of PD 128/2008 recognizes this possibility under the terms and conditions described therein.

*Statistics on mobility of international students within the EU for the purpose of study*⁵⁰:

If available, reference period 2006-2011

- Numbers of international students migrating under EU Programmes (e.g. Erasmus Mundus);
- Numbers of international students migrating outside these schemes.

4.3 Other forms of (non-legislative) cooperation with countries

According to the Articles 14 and 16 of Law N.3374/05, which institutionalized the ECTS, was issued the Decree F5/89656/V3 on 13/8/2007 on the "Application of Transfer and Accumulation System credits (ECTS) », which clarifies fully the implementation of ECTS. Under the Article 1 the higher educational institutions (universities and higher technological institutions) organize their programs of undergraduate and graduate studies under the European credit transfer and accumulation, so that the undergraduate and graduate studies can be described with the performance of credit in all the independent educational components and activities they include; and also in order to allow the transfer and accumulation of successful performance in other programs of study in the same or another university at national and European level.

⁵⁰ It was not possible to find the required information.

5. IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN (MEMBER) STATES

The increasing globalization of economic processes and the increase of international activities at the global level, but also in Greece, have raised the issue of international mobility of students in a new context. While traditionally a large number of Greek nationals choose to study at universities abroad, the number of students who are nationals of third countries who choose Greece as a place for their studies is not very high. The use of the Greek language as a teaching language in higher education is quite deterrent in choosing Greece as a place of study of foreign students. In recent years several universities have included in their graduate and postgraduate programmes the teaching of the courses in the English language in an effort to attract students from abroad.

According to data given by the Ministry of Education for the academic year 2006-2007, in Greece were enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate level 398,000 students in aggregate. Approximately 16,900 of these students were nationals of third countries⁵¹, about 378,000 were Greek nationals and the rest of the students were EU nationals. In the academic year 2007-2008, no special changes took place. In a total of 385,200 students, 364,500 were Greek nationals, 16,540 third country nationals and the rest of the students were EU nationals.⁵²

Regarding the remaining of the students- third country nationals in Greece after the completion of their studies, it was not possible to obtain data on the number of those who stay, the reasons why they choose to stay and what is the object of their employment. From the liaison offices of the educational institutions it was not possible to find data regarding the graduates' employment nor by the Immigration Directorates of the country's Districts regarding the requests of obtaining a different type of residence permits after completing their studies.

In March 2012, passed the Law N. 4071 (Government Gazette 85/11.04.1012) "Arrangements for local development, local government and decentralized administration." With this law was incorporated the Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009, "on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for highly qualified employment» (EE L 155, 18.6.2009) in the national legislation. Due to the recent incorporation of this directive it was not possible to determine the extent to which students achieve to move from the status of third-country students to highly skilled resident workers.

Regarding the fear of "brain drain" in Greece, it is particularly increased due to the fact that a large number of highly skilled Greek scholars choose to move abroad, given the prolonged recession, the economic crisis and bad condition of the Greek economy. Perhaps the internationalization of Greek higher education, the attracting of students from abroad with the simultaneous improvement of the education system and the establishment of changes, such as tuition fees in undergraduate programmes could contribute to the promotion of higher education in economic development lever.

It is not easy to make conclusions on public opinion in Greek society towards foreign students. The developments observed in the past fifteen years regarding immigration in Greece are very intense and certainly without precedent. The large inflow of immigrants in Greece caused a number of institutional and informal changes, demographic, social, economic and political. This fact, coupled with the growing recession and dire state of the Greek society, and consequently with the intense pressures on Greek society, especially the middle classes, have caused a flare phenomena of xenophobia and racism. The Network for the Promotion of Multicultural Media, held in 2006 a

⁵¹ For purposes of the comparison of numbers, the number of students from Bulgaria and Romania were included in the number students from EU member states despite entering EU in 2007.

⁵² These data were provided by the Department of Operational Research and Statistics of the Division of Planning and Operations Research of the Ministry of Education.

"Study - Exploring Attitudes and public opinion on the Functioning of Community Media»⁵³, which was one of the actions of the project entitled «"Com.Media"- Development, Operation and Promotion of Multicultural Media (Community Media)», which was implemented under the Community Initiative EQUAL- 2nd implementation cycle. From the survey was found that remarkably positive attitudes of the sample towards returnees and foreign students, moderate or indifferent-but more positive than in the past-to economic migrants and refugees. Six years later, however, in the Greek society there have occurred several alterations. In a small sample survey conducted about International Students in Thessaloniki, interviewed foreign students were asked to reply whether they have problems adapting to Greek society. 42% of respondents declared that they consider Greek society as xenophobic and racist.⁵⁴

⁵³ Available at: www.diversity.commedia.net/.../Commedia_meleti.pdf

⁵⁴ International Students in Thessaloniki, available at:

http://www.google.gr/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0CDAQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rhodes.aegean.gr%2Ftepaes%2Fanamorfosi%2Fgouvias%2FOikonomou_Slavidou.doc&ei=1b5VUNLdKIOr0QWh_4HQBA&usg=AFQjCNF_pdFYj1kPzS_HFaoWksukmSxNGw&sig2=J4HgnwQcKSnrLNf58h_xw

6. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the study is to provide an overview of migration policies implemented by Greece for students from third countries in order to assist those who define and implement policies to achieve a balance between attracting active students in the EU for study and the prevention of abuse of reasons of studies for migration.

In Greece, the number of students who are nationals of third countries is quite small in comparison to both the total number of students who study in Greece, and to the number of students of third-country nationals in other Member States of the European Union. For many decades Greece had been a “student sending country” to the Balkans and the European Union in particular, who were attending studies of both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The largest number of students from foreign states who come to Greece for studies comes from Cyprus. In the recent years there has been an increase of the number of students from Balkan countries who choose to study in Greece. Due to the existing bilateral educational agreements of the Greek state with third countries, nationals of countries not participating in the EU such as Azerbaijan, Egypt, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Georgia, Jordan, India, Iraq, Iran, Israel, China, Colombia, Croatia, Morocco, Mexico, South Korea, Ukraine, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey have the opportunity to enter in Greece for the purpose of studying, being granted scholarship.

The number of third countries who attend the Greek educational institutions each year is decided by the Ministry of Education. During the last years, there has been highlighted the need for the internationalization of higher education and the need to attract more students and researchers from other countries. The Greek universities have taken steps to modernize studies in Greece and strengthen the internationalization of higher education. Greek universities sign bilateral international agreements with third-country universities in order to promote cooperation and exchange in education and research; they also participate in international organizations, networks and associations. Greek universities participate often in international education fairs to attract students from third countries and the promotion of the education system and studies in Greece.

The abuse of the right of coming to Greece to study is not easy to determine. In Greek high educational institutes is not a prerequisite for the enrolment in the next semester, to have succeeded in a certain number of courses. Practically this means that reliable verification whether the student has normally attended the classes cannot be done by the students' progress. The progress of students can be evaluated primarily based on his transcripts. Regarding the employment of third-country students, although they are not allowed to work, (only in the part-time), this prohibition alone is not enough as a measure to prevent students from finding employment. The black work in Greece has taken on a very large scale, so it is not easy to determine whether students who are third-country nationals are employed or not.

As measures to prevent the abuse of the right of coming to Greece for study operates under strict entry visa and residence permits. Specifically, the interview process before a consular for the grant of visa entry; the limited duration of the residence permit (the years of study plus half and the intended preparatory year); the requirement of furnishing certificates and transcripts of the relevant educational foundation for the monitoring of the studies; and the inability to change the type of residence permit⁵⁵ are measurements of ascertainment of the abuse of the right to enter and reside in the country for "study purposes". Still, the third-country national who has obtained a visa or residence permit for study may change educational institution and faculty, only once during the first year of study in accordance with the legislation and with the additional condition that he cannot exceed the total residence time of study plus half allotted for initial studies.

⁵⁵ Allowed only in case of change of personal circumstances (eg marriage).

From the survey conducted for this report, it was not possible to obtain specific information regarding the proof of the abused coming to the country to study and unfortunately, regarding the abuse, there can only be done some estimations of limited scale.

ANNEX

Legislation

1. Council Directive 2004/114/EC on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service, available at: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ / LexUriServ.do? uri = OJ: L: 2004:375:0012:0018: EL: PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:375:0012:0018:EL:PDF)
2. Framework Law 1268/1982 "On the structure and operation of higher education institutions"
3. Law 2083/1992 "Modernisation of Higher Education"
4. Law 3386/2005 (Government Gazette A 212) "Entry, residence and social integration of third country nationals in the Greek Territory"
5. N. 4009/11 (Government Gazette 195 A/6-9-2011) "Structure, function, quality assurance studies and internationalization of higher education"
6. N.1404/1983 (Government Gazette A 173/24.11.84) "Structure and function of the Technological Educational Institutions"
7. N.2083/1992 (Government Gazette 159 A ') "Modernization of Higher Education"
8. N.2916/2001 (Government Gazette A 114/11.06.2001) "Structure of higher education and regulation of issues of this technology sector»
9. N.3027/2002 (Government Gazette A 152 / 28.06.2002) "Regulations concerning the organization of school buildings, higher education and other provisions"
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11. N.3450/2006 (Government Gazette A 64/30-3-2006) "Upgrading and restructuring of maritime education and other provisions"
12. PD 101/2008 "Adaptation of Greek legislation to Directive 2004/114/EC on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of study or voluntary service."

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4. Greek National Strategy for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, available at http://interculture.culture.gr/gr/strategy_greece.pdf
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