

Quality Assurance Advances in Curriculum development.

Standards and Procedures in Greek Higher Technological Education

By

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This presentation:

- Higher education in Greece
- The Technological Educational Institutions (TEIs)
- Principles, Assumptions, Criteria, Standards and Guidelines for Curriculum Development and Accreditation
- Procedures for Accreditation of degree programmes
- What is next



Higher Education (H.E.) in Greece

H.E. in Greece includes two types:

- **Fully self-governed public Institutions:**
 - **20 Universities** with 200.000 students and
 - **15 TEIs** with 190.000 students
 - duration of basic studies 4 or more years
 - direct access of their graduates in postgraduate studies (Master or Doctorate)
 - Postgraduate studies organised by Universities or co-organised between Universities and TEIs
 - Multi-discipline Institutions supervised by the Ministry of Education and protected by the Constitution
 - Both types offer degrees called *Ptychio*
- **Vocational or specific schools(public or private)**
 - Duration of studies up to 3 years
 - Single-discipline schools supervised by subject Ministries other than the Ministry of Education



The Technological Educational Institutions (TEIs)

- Multi-discipline Institutions created in 1983
- All academic authorities (President, Heads of Departments, etc) are elected for 3 years
- Professors elected by academic staff
- The Department is the basic degree- offering Academic Unit
- In 2001 upgraded to operate as Institutions of the Technological Sector in parallel with the University Sector of higher education (both equally protected by the Constitution)



Development of Study Programmes in the TEIs

- From 1983 to 1997 programmes were designed by the Ministry of Education
- From 1998 programmes were designed by the Departments of the TEIs and proposed for approval to the Institute of Technological Education (ITE) of the Ministry of Education
- ITE developed criteria, standards, guidelines and procedures for the final approval (accreditation) of each study programme submitted by a Department of a TEI



Principles for Curriculum Development in the TEIs

- In 1998 the Institute of Technological Education (ITE) in collaboration with the TEIs established the following principles:
 - Educational structures should be common and transparent in all the TEI system based on **learning outcomes**
 - Programmes of studies should be developed from the scratch based on Student Work Load (**SWL**)
 - Curriculum development should include as starting point the **ECTS** system based on the **SWL**.



Assumptions for Curriculum Development and Accreditation

The Study Programme of each Department is based on a Presidential Decree including:

1. Subject area and Mission of the Department

2. Graduate profile based on learning outcomes

- Learning outcomes based on subject specific **competences**
- Subject specific competences are based on **statements** of what the student is able to do after the completion of his/her studies
- Subject specific competences are determined in the **course units** during curriculum development

3. Structure of studies based on general criteria and **generic competences**

*From 1998 onwards ITE developed **guidelines** for the type of Presidential Decrees with the “**Content of Studies**” of each Department*



Criteria and Standards for Curriculum Development and Accreditation

- General criteria and standards:
 - **Student Work Load(SWL):** 1500 hours per academic year (6.000 hours for study programme)
 - **ECTS credits:** 60 credits per year (25 hours SWL per ECTS credit) (240 credits for study programme)
 - **SWL:** for 1 teaching (contact) hour: 2 hours for study and exams
 - **32-40 course units** for the **4-year programme** of studies(obligatory+elective course units)
 - Each course unit includes: **Aim, Objectives with subject specific competences, Content** and **Bibliography**
- Student-centred curriculum development
- Balanced categories of subject areas



Guidelines for designing and planning Curricula by the TEIs and criteria for Accreditation by the ITE

- **In December 1998 the Scientific Council of ITE in cooperation with the Vice-Presidents of the TEIs finalised the procedures for curriculum development and subsequent accreditation**
- In January 1999 the ITE publicized guidelines and criteria based on:
 - **Content of Studies** (Presidential decree)
 - Criteria and standards for **Curriculum Development**
 - Models and examples of **study programmes** based on work load
 - Models and examples of **course units** based on subject specific competences
 - List of examples with **generic competences**
 - Check-list of **requirements for the accreditation**



Procedures for accreditation of degree programmes

- The General Assembly of the Department decides the programme of studies and submits it to the ITE
- The Scientific Council of the ITE evaluates the programme according to the criteria and either approves it or it refers it back to the Department for amendments
- After the final approval the programme is published in the Institutional Guide of Studies



What is next?

- Realisation of the two-cycle system in both Universities and TEIs
- Duration of first cycle: 4 years(?)
- Reorganisation of degree programme curricula, probably according to the criteria and standards mentioned before with possible reduction of course units (modular system)
- Establishment of a Quality Assurance system
- Use of ECTS for credit accumulation (intra- and inter-institutional student mobility)