

Bringing education closer to the marketplace: The case of Sivitanidios Greece

May 2016

The association of education with the labour market and the development of the entrepreneurial spirit in education remains a key challenge at national level and a key priority of European policy for the period from 2014 to 2020.

The ultimate goal for the period 2014-2020, under Thematic Objective 10 "Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning" and in particular the Investment Priority 2 "Improving access to lifelong learning, upgrading skills & abilities & on-line education & training to the labour market", is to embed Vocational skills modules and actions in the Greek curriculum with the aim to better connect vocational training to the business world.

[Sivitanidios Public School of Trades and Vocations](#), located in Athens (close to Piraeus port), is the largest technical-vocational Institution in Greece. Since its founding in 1927, it has been one of Greece's outstanding educational establishments in technical and vocational areas of scholarship.

The foundation, is a legal entity of self-government character and is supervised by the Ministry of Education. It is organized into 4 Vocational Schools, a Vocational Training Institute and a Vocational Training Centre. More than 3,000 students attend lessons in 10.000 sq. m. of Training centre laboratories every year.

Sivitanidios, has to deposit significant experience on teaching entrepreneurship in Greek VET system and has set as its main goal the empowerment of young people in anticipation of their output in the labour market - the teaching of business strategies and the development of the appropriate qualifications and skills.

Sivitanidios is the only public foundation in VET that has received funding from E.S.F. to implement pilot projects and innovative activities/programmes in order to promote the quality and attractiveness of vocational training, including entrepreneurship education in Greek VET system.



Sivitanidios Library

NATIONAL SCALE PROJECTS: 1998-2001 (Funded by the 1st Operational Program in Education and Initial Vocational Training of Greek Ministry of Education)

1. **Virtual Enterprises (pilot project):** Aimed to cultivate students' enterprising spirit in working conditions. The mini companies model were:

- Advertising Company
- Computer Services
- Car Repair Centre
- Buildings Design and Constructions Office
- Engineering constructions Company
- Air-conditioning Trading Company

Duration: about 100 hours, Participants: 18 trainers and 44 students from Sivitanidios

2. **Practical Training in Companies (pilot project):** Aimed to prepare the students involved and familiarize them with their future working conditions. In this frame **23 projects** have already taken place in several companies.

Duration: about 100-120 hours, Participants: 50 trainers and 275 students from Sivitanidios

3. **Summer School (pilot project):** Aimed to provide additional training in special fields of students' studies. Summer school was hosted in Anargyreios School in Spetses, where fully equipped courses were organized. Students had to work together as a team in order to deliver a project.

During 1998-2000: 20 programs were carried out, 340 students and 80 trainers participated and 2001-2003: 18 programs were carried out, 220 students and 54 trainers participated (*Summer Schools 2001-2003 were funded exclusively by Sivitanidios*)



Multiplex of Sivitanidios

NATIONAL- SCALE PROJECTS: 2005-2009 (Funded by the 2st Operational Program in Education and Initial Vocational Training of Greek Ministry of Education)

1. **Youth Entrepreneurship summer schools in the region of Attica (2005-2009):** Aimed to support students in gaining knowledge, developing and upgrading their skills, working together as a team, for two weeks during summer vacation, in order to deliver their ideas to a business plan, through an entrepreneurial project. Summer school was hosted in different summer facilities, such as Anargyreios School in Spetses, Delphi Beach Hotel in Eratini Fokida and Ermioni Club Hotel in Argolida. During 2005-2008: 92 programs have been carried out, 1450 students and 250 trainers participated from VET schools in Attica region.
2. **Student study visits in companies (2005-2009):** Students have the opportunity to visit some different companies and organizations all over Greece related to their studies. Therefore they get closer to the real labour conditions. This project was implemented in cooperation with the University of Athens.
3. **Student virtual companies in technical professional education (2006-2009):** Students had the opportunity to design and carry our own mini company in the school environment. During this program, 1.600 entrepreneurs/mentors and 1.200 teachers were engaged in the training of 19000 students from 395 Secondary Education Vocational schools and 8 Secondary Special Needs Education Schools. The students gain useful knowledge and hands on experience on how to run a business and how to face difficulties in the real labour market. This project was implemented in cooperation with University of Athens, CTI and TEI of Larissa.



Simulating Conditions of Working Environment



Landscaping Section

4. **Sivitanidios Youth Entrepreneurship Help Desk (2006-2009):** A pilot program concerning the establishment of twenty Consulting Services Desks in all regions of Greece, was organized by the General Secretariat of Youth. The target group was mainly students and graduates of technical vocational schools. Aiming to:
- encourage enterprising ideas
 - offer personalised consulting and support
 - offer information about financial figures and statistic data
 - inform about further education, or training on special fields in order to cultivate skills and abilities

More information on the official website of Sivitanidios <http://www.sivitanidios.edu.gr/>