

Greece: Accreditation of Vocational Training & Certification of Vocational Training Institute (IEK) Graduates¹

Type of provider

EDUC/OTHER : National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP)

EOPPEP develops the regulatory framework for the certification of qualifications, i.e. the learning outcomes of non-formal education and informal learning, in response to labour market needs and priorities and in liaison with the accreditation of inputs, i.e. providers, trainers, occupational profiles and curricula standards.

Regarding Initial Vocational Training, EOPPEP is responsible for the certification exam of students having completed training at Initial Vocational Training Institutions (SEK-Level 3 and IEK-Level 5).

Regarding Continuing Vocational Training, EOPPEP is responsible for the certification exam of students having completed training at Lifelong Learning Centres (KDBM).

Regarding the fourth year (named Apprenticeship Class) after graduating from the three-year vocational education at the Vocational Upper Secondary School (EPAL) EOPPEP is responsible for the certification exam of students who have successfully completed the fourth year named Apprenticeship Class.

Objectives

EOPPEP organises the accreditation examinations for Initial Vocational Training Institute (IEK) graduates of all specialities at national level.

Upon successful examination results, IEK graduates are awarded the Vocational Training Diploma recognised both in Greece and in EU member states (for lower secondary education graduates) or the Certificate Level I (for upper secondary education graduates).

Assessment approaches

Regarding IEKs, the validation process, rules and regulations regarding the examinations and studies follow those of formal education (EOPPEP, a).

For each IEK specialisation,

1. **EOPPEP has developed Certification Regulations Guides**, where individuals can find information on the type of examinations and the relevant process, a description of the job profile, the task analysis that describes the knowledge-

¹Non-formal learning: Compared to the definition provided by the 2012 Council Recommendation for the validation of non-formal and informal learning, it is underlined that non-formal learning does not have the same definition in Greece. The 2013 Referencing Report of Greece also highlights this difference. Non formal education in accordance with Greek legislation (Law 3879/2010, art. 2, paragraph 4 and Law 4386/2016, art. 66, paragraph 2) includes: 1. Initial Vocational Training, 2. Continuing Vocational Training, 3. General Adult Education, 4. The fourth year after graduating from the Vocational Upper Secondary School (EPAL), named 'Apprenticeship Class' is defined in the area of the non-formal education. Validation: The word 'certification' (pistopoihsh) is mainly used across processes and national policy documents; it may regard documentation that attests that learning took place; but may also imply 'validation'. It is also interesting to note that the word "certification" (pistopoihsh) is sometimes used when no actual assessment takes place. Experts suggest that for 'validation' another term should be used in Greek (Epikirosi or Egyropoiisi tis mathisis), to imply assessment and equivalence in learning outcomes.

Assessment approaches (rest)

skills and competences that the individual should demonstrate under job relevant thematic areas, and duration of the process etc. The guides also include a pool of questions (approximately 300 questions) relevant to the content of examinations

2. Examinations comprise of a theoretical and a practical part

- The theoretical part involves written examinations. The examinations are held all over the country in specific Examination Centres, but are assessed centrally by EOPPEP. The written essays, included in the theoretical part of the exam, are assessed by two examiners.

- The practical part aims at assessing the individual's professional skills and competences as described in the pre-agreed job profiles. This part of the examination takes place in the IEK laboratories or in laboratories or work places where the applicants conducted their practical training/work placement during their studies; or at laboratories of other education institutions that the relevant Prefectural Committee for Vocational Training (Perifereiaki Epitropi Epaggelmatikis Ekpedefsis kai Katartisis-PEEK) has approved. The examiners are present during the practical exam and evaluate in situ the individual's performance.

Comment :

A list of available examination guides for each specialisation can be found at <http://www.eoppep.gr/index.php/el/certification-exams/2012-05-29-10-16-57> (in EL)

If minimum wage/hours thresholds are met, students can opt to skip the semester of traineeship. This cannot be regarded as a validation process, but underlines the recognition of informal learning in official education processes.

Target Group

Lower Secondary Education graduates / Upper Secondary Education graduates

Potential transferability/ scalability

The practical part of the assessment provides potential to be transferred in various contexts related to informal learning validation in situ: The practical part aims at assessing the individual's professional skills and competences as described in the pre-agreed job profiles. This part of the examination takes place in the IEK laboratories or in laboratories or work places where the applicants conducted their practical training/work placement during their studies; or at laboratories of other education institutions that the relevant Prefectural Committee for Vocational Training (Perifereiaki Epitropi Epaggelmatikis Ekpedefsis kai Katartisis-PEEK) has approved. The examiners are present during the practical exam and evaluate in situ the individual's performance

Summaries or Basic elements of analysis

In the vocational training schools, created by the 2013 law, students that complete the third year of studies and can prove a minimum number of wages/ employment hours are not obliged to attend the fourth study year, the apprenticeship year. These people can directly take the certification exams of EOPPEP. In that way, the professional experience of a student is recognised as equivalent to part of the curriculum. The same holds for students in IEKs (IVET): if minimum wage/hours thresholds are met, students can opt to skip the semester of traineeship. This cannot be regarded as a validation process, but underlines the recognition of informal learning in official education processes.