

**CRITICAL THINKING AND CAREER EDUCATION:  
SITUATION ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

**GREECE**

**1. Please, introduce in short structure of your education systems (school levels, age groups and etc.)**

The Greek Educational system has 3 levels: Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level.

The Primary level includes:

- a) **Pre-primary or Kindergarten school**, "Nepiagogeion" (ages 4-6). The duration of this level is two years and attendance is not obligatory. The main aim of this school is to promote and help children's physical, emotional, social and mental development within the framework of the primary and secondary education.
- b) **Elementary school**, "Demotiko" (ages 6-12). The duration of this level is 6 years and attendance is compulsory.

The Secondary level includes *Lower secondary* education and *Upper Secondary* Education:

- a) *Lower secondary* education
  - **High School**, "Gymnasium" (ages 12-15). The Gymnasium constitutes the lower level of secondary education. It lasts 3 years and attendance is compulsory.
- b) *Upper Secondary Education*
  - **Unified Lyceum**, "Lykeio", (ages 15-18). Pupils must attend school daily for three years and it has 3 grades (A, B, C). Grade A is called orientation grade and includes both compulsory and optional subjects. In grade B pupils have to choose one of the following directions Theoretical, Applied, Technological. In grade C pupils can either shift into another direction or continue in the direction they have chosen. Lyceum graduates are granted the Lyceum Certificate and can either enter Tertiary Education or port compulsory education.
  - **Technical-Vocational school**, "T.E.E" (ages 15-18). It lasts 3 years and it includes two stages (A,B). Stage A lasts 2 years and stage B one year. The aim of this level is to provide students with vocational skills in order to either enter labor market or Technological Education Institutes "T.E.I", or other form of post-compulsory education with a vocational/training orientation.

The Tertiary Level includes two main types of learning institutes: Universities and University type institutions and non-university type institutions.

- a) The first group includes **Universities** and **Polytechnic Schools** that offer the highest level of education and related degrees and diplomas. The duration of study in these institutions is 4-5 years.
- b) The second group includes mainly the so-called **Technological Education Institutes** "T.E.I" (study duration 3-3,5 years), **Vocational Training Institutes** "I.E.K" (study duration 2 years) and other forms of post-compulsory education.

**2. Is professional career education introduced in your education? If yes, how? In what way? What age groups?**

Professional education or "Vocational Guidance & Counseling" as it is called in Greece introduced as a subject in Secondary Education. It is taught for one hour per week in Grade C of **Gymnasium** and Grade A of **Lyceum** and **Technical/Vocational School** TEE (ages 15-16).

The teaching material includes a student's book and a teacher's book. It has been argued that career education is not well developed because

- a) It mainly focuses on the provision of general information about jobs and studies.
- b) The lack of specialized personnel
- c) The non-existence of systematic dissemination of information concerning the labor market and the linking of schools with the socio-economic environment (OECD 1997).

However, since then, certain improvements have been made e.g:

- a) **200 Vocational Guidance & Counseling Centers** have been founded, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, where information and guidance is given in addition to the guidance provided in schools
- b) The teaching material has been revised and enriched
- c) Teachers teaching Career Education at schools have been given various opportunities to upgrade and increase their knowledge and skills concerning career education.
- d) **A National Center For Career Education** is to be founded.

**3. Is critical thinking skills' development introduced in your education? If yes, how? In what way?**

The current material concerning career education aims at

- Self-knowledge development
- Information dissemination
- Decision making strategies development
- Successful transition in the professional and socio-economic demand of life.

**4. Are critical thinking and career education issues/subjects developed in your institution? How? In what way?**

Critical-Thinking skills Development does not exist, as an individual course, in Primary or Secondary Education. However one of the official goals of the curriculum is to enable students to gradually develop critical thinking skills.

Given the flexibility of the curriculum Critical Thinking skills Development resides within the teacher and the "hidden" curriculum. This type of skills could be developed via various subjects (language, math, history, physics etc) if permitted by the teaching material and the classroom climate

The above observations could be made concerning the 8<sup>th</sup> RHODES PRIMRY SCHOOL where I am a teacher. Career education despite its importance is not taught in Primary Education in Greece

**5. Please grade the development of professional career education:**

a) in your country?

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

b) in your institution?

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

**6. What do you think how we could improve the above stated situation?**

Suggestions for the improvement of the situation would be:

- a) teaching material concerning language, math, history, physics etc should be **enriched** with more alternatives with the purpose of developing Critical Thinking Skills
- b) Teaching staff should be **provided** with information and training about the development of critical Thinking skills of their pupils
- c) Teaching methodology and instruments concerning Critical Thinking skills Development should be **developed**, evaluated and applied gradually, within the purpose of encouraging curiosity, productive & provocative questions, examining alternative ways of thinking, developing reasoning skills etc.

**7. \* What educational materials (programs, textbooks, methodical materials, brochures and etc.) do your schools use to develop critical thinking and career education?**