OECD High-Level Event on the Knowledge Triangle: Enhancing the Contributions of Higher Education and Research Institutions to Innovation

NATIONAL POLICIES TO PROMOTE THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE AT HEIS AND PROS

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Paris, 15-16 September 2016
OECD Headquarters
Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Public Research Institutions (PRIIs) being the prime Research and Development (R&D) performers in Greece has led to restrictions in the research sector and the Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD).
**Pros & Cons**

1. Higher education R&D is relatively high
2. Synergies among HEIs and Research Centers with the private sector

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1. Geographical disparity in our case can also be a challenge in broadened and structured synergies (e.g. we have HEIs on islands and also on remote areas of Greece).
2. Lack of a more structured way in promoting research and innovation that could account for the relatively low R&D intensity in Greek companies.
3. Very few companies have their own R&D departments and this is an important challenge to deal with.
THE RESULT OF THE NATIONAL AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE ON ALL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION

Both of them are smooth and continuous channels of communication and interaction between higher education and public research.

Both of them have to strive together as one in order to build up prolific synergies with the business sector.
Expectations of the new law:
- to make a difference in the way research is carried out and interacts with the private sector and HE
- to pave the way for the National Strategy for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (ESETAK) which outlines the national priorities in line with the need for the transformation of the production model that is expected to benefit the Greek society.

This transformation is necessary because the productive fabric of Greece consists mostly of small-sized enterprises displaying low-intensity knowledge activities that result in sluggish demand and low investment in research.
A COMMON SCOPE BETWEEN PRIS AND HE

- In process of regulatory and legislative adjustments but also of changing the culture between HE and research.
- The brand new Regional Scientific Councils for Research and Innovation (PSEK) are an innovative bottom-up approach towards bringing together the local administration, local HEIs and PRIs and the local businesses respecting at the same time the differentiation among the Regional areas of Greece and promoting synergies that take full advantage of the local comparative advantage of the areas concerned.
KEY POLICY MEASURES

- Sabbaticals for researchers working in PRIs
- Reduction of bureaucracy by freeing the private sector from the obligation to submit letters of credit in order to participate in NSRF
- The matching funds amounting 25€ million returning to HEIs through competitive programmes.
KEY INITIATIVES

- Strong partnerships like **RISE** with the Ministries and some HEIs of France and Cyprus in order to expand the borders of each country’s regional initiatives to each other.

- The **Patras IQ** is a broad network of Greek partners collaborating in an unprecedented way with the view to help the Region of Patras, to display its potential not just on a regional but national level bringing together the University of Patras, the Technological Educational Institute of Patras, the Hellenic Open University, the Region and the local Chamber of Commerce, all under the auspices of our Ministry and the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism.
**KEY INITIATIVES**

- A new law is also underway regulating the setting up of an important pillar for research, the **Hellenic Institute for Research and Innovation (ELIDEK)**, which will act complementarily to the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, that supervises the way research is carried out in Greece on behalf of the Ministry of Education. ELIDEK will be independent of the governments in office to ensure that merit is promoted.

- A loan signed with the European Investment Bank, **240€** million will be distributed to new doctorate and post-doc scientists additionally to the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) funds aiming at attracting the bright new scientists and reversing the critical brain drain issue Greece is currently faced with.
Higher Education can and should play an active role in promoting a civic society, a society involving and smoothly integrating its citizens and all people in general from any national, religious or social background that resists any kind of radicalization.

Thank you for your attention

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