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PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
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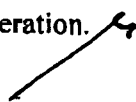
URGENT

Ref. No. 6170.7 /76/AS 2089

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and reference made to the latter's Note Verbale GVA-0616, dated 29 September 2011 (seeking information on the Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and its Applications) has the honor to forward the asked information provided by the Greek Government (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Infrastructures).

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, November 25, 2011

To:
-The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: +41-22-9179006

Pages attached: 5

OHCHR REGISTRY
28 NOV 2011
Recipients :..... <i>SPD</i>
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE RIGHT TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND ITS APPLICATIONS****Accessing the benefits of science and its applications**

1. What legal, administrative and policy measures exist or are planned in your country:

a) To ensure that marginalized groups benefit from scientific progress and its applications, including women, persons with disabilities, minority groups, rural communities and indigenous peoples?

Under the National Strategic Framework (NSF) III the project "The 'Periktioni' Network of Women Researchers" was funded and implemented by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) co-funded by the European Social Fund. It is a network of women researchers (both of the public and private sector) which aims at promoting equal opportunities between men and women in Research and Technological Development activities.

b) To promote research and development in areas specifically relevant to marginalized groups, by, for example, providing incentives for innovative research on neglected diseases?

In the framework of the Action: Collaboration of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) priority is given to 'SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES-CULTURE' in the thematic area "Inequality, poverty and social exclusion", in which the following projects are running:

- 1) Research on forms of social exclusion in the fire-stricken areas of the prefecture of Iliia,
- 2) Exploring the possibilities and prospects for integration of African Immigrants in the host Greek society,
- 3) The barometer of the absent. Detection, classification and empirical foundation of policy proposals to combat a new form of social vulnerability: The Neets (Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training),
- 4) The development of regional indicators for social exclusion and methods of measurement of social inequality in Western Greece, Peloponnesus and the Ionian Islands.

In the European Union actions have been taken, mainly through new joint projects between Member States, so that research in fields related to vulnerable groups and disabled people increase significantly. It should be noted that particular emphasis is placed on research to address social problems caused by and related to diseases associated with vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, or people suffering from neurodegenerative diseases.

Such programs are the Ambient Assisted Living / AAL, which operates on the basis of Article 185 of the EU Treaty and the Joint Programming on Neurodegenerative

Diseases / JPND. The GSRT participate in both programmes by funding research proposals of Greek scientists. It should be noted that these programs work closely with social partners such as patient organizations and industries.

c) To ensure and facilitate broad access to information and communication technologies (e.g. computers, internet and mobile phones)?

In the framework of the Operational Programme "Digital Convergence" the research and technological institutions supervised by the GSRT implement actions aimed at the "broad access to information and communications", some of which are especially targeted at vulnerable groups.

For example:

1. Acquisition of Portable Personal Computer for first-year students in Higher Education (there are special provisions for students "suffering from serious diseases"). Implementation Body: National Research and Technology Network.
2. Web Educational Portal for Young Children's Entertainment and Learning. The said action allows for internet services for the detection and treatment of learning problems, as well as for internet services for deaf and hearing-impaired children. Implementation Body: Institute for Language and Speech Processing.
3. Improved Informative Digital Services Targeted on Immigrants, aiming at supporting the smooth process of adjustment to and integration of target groups into Greek society. Implementation Body: Institute for Language and Speech Processing.
4. Online Service for the Improvement of Reading Ability of Dyslexic Persons. Implementation Body: Institute for Language and Speech Processing.
5. Advanced Computing Services for Academic Research. Implementation Body: National Research and Technology Network.

The rights of scientists and collaborative work

4. What measures have been put in place to recognize, respect and protect the rights of scientists:

b) To collaborate with colleagues nationally and internationally, including through sharing data, samples, research findings, and other information, by travelling freely within and outside the country, and conducting joint research projects?

The recently voted Law 4009/2011 (FEK A'-195) of the Greek Ministry of Education Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs on the "Structure, function, quality assurance of studies and internationalization of higher education institutes" includes, inter alia, arrangements designed to internationalize the operation of universities and boost

their extroversion. One objective of this law is effective interconnection through certain procedures and agreements of the domestic academic community with advanced education and research bodies at European and international level.

In this context special attention is paid to issues of cooperation among faculty members and other researchers with colleagues at national and international level, as well as to their free mobility within and outside the country.

In accordance with Par. 6 of Article 16 the invitation as guest lecturers of distinguished Greek and foreign scientists, who are professors or qualified researchers at research centers, is made possible to meet the educational needs. The call shall be made by decision of the Dean of a School, upon proposal by a professor.

Additionally, Par. 7 of this Article provides that by decision of the Dean of a School, made upon proposal by a professor, Greek or foreign young scientists, who are PhD holders, may be invited as visiting postdoctoral researchers to promote research activities in the school.

Furthermore, according to Par. 1 of Article 22, the statute of Higher Education Institutes may provide for additional benefits from their own resources to professors distinguished for their research or educational performance and set the relevant criteria. The said benefits may mainly include scholarships for doctoral students preparing their doctoral thesis under the supervision of a professor, cost of conference attendance and workshop supplies. Also, in accordance with Par. 2 of the said Article similar additional benefits may be provided for in the statute of Higher Education Institutes for newly appointed professors or for professors from universities abroad.

Moreover, Par. 1 of Article 26 allows for parallel employment of professors in Greek and foreign universities. Distinguished professors teaching at peer universities abroad recognized by NARIC (National Academic Recognition and Information Centre) may be candidates and elected for Greek university teaching posts for a five-year term which may be renewed.

Par. 3 of the same Article allows for Greek professors to be appointed to teaching posts in foreign Universities without having to resign from their current posts in Greek Universities. The employment period at a foreign university may not exceed six months per year.

What is more, Article 19 of Law 4009/2011 provides that professors from peer universities abroad may participate in the seven-member committees for the selection and development of the professors in Greek Universities.

Finally, in the new GSRT programmes under the NSRF, the action "Enhancing Postdoctoral Researchers" (with a view to promoting research, acquiring new research skills, and supporting young scientists in the early stages of their career) aims at attracting postdoctoral researchers from abroad who will conduct research in Greece for a certain period of time, delivering research and technological expertise from abroad.

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MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURES

"The main policy measure to ensure and facilitate access to communication technologies is the Universal Service, which is defined in accordance to the European Commission Directive on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services (2002/77/EC). It is a safety net for basic telecommunications services, notably connection at a fixed location to the public telephone

network and access to publicly available telephone services at a fixed location, functional internet access, directory services, public payphones and measures for disabled end-users.

Furthermore, as regards the access to the next generation networks (NGN), we kindly inform you that the Greek authorities' plan for a national fibre broadband project (announced in February 2008) found clear support by the new Government. As the project's parameters stand currently, the aim of the project is to provide access to broadband services with a speed of more than 100MBps speed to at least 2 million households and enterprises across Greece."