

Description of an example of successful national/local VET programmes for learners with SEN in Greece

1) Short abstract

The Special Vocational Education & Training Centre (E.E.E.E.K) is a special public school, part of lower secondary education (the first 3 years of secondary education and is still compulsory education), which operates under the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs & Life Long Education. The services target youngsters from 14 to maximum 22 years old with severe educational needs who are not able to attend any other type of special or mainstream public schooling at a secondary level so as to reach the ninth year of schooling (compulsory schooling). The students' education may last from 5 to 8 years, according to the needs of the individual. It was established in 2002. In 2011, 110 students with special educational needs were enrolled at the E.E.E.E.K. Each class consists of 5 to 8 pupils. Most of the educators are professional teachers who have had extra training in Special Education. In addition to the educational services, this type of schooling offers: a social services unit, an ergo-therapy unit and a social career unit. The Special Vocational Education & Training Centre is also running a pilot programme of a Career Counselling Unit. This unit offers services which focus on three areas: education and training, work experience and placement and networking.

2) Highlights / Uniqueness

Taking into account that no focused work had been done in public secondary schools for students with SEN. (neither in general or in special schooling), the work which takes place at E.E.E.E.K. has become a pilot for developing transition schemes from school to work as well as for preparing educational and supportive material for this type of schooling in relation to career counselling, guidance, training, transitions etc. The example offers the design and the implementation of individualised educational plans as well as opportunities within and beyond the curriculum for the development of key skills relating to self determination, social integration and independent living. The Special Vocational Education & Training Centre develops open school activities and interaction with the local community and

strengthens ties between all actors involved (learners, families, teachers, local community, other social and educational authorities).

3) Availability of evaluation data

In 2011, there were 110 students with SEN from 16 to 22 years old, enrolled at E.E.E.E.K. 106 of them constantly attended daily schooling from 8.00 to 13.15 for six teaching hours. The drop out rate was less than 6%. Every school year, the E.E.E.E.K normally enrolls about 20 to 25 newcomers.

The data in relation to the Career Counseling Unit are the following:

- 04 graduates in 2009 (the first year of graduation for EEEEEK): 1 graduate (female) works and one is participating in education;
- 13 graduates in 2010 (2 graduates work, 2 follow second chance school, 3 follow IEK, 9 follow long life education programmes);
- 32 graduates in 2011 (14 are involved in long life learning, 4 are prepared for continuing education, 4 are prepared for initial training).