

Public consultation
«The new Policy Framework for Greek language Education in the Diaspora»

The Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs is launching a public consultation on Greek language and culture education in the diaspora. Consultation feedback and comments will contribute towards a coherent and synthetic proposal, which will be considered in a legislative initiative in the next few months.

Our aim, in the light of new data, is to reconstruct Greek language and culture provision abroad. Also, our priority is to highlight the prominent role that the Greek diaspora has played in the modern era, for both Greek identity development and the ability of contemporary diaspora Greeks to act as global citizens.

We urge all stakeholders as well as political, social and educational organizations in the diaspora to play an active role in this dialogue and put forward their proposals. This will enable us to develop a mutually acceptable "charter" for the teaching of the Greek language and culture. We are open to new ideas and constructive comments that will have a rejuvenating effect on the issues of Greek language/ culture education.

THE ALTERNATE MINISTER

FOFI GENNIMATA

A synopsis of the consultation document

Main Consultation Areas

Responses should be made on four main areas of consultation which reflect broader issues associated to the Greek Diaspora, namely:

- i. the Relationship between the Greek state and Diaspora Greeks with respect to Greek language and culture development and the strengthening of the Greek identity.
- ii. The assessment of existing structures pertaining to Greek language education in relation to the appropriateness of pedagogical methods implemented, their effectiveness, financial viability and the potential socio-economic integration of new generations of people of Greek origin in globalising contexts.
- iii. The identification of important issues for the teaching of the Greek language and culture abroad, which need to be revised and/or supported together with proposals to improve systemic integration of the Greek language provision in local educational systems.
- iv. Suggestions for alternative educational policies and structures to support the presence of the Greek language and culture in a globalized world, with particular emphasis on the development of human resources in the Greek Diaspora.

Points of Discussion

- 1. The development of a reliable and accountable Greek language and culture language provision system** in order to diagnose educational needs as well as to coordinate and evaluate educational outputs in relation to available resources. In this context, the geo-spatial distinction of different regions such as, Europe, anglophone countries (USA, Canada, Australia), and Africa and other countries is bound to respond better to the diversified needs of these regions.
- 2. Administrative restructuring and redefinition of the roles and responsibilities of teachers and educational stakeholders** (e.g. Consuls for educational affairs, seconded teachers, parent associations, municipalities, government agencies) as well as the cooperation between them to better utilize human and financial resources.
- 3. Transparency and meritocracy in the selection process** of seconded teachers, the time of their secondment, as well as financial incentives.
- 4. The need for an improved framework of collaboration amongst local teachers of Greek descent and seconded teachers** to ensure better interaction and exchange of good practices in Greece and the in the Greek diaspora.
- 5. The promotion of Greek language education programs integrated** or indirectly associated with the mainstream educational system of the country of residence as well as the recognition and certification of these programs by local education systems.
- 6. The development of cultural centers** to strengthen the Greek culture (under the name "Logos") by utilizing existing structures (eg university departments, day schools, etc.) that will serve as versatile communities of lifelong learning.
- 7. The strengthening, development and implementation of preschool programs**, where the Greek language and culture will be taught through play, song and theatre (Greek Immersion Programs).
- 8. The support and strengthening of the Greek studies and research programs in tertiary education** in foreign countries and their interconnection to Greek Universities and the Open University. The establishment of transnational mobility programs for scientists, students, teachers and students (similar to Erasmus) as well as international research programs will contribute to a stronger collaboration within and amongst diaspora networks.
- 9. Social networking, the use of digitized educational materials and the creation of electronic learning communities.** In this context it is essential to extend lifelong learning and e-learning provision to Diaspora Hellenism and to better utilise new technologies.
- 10. Developing cross-cultural identities among Diaspora Greeks** through the creation of educational exchange programs as part of which children will be visiting Greece and children from Greece will be visiting foreign countries in which diaspora Greek communities exist.