

PhD Thesis: "Widening Access in the Greek University in the context of European Integration: The Case of the Departments of Primary Education" (in Greek)
(Vassilopoulos Andreas - Patras 2004)

Abstract

This study examines the issue of widening access in Greek Universities in the context of our country's participation in the European Union (EU). Access in the Greek University has been widened, within the last decade, in the sense that a whole new variety of people -different level students, researchers and/or other types of employees of various nationalities, age etc.- hold the opportunity to participate in research projects and/or attend study programmes offered by the Greek Universities due to an institutional framework developed, mainly, by the Greek government and funding originating from organisations, agents and/or actors located at all international, european, national and subnational levels. Within this context, this study, particularly, examines the developments that led to this phenomenon as well as the challenges set for the Departments of Primary Education (PTDE in Greek) in Greece. Research draws on the Grounded theory paradigm, using qualitative methodology - content analysis and semi-structured, open, interviews. Research findings indicate, firstly, that the issue of widening access in Greek Universities and, particularly, the PTDEs has been developed within the context of the EU's education policy satisfying specific goals at both the national and sub-national levels, as well. Secondly, it has set serious challenges on the PTDEs regarding, among other things, their operation, their current role and orientation, within the Greek Higher Education system, as well their future perspectives within the context of the European Higher Education Area, the European Research Area etc.