



SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL COHESION & DEVELOPMENT

## **SHORT PROFILE**

## **1. Aims and Scope**

The Scientific Society for Social Cohesion and Development (EPEKSA) is a politically independent centre of scientific research and social intervention operating as a non profit, civil society organization.

The objective of the Society is the promotion of the principles of social justice, solidarity and equality, as found in the documents and founding declarations of international organizations and national constitutions.

The activities of the Society aim at the analysis and promotion of social justice, in turn acknowledged as a basic component of the contemporary economic and social system. Social justice promotes social cohesion, guarantees economic efficiency and human dignity, while having a significant contribution in the well-being of people and the safeguarding of civilization.

Society and the individual are at the centre of the Society's analysis. The Society's field of research and analysis include; poverty and social inequality, public employment policies, social inclusion policies, social protection, health and long term care, family policy, gender, child policies, social and sustainable development, the environment, education and vocational training, migration, corporate social responsibility, youth, culture.

The Society's objectives are promoted through publications, the organization of scientific conferences and events, the conduct of research, participation in European and international development programs and cooperation with international organizations.

The Society publishes since 2006 the Biannual Scientific Review "**Social Cohesion and Development**".

## **2. Board**

**Board:** Theodoros Sakellariopoulos- President, Professor, Panteion University; Napoleon Maravegias, Professor, University of Athens; Andreas Moschonas, Professor, University of Crete; Charalampos Economou, Ass. Professor, Panteion University; Demetrios Chuliarakis, Novelist, Treasurer.

**Scientific Council:** Angelos Stergiou, Professor, Aristotle University, President; Christina Karakioulafi, Acc., University of Crete; Maria Karamessini, Professor, Panteion University; Thomas Koniavitis, Professor, Panteion University; Napoloen Maravegias, Professor, University of Athens; Andreas Moschonas, Professor, University of Crete; Nikos Ntasios, social scientist; Charalampos Economou, Ass. Professor, Panteion University; Vasilis Panagou, Professor, ATEI-Athens; Lydia Sapounaki-Drakaki,

Professor, Panteion University; Manolis Spyridakis, Ass. Professor University of Crete; Maria Stratigaki, Ass. Professor, Panteion University; Iordanis Psimmenos, Ass.Professor, Panteion University.

**BasicTeam:** Marina Angelaki, PhD political scientist; Daria Lazarescou, PhD sociologist; Antonis Alevizos, MSc, sociologist; Antonis Kostas, PhD, social scientist; Stefania Mastoraki, MSc, sociologist; Dimitris Domis, PhD, sociologist; Theodoros Fouskas, PhD, sociologist; Evangelos Chainas, sociologist, Stavros Gkatsopoulos, economist; Katerina Pentavini, economist; Lemonia Raftis administrator; Maria Koutsandrea, economist; Kostas Georgiopoulos, Financial manager & In-House consultant.

### **3. Scientific Review “Social Cohesion and Development”**

Since 2006, the publication of the Biannual Scientific Review “Social Cohesion and Development” constitutes one of the founding aims of the Society. The “Social Cohesion and Development” Scientific Review is currently the only scientific journal published in Greece focusing on public and social policies. It has a circulation of 500 copies and among its subscribers are members of the academic community, politicians, the business sector, the social partners, local governments and Greek NGOS, academic institutions from Western Europe, SE Europe and the Mediterranean region. The Review has an international scientific advisory Board, composed of prominent European social scientists.

## **4. WORKING GROUPS**

### **Youth for Social Cohesion**

The Youth for Social Cohesion Working Group’s mission is to broaden the awareness and understanding on youth issues. Participants include young researchers, EPEKSA partners, volunteers and active citizens. It implements Action Plans aiming at the enhancement of the employment opportunities of young people and their inclusion in the labor market.

Working Group Members : Antonis Kostas, Theodoros Fouskas

### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

The Working Group's mission is to raise the awareness of enterprises, public administration, citizens and society on the social role of enterprises in safeguarding social cohesion. To this end, the Working Group implements – among others- initiatives on employment, social inclusion, environmental protection, social and ecologically friendly investments, consumption, the use of social stereotypes.

Working Group Members : Stavros Gkatsopoulos, Kostas Georgiopoulos

### **Health**

The Working Group's mission is to research the problems that influence public and private Health, raise the awareness of public administration, citizens, enterprises and society on the issues of Health quality in the course of economic development and social cohesion. The Working Group's initiatives focus –among others- on quality of services and equal rights on health among people with emphasis on immigrants and uninsured persons. In particular, the Working Group prepare and promote policy proposals for improving Health policies and measures.

Working Group Members: Daria Lazareskou, Charalampos Economou, Antonios Kostas

### **Employment**

The Working Group's mission is to research the problems that influence public and private Employment, raise awareness on matters of Unemployment and stress the significant contribution of employment in economic development, social cohesion and people's standard of living. The Working Group's initiatives focus –among others- on the working and social rights, the quality of jobs, equal rights -with emphasis on women and immigrants- and on combating Undeclared work. In particular, the Working Group prepare and promote policy recommendations for improving public employment policies and measures, as well as the protection of the workers' rights.

Working Group Members: Antonios Kostas, Evaggelos Chainas, Nicos Ntasios, Dimitris Domis

## **Migration**

The Working Group's mission is to raise the awareness of public administration, citizens, enterprises and society on the role of immigrants in economic development and social cohesion. The Working Group's initiatives focus –among others- on employment, social and cultural inclusion and health. In particular, the Working Group implements Action Plans aiming at the enhancement of employment opportunities and the social inclusion of immigrants.

Working Group Members: Dr. Theodoros Fouskas, Marina Angelaki, Daria Lazareskou

## **Social Security**

The Working Group's mission is to research key aspects of social security issues that both Greek and European societies face. Specific topics of this research include ageing, demographic developments, social security schemes, private schemes, basic pension and Minimum Income Guaranteed, Coordination of European security systems, etc. Special attention is being given to the establishment of interconnections between employment, economic development, fiscal policy and children-related issues.

Working Group Members: Dr. Marina Angelaki, Dorina Tsotsorou, Nicos Sklikas

## **Social Economy**

The Working Group's mission is to study and analyze the sphere of social economy and civil society, to provide guidance for establishing, operating and developing social enterprises, to promote the role of such organizations within the society and to develop relations among different stakeholders involved in the activities of social economy.

Working Group Members: Kostas Georgiopoulos, Antonios Kostas, Kostas Geormas, Nicos Ntasios

## **Social Exclusion**

The Working Group's mission is the study of social exclusion. In particular, it aims at raising the awareness of the state, public administration, citizens, enterprises and society on social exclusion and its impact on economic

development and social cohesion. The Working Group undertakes initiatives aimed at combating social exclusion.

Working Group Members : Nikos Ntasios, Charalampos Economou

### **Gender-Family-Child**

The Working Group's aim is to study gender-family and child-related issues and raise the awareness of public opinion, public administration on the need to implement gender-family and child-oriented policies. The Working Group implements Action Plans and Programs that provide support to one-parent households and enhance female employment.

Working Group Members : Stephania Mastoraki, Marina Angelaki, Katerina Pentavini

### **Culture**

The Working Group's mission is the study of problems related to culture and multi-culturalism in modern societies and the implementation of actions aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage, promoting multiculturalism and strengthening social cohesion.

Working Group Members : Lydia Dracaki, Nikolas Karachalis

## **5.Partners in Projects**

European Commission

Pour la Solidarité, Belgium,

CONFESAL, Spain,

DIESIS, Belgium.

SISIFO, Italy

European University of Cyprus,

Panteion University, Greece

European Institute-EI, Bulgaria

Fundación Pública Andaluza Fondo de Formación y Empleo, Spain

EAPN, Ireland

MKW, Germany  
Greek Ministry of Interior  
Greek Ministry of Employment and Social security  
Municipality of Athens  
Municipality of Glyfada  
Municipality of Metamorfosi  
Municipality of Pfki-Lykovrysi  
Municipality of Erakleion Attikis  
Municipality of Kallithea Attikis  
NGO, Hamogelo tou Paidiou, Greece  
NGO, Praksis, Greece  
NGO, Arsis, Greece  
KEK Diastasi  
KEK Akmon  
KEK Dimitra

## **6. European Projects**

### **Posted Workers**

Programme: European Programme PROGRESS 2007- 13, «Pilot Projects- Working and Living Conditions on Posted Workers», VP/ 2010/ 011

Contracting Agency: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Funding 80%

Coordinator: EP.E.K.S.A.

Partners: European Institute- EI (Bulgaria)

Implementation period: November 2010- October 2011

The Programme aimed at contributing to the exchange of experiences and best practices on posted workers, i.e., workers who are posted to work for the same business in another country, and the protection of their rights. Two studies have been completed regarding the posting of workers and the policies of EU member- states for posted workers, with an emphasis on Greece (case study of

Hellenic Petroleum Thessaloniki) and Bulgaria. Furthermore, an international conference was organized on the same subject where Greek and international speakers analyzed the problem and proposed solutions. The key findings of the studies and the conference have been included in the edited volume published in the framework of the project.

### **Technical support for preventing drop-out at educational and training systems**

Programme: European Programme PROGRESS 2007- 13, “Projects contributing to exchange of good, practices”, ref: vp/ 2010/ 005, “Support Guide to prevent school drop-outs at training and education systems”

Contracting Agency: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Funding 80%

Coordinator: Fundación Pública Andaluza Fondo de Formación y Empleo, FAFPE, Spain

Partners: EP.E.K.S.A. (Greece), Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy), National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (Bulgaria), National Council of Small and Medium Sized Private Enterprises in Romania (Romania)

Implementation period: 2011- 2012

The programme aims at addressing precarious employment and encouraging regular employment through the creation of a tool that classifies all information and resources available for preventing drop-out at educational and training systems. The programme will be implemented from an international network of organisations, from five EU member- states that will focus on highlighting and exchanging good practices and diffusing their results. The latter will be included in a report to the European Union and the governments of member- states.

### **Combating Undeclared Work**

Programme: European Programme PROGRESS 2007- 13, “Follow- up and dissemination activities to the Mutual Learning Programme of the European Employment Strategy”, VP/ 2009/ 011



Contracting Agency: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Funding 80%

Coordinator: EP.E.K.S.A.

Partners: N.G.O. PRAKSIS (Greece), the European think tanks Pour La Solidarité and DIESHIS, VH- Hannover (Germany), CONFESAL (Spain), N.G.O. SISSIFO (Italy), the European University of Cyprus

Implementation period: April 2010- March 2011

“Combatting undeclared work” focused on the exchange of experiences and good practices among member- states and the preparation of a set of proposals for the Greek and Cypriot authorities concerning immigrant undeclared workers. The programme foresaw the organization of an international workshop, a study regarding the combat against illegal work in Europe, the publication of an informational guide and the elaboration of a set of recommendations addressed to the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare and the European Commission. More than twenty five representatives of labour unions, the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE), university professors, executives from several ministries and municipalities as well as journalists and activists from Greece and abroad had an active contribution to the project’s workshop.

### **European Strategy on Social Inclusion**

Programme: European Programme PROGRESS 2007- 13, “Promotion of Debates on Social Inclusion in Support of the Reinforcement of the OMC on Social Promotion & Social Inclusion”, VP/ 2008/ 015

Contracting Agency: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Funding 80%

Coordinator: EP.E.K.S.A.

Partners: N.G.O. PRAKSIS (Greece), European Women Network, Greek Forum of Migrants, Life Line Hellas, Hellenic Antipoverty Network (EAPN-Hellas), General Secretariat for Youth- Institute for Youth (Greece), N.G.O. Disability Now (Greece)

Implementation period: 2009- 2010

“Working Together for an Inclusive Society”, aimed at strengthening the participation of NGOs to the Open Method of Coordination (OMC), as part of the European strategy for the social inclusion of vulnerable groups. The project foresaw the organization of five international meetings, a study on the

subject of the role of Greek NGOs in shaping social inclusion policies, the dissemination of a Guide informing (Greek) NGOs on the OMC and their contribution in it and the elaboration of a set of recommendations addressed to the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare and the European Commission for the improvement of NGOs' participation in the design and implementation of social inclusion policies. More than 250 members from NGOs, researches, public officials, activists and unions' representatives both from Greece and abroad contributed to the meetings with their experiences and knowledge.