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In-On

Special Term Crete Business Issue

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**Exhibitions on
Cretan products
in Australia**



Antonis Tsourdalakis

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International week of action

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Casino in Crete



“Crete is in the centre of the interest of American funds for the creation of a casino and a hotel complex in the Prefecture of Herakleion-Crete”, underlined in an interview that gave to “In-On” magazine the President of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Giannos Grammatidis. Crete –he clarified– is a special place which is not exploited to its best, concerning industry, handicraft and tourism. More specifically, regarding the field of tourism, he mentioned that «more units should be created so as to have multi-tourism. That means that apart from the units that receive tourists during summer months, we should have others that operate all year round”.

Crete –he continued– can create its own “Brand name” in many business fields and trace a dynamic business route. For this to be done, we should have the consent of all local communities through a development program that all prefects have agreed upon. However, apart from Crete –he stressed– Macedonia has also caught the attention of American businesspeople, who in order to proceed to investments, wish a simplification in the official authorization of loan raised procedures. For this reason, the issue of the Zone of Innovation should proceed. More analytically, it is referred to the simplification of investment procedures that have to be decided by the Greek government so as action commences and piloting from the region of North Greece starts.

According to the record files of the president, in order to promote the projects of the foreign investors, the structural rigidity of the Greek government regarding Greek economy and state administration should stop under Greek government’s legislative regulations, offering, therefore, a structural land-plan. More specifically, the main forms of rigidity refer bureaucracy and the chaotic procedures of official authorization concerning loan raised procedures of an investment.

He continued that it needs national and political agreement as well as to project Greece as a reliable partner for investment in the Balkan Region.

Also, Mr. Grammatidis referred to the huge growth of the Greek enterprises in North America and Canada such as the Titan, η Creta Farm, Corres, Mailis group etc. Referring to the international economic crisis, Mr. President

underlined that « Greece is already in the beginning of the biggest international crisis of post-war era. Pressure will be more intense during 2009, when it will reach its peak remaining according to more optimistic predictions until the first semester of 2010. The crisis –he referred - is due to worsen because of two serious factors:

-The Greek banks are exposed to the dangers that the economies of the countries in South-East Europe face, due to the international crisis since they have a great deal of subsidiary banks and branches there.

- The structural rigidity of the Greek economy Reforms should continue at a sustained rate –he said – so as to remove the structural rigidity and weaknesses of the political machinery and Greek economy. In this framework, it becomes necessary to design and implement a at least ten-year reorganization and reconstruction program of the Greek economy focusing on the modernization of the taxation system so as Greece is upgraded to an attractive investing destination.

CURRICULUM VITAE

He is the Coordinator Attorney of the Law Offices Bahas, Grammatidis & Partners – Visitor Professor of the Centre of International Legal Studies, Salzburg.

Born: Larissa 12th May 1952, Member of the Bar of Athens, 1977 and Attorney-at-law at the Supreme Court of Appeal. He has 2 children, George and Maria-Christina. Studies: Qualified attorney of the Law Department of the Law School in the University of Athens, Academy of International Justice in Hague, International Institute of Human Rights, Staatsburg. Directors: Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, (Member of the Board of Directors Executive Committee and President of the Committee of State Affairs), Hellenic-British Chamber of Commerce, Hellenic-Albanian Chamber of Commerce, Business Greek Association Hong-Kong, Southwestern Legal Foundation, Dallas, U.S.A., Anglo-Hellenic Legal Union, Λογδίο (President, 1988), Institute of European Law in the University of Birmingham, Association of Franchise of Greece (Legal adviser 1994-2007), The Propeller Club of New York Piraeus Branch (Member of the Board of Directors 1998-2007). Correspondent: Magazine of Fair Distribution and Franchising United Kingdom. Languages: Greek, English, French.

New investments in the Association of Herakleion




In two years' time the building constructions of the new cheese-dairy of the Association of Herakleion, Crete will have been completed, the vice-president Mr. Michalis Heretis underlined. According to his words, the Union already owns a highly-equipped wine-factory in the municipality of Paliani in the Prefecture of Herakleion, special building constructions for the standardization of olive oil and separate modern constructions for the standardization and export organization of table raisins. The Union produces 6.000-8000 tons of wine annually and 6.000tons of olive oil, while it standardizes 2.000 tons of table grapes. Also, it transports 40% of the wine produce and the 50% of the olive oil of its region of responsibility. More specifically, the aims of the Association are to co-ordinate and reinforce the work of partner Agricultural cooperatives so as to serve the business and financial interests of the farmers. The role of these cooperatives, among others, is to supplement the agricultural production of their members and then the Union takes over process, standardization and the promotion of agricultural products in the market (wine, olive oil, grapes, vinegar κρᾶσι,) as well as fodder production. Moreover, certain activities are promoted that deal with trading agricultural equipment, administrative support of the agricultural cooperatives and their members, counseling services for the farmers, insurance services to the farmers, insurance services and exploitation supermarket.

In the wine-factory 16 kinds of wine ripe such as : VINISSIMO (red sweet wine, variety DIATIKO), VILANA (white dry wine, variety Vilana), SYRAH (deep red color- French variety Syrah), Kressa- Ge – Vilana (white red wine – variety), Kressa- Ge - SYRAH KOTSIFALI (red dry wine – variety Syrah – Kotsifali), Kressa- Ge - (rose dry wine – variety Kotsifali Mandilari) etc. 169 Primary cooperatives of the Prefecture of Herakleion belong to the Union and the share-capital of the company is 3.856.000Euros, consisting of 241 shares that are valued 16.000 Euros each.

It has to be noted that, according to members of the Union during 2008 there were important awards such as: in Paris in April 2008 the company was distinguished for the whole of its work with the International Star for Leadership in Quality, in Zurich in April 2008 for the biological olive oil with the International Olive Award and in Brussels in May 2008 γfor the special technical characteristics of olive oil KNOSSOS with the Superior Taste Award.

The Union was established in 1927 and its first activities were about the collection of products (raisins, olive oil) as well as services supply. Since 1970a more dynamic growth begins and the dealing with new trading activities (olive oil) until the 80s when it proceeds to new industrial investments (pesticides, agricultural machinery etc).



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«A new museum policy that offers scientific support particularly in the design and creation of specialized museums mainly in the region, supports the Centre of Research of Greek Folklore of the Athens Academy within the framework of modernizing its functions and the re-definition of its role as a National Centre of Substantiation of Folklore Culture. For this reason, the attempt of significant Folklore and Cultural Associations is chosen to be supported. These Associations have the necessary structure for the operation of the Museum of Agricultural Equipment and Traditional Technology in Velestino, the Olives Museum in Kapsaliana, Arkadi, Crete and the Bread Museum in Amfikleia, Phiotida», stressed to an interview to «In-On » magazine, the Directress of the Centre of Research on Greek Folklore, Mrs. A. Kamilaki. Concerning the Bread Museum - she pointed out- which has already completed a year of operation, the specialized researchers and scientific collaborations of the Centre, taking into account the already rich collection of the local Cultural Association «Dadiotiki Estia» and in close cooperation with it, they created a museum within the bounds of « regional ethnography» with systematic research that gets information and documented material from oral tradition and bibliography. The clear practical-narrative character of the exhibition constitutes a point of research, study, learning and recreation as well as social sensitivity and questioning. Regarding the Olives Museum in Kapsaliana, Rethymnon, Crete, she referred that « during summer time the Greek Olives Museum in Kapsaliana, Rethymnon, in Crete will operate. The Museum is hosted in the newly-constructed building of the wine-mill in the monastery of Arkadi, 1763 by the Reverend Father Filaretos. It is located in the centre of a block of buildings, characterized as of ‘ highly-cultural value’ and its historical olive grove. The Centre of Folklore Attends the Museum scientifically. The building construction that is an exhibit itself consists of the cell of the monk-keeper, the place of production of the 1763 that was still in operation until the beginning of the 20th century, along with the storing place in the fort. The Museum is dedicated to the memory of the district and to the cultural heritage of the olive and olive oil ».

It has to be noted –she underlined – that the founder of Greek Folklore, almost a century ago, was Nikolaos Politis. The «Material Politis» constitutes the first collection of manuscripts of the Centre, which was gathered under his own supervision.

First Ladies

The Olives Museum in Kapsaliana, Rethymnon will operate in summer

Since then, the treasure of the manuscripts has been collected, being constantly enriched by the regular or occasional missions of the Centre researchers for local research, annual competitions for selecting material and offers from friends of folklore.

Curriculum Vitae

Mrs. A. Polimerou-Kamilaki is a qualified scientist and Doctor of Philology (esp. Folklore) on the topic της: « Neo-Hellenic Metrology. Traditional Weights and Measures, from 19th to 20th century».

Having been awarded a scholarship by the Gottfried von Herder Foundation of Hamburg and after being proposed by Dim. Sp. Loukatos, the Professor of Folklore and President the Greek Folklore Association, she realized postgraduate studies in Vienna. She is married to the researcher Pan. Kamilakis and she is the mother of two children..

Since 1974 she has been an editor (since 1992 a researcher) and since 1994 until today, an elected Directress of the Centre of Research of the Greek Folklore.

While being the Directress of the Centre, she tried to radically enhance the conditions of scientific work not only on the part of the researchers of the Centre but on the visitor researchers, as well, ensuring, among the first, the necessary updated equipment. Regarding the protection and preservation of the already valuable material of the Centre, manuscripts-files musical and museum relevant, she attempted and managed to create the necessary substructure, through the use of modern technical means. As for the realization of the program of reorganization and scientific exploitation of folklore treasure of the Centre, she made a proposition on the topic: «Development and Updating of the Library-Archives of the Centre of Research of Greek Folklore of the Athens Academy » This proposition is in the Β' ΚΠΣ (ΕΠΕΑΕΚ). The approval of the program in focus in 1996, has allowed the Centre, along with moving building, to hope to proceed successfully in the field of research, study, projection and exploitation of the material of our culture. Under a new proposition in 2004, the Folklore Centre succeeded in being incorporated in the Program of the Society of Information on the topic: «Development of the National Centre of Substantiation of our Culture». This program has helped to digitize the entirety of the recorded and published material of the Centre of Folklore.



Cretan Products are placed “In the heart” of the Australians

The new management of the Pan-Cretan Union of Melbourne-Australia takes over the promotion of the Cretan products in Australia. The Union takes the initiative to bring together and proceed to fraternization with the Chambers of Commerce of Crete and the two big Australian-Greek Chambers of Commerce in Australia so as businesspeople who work in Crete and the Greek businesspeople, whose companies are located in Australia, promote Cretan Diet widely in the Australian society and in Asian countries.

The above was underlined by the new president of the Pan-Cretan Union of Melbourne, Mr. Antonis Tsourdalakis, in an interview to “In-On” magazine.

These kinds of initiatives -he continued- will widen the scope of import and export transactions between Australia and Greece due to the increase of exportation of the Cretan products. Until now, this occurs in a limited scope and the aim of the new Board of Directors is to hold a “CRETAN BUSINESS FORUM”, only for the Cretans. He also stressed that they have already asked the regional counselor of Crete and the four prefects to organize exhibitions in Australia, apart from Europe and America for a better promotion of the Cretan products.

At the same time, the main aim of the new Board of Directors for the next four years -as Mr. Tsourdalakis mentions- is for hundred of Cretans in Victoria to embrace the Pan-Cretan Union of Melbourne and until the end 2009, to have more than 2000 active members, participating over 1000 men and women of Cretan origins.

Question: what are the new plans of the new Board of Directors for the Greek people who live in Australia?

Answer: My initial idea was to have a Board of Directors which would constitute of young people of Cretan immigrants that were born in Australia. Eventually, this idea was realized when the new Board of Directors was elected, since 17 counselors out of the 21 belong to this category.

Additionally, the new Board of Directors aims at projecting Cretan civilization and also proceeds to the continuation of the already established ceremonies such as: Holy Water rituals, New Years Cake, the battle of Crete, the Holocaust of Arkadi etc. For the first time this year in Australia, we will project Cretan Cuisine for a whole week all over Melbourne and in November the first Cretan Musical-Dance Concert for the Aborigines.

Furthermore, during 2009 the visits of children (8-17years of age) from Greeks who live in Australia to Crete will continue. The children will be hosted by members of the Prefectures of Crete, while in 2010 the first tour of the Dance Group of the Pan-Cretan Union will be realized.

During 2009 the formal presentation of the book entitled “The Cretans of Oceania since 19th century”, will be realized. The publisher is the Pan-Cretan Union of Melbourne and the author is Mr. Socrates Tsourdalakis (My father). The presentation of the book will be held in Crete in May 2009.

During 2009 in Australia, some dancing groups from Crete will be hosted, the first being the Vrakofori group of Crete.

Finally, we will found the Cretan Music and Dance School so as our children learn Cretan musical instruments and dances.

Question: what is the role of women Department and the Youth Department in the contacts with the relevant organizations of the immigrants around the world?

Answer: The role of the women Department is auxiliary towards the Board of Directors, even though we do not exclude women to be members in the Board of Directors. The members of the women Department want to assist the acts of the Union in every possible way. The Youth Department has to play a greater role in the Association since our young people are being prepared to participate in the Future Board of Directors. This offer, on behalf of young people, is important because being a President at this Department for three years; I have gained significant experience, which undoubtedly helps till today in my new post.

Curriculum Vitae

Mr. Antonis Tsourdalakis, is the son of Socrates and Anna Tsourdalakis, born in Melbourne in July 1970.

He was born in a traditional Cretan family, getting from his parents the necessary stimuli to love Tradition and Crete.

Since his childhood, and under parental guidance, he took his first lessons at Cretan Dances. He continued dance lessons with the dance teacher Mrs. Eleni Kafkalaki and later with Maria Kourmadia. From his early years, he was wearing the traditional costumes of Crete dancing in numerous dancing groups in our community.

Later as a teenager, he participates in the dance groups of “St. Vassilos”, Brunswick Schools, the Rethymnian Association “ARKADI” and the Cretan Association of Melbourne.

His activities as a dance teacher

1988 - 1990 He was a dance teacher in the Chanian Association of Melbourne & Victoria.

1990 - 1995 He was a dance teacher at the Cretan Association of Melbourne & Victoria Association & Βικτώριας.

1995 - 2005 He established the Cretan Folklore Association of Australia, in which he was the Director and dance teacher until 2005.

2000 - 2002 He was a dance teacher at the Rethymnian Association of Melbourne, “ARKADI”

His activities in the Greek community

1989 - He established the Greek Students Association in the University of Victoria, where he was the president until 1991, while participating in the National Union of Hellenic-Australian Students.

1990 - He established the Federation of the Hellenic Youth of Australia with 34 organizations of young people, where he was a President until 1993.

1995 - He becomes a member of the Australian Greek Council and the Co-ordination Committee of the Cypriot Fight (Lobby for National Issues)

1996 - He becomes a member of the Parade Committee for our National Day, in which he was also an Assistant Secretary

His actions for the Cretan Family

1991 - He is the President of the Youth in the Cretan Association of Melbourne and Victoria

1994 - He is elected as Secretary General in the Cretan Association of Melbourne and Victoria

1998 - He participates for the first time in the presiding Board of Directors of the Cretan Association of Australia & New Zealand at the post of the person in charge of Public Relations.

1999 - He chairs in the establishment of Cretan Youth Association of Australia & New Zealand in a Pan-Australian scale.

2000 - He takes over the full organization of the Historical Association of the Rethymnians of Melbourne «ARKADI», from the post of the President

2003 - He participates for the second time in the presiding Board of Directors of the Cretan Association of Australia & New Zealand at the post of vice-president.

2009 - He takes over the Presidency of the biggest Cretan Association in Oceania, the Pan-Cretan Association of Melbourne- Australia.

The Board of Directors of the Pan-Cretan Association in Melbourne

PRESIDENT: TSOURDALAKIS ANTONIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 38

VICE-PRESIDENT: PAPANIMITRAKIS DIMITRIS – Born in Asratego, Chania, he came to Australia during the 60s.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT: DEDES MANOLIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 40.

SECRETARY: VANTARAKIS MANOLIS – Born in Karoti, Rethymnon, he came to Australia during the 90s.

2nd SECRETARY: HARITAKIS MIHALIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 32.

CASHIER: LEONTAKIS GEORGOS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 41.

2nd CASHIER: DALAKIS MICHALIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 45.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: NIKOLAKAKIS IOANNIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 42.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: KOUKOUVITAKIS NIKOS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 37.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: STARAKIS MANOLIS ΣΤΑΠΑΚΗΣ – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 38

MEMBERS:

KARAMITOS MICHALIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 40.

KONTOUDAKIS GEORGIOS – Born in Therisso, Kydonia, Chania, he came to Australia during the 50s.

KONTEKAKIS IOANNIS – Born in Kamaria, Selinou, Chania, he came to Australia during the 60s.

LYGIDAKIS IOANNIS – Born in Akrotiri, Chania, he came to Australia during the 60s.

MARAKIS GIORGOS – Born in Myriokefala, Rethymnon, he came to Australia during the 80s.

BADOGIANNIS EVAGGELOS – Born in Chania, Crete he came to Australia during the 60s

MICHELAKIS NIKOS – Born in Sembrona, Chania he came to Australia during the 50s.

MICHELAKIS PANTELIS – Born in Sembrona, Chania he came to Australia during the 50s.

PATERAKIS DIMITRIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 42.

RALLAKIS NIKOS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 40.

RERAKIS IOANNIS – A young man of Cretan origins, born in Australia, aged 43.

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Concise information on taxation issues for businesspeople who wish to repatriate

The present article aims at concisely present in a schematic form, the main taxation categories in Greece that every candidate businessperson should be aware of, if they wish to set up a business in Greece.

Private and General Companies
 Taxation System

- Citizens of Greece (private companies and corporations) are taxed for general income. Non citizens of Greece are taxed only for the income produced in Greece.
- Contracts of double tax evasion are applied between contracting countries.
- The profits of Ltd and S.A. are taxed in the name of the companies. Only in the distributed profits of S.A. there is an extra tax deduction of 10%.
- Companies can apply a self-control system

Types of Taxation

1. Income Taxes: α) Companies taxation, b) tax on private companies.
2. Transactions Taxation: α) Value added tax (VAT), b) stamp duties. c) Contribution to OFA, d) municipal taxes, e) special consumption tax. f) Vehicles taxes, g) taxation on donations and family benefits, h) tax of funds gathering etc..
3. Property Taxation: α) Value added tax on newly-built constructions, b) tax of property transfer, c) taxation on unearned increment, d) transactions taxation, e) flat fee on property, f) Municipal property taxes, g) supplementary taxation on property 1, 5-3%.

INCOME TAXATION OF CORPORATIONS. (S.A, Ltd, FOREIGN BUSINESSES, ETC) – TAX CALCULATION

(ARTICLE 109, L. 2238/1994)

Taxation is calculated on the total taxable income of all companies in charge, with a tax –factor of twenty-nine; per cent (25%). Taxation is calculated with the same factor (25%) and on net profit which results from the permanent installation of foreign businesses in Greece that operate under any type.

Moreover, net profit that is distributed by native societe anonyme companies to their shareholders in the form of dividends or interim dividends, to the members of the Board of Directors or the General managers in the form of extra payment and proportion and to their employees in the form of rewards, is subjected to tax deduction of 10% during the payment to the beneficiaries or during their credit ability. Thus, the dividends that are collected by the shareholders (investors), who are non-Greek citizens, are taxed in Greece unless this is regulated differently from the contracts of double tax evasion.

Especially in the case of foreign corporations that gain profits from Greek sources (fees, interests, fees for research, fees for hiring pieces of machinery and other movable staff, etc.), there is tax retaining with tax factor 20%, with the exhaustion of tax obligation on behalf of the foreign beneficiary accepting with reservations the already applied bilateral agreements on double tax evasion.

It has to be noted that especially for the fees and interests paid to other countries-members of the European Union, the relative European regulations are applied, unless the contract of double tax evasion provides a more favorable dealing and in that case the original contract is applied.

PENSION TAXATION

Type of company	Income tax rate %	Liability	Category of books	Current cost	Minimum capital
Self-employed (private companies)	0-10,500	10%	B*	Low	Not required
	10,501-12,000	15%			
	12,001-30,000	25%			
	30,001-75,000	35%			
	75,001-	40%			
corporations					
Private company	20	Unlimited	B*	Medium	any
Limited partnership	20	Partially unlimited	B*	Medium	any
Limited liability company (Ltd)	25	Limited	C**	High	4,500€
Societe anonyme (S.A)	25+(10% in distributed dividends)	Limited	C**	Very high	60,000€

B* = (Books of income and expenditure),

C** = (Double-entry keeping of accounting books. These are: 1.Balance 2 General and collective diary. 3. Analytical journal 4.General and Analytical day book. 5 Stock-book. 6. Book of Production 7 Book of technical specifications. 8 Book of a quantitative collection of goods. 9. Book of stock-taking 10 Book of standing expenses or charges. 11. Book of establishment 12Minute-book of the Board of Directors meetings and general meetings. Special regulations of the Book Code and issues specify the manner and time of updating the above books.

It is necessary to resort for each case to the relevant article of every Contract or Agreement concerning double tax evasion and examine carefully the terms.

Additionally, it is a prerequisite in order to categorize the issue of pension for taxation reasons, according to the relevant provisions of the Contract, is the collecting of evidence related to i) the department that pays the money to the pensioners, ii) the public and private sector that the pensioner has worked for and iii)the type of pension.

A. In case a Greek citizen receives the money of the pension from sources of a contracting country and the provisions of the relative contract, the money in focus is taxable

i) In both contracting countries, that is the country of residence (Greece) and the country that the financial source of the pension comes from. Double taxation that probably results from that will be avoided according to the relevant provisions of the Contract applied to the relevant provisions of the Greek taxation system. Thus, the tax retained from the Source country (certified by official quarters) is compensatory partially from the country of residence of the beneficiary (Greece), up to the amount of taxation which is proportional to the same income in Greece

ii) only in the country of residence (Greece), then if the provisions of the relative contract are to be directly applied and there is no tax retaining on behalf of the other contracting party (the financial source country), the beneficiary should submit the Certificate of taxation on residence to the taxation authorities of the other country, which is issued upon request from our department (See. ΠΟΑ 1130/01.06.1999). If the source country that the pension money comes from has deducted taxes by stretching the regulations of Σ.Α.Δ.Φ., the tax in focus is not compensatory to Greek taxation. The beneficiary of the pension money should ask for refund from the foreign financial quarters where the above certificate should be submitted.

iii) Only in the source country (where the pension money comes from), then the country of residence (Greece), will not impose taxes.

B. In case that a citizen of a contracting country receives pension money from Greek sources and according to the regulations of the relevant contracts and agreements, the right is acknowledged for the pension money in focus to be taxed.:

i) Only in Greece or in Greece as well, then the declaration of income should be submitted to the relevant revenue office which is responsible for foreigner citizens, where the income in focus is included.

ii) only in the residence country, then in order not to retain income tax from the pension given by the Greek state, the beneficiary should submit an 'Application concerning the contracts of double tax evasion' at the beginning of every year to the according revenue office, fully completed and signed. In this very application form, the Certificate of taxation on residence is included, which should be completed, signed and sealed by the revenue office that the beneficiary belongs to. The Certificate in focus is valid only for the year the income was acquired. In case the application form is not submitted, all the regulations of our local legislation should be applied (Κ.Φ.Ε. v.2238/94). In case of tax retaining to the beneficiary of the income, an Annual Claim to Refund of Income Tax form should be submitted fully completed and signed. In this very application form, the Certificate of taxation on residence is included, which should complete, signed and sealed by the revenue office that the beneficiary belongs to.

Application Forms for the "Application concerning the contracts of double tax evasion" and forms for the Annual Claim to Refund of Income Tax", can be requested either from our department or the revenue offices.



Forest Protection – Reforestation as a solution to repair natural environment

During the last 80 years the amount of forests has decreased globally to 80%, a fact that results not only in the increase of the rate of animals in danger of extinction that live in them but also in the worsening of the phenomenon of global warming, since forests constitute a ruling factor to the Earth's climate. Undoubtedly, forests convert huge amounts of carbon dioxide into oxygen. For this reason, scientists warn that if this forest reduction continues, we will face climatic changes more intensively

In the cities there are trees in the parks, on the pavements on the balconies or on the roofs of the houses regulating, therefore, oxygen and temperature. Thus, according to Table 1 in big cities there are certain m² of green per citizen.

Table 1

Cities	m ² green per citizen
Athens	2.25
Thessaloniki	2.50
Paris	8.35
Rome	9.00
London	9.00
Vienna	15.00
Sofia	15.00

As it can be derived from the Table, while in Athens and Thessaloniki 2.25 and 2.50 m² of green correspond per citizen, in other cities this correspondence is three times to five times bigger, a fact that proves that Greece falls behind in this section and we have to find ways to improve greenery in our cities. Research has shown that the presence of plants around us, help man's physical health and peace of mind.

Unfortunately in Greece every year we witness tragic scenes, when thousands of acres of forests are burnt down. According to the records of WWF, in Greece those forest fires occur mainly during summer months and increase almost every year. If this continues at this rate, it is estimated that in almost 50 years' time, the notion of forest in Greece will exist only in pictures. It has to be noted that in the Mediterranean countries when fire is caused naturally – for instance by a thunder – this constitutes a factor of rebirth, since forests are adjusted to these conditions. However, taking into account that most fires are not

a natural phenomenon but are caused by negligence or crime act, reforestation of the burnt areas is the only solution to restore natural environment.

Special attention should be given to reforestation. For example, if a burnt forest has the power of natural rebirth it should not be involved in the process of reforestation because in this way the natural development of the plantation is prohibited. This often happens in the Mediterranean vegetation, because special mechanisms have been developed that ensure the preservation of their reproductive organs. Pine trees belong to this category because they have seeds in hard shells that do not get burnt, kept in the pine cones. In these cases we have natural reforestation, where within two years' time from the fire, plants rebirth and the eco-system rehabilitates.

In case a forest is severely damaged by often fires and there is an intense downgrading of the eco-system due to soil erosion, the ability of natural rebirth weakens and artificial reforestation becomes a necessity. There are, however, three points to consider: 1. the right time for reforestation that it is usually from October to March that is the rainy season 2. The right selection of trees that are appropriate to the special conditions of each region, for example in a hot and dry environment planting acacias are recommended and 3. in the way trees are planted, since in some cases weeding out, digging and pruning young plants are required.

At the European Union level several measures to protect the forest are examined. Indicatively, we refer the targets set in the announcement of the Committee «Restricting the climatic changes of our planet Limitation on the – Towards 2020 and beyond »where the importance of forest protection and measures for reforestation are stressed. The aim to accomplish is the restrain of global forest loss of not later than 2030 and the limitation of deforestation of the tropical forests at least 50% till 2020, compared to today.

It is about time, then, to materialize our commitments and soon proceed to certain actions. We should all realize that forests are part of our national heritage and their protection is the responsibility of the mankind. Reforestation and forest protection should become parts of our lives, action, a topic of lectures at schools and Universities so as not only to save our country and the future of ourselves and our children, but also to offer to the history of the mankind



Michalis Damanakis

Personalities of Crete

RESEARCHER OF CROSS-CURRICULAR EDUCATION

Supporting the “ambassadors of Greek civilization” who are the Greeks living abroad, stands the professor of Cross-curricular Education in the Department of Education of Primary Education in the University of Crete and Director of the Laboratory of “Cross-Curricular and Immigration studies” (E.ΔΙΑ.Μ.ΜΕ.) Mr. Michalis Damanakis.

Cross-Curricular Education –he underlines in an interview to “In-On” magazine – presupposes and aims at the co-education of the citizens of every country along with the foreigners. Depending on co-education “different views and notions”, meet, interact and each part is enriched.

Cross-Curricular Education –he continued- came to light during the last decades of the 20th century in Europe, following the attempts of the theoretical scientists on education so as to give answers to questions that arise due to the transform of modern societies to “multi-cultural”.

E.ΔΙΑ.Μ.ΜΕ to which he is the director since 1995 was enacted by his proposal in order to deal with issues on educating Greek people who live abroad, have returned to their home-country or foreigners who live in Greece on a research and postgraduate level.

From 1988 to 1993, Mr. Damanakis was the president of the Department of Education in the University of Ioannina, from 1995 to 1997 he was the president of the Department of Education in the University of Crete, from 1996 to 1999 he was the president of Π.Ε.Κ. in Herakleion, Crete, while in the period from 1999 to 2004 he served as a deputy dean of Academic Affairs and Personnel in the University of Crete.

It has to be noted –the professor said – that in Greece we are still in the beginning concerning not only educational practice and policy but also the relative theories regarding cross-curricular education. The countries of Central and North Europe have more

experience on educational matters and more valid scientific knowledge; however they have not consolidated cross-curricular education yet on an institutional basis.

Greece –he clarified – has a history of 23 years as a full partner of the European Union (E.U) and, therefore many of the European rules apply to the Greek structures. The important parameter concerning the evolution that occurred in Greece however is the transformation from an immigrant country to a country that hosts immigrants. He, also, underlined that “The presence of almost one million foreigners in Greece is equivalent to nearly 10% of the population, a fact that dramatically changes the demographic synthesis of the country. On the other hand, the fact that nearly 11% of the school population in primary education come from more than 50 different countries, has forced Greek governments to take certain educational measures, which are under the general term “cross-curricular education”. Those measures were mainly taken during the 1990s, resulting in adding to the national and European dimension the cross-curricular one”.

Undoubtedly, as he mentioned Europe of today is becoming more and more multicultural, multilingual and multi-religious, not only due to the cultural and linguistic diversities of its people, but also due to the massive coming of immigrants from countries other than European. It is, therefore, usual to visualize the interaction of civilizations not only of European origins, an issue that will play an important role in the future.

Since 1997 until today Mr. Damanakis has focused his research on the Greek people who live abroad and especially on their Greek-speaking education, making the University of Crete a point of reference generally for the Greek people and especially for the Cretans. It has to be noted that the secretariat and the website of the International Council of the Cretans are hosted in EΔΙΑΜΜΕ.

**Open books
6-12 April 2009**



International week of action

From 6 to 12 April 2009 students, teachers and citizens in more than 100 countries of the world, will take part in an action called "Open Book" so as to send a loud message to the society and the politicians about the grave problem of illiteracy in the world. Action Aid is responsible for the coordination in Greece for sixth consecutive years.

This year action is focused on the illiteracy young people and adults'. The basic means of this campaign is the "Open Book", a book that consists of stories of people from all over the world through which personal experiences concerning education are presented. These stories focus on how reading and writing has changed people's lives and also how the lives of millions more people could change if the promises for Education for all were kept.

What exactly this year's action involves?

To participate in the campaign you have to devote a little time during the week from 6th to 12th April so as to teach in class a lesson that sensitizes pupils to illiteracy and also read all or some of the stories that are included in the "Open Book" The "Open Book" consists of 8 stories which are globally-known in all national books (among them of Nelson Mandela, Paulo Coelho, Alice Walker, Queen Rania of Jordan). For the Greek version of the "Open Book" the writer Lena Divani has written a short story, while school pupils and trainee adults narrate their personal experiences on how education can change life.

In the end all those who participated and listened to the stories will sign a special plea card and send it to ActionAid. Those cards will be given to the Greek government. During "Open Book" reading you can invite colleagues and their classes so as more pupils listen to the stories and more signatures are collected.

If this idea interests you, you can organize something similar inviting at your school politicians and people who have the power to change things and promote this message. We want this message to reach as many receivers as possible during the week of action!

How can I participate?

Complete the form that is found in www.actionaid.gr/GAW2009 and send it to us until 6th March 2009 so as to receive the packet with the relevant educational material for the campaign, free of charge. In this way your class will participate to this international attempt.

What does the packet include?

- The "Open Book"
 - The guide book of participation with information and suggested lesson plans.
 - The plea card (one for each class that participates).
 - The poster of the action.
 - Stickers for each pupil who participates in the action
- The reality of illiteracy in an international scale:
- 750 million adults are illiterate today.
 - To 64% of the illiterate people are women.
 - To 75% of the illiterate people live in 15 developing countries in the African countries below the Sahara Desert, in the South and West Asia and in Arabia.
 - Education for All which has been signed by every country aims at the reduction of illiteracy in half until 2015. Under present conditions, most countries will not meet this goal.
 - For more information contact the ActionAid, department of education in 2109212321, or in globalactionweek@actionaid.org.



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