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The institution of educational inspector (School Advisor) in Hellenic (Greek) Elementary Education

Management of Education in Greece has gone through few changes since the formation of the Hellenic State (1830's). Main characteristic of this type of organisation was the fact that the head of administration was one sole person: the Inspector. This organisational structure was changed into two new institutions (1982): the Advisor (scientific and pedagogic guidance) and the Manager Director in Prefecture level (administrative responsibilities).

The institution of the School Advisor was one of the main requests of Teachers Union of Primary Education (1974-1982). Two arguments were mainly raised to promote the change, the first with political dimension (modernisation-reform) and the second of pedagogical and administrative nature (different and crosscut functions).

Right after passing the law (1982), a series of problems came up (lack of infrastructure for Advisors, lack of explicit definition of the responsibilities and the authorities for the officials). Recently the competences and functions of the officials were defined by law (2002).

According to law the mission of the School Advisors has five dimensions: management of educational policy (implantation), coordination and monitoring (institutions and schools units), training of schoolteachers, evaluation of education and schoolteachers, determination of schoolteachers' deficiencies. Today, in Primary Education there are three categories of School Advisors. Their total number in the District of Attica is up to 92, 15 Advisors for elementary education, 72 for Primary Education and 5 for Special Education. School Advisors, as the whole number of officials in the field of education, are selected for a time-period of four years.