

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0643/09

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to the Commission

Subject: Professional training programmes for the unemployed

The 'Lisbon Strategy' sets the European Union the political priority of safeguarding jobs as a basis for a society geared to development from which no-one is excluded. In Greece the 'Employment and Vocational Training' Sectoral Operational Programme and the National Action Plan for Employment have funded projects to strengthen the relevant infrastructures and address unemployment. For example, measures are being taken targeting either the long-term unemployed or unemployed persons from vulnerable social groups to help them obtain professional experience so that they can adjust more easily to the needs and demands of the labour market. However, there are signs that these measures are working properly: in particular the fact that these programmes last for many months, the very low wages paid to participants, the complete absence of social security and labour rights for participants and the fact that most of them find positions in the broader public sector.

Does any statistical survey exist concerning the effectiveness of these programmes compared to the desired objectives, namely to integrate unemployed persons in the labour market in a stable manner?

Is the Commission aware of various qualitative data relating to these programmes, for example, the amount of Community and national spending on them, the number of persons who have benefited, selection criteria, the number of persons participating in more than once, notably for continuous periods of time in the same job, particularly in the public sector?

Which labour and social security rights do participants in these programmes enjoy?

How should unemployment statistics treat participants in such programmes so as to ensure that false conclusions cannot be drawn from these statistics?