HIGHER EDUCATION ON CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN GREECE. THE CASE OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS.

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Education on Conservation and Restoration as well as vocational training on the same subject consists of a basic condition for the safeguarding and enhancement of the cultural heritage for coming generations.

To save the heritage, a wide range of professional categories: architects, engineers, archaeologists, architectural historians, town planners, etc., must obtain through higher education and specialization courses, the necessary skills to carry out relevant responsibilities and be capable of teamwork and cross-disciplinary communication.

At the same time, the role of authorities responsible for legislation, norms and planning is crucial, and the sensitization and appropriate information of residents, is essential.

Consequently, not only specialized professionals but also politicians, administrators, investors, property owners, as well as general public and especially young people and children, need to be subject to a continuing education, in order to acquire the necessary qualifications to promote the heritage conservation. The learning process must cover all levels of education beginning from the general education.

In Greece, general education offers occasionally to young students some opportunities raising awareness on safeguarding heritage. In higher education Technical Universities or Technical Departments, as well as Technological Institutions, comprise in their curriculum the question of restoration and redevelopment of historic buildings as well as the question of upgrading historic entities and public space.

More specifically, there are the following categories of graduate compulsory or optional programs:

A. Training programs on Conservation, Restoration, re-use and re-development of historic buildings. These programs focus either on issues referring to the ideology and the theory of conservation of historic buildings or on issues referring to techniques of restoration compatible with traditional structure techniques, or on functional, social-cultural issues. They also include references on legislation, administration and management.

B. Training Programs on Urban and Town planning which include the parameter of improving public spaces, through functional planning and traffic arrangements, or the parameter of their morphological upgrading. They also cover, among others, issues referring to the redevelopment of upgraded residential areas.

C. Training programs on Surveying, and documentation of historic structures and historic entities. They include historic and structure evaluation, as well as issues of documentation and analysis.

D. Training Programs on Environmental and Bioclimatic Design, which include issues of protection of natural and built environment, to preserve natural energy sources. Old buildings and urban areas are redesigned to be more energy conscious.

All the above programs refer to optional or compulsory semester courses, which combine theoretical knowledge with implementation through design proposals, resolving real problems.

Apart of them, there are two distinctive interdisciplinary Post Graduate Programs in National Technical University of Athens, the first and in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the second, focusing on CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS.

The Post Graduate Program in National Technical University of Athens offers two distinctive directions:

(a) Conservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings and Sites, and

(b) Conservation of Building Materials.

It is organized by the Department of Architecture in collaboration with the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Rural and Surveying Engineering. A Scientific Committee, constituted by representatives from the collaborating departments, is responsible for the administration and management of the program, the selection of students and the organization of the curriculum.

The following information concerns Direction (a) Conservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings and Sites.

The Program award a Post Graduate Specialization Diploma, to graduates from departments of Architecture, Civil Engineering, Rural and Surveying Engineering as well as Archaeologists and Art Historians, of a Greek University or equivalent University abroad. The minimum duration of studies is 12 months, subdivided in three equal terms. The first two terms include lectures, seminars, tutorials, site visits and exercises. In the third term students carry out an individual dissertation (Number of students accepted 25)

The whole program includes core lectures and seminars, on: