

HELLENIC ASSOCIATION OF DIETICIANS - TECHNOLOGISTS OF NUTRITION

Job Market for Dieticians

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Dietician

In Greece the profession of dietician

- ✓ is relatively new as it became popular during the last 10 years.
- ✓ As opposed to the past, when our profession was rather unknown and unnecessary, nowadays it is popular and accepted.
- ✓ The presence of dieticians became inevitable in order to inform people on the importance of good nutrition in preventing and dealing with critical health issues and in order to deal with the growing rate of obesity.

In Greece the profession of dietician

- ✓ Bearing in mind that our profession is very well-paid and there was practically no unemployment in early '90s, we can easily realize why students prefer the faculties of dieticians for their studies.
- ✓ This year, the faculties of Nutrition and Dietetics are among the five more preferable faculties for students.

Institutions	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Department of Nutrition and Dietetics Harokopeio University (Athens)	18530	18731	18858	18898	18762
Department of Nutrition and Dietetics TEI of Thessaloniki	11681	12163	13516	14989	15651
Department of Nutrition and Dietetics TEI of Crete (Siteia)	10394	10476	12072	13085	13106

Faculties of Nutrition and Dietetics

- ✓ Until 1985, the **Harokopion University**, was a Supreme School, with a three-year duration of studies and it had two directions: Home Economics and Nutrition. Although it has been referred as "Supreme", it wasn't a university according to the Constitution of Greece.
- ✓ The **Department of Nutrition and Dietetics in the Technological Institution of Thessaloniki** (PD 561/85) was established in 1985, and it was the first institution of education for dieticians with a four-year duration of studies.

Faculties of Nutrition and Dietetics

- ✓ The **Department of Dietetics and Nutrition Science in the Harokopio University** was established in with a with a four-year duration of studies as well in 1993
- ✓ There has been also established the **Department of Nutrition and Dietetics in Technological Institute of Crete, in Siteia** in 2003 (PD 247/2003).

Professional Rights

All 3 institutes have similar professional rights which are described in detail in

- ✓ the **Presidential Decree PD 78/1989 (FEK A ' 36/7.2.1989)** for Department of Nutrition and Dietetics in Technological Institute .
- ✓ **PD 311/1997 (FEK A ' 211/29.10.1997)** for Harokopio University .

Their graduates are able to work

- In health sector, both in public and in private hospitals
- In health centers
- In laboratories of quality test and food test
- In industries that make special food
- In hotels or cruise ships
- In old-age homes
- In children's camps
- In orphans' homes
- In nursery schools
- In students clubs and halls of residence
- In slimming centers and independent dietetics offices.

In public hospitals

- ✓ The positions of dietitians in public sector and in hospitals are defined by **the Act on the National Health System (Act 1397/1983)**.
- ✓ Their duties and responsibilities are defined through certain presidential decrees and ministerial order concerning the running of nutrition departments in hospitals. (**Circular A2γ/οικ. 2468/87**)
- ✓ These regulations are more than old-fashioned and they don't represent the reality, as they were set in **1987**.

In public hospitals

- ✓ Today the number of positions in hospitals is **less than 330** for university education and **less than 110** for technological education. These positions are defined by the presidential decree 87/1986 and they still haven't been filled!!!
- ✓ There are many positions in the health centers that could be filled by dietitians in order to help many people in rural areas, but, they remain vacant.

But...

The problem is not expected to be solved in near future. The political decision to assign the preparation of lunches to private companies (catering) in order to reduce the operational cost of hospitals, downgrades the role of the dietician.

In private sector

In private sector, clinics are founded according to the PD 247/91 (FEK 93/a/91) and 517/91 (FEK 202/A/91) are supposed to have positions for dieticians but they are limited.

Bad news

- ✓ The downgrading will go on, as a result of the suggestion of the Ministry of Health concerning the National Plan on the nutritional policy.
- ✓ This plan refers to the running of obesity departments in the hospitals. These departments shall not require the presence of a dietician and most of them are running as preparation for surgery rather than a place where people can fight obesity.
- ✓ We have to point out that there are consultative nutrition offices in hospitals, according to ministerial orders, recruited by the existing staff which is often insufficient.

In the slimming centers

- ✓ Dietitians are employed in private sector and, especially, in slimming centers or combined centers and individual dietetics offices.
- ✓ We have to mention that the relevant legislation **was formed no sooner than 1998. Secretarial Order 3215/3-6-98 (FEK 655/30-6-98).**

In the slimming centers

- ✓ Until 1998, the aforementioned units were not obliged to employ a dietician. As a result, there are, even now, many “experts” that mislead people, taking advantage of the regulatory gaps.
- ✓ Although the legal framework used to have many gaps and ambiguities, it was a mean of pressure for the employment of dozens of graduates.

In the slimming centers

- ✓ This framework mentions expressly that these units, either dietetics offices or slimming centers, must employ a graduate dietician.
- ✓ There is also an express distinction between the duties and the responsibilities of doctors, beauticians, trainers and dieticians.

The future

The future, though, seems rather gloomy.

The increased number of students, that does not correspond to the number of graduates, and the massive input of dieticians with certificates from abroad, result in the congestion and oversupply of certificates in labor market.

The future

The future, though, seems rather gloomy.

If we consider the small number of hiring in public sector (hospital and other institutes), the immature labor market in the food industry (only a few graduates are employed in this sector), the doctors who without any expertise, provide nutritional guidance, as well as other illegal specialties, we can easily realize the extent of the problem.

The future

The future, though, seems rather gloomy.

The Ministry of Health leads us to everything but a solution. The allocation of the right, on an illegal and non-scientific basis, to trainers to provide nutritional advices and diets, and the lack of interest on setting a license concerning the practice of our profession, lead dozens of graduate dieticians to a dead-end. The Ministry also leaves peoples health unprotected to the unawareness or the superficial knowledge of doctors and trainers.

The future our position

The need to set a practice license for dieticians as well as the radical need for the modernisation of legislation on the public and private sector, led the graduates of the University and the Technological Institutes to create a **SINGLE INSTITUTION of DIETICIANS.**

The effort for the confrontation of common problems may begin now but the joint action will help us to resolve many problems.

Useful websites:

✓ www.efad.org

✓ <http://www.thematicnetworkdietetics.eu>

✓ www.dietologoi.gr

✓ www.hda.gr

The background of the image is a deep blue, textured surface that resembles water. A bright light source, likely the sun, is positioned on the left side, creating a shimmering reflection that extends horizontally across the middle of the frame. The sky above the horizon is a lighter, hazy blue with wispy white clouds. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

THANK YOU