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Article 63

Issues relating to the organizational structure of Minority Education

- 1.** In article 2 (1) of Law 2986/2002 (A' 24) as amended by article 16 (5) of Law 3467/2006 (A' 186), a new subparagraph shall be inserted as follows: "The Office for Minority Education shall belong to the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace in addition to the aforementioned Directorates."
- 2.** At the end of article 2 (2) (b) of Law 2986/2002 a new subparagraph shall be added as follows: "The Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace shall coordinate the Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education of the regional units of Rodopi, Xanthi and Evros for the specific issues of minority education, and particularly of: ba) issues relating to the organization and operation of Minority Schools of Primary and Secondary Education, bb) issues relating to the organization and operation of Medresses and bc) issues relating to the organization and administrative support for the teaching of the Quran in public schools in Thrace by Islamic religion teachers as provided for in article 53 of Law 4115/2013 (A' 24)."
- 3.** In article 2 (2) (c) of Law 2986/2002, after the phrase "of the sections of scientific and pedagogical guidance of the Regional Directorates of Education" the following phrase shall be inserted: "and of the Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace".
- 4.** In article 2 (6) of Law 2986/2002, after the phrase "of the Heads of offices of the Regional Directorates of Education" the following phrase shall be inserted: "and of the Head of the Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace".
- 5.** At the end of article 3 (3) of Law 2986/2002 a new subparagraph shall be inserted as follows: "as Head of the Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace a serving teacher in primary education shall be appointed. Candidates are required to have performed a teaching assignment for at least eight (8) years in primary education including at least six (6) years in minority schools in Thrace. The selection process shall be in line with the provisions in force for the selection of School Principals of Primary Education, by a decision of the Regional Director of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace and upon a proposal of the Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Primary Education of the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace. The term of office of the Head of the Office for Minority Education shall be four (4) years.
- 6.** In article 18 (1) (b) (ee) of Law 4024/2011 (A' 226) between the phrases "Primary and Secondary Education" and "three hundred (300) euro" the following phrase shall be inserted: "and of the Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace".

- 7.** The Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Minority Education established by article 1 (12) of Law 2341/1995 (A' 208) shall be abolished upon the publication of this Law in the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic.
- 8.** The powers of the Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Minority Education shall be exercised hereinafter by the Regional, High and Central Councils for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues involved.
- 9.** At the end of article 6 (2) (a) (aa) of Law 4057/2012 (A' 54) the following phrase shall be inserted: "and minority education schools in Thrace" and in article 6 (2) (b) of Law 4057/2012 the following indent shall be inserted: dd) at minority schools in Thrace".
- 10.** In the first subparagraph of article 1 of Presidential Decree 182/2004 (A' 161) indent e' shall be inserted as follows: "e) for the administrative staff of minority education with any employment relationship and any nature of work" and in the article 2 of Presidential Decree 182/2004 indent 13 shall be inserted as follows: "13) the Regional Councils for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for the Administrative Staff involved exercise the powers of the aforementioned indents 1 to 12 for the administrative staff of Minority Education regardless of the nature and type of employment".
- 11.** In article 6 (2) (c) of Law 3839/2010 (A' 51) the following last subparagraph shall be added: "Particularly for the Regional Councils for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Primary Education of Xanthi, Rodopi and Evros, when they examine issues of teachers of the minority program of Primary education minority schools, the two (2) elected representatives of teachers and their alternates shall emanate from the body of teachers of the minority program of Primary education minority schools. The provisions of articles 19 to 31 and of article 47 of the Presidential Decree 1/2003 (A' 1) shall apply for their election."
- 12.** In article 6 (3) (c) of Law 3839/2010 (A' 51) the following last subparagraph shall be added: "Particularly for the Regional Councils for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Secondary Education of Xanthi and Rodopi, when they examine issues of teachers of the minority program of Secondary education minority schools, the two (2) elected representatives of teachers and their alternates shall emanate from the body of teachers of the minority program of Secondary education minority schools. The provisions of articles 19 to 31 and of article 47 of the Presidential Decree 1/2003 (A' 1) shall apply for their election."
- 13.** In article 5 (d) of the Presidential Decree 1/2003 (A' 1) the following last subparagraph shall be added: "Particularly for the High Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Primary Education of the Regional Education Directorate of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace when it examines issues of teachers of the minority program of Primary education minority schools, the two (2) elected representatives of teachers and their alternates shall emanate from the body of teachers of the minority program of Primary education minority schools. The provisions of articles 19 to 31 and of article 47 shall apply for their election."
- 14.** In article 6 (d) of the Presidential Decree 1/2003 (A' 1) the following last subparagraph shall be added: "Particularly for the High Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Secondary Education of the Regional Education Directorate of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace when it examines issues of teachers of the minority program of Secondary education minority schools, the two (2) elected representatives of teachers and their alternates shall emanate from the body of teachers of the minority program of Secondary education minority schools. The provisions of articles 19 to 31 and of article 47 shall apply for their election."
- 15.** The Coordinating Office for Minority schools of Primary and Secondary Education established by article 14 (9) of Law 2640/1998 (A' 206) as amended by article 9 (8, 10) is abolished upon the publication of this law in the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic.

Article 64

Issues relating to the Minority Schools' teaching staff

- 1.** Teaching staff posts of the minority program of Primary Education minority schools, as provided for in article 7 (1) (a) of Law 694/1977 (A' 264), shall be reserved exclusively for members of the Muslim minority in Thrace. Teaching staff posts of the Greek language program of Primary Education minority schools, as provided for in article 7 (1) (a) of Law 694/1977 (A' 264), shall not be filled by members of the Muslim minority in Thrace.
- 2.** In order to fill vacant permanent posts of teaching staff and to cover operational needs of the Greek language program of Primary and Secondary minority schools in Thrace, teachers from other Primary and Secondary minority schools in Thrace and from other schools of Primary and Secondary Education may be transferred or seconded in accordance with the provisions that apply for teachers' transfers and secondments.
- 3.** In order to fill vacant permanent posts of teaching staff and to cover operational needs of the minority program of Primary and Secondary minority schools in Thrace, only teachers of the minority program may be transferred or seconded from other Primary and Secondary minority schools in Thrace in accordance with the provisions that apply for teachers' transfers and secondments.

Article 65

Issues relating to the operation of Minority Schools and scientific and pedagogical support to Teachers

- 1.** a) Issues relating to the operation of Minority High Schools and Medresses of the regional units of Rodopi and Xanthi shall lie within the competence of the respective Directorates of Secondary Education of the regional units of Rodopi and Xanthi. b) Issues relating to the operation of Minority Elementary Schools of the regional areas of Rodopi, Xanthi and Evros lie within the competence of the respective Directorates of Primary Education of the regional areas of Rodopi, Xanthi and Evros.
- 2.** One (1) post of an Educational Counselor for the minority education program shall be created for the scientific and pedagogical guidance of teachers of the minority program in minority schools of Primary education in the regional unit of Xanthi, one (1) post of an Educational Counselor for the minority education program shall be created for the scientific and pedagogical guidance of teachers of the minority program in minority schools of Primary education in the regional units of Rodopi and Evros and one (1) post of an Educational Counselor for the minority education program shall be created for the scientific and pedagogical guidance of teachers of the minority program in minority schools of Secondary education. Teachers who have served for at least ten (10) years in minority schools' minority program of primary or secondary education respectively shall be selected for the posts of Educational Counselors for the minority education program of the minority schools of Primary or Secondary education. The selection of Educational Counselors for the minority education program of the minority schools of Primary or Secondary education shall be governed by the provisions in force for the selection of Educational Counselors of Primary and Secondary education respectively and shall take place at the same time with the selection of Educational Counselors for public education.
- 3.** One (1) post of an Educational Counselor for Islamic religious education shall be created for the scientific and pedagogical guidance of teachers who teach courses of Islamic religious education specialization and who serve in Medresses, of teachers who teach Islamic religious education in minority High schools and of Islamic religious education teachers

(article 53 of Law 4115/2013) who teach in public schools. A teacher who has served at least five (5) years in Medresses teaching the courses of Islamic religious education specialization shall be appointed to the post of Educational Counselor of Islamic religious education upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Board for Medresses in Thrace by a decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 66

Establishment of Graduate School for Minority Program Teachers

1. A new paragraph 4 shall be added to article 8 of Law 2327/1995 (A' 156) as follows: "4. Starting from the academic year 2015-16 the Graduate School for Minority Program teachers of Minority Education Schools shall be established in Alexandroupolis as part of the Department of Primary Education of the Democritus University of Thrace. Admission and attendance to the School is reserved exclusively to members of the Muslim minority in Thrace who are graduates of Departments of Primary Education of Greek Universities. The Graduate School for Minority Program teachers shall award a Graduate degree and shall undertake the continuous training of Minority Program teachers of Minority Education Primary schools in Thrace. All necessary details for the operation of the Graduate School for Minority Program teachers shall be regulated by Presidential decree issued upon proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Finance following on a recommendation of the Senate of the Democritus University of Thrace. In particular, the presidential decree shall regulate the staffing, the teaching staff, the duration and the program of studies - which shall focus on the teaching language of the minority program courses of the Minority schools and on Islamic religion – the possibility of partnerships with other Graduate Schools and Departments of the Democritus University or other Universities of Greece or abroad and particularly with the Department of Language, Literature and Culture of the Black Sea countries (Democritus University of Thrace) with the view to meeting in the best possible way the aforementioned needs for the teaching language of the minority program courses and Islamic religious education as well as the continuous vocational training of teachers of the minority program teachers and the latter's operational and administrative issues."

2. In article 2 (3) of Law 3848/2010 (A' 71) paragraph f shall be added as follows: "f) by holding a degree of the Special Pedagogical Academy of Thessaloniki."

Article 67

Teachers' appointment and hiring procedure in Minority schools of Primary education

The following article 7A shall be added after article 7 of Law 3848/2010 (A' 71):

"Article 7A

Teachers' appointment and hiring procedure in Minority schools of Primary education

1. In order to fill vacant permanent posts of teaching staff and to cover operational needs of the Greek language program of minority schools of Primary education, teachers shall be appointed or hired from the current ranking lists of public education in accordance with the provisions of this law.

2. A new Staff Category under the header "Teachers of the Minority program of Primary education Minority Schools in Thrace" ("ΠΕ 73" – Tertiary Education Degree Code 73) shall be created, reserved exclusively to fill vacant permanent posts of teaching staff and to cover operational needs of the minority education program of Primary education minority schools in Thrace; enrollment therein shall be reserved to: a) graduates of the Special Pedagogical

Academy of Thessaloniki, b) graduates of the Department of Primary Education of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, members of the Muslim minority in Thrace enrolled from the academic year 2011-12 to the year 2014-15 and provided that during their studies they succeeded in at least seven (7) courses covering the following modules: “Turkish language and Teaching Turkish language”, “Minority Education” and “Multilingualism and Multiculturalism” and c) graduates of Departments of Primary Education who are members of the Muslim minority and hold a degree of the Graduate School for Minority Program Teachers of the Department of Primary Education of the Democritus University of Thrace.

3. In order to fill vacant permanent posts of teaching staff and to cover operational needs of the minority program of Primary education minority schools, teachers shall be appointed or hired from the ranking lists of successful candidates who sat the competition of the Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection (ASEP) for Teachers of the Minority program of Primary education Minority Schools in Thrace” (“ΠΕ 73” – Tertiary Education Degree Code 73) in accordance with the provisions of this law.

4. Those who qualify for Staff Category 73 shall be admitted in the competition for the hiring or the appointment of teachers of the Minority program of Primary education Minority Schools . The candidates shall participate in the competition for hiring teachers of Staff Category 70 (Elementary school teachers) and shall be examined additionally on the minority program linguistic competence and on Islamic religious education. If a candidate is qualified to register for Staff Category 70 (Elementary school teachers) they may be enlisted in both ranking lists of successful candidates. In case a candidate is hired as a temporary teacher from one ranking list, their application shall not be considered for the other Staff Category for the same school year. In case a candidate is appointed as a permanent teacher from one ranking list, their name is automatically removed from the other one. A candidate reserves the right to reject his/her appointment or hiring from the ranking list of one Staff Category without bearing any consequences with regard to the possibility of their appointment or hiring from the other. The courses and material under examination, the grading, the scale, the passing grade and all other details for the examination of the additional courses for Staff Category 73 shall be regulated by a decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs upon the recommendation of the Institute of Educational Policy. The grade awarded for the additional courses of Staff Category 73 shall be added to the grades of the courses awarded for the courses of Staff Category 70 in order to obtain the final grade of the candidate for Staff Category 73. Exceptionally and exclusively for the first six years after the first competition for the ranking list of teachers who have succeeded in entering Staff Category 73, by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs a passing grade lower than the provisions of article 2 (5) may be set. The provisions of this shall remain in force.

5. Until the initial examination for drawing up the ranking list of teachers to fill vacant permanent posts of teaching staff and to cover operational needs of the minority program of Primary education minority schools, teachers from the Single Ranking List for the Minority Program of Minority Schools shall be appointed or hired on the basis of their ranking order. The ranking criteria for the Single Ranking List of Teachers for the Minority Program of Minority Schools for those who qualify for Staff Category 73 shall be set by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs upon the recommendation of the Institute of Educational Policy.

6. The Single Ranking List for the Minority Program of Minority Schools shall be finalized three (3) months before the initial examination for the appointment or hiring of teachers for the minority program of minority schools. During the first three years after the initial examination teachers shall be appointed or hired for the minority program of minority schools at the rate of 40% from the Single Ranking List for the Minority Program of Minority

Schools in rank order and at the rate of 60% from the ranking lists in force for teachers of Staff Category 73 following the competition of the Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection (ASEP).”

Article 68

Transitional provisions

- 1.** The degree of the Special Pedagogical Academy of Thessaloniki awarded to its graduates who have had their degree recognized as equivalent to the degree of the Departments of Primary Education through the procedure provided in article 15 of Law 4283/2014 (A' 189) as implemented by the Department of Primary Education of Alexandroupolis shall continue to grant the graduates the right to be appointed as teachers in the minority program of minority schools in accordance with article 3 (9) of Law 695/1977.
- 2.** From the date of publication of this law in the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic a) article 14 (9) of Law 2640/1998 (A' 206), b) article 9 (8) and (10) of Law 2817/2000 (A' 78), c) article 1 of Law 2341/1995 (A' 208) and d) article 32 of Presidential Decree 1/2003 (A'1) shall be abolished.
- 3.** Wherever the legislation in force reads “Coordinator of Minority Schools”, from now it shall read “Regional Director of Education of Eastern Macedonia-Thrace”. The incumbent Coordinator of Minority Schools of Primary and Secondary Education shall be appointed to a post of Educational Counselor for Secondary Minority Education. This post shall be abolished as soon as the current Coordinator ends his term and in any case no later than 31st August 2015.
- 4.** When the procedure of the appointment of the Head of the Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace is first implemented and until the successor Regional Director of Education of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace has been appointed, the Head of the Office for Minority Education shall be appointed in derogation from the provisions of article 11 of Law 3848/2010 by a decision of the Regional Director of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace upon the proposal of the Higher Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Primary Education of the Regional Directorate of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace. The Head of the Office for Minority Education shall be a primary or secondary teacher who shall have been teaching for at least eight (8) years in primary education including at least six (6) years in minority schools in Thrace.
- 5.** When the procedure of the appointment of the Educational Counselors for the minority education program of Primary and Secondary education is first implemented, teachers who teach in the minority education program of Primary or Secondary education schools respectively and who have at least ten (10) years of experience in teaching in minority primary or secondary schools respectively shall be appointed in these posts, by a decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs upon the recommendation of the Regional Director of Education of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace, in derogation from the provisions of article 11 of Law 3848/2010. The term of office of Educational Counselors of the preceding sentence may not be less than four (4) years and in any case it shall expire ipso jure when Educational Counselors of the minority education program of Primary or Secondary education respectively shall be selected and appointed following the first vacancy notice for those posts after the expiry of the abovementioned four (4)-year period in accordance with article 18 of Law 2848/2010.

6. Teachers who are not members of the Muslim minority in Thrace and serve in the minority program of minority Primary schools and teachers who are members of the Muslim minority and serve in the Greek language education program of minority Primary schools shall be at the disposal of the competent Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Primary Education so as to be reappointed from the school year 2015-16.

7. When this law is implemented for the first time, the elections for elected teachers' representatives of the minority program of minority schools to participate in the Councils for Staff Regulations shall take place within a three month period from the date of the publication of this law. Until such election and appointment, representatives of teachers' unions shall be appointed in accordance with article 10 (9) of Presidential decree 1/2003 (A' 1). Until elected teachers' representatives have been appointed to the Councils for Staff Regulations, in particular to the Councils for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Primary Education of Xanthi, Rodopi and Evros, when the latter examine issues of teachers of the Greek language program of minority schools, the elected representative or their alternate elected on the elections of November 5, 2014 for the Council for Staff Regulations and Disciplinary Issues for Minority Education may participate with no voting rights.

Translated by Callis MITRAKA