

How accredited laboratories strengthen the Greek economy?

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Operation of a laboratory and accreditation

A laboratory, having a specific scope of activities accredited, also has:

- A defined and sustainable entity in terms of business continuity
- A group of well informed and aware customers
- Already invested in training and upgrading of know-how and skills of laboratory staff
- Already invested in state-of-the-art equipment and best practices
- Made a business plan including the resources for establishing traceability (calibration, use of RMs, PTs)
- A self-awareness that accreditation can promote the recognition of its work inside and outside the national borders



Some statistics- 629 accreditations

Until 31.12.2019, ESYD has accredited, starting from 2000:

Testing Laboratories: 435

Calibration Laboratories:56

Medical Laboratories:131

Proficiency Testing Laboratories:7

Suspension, withdraw and merging of accreditations have also been taken into consideration



Labor Issues & regional development

Each laboratory is staffed with an average of 3 persons of scientific and technical personnel

1800 (and more) graduates, *Chemists, Biologists, Veterinarians, Chemical-Mechanical-Electrical Engineers, Food-Oil-Agricultural-Wine-Mechanical-Medical Technologists, Biochemists* etc are working there

- Reduce brain-drain effect and unemployment
- Assure full time employment
- Graduates are working in a demanding, related to their studies and evolving field

More than 320 laboratories outside Athens greater area in almost all major Greek cities:

- More than 900 graduates had the opportunity to stay in the motherland and not to move in Athens or Thessaloniki to seek work



Public Sector and effectiveness of market surveillance

- During crisis the number of public sector laboratories has been reduced (now, almost 100 laboratories and separate units belonging to larger networks are accredited)
- Accreditations were merged mostly through a multi-site accreditation procedure, aligned to a re-structuring of public laboratories networks
- New structures, well organized with specialized units
- In most of the areas accreditation is a prerequisite for authorization
- Recognised competence for performing the role of official control
- Effective official control->Effective market surveillance -> Confidence on the quality of products and services



Private sector and enhancement of competitiveness

- Business need new or re-designed products
- Design –reverse engineering- R&D activities
- New regulatory requirements, New customers,
- New specifications, New standards
- Design –reverse engineering- R&D activities

A self control, 1st party,
in house, R&D
Laboratory

Testing services, consulting services (ops&Ints) using valid
and accurate methods

A 2nd party, independent
laboratory



R&D activities- Universities and Research Institutes

- More than 30 accredited laboratories in Universities and Research Institutes
- Provide calibration and testing services in specialized areas
- Enhancement of national laboratory infrastructure
- In that way they cover costs to fund research activity, keep researchers as staff and be connected with enterprises



Calibration Laboratories

- The number of calibration laboratories is usually an index of industrialization
- The number remained unaffected during the crisis period
- 18 new calibration laboratories for volume calibration of fuel tanks in gas stations support the national system for controlling fuel smuggling



Medical Laboratories

Regulatory Requirements have already set accreditation as a prerequisite to provide services for medical examinations

Accredited results related to cost reduction in health care – Reduction of errors, better use of equipment and resources

ESYD has developed accreditation scheme for imaging examinations



Proficiency Testing Providers

- 7 PT Providers
- Provide PTs in a wide area of testing
- Greek Laboratories have access to PTs without the need to purchase these services abroad
- Some PT Providers already developed a cross frontier activity (using accreditation as an indication of competence)
- PTP is a high added value activity



Role of ESYD for the future development of national laboratory infrastructure

- Harmonization to European best practices
- Participation in regional and international activities as an interested party and accreditation body
- Promotion of accreditation as a tool for licensing and authorization procedures
- Flexible scope accreditation
- Accreditation of sampling
- Multi-site accreditation
- Enrichment of assessors and experts pool
- Accreditation of opinions & interpretations
- Accreditation of Reference Materials Producers

