

Staying or leaving Greece: The Young Scientists' view and dilemma

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Abstract: This paper examines the views and dilemma of young researchers in Greece as regards the possibility to migrate abroad during the current economic crisis that has affected the country in the last 5 years. The basic assumption of this research is that the economic crisis and the unstable political and economic environment encourage more and more young Greek scientists to look for new perspectives of personal development and welfare abroad. At the same time, some of them are considering that they can have a safe and successful mainly professional future without having to leave Greece.

The aim of this paper is to detect the profile of those young scientists who are willing to emigrate as well of those that, at the opposite, are not willing to emigrate abroad. The main question is to examine what are the most important reasons that could be conduct high skills new citizens to leave their country? The research is based on an empirical research conducted on a sample of 409 young scientists from various scientific specialties (human, polytechnic, medical school etc) coming from university and technological institutes of the region of Thessaly in Greece. The investigation was carried out through the application of a questionnaire examining alternative reasons for emigration or not and using a 1-7 points Liker scale. In order to evaluate the impact of various situations and reasons conducting new researchers to immigrate or not, logistic models have been implemented. It appears that there is no significant difference as regards gender factor while at the opposite, the family's economic situation is obviously a discriminating parameter as well as the type of skills acquired by students during their university studies. It is also obvious that negative views concerning the political system are one of the main reasons for new scientists' emigration.

The added value of such an empirical study is important for the future of the country as it highlights the young population' perception as regards the future of the country, the main reasons that stimulate them for emigration as well as the problems arising in terms of political decisions and actions to tackle this phenomenon.