“Leading a multicultural school: a comparative analysis between Greece and Cyprus”

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Banks (2004) stated that to implement multicultural education successfully, we must think of the school as a social system. Therefore, if educational equity and excellence are to be provided to all students, a systemic investigation of the role of the school principal in multicultural schools is absolutely necessary. The research is based on quantitative approach (survey method). The questionnaire is based on vignettes which are filled by Greek and Cyprian school principals, who work in schools with a big percentage (more than 30%) of foreigner students. Aspects of school management and enterprise, i.e. (1) planning, (2) direction, (3) evaluation, (4) motivation, (5) curriculum management, (6) empowering school culture, (7) innovation and change management and (8) cross-cultural management are recorded.

The Objectives of the research were:

1. to explore and compare the professional preparation of principals in both countries

2. to focus on how they manage intercultural differences and work/communicate with multicultural teams

3. to estimate and disseminate good practices of managing diversity

4. to diagnose the leadership style they choose in order to enhance school effectiveness

5. to mark similarities and differences between the 2 centralized educational systems (Cyprus and Greece) in the field of multicultural issues (law, circulars, staff selection, curricula, budget)

KEYWORDS: Leadership, competence, professional preparation of principals, multicultural education

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

Dr. Paraskevi Chatzipanagiotou is an Assistant Professor of Educational Management with the European University of Cyprus (Department of Education). She studied Philosophy, Pedagogy and Psychology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and got her master and doctoral degree from the same University. She has worked at the University of Macedonia and Thessally from 2003-2006 as Scientific Collaborator of Educational Administration. Since 2004 has been working as Part Time Academic Staff with the Hellenic Open University and since 2008 with the Open University of Cyprus (course module School Management, master degree of Educational Studies). She has also evaluated a lot of researched-based projects and participates as trainer in further education programs for school staff and principals.

The research interests of Paraskevi Chatzipanagiotou are mainly focused on the fields of school management, school leadership, human resource management, innovation management, school improvement and TQM. Over the last ten years she has published two books and authored individually or with others articles in journals and chapters in collective volumes on aspects of management and leadership issues.