

2012 – 2022 A decade of evolution in public administration of Greece and Cyprus.

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Abstract: In Greece and Cyprus, the socio-economic conditions combined with the strong impact of globalization have made it necessary to move to a more efficient and effective type of public administration to be able to meet the high demands of citizens and businesses.

Public administration, under the influence of modern management models such as New Public Management (NPM) and Public Governance, acquires a more operational approach by setting the fulfilment of high administrative performance as a key goal.

The history of Public Administration in Greece has a long history. It is the result of the historical and political events that took place inside it, but also of the socio-economic developments, as they were formed with the influence of international factors.

A characteristic of the Greek Public Administration has been, for decades, its pathogenicity, which leaves no room for recovery for the affected country - especially in the midst of an economic crisis.

The administration of the Greek state has been organized in a decentralized manner, as provided for in articles 101 and 102 of the current Constitution. The central administration constitutes the "development strategy", maintains its staff responsibilities and in this way carries out coordinating and intervention work in areas of critical political national importance. Internally, it is structured into general directorates, directorates, departments and offices, as provided for by the applicable presidential decrees. The governmental mechanism is complemented by independent public services and legal entities under public law, which fall under the wider circle of responsibility and supervision of the competent individual ministry.

This paper will present how the Greek and Cypriot administration has changed the last decade, how the economic crisis has affected this change, to what extent COVID19 pandemic has helped the expansion of e – governance.

The contribution of e-governance has led to the significant improvement of the operation of public services.

In this context, the administrations of public bodies at the international level have a convergence that would bring the prospect of European integration closer.

Cyprus and Greece have made great strides in integrating information technology in recent years, but are still far from the European average. Successful examples from European countries (e.g. Nordic countries) could, under certain conditions, be viewed as promising practices allowing the transfer of important know-how to Greece and Cyprus. It should be remembered that (structure, infrastructure, culture, technical level, etc.) are the primary drivers of effective copying of technical or management tools.

After COVID-19 pandemic, the government was forced to take immediate action to stop the spread of the disease, including preventing citizen social gatherings. Bold administrative improvements were nonetheless undertaken in this situation, despite significant challenges encountered during the design and execution phases thus far. A noteworthy example is Greece, which achieved significant strides during the pandemic crisis despite the challenging integration of e-governance tools thus far. The Greek public sector has been heavily implementing information technologies during the past few months, setting an example for neighboring nations like Cyprus.