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**What are the main reasons for young Greeks to  
emigrate?**

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MSc European Studies**



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## **ABBREVIATIONS:**

<b>ECB</b>	European Central Bank
<b>ELSTAT</b>	Hellenic Statistical Authority
<b>EMS</b>	European Monetary System
<b>EMU</b>	Economic and Monetary Union
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUROSTAT</b>	Directorate-General of the European Commission
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration

## Chapter 1 Introduction

### 1.1 The main problem

“Greeks migration has escalated since the start of Greek debt govern crisis in 2009 with the nation’s debt woes, with unemployment rates, strict austerity measures and political and social instability incentivizing citizens to head to European Union sunnier economic climes” (Barnato, 2012, p. 1). “ According to a survey conducted by Focus Bari for Panteion University poll showed 43% of 444 men and women aged between 18 and 24 said they might emigrate, while 17 % were ready to leave the country ”(Chrepi, 2012, p. 1). One of the reasons why migration has increased can be dated back to the 2007 when the economic financial crisis hit the global economy.

In the EU, all countries were touched by the economical financial crisis. As known, the one of the first to be hit within the euro zone debt crisis and the first member which had to ask for funding from the EU and IMF in April 2010 was Greece.<sup>1</sup>The country’s economy was mainly stroked in its most profiting sectors such as tourism and shipping. After this, the Greece debt increased immediately. Besides the decimated Greek economy, the debt crisis brought down the Greek government and surely threatened both Europe’s recovery and the future of euro (Shaffy, 2012).

“Greek government-debt crisis has revealed and magnified the structural deficiencies of the Greek economy and society” (Maroulis and Mikroglou, 2011, p.4). The Greek government had a large national debt way before the crisis, but the crisis showed the real economic situation in Greece. “From November 2009, Greece became the new crisis epicenter of global capitalism, attracting headlines all over the world. With a huge public deficit of 12,7 percent of gross domestic product(GDP) in October 2009 and an equally huge public debt of almost 300 billion Euros, or around 113 percent of GDP, it is no surprise that the country has been into the sausage grinder of the financial markets and international banks” (Golemis, 2010, p.129).

With all this, the quality of social welfare and life has changed in a negative way for the Greek population. “Within this climate a growing propensity has emerged, particularly amongst young and talented Greeks, to seek employment and a new life abroad, effectively, inaugurating what is

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<sup>1</sup> Bailout rescue packages were confirmed by the Europeans officials through the IMF, EU .First, in 2010:110 billions of Euros. In 2012, 130 billion of Euros was approved.



becoming known as the Greek Brain Drain” (Sarantinos, 2012, p. 1). Therefore, a new form of migration was recently reinforced, which affects this highly educated population (Labrianidis, Vogiatzis, 2012, p. 11). Hence, the young generation is emigrating from Greece recently. This fact can be seen in the research conducted by Lois Labrianidis.<sup>2</sup> He conducted a survey where he interviewed 2,850 young Greeks students/researchers (Labrianidis, Vogiatzis, 2012). Its results show that more than 60% did not try to find a job in Greece and they left abroad because of the situation in Greece (Labrianidis, Vogiatzis, 2012). He found out that 9% of young Greek graduates emigrated between May 2009 and February 2010 and still the departures of young researchers are accelerating (Labrianidis, Vogiatzis, 2012). His research suggests that university educated Greeks who work abroad or wish to do so are likely to be among Greece’s most highly qualified. Therefore, in his book he claims that Brain Drain is the new tragedy of Greece. Also, many young successful scientists have already fled for better conditions. He calculates that between 114,000 and 139,000 scientists currently work abroad, or around 10 percent of the country’s base of science graduates (Labrianidis, Vogiatzis, 2012). According to his research many left even without any job offer.

The introduction to this work presented the trend of Greek young migration after the economic crisis, defying it as a Greek brain drain. Furthermore, it suggests that the Greek debt govern crisis is one of the possible reasons why the migration of Greeks has increased.

The purpose of this study will be to examine the reasons behind this accelerated migration rate. Thus, the main research question of this thesis is: ***Which factors are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis (2007-2012)?***

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<sup>2</sup> Lois Labrianidis, Department of Economics, Regional Development and Policy Research Unit, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece.

## **1.2 Thesis outline**

The focus of chapter 2 is to discuss the decisions influencing migration and to explain why some individuals migrate while others don't. In order to explain this problematic, this research introduces six economic theories of migration which are related to the economic aspects. This literature review shows that there is a general division between the factors influencing migration, either forcefully pushing people or attracting them to the migration. Concluding on a list of push and pull factors based on economic, demographic, socio-cultural, political and miscellaneous conditions will be presented.

Chapter 3 introduces the methodology and the data analysis, describing both qualitative and quantitative methods. The research will apply quantitative analysis based on economic-demographic-socio-political factors in order to illustrate the descriptive statistics. The survey, a second quantitative method, will compare the differentiation between public opinion across EU Members States and Greece. Finally, the last method which this research will apply is the qualitative method, more specifically interviews. All interviews were conducted specifically for this research. Based on the results collected from the descriptive statistics and general survey, the most relevant push and pull factors will be shortlisted and then examined along with the results collected from the interviews.

The empirical chapter will present the most influential factors in the act of migration of the young Greek people after the economic crisis. This chapter will evaluate the push and pull factors considering the economic, political, socio-cultural and miscellaneous conditions based on the theoretical framework. Furthermore, this research will examine the general survey done by Euro barometer. Moreover, this empirical chapter will analyze the results of the qualitative personal interviews.

The last chapter concludes with the findings, summarizing the information of the previous parts, and arguing that indeed there is evidence supporting the statements done in this work.

## Chapter 2      Theoretical Framework

### 2.1 Influential decisions in the act of migration

To find an answer for the main research question of this study, it is more than inevitable to define the concept of migration in order to understand how emigration can be distinguished. Migration can be defined as a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence (Adams, 1968). In simply words, migration can be characterized as a movement in which people are moving from their country of origin to a country of destination (Lee, 1966). As said by Lee, “No matter how short how long, how easy or how difficult, every act of migration involves an origin, a destination, and an intervening set of obstacles” (Lee, 1966, p.49). These set of obstacles are considered as factors in the act of migration.

The focus here is given to the migration of young and technically-highly skilled people, phenomenon also known as brain drain.<sup>3</sup> Because brain drain refers to the migration of people endowed with a high level of human capital.<sup>4</sup> “The difference between previous bouts of emigration and the one Greece is facing at the moment is that those who are leaving or considering leaving are not just unskilled labourer” (Malkoutzis, 2011, p.2).

It is hard to analyze the decisions influencing migration. For some individuals, there must be compelling reasons for migration, while for others little provocation or promise suffices (Lee, 1966, p. 51). “Decision to migrate has always been affected by comparative considerations; it is the comparison of the potential migrant’s situation in his/her country of origin with the situation of persons with similar qualifications in the country of destination that enters into his decision” (Oteiza, 1968, p.126).

The process of decision-making to migrate can be based on the typology of reasons. It can be first, based on the objective individual characteristics such as age, gender, educational attainment,

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<sup>3</sup> In 1960s was first time problematized the concept of brain drain. It was when a „ mass and permanent emigration of highly skilled people (researchers, scientists, and even graduate students) took place and proved detrimental for the economic growth and development of their countries of origin“(Horvat, 2004, p.76). Nowadays, the recent emigration from South East Europe and periphery of the Europe is described mostly as a brain drain process. In simple words, brain drain can be characterized as a mass emigration of young and technically-highly skilled people from some country to another country.

<sup>4</sup> Brain drain often referred as a synonym of human capital flight. We may ask why word capital is used in this definition for brain drain. When people hear the word capital they mostly imagine something linked with economy as a bank account or cash. Nevertheless, in a concept of brain drain the word capital can be considered as knowledge and skills. One of the main reason why capital represents the skills and knowledge is when people “ emigrate from the country where they were educated and trained, that capital also leaves, that is, it is lost by the country of origin and gained by the destination country. From the point of view of the country of origin, its earlier investment into the education and training of the emigrant has been useless spending “ (Wächter,2006, p. 53).

occupational, family related conditions, housing conditions and many others (Lee, 1961, p. 50-52). Second, there are subjective factors for instance: motives, information, the evaluation of the situation and so on.

Therefore, the decisions to migrate are diverse. This fact is reflected in empirical analyses, different theories and models of migration. “There is at present no single, coherent theory of international migration, but rather a fragmented set of theories, sometimes segmented by disciplinary boundaries. The major subjects involved in migration research are demography, sociology, economics, geography and political science” (Thieme, 2006, p. 1). There are number of theories to explain the migration but this topic is way beyond this research. Consequently, the research will denote several migration theories which are related to the economic consideration.

### **2.1.1 The economic theories of migration**

By Ernest Georg Ravenstein, the earliest migration theorist is dated the oldest concept of understanding migration concept in 1885. Because in that time he formulated the ‘ laws of migration ’. In his research, he used poll from Wales and England to develop these laws of migration. “ Ravenstein's laws claimed that people are mostly emigrating due to the external economic opportunities; the volume of migration decreases as distance increases; migration occurs in stages instead of one long move; population movements are bilateral; and migration differentials such as gender or social class can influence a person's mobility” (Ravenstein, 1885, pg. 180-190).

This migration theorist determined that migration movement was ruled by push-pull factors. Ravenstein concluded that people had unfavorable conditions in one place to push people out and on the other hand, the favorable conditions in an external location pull them out (Ravenstein, 1885). According to Ravenstein the employment and wage opportunities were the major “determinants” of the migration. “In most instances it will be found that they did so leave their homes in search of work of a more remunerative or attractive kind than that afforded by the places of their birth” (Ravenstein, 1885, p. 181).

Since that period, many others explanations has been provided how “international migration is initiated and which social, cultural, economic or political consequences it has on the destination following the Ravenstein’s footsteps” (Thieme, 2006, p. 1).

For instance, Everett Lee reformulated Ravenstein’s theory, to stress more about the importance of push factors (Lee, 1966, pg. 47-57). Main argument of Lee was that certain variables such as distance, physical and political barriers, and having dependents can hamper or even prevent migration. He argued that migration is a selective process because differentials such as age, gender, and social class affect how persons respond to push-pull factors, and these conditions also shape their ability to overcome intervening obstacles (Lee, 1966). Lee made a summarization of influential factors into four main groups. He claimed that factors are connected with the area of origin and destination. Third group of factors are those who have the ability to overcome obstacles and last are personal factors. (Lee, 1966).

Theory which will be discussed next is the neoclassical economic theory. This theory represents generally conceives movement as an individual decision for income maximization (Lewis 1952, Todaro 1969, Borjas 1989). It means that this theory states the differentials in wages, employment conditions and migration cost between two geographic locations. Neoclassical economic theory suggests that international migration is related to the global supply and demand for labor (Sjaastad 1962, Todaro 1969). This factor, income differential can be very different between the countries of origin and destination. Logically, this is the one of the main reason why people decide to emigrate. The salary difference between the developed country and an underdeveloped country might be very divergence. Therefore, nations with scarce labor supply and high demand will have high wages that pull immigrants in from nations with a surplus of labor (Theories of migration).<sup>5</sup> Differential of the relative average wages of a professional category in comparison to national average income per capita of the labor force (Theories of migration). This claim is considered between the country of origin and destination in a migration decision therefore it may reflect the internal supply and demand situations (Theories of migration). This theory is best used to describe the transnational migration due the fact that it is not confined by international immigration laws and similar governmental regulations (Jennissen, 2007).

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<sup>5</sup> Marriage and Family, online Encyclopedia, Migration-Theories of Migration,<a href="http://family.jrank.org/pages/1170/Migration-Theories-Migration.html">Migration - Theories Of Migration</a>

Theory which will be taking into account for this research is Dual labor market theory. This theory links immigration to the structural requirements of modern industrial economies and suggests that developed economies are dualistic (Piore, 1979). It is dualistic because it consists from primary (high-skilled labor) and secondary (low skilled workers) segments. This theory argues that immigrants are needed to fill these jobs “that are necessary for the overall economy to function but are avoided by the native-born population because of the poor working conditions associated with the secondary labor market” (Theories of migration). In simple words, this theory claims that migration is caused by pull factors in more developed countries.

The world-systems theory sees migration as a natural consequence of economic globalization and market penetration across national boundaries (Thieme, 2006, Wallerstein 1974). It suggests that the mutual operation between societies might be an important factor in social change within societies. The international migration might be from the poor nations to the rich nations because factors associated with industrial development in the First World generated structural economic problems, and thus push factors, in the Third World (Wallerstein, 1974). This theory suggests that decision to migrate is mainly between different societies. Where the main differences are cultural values worldwide, economic imbalances and that is the reason what is causing migration (Thieme, 2006, p.2).

Final theory which is important to describe in order to analyze the factors in the act of migration is the new economics of labor migration theory. This theory relates most to the research question of this work. Theory suggests besides the labor market as a reason to migrate also some other noneconomic factors that influence the decision to migrate. This model of migration represents the households as the social entity. This household model has other conditions of market such as information, unemployment insurance market, and social capital and so on. Therefore, the new economics of labour migration theory views “migration as a household’s strategy to minimize family income risks or to overcome capital constraints on family production activities” (Thieme, 2006, p.1).

To sum up, the research characterized several economic migration theories which are related to the economic consideration and they are variants for the push and pull factors. Because as mentioned in a previous lines, Ravenstein determined that migration movement was ruled by push and pull factors. He concluded that people who had unfavorable conditions in one place to

push people out and on the other hand, the favorable conditions in an external location pull them out (Ravenstein, 1885). Therefore, these two general division groups are crucial for this research paper because they are influential in the act of migration.

These push and pull factors influencing migration, either forcefully pushing people or attracting them to the migration. The theories mentioned before such as a Neoclassical economic theory, Dual labor market theory, the world systems theory and the new economics of labor migration theory were evaluated in order to understand the process of decision making in the act of migration.

“Common to all these approaches is that migration processes are mainly seen as an uni- or bidirectional movement brought about by emigration, immigration or return migration caused by isolated factors such as political or economic ones ”(Thieme, 2006, p. 1). Therefore, following this theoretical framework, this research will continue to analyze the influential push and pull factors based on economic, demographic, socio-cultural, political and miscellaneous conditions.

### **2.1.2 The important influential push and pull factors**

From all the theories which were characterized in previous paragraph, the research will analyze the main factors in the act of migration. Motives to migrate can be distinguished between two general groups of factors. Push and Pull factors which either forcefully push people or attract them to the migration. It means these factors pushed them out of the place of origin or they are pulled by the attractive conditions in the new place. Both push and pull factors are economic, political, cultural and environmentally based.

**Push factors** are those which are forcing people to emigrate due to problematic occurring in their country. Generally, it is wanted emigration because of some unfavorable things. For instance: unemployment and underdevelopment, low productivity, poor economic conditions, lack of opportunities for advancement, exhaustion of natural resources and natural calamities and many others in their area (Adams, 1968). According to Adams, the push factors are those aspects in the country of origin for a given profession which produce emigration (Adams, 1968, p.126).

On the other hand, **pull factors** can be described as factors which are attracting people to another area for some better opportunities. Generally, some benefit attracts people to leave their country and emigrate to another one. “Pull factors being those aspects in the country of destination for the

same profession that induce the immigration” (Adams, 1968, p.126). To exemplify this situation let us consider “the sudden increase of demand for highly specialized persons in some fields takes place in the developed country, but this increased demand exceeds in the short term the possibilities of the supply of the higher educational system of that country” (Oteiza, 1968,p.131).

It is very polemical to discuss which of these factors are more important in a decision to migrate. Some researchers claim that push factors are more important than pull factors because “they feel that it is the rural problems rather than the urban attractions that play a dominating role in the migration of the population” (Kainth, 2009, p. 85).

However, some other researchers consider the pull factors more important in a decision to migrate because they “emphasize high rates of investment in urban areas leading to more employment and business opportunities and greater attraction for the urban way of life” (Kainth, 2009, p. 86). On the other hand, some researchers argue that there is importance of both push and pull factors in the act of migration because they are closely interrelated. It means that “those who are pushed into migration are simultaneously pulled by the expectations of finding something better elsewhere” (Kainth, 2009, p. 86).

After discussing that migration is a function of push and pull factors and the general division between those two kinds of factor, this research will summarize how push and pull factors are related to the **economic, demographic-socio-cultural, political and miscellaneous** conditions.

Most of the studies refer to a migration act as a primary motivated by **economic factors**. It is because developing countries do not have that amount of economic opportunities than the developed countries. Factors such as unemployment, low salaries, underemployment, and lack of opportunities are considered as the main factors for pushing migrants to more developed place with better carrier prospects and economic opportunities. Therefore, most of the migrants decided to migrate in search of better economic conditions. This research will specifically analyze the economic factors which are pushing away the Greek people in a chapter 4.

Another general group which is influencing in the act of migration are **demographic factors**. As know the demographic factors are cognate with personal characteristic such as age, gender, social class, level of education, family, or race/ethnicity (Kainth, 2009). In the act of migration, it can be for example factor such as marriage. Migrants are pulled from their country of origin to a



destination country because of better chances of marrying. “According to National Sample Survey, more than 46% migration to urban areas is caused by marriage” (Kainth, 2009, p.86).

Next group of factors are **social and cultural factors**. This group of factors play very important role in the act of migration. For instance, in a case of younger generation, they often want to have life experience abroad or familiarization with a different culture. Also, they are attractive to the Universities or research institutes of the advanced countries or communication skills such as transportation, impact of the television, the cinema, the urban oriented education (Kainth, 2009).

Important general group of factors which are crucial in the act of migration are **political factors** as well. A lot of migrants are migrating because of the political crisis, military coups, discrimination, lack of political freedom and many others in their country of origin. For instance the political persecution also can be a factor which influences the decision of people either to go out of the country or to attract people of another country to come in (Kainth, 2009). “Law may influence migration directly. The host country may have immigration laws which may either encourage immigration or may serve as a deterrent“(Kainth, 2009, p. 86).

Finally a set of last general factors which are influential in the act of migration are **miscellaneous factors**. Those factors are mix of differentials decisions. Mostly, they are personal motives to emigrate. It can include many other factors such as institutional stability, the degree in which is possible to dissent with governmental or institutional authorities, employment, promotion criteria, family–friends links, attractiveness of higher level of education (Kainth, 2009). For instance family or friends links, means people choose to migrate because of the relatives and friends which might help them in a new place of destination or higher education level is often only possible only in urban areas and plenty others. Those factors are very individual and it’s hard to summarize them.

Summarization of all those push and pull factors based on different conditions, theories can be seen in Table 2.1. Therefore, statement can be derived from this theoretical discussion in order to test the empirical reality that follows from a more general proposition (Babbie, 2007).

Thus, the statement of this research can be derived: *Push factors are more prevalent than the pull factors in a case of Greeks students.*

**Table 2.1: List of push and pull factors based on economic, demographic, socio-cultural, political and miscellaneous conditions:**

<b>Conditions:</b>	<b>Push Factors:</b>	<b>Pull Factors:</b>
<b>Economic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough jobs</li> <li>• Few opportunities</li> <li>• Slavery or forced labour</li> <li>• Poor housing</li> <li>• Economic crisis</li> <li>• Poor medical care</li> <li>• Loss of wealth</li> <li>• University crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better career prospects</li> <li>• Better living conditions</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Finance support: Financing the education: scholarships, government financed subsidized research programs</li> <li>• Better medical care</li> <li>• Attractiveness of the Universities or research institutes of the advanced countries</li> </ul>
<b>Demographic Factors/Socio-Cultural Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor chances of marrying</li> <li>• Primitive conditions</li> <li>• Racial religious</li> <li>• Bullying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better chances of marrying</li> <li>• Enjoyment</li> <li>• Life experience abroad</li> <li>• Familiarization with different cultures</li> <li>• High level of education</li> <li>• Family relatives</li> <li>• Friends links</li> <li>• Social network</li> </ul>
<b>Political Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• political fear or persecution</li> <li>• political crisis</li> <li>• political instability</li> <li>• death treats</li> <li>• war</li> <li>• military coups</li> <li>• corruption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political or religious freedom</li> <li>• Living in societies with higher tolerance towards the other reveal that cosmopolitanism</li> <li>• Security</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condemned housing</li> <li>• Discrimination</li> <li>• foreign invasion</li> <li>• social instability</li> <li>• famine or drought</li> <li>• natural disasters</li> <li>• pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attractive climate</li> <li>• Adventures/experiences</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Conclusion

To sum up, in this chapter above, a general view of the factors which might be influential for the decision of the migration has been provided in order to analyze the research question. The previous section described general literature from different authors which suggested the important influential decisions for migration. The decisions to migrate are framed by economic, social, political, cultural, demographic conditions of society. Therefore, this literature review shows that there is a general division between the factors influencing migration, either forcefully pushing people or attracting them to the migration. Summarization of all those push and pull factors can be seen in Table 2.1.

## **Chapter 3 Methodology**

This chapter discusses the methodology used in this research, which is deduced from theory and utilized to find out the empirical reality. This study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods. The results of the methods will test the factors which are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate.

Therefore, the empirical structure of the research will be composed firstly from quantitative analysis of the economic-demographic-socio-political factors based on descriptive statistics and quantitative general survey of the Greek in comparison to the EU. Thereafter, this research will analyze in depth the case study of Greek students of the University of Twente.

In order to examine what are the main reasons for young Greeks to emigrate, certain methodologies were chosen for this research. First, is important to know what is going on in Greece and what is the current political and economic situation. Then, it is significant illustrate how Greeks feel about the situation and to examine what is their opinions and attitudes about the economic and political situation comparing to the other Europeans from EU Member States. How they feel about all situation in Greece. Finally, it will be shown some evidences of actual young Greeks students in order to examine why they choose to emigrate.

### **3.1 Quantitative methods**

This study uses two quantitative methods. First the research applies quantitative analysis based on economic-demographic-socio-political factors in order to illustrate the descriptive statistics. The descriptive statistics data are need for illustrating the current economic and political situation in Greece. It is important to know what is going on in Greece and show related data to prove it in order to examine why Greeks might emigrate from Greece. These descriptive statistics were collected from Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), Euro Barometer and Hellenic Republic Ministry of Finance (2012).<sup>6</sup> The needed data were collected based on theoretical framework in order to illustrate the labor market situation in Greece and support the research question.

The second quantitative method used for this study is the general survey. The survey will compare the differentiation between public opinion across EU Member State s and Greece. It will

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<sup>6</sup> Hellenic National Reform Programme 2012-2015, Report on the progress towards 'Europe 2020' and the implementation of the Euro plus Pact commitments1.

illustrate the results of Europeans and Greeks in different questions related mainly to the economy and the political situation to indicate how Greeks feel about the situation comparing to the other Europeans.

In order to do so, the Euro barometer survey (Standard 76) for the public opinion in the EU (December 2011) will be used as main reference to illustrate this section.<sup>7</sup> This survey was conducted between 5 and 20 of November 2011. The interviews took place in 27 European Union Member States. The total number of interviews for EU 27: 26 594 and number of Greek interviews: 1000. “The methodology used is that of the Standard Euro barometer surveys of the Directorate-General for Communication Research and Speechwriting Unit” (Euro barometer 76, 2011).

### **3.2 Qualitative method**

In order to answer the research question of this study, personal interviews were conducted for this research specifically to illustrate what are the main reasons for young Greeks to emigrate. Therefore, this methodology section will describe what was done in this research related to the interviews.

Thus, this section will analyze the exact operations involved in measuring a variable. In order to find out how those people were chosen for qualitative interviewing, the next section will answer the following questions: How many people were interviewed for the research; who was interviewed and why; how the interviews were conducted and when the poll was done. Furthermore, this research discusses what questions were asked and how they were chosen. Moreover, last part of the methodology section will show how this research will operationalize the indicators (the theoretical factors) for the push and pull into empirical variables based on the theoretical framework part (chapter 2).

Interviews were chosen because they have several advantages over having a simple questionnaire. Let us examine a few advantages in more detail which show why this method is suitable for this research.

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<sup>7</sup> Standard Eurobarometer survey 76(Public Opinion in the European Union), December 2011.European Commission

Personal interviews attain higher response rates than mail surveys. The main reason for this is that “the respondents seem to be more reluctant to turn down an interviewer standing on their doorstep than to throw away a mailed questionnaire” (Babbie, 2007, p. 264).

“Likewise, personal interviews are more effective because we can expel the probability that many respondents will quickly give answers like/ respond to the questions with: I don’t know’ or ‘no’ in the interviewer’s presence they will be more talkative. If minimizing such responses is important to the study, the interviewer can be instructed to probe for answers” (Babbie, 2007, p. 265). Probe in this case means “a technique employed in interviewing to solicit a more complete answer to a question. It is a nondirective phrase or question used to encourage a respondent to elaborate on an answer” (Babbie, 2007, p. 267). For better investigation and obtaining information is need to use probe in interview questionnaire. “Often, interviewers need to probe for answers that will be sufficiently informative for analytical purposes”(Babbie, 2007, p. 267). On occasion it can happen that for certain cases the researcher is going to get an inappropriate and incomplete answer from the respondent. In that case is necessary to use the technique of probe. For instance, the researcher can ask questions like “Anything else?” or “How would you explain that?, What do you mean by that? These questions can help to gather more data for need research.

Moreover, an advantage of qualitative interview is for instance “a situation when respondent clearly misunderstands the intent of a question or indicates that he or she does not understand, the interviewer can clarify matters, thereby obtaining relevant responses what would be not possible by questionnaire survey” (Babbie, 2007, p. 265). “In surveys, questionnaires are strictly structured; on the other hand interviews are less structured. Qualitative interviewing design is flexible, iterative, and continuous, rather than prepared in advance and locked in stone” (Herbert and Rubin, 1955, p. 43).

Another positive factor about the qualitative interview is flexibility, so that it is easy to modify the research at any time for both sides. “It means that the researcher is always prepared to engage in field research, whenever the occasion should arise, whereas you could not as easily initiate a survey or an experiment” (Babbie, 2007 . pg. 312).

Furthermore, an advantage can be that qualitative interviews conducted for this research were inexpensive. It was low in cost. As we know, social scientific research methods may require costly equipment or expensive research equipment (Babbie, 2007, p. 312).

### 3.2.1 Operationalization

This section determines variables such as: total number, status, level of studies, age, gender, nationality and geographical area and specifies the attributes which were inevitable for the interviews. For a better understanding all variables and attributes are denoted in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1. Variables and attributes.**

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Attributes</i>
Total number	12
Status	Student
Level of studies	Master degree
Age	24-30
Gender	-Males 9 -Females 3
Nationality	Greek
Geographical area	The Netherlands, Enschede, University of Twente

There was no determination of the exact number of the respondents. At the beginning it was very hard to ascertain how many people will be willing to participate in this research. For this study the snowball sampling technique was used. It means that the “researcher collects data on the few members of the target population he or she can locate, then asks those individuals to provide the information needed to locate other members of that population whom they happen to know ” (Babbie, 2007, p. 185). In a simple way one respondent can suggest other respondent and so on. It was not important which **gender** the respondent has for this research. Thanks to the snowball process of accumulation, 12 persons in **total** participated in qualitative interview.

As Babbie suggests in his book a given interviewer should be assigned to complete all the interviews in a particular **geographical area**, city or a group of nearby blocks. Therefore, the interviews were carried out only in Enschede, The Netherlands. All respondents were students from the University of Twente.

For this research was inevitable that all respondents have to have Greek's nationality. Because the research analyzes the main factors which are influential for the Greeks according to the already determined variable **nationality**. The only difference was that they came from 5 different Greek cities such as Patras, Athens, Thessaloniki, Volos and Kavala.

It was important that all of them had to have **status** of student due the fact that this research is analyzing the brain drain of young generation. All 12 respondents were between **ages** 24-30, master students in engineering field.

### **3.2.1.1 What questions were asked**

This section describes that the qualitative interview was conducted by personal interviews between 20<sup>th</sup> of January and February 24<sup>th</sup> in 2013. All Greeks which were interviewed emigrated between 2010 and 2012. As known, this research deals with problematic after economic financial crisis which dates from late 2007 and 2012- possibly beyond. Therefore, all participants must obtain this condition in order to participate in this research.

This questionnaire contains very recent questions because is very important to obtain up-to-date results. Due to the fact that crisis in Greece and the brain drain phenomenon of young researchers is a current topic which is still going on. Hence, questions which were asked were based on the current situation in Greece. For this research it is more than necessary to earn recent information because some noncurrent results can be overtaken by subsequent events (Gawiser and Wittm, 2008). The Questions which were included in the questionnaire were divided into A, B, C and D groups. The aim of each section was different: Questions in a group A discussed mainly general questions about the emigration. Questions in group B and C were about the labor market in Greece. Last group D contains questions mainly about their future plans. A sample of the questionnaire can be seen in annex 2.

All interviews of 12 respondents were conducted personally. Each of the interviews was perceived as a story where the students were talking for more than 60 minutes. The participants were not together in one room at the same time. Each person was interviewed separately. The main reason for the choice of an individual interview was to not influence the respondent by the answers of the others. The sample of questionnaire which was given to participants can be seen in annex 2. All 12 transcripts of the interviews can be found in annex 3.

### **3.2.1.2 Operationalization of the indicators**

In order to analyze the research question upcoming section will illustrate, how this research will operationalize the indicators (the theoretical factors) for the push and pull into empirical variables based on the theoretical part which was analyze in chapter 2.

The section 2.2 discussed all general factors which are influencing in the decision to migrate from country of origin to a country of destination. The summarization of pushes and pull factors based on economic, demographic, socio cultural, political and miscellaneous conditions can be seen in Table 2.1 in section 2.1.2. As known, the research analyzes the case study of Greek students of the University of Twente. Thus is important to look at the factors which are influential especially for the Greek people after the economic crisis.

Due to the current situation in Greece, is important to evaluate only the recent migration boom since the crisis started (2009-possibly beyond) research can generally analyze some push factors based on theoretical framework (chapter 2). As the introduction described that European officials comprehended that Greece is treating to all Euro zone the only one solution was through the IMF/EU/ECB (called Troika) intervention (Hadjimichalis, 2011, p. 257). “The proposed package of cuts that would protect global investors places a high burden on the working and middle classes. It includes extensive privatization; a 2–5 percent increase in sales taxes; a 20–30 percent cut in salaries in the public sector; freezing and in some cases reducing pension payments; a 34 percent cut in public spending on education, health and public works; and, most importantly, major anti-labor institutional changes” (Hadjimichalis, 2011, p. 257). “These measures will complete a vicious economic circle of rising unemployment and inflation, shrinking tax revenues and profiteering market valuation of economic policies. They will sink the country from its current deep recession into an enduring depression with no obvious way out” (Hadjimichalis, 2011, pg. 257).

Therefore, push factors such as economic crisis, unemployment rate, few opportunities, political crisis, university crises or lack of the opportunities in higher educational institute were chosen to be test. Consequently, these push factors will be more analyze and clarify in chapter 4 based on the theoretical framework, descriptive statistic about the labor market, attitudes/opinions and interviews.



After presenting the push motives and reasons in decision to migrate of Greeks people, this research will discuss the pull factors which are pulling Greeks to the Netherlands. In section 2.1.2, this research evaluated the possible most important pull factors. Hence, based on the current situation in Greece, this research will examine those pull factors which might be the most relevant. Pull factors which will be clarify are: better career prospects, more opportunities, family relatives, friend’s links and attractiveness of the Universities which can be seen on Table 3.2. The research won’t analyze the other pull factors which were mention in Table 2.1 because these particular are the most linked to the research question.

**Table 3.2. The indicators (the theoretical factors) for the push and pull into empirical variables.**

<b>Conditions:</b>	<b>Push Factors:</b>	<b>Why the Greeks are Pull when they decide to emigrate</b>
<b>Economic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough jobs</li> <li>• Few opportunities</li> <li>• Economic crisis</li> <li>• University crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better career prospects</li> <li>• Attractiveness of the Universities or research institutes of the advanced countries</li> </ul>
<b>Demographic Factors/Socio-Cultural Factors</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family relatives</li> <li>• Friends links/social networks</li> </ul>
<b>Political Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political instability</li> </ul>	

### 3.2.2 Limitations

However, the qualitative research can have besides strengths also weaknesses. For instance, “qualitative method is generally not appropriate for arriving at statistical description of large population. Also, conducting field research responsibly involves confronting several ethical issues that arise from the researcher’s direct contact with subject” (Babbie, 2007, p. 315).

Moreover, there were some limitations of the interviews. From all respondent only 3 participants were females. Also, some of the respondents were not comfortable to talk openly about the reasons why they chose to emigrate. Generally, males were more open to talk than females.

### **3.3 Conclusion**

All these push and pull factors were chosen based on the current economic and political situation in Greece which was evaluated in the introduction. With all the information from the theoretical framework, it is easy to understand and follow why exactly these push and pull factors were chosen. Consequently, Table 3.2 illustrates the most relevant push and pull factors which will be examined in the empirical chapter based on the results collected from the interviews, descriptive statistics and general survey.

However it is important to mention that this research cannot argue that all highly skilled Greeks, the so called “brains”, are emigrating just because of the crisis or the current situation in Greece. This research can only evaluate that crisis is one of the possible reasons why people emigrate. As mentioned before there are plenty of other factors which are influential for Greeks (can be seen in Table 2.1). Therefore, after explaining the current situation in Greece, the main push and pull factors influencing the Greek people to emigrate (perhaps due to the crisis) will be illustrated in the following empirical chapter, which will provide the final analysis.

## **Chapter 4 Empirical framework: Analysis**

This empirical chapter will analyze the most influential factors in the act of migration of the young Greek people after the economic crisis. This research will link the current situation in Greece to the factors which are influential in the act of decision to migrate for Greeks. It will support the statement of this research: *Push factors are more prevalent than the pull factors in a case of Greeks students.*

As mentioned in the methodology section, this study is evaluating only the recent migration boom since the crisis started. Hence, the research will first clarify the push and pull factors considering the economic, political, socio-cultural and miscellaneous conditions from the Table 3.2 based on the theoretical framework. Likewise, this part will illustrate the descriptive statistics about the labor market in Greece in order to support the answer of the research question.

Second, this research will examine the general survey from the Euro barometer. Results of this general survey will characterize how Greeks feel about the current situation comparing to the other EU Member States.

Third, section of this empirical part will analyze the results of the qualitative personal interviews which were conducted specifically for this research to support the research question.

### **4.1 Push Factors**

Following chapter 2 section 2.1.1, push factors are those which are forcing people to emigrate due to problematic occurring in their country. This section will analyze the push factors based on economic and political conditions, using the descriptive statistics.

#### **4.1.1 Factors based on Economic conditions: Labor market**

Following Chapter 2 section 2.1.1, all economic migration theories stands that the most influential factors are based on economic conditions. Consequently, the research will start to analyze also the economic based factors first because they are related with the research question most.

Therefore, this study will examine first the labor market and indicators such as: not enough jobs and few career opportunities. In order to explain lack of opportunities and jobs is inevitable to clarify the unemployment rate which is linked with those factors.

To justify if the unemployment rate might be considering as the most influential factor in the act of decision to migrate is more than essential to answer: why the unemployment rate is increasing so enormously in Greece?

As known, the youth unemployment increased over the past decade of Greece as mentioned in the introduction. The social life after the confirmation of two rescue bailout packages has change in a negative way for the Greek population. They had to accept the hug cuts to public spending, services and welfare payments and many others changes (Hadjimichalis, 2011). Let's have closer look to which reforms change the labor market and why the unemployment rate has increased after the financial crisis. The main changes which were adopted in Greece labor market are (Hellenic National Reform Programme 2012-2015, pg. 6):

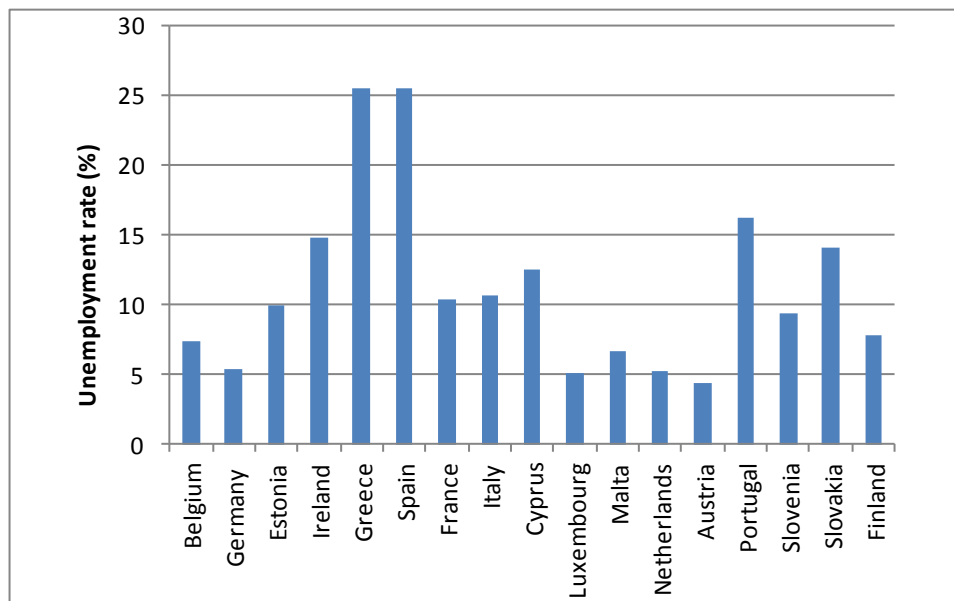
- *“ The introduction of sub-minimum wages for the young employees*
- *The increase in the probation period*
- *The facilitation of part time and rotation work*
- *The reduction in the severance payments*
- *The increase in the threshold for collective dismissals.*
- *The reduction in the overtime cost”*

All these changes caused mainly problems in a labor area and the youth labor market is the most affected. The best way to prove this confirmation is by illustrating the existing data before the start of the financial crisis (2007-2012) and current data in order to answer the research question. Hence, the research will analyze the data gathered from ELSTAT, Euro barometer and Hellenic Republic Ministry of Finance.

The last poll conducted by the Hellenic Statistical Authority, taken in July 2012, shows that the unemployment rate of all persons in Greece represents 25, 6 % (ELSTAT). The current, Greece unemployment rate number stands for the worst Euro zone record. This claim can be seen in the

Figure 4.1. Where this scheme illustrate the unemployment rate of all 17 euro-zone countries for the year 2012.

**Figure 4.1. The unemployment rate of the Members of the Euro zone in 2012.**



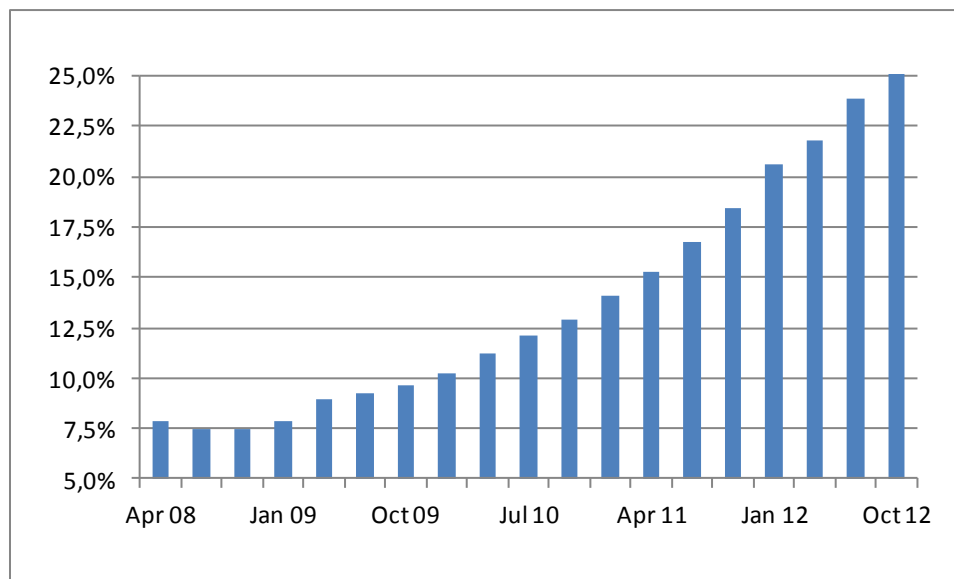
GEO/TIME	2012Q3	GEO/TIME	2012Q3
European Union (27 countries)	10,5	Cyprus	12,5
Euro area (17 countries)	11,5	Luxembourg	5,1
Belgium	7,4	Malta	6,7
Germany	5,4	Netherlands	5,3
Estonia	10,0	Austria	4,4
Ireland	14,8	Portugal	16,2
Greece	25,5	Slovenia	9,4
Spain	25,5	Slovakia	14,1
France	10,3	Finland	7,8
Italy	10,7		

(Source: ELSTAT, The Hellenic Statistical Authority, 2012)

The difference between the highest record of the unemployment rate and the lowest record of the unemployment rate stands for 21,2% in Euro zone. Where Greece poses 25,1 % of unemployment rate while Austria represent only 3,9% for 2012.

The unemployment rate of all Greeks of all ages can be seen in Figure 4.2. Where it can be seen that there is a huge shift between 2008 and 2012. Following Figure 4.2, is more than clear that the unemployment rate in Greece has risen from 6, 6% in April 2008 to 25% in October 2012. The divergence between these 4 years equals to the 17,5 %. This fact confirms that the unemployment rate has increased after the financial crisis.

**Figure 4.2. The unemployment rate of all Greeks for all ages.**

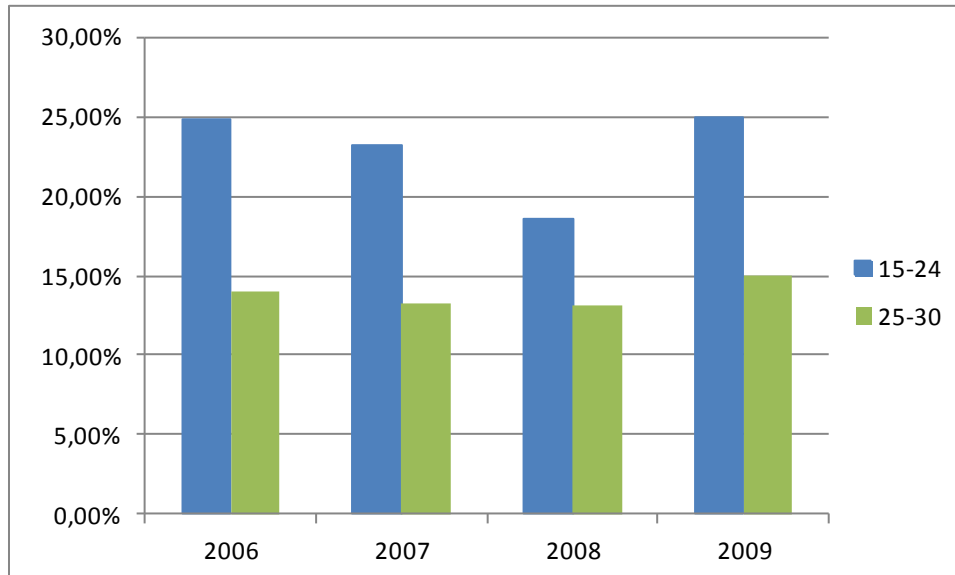


Period	UR	Period	UR	Period	UR
<b>Apr 08</b>	<b>7,9%</b>	oct-09	<b>9,6%</b>	Apr 11	15,3%
jul-08	7,5%	<b>Jan 10</b>	10,2%	<b>jul-11</b>	16,7%
<b>oct-08</b>	7,5%	<b>Apr 10</b>	11,2%	<b>oct-11</b>	18,4%
<b>Jan 09</b>	7,9%	<b>Jul 10</b>	12,1%	<b>Jan 12</b>	20,6%
<b>Apr 09</b>	8,9%	<b>oct-10</b>	12,9%	<b>Apr 12</b>	21,8%
<b>Jul 09</b>	9,2%	<b>Jan 11</b>	14,1%	<b>Jul 12</b>	23,9%
				<b>oct-12</b>	25,6%

(Source: The Unemployment rate in Greece 2008-2012, ELSTAT)

The unemployment rate of the youth generation between 15-24 and 25-30 will be examined because this group is the most affected after the crisis as mentioned before. These data are illustrated in Figure 4.3 and Figure 4.4 below the text.

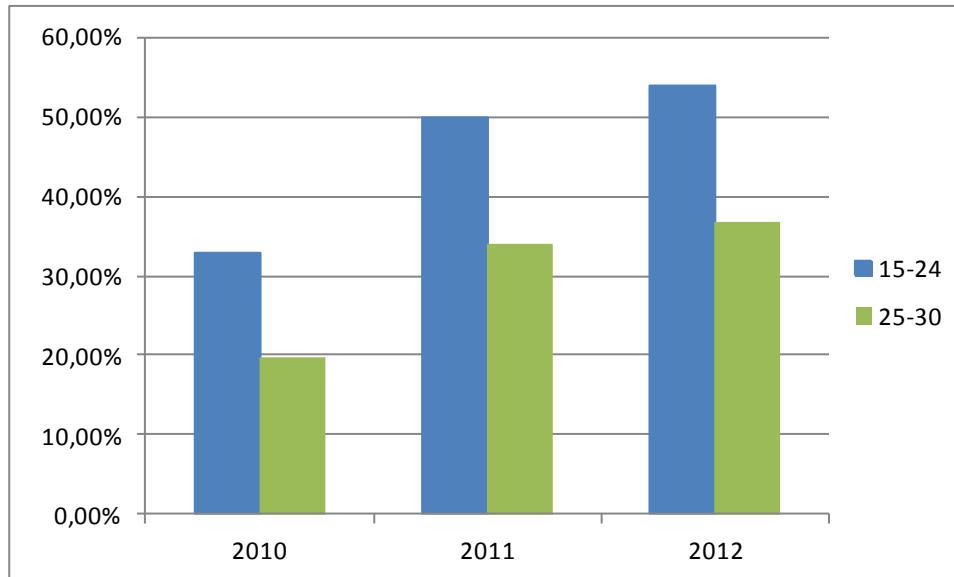
**Figure 4.3. Before the financial crisis: The Unemployment rate among 15-24 years old and 25-35 years olds.**



AGE GROUP	2006	2007	2008	2009
15-24	24,8%	23,2%	18,6%	25%
25-30	14%	13,2%	13,1%	15%

(Source: Greek Ministry of Finance (2012) Hellenic National Reform Programme 2012-2015 and ELSTAT, Hellenic Statistical Authority)

**Figure 4.4. Through the crisis: The Unemployment rate among 15-24 years old and 25-35 years olds.**



	2010	2011	2Q 2012
<b>15-24</b>	32,9%	49,9%	53,9%
<b>25-30</b>	19,7%	34%	36,8%

(Source: Greek Ministry of Finance (2012) Hellenic National Reform Programme 2012-2015 and ELSTAT, Hellenic Statistical Authority)

According to the Hellenic National Reform Programme, the unemployment rate between the 2010 and between the 2011 grew with the divergence of 17%. It can be seen in Figure 4.4 where the unemployment rate stands for 49, 9%. This research can assume that with the start of the Greek government-debt crisis the unemployment rate started to rapidly increase in 2011 what could be seen in Figure 4.3 and Figure 4.4. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate of youth is still increasing which can be seen in Figure 4.4. The unemployment rate among 15-24 years olds pose 53, 9%, for 2012.

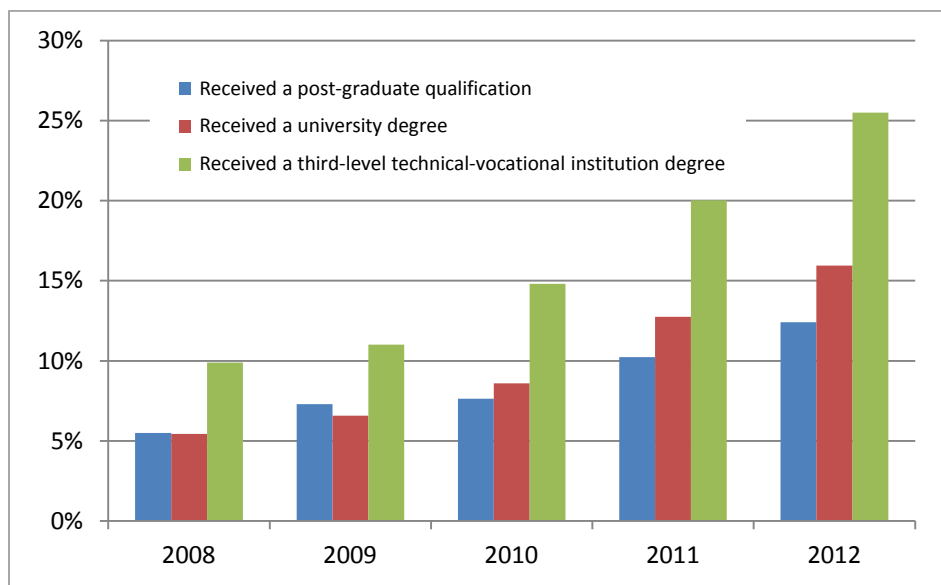
Following the unemployment rate among 25-30 years olds it is not that tragic how those aged among 15-24, what could be seen in Figure 4.3 and Figure 4.4. Nevertheless, still the unemployment rate represents very high percentage. The current unemployment rate among 25-30 represents 36, 8%, for 2012. Since the start of the Greek debt govern crisis (2009) and 2012 the unemployment rate has increased about 21, 8%. What represents enormously big number.



For this study is important to clarify the unemployment rate of youth according to the level of education. As known, this research refers to the brain drain phenomenon. Also, it is important to illustrate the unemployment rate of the highly skilled Greek population. Figure 4.5 illustrates the youth unemployment rate according to the level of education such as a post graduate qualification, University degree and a third level technical-vocational institution degree.

Following, Figure 4.5, more qualified students are, they have more problem to find a job. In fact, the financial news service Bloomberg says 53% of university age Greeks plan to emigrate and 17% are already taking active steps to do so (Jones, 2012). At the same time, the National Technical University of Athens says 4 out of 10 of the current graduating civil engineers are aiming to emigrate (Jones, 2012, p.1).

**Figure 4.5. The Youth unemployment rate according to the level of degree.**



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Post-graduate qualification</b>	5%	7%	8%	10%	12%
<b>University degree</b>	5%	7%	9%	13%	16%
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> level technical degree</b>	10%	11%	15%	20%	26%

(Source: Greek Ministry of Finance (2012) Hellenic National Reform Programme 2012-2015 and ELSTAT, Hellenic Statistical Authority)

Young Greeks might seeking jobs abroad because of the high unemployment rate what equals the lack of career opportunities in Greece. “In the first five months of 2011, more than 35,000 Greeks registered their educational and qualification details under the EU-sponsored Euro pass scheme that aims to increase mobility within the Union. Of these, more than 22,000 were under the age of 30” ( Malkoutzis, 2011, p.1).

A Euro barometer survey for the EU’s Youth on the Move programme (May, 2011) suggested that 37 % of young Greeks were willing to work long-term in another European country (Table 4.1). This was the third-highest figure in the 31 countries that took part in the poll and well above the average” (Malkoutzis, 2011).

**Table 4.1. Would you be willing/would you like to work in another European country in the future?**

	<b>For a limited time</b>	<b>For the long term</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don’t know</b>
<b>Greece</b>	27%	37%	36%	0%
<b>European average</b>	28%	25%	44%	3%

(Source: Euro barometer, The EU’s Youth on the Move programme, May, 2011)

To sum up, from all those figures and tables we can see that the unemployment rate after the financial crisis (2007-2012) and Greek debt govern crisis (2009-possibly beyond) has increased. According to Hellenic Statistical Authority 810, 800 jobless Greeks are searching for one of only 47 000 jobs (Tzilivakis, 2011, p.1).

It means that the high unemployment rate refers to not enough jobs and lack of career opportunities in country. Moreover, “recent studies undertaken by the newly established career offices of Greek universities show that almost all higher education young graduates suffer from unemployment” (Liagouras,2003, p.418).

However, research is not arguing that the unemployment rate has increased only because of the economic financial crisis and Greek debt govern crisis. Research analyzes the situation after the economic financial crisis. Therefore, research only can assume that the rapid increase of the unemployment rate in Greece might be caused also because of the crisis in Greece. For instance the changes and reforms mentioned in introduction such as reforms involving huge cuts to public spending, services and welfare payments are caused by the crisis.

#### **4.1.1.1 University Crisis**

After the financial crisis, the Greek Universities were in trouble mainly because of debts due to loans from EU. “IMF for the country’s bail out, the effective direct cuts in salaries for university teachers represents 23-25 %” (Worldpress, 2011,p.1).

“Many of Greece's universities have been reduced to penury, with their accounts now approaching zero, following the conversion of their funds into Greek state bonds by the Bank of Greece and the subsequent PSI bond swap scheme they were forced to accept in March, 2011” (Phantis, 2012, p.1).

The fact is that the salaries of the Greeks teachers were already low comparing to the other European countries but with the start of the crisis the situation got worse (Tsikliars and Stergiou, 2012). This study can assume that there are going to be only limited universities job openings in coming years following previous facts (Tsikliars and Stergiou, 2012). Hence, these drastic cuts of the teachers’ salaries can mean that many of them will have to seek a job abroad because of very low wages. Moreover, with starting the crisis, the Greek government stopped supporting the Universities. The government stop giving the money to the Universities for certain equipment such as books, text books and many others needs (Tsikliars and Stergiou, 2012).

Likewise, “Greece archaic education system and strikes have held back those who pursued their education at home” (The Economist, 14th of January, 2012). A lot of students are behind their studies due the fact that the exams have been delayed or cancelled. Those who were lucky enough and find some jobs are underpaid, overtaxed or overqualified (The Economist, 14th of January, 2012).

An important fact to mention is that according to the new law, universities can be shut down when this is in agreement with the needs of the national economy (Papapostolou, 2012, p.1). So it means that the Greek government can close the Universities as the way of reducing public spending. Greece has around 40 Universities. After the Greek debt govern crisis, 6 Universities are completely empty and it’s only matter of time when they are going to be closed. Also, 17 Greek Universities had deposited with the Bank of Greece for their operating expenses (Phantis, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012).

After discussing the University crisis in Greece is time to look why this factor based on socio-cultural conditions might be push factor and not pull factor.

The education in Greece is free. Not like in others western countries. So, Greek people can obtain higher degree without any payments, which is very “comfortable” because study for free is not common in other European country where the students have to pay a tuition fees (Marseilles, 2010).

Furthermore, to obtain higher education in Greece is not at the same level than in the other European Countries. Greek students can remain enrolled for years on end, without passing exams or paying any fees (Rafenberg, 2011). It is because students in Greeks Universities have rights to take exams plenty of times there is no limitations like in the other universities in Europe where students are allow to take exams only 2 or 3 times. Nowadays, the university crisis can be consider as one of the most influential push factor in the decision to migrate for the young Greek students.

#### **4.1.2 Factors based on Political conditions**

In order to analyze which factors are the most influential in the act of migration based on political factors was necessary to explain in the introduction, the current economic and political situation. As known, research analyzes the most influential factors after the economic crisis. Therefore, this section will clarify factors based on political conditions such as political instability and dissatisfaction.

##### **4.1.2.1 Political instability and dissatisfaction**

“Nowadays, a lot of young Greeks see the near-collapse of Greece’s economy as the death knell for the system of political governance” (Malkoutzis, 2011, p.2) .Young Greeks are blaming the politicians for the current situation in Greece. They are angry about the Greek government. Young Greeks are without any political parties which represents their views (Hadjimatheou, 2011).

“In November, 2010 when the local elections took place, the abstention rate reached over 50%. This unprecedented figure was seen by many commentators as a rejection by young Greeks in particular of the ideas and values of the existing political parties” (Malkoutzis, 2011, p.3).

Greeks are mostly angry about the huge politician's corruption in the case where the politicians falsified budget figures in the period between 1998 and 2009; the Goldman Sachs Bank helped the Greek government to lie about the real amount of the state debt. This bank through Credit default swap transactions falsified the true amount of the state debt (Kovanda, 2011.pg. 22).

Because of this and many other problems in a country, the Greek government has agreed about some changes and reforms with the ECB and IMF as mentioned before. Greek people strongly disagreed with all this cuts and reforms and they started to protest because they are scare about their future and about the consequences of the reforms and changes (Ford, 2012). In this country violent demonstrations are happening because population is very unsatisfied with all changes made (Ford, 2012). The current situation in the country is very dramatic due the massive violent demonstration. A public opinion survey, conducted in 2011, illustrates that 80% of Greeks are pessimistic about their future in Greece and they are willing to go abroad (GPO, 2011, July).

## **4.2 Pull factors**

As mentioned in chapter 2 section 2.1.2, pull factors are those which are attracting people to another area for some better opportunities. This section will clarify the pull factors based on economic, miscellaneous and socio-culture conditions, using the descriptive statistics.

### **4.2.1 Factors based on Economic conditions**

Following chapter 2 section 2.1.1, all economic migration theories claims that the most significant factors are based on economic conditions. Therefore, this section will start to evaluate also the economic factors first.

#### **4.2.1.1 Better career prospects and more opportunities**

Better career prospects are also decisions which are influential in the act of migration based on economic conditions. Therefore, testing this factor will be discussed in next lines. Research will use some examples of the countries which are offering jobs in order to show how this factor can be influential.

“In the past, before the Greek debt government crisis, Greeks entering medical school could assume a job awaited them on graduation ”(Barnato, 2012, p.1). However, the changes and

reforms after the help from IMF and ECB influenced the public sector. Greece's public sector hiring stopped, meaning some doctors are now forced to work without a payment (Barnato, 2011). What was not common before the Greek debt govern crisis. Therefore, newly graduate qualified medical doctors, for instance, are increasingly looking towards Germany, which suffers from shortages of medics in certain specializations. According to the George Tzogopoulos<sup>8</sup>, "normally German hospitals do not have the full quota of doctors, so they open the door to other European citizens. There are many Greek doctors in Germany; they go for a two- or three-year temporary contract, and then gain a permanent one. It is like an internship, quite a good internship that is paid well" (Barnato, 2012, p.1).

One of the main influential factors for Greek people can be considered that some countries are willing to welcome a lot of migrants to offer them better career prospects. "For instance: In the beginning of 2012, Canada admitted 250,000 immigrants and to target those who have a good grasp of English or French and have studied at higher education levels" (Friesen, 2012, p. 1-3). According to national polls a lot of Greeks are immigrating to Canada because the economy has remained relatively strong (Friesen, 2012).

Another country such as Ireland is offering jobs for migrants on mushrooms or fish farms. They are offering same amount of money as to British workers with possibilities to learn English. According to the Peter Mauc<sup>9</sup>, "I would like to target the Greeks university graduates who want to work for one year on a farm in Northern Ireland and to learn English" (Tzilivakis, 25 september, 2011, Athens News).

All these mentioned facts can be seen as a pull factor. For instance, Germany is offering new positions for young graduate's doctors. So, it means that young Greeks can be attractive by these offers and might emigrate because of the better career prospects than in Greece.

#### **4.2.2 Factors based on miscellaneous conditions**

Factors based on different conditions are related mostly to the personal motives to emigrate. Therefore, this section will discuss factors such as: family relatives and friends links.

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<sup>8</sup> George Tzogopoulos, a research fellow at the Athens-based Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

<sup>9</sup> Peter Mauc a recruitment agent in Northern Ireland for Athens News

#### **4.2.2.1 Family relatives and friends links**

Many Greeks are emigrating because of the family relatives or friend's links. These factors were influential in the act of decision before the crisis. However, those factors are still the most important in the decision of the act of migration after the financial crisis as well. For instance, Greeks are emigrating mostly to USA, Canada, Australia or United Kingdom because of the family relatives and huge Greek communities who migrate there in a past (Jones, 2012).

According to John Yannitsos<sup>10</sup>, this year (2012) a few dozen Greek residents are arriving in Calgary every week (Jones, 2012). The majorities are Greek citizens with Canadian relatives, along with some Canadian citizens who had been living in Greece and now they are starting to return because of the situation in their country (Jones, 2012).

In Astoria, a section of Queens, New York that is also known as "Little Greece" many Greeks have tendency to migrate there because of friends and relatives (Gationis, 2012). For instance in 2011, "number of Greeks who flew into New York via JFK airport was up 20% compared to 2006. And at the Immigration Advocacy Services in Astoria, a nonprofit organization that helps newcomers navigate residency paperwork, staff have observed a 50% rise in Greek clients in just the past year" (Gatinois, April, 2012).

#### **4.2.3 Factors based on Socio-Cultural conditions**

Following chapter 2 section 2.1.2, social and cultural factors are also very important in decision to migrate. Mostly, these factors are related with the younger generation, they often want to have life experience or study abroad. Therefore, this section will evaluate factors based on socio-cultural conditions.

##### **4.2.3.1 Attractiveness of the Universities**

Nowadays, mostly Greeks students are immigrating for further degrees to the wealthier European countries such as the UK, Germany and the Netherlands (Labrianidis and Vogiatyis 2012). For instance, for further degrees they are immigrating because if they want to find a job in Europe they have to obtain this further degree. "Having a good education is an important requisite for finding a job" (OECD). They want to improve their education or skill level. It is because higher

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<sup>10</sup> John Yanitsos :President of the Hellenic Society of Calgary said for Metro News newspaper

education in Greece is not equal, to the higher education in most European countries. The Greek higher education is not compatible and comparable with standards of the European countries (European Commission). For obtaining the higher education in Greece, students have to study 4 years to obtain a master degree. The European standards for higher education are set in Bologna process 1999 (see annex 1). Under this declaration the European countries have to fulfill three year bachelor's degree, five years master's degrees and eight year doctorates. Greek education does not fulfill these conditions. It means that it's much easier to get higher education in Greece than in other European Countries which follow the Bologna Process 1999.

Predominantly, they are emigrating to Germany, UK and the Netherlands for the language reasons (Labrianidis and Vogiatyis 2012). As know all these countries has universities which offers the education in English. English is the first foreign language which is obligatory since the elementary school for Greeks. Therefore, factor as an attractiveness of the University is considered as a pull factor.

This section described the most influential push and pull factors in the decision to migrate for Greeks considering the economic, political, socio-cultural and miscellaneous conditions.

All these analysis were based on theoretical framework and support by descriptive statistics about the labor market in Greece. Upcoming section will clarify opinions and attitudes of the Greeks comparing to other EU Member States on a current situation in Greece.

### **4.3 Attitudes and opinions**

After analyzing the most influential factors in the decision of young Greek people to migrate is time to study Greeks opinions and attitudes in order to explain the current situation from their point of view and see if Greeks are push or pull from Greece. Until now, this work has described what is going on in Greece based on a descriptive statistics analysis on the most prevalent push and pull factors. However in this part, this research will compare the differentiation between public opinion across EU Member States and Greece. It will illustrate the results of Europeans and Greeks in different questions related mainly to the economy and the political situation in order to support the statement that push factors are more prevalent than the pull factors. In order to do so, the Euro barometer survey for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011) will be



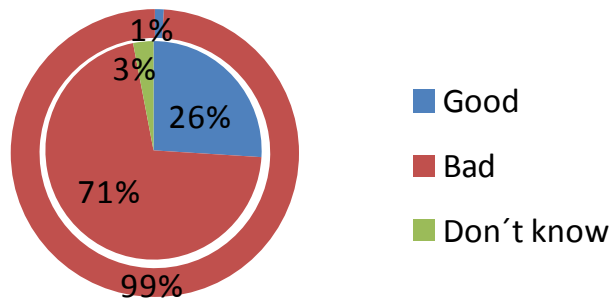
used as main references to illustrate this section. More about this survey can be seen in methodology section 3.1.

### 4.3.1 Greeks and Europeans compared on a current economic situation in Greece

According to these surveys, the most important issue Greeks are facing is the economic situation which posed 68% in Greece, whereas for the rest of the EU Member States only 42%. For 61% of the Greeks, the second most important issues is the high unemployment rate, while for other EU Member States is only 41%. The third most important issue which Greeks are facing is the government debt (19%). However, to other EU Members States, the third most important issue is not government debt but rising prices/ inflation (25%). Economic situation might be considered as a push factor for young Greeks to emigrate.

According to the Figure 4.6 where can be seen a huge difference between public opinion in the EU Member States and Greeks. This fact means that young Greeks are rather pushed than pull from Greece. According to the public opinion 99% Greeks believe that the economic situation is bad. In a decision to migrate this fact might be influential for Greeks to migrate. Only 1% of Greeks thinks that economic situation is good.

Figure 4.6. Public opinion on the current economic situation.



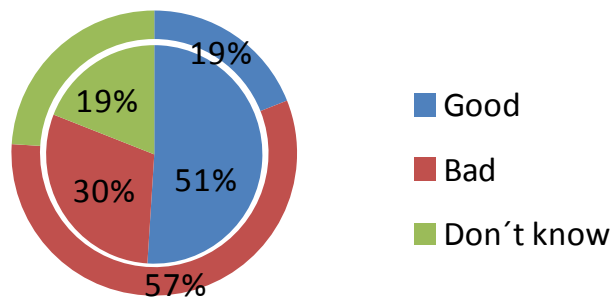
EU27: Inner pie, Greece: Outer pie

<i>Current economic situation(2011)</i>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Bad</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union (27)</b>	26%	71%	3%
<b>Greeks</b>	1%	99%	0%

Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

Following Figure 4.7 , more than 50% in the EU Member States say that the job situation is good while only 19% of Greeks say that is good. 57% of Greeks are negative about their personal job situation while comparing to the other Europeans is only 30%. According to the figure 4-7 can be seen that Greeks are very pessimist about their personal job situation comparing to the Europeans. This fact can be considered as a push factor because Greeks are very pessimist about their personal job situation.

**Figure 4.7. Public opinion on personal job situation.**



**EU27: Inner pie, Greece: Outer pie**

<i>Personal job situation(2011)</i>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Bad</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union (27)</b>	51%	30%	19%
<b>Greeks</b>	19%	57%	24%

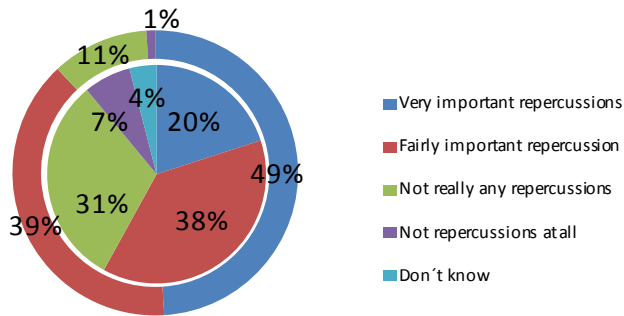
Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

The next three following figures investigate the public opinion for the near future (the 12 following months). These tables summarize how Greeks and Europeans feel about their future in aspects related to the economic situation, personal job situation and the employment situation. Whether if the situation can be better, worse or stay the same.

Following figure 4-8, 16% of Europeans share the opinion that the economic situation will get better in the upcoming 12 months while only 7% of Greeks agree with this. An extraordinary fact

is that 78% of Greeks are pessimist about the economic situation in the near future. Meanwhile in other EU Member States only 44% think that situation will get worse. 36% think that situation will be the same in their country (EU) while only 14% of Greeks think that situation will be same. Greeks are very pessimistic about their future. This fact can be seen again as a push factor.

**Figure 4.8. Public opinion on the economic situation in upcoming 12 months.**



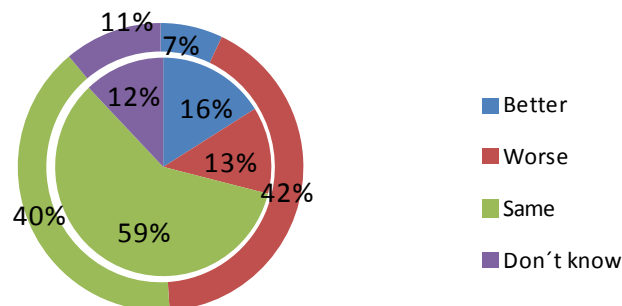
**EU27: Inner pie, Greece: Outer pie**

<i>The economic situation</i>	<b>Better</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union (27)</b>	16%	44%	36%	4%
<b>Greeks</b>	7%	78%	14%	1%

Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

According to the Figure 4.9, 16% of Europeans think that their personal job situation will be better in upcoming 12 months while only 7% of Greeks think that. 42% of Greeks share opinion that their personal job situation will get worse whereas only 13% of Europeans think same.

**Figure 4.9. Public opinion on your personal job situation in upcoming 12 months.**

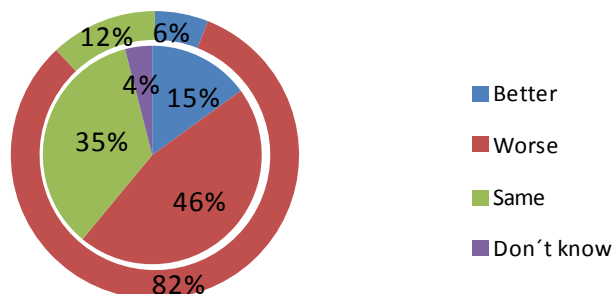


<i>Your personal job situation</i>	<b>Better</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union (27)</b>	16%	13%	59%	12%
<b>Greeks</b>	7%	42%	40%	11%

Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

The Figure 4.10 below characterizes the public opinions between EU Member States and Greeks in questions related to the employment situation. 15% of Europeans consider that their employment situation will be better in 12 upcoming months while only 6% Greeks think that their employment situation will get better. 82% of Greeks have opinion that their employment situation in their country will get worse whereas only 46% of other EU Member States share opinion that situation will get worse in upcoming 12 months period.

**Figure 4.10. Public opinion on the employment situation in upcoming 12 months.**



EU27: Inner pie, Greece: Outer pie

<i>The employment situation in (your country)</i>	<b>Better</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union (27)</b>	15%	46%	35%	4%
<b>Greeks</b>	6%	82%	12%	0%

Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

After illustrating the results from these three figures, it can be concluded that Greeks are more pessimist about their future than the people from the other EU Member States. In all public opinions related to the economic situation, personal job situation and employment situation, this research find out considerable differences between the people from Greece and the rest of the EU Member States.

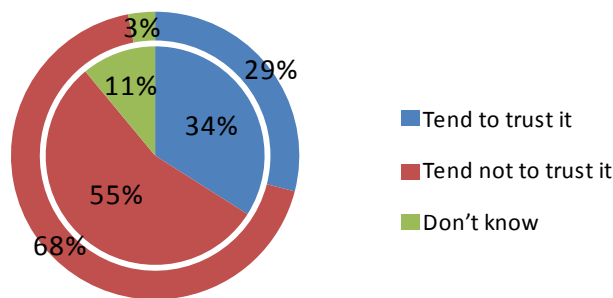
### 4.3.2 Greeks and Europeans compared on a political situation in Greece

In order to evaluate what Greeks and other Europeans think about the current political situation is worth to characterize the trust in political institutions.

Following the general surveys (Euro Barometer 76), this part will illustrate the opinions of the Greeks comparing to the other Europeans in question related to the trust in the national government, the national parliament and the European Union.

In Figure 4.11, 34% of Europeans tend to trust the European Union while 29% of Greeks thinks the same. However, 68% of Greeks do not trust in EU while only 55% of others Europeans share the same opinion.

Figure 4.11 Public opinion: trust in the European Union.



EU27: Inner pie, Greece: Outer pie

<i>The European Union</i>	<b>Tend to trust it</b>	<b>Tend not to trust it</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union(27)</b>	34%	55%	11%
<b>Greeks</b>	29%	68%	3%

Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

According to the Figure 4.12, 27% of Europeans trust to their national parliament while only 12% of Greeks trust their national parliament. 86% of Greeks do not trust to their national parliament, comparing to EU where only 66% said that they do not trust it. It can be seen that Greeks are way more negative about their national parliament.

**Figure 4.12 Public opinion: trust in the national parliament.**



<i>The national parliament</i>	<b>Tend to trust it</b>	<b>Tend not to trust it</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union(27)</b>	27%	66%	7%
<b>Greeks</b>	12%	86%	2%

Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

Figure 4.13 illustrates that 24% of Europeans trust in their national government while only 8% of Greeks share the same opinion. A significant fact is that 90% of Greeks tend not to trust it in the national government while 70% of Europeans have the same opinion.

**Figure 4.13 Public opinion: trust in the national government.**



<i>The national government</i>	<b>Tend to trust it</b>	<b>Tend not to trust it</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>European Union(27)</b>	24%	70%	6%
<b>Greeks</b>	8%	90%	2%

Source: Euro barometer survey standard 76 for the public opinion in the EU (November 2011)

The three figures above illustrated a divergence between Greeks and other EU Member States in questions related to the political situation. Greeks are significantly more negative about their trust in the political EU institutions, the national government and the national parliament comparing to the other Europeans. This fact shows a pessimist thinking of Greeks on the current political situation in their country. Therefore, the political dissatisfactory might be influential in a decision to migrate for young Greeks.

#### **4.4 Case study of Greek students of the University of Twente**

This section is dedicated to the results of the mentioned interviews. It is not possible to answer the research question accurately based on only 12 personal interviews. However, these interviews along with the theory presented, the analysis of the descriptive statistics, and surveys reported on literature; can support the answer of the research question and the statement proposed.

##### **4.4.1 Push factors**

As mentioned in section 2.1.2, the push factors are those forcing people to emigrate due to problematic occurring in their country of origin. In this section, the most influential push factors for the young Greeks interviewed will be determined and related to the empirical finding previously presented.

In Table 4.2, the results from the interview related to the push factors are summarized.

Table 4.2. Overview: Most influential push factors (based on economic and political conditions) for the 12 young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis.

Conditions:	Push Factors	12 young Greek students interviewed at University of Twente
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Economic factors:	Economic situation/crisis	9 out of 12 participants
	Lack of career opportunities	8 out of 12 participants
	High unemployment rate	7 out of 12 participants
	University crisis/no PhD salaries	5 out of 12 participants
Political factors :	Political instability	4 out of 12 participants

The first aspect to notice is that all interviewed participants emigrated from Greece between 2010 and 2012. Following the insights from the Euro barometer survey, the research found out that the decision of the Greek interviewed was certainly related to the economic crisis and most participants (8 out of 12) came out with the idea to migrate after the economic crisis. According to some participants the reasons to leave were *“because of political and economical mess”* (anonymous 7, p.71), *“I had feeling that everyone was leaving around me because of the situation so I said myself, if they can why not me as well”*(anonymous 2, p.66), or *“Because of the depression in a country and everyone around me was saying that is the time to leave...so they put it to my head that maybe it is time for me to leave too”* (anonymous 8, p.72).

There were also people saying that the idea of migrating arose before the crisis (3 out of 12) because of different reasons: *“I always wanted to study abroad and experience”* (anonymous 4, p. 68). One respondent said that he was thinking way before but the crisis determined him to leave: *“I wanted to leave around 2005 but I didn’t. I actually left in 2011 when the situation in Greece started to be not good. For me was positively “push” that now is the right period for me to leave Greece”* (anonymous 1, p.65).

In addition, following the interviews, most people consulted (9 out of 12) said that their decision was influenced by the current economic situation in Greece. Many of them had different reasons why they actually decided to leave but the first impulse was the “economic stress” in the country. As mentioned by many, media was spreading the panic all around Greece, accentuating the deteriorated economic and political situation. Especially, that of the young generation, which according to the latest polls and surveys is the most affected (Labrianidis and Vogiatyis 2012): *“The reasons were the situation in Greece, all the ideas you get from media and all boom about young generation”* (anonymous 3, p.67).

They expressed that they feel stressed and frustrated about their future: *“for 2 years I was picking up the phone in a call Centrum with a college degree. My field is biomedical engineering and all*



*around the world people with this degree are rich and they easily find jobs, in my case it was not like that at all, I could not find a job in my field at all, I was push to leave in order to do something with my life...*” (anonymous 6, p.70) and *“I was looking for a job but I could not find any. All my friends were saying that they are leaving for jobs abroad or also there is possibility to study second master. I got influenced by them. I started to be desperate”* (anonymous 2, p.66). This supports the data presented in the Euro barometer survey in which it is stated that Greeks are very pessimistic and negative about the economic situation in future. More than 70% of Greeks think that the economic situation will get worse in the future (refer to section 4.3.1).

Therefore, the poor economic condition in Greece can be considered as a push factor influencing the decision to migrate for young people.

As mentioned in the economic theories of migration presented in Chapter 2, people primarily migrate because of economic reasons such as **lack of career** opportunities. This fact was as well confirmed in the interviews done. According to the results shown in Table 4.2, most respondents (8 out of 12) said that the lack of career opportunities was the primary factor for migrating: *“no working opportunities, my town was not producing anything...”*(anonymous 7, p.72), *“lack of career opportunities...it pushes me to think about something outside of Greece...”*(anonymous 11, p.75), *“situation in the country and also my parents told me to continue with my studies abroad....because there are no job opportunities in my city and I would say in all country”* (anonymous 8, p. 72). In addition, according to the interviewed there were no opportunities in their field of expertise: *“Definitely, to me it seems that I have no chance to find a job in my field. It feels very frustrating because I think business information technology is very high education so when I started to study it ,it would never come up to me that I would have a problem to find a job with this specialization”* (anonymous 1, p.65).

The latter agrees with the outcomes from the Euro barometer survey presented in section 4.3.1, in which it is stated that 57% of Greeks feel “bad” about their personal job situation and in addition 42% feel that the situation won’t get better (Euro barometer 76, 2011). Some answers reflect this fact: *“Well, the economic situation in Greece is right now very bad so in my opinion is hard to find something at the moment...For young people they are not career opportunities in this moment....All strikes in a country because of the jobs and way much more problems, political situation is bad and so on”* (anonymous 5, p. 69).

As mentioned on the theoretical framework, another economic aspect pushing people to migrate is the **unemployment rate**. Regarding this, most participants (9 out of 12) said that they were looking for a job in Greece before they emigrated but they were not successful at all, arguing that many positions offered low salaries for the qualifications needed or that companies were offering unpaid internships instead of a normal salary job: *“If you do not go abroad you are lost in Greece...there is nothing no opportunities no jobs...the unemployment rate is increasing”* (anonymous 6, p.70). As they said, they were pushed after looking desperately for career opportunities.

In addition, a great part of the respondents (7 out of 12) said that the fact that the unemployment rate in Greece is considered one of the highest in Euro zone influenced them as well to migrate. Therefore, the unemployment rate might be the most influential decision in the act of migration for the young Greeks.

The fact is that unemployment rate will be increasing in this current recession situation. The young researchers won't stay in Greece because the Greek economy is built around services such as tourism as opposed to industries where research could be in demand (Rafenberg, 2011).

As another important push factor which recently influenced the young Greeks to emigrate is the ongoing **University crisis**, which is reflected in the cuts in teachers' salaries, shutting down the universities, no PhD salaries; among others as mentioned in section 4.1.1.1. Following the interviews, several young Greek students (5 out of 12) were influenced to migrate because of this fact: *“Suddenly, PhD positions were unpaid...show me one country where PhD positions are unpaid”* (anonymous 5, p.69), *“Could not believe that PhD positions are unpaid....how can I work for free for four years...it is impossible”* (anonymous 2, p.66).

As mentioned in Table 4.2, some of the people consulted think that the **political instability** was a significant reason to leave the country. In section 4.1.2.1, it was stated that the young generation blames politicians for the current political situation in the country: *“Political situation in the country is bad”* (anonymous 5, p.69). Following the insights from the Euro barometer survey, this research found out that Greeks are very negative about their trust in their political institutions such as the national government and the national parliament.

According to the findings of the Euro barometer survey, 78% of Greek people think that the politicians at a national level are corrupted (Euro barometer 374, 2012, p. 48). This was somehow also reflected in the interviews done (4 out of 12). According to the Greeks interviewed the political situation in the country is dissatisfactory: “....and all its because of our government...there is cronyism in the country and all the political and the economic situation is a joke” (anonymous 6, p.70). According to their answers, corruption exists all over the country.

#### 4.4.2 Pull factors

In the other hand, the pull factors are those which attract people to another area for some better opportunities as mentioned in section 2.1.2. In Table 4.3, the main outcomes from the interviews related to the pull factors are summarized.

Table 4.3. Overview: Most influential pull factors (based on economic and demographic /socio-cultural conditions) for the young Greeks (12 participants) to emigrate after the start of financial crisis.

Conditions:	Pull Factors	12 young Greek students interviewed at University of Twente
Economic factors	Better career prospects more opportunities	8 out of 12 participants
	Attractiveness of the universities or research institute	9 out of 12 participants
Demographic /Socio-Cultural factors:	Family relatives	5 out of 12 participants

In section 4.1, it was determined that young Greeks are emigrating mostly because of the lack of career opportunities and the high unemployment rate in Greece. These factors could be considered as push factors but also as pull factors depending on the point of view, because people can be pulled to some other country where they can find better career prospects. However, in the present case study on Greek students in the University of Twente it was regarded that the people interviewed were not specifically looking to come to The Netherlands but they were just looking to go to countries with a better economical, educational and political conditions: “...I did not care about the Netherlands. I just ‘Googled’ some technical schools which would interest me” (anonymous 2, p.66). Therefore, these factors from now on will be considered as push factors. If Greeks are attracted to migrate to a certain place because of better opportunities it means that they are pulled from the Greece.

Following the interviews, some participants (8 out of 12) said that they think they can have better **job opportunities** in the Netherlands than in Greece. According to the descriptive analysis of section 4.2.1.1, it can be said that some countries are willing to welcome New Greek migrants for work opportunities. It means that more career opportunities are considered as the pull factor in this case.

As seen in Table 4.3, another pull factor that can be considered as significant is the **attractiveness of the Universities or research institutes**. Following my interviews most students (9 out of 12) said that education in the Netherlands is much higher than in Greece and as a pull factor is the one that influenced them most. *“Good reputation of high quality education, an extremely distinguished faculty members and facilities motivated me to choose the Netherlands”* (anonymous 10, p.74), *“English language and high quality of educational system”* (anonymous 1, p.65) and *“Heard that University Twente is the best university in the Netherlands according to the Leiden research”* (anonymous 4, p.68). In addition to the latter, Labrianidis pointed out that many Greeks are seeking to “upgrade and update their knowledge in the field of their expertise” (Labrianidis and Vogiatzis, 2012).

Finally, the demographic-socio-cultural conditions which play a really important role in the act of migration as a pull factor were also present in the results of the interviews. Some people (5 out of 12) said that they choose the country of destination because of **family relatives** which emigrated already. They can help them settling down in the unknowing country as one participant said. Some other (6 out of 12) said that they have some **friend’s links** in the country of destination: *“...I won’t be alone; I won’t be the only one...everywhere now there are Greek students”* (anonymous 7, p.71).

To conclude with the results of the interviews is important to say that most (9 out of 12) participants are planning to stay abroad after obtaining their master degree independently of the reasons why they left Greece in the first place. Following the theoretical part this can be related to the brain drain phenomenon: *“I do not want to go back to Greece at all...for what...who knows when the situation will get better and if the situation will get better”* (anonymous 6, p.70). *“The connection between education and migration extends beyond professional training because students are specific types of migrants”* (Adams, 1968. p. 135).

## **4.5 Conclusion**

This empirical chapter analyzed the most influential factors in the act of migration of the young Greek people after the economic crisis based on the descriptive statistics, opinions and attitudes of the Greeks on a current situation in Greece and results of the qualitative personal interviews which were conducted specifically for this research to support the research question and statement. Upcoming last chapter will conclude the research question based on all finding of the research.

## Chapter 5 Conclusion

Due to the Greek debt government crisis, the country has been hit by many reforms. For the past three years; Greece experienced violent slashing of salaries and wages, reductions in social welfare, sharp increases in taxation and many other changes.

With all this drastic cuts and measures the young generation is so far the most affected. Therefore, young and talented Greeks are seeking employment and a new life abroad, which has been already studied in many research institutes.

Therefore, the aim of this research work was to investigate *which factors are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis (2007-2012)*.

To answer this question, this research work started by defining the economic theories of migration from which it was determined that migration is ruled by push and pull factor. Push factors are those forcing people to leave the country of origin due to any given occurring problem. While, pull factors are those factors which attract people to a different country. In addition, these two types of factors can be based on economic, demographic, socio-cultural, political or other conditions.

Based on a literature research, this study proposed the statement that factors pushing Greeks to emigrate are more prevalent than the pull factors after the start of the financial crisis.

Through the analysis of the results of interviews, descriptive statistics and general survey it was possible to gather enough empirical evidences to determine the most relevant push and pull factors. As the conclusion of almost all migration studies, both descriptive and econometric, suggests that people migrate primarily for economic reasons, this research confirmed the same in a depth study case of young Greeks.

Based on the data gathered by different methodologies, this study confirmed that the decision to migrate in the case of young Greeks is influenced by the ongoing economic crisis in the country. Thus, it can be said that the push factors are positively more prevalent than the pull factors.

This research testified that the most influential factors in the act of migration based on economic conditions are the lack of career opportunities, the high unemployment rate and the University

crisis. This reflects that the current situation in Greece limits the country to keep pace with the growing skilled career demand.

In addition to the primary economic motives, young Greeks migrate because of the factors based on political conditions. In Greece, there are no political parties representing the views of young Greeks, which is reflected on pessimistic opinions about the future in the country and mass violent demonstrations.

These particular economic and political factors are the main push factors for young Greeks to emigrate from Greece.

On the other hand, this research found out that there are also some pull factors present in the act of decision to migrate. However, these pull factors play a role after they have already made the decision to leave. As an example, some Greeks consulted chose the Netherlands after they have decided to emigrate already. According to the interviews, it was not important where to migrate, as long as the destination had good economic climate.

This study found that the most influential factors based on economic conditions are: better career prospects, attractiveness of the Universities or research institutes of the destination countries. The factors based on demographic-socio-cultural conditions are family relatives and friend's links.

Based on the latter, this study can conclude that the brain drain phenomenon is a visible consequence of the current situation. Studying abroad was seen as step towards finding a better job back home in Greece (Barnato, 2012). However, nowadays it is a different situation. Because the difference between previous bouts of emigration and the one Greece is facing at the moment is that those who are leaving or considering leaving are not just unskilled labourers but they are highly skilled people (Barnato, 2012)..

Unlike in the past, these young researchers have the tendency to stay in the countries of destination and not to come back to find a better job. From the economical point of view, this is not beneficial for the country, "because the brain drain represents a loss of capital investment" (Adams, 1969, p.170). Human capital is the most important factor in development. If a country loses it, this is a problem (Adams, 1968). In other words, Greece is losing highly skilled people which can result in an incompetent workforce in the near future.

Although the results obtained in this research are consistent with the outcomes from other researches, the current work might present some limitations. The most significant obstacle is that this research focused its effort on Greeks who are already abroad. For this study it would be enriching to include the results obtained from people which are still in Greece. In addition, it would also be interesting to compare them with the here presented findings in order to see if the results can be generalized and still match the evidences presented in other surveys.

A second restriction to scale the conclusions of this work is the amount of people consulted. At the end of this research only 12 participants were interviewed. For this research would be enlightening to have a more representative sample in order to generalize these findings further.



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## Annexes

### Annex 1: The Bologna Declaration of 19 June 1999

“The purpose of the Bologna process (or Bologna accords) is to create the European higher education area by making academic degree standards and quality assurance standards more comparable and compatible throughout Europe ” (EU Commission). “A Europe of Knowledge is now widely recognized as an irreplaceable factor for social and human growth and as an indispensable component to consolidate and enrich the European citizenship, capable of giving its citizens the necessary competences to face the challenges of the new millennium, together with an awareness of shared values and belonging to a common social and cultural space”<sup>11</sup> (The Bologna Declaration, 1999, p.1-2).

“Greece joined the Bologna Process from the very beginning in 1999. Since 2007, more intensive steps towards the establishment of the European Higher Education Area were completed. During the years 2006–2007, the Greek government led by New Democracy, with the consent of PASOK, tried to implement the declaration of Bologna through massive reforms aiming at the university system. These actions led to universities being taken over by the students, massive protests, police violence and riots. These reactions led to the failure of the constitutional change of the article 16 that prohibits the founding of private universities and also blocked the reform in the laws regarding the internal workings of universities. As stated in the newspaper “daily” at 06-03-10 The technical chamber of Greece, the main organization for the licensing of the Engineers, the deans of the major technical schools of Greece press the government to recognize the 5 year lasting degrees to be equivalent to a master's. Although the current legislation rules argue with this concept, the technical schools issue certificates that their degree is equal to a master's that they have no lawful meaning at all”<sup>12</sup> (EU Commission).

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<sup>11</sup> The European Higher Education Area, The Bologna Declaration of 19 June 1999, Joint declaration of the European Ministers of Education available at :[http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/00-Main\\_doc/990719BOLOGNA\\_DECLARATION.PDF](http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/00-Main_doc/990719BOLOGNA_DECLARATION.PDF) )

<sup>12</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/bologna\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/bologna_en.htm)



## Annex 2: Sample of the questionnaire which was given to participants

### Questionnaire

*The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).*

- *First name:*
- *Level of Studies (Master, Bachelor...):*
- *Field of studies (engineer ...):*
- *Age:*
- *Gender:*
- *Family status:*
- *Social status:*
- *City:*

### Questions

#### **A**

- *Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?*  
*-If yes/no why?*
- *When you decided to leave Greece?*
- *How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes, national loans/grants...)*
- *What influenced you the most to leave Greece?*  
*-what were the main reasons*

#### **B**

- *Was studying abroad your first choice? (before leaving Greece)*  
*-If yes why?*  
*-If no, what was your first choice? (Find a job, travel...)*
- *Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?*
- *Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?*

- *What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?*  
*-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?*
- *As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Euro zone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate? Yes/no*

### **C**

- *What were the reasons to study abroad?*
- *As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?*  
*-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? Yes/no*
- *Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?*
- *Why this country?*

### **D**

- *Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?*
- *Do you have any family ties in this country?*
- *Do you have any friend's links in this country?*
- *Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?*  
*-If yes, explain why?*  
*-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?*

**Thank you for your cooperation**

### Annex 3: Transcripts of interviews (1-12)

#### Questionnaire

The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).

First name: **anonymous 1**

Level of Studies(Master, Bachelor...): **Master Degree**

Field of studies(engineer,...): **Business Information Technology**

Age: **30**

Gender: **Male**

Family status: **single**

Social status: **middle class**

City: **Thessaloniki**

Questions

A

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

**I started to think about emigrating way before the crisis. I would say it was around 2005.I wanted to study abroad and experienced but I did not do it. Instead I stayed at Greece and start to do my master degree here.**

When you decided to leave Greece?

**As I said I wanted to leave around 2005 but I didn't. I actually left in 2011 when the situation in Greece started to be not good. For me was positively" push " that now is the right period for me to leave Greece.**

How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

**First, I was trying to get scholarship from Greek government but at 2011 was impossible...so my parents helped me so private funds**

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

**Back in 2005, I wanted to first just experience the life abroad and to study abroad. However in 2009 when I actually left was completely different situation for me. I would say that in that time was very bad situation in Greece, the economic aspect of the situation was scary.**

B

Was studying abroad your first choice? (before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

-If no, what was your first choice?(find a job, travel...)

**Yes, I wanted to definitely study and to obtain higher level education.**

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

**Yes, in 2008, I graduated from the University of Macedonia. So, even before the graduation, I was looking for the job but there were not many opportunities for me. Especially, in my field were none. I was working at small Greek radio but it was only part time job and I wasn't satisfied at all.**

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

**Yes**

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

**None**

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

**Definitely, to me it seems that I have no chance to find a job in my field. It feels very frustrating because I think business information technology is very high education so when I started to study it ,it would never come up to me that I would have a problem to find a job with this specialization.**

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate?

yes/no

**Yes**

C

What were the reasons to study abroad?

**To obtain high level of education, experience abroad , learn languages**

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

**No**

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? yes/no

**No**

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

**Language(my studies are followed in English), my 2 sisters are studying in the Netherlands as well, good reputation of high quality education in the Netherlands,**

D

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

**My two sisters**

Do you have any family ties in this country?

**Yes-2 sisters**

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

**I don't think so**

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

Yes

-If yes, explain why?

Well, now I am working part time job for University as an assistant of the professor and I really like it. So, I would like to continue maybe even to teach on the University later.

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

#### Questionnaire

The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).

First name: anonymous 2

Level of Studies(Master, Bachelor...): Master Degree

Field of studies(engineer,...): Sustainable energy technology

Age: 29

Gender: Male

Family status: single

Social status: middle class

City: Thessaloniki

Questions

A

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

After, mostly I was influenced by all my friends. I had feeling that everyone was leaving around me so I said myself If they can why not me as well

When you decided to leave Greece?

2011

How did you finance your stay?(Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

Private funds

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

Lack of opportunities ...because I finished my degree in Greece in 2009. I was looking for a job but I could not find any. All my friends were saying that they are leaving for jobs to abroad or also there is possibility to study second master. I got influenced by them. I started to be desperate. I graduated in 2009 from chemical engineering in Greece. I was looking for job more than one year. This field is very in demand everywhere but unfortunately in Greece I did not have chance with upcoming crisis. Not everyone can study chemical engineering there is not a lot of people with this specialization. First, I felt overeducated but then I realized that even with this field I have no chance to find a job in Greece. Also, I was looking right after my studies for some PhD position but all what I could found was that there is no salary for PhD position. I was quite in a shock.

B

Was studying abroad your first choice? (before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

-If no, what was your first choice?(find a job, travel...)

Well at home (Greece),I was looking for job or possible PhD position but then abroad when I was doing some research I realize that best choice will be to start the second master so I would say yes...it was my first choice. I knew it I won't find a job abroad my English want that good.

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

As I said, yes

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

Yes

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

Of course they are some opportunities but I think now they are not that many as is demand. Demand does not equal to supply.

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

I was looking for more than one year and I did not succeed so I would say yes.

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate?

yes/no

yes

C

What were the reasons to study abroad?

I have nothing to do in Greece, no job in my field no studies that's why I decided

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as ?

Yes, somehow it did. As, I said after finishing my master degree from the chemical engineering I was looking for PhD position. I was in shock when I found out that there is no salary for PhD position. How can I work for 3 or for 4 years for free...It is impossible.All this salary problems are connect with the university problems/crisis

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? yes/no

yes

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

)§

D

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

Maybe one friend but he was in Amsterdam not in Enschede

Do you have any family ties in this country?

No

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

Yes

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree ?

Yes

-If yes, explain why?

I would like to settle down, have a carrier but we will see what is going to happen to me, maybe when situation in Greece will get better, I will come back.

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

**The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).**

First name: **anonymous 3**

Level of Studies(Master, Bachelor...): **Master Degree**

Field of studies(engineer,...): **Construction management and engineering**

Age: **24**

Gender: **Male**

Family status: **single**

Social status: **middle class**

City: **Patras**

### Questions

**A**

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

After the crisis, the main reason was that I graduated from my University (Patras) in 2004. Then, I went to army and then I was working non really nice job. I was trying to find a better job but I was not lucky at all. So, the answer on your questions stands after crisis...

When you decided to leave Greece?

**2012**

How did you finance your stay?(Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

**Private funds**

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

**Situation in Greece, media and all boom about the Greece and young generation**

-what were the main reasons

**Lack of opportunities in career field and nothing to do**

**B**

Was studying abroad your first choice? (before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

-If no, what was your first choice?(find a job, travel...)

No, I wanted to find a job first no studying at all. As, I said I finish at 2004 so I was not looking forward to go back to school at all. I wanted to make my own money be independent and leave my parents house.

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

I had a job before my decision but it was very low salary and not my field but I took that job to make at least some money but I wasn't satisfy at all there. I had that job because I had to. It wasn't developing me that job anyhow.

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

Yes

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

**No opportunities**

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

Yes, they are but if you don't know anyone there or you don't have relatives there...you have no chance to get there. All this country is corrupted. Same is working with jobs position. First, they are very few opportunities and then second, if you want get there you have to have someone inside there. Otherwise, you have no chance out there in a big world. This is what happens to me...my parents did know anyone in my expertise or field or any certain companies...that's why I could not find a "good" pay job for me. Even , If I am qualified enough.

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate?

yes/no

Yes

**C**

What were the reasons to study abroad?

**Nothing to do in Greece**

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

No

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? yes/no

No

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

**High quality of educational system, less unemployment ,NL has way better economy**

**D**

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

Yes

Do you have any family ties in this country?

Yes, my brother

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

No that I know

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree ?

-If yes, explain why?

Yes, to find my dream job and I know that NL needs a good engineers so I am pretty confident that I will find my dream job after obtaining master degree in the Netherlands

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

**The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).**

First name: anonymous 4

Level of Studies(Master, Bachelor...): Master Degree

Field of studies(engineer,...): Applied physics

Age: 28

Gender: Male

Family status: Single

Social status: Middle Class

City: Athens

### Questions

**A**

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

Well, before I always want to study abroad my master degree so answer is way before the crisis

When you decided to leave Greece?

2011

How did you finance your stay?(Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

Private funds

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

Well nothing influenced me if you are asking on the situation..I always wanted to study abroad, since I was on high school but that time I did not have chance to go and study. So, in 2011 right after I obtained my degree in Greece, I decided to go abroad to experience. I do not care about the situation in Greece; I always wanted to go away

**B**

Was studying abroad your first choice? (before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

Yes

-If no, what was your first choice? (Find a job, travel...)

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

No

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

I was not looking

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

Well, I have no answer on this question because I was never looking as I said , right after I finish my school in Greece, in few months I started to another school so I have no clue

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate?yes/no

No

**C**

What were the reasons to study abroad?

High ranking of educational system than in Greece, as I said , I always wanted to study abroad as an experience

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

Yes

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? yes/no

No, but I knew it that I could obtain way higher education out there...the Universities are not that good in Greece than abroad. I did some research and I know is horrible to say but I am not fan of Greek's Universities...even before crisis

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

Good reputation of Universities. Especially, University of Twente...I read that University of Twente is the best technical University in the Netherlands according Leiden University research. That was, what influenced me the most. I knew that it will be hard to get to Twente but I like challenging myself. And see here I am.... Studying and doing great

**D**

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

Yes, some of my schoolmates from my University in Greece got to the Netherlands as well. So, I was not lonely at all...if you meant that

Do you have any family ties in this country?

No

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

Yes, as I said couple of friends

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree ?

I cannot answer this question now is very hard to answer...Of course, I will try to find a job here in the Netherlands after my studies but I will see. I guess, I cannot give you answer what you are looking for ....

-If yes, explain why?

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

**The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).**

First name: anonymu 5

Level of Studies(Master, Bachelor...): Master Degree

Field of studies(engineer,...): nano-technology engineering

Age: 25

Gender: Male

Family status: single

Social status: middle class

City: Kavala

### Questions

**A**

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

Both...

When you decided to leave Greece?

2010

How did you finance your stay?(Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

Private funds

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

To obtain higher education because I was trying to get PhD in Greece but they are no salaries for doing PhD, so I was doing some research and I found out that to do PhD abroad I need to do there master program even if I had already title at Greece and I am engineer in Greece.

**B**

Was studying abroad your first choice? (before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

Yes, as I said to do PhD abroad I was not qualify first I had to study master

-If no, what was your first choice?(find a job, travel...)

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

No

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

Well, the economic situation in Greece is right now very bad so in my opinion is hard to find something at the moment...For young people they are not career opportunities in this moment....All strikes in a country because of the jobs and way much more problems, political situation is bad and so on...

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate?yes/no

No

**C**

What were the reasons to study abroad?

Want to continue PhD as I said I need for that master degree first...because I could not find it back in Greece...I mean paid PhD position

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

Well, yeah tell me one country where PhD positions are unpaid....

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? yes/no

Well, I cannot answer yes or no but definitely this factor influenced me as well...because as I said PhD positions are unpaid...

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

Very good reputation of Universities and of course high salaries comparing to Greece, way more opportunities than in Greece

**D**

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

Yes

Do you have any family ties in this country?

No

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

Yes, I have around 5 friends which came from my city to the Netherlands

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

-If yes, explain why?

As I said, I will try to get PhD position...so yes and after that yes, I will try

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

**The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).**

First name: **anonymous 6**

Level of Studies (Master, Bachelor...): **Master Degree**

Field of studies (engineer,...): **Biomedical engineering**

Age: **25**

Gender: **Female**

Family status: **single**

Social status: **middle class**

City: **Athens**

### Questions

#### **A**

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

**After crisis...I graduated from my University at 2009, so maybe one year later –I wanted to graduate**

When you decided to leave Greece?

**2012**

How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

**Private funds**

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

**Lack of opportunities**

-what were the main reasons

**Graduate in 2009, for 2 years I was picking up phone in call Centrum with the college degree .Is absolutely out of mind, my field is biomedical engineering-all around the world people with this degree are rich and everyone wants to give them a job, in my case was not like that at all,I could not find a job in my field at all, I was push to leave in order to do something with my life...**

#### **B**

Was studying abroad your first choice? (Before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

**If you don't go to abroad you are lost in Greece...So, after two years of picking up phones I just wanted to leave.First, I was trying to find a job abroad but I was not lucky,They did not recognize my degree from Greece and many companies refused me saying that my degree it is not recognized in West Europe and they advice me to do my degree out of Greece...so I decided to study....way better than picking up phone for two years.....**

-If no, what was your first choice? (find a job, travel...)

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

**Yes, I was as I said but I could not find anything “ normal for me so I ended up on call Centrum where 90% of people did not even have high school degree, I feel very horrible but I did not have a choice. That time was only available work what I was able to find...**

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

**As I said in my field yes....In Greece: they are making you feel really stupid....they don't want you, they offer you underjobs.**

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

**No private sector developed..so basically, there is nothing....and all its because of our government, +there is cronyism in country and all political and economic situation is a joke...**

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

**As I said...there is nothing**

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate? Yes /no

**Yes**

#### **C**

What were the reasons to study abroad?

**As, I said I was not satisfy with my job and situation back in Greece, I felt that I have to leave otherwise I would picking up phone for rest of my life in Greece because who knows when the situation will get better and if...**

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

**No**

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? Yes/no

**No**

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

**High level education , more opportunities, family relatives**

#### **D**

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

**Yes**

Do you have any family ties in this country?

**Yes, my uncle and aunt**

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

**No**

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?



-If yes, explain why?

Yes, there is no way that I am coming back to my country. I do not want to go back...

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).

First name: anonymous 7

Level of Studies (Master, Bachelor...): Master Degree

Field of studies (engineer,...): civil engineering

Age: 26

Gender: Male

Family status: single

Social status: middle class

City: Volos

### Questions

A

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

After, because of all political, economic mess..., When you decided to leave Greece?

2011

How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

Scholarship

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

no working opportunities, my town was not producing anything...,

B

Was studying abroad your first choice? (Before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

-If no, what was your first choice? (find a job, travel...)

No, first I wanted to find a job abroad but later, I learnt that my degree from Greece college was not equivalent in any other state than in Greece...so I was push to study again in order to find a job abroad...

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

Yes

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

Yes

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

After the crisis in Greece, the companies mostly put not job opportunities but they put unpaid internships...and No one cannot afford right now for free...prices are increasing in every sector so it's crazy...and changing job opportunities into internships is very low....but that how is it now in Greece...

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate? Yes

/no

Yes

C

What were the reasons to study abroad?

As, I said my degree was not equivalent in any other state than in Greece so I was push to start study again....

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

No, but I think that under this status: University crisis we can also consider that Greece degree(higher education)is not recognize in Bologna process what in practice means that Greece degree from higher institution is only recognize in Greece....what seriously we can call :University crisis....

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? Yes/no

No

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

Many Polytechnic schools, way more opportunities, standard life much higher than in Greece

D

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

Yes

Do you have any family ties in this country?

Yes, my brother

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

Yes, in Amsterdam, Rotterdam...there are many, that's why I also said myself that my friend are here so I can go too and I won't be that alone , I won't be the only one, everywhere now are Greeks students everywhere....before crisis was not common to study abroad at all...

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

-If yes, explain why?

Yes to find a job and start a new life but it does not have to be Netherlands, I just don't want to come back to Greece

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### **Questionnaire**

**The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).**

First name: **anonymous 8**

Level of Studies (Master, Bachelor...): **Master Degree**

Field of studies (engineer,...): **Business information technology**

Age: **24**

Gender: **Female**

Family status: **single**

Social status: **middle class**

City: **Athens**

### **Questions**

**A**

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

After, because of depression in a country and everyone around me was saying that is the time to leave...so they put it to my head that maybe is time for me to leave as well...

When you decided to leave Greece?

**2012**

How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

**Scholarship**

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

As I said my friends even if it sound funny, situation in a country and also ma parents told me to continue with my studies abroad....because there are no job opportunities in my city and I would say in all country

**B**

Was studying abroad your first choice? (Before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

**Yes**

-If no, what was your first choice? (find a job, travel...)

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

**Just a couple of month....I made my decision that I want leave Greece so I was not trying that hard to find a job...**

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

**Well in my field yes**

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

**As I said there are no many opportunities but is very hard to ask me that because as I said I did put that much afford to look for a job....**

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

**I would say yes**

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate? Yes /no

**Well , not unemployment rate but I would say all situation in Greece...all that boom and all that young generation is lost generation...I would say I got scare to stay in Greece**

**C**

What were the reasons to study abroad?

**I was depressed home by all situation and everything, I study already in Greece but that time when I was finishing everyone around me was scaring me even my professors on University say that with my brain I should definitely go abroad and use my knowledge there...my parents were supporting me than my friends influenced me and also I was luck to got a scholarship so after that...I was persuade that this is the right choice what I want do...**

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

**Yes, I did not want to study ma master degree in Greece because I am very familiar with University crisis...All good professors are leaving mostly abroad and now the reputation is not good.... so to obtain higher level education is more than logical to go abroad**

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? Yes/no

**It was one of the reasons as well...because I did not wanted to study in Greece anymore...**

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

**Scholarship which I was possible to get in the Netherlands, high reputation of University Twente...**

**D**

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

**Yes, couple of my friends**

Do you have any family ties in this country?

**No**

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

**Yes, one of my schoolmates is even in the same city than I am ...**

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

-If yes, explain why?

Yes, to have better life...Greece is mess right now...

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).

First name: anonymous 9

Level of Studies (Master, Bachelor...): Master Degree

Field of studies (engineer,...): Mechanical Engineering

Age: 24

Gender: Female

Family status: single

Social status: middle class

City: Volos

### Questions

#### A

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

After...I was trying to find a job but nothing in engineering even home ,abroad-I my degree was not recognize, everyone is going to Universities abroad now...

When you decided to leave Greece?

2012

How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes , national loans/grants..)

Private funds

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

It is very hard to get a normal job in your field which you are educated...and when you find i-t the salaries are ridiculous low...so

#### B

Was studying abroad your first choice? (Before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

-If no, what was your first choice? (find a job, travel...)

No, first was to find a job but as I said...my degree was not recognize and I heard that everyone is going back to Universities I said to myself that I like the idea...I like what I have been studying so why not...

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

Yes

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

Yes abroad as well

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

Not many opportunities but the thing is that a lot of companies in Greece are family companies...and they are not that many people working there, so they don't let you in if you are not a family member...so you need to know people to get there...

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

My answer is the same what I think about the career opportunities

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate? Yes

/no

No

#### C

What were the reasons to study abroad?

To get later a good job and have better life

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

No

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? Yes/no

No

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

Tuition fee which I could or my family affords for me...in UK was 15 000 Euros per semester/year and in the Netherlands average was around 2000 Euros per year...

#### D

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

Yes

Do you have any family ties in this country?

No

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

Yes but not in Enschede but in Gronighen

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

-If yes, explain why?

Yes, to find a job

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).

First name: anonymous 10

Level of Studies (Master, Bachelor...): Master Degree

Field of studies (engineer,...): chemical engineering

Age: 28

Gender: Male

Family status: single

Social status: middle class

City: Patras

### Questions

**A**

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

After , because I finished my studies in 2009

When you decided to leave Greece?

2010

How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

Private funds

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

I wanted to go abroad...I wanted to explore, so crisis did not affected me...

**B**

Was studying abroad your first choice? (Before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

Yes, academic sector was much better abroad than in Greece, chemical engineering is more developed out there than in Greece.

-If no, what was your first choice? (find a job, travel...)

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

No

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

No, I was not looking

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

Well, as I said I was not looking

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate? Yes

/no

No

**C**

What were the reasons to study abroad?

wanted to study abroad and have the student life abroad....

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? Yes/no

No

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

I was impressed of the other departments, extremely distinguished faculty members and facilities motivated me to choose the Netherlands, good equipment at University of Twente

**D**

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

No

Do you have any family ties in this country?

No

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

No

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

-If yes, explain why?

Hard to say now, I don't know yet....

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

Thank you for your cooperation

### Questionnaire

**The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).**

First name: **anonymous 11**

Level of Studies (Master, Bachelor...): **Master Degree**

Field of studies (engineer,...): **Biomedical engineering**

Age: **24**

Gender: **Male**

Family status: **single**

Social status: **middle class**

City: **Kavala**

### Questions

#### A

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

-If yes/no why?

**After...not because particularly of crisis but I have some problems to find a suitable work for me**

When you decided to leave Greece?

**2012**

How did you finance your stay? (Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

**Private funds**

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

**Lack of career opportunities...it pushes me to think about something outside of Greece...that maybe I should follow my sister...she left Greece one year before me because of the same problem to find a good job...**

#### B

Was studying abroad your first choice? (Before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

**Yes, I was influenced by my sister. she advised me that right now is the best choice what can I do...**

-If no, what was your first choice? (find a job, travel...)

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

**Yes**

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

**Yes**

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

**There are some career opportunities of course but the money is horrible...**

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

**Definitely**

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate? Yes /no

**No...but yes that I could not find a job so I guess I am also under the statistics of unemployment rate**

#### C

What were the reasons to study abroad?

**Nothing else to do in Greece so ....my sister**

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

**No**

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? Yes/no

**No**

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

**More research equipment, relatives, here is easier to find a job here is low unemployment rate than in Greece**

#### D

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands country anyone?

**Yes**

Do you have any family ties in this country?

**Yes-sister**

Do you have any friend's links in this country?

**No**

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

-If yes, explain why?

**Yes, to find some suitable job for me**

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

**Thank you for your cooperation**

### Questionnaire

**The focus of the questionnaire is to study factors that are the most influential for the young Greeks to emigrate after the start of the financial crisis(2007-2012).**

First name: **anonymous 12**

Level of Studies(Master, Bachelor...): **Master Degree**

Field of studies(engineer,...): **sustainable energy technology**

Age: **26**

Gender: **Male**

Family status: **single**

Social status: **middle class**

City: **Patras**

### **Questions**

#### **A**

Did you think of emigrating before the crisis or after the crisis?

**Before the crisis but after crisis I was thinking way more about it**

-If yes/no why?

**Well, I realized that I have more possibilities out there ,with the economic situation and political disorder what we have in a country...no comment on it....I was persuaded that I have to leave and everyone was supporting me that is the best what can I do with my life...right now.**

When you decided to leave Greece?

**2012**

How did you finance your stay?(Private funds, EU programmes ,national loans/grants..)

**Private funds**

What influenced you the most to leave Greece?

-what were the main reasons

**The field what I study-Sustainable energy –out there is more opportunities for me than here in Greece, I wanted to continue with my studies in sustainable energy but there was no studies in Greece which I would like it, studying abroad, explore the Netherlands and life abroad**

#### **B**

Was studying abroad your first choice? (before leaving Greece)

-If yes why?

**No**

-If no, what was your first choice?(find a job, travel...)

**My first choice was to find a job but did not find it than I realized that I always wanted to continue with my studies but I never find any good field studies in Greece which would suit me so I said myself that now is the situation to leave Greece for studying...**

Were you looking for a job in Greece before your decision to migrate?

**Well as I said, I wanted to continue with my studies so not really but when I decided that I want to leave Greece. Yes, I was first looking for a job but abroad not home. So, not in Greece**

Did you have problems finding a job in Greece before you left?

What is your opinion about career opportunities in Greece?

**Well, is very difficult to find a job, especially for youth. All my friends are unemployed which are in Greece. No one want to take a job “ after-graduates” because there are no opportunities for youth in environmental energy....so I would rather study and educated myself more than to stay home and be unemployment...You know, I have 3groups of friend: 1,unemployed in Greece 2, studying (second)master 3, people who want leave**

-Are there a few job opportunities in the field of your expertise?

**I believe that they are only a few....which is impossible to get**

As known the unemployment rate in Greece is considering as one of the highest in Eurozone did this fact influenced your decision to migrate?

yes/no

**Well, somehow yes when you see what is going on every day in news, in newspapers you got kind of frustrated that you have no chance to find something just because you never had any job before...**

#### **C**

What were the reasons to study abroad?

**Firstly, I want to find a job, good chance for my future to find a job later on .Secondly, good specialization on my “dream “ master.**

As known the University crisis in Greece is ongoing problem do you think that this factor influenced you as well?

**Yes, they are lower grade Universities and with the “University crisis” the level is going down because school doesn’t have money and they cannot pay salaries to the teachers**

-Did you choose study abroad because of the University crisis in Greece? yes/no

Yes and no...

**No because as I said I wanted to study abroad anyway only the crisis help to do my decision faster and yes: what I have said in a previous question**

Which factors were crucial when choosing the Netherlands?

**Possibilities of master degrees, Master of sustainable energy,**

**No big difference in UK with possibilities but the tuition fee is much higher so that was the crucial factor why I have chosen the Netherland**

**....UK was my first option and than Holland...**

#### **D**

Did you know before coming to the Netherlands anyone?

**No**

Do you have any family ties in this country?

**No**

Do you have any friend’s links in this country?

**No**

Are you planning to stay abroad after getting your degree?

-If yes, explain why?

**Yes, I want to find, a job**

-If no, explain why you want to go back to Greece?

**Thank you for your cooperation**

