

The Operating Statutes of the Ekpaideftikós Omilos

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Abstract

This specific proposal refers to the operating statute of an educational company of the beginning of the 20th century in Greece. It is about the Educational Association ‘‘Ekpaideftikós Omilos’’(EO), which was founded in 1910 with the founders Tsirimokos, Triantafyllidis and Delmouzos with the aim of the educational improvement of Greek teachers and Greek schools. Initially, a draft statute was drawn up as a basis for drafting the first statute, which included fourteen articles. A slight modification of the original statute follows. In 1928, a new statute was passed, with changes in the management and operation of the Group as well as in the methods of its action. Socialist identity of the union, and its internal regulation, was drawn up. After March 1929, the new amended statute was ratified. The purpose has remained the same: the reformation of Greek education, but not the methodology: The trend of democratization, the dominance of left-wing views and, at the same time, a trend of direct discipline by the Central Administrative Committee (CAC) of the Association, are obvious. The ‘‘internal regulation’’ is also presented, who regulated in detail the life of the union, in all events, that is, local sections, conferences, general meetings, central administration and training centers, which constituted editorial institutions, with a more democratic dimension to the operation of the EO.

Keywords: Ekpaideftikós Omilos, Demoticism; Education; Reform, Statute

1. Introduction¹

The original Statute contained 14 articles on the place, the purpose and the means of his struggle. This was followed by its revision in 1914 and its amendments until 1928. The targeting and the methodology remained the same. When the statutes were changed, the number of members of the Administratif Committee (AC) was changed from 7 to 15 and

¹ABBREVIATIONS: ‘‘Ekpaideftikós Omilos’’=(EO), Central Administrative Committee=(CAC), Administratif Committee =(AC), General Assembly =(GA), Central General Assembly =(CGA), Executive Committee =(EC), Central Executive Committee =(CEC), local committee =(LC).

back to 7, the institutionalisation of the GA was foreseen, as well as the procedure in case of dissolution. Also, the determination of the dues was made, the possibility of deleting members and representation of members at the GA was decided. The 1928 statutes provided for the establishment of the Local Section(LS) and the donation of the EO's

assets in the event of its dissolution. In the 1929 statutes there were 28 articles. There has been a diversification of methods in the organisation of education: promotion of Model School, establishment of the CAC, provision for holding a General Assembly (GA)/semester. In addition, a more controlled action of the local Sections (LS) and the control role of the Central General Assembly (CGA) was established. Finally, the Declaration of 1927 was an extensive document containing a detailed presentation of the history of the EO, its action, the critical reaction to the ruling class, the acceptance of the principles of the socialist educational movement. According to Glinos, in the Declaration the EO had renounced its political orientation but accepted the struggle of the classes.

Methods

The paper used the interpretive historical method of analyzing archival material, analyzes the statutes that have been drafted, from the first to the last, and attempts a brief comparative assessment of them. The research approached a period of the past; it constitutes a systematic attempt to evaluate and interpret the primary and secondary sources concerning the EO during its operation from 1910 to 1930. It is an anti-positivist qualitative research method, the development of which was the content analysis. It focused on the deeper investigation of the material under study and on the systematic analysis of the texts, in order to achieve their qualitative-interpretive utilization in a systematic and intersubjective way. Primary and secondary sources were used, and the interpretive historical method of their analysis.

Objective

The purpose of the present historical work was to explain the emergence and evolution of phenomena in a specific historical context by periodization, classification, comparison of evidence. More specifically, the purpose was to analyze the statutes and their amendments, from the beginning of the establishment of the EO and throughout its course. The work aimed at the time recording of the statutes from the initial, to the first, to its subsequent amendments and to the last ones. Then, it aimed at their comparative evaluation, so that their differences and their common elements can be seen, and above all, their basic targeting become clear.

1. The statutes of the EO (*Results and Discussion*)

1.1 Draft articles of association

Dragoumis drew up an initial printed draft of the statutes that includes eleven articles and defines the basic components of the Group's operation: the headquarters is set in Athens, the

purpose is the establishment of a Model School and the reform of Greek education. As means, public and private speeches, magazines and newspapers, books are envisaged. It identifies as founders those who constitute the school's board of trustees and those who voted for the statutes, while it identifies as responsible for the group a committee of six founding members, residents of Greece, who will report every three years and report annually on their work. The members pay 25 drachmes² per year (Printed draft of the charter of an educational group, Archive I. Dragoumis, F. 24, Min. 1, Gennadius Library, ASKSA, Athens, Greece).

1.2 The original articles of the association

The original articles of association of the newly formed association were approved on 24 April 1910, circulated in May 1910 in 2000 copies sent to each of the various recipients (Various, *DEO*, vol. 4, 1914, p. 338). In May 1910 it is voted on and signed by the 38 founders (Charalambous, 1987, p. 52). The original draft constitution is used as the basis for drafting the first constitution which includes fourteen articles. In the first five articles, Athens is defined as the headquarters, the purpose is the establishment of a model school and the reform of Greek education, and the means mentioned are: public and private speeches, magazines and newspapers, books. Also, named as founders are those who constitute the school's board of trustees and those who voted for the statutes. Regarding the mode of administration, it is stated that a committee of seven founders (three of whom belong to the school's treasury) runs the group. The committee is elected by the founders, every three years by majority vote and the tax board every six, and appoints a secretary and treasurer. The treasurer of the Club is also the treasurer of the Model School. Three members are required for a quorum at each meeting of the committee. One of the members shall chair and direct the proceedings. The Committee shall represent the Group and the Tax Office shall represent the school. The membership fee is 5 drachmas per year. At the end of each year the Committee publishes a report of its work and its accountability. The Committee may appoint as founder, one of the members of the Group, in the event of the loss of a founder. The statutes may be revised after the first three years. The original constitution is valid until 1914, when it is revised on the occasion of the new law on associations. At three GA on November 20 and 28 and December 14, 1914, the new bylaws are voted on and approved in order to comply with the provisions of the state's latest unions law.

The original bylaws are sent to the recipients along with a letter of request, on which the address of the Club is printed and new members are invited to join and to accept any form of membership dues. The letter shall be signed by the seven founding members forming the Committee of the Club. It is addressed to existing registered members of the EO with the encouragement to seek to recommend to acquaintances to become members or associates of the Group and its journal.

² Currency of Greece at that time.

1.2.1 The Revised Statutes (1914)

In the revised constitution of 1914, the membership fee was increased from 5 drachmas to 10 drachmas, and the management of the Society was set to be carried out by a committee elected by the members for a period of three years. According to the new constitution the administration is committed to follow the budget of each year which will be voted by the members at the annual general meeting of the club (The EO, in accordance with the new law

on associations, approves its statutes. In: The new statute, *DEO*³, vol.4, 1914, p. 338). In 1921 after an extraordinary GA on January 8, 1921 it was decided to change certain articles of the constitution: Article 5 sets the amount of the membership fee at 20 drachmas, for teachers and students at 10 drachmes, and the right to participate in the GA, while those who are members receive the DEO free of charge. Article 6 stipulates that the AC becomes a 15-member body, and Article 8 stipulates the election of a chairman and vice-chairman every year and a treasurer for three years. In case of resignation of a member, he/she shall be replaced by the alternate members. The AC shall elect from its members or other members an Executive Committee (EC) to implement the purpose of the EO for a period of three years. This shall have 5-7 members and shall have the task of implementing the decisions of the and shall take care of publications, lectures, courses, tutorials and everything else that relates to the purpose of the Group. It elects a chairman from among its members, meets whenever called by the chairman if at least three members are present, and decides by a relative majority. EC, if called upon by his Chairman, shall attend its meetings and shall be accountable for its work in a written report in December each year. Article 11 provides for the convening of the AC at the invitation of the Chair, with at least seven members present and a decision by a majority vote (Various, *DEO*, vol. 9, 1921, p. 346).

1.2.2 The amended statute (1923)

In 1923 further amendments were made to the statutes. The amended constitution contains 17 articles concerning the calling of ordinary or extraordinary meetings, the property, administration and dissolution of the association and the conditions for conferring the title of honorary member. The first article defines the purpose of the establishment of the EO, which is the reform of Greek education through lectures, magazines, books, newspapers and the establishment of model schools. According to the provisions, the first article is not subject to revision or change. As the seat of the association is defined as Athens, and the registration of members is provided for after their application and approval by the Board. Members are required to pay a membership fee of 25 drachmes per year (teachers and students 15 drachmes per year), with the right to vote at regular and extraordinary assemblies of the association. The AC has 15 members, elects one of its members as president, a deputy

³ Official journal of the EO.

president/chairman and a treasurer and a general secretary for three years and has the task of administering the EO. The ninth article defines the powers of the administrative committee, which are, among other things, the approval of new members, the fourth article provides for cases of exclusion, the invitation of members to a regular meeting once a year and an extraordinary meeting in case of need or at the request of the members. The president shall be the representative of the association and in his absence, he shall be replaced by the deputy or another member who has a special mandate from the committee. A meeting of the AC shall be held at the invitation of the chairman and if at least 7 members are present and it shall decide by a majority of the members present, unless an absolute majority is required. Each member may be represented by another member, but no member may represent more than one. The Ordinary GA shall be convened in the first ten days of February at the invitation of the AC. If at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the members are not present, the meeting shall be held after eight days, with as many members present as there are members. Extraordinary meetings shall be held in a similar manner. The members present shall, by a vote, after the accountability and report of the auditors, approve the accounts of the previous year and vote on the budget for the new year, elect two auditors and every three years the new AC. As regards the property of the EO, it is managed by the treasurer. He has the right to keep up to 500 drachmes in his treasury for current needs, while the rest must be deposited in a bank designated by the Board. Finally, for the dissolution of the association, an extraordinary GA is called, where at least half of the members are present and the dissolution proposal is approved, if voted by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present. In the case of members residing outside Athens, representation by members residing in Athens is provided for. Each member may represent up to 5 members at the GA. Finally there is a provision that provides for the designation of honorary members in areas of distinction for their contribution to the educational idea. This constitution remains in force until 1928(Statute of the EO, *DEO*, vol. 11, 1923, pp. 267-269).

At that time a new constitution is passed, with changes in the way the Society is administered and operated and in its modes of action. In conclusion, the objective of the EO remains stable after its dissolution in 1927. The aim and method of the objective of the Group remains the same and changes the composition and number of its members and officers and the addition of articles on the possibility of representing members, deletion and approval and granting the title of honorary founder to new persons and, in general, on procedural matters (Statute of the EO, *DEO*, vol. 11, 1923, pp. 267-269).

1.3 The Statutes of the (New) Educational Society (1928)

The amendment of the constitution is raised as a key request at the February 1928 Board meetings and a draft amendment is tabled on 30 March 1928. It is approved on April 27, 1928 by the Board and referred to the GA for a vote. On June 5, 1928 a General Membership Meeting is called to decide on the amendment of the bylaws and on June 25, 1928 a resolution approving the amended bylaws is issued by the District Court (Handwritten note

by K. Sotiriou for General Assembly decisions of 1928, Archive of K. Sotiriou, Available: http://arxeiokdsotiriou.blogspot.gr/2014/11/blog-post_10.html).

The first three articles remain the same as those of the original statutes of the EO. In its preface, the need for a radical reorganization of the EO, in the way it operates and acts, in order to achieve a more disciplined action and more active participation of its members, is mentioned. The objectives are made explicit in the way the last GA have been organised and run.

For the first time AC officially declares the socialist identity of the union, and its effort to participate in the struggle of the dynastic classes for their redemption and for a new form of social life, more just. The aim of the new EO's operation remains the reform of Greek education, using various ways and means such as the organization of enlightening speeches, the circulation of magazines and newspapers. Article 6 decides the compulsory organization of members into local sections in each region or city. The administration of the EO is appointed by a seven-member committee, elected annually at the GA together with five alternate members. The committee elects a president, treasurer, secretary and is responsible

for taking and implementing the necessary decisions, organising the local sections and calling ordinary or extraordinary assemblies. It is appointed to hold meetings of the AC every fortnight or extraordinary meetings at the request of the president or a member. A quorum shall be constituted when at least four members are present and shall decide by a majority vote. The following articles define the parameters concerning the holding of the regular GA every February by invitation of the AC and extraordinary GAs in the same way, where the possibility of representation of members residing outside Athens with members within Athens is given. The treasurer has the right to manage the property of the EO. He is entitled to keep the amount of 500 drachmes for current needs and deposit the balance in a bank designated by the AC. It is provided for the possibility of dissolution of the association after an extraordinary GA, where at least half of the members are present and if the dissolution is voted for by at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present. In the event of dissolution, it is provided that its assets are to be donated to an educational institution by decision of the GA. Article 18 stipulates that anything not provided for in the statutes is regulated by Law 281 on Associations (Statute of the educational group, *Neos Dromos*, f.1, November 1, 1928, pp. 7, 8).

The most radical changes can be described as the decision to establish local chapters with the establishment in a region and the reduction of the membership and the term of office of the AC in order to make it more flexible and effective. The establishment of local sections enables the development of interest in the aims of the union, with a meshing and vital activity within it, where each local section can become an organic arm of the union, while the changes to the functioning of the AC give it a more democratic basis and also addresses the difficulty of the large number of members (Statute of the educational group, *Neos Dromos*, f.1, November 1, 1928, p.7). Also innovative is the donation of property in the event of

dissolution, as well as Article 18 which makes reference to the Law on Associations in an attempt to fill gaps and clarify operational issues that were previously unclear.

1.4 The Rules of Procedure of the EO (1928)

On 12 October 1928, in addition to the statutes, the by-laws of the EO were communicated to the members of the EO in an newsletter, in accordance with the last GA. It states that the split in 1927 resulted in the need to reorganise the association on the basis of the socialist model, the disciplined operation of its action parts and the more active participation of its members. The provision in Article 6 of the constitution for the establishment and operation of local sections and the reduction of the membership of the AC and its term of office is emphasized. This gives a more democratic dimension to the functioning of the EO. The by-laws regulate in detail the life of the association, in all events i.e. local sections conferences, GAs, central administration and tutorials, which are editorial institutions. The AC hopes that with this notification it will enter a fruitful period of action (Sotiriou, K. The life and action of the EO, Archive of K. Sotiriou, Available: http://arxeiokdsotiriou.blogspot.gr/2014/11/blog-post_10.html).

1.5 The Statutes of the (New) Educational Society (1929)

The call for a GA in February 1929 has as its subject, among other things, the amendment of the constitution. The new amended constitution is ratified and in force after March 1929 and

contains 28 articles. It is printed in a separate booklet together with the by-laws of the EO and is sold for 5 drachmes (Neos Dromos, f. 9, March 1, 1929, p. 12).

The purpose remains the same: the reform of Greek education, but not the method: it is proposed to enlighten the masses, the teachers' organizations and by means of model schools and by using every other legal means. The organization of members into local chapters remains in force. For registration, the recommendation of a past member and its approval by the local section committee or the Central Executive Committee (CEC) is provided for. Members who have been members for at least one year are considered to be past members. Membership ceases for those members who give a written resignation, those who do not pay their dues for two consecutive years, those who violate the bylaws and principles of the association (based on a decision of the member's section meeting). Any decision to expel shall be communicated to the CEC and may be reviewed by the CEC or by the convention. Article 6 provides for re-registration of membership. Of the membership fee 1/3 remains with the local committee, while the remaining 2/3 goes to the CEC treasury. The local section is established with a minimum of seven members, governed by a local committee (LC) of three members, where a treasurer and a secretary are appointed. The TC takes care of the success of the association's purpose, the registration of new members and the treasury of the TC and in case of a treasury shortfall, it appeals to the CEC. The TC cannot take any action or make

decisions of a general nature without the approval of the CEC. A TC or local chapter that violates the bylaws and principles of the Group shall be removed and may be dissolved, by decision of the CEC. Provision shall be made for holding an ordinary meeting of each section once every three months, and an extraordinary meeting in case of emergency at the call of the TC, at the request of at least half of the members. The members present shall be entitled to vote. Decisions shall be taken by a relative majority and shall be communicated to the CEC. At the GA, the three members of the AC and the local external committee shall be elected and their names shall be immediately communicated to the CEC. In places where there are fewer than seven members, a representative shall be appointed by the CEC. Provision is also made for the organisation of a regular congress every year in Athens or in another city. The date and agenda items shall be communicated to sections and members 60 days in advance. Local section assemblies have the possibility to introduce items for discussion within 15 days of the announcement of the congress. 20 days before the congress, the CEC shall notify the items on the regular agenda together with their proposals. The local sections shall be represented at the Congress, with a ratio of one vote per 15 members. A quorum shall exist if at least half of the sections are present.

In accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, the Assembly is the sovereign body of the Group. It assumes the responsibility of hearing and scrutinising the report of the administrative action of the CAC, voting on the budget for the new year, taking decisions on all matters on the agenda and proceeding to the election of the CAC and the CEC and their alternate members by a relative majority. An extraordinary congress may be convened following a decision by the CC or the CEC or at the request of the three sections. The agenda of the extraordinary Assembly shall be made known to the sections 10 days in advance.

With regard to the composition of the CEC, it shall be composed of seven and three members respectively, elected by the Congress each year. The alternate members shall replace members who resign or are absent (resignations shall be deemed to be those members who have been absent for three consecutive meetings without justification). The CEC shall elect from among its members a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer. Its task is defined as the implementation of the decisions of the congress, the guidance of the local sections and the representatives of the sections. It shall convene an ordinary meeting at least every 15 days and an extraordinary meeting at the call of the President. The President represents the EO together with Glinos. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall deputise for him. The Secretary General shall be responsible for checking correspondence with the local sections, taking care of the minutes, signing documents jointly with the President. The Secretary may be assisted by a special secretary. The treasurer is responsible for the management of the Local Section's property and it is envisaged that he/she will leave in his/her treasury the amount of 2000 drachmes for current needs and the remaining amount will be deposited in a bank indicated by the CEC. The CEC is charged with the election of a secretary, the monitoring and control of the financial and administrative activities of the CEC.

Its secretary was entitled to attend the meetings of the CAC and can call an extraordinary conference with the unanimous opinion of its three members, in case of need. Dissolution of the union was possible with the approval of at least half of the sections and with the voting of the dissolution by three quarters of the members present. In this case, the property of the association would donate to an educational institution, with the suggestion of the conference. Revision of the statute was possible if the articles to be revised were explicitly stated in the agenda (Statute of the EO, F. 15, Delmouzos Archive, Amfissa, Greece).

The statute of 1929 could be characterized as radical, as it established a different philosophy in the operation of the EO, where the controlled action of local sections, the registration and re-registration of members, the relationship of local sections and members with the CAC was institutionalized. The provision for the return of 2/3 of the amount of money of the local departments to the CAC and the possibility of revising all articles was accepted for the first time. It was worth emphasizing the provisions for the re-registration of members, for the validity of the conference, the establishment of the CAC and its jurisdictions, the appointment of representatives of the local sections and the recognition of one vote per 15 people in the GA. One could observe the contradiction between the pursuit of democratization with the addition of relevant articles but also the tendency of increased control action of the CAC.

2. Convergence & Divergence of statutes

Comparing the statutes, we find changes in the number of members of the AC (7-15-7), the definition of their responsibilities, the provision of a quorum for decisions by a relative majority and the financial obligations of the members. Initially, there is no provision for GA, except for the presentation of the group committee's accountability report by the founders. From 1914 onwards, articles are added to the articles of association on the function and role of the GA, the frequency of convening, the conditions of participation of the members. An important change is the institutionalization of the EC as part of the AC and with the authority

to undertake the implementation of the association's decisions. However, it seems that in practice it is identical to the AC, as there is no report available from it, nor any other clear act of action on its part, as defined in the articles of the 1921 statutes.

In the 1928 and 1929 statutes the institution of the TT and in the 1929 statutes the institution of the GA, gives a different tone to the Group. The meetings are multiplied, divided into the TTs, the institution of the CC controlling the local AC, is provided for, and an article is introduced on the possibility of revising the statutes if a request is submitted in time to the presidency of the GA. Changes to the articles of the statutes concern the increase of the subscription from 5 to 10 and then to 20 drachmes. After the suspension of the establishment of the Model Primary School, the objective of reforming education and the means remain stable, but the methods of admission of new members and the way of operation of the Society are differentiated with changes in the original aristocratic character of the Society. More specifically, the increase in the number of members of the AC reveals the tendency to

democratize the Society, although later the number of the AC is reduced again, probably for practical reasons (possibility of quorum). The registration of new members is done after the approval of the AC, which shows its validity, and by signing a declaration to this effect after the split, or by guaranteeing and recommending members of the AC. During the establishment phase of local chapters, the approval of admission of new members must also be made by the AC. Although the GA ensures greater authority and more meaningful involvement of members in the affairs of the association, the latest amendments, following the creation of TT, suggest a pursuit of control and direct discipline by the CC and a guiding role on its part. The transfer of some of the money to the CAC and the possibility of deleting or re-registering members for reasons of financial inconsistency indicates, the poor financial position of the club and a clear desire to appropriate some of the money of the local chapters.

3. Conclusions

The detailed record of the statutes, with their amendments, shows that the objective of the EO remains stable after its split in 1927, while the composition and number of its members and officers changes and articles are added concerning the representation of members, the deletion and acceptance of new members. A tendency towards democratization, related to the prevalence of leftist views, is evident, as well as a tendency towards direct discipline by the CC and a guiding role. The period 1910-1920 is noted as a period of prosperity, with openness to society, financial support from members, and the activism of its cadres in the educational reform effort.

The EO, with its statutes as founding documents, makes its intentions as clear as the means it will use. Finally, the design of the Model School, although a central aim from the first statutes, it is not done and it is quickly abandoned.		
<i>Statutes of the EO</i>		
Date	Characterization	Characteristics
1910	Original	14 articles, purpose the establishment of a model school and the reformation of Greek education, media: public and private speeches, magazines and newspapers, books. Founders: members of the school board and those who voted for the statute Committee of 7 founders, membership fee 5 drachmes/year, report of the work of the Committee
1914	Revised	Membership from 5 to 10 drachmes AC elected by members, for three years, follows the budget approved by the members at the General Assembly (GA).
1921	Modified	Membership fee 20 drahmes, for public teachers and students 10 dirhams, with the right to participate in the General Assembly and DEO free. AC 15 members, election of president and vice-president every year and of treasurer for three years. Election of executive committee/three years by the AC for the implementation of the purpose of the EO. It convenes at the invitation of the president and three members, decides by relative majority. Participation in its meetings, accountability with a written report every year in December. Convening of the AC upon the invitation of the president, with at least seven members present and a decision by a relative majority.
1923	Modified	17 articles. The purpose of the establishment is the reformation of Greek education with lectures, magazines, books, newspapers and the establishment of model schools. Membership fee 25 drahmes per year (teachers and students 15 drahmes per year). The 15-member AC. Regular GA in February,

		extraordinary GA with half of members. Representation of members by members residing in Athens (each member up to 5 members at the GA), provision for granting the title of "honorary" members.
1928	Modified	18 articles (3 first same), purpose. The objectives are distinct in the way of organization and operation of the last GA. Need to reorganize Compulsory organization of members into local chapters in each region or city. AC of 7 members meeting every 15 days with at least 4 members, by invitation of the chair, holding regular GA every February at the invitation of the Board and extraordinary GA with representation of members residing outside Athens. There is possibility of dissolution and conditions, reference to Law 281 on Unions Registration of members after approval by AC, subscription, definition of the role of the treasurer.
1929	Last one	28 articles, 5 dr. subscription, same purpose, approval of members by CAC, appointment of members, cash matters, conditions of operation of TT, appointment of representatives of TT, operation of the Congress, CAC, CA, possibility of revision of statutes under conditions. 7 members in the AC.

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