

GUEST WORKERS UNEMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC SURVIVAL IN GREECE



Guest workers from Bulgaria having
a coffee break with the local master painter

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis 4 April 2013

It is with great to read about the latest figures on the youth unemployment in Greece at this very moment. One wonders how will the youth occupy themselves, what psychotically impact will it have on their developments and will they be able to relocate elsewhere to find employment. Germany needs additional manpower for its booming industries according to recent reports and Greece may be the pool upon which it can draw upon.

In the villages and smaller towns of Greece, there are foreign guest workers that have made Greece their home for the past thirty years. Many have purchased homes, with their children going to Greek school and growing up with Hellenic customs, they pay their taxes and integrate where possible within the local environment and society.

However with the financial crisis in Greece many of these workers to survive have reduced their daily wages and in many cases reduced it by some 30 to 40% in order to remain employed. These are drastic measures in order to survive, remain employable and put food on the table for their families. As a result farmers take advantage of the workers and employ them within the olive groves, labouring task and other jobs that Greeks would not want to do.

From another perspective, we look at a Greek guest worker in Germany. Two years ago, an uncle of mine who had been living and working in Germany retired and was granted a pension. Two weeks prior to his retirement he was making plans to return to the place of his birth when he was set upon by some German youths and murdered.

This sent shock waves around the world as the Uncle was well known in the village by those who mourned his loss. This may not have much to do with the unemployment issue and digresses from the main title of unemployment, but it does raise some interesting questions regarding the motives of the Germans and their grip on the leadership of the EU behind the scenes.

The uncle in this case some 60 years ago also relocated to Germany for a new life and a better quality of living. He worked hard, paid his taxes and was granted a pension. Will Germany allow the Greek youth to take up employment or will they be classified as guest workers and return back home after an extended period in Germany. Will the EU take up the slack, I think not as there are other countries also falling into the long end of the debt funnel of the declining confidence of the Euro.

Greece therefore will be looking at its own programs with a little support from the EU in order to survive and overcome the financial crisis. Alas this may take as long as one generation. There are small signs of a recovery of exports but so minute, that they can scarcely raise above the bottom of the page so to speak



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538