

INTELLIGENCE MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS IN GREECE: CONCERNS AND SUCCESS REQUIREMENTS

John M. Nomikos
(RIEAS Director)

Copyright: Research Institute for European and American Studies (www.rieas.gr/)
(Publication Date: 17 May 2014)

It is a fact that in the international environment the intelligence field is in the turning point of important developments, turnovers and revolutionary changes that are prescribed by the rapidly developing technically, practically differentiated and socially formatted environment. The targeting to the rapid and in real time intelligence process with reforming the means and the ways of its acquisition, but also its direct processing and dissemination is the fuse of broader organizational and structural changes that are already adopted by countries with tradition in the field of intelligence, such as the USA, the United Kingdom and Israel.¹

In Greece according to the Law 4249/2014, which passed in March by the Greek Parliament and refers to the complete restructuring of the Services of the Greek Police and the Fire Department, the establishment of a new, according to the nomenclature, but known from the past regarding the subject, Police Service that will be related to the integrated management of intelligence is interesting.

With these changes, Greece is trying to create again contemporary structures, equivalent to those existing in other countries for decades.

A powerful service, which by moving towards modern standards can combine the operational action and the utilization of intelligence, referring to crime, was duly reconstructed. The first institutionalization (PD 99/2009, on “regulation on matters of organization of the Greek Police” – (FEK) Number of Publication A, 125127 July 2009), referred to the establishment of the **Directorate of Collection and Management of Operational Intelligence**, with the responsibility to collect, process and distribute the intelligence material, by security sector, whereas it was expected to have direct cooperation with the Counterterrorism Service and the State Security.²

For a period of time **longer than 25 years** (since the establishment of the Greek Police in 1984), until the establishment of the Directorate of Collection and Management of Operational Intelligence (2009), an integrated National System for the Utilization of Intelligence referring to crime with “privately owned” intelligence, focused on the specialized form, within the independent prosecuting authorities’ jurisdiction, was not structured. On the

¹ **Amir Rapaport** “Revolution in the Intelligence Agencies” – ISRAELDEFENCE – APRIL 2014 p. 30

² **Νίκος Λάος** «Διαδικτυακός Πόλεμος & Δημοσια Ασφάλεια στην Ελλάδα» - Άρθρο εφημερίδα «Η Ελλάδα αύριο» 3/8/2012 [**Nikos Laos** “Cyberwar & Public Security in Greece” – Article in the Newspaper “Greece tomorrow” 3/8/2012]

contrary, almost every modern country is reforming and modernizing its intelligence system, in order to deal with problems, mostly regarding the **exchange and dissemination of intelligence**, *while Greece is still searching the ways of its Collection*.

The theoretical researcher's, of these subjects, main concern is that each administrator (politicians along with their administrative agents) of the crucial matters of the country's internal security, that at last distort reality and make it iconic, although this case falls to the phenomenon of the occasional and communicative advertisement of political structural products!

This concern appeared and remained as to whether substantial support to the Directorate of Collection and Management of Operational Intelligence existed, regarding the indented effectiveness specified to matters of organization, funding, and its level of function, utilization of knowledge and experience of its staff and adoption of other applied National Systems that are customized to the Greek services' structural and operational reality, which are related to dealing with crime. Although the first venture's general perspective is nowadays satisfying despite the adverse circumstances that were imposed by its initiators, people responsible for its implementation did their best to save it, by creating the first analysts' core, but also by tentatively creating the philosophy of intelligence within the Geek Police. The phrase "satisfying" is solely structured upon the fact that it became possible to highlight the existing gap, even though it is obvious for those who are familiar with the intelligence field.

In any case, today's initiative and the Minister's of Public Order and Citizen Protection strong support for the reform and upgrade of the System of Information Management in Greece, is very important, as it provides the Greek Police an important, internationally characterized as necessary supportive weapon for controlling and confronting crime within the Greek society.

Nevertheless, the implementation of this political initiative, which will be reinforced and is imposed – as a basic requirement of success – to reform by making important interventions the missing elements due to the existing pathogenic attitude, is significant:³

- Development of the cooperation among all law enforcement services of the country,
- ***Development of team work*** internally and collective action of the Police Services regarding the **collection, exchange and dissemination of intelligence**,
- Organizational framework of operation, capable to bear the static loads of the venture in order to coordinate the disseminated and processed intelligence,
- *Staffing with the most suitable and capable personnel for all ranks without competitive and "insecure" nebulae, the selection of which is imposed to be by entirely meritocratic and transparent processes and with criteria like: scientific knowledge and training, specialized knowledge on computer systems and inclination to modern technology, organizational skills, industriousness, collaboration, discretion, professional training, operational experience, knowledge of foreign languages, as well as, other general-specialized knowledge and personal interests that can be used.*
- Utilization of operational knowledge-experience of its entire staff,

³ **Μαρίνος Σταγάκης** «Εθνικό σύστημα διαχείρισης πληροφοριών και περιβάλλον ασφάλειας στην Ελλάδα» Copyright: www.rieas.gr (<http://www.rieas.gr/research-areas/greek-studies-gr/1718-2012-03-04-10-07-40.html>) - 04 Μαρτίου 2012 [**Marinos Stagakis** "National system of information management and security environment in Greece" Copyright: www.rieas.gr (<http://www.rieas.gr/research-areas/greek-studies-gr/1718-2012-03-04-10-07-40.html>) – 04 March 2012]

- Ensuring the “continuity” of positions and the continuous training on the new practices and evolution of the methodology.

Standards towards achieving this purpose are the already applied models of countries with great experience, development in research and practical operational effectiveness in the intelligence field.