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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**State Scholarships Foundation/IKY was certified with the internationally recognized standard  
"ISO 9001: 2008"**

**IKY is the first Organization of the close public sector in Greece having been certified with the Quality Management System for its overall activity.**

This certification was accredited for the quality management system developed and was implemented by the State Scholarships Foundation. It is yet another great distinction made in the direction of quality certification of the institution after the EFQM.

IKY's overall activity for planning and implementing its Scholarship programmes led to this certification which refers to all its departments (Directorate of Administration and Financial Management, Directorate for Special Programmes and International Scholarships and Directorate of Scholarships). This was the result of the effort and cooperation made by IKY's human potential.

On October 2014 State Scholarships Foundation/IKY was awarded with the European Certification EFQM at "Committed to Excellence" level. Few months later IKY manages to receive this new distinction of ISO Certification. IKY received honorary comments, by the inspectors, for the overall operation of the Agency as well as for its effort to evolve at these adverse economic and social conditions that prevail at national and international level.

These distinctions, combined with IKY's Quality Manual as well as with the International Business Excellence Award «Global Business Excellence Awards in Outstanding HR Initiative» recently received by the National Bank of Greece for the programme IKY-ETE "2 + 2", prove IKY's continuous improvement in quality and the ongoing innovation regarding the Scholarship programmes and the development of youth policy.

The president of IKY, Effie K. Basdra, declares that «*The quality system applied by the State Scholarships Foundation aims at the best reorganization of its operations at all levels, of its procedures and targets to the dissemination and communication of a quality culture philosophy set by the management to all IKY's personnel. The specific accreditation by "ISO 9001: 2008" shows that*

*the quality of the provided services, lies within its systematic and documented quality procedures. The creation of an efficient system for communication and self-control management approach is also certified. State Scholarships Foundation, as an agency of the close public sector, is a best practice example for its services. It has more certifications and awards than other businesses in the private sector. This is due to its excellent personnel who continues working even at the most adverse conditions”.*

IKY will continue its effort to upgrade its services as it has realized that in order to face the challenges presented there is a key factor: Quality Management.