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**"Don't kill off higher education institutions in Greece through extreme savings"
Rectors' conferences warn of excessive cuts**

Cost cuts implemented in Greece to counter the financial crisis have resulted in drastic reductions in spending on universities.

To save the higher education system from long-term damage, German and Greek rectors are calling for the savings to be integrated into an overall plan to further develop the Greek higher education system.

The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the Greek Rectors' Conference, Synodos Prytaneon Ellinikon Panepistimion, passed a resolution to this effect at their meeting on 4 and 5 June in Rhodes.

"Investments in education, research and innovation are crucial for the social and economic development of Greece," says HRK President Horst Hippler.

The rectors' conferences appealed to the German Federal Government to further promote cooperation between Greek and German universities and thereby support the Greek higher education system.

To conclude the two-day proceedings, the rectors' conferences also passed a Memorandum of Understanding on higher education cooperation. A standing committee of both organisations will work on further measures.

Annexes:

Resolution

Memorandum of Understanding