

## **ISSUANCE OF LEGAL ENTITY IDENTIFIER (LEI)**

The legal entity identifier (hereinafter LEI) has been established for the purpose of determining the identity of legal entities who participate in financial transactions within the framework of mandatory compliance with the requirements arising from the relevant regulatory framework of the EU.

## **LEI: WHAT IT IS, AND HOW TO OBTAIN IT**

LEI is a 20 digit alphanumerical code issued as per the ISO17442 standard. The code allows the clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial markets and it is linked to a set of reference data regarding the legal entity, including name and address.

Further information on LEI can be found at LEI ROC (www.leiroc.org), the authority that coordinates and supervises the issuance of LEI codes, and at GLEIF (www.gleif.org), an international organization that monitors the issuance of the codes.

## WHAT LEGAL ENTITIES ARE OBLIGED TO OBTAIN A LEI CODE?

Under MiFID II, which comes into force on 03/01/2018, any legal entity performing transactions involving financial instruments is obliged to obtain an active LEI code. The LEI code will serve as an identifier for their transactions. Note that this obligation is binding on all parties involved in the transaction.

In line with the above, legal entities who wish to continue to carry out such transactions in financial instruments after the said date should communicate their LEI code to the National Bank of Greece S.A. (hereinafter "the Bank") in a timely manner and, specifically, by 31/12/2017. If they do not already have a LEI code, they must obtain one and notify it to the Bank by the same date. In addition, legal entities should make sure that their LEI code remains valid by renewing it on an annual basis prior to its expiry.

Otherwise, as of 03/01/2018 the Bank will be unable to provide them its services related to transactions in financial instruments until they notify the Bank of their LEI code.

## **HOW TO APPLY FOR A LEI CODE**

The LEI code can be obtained through specially authorized and accredited LEI issuing organizations, known as Local Operating Units (LOUs). Any legal entity can apply for a LEI code at any LOU of its choice. A list of the certified organizations can be found on the GLEIF webpage at <a href="https://www.gleif.org/en/about-lei/how-to-get-an-lei-find-lei-issuing-organizations">https://www.gleif.org/en/about-lei/how-to-get-an-lei-find-lei-issuing-organizations</a>

Note that in Greece, the Athens Exchange Group, through its AXIAlei service, provides legal entities the option to obtain a LEI code under an assisted registration procedure. The service is provided by Hellenic Central Securities Depository SA (ATHEXCSD) of the Athens Exchange Group, in cooperation with the London Stock Exchange Group via the Unavista platform. For further information you can visit <a href="http://www.helex.gr/el/axialei">http://www.helex.gr/el/axialei</a>

Before filing a request to obtain a LEI code, interested legal entities should first ascertain that they do not already have a code.	
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