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«Infrastructure and Construction Project Management»

**Postgraduate Diploma Thesis**

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***The Reasons for Exclusion and the Selection Criteria in the Awarding of Public Works Contracts in Greece***

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**Abstract**

Public works contracts play a central role in infrastructure development, economic growth, and the provision of essential public services. In Greece, their award procedures are primarily governed by Law 4412/2016, which transposes the European Union Directives 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU into national law. These provisions establish detailed rules for the exclusion of economic operators and the selection criteria applied by contracting authorities.

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the legal framework governing the grounds for exclusion and the selection criteria in the award of public works contracts, identifying key challenges and areas for improvement. The study employs a bibliographic and doctrinal research approach, drawing on Greek and foreign legal theory, relevant legislation, and case law from Greek courts, the European Court of Justice, and administrative bodies such as the Hellenic Single Public Procurement Authority (ΕΑΑΔΗΣΥ/HSPPA).

The findings reveal recurring practical issues, including ambiguities in the application of exclusion grounds, inconsistencies in the interpretation of selection criteria, and procedural inefficiencies that may hinder competition and transparency. Comparative insights from other EU Member States highlight potential best practices for addressing these challenges.

This research contributes to the ongoing debate on the effectiveness of the Greek public procurement framework, offering proposals for legislative amendments and procedural reforms aimed at enhancing legal certainty, fairness, and efficiency. The conclusions may serve as a useful reference for contracting authorities, policymakers, and economic operators involved in public works procurement.

**Keywords:** public procurement, public works contracts, Law 4412/2016, exclusion grounds, selection criteria, EU procurement law, Greece, transparency.