

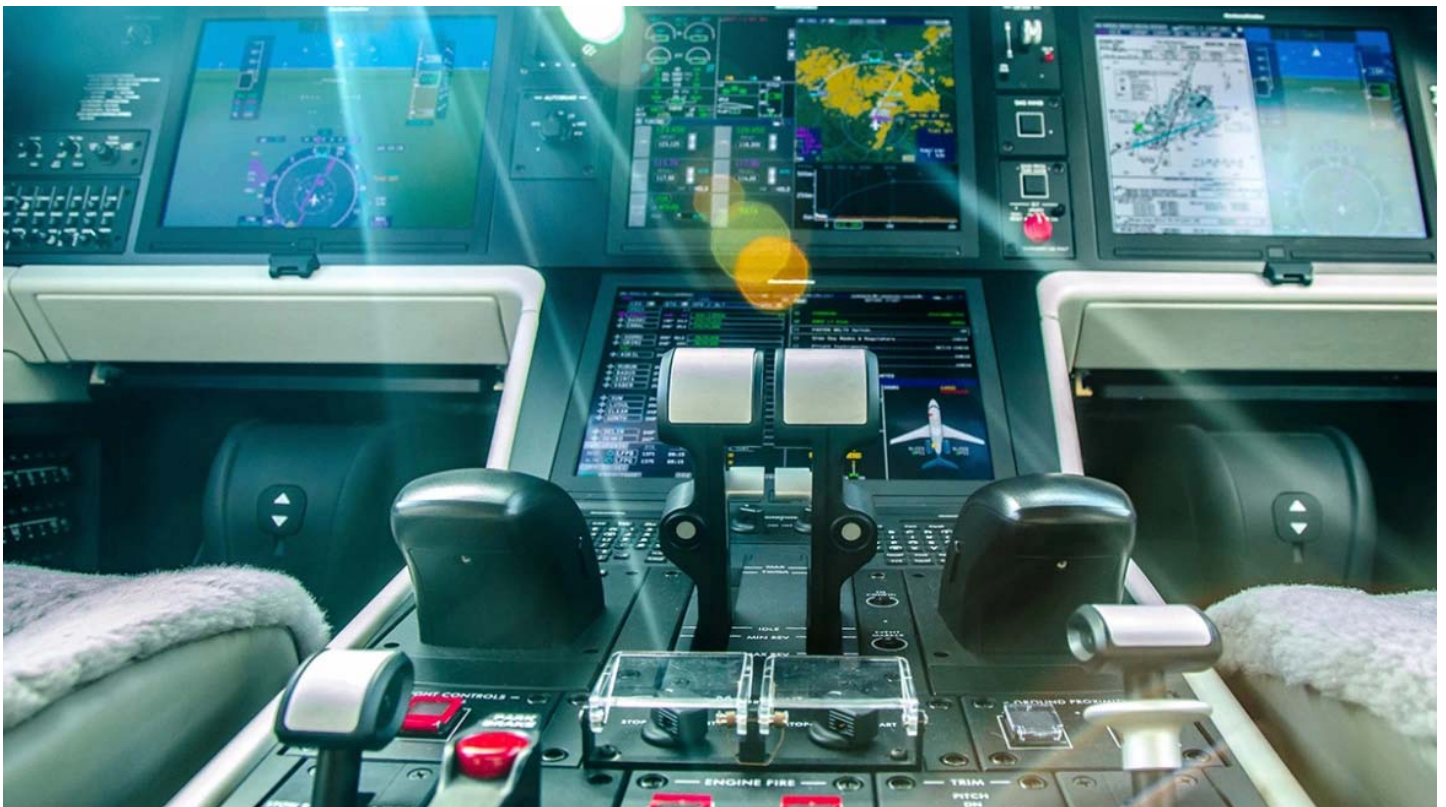


HELLAS

#Gang #Criminal organization #Pilots #Examination

## Gang issued fake diplomas to pilots: The €25,000 fee and the hidden cameras in the shirts

At least 15 pilots who obtained an illegal license - Read the revealing report on [protothema.gr](https://www.protothema.gr)



**ELAS** proceeded to dismantle a gang that issued fake diplomas to prospective airplane pilots by giving them the answers to the theoretical exams through an intercom system . As can be seen from the transmission revealed by [protothema.gr](https://www.protothema.gr) , the three members of the gang gave stylistic instructions to their clients, used special vocabulary while charging up to 25,000 euros for prospective pilots to completely avoid the exams.

Three Greeks aged 70, 43 and 69 who are considered members of the criminal organization as well as two prospective aircraft pilots aged 28 and 42 have been arrested for the case. The case file also includes the names of three other persons involved in the case, aged 48, 38 and 34.

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Against them, as well as against 16 other people - prospective aircraft pilots, **a case file** was filed for - as the case may be - criminal organization - gang, obtaining a false certificate, complicity, following and by profession, as well as for attempting to obtain a false certificate by collaboration.

As ELAS announced, the examinees for obtaining a professional pilot's license were basically School students who were either unable to obtain the said license after their failed attempts, or did not want to study the theoretical material of the courses being examined.

The spiral collected an average of 7,800 euros from each of the candidates it helped. Between January and May alone, it had issued five pilots' diplomas in this way, while in the previous period they had done the same to 10 other people.

### **The mundus operandi**

As can be seen from the **communication** published by prothema.gr, pilots "approached the 70-year-old and the 43-year-old either through third parties who had previously managed to obtain the license in question in the same irregular way (word of mouth) or through individuals who were in the field of aviation as instructors of candidates operators-pilots. During the candidates' contact with the 70-year-old, the latter informed them of the methodology he would follow, namely that he would guide them through audio-visual devices to choose the correct answers. It is noted that the gang preferred the exams conducted by the company Austro Control (Austria's State Civil Aviation Authority which is EASA certified) as the questions asked were published on an online platform and therefore the members of the gang could identify the correct answers. He further informed them of another irregular way of obtaining an aircraft pilot's license

which cost 25,000 euros with the advantage, however, that it would not matter if the candidate answered the questions correctly, as in some way unknown to us, success was guaranteed." .

### **The tariff of 25,000 euros**

Especially for the "solution" of 25,000 euros, the police officers who investigated the case report that "in this particular case, the theoretical examination of the courses took place in Amman, Jordan, while the connecting link with the examination center was the 43-year-old".

The **gang** also had a solution for the case where the candidate in question was enrolled in a **pilot school** of the foreign country as he "granted him a certificate of studies from the pilot school (s.s. its name is mentioned) of the 69-year-old based in Thessaloniki, in which he falsely assured that he had been taught the theoretical material of the courses in order to participate in the exams organized by the company Austro Control. In this way, the members of the gang succeeded in having prospective foreign nationals residing abroad examined at the Austro Control examination center in Greece without their action being noticed."

### **The tests, the instructions and the special vocabulary**

The gang did, in fact, **test "tests"** in order to be certain that their system worked, even giving stylistic instructions to their customers.

As mentioned in the **transmission** "a few days before the theoretical exams, the 70-year-old conducted tests with the candidates to verify the correct operation of the equipment while he urged them to wear a long-sleeved blouse or shirt, so that the audiovisual devices in question would be hidden and not detected ».

However, special moves were also made on the day of the exams with the 70-year-old who "directed the examinee to stand in the right place so that, through the camera he brought, he could achieve precise eye contact with the screen where the questions were displayed. Afterwards, a one-sided conversation followed until the end of the exam, with the 70-year-old exclaiming to the examinee the correct answers".

Illegal communication also had a special "vocabulary" as stated in the transmission: "a) telephone help to describe informal assistance b) pillbox to describe louse-type headset c) machines or things to describe audio-visual devices and d) blacks to to describe the third-country national pilot candidates being considered.

### **The moment of conception**

The dispatch also describes the moment of the arrest of the three gang members and the two prospective pilots: "the candidates had pierced (through) the shirts they were wearing in the left sleeve and had placed a special micro camera which they had taped inside the sleeve them to live stream the questions being examined by the computer. They also both wore "louse" headphones in their ears in order to receive the answers to the questions. Each of them had the

"louse" type headset connected to a mobile phone while the micro camera was connected to another mobile phone device from which it received data via pairing."

From the searches carried out, among others, the following were found and seized:

the sum of 5,570 euros,  
7 micro cameras,  
9 "louse" headphones,  
23 mobile phone devices,  
2 shirts, with an electronic device with a micro camera embedded in their inner part and on the left sleeve,  
3 electronic antennas,  
central computer unit and  
number of SIM cards, usb, tablets.

The arrested persons, with the case file filed against them, were taken to the competent prosecuting authority, while investigations into the verification of other cases of illegal acquisition of an aircraft pilot's license continue.

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