The paper examines the story and the impact of the import (in instalments) of elements of the German model in Greece in the 1980s (namely, workers participation at board level, supervisory boards in certain sectors, works councils) and analyse how these evolved and the reasons the transplant appears to have failed.

The legal and institutional initiatives in the above mentioned areas of worker participation were direct influence from developments in employment relations in Germany. These were adopted and legislated by the Greek socialists (PASOK) in government, and it is now a 35 years story for workers participation at board level (1982), supervisory boards in certain sectors (1982), and a 30 years story for works councils (1987).

The paper assesses the institutional and structural causes that the export/import of these strands of the German model into the Greek system of employment relations have not worked, and vanished over the decades not only, or mainly, because of legal changes. The paper also discusses newer prospects to have at least areas of revival and practice as part of the Europeanization process (e.g. German companies present in the Greek economy).