



# THE GREEK EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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1. History of Greek Education following socio-political events in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries
  2. The Structure of Educational System in Greece



«Μουσικήν ποίει και εργάζου»



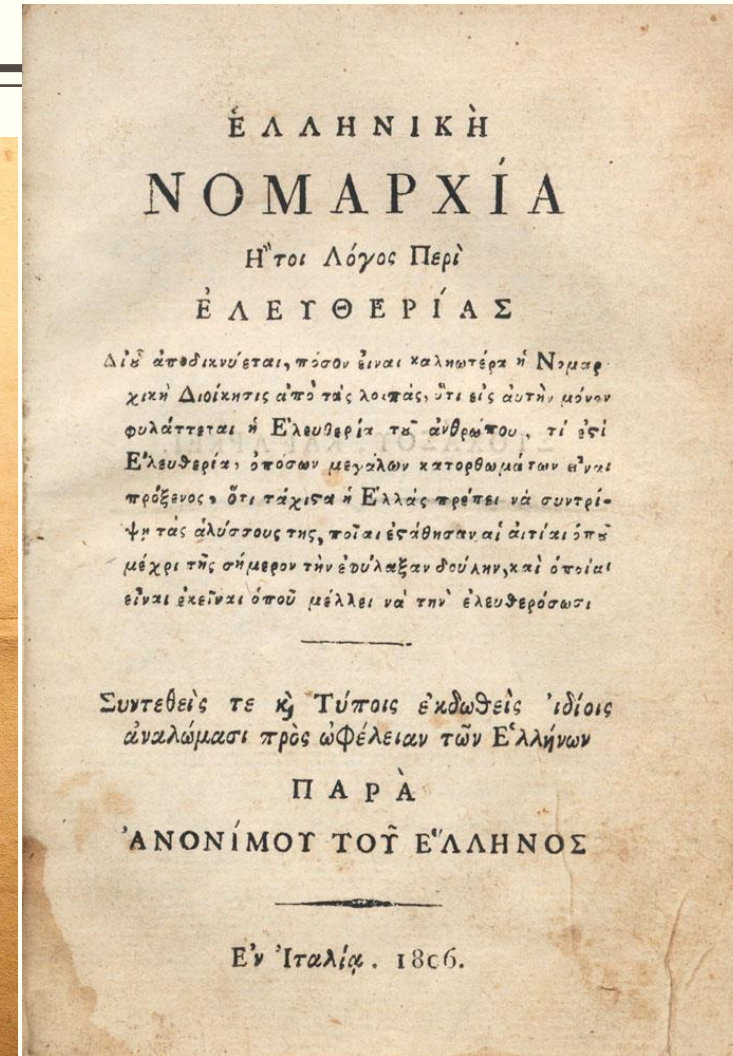
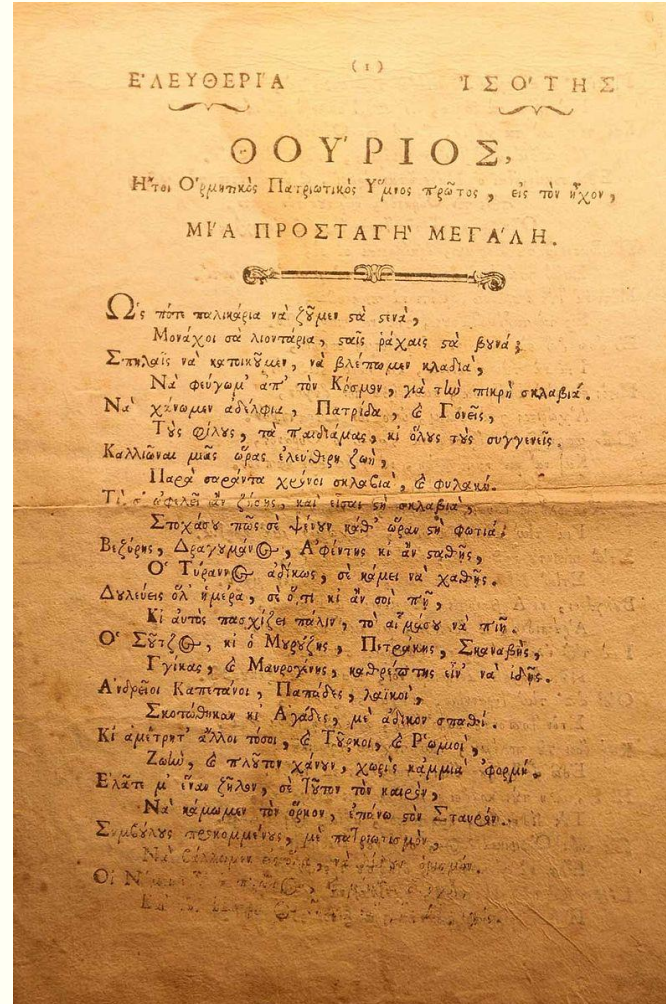
# Formation of Greek state: 1830, 1864, 1881, 1912-13, 1920, 1923, 1948





# History of Greek Education

- **18<sup>th</sup> c.- early 19<sup>th</sup> c.:** Enlightenment affects dynamically Greeks of diaspora and Greeks under Ottoman rule. History books, even handwritten. Geography books (published in 1716, 1728, 1759): Vienna, Venice, Odessa, Bucharest, Iasi, Marseilles, London, Paris, Smyrna.
- *Thourios*, 1797 (Rigas Ferraios): manifest on fight, freedom, Balkan cooperation against Ottoman Turks
- *Elliniki Nomarchia*, 1806: (unknown author): discourse about freedom, justice and independence



# History of Greek Education

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## 19th Century: Independence and Nation-Building

- **Establishment of Schools:** Following independence in 1821, Greece established a public education system to foster national identity and literacy.
- **Kapodistrias' Reforms:** Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first governor, initiated educational reforms, founding primary schools and the first high school in Aegina.

## 20th Century: Expansion and Reform

- **Compulsory Education:** In the early 20th century, Greece implemented compulsory education for children, expanding access to primary and secondary education.
- **University System:** The University of Athens, founded in 1837, expanded, and other universities were established.
- **Reforms:** Throughout the century, various reforms aimed to modernize the curriculum and make education more accessible. Major reforms occurred in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.
- **EU Membership:** Greece's membership in the European Union has influenced educational policies, aligning them with European standards.



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## 21st Century: Challenges and Modernization

- **‘History Wars’** 2003, 2006
- **Economic Crisis:** The financial crisis of 2008-2010 posed significant challenges to the educational system, leading to budget cuts and reforms.
- **Digital Transformation:** Recent efforts focus on integrating technology in education, improving infrastructure, and addressing contemporary challenges like migration and globalization.



- **1827: Ioannis Kapodistrias:** primary schools and orphanages: literacy, numeracy and religious education Peer method of teaching.
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- Focus on technical education (destroyed, devastated and impoverished country). Teachers are invited from abroad. Training of Greek teachers and Agricultural School (one secondary school n Aegina island). Focus on national Identity.
- **1835:** Ministry of Education established. A standardized curriculum is introduced, (mainly decrees, instructions, reports, etc). Shortage of teachers. Primary Education for all. Secondary ed. only for boys. Influence from German educational system. Shift to Classical Education. The model did not take into consideration local cultural and peculiarities of the young state- not connected with the needs of the country and people (Otto von Wittelsbach, King of Greece – Bavarian Regency)
- **1837:** National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (E.K.P.A.), National Polytechnic School of Athens (E.M.P.)



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
**National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens**



- **19<sup>th</sup> c.** : classical and theoretical education (lack of industrial production)

- **End of 19<sup>th</sup> c. – early 20<sup>th</sup> c.** Small shift to technical and commercial education (connection with the economic reality of the country). Increasing number of students attending schools (social mobility). Six years compulsory primary education . Secondary educ. for all.

- **1909, 1917:** unsuccessful attempts on reforming educational system and enhancing of technical education. Persistence of classical and theoretical education though the needs were different. First private institution for kids with special needs. Law for compulsory ed. enacted

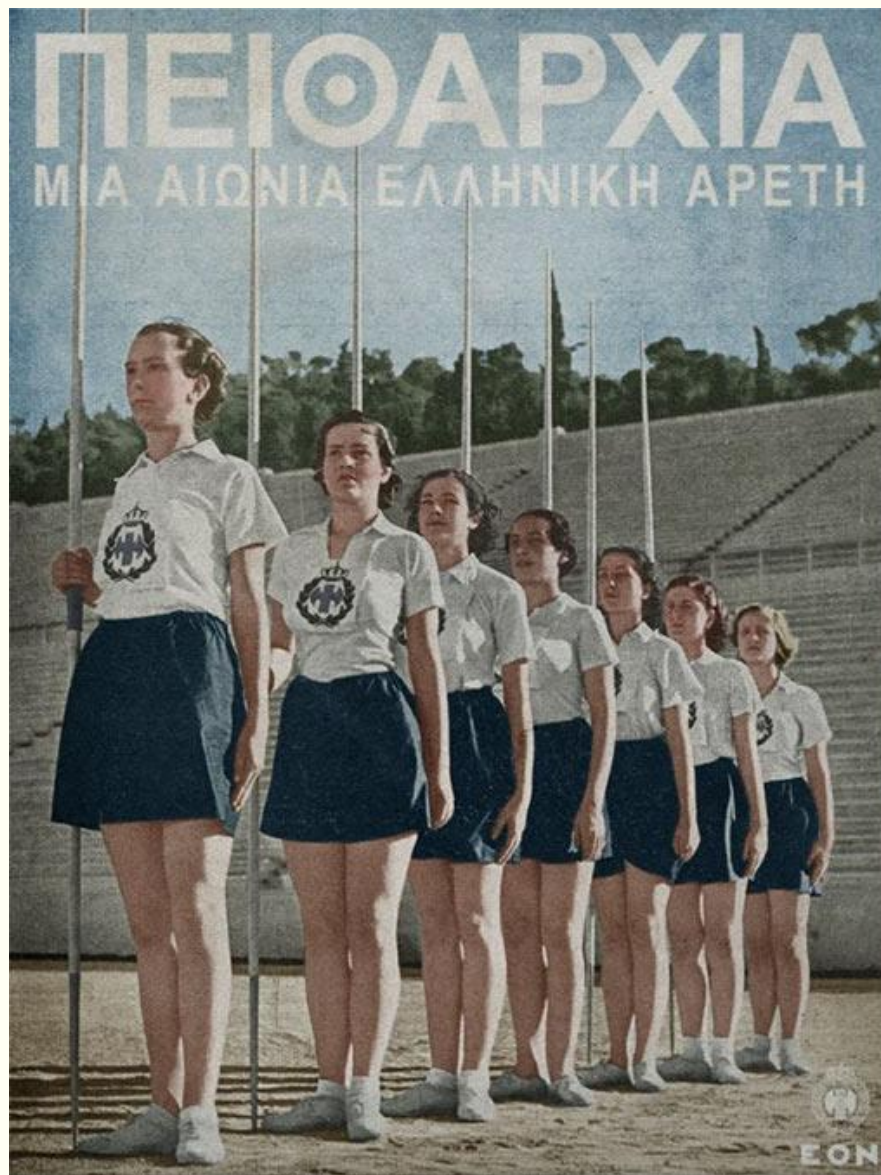
- **Interwar period:** Greece struggles to face the problems of population exchange after the defeat in Greek-Turkish war , 1922: collective trauma and financial crisis ('20s -'30s).

- **1929:** significal educational reform (curricula, subjects, other languages). Eleftherios Venizelos

- **30's:** Ioannis Metaxa's dictatorship: ultra nationalist content in books, following fascist patterns.



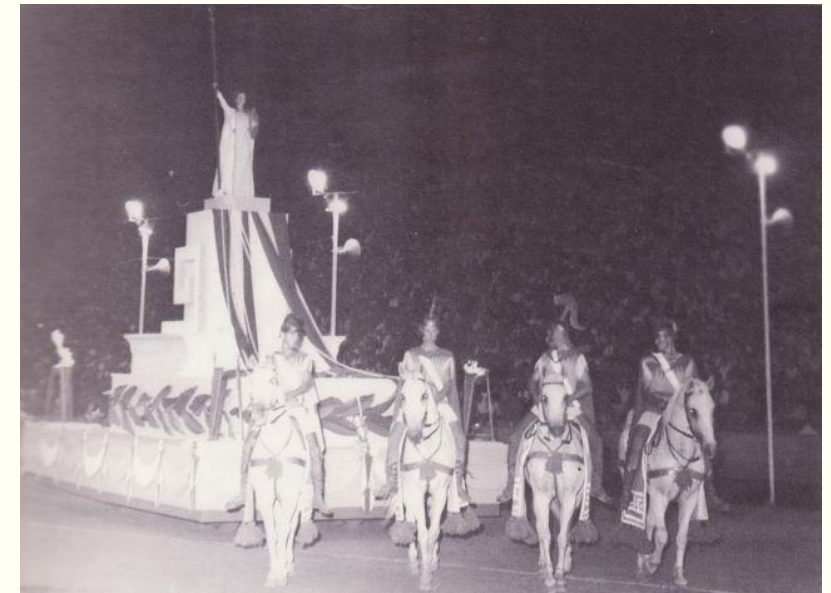
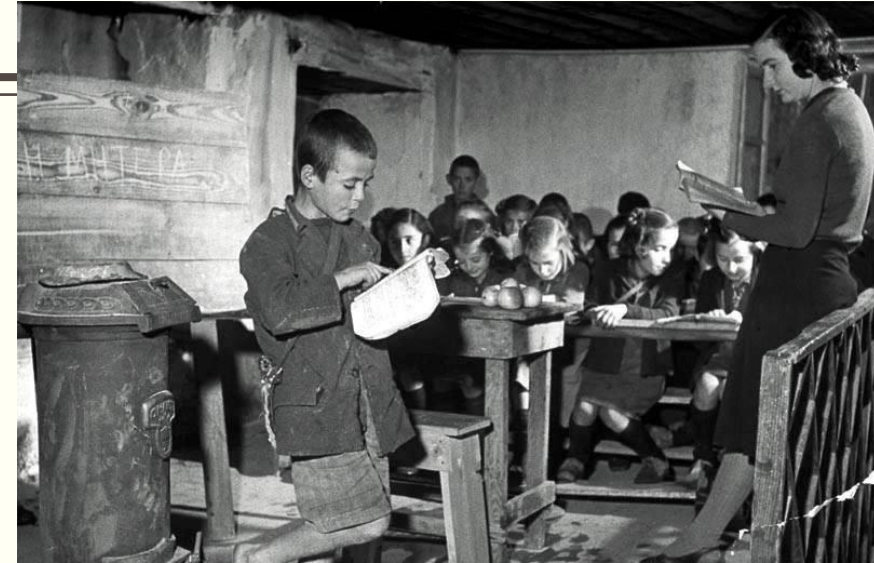






# Post-War Reconstruction

- **1945-1950:** Post-World War II and Civil War reconstruction efforts include rebuilding schools and expanding educational access. Increasing influence of Church and Sunday schools
- **1950-1964:** Education serving anti-communist propaganda. Divided society. 1959: law, reorganizing secondary education into a unified system.
- **1964 Educational Reform**
  - Led by George Papandreou, this comprehensive reform aims to democratize education, making it more accessible and egalitarian.
  - Introduction of comprehensive secondary education (Gymnasio and Lykeio), and emphasis on modernizing curricula.
- **The Military Junta and Education (1967-1974)**
  - The military regime imposes conservative educational policies, emphasizing discipline and nationalist ideology.
  - Significant cutbacks in academic freedoms and autonomy, overturn of 1964 reform





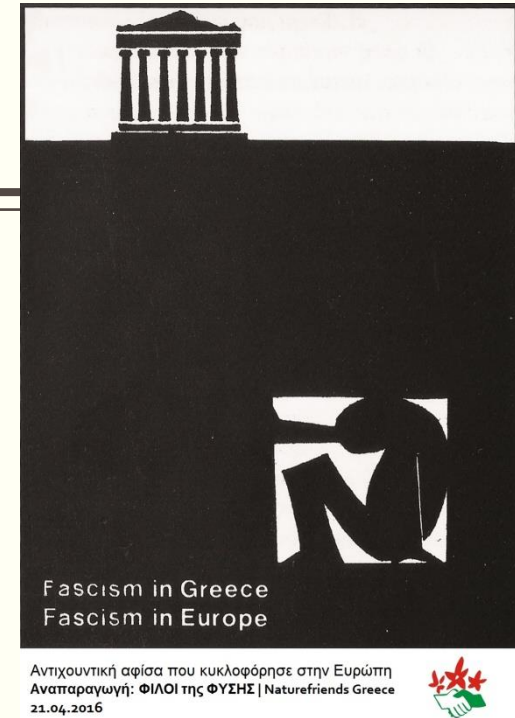


1973: The Polytechnic  
School of Athens  
Uprising; Tank crashes  
the main entrance



- **1976:** Metapolitefsi. Transitional period. Democratic values. Reform of 1964 implemented. Greece joins E.U. (1981).
- **1982-** Biggest educational reform. European turn. Enhancement of vocational education. Intercultural schools (repatriation of Greeks living abroad). Democratization of education, reducing inequalities, promoting lifelong learning.
- **1990-** support of students within schools, new subjects, new curricula. Teachers have to take A.S.E.P. exams so they can be appointed to public schools.
- **1999:** adoption of Bologna Process
- **2000-**reception classes for students with immigrant background . “History wars”: 2003, 2006 – Grand Narrative prevailing
- **2012-** Financial crisis affecting dramatically every aspect of everyday life (huge cuts in wages, demolition of social state; unpredictable recession and constant social unrest). Euroscepticism, rise of nationalism
- University studies remain the main goal for the Greek family:

Huge amounts of money are spent in private lessons in order to succeed this goal.





# Bread-Education-Freedom



## In a nutshell:

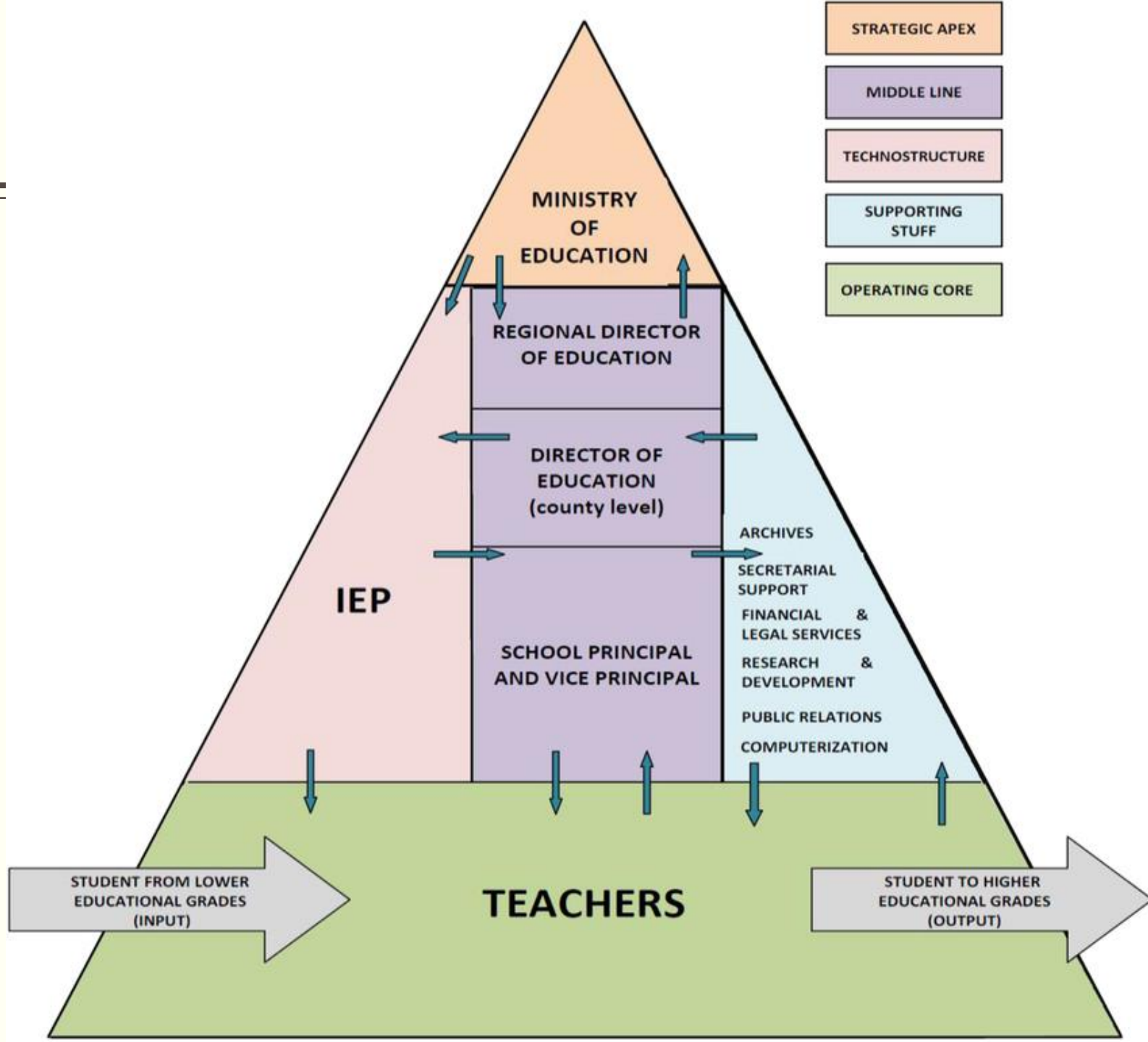
- The philosophy of Greek Educational system was initially to cultivate and enhance national identity, based on the “continuity of the nation” of the young state (19<sup>th</sup> c.)
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- Bavarian Regency established an educational system focusing on classical humanitarian studies, downgrading the value of technical knowledge.
  - The demand for vocational education and technical studies emerged in early 20<sup>th</sup> c. when the economic situation of the country (industry, commerce, fleet) needed skilled personnel.
  - Though intellectuals and experts suggested crucial and necessary reforms, the historical moment and the political establishment rejected or voted against them
  - Greek society was nurtured on the idea of importance of classical studies which usually led to a position in public sector – serving social mobility
  - Contradictions and setbacks characterize Greek educational system which still remains rather conservative (centralized, closed curricula, compulsory subjects etc)
  - Socio-political and financial crisis of the last decade brought severe setbacks
  - Efforts to modernize education continue, focusing on digital transformation and addressing contemporary challenges such as immigration and economic constraints.



# Key features of the education system of Greece

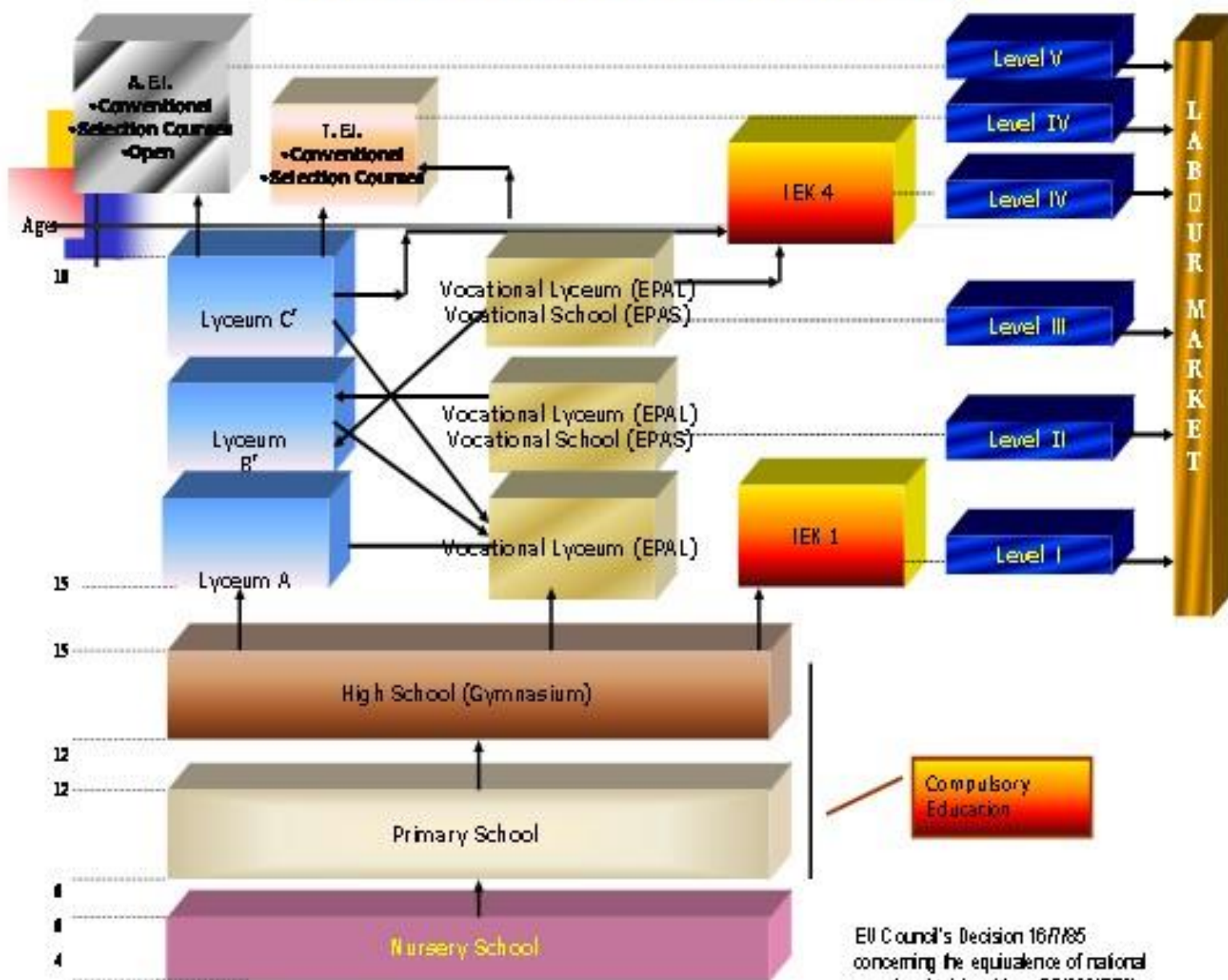
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- The provision of **free education** to all citizens and at all levels of the state education system is a constitutional principle of the Greek State (debate over private universities).
- The Greek educational system is **centralised**. National laws, presidential decrees and ministerial acts are prevalent within it.
- The **central** administrative body for the education system across all fields, agencies and levels is the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports
- It takes the key decisions related to long-term objectives. It also regulates various issues, such as curricula content, staff recruitment and funding, teacher training courses.





# THE GREEK EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



# The Greek Educational System

- The Greek education system covers with the pre-school education, the primary education, the secondary education (Cycle 1 and Cycle 2) and the tertiary education.

The Primary Education consists of the Nursery Education which is attended by children being 4 years old (2 years) and the Primary School which lasts 6 years (until 12 years old).

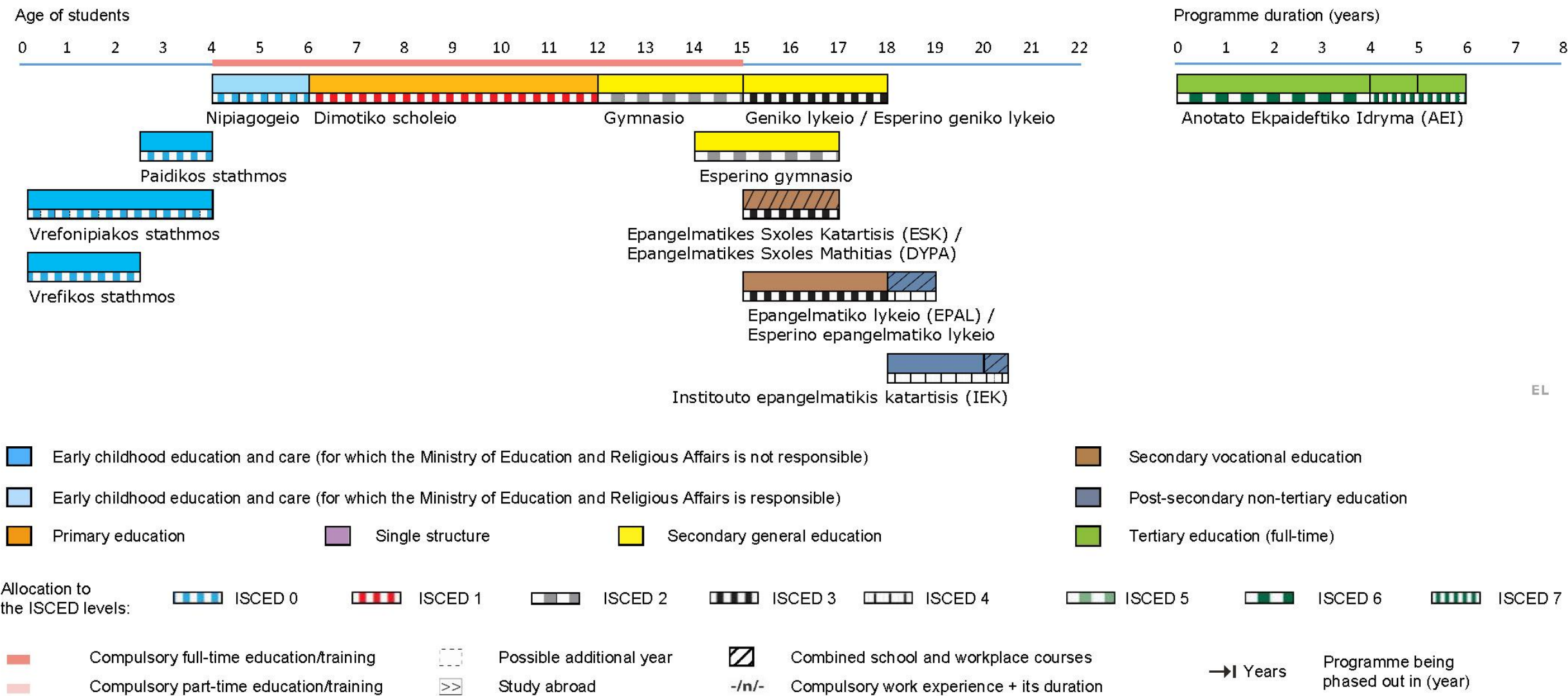
The Secondary Education consists of: Junior High Schools (Gymnasium) - (12-15 years old) where the attendance is compulsory; Upper High schools having three-years courses divided in 3 categories according to the course typology (16-18).

The Public Higher Education is provided by the Universities and the Technological Education Institutes (ATEI).

The students gain admittance to the tertiary education whether they successfully pass the final examination at the end of the third year in the high school. In addition the students being over 23 years old can be admitted to the Hellenic Open University.



# Greece – 2023/2024



Source: Eurydice.

## Higher education

**Most undergraduate degree programs take 4 academic years of full-time study. Postgraduate courses last from one to two years, while doctorates at least 3 years.**

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### The university sector (panepistimio):

- Universities (AEI)
- Technical Universities
- Schools of Fine Arts (ASKT).



### The technological sector:

- Technologika ekpaideftika idrymata (technological educational institutes–TEI)
- The School of Pedagogical and Technological Education (ASPETE).

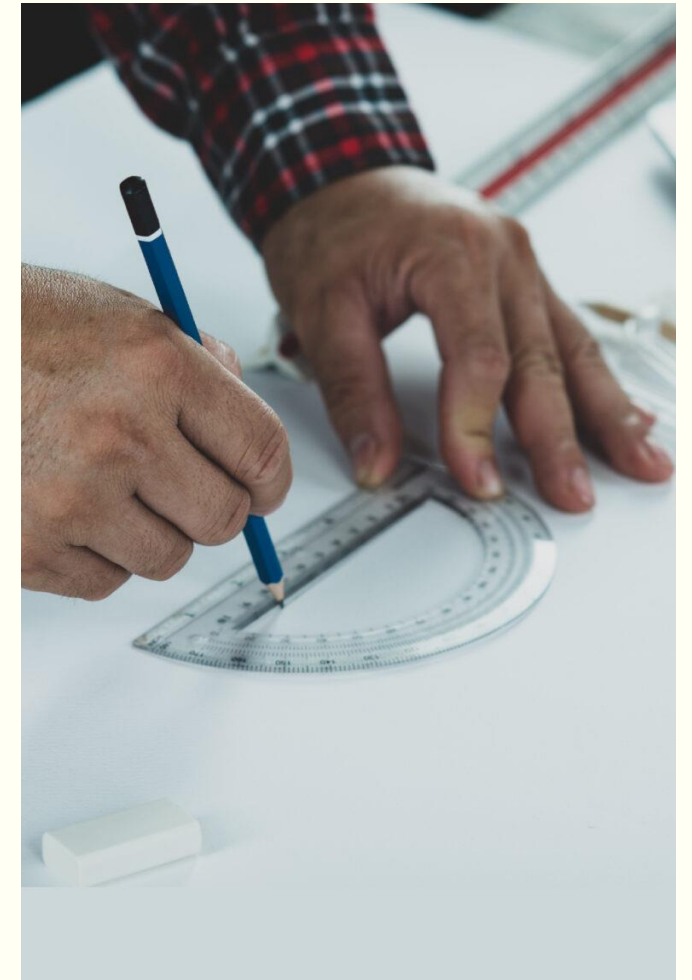




# Lifelong learning

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- Lifelong learning policy in Greece is part of a wider development plan. The *General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning and Youth* plans the public policy of LLL and youth. Non-formal education can lead to certifications recognised at national level. Lifelong learning is mainly provided at:
- Second Chance Schools (Scholeia Defteris Efkaïrias - SDE)
- Vocational Training Institutes – IEK (Institouta Epangelmatikis Katartisis- IEK)
- Vocational Training Schools, ESK and Vocational Training Apprenticeship Schools, EPAS of OAED (Epangelmatikes Scholes Katartisis and Epangelmatikes scholes Mathitias OAED)
- Lifelong Learning Centres (Kentra dia viou mathisis - KDVM)
- Colleges (Kollegia ).



## Types of schools- secondary education: general, musical, art, religious (8)

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- Musical Schools (52)



- Art Schools (9)

(theater, dance, visual arts, cinema)



## Challenges:

- Migrants'/refugees' children education
  - Second Generation migrants/ refugees rights
  - Muslim Minority curricula
  - Slav speaking people / Languages taught in schools
  - Art/ theater/music etc in general schools
  - The islands issue: salaries, housing
  - Teacher training -Textbooks policy
  - Greek Orthodox Church influence
  - Private sector education
  - University studies remain the main goal for the Greek family:
- Huge amounts of money are spent in private lessons in order to succeed this goal.







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