

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN GREECE



- The provision of free education to all citizens, at all levels, in state schools is a constitutional principle of the Greek State.
- The Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs has the administrative responsibility of the education system in all areas, services and levels.
- It regulates various issues, such as defining the content of curriculum, the appointment of teaching staff and the control of funding.

STAGES OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Compulsory education lasts 11 years and extends from the ages of 4 to 15. The stages of the Greek education are mainly 3:

- Primary education
- Secondary education
- Tertiary education



PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary education includes pre-primary and primary schools.

- Pre-primary school in Greece is compulsory for all 4-year-old children
- Infant centres, infant/child centres and child centres represent early childhood care. They are run under the remit of the municipal authorities. They cater for children between the ages of 2 months and up to the age of the beginning of compulsory education.
- Primary education is the next stage. Primary school spans 6 years. It concerns children in the age range of 6-12 years.



SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary education includes two cycles of study:

- The first one is compulsory and it is called lower secondary school or junior high school.

It lasts 3 years and provides general education. It covers ages 12-15. It is a prerequisite for enrolling at general or vocational upper secondary schools (high schools-lyceums).



SECO

- The second one is the optional general or vocational upper secondary school.

It lasts 3 years. Pupils enroll at the age of 15. There are two different types:

- a. General high school. It lasts 3 years and includes both common core subjects and optional subjects of specialization
- b. Vocational high school. It offers two cycles of studies:
 - i) The secondary cycle
 - ii) The optional post-secondary cycle

Parallel to these high schools there are also:

- a. Evening general high schools
- b. Evening vocational high schools



TERTIARY EDUCATION

Higher education is the last level of the formal education system. 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.

Tertiary education includes:

- The university sector:

Universities (AEI)

Polytechnics

The School of Fine Arts.

- The technological sector:

Technological education institutions (TEI)

The School of Pedagogical and Technological Education.

Technological education institutions (TEI) have merged with higher education institutes (AEI).



LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong learning policy in Greece is part of a wider development plan. The General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning plans the public policy of LLL and youth. Non-formal education can lead to certifications recognized at national level. Lifelong learning is provided at:

- Second chance schools - SDE
- Vocational training institutes – IEK
- Lifelong learning centres
- Colleges



SOURCE

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/greece_en

