Primary, Secondary and Higher education are mainly financed directly from public resources, through the Ordinary Budget and the Public Investments Programme, and less so by non-government resources and Households, that is private consuming. On the contrary, adult education and training is largely co-funded from the European Structural and Investment Funds through the implementation of operational programs. The biggest amount of public funds for education (current expenditure and public investments) is allocated by the central government through transferring of resources to the regional educational authorities or to Municipalities. The Directors of the regional educational authorities are those responsible for doing the payroll.

In particular, the Ordinary Budget of the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs covers the costs of the staff occupied in public education, while the schools’ current expenditure is covered by the Budget of the Ministry of Interior Affairs with transfers to local authorities. The Public Investments Program (PIP) covers fixed capital cost expenses, such as real estate purchase, construction and repair of buildings and facilities, procurement and maintenance of laboratories and equipment. It also covers preparation and design expenses for new educational programs, scientific research strengthening and in general, support to the overall educational policy.

As regards the financing of education from E.E community funds, innovative development programs are planned and implemented through the Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework (PA) 2014-2020 [1]. The programs are financed by 75% from EU resources and by 25% from national resources. One such program is the Sectoral Operational Program "Human Resources Development - Education and Lifelong Learning [2]". This program spans many sectors and is financed by a single fund (ESF). It is the main support tool for Greece and, in synergy and complementarity with the other OPs, will contribute to:

- Economic recovery, as it includes comprehensive policies to support the creation of sustainable jobs
- Active inclusion in the labour market, including the inclusion of vulnerable social groups
- The improvement of the efficacy of the Greek educational system
- The matching of education, training and lifelong learning with the labour market, with the main aim of limiting and/or eliminating the social consequences of the crisis and/or minimizing the cost of high unemployment.

In Greece, although education in all three educational levels is free of charge, private expenditure on education, which primarily includes private tuition fees for private schools and private Vocational Training Institutes (IEK) and for shadow teaching in either ‘frontistiria’ or private lessons at home is estimated over a 28% of public expenditure. Source: ELSTAT 2016 [3]

Private expenditure on education covers educational services provided by private schools and concerns,
primarily, household expenditure. Private education operates in parallel to Primary and Secondary Education public schools and it also covers private education offered by private Vocational Training Institutes (Institouta Epangelmatikis Katartisis –IEK). Private expenditure includes, on one hand the cost for tutorial services provided by private institutions which offer parallel teaching of school subjects and foreign language courses and on the other the cost for private tuition, which is used by the family and pupils supportively. Finally, private household expenditure also covers the cost of other privately instructed activities.

As in Compulsory education, the Hellenic Constitution establishes that Tertiary education in Greece is public, therefore University attendance is free of charge and **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** cannot charge tuition fees.

Higher Education Institutions, pursuant to article 16 of the Constitution, are self-governed Legal Entities of Public Law, under the supervision of the **Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs** and are financed centrally by the State Budget and the Public Investments Programme on Higher Education. HEIs assume the responsibility to manage the resources deriving from both the state funding and their assets. By a Presidential Decree, based on the opinion of the University Senate, it is possible to set up a Special Legal Entity of Public or Private Law aiming at the effective development and management of HEI assets.

Pursuant to **Law 4009/2011** [4], every HEI in the context of its strategic planning for achieving its mission and individual targets, draws up a **four-year academic development programme** within the foreseen limits of the approved Budget and the Public Investments Programme for Higher Education.

As far as the economic part is concerned, planning agreements of Higher Education Institutions specify the following:

- a) Operational costs
- b) Investments
- c) Personnel of every category.

In the context of the above mentioned planning agreements of HEI and the national policy, public financing of HEI is allocated by means of objective criteria and indicators, such as the cost of study per student, the number of registered students per year and the duration of the study programs. The proportion of teaching and administrative staff to students is taken into consideration when allocating appropriations for the recruitment of personnel. Additional funding of HEI is based on the quality and achievement indicators of each Institution. Quality and achievement indicators are mainly:

a) The quality and effectiveness of the educational procedure as it is evident by the numerical ratio of graduates to incoming students, the evaluation of teaching work by students, the inclusion of graduates in the job-market, etc

b) Excellence in research, that is number of publications per professor, participation in internationally competitive research programs

c) The internationalization of the institution, as shown by the number of foreign registered students, the number of cooperation agreements with other higher institutions in Greece or abroad.

The table below shows the total allocation for funding education included in the ordinary budget and the Program of Public Investment for the financial year 2019, at current prices:

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs: Public Expenditure on Education (in bn. Euros)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ordinary Budget: <strong>4,962,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Public Investment: (P.I.P): <strong>600,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Total Expenditure: <strong>5,562,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Education-Ministry of Finance (October 2019)

The distribution of costs at each educational level is described in more detail below:

**I. FUNDING AND BUDGET FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

For financial year 2019, the following appropriations were earmarked in the Ordinary Budget to fund primary and secondary education, at current prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Primary and Secondary Education, Ordinary Budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Total: 3,606,220.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>E.Φ. 1019-201-0000000 Central Government (E.Φ. 1019-201-99xxxxx) 3,594,220.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Regional Services-Schools E.Φ. 1019-201-99xxxxx 12,000.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**II. FUNDING AND BUDGET FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

In the financial year 2019, the following appropriations were earmarked, at current prices, in the Ordinary Budget to fund tertiary education (Universities and Technological Education Institutions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Higher Education, Ordinary Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>891,355,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministerial Decision Nr. Φ.1/Α879/218391/Β1/19-12-2018 (ΑΔΑ: ΩΚΕΘ4653ΠΣ-Ω7Χ) "Appropriations of Ordinary Budget funds of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs for the fiscal year 2019".

**III. FUNDING AND BUDGET FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**
In the financial year 2019, the following appropriations were earmarked, at current prices, in the Ordinary Budget to fund lifelong learning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lifelong Learning, Ordinary Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>22,993,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Early Childhood Education and Care** which is provided by the municipal Child and Infant/Child Centres, as well as by respective private bodies, falls outside the limits of the system of compulsory education. For the purposes of financing the salaries of the personnel employed at municipal nurseries, as well as covering their operating expenses, eligible Local Government Bodies of degree A are granted a monthly regular grant from the **Ministry of Interior Affairs**. The exact amount is formed on an annual basis depending on the amounts available for distribution.

Day and Baby Nurseries are also entitled participation in the Partnership Agreement programs and Acts (Partnership Agreement for Development Framework 2014-2020).

A particularly important programme in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care is “[Harmonisation of Family and Professional Life 2017-2018](#)” (The deadline for eligibility of costs for the proposed actions is the 31-12-2020).

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**Links**