Greece does not have a long-standing tradition in providing non-formal education for adults.

The Greek accession to the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1981 helped the development of this form of provision. The goal was to improve the competences of the workforce beyond the formal stages of education.

Until 1993, ESF financing was largely channeled to the "popular education" network of 300 liberal adult education centres operating throughout the country.

However, between 1994 and 1999, adult education rigorously applied the European Social Fund (ESF) guidelines. The aim was to ensure public funding for the development of a system of Continuing Vocational Training (CVET).

From 2000 onwards, the implementation of new policies and initiatives, within a lifelong learning policy framework, covers different forms of education and training. The latter enable adults to develop and reorient their education on the basis of varying individual needs.

Based on this context, the holistic concept of general adult education was introduced. It includes all organised learning activities addressed to adults that seek to:

- Enrich their knowledge
- Develop abilities and skills
- Grow their personality
- Develop active citizenship.

A large number of institutions, fully or partly subsidised by the state, provided general adult education.

The General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning within the Ministry of Education, is the decision-making body. It plans, organises and funds the majority of adult education programmes.

There are also a number of bodies and organisations that operate as legal entities of public and/or private law. They are accountable to the Ministry of Education:

1. The Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation [1] (INEDIVIM) implements LLL policies, mobility schemes and innovation and entrepreneurship programmes for young adults
2. The National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance [2] (EOPPEP) implements the national accreditation & certification system for non-formal adult education, including Initial Education Training (IVET) and Continuing Vocational Training (CVET). It provides expert support to vocational guidance & counselling services both at national and local/regional levels.

Yet, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and other Ministries also provide IVET and CVET.
Municipalities and private providers provide liberal adult education.

Public adult education and training is free of charge and accessible to all.

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