**Bilateral agreements**

Through bilateral agreements with other countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs [1] and other state bodies, signs educational-cultural agreements and executive programmes; hence, they offer the institutional framework for the development of educational and cultural relations with the countries in question.

As regards educational issues, special emphasis is placed on the pupil, student, teacher, researcher and academic staff mobility development, as well as the experiences, information, educational and cultural elements exchange.


Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) [2] also conclude bilateral agreements with respective foreign institutions.

Greece participates in the international practice of eliminating the negative stereotypes and inaccuracies from the school textbooks of history, geography, culture, language and economy between neighbouring countries, both within regional organisations and initiatives and within the framework of bilateral educational agreements. Relevant provisions have been included in bilateral programmes with Albania and Turkey.

Greece also participates in the international practice for the stereotypes’ elimination from the Greek history and geography textbooks, as well as from the neighbouring countries’ textbooks. This is carried out within the regional organisations and initiatives and bilateral educational agreements framework.

As a European Union member state, Greece participates in actions deriving from the bilateral agreement between the European Union and China, such as the bilateral protocols signed between Greek HEIs and China.
Cooperation and participation in worldwide programmes and organisations

Global cooperation is achieved through Greece's participation in the European Union, as well as in international organisations active in the field of education and training.

OECD

Within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) framework, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs participates in the Educational Policy Committee, in the programme of Indicators of Educational Systems and in particular in the Working Party on Indicators of Educational Systems (INES), as well as in the two separate networks of INES LSO (INES Network on data collection and development on economic, labour market and social outcomes of education) and of INES NESLI (INES Network for the collection and adjudication of system level descriptive information), in the Network for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).

Last but not least, it participates in a number of other programmes such as Education Policy Outlook, Programme for International Assessment (PISA) and Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competences (PIAAC).

The PISA program assesses the performance of 15-year-old students in reading comprehension, mathematics and sciences in order to evaluate the effects of education systems. PISA research and the analysis of its results are conducted by the Institute for Educational Policy (IEP).

The PIAAC survey on the assessment of adult competency is conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE).

Council of Europe

Within the framework of the Council of Europe, Greece participates in the Educational Policy Committee.

Moreover, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs [1] participates in the following programmes of the Council of Europe:

- ETINED

The ETINED programme on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education, which started in 2015, involves experts from the member states of the CoE with a view to exchanging information and good practices, expertises, etc. on issues related to ethics, ethics and integrity in education, with special emphasis on the fight against corruption and fraud in the field of education and research and aiming at quality in education across Europe.

The ultimate goal is to deepen the democratic and participatory culture in the member states of the CoE, based on the principles of transparency, justice and equality, via the creation of principles with which all the educational bodies of the member states will be committed to comply.

- EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES

Greece participated in the pilot programme for the recognition of refugee qualifications. The primary purpose of the programme is to record the academic qualification of refugees, even when these cannot be adequately documented through an evaluation process which includes an interview with authorised assessors.
This does not constitute a formal act of recognition and does not give access to courses or professions with specific requirements, such as the highly regulated professions (doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers).

For 2017, this methodology has been tested on 92 refugees in Athens who have either completed or have started tertiary education in their own country without having completed it.

Greece participated in the programme for the period 2018-2020. Since 2018, 146 evaluations have taken place in Greece and 127 qualification passports for refugees have been issued.

**EUROPEAN CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGES (ECML/CELV)**

The European Centre for Contemporary Languages is an agency in the Council of Europe which studies, plans and proposes, through four-year programmes, measures that can strengthen and improve language teaching in its member states, in cooperation with the European Commission and other bodies (OECD, UNESCO, etc.) in line with the current developments and meeting the high demands of our modern era.

Member states participate in the centre's programmes through their representatives, in particular, by organising in cooperation with the centre training seminars for teachers and executives in the field of education and by training individual teachers and/or executives with the centre itself, in Graz of Austria.

**United Nations**

In the framework of the United Nations (UN), the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs participates in the drafting of ministerial reports on conventions and UN covenants signed by Greece and in the exams of the country to the UN on issues related to the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

It also cooperates with co-competent ministries and stakeholders in the context of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Development Agenda 2030. In addition, the Ministry of Education participates in the working group for the preparation and monitoring of the implementation of the national action plan on human rights.

**UNECE**

The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs participates in the steering committee that was set up for supervising the implementation of the strategy on education for sustainable development of UNECE. In this context, it presents progress reports and good practices for the strategy’s implementation. Greece was elected for the presidency of 2005-2010.

**OSCE**

Greece participates in the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and monitors the Human Dimension Implementation and Human Rights (ODIHR).

**UNESCO**

Greece participates in the work of the general conference of UNESCO held every two years. In 2015, it was elected as a member of the UNESCO executive council until 2019.

Furthermore, within the context of UNESCO, Greece participates in the "ASPnet - Associated Schools Project Network", whose members (pre-primary, primary, secondary schools) work for the promotion of the 17 sustainable development goals, and in particular goal 4 related with Education and "Education 2030". More specifically, they design programmes on education and sustainable development, education for global citizenship, peace and human rights, intercultural dialogue, cultural heritage and intangible cultural
heritage. Schools of the network participated in the two-year (2016-2018) UNESCO pilot project on the "Holistic School Approach to Climatic Change", as well as in the projects "Sports Values" and "Ocean Literacy".

More information is available under 13.4 Other Dimensions of Internationalisation in Preschool and School Education [3].

Moreover, Greek higher education institutions (HEIs) have established and operate UNESCO chairs. More information is available under 13.5 Other Dimensions of Internationalisation in Higher Education [4].

**EUROPEAN SPACE ORGANISATION (ESA)**

Greece is a member of the European Space Agency and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs participates with a representative in the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) of ESA.

This agency designs and implements educational, research and technology projects related to the broader space sector, with the aim of promoting space science, creating a high level of expertise in the space of the European scientific community and Europe's competitiveness in the field of space.

The educational programmes are implemented in co-operation with the member states of ESA via the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE).

Some of ESO's programs include, among others: STEM, ESERO, CANSAT, ALPBACH SUMMER SCHOOL.

These are aimed at primary, secondary and tertiary education and are aimed at strengthening the interest of young people aged 6-25, as well as of the educational community in general, in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics/STEM), to promote the teaching of relevant courses in education, as well as the constant updating of the above on space issues.

**Regional initiatives and organisations of the wider balkan and mediterranean area**

Greece participates in regional initiatives and organisations of the wider Balkan and Mediterranean area, such as the Inter-Balkan Cooperation (1976), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation - BSEC (1992), the South East Europe Cooperative Initiative (1996) and the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (2000).

More specifically, in the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), there are specialised working groups that handle individual issues, including the working group on Education. Until now Greece has been the coordinator of the working group on Education for 6 terms of office (2005-2007, 2007-2009, 2011-2013, 2014-2015, 2015-2017) and has been appointed as a coordinator for the sixth time for the period between 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Greece also participates in the international practice of eliminating stereotypes from the school textbooks of History and Geography between neighbouring countries, both within regional organisations and initiatives and within the framework of bilateral educational agreements.

DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

YES

NO

Contact *