Education in Greece
Compulsory Education

In Greece General education, which is compulsory, comprises primary and lower secondary education and lasts for ten years (5-15 years of age).
Primary Education

- **Nursery School (ised level 0)**

- **Elementary School (ised level 1)**
  - Attendance lasts six years, from the age of 6 to 12.
Secondary Education

• Gymnasium (isced level 2)
  The Gymnasium covers the three final years of compulsory education and constitutes the lower level of secondary education.
  The Gymnasium is for pupils aged 12 to 15 years.
Unified Lyceum (ised level 3)

Its goal is to develop the pupils' all-round skills and abilities and to prepare them for a responsible role in modern society. The system's main characteristics are the emphasis on general education and the wide opportunities it offers for horizontal and vertical transfer to other equivalent or higher levels of the education system.

The Unified Lyceum consists of three classes and study lasts three years. Holders of a Gymnasium leaving certificate are admitted to the first class of the Unified Lyceum without examinations.
Vocational – Technical Education (1)

Vocational School – EPAL (ised level 3)

In Greece technical education is synonymous with vocational education. Vocational education aims at combining general education with technical vocational knowledge. In particular, it aims at:

a. developing skills, initiative, creativity and critical thinking of the students
b. conveying all necessary technical and vocational knowledge and developing their relevant skills

c. providing students with necessary knowledge and supplies in order for them to continue their studies at the next level.

Programs include general education and technical-vocational subjects and laboratory practice.

Moreover, the **system of technical vocational education** is the system that aims at offering trainees knowledge that combines general education with the basic technical and vocational knowledge and skills.

VET is also defined as an action or a set of actions designed in order for the trainee to acquire the necessary vocational knowledge and skills.
Vocational – Technical Education

Vocational Schools – EPAS

It aims at students who wish to study in occupations that do not require strong theoretical support, but focus mainly on practical training so that graduates to fit directly into the labor market as skilled artisans.

Attendance at EPAS is two years and includes grades A and B which are organized into specialty sections. The curriculum includes technical, professional and laboratory exercises.
General VS Vocational Education

School Year 2010-11

- Vocational Education: 24%
- General Education: 76%

Legend:
- Light blue: Vocational Education
- Dark red: General Education
Post Secondary, non Tertiary Education

**Vocational Training Institutes (IEKs)** can be either public or private. They aim at providing any kind of vocational education, initial or complementary, and offer technical and practical knowledge and skills in order to facilitate the professional integration and safeguard the adaption in the changing needs of production.
Tertiary Education

University Education (isced level 4)

Higher Technological Education (isced level 4)

The Hellenic Open University (isced level 4)

The Higher Education System also includes various institutes which provide vocational training in the field of religion, art, tourism, the navy, the army and public order.
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT:

- YPEPTH has the responsibility to design, develop and implement policies, through the following bodies:
  1. The Pedagogical Institute (Paidagogiko Institutouto, PI), an advisory body on educational issues.
  2. The Department of Technical Vocational Schools in the Secondary Education Directorate of YPEPTH, which is responsible for EPAL and EPAS.
  3. OEEK, which organises public IEK, supervises private ones, forms the regulatory framework for the operation of IEK belonging to other ministries and is responsible for certifying professional qualifications.

YPAKP is also involved in IVET through:

1. Apprenticeship EPAS run by the Manpower Employment Organisation (Organismos Apascholiseos Ergatikou Dynamikou, OAED). There are 52 Apprenticeship EPAS belonging to OAED and supervised by YPAKP.

2. IEK run by OAED, at post-secondary level.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT:

As far as Secondary Education is concerned at a regional level, there are three tiers of administration. Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education (Perifereiakes Diefthinseis Protovathmias kai Defterovathmias Ekpaidefsis), Directorates of Secondary Education and Bureaus of Secondary Education (Diefthinseis Defterovathmias Ekpaidefsis kai Grafeia Defterovathmias Ekpaidefsis).