

# Greece: Organisation of the Education System and of its Structure

**The Formal Education System** in Greece includes 3 levels:

- **Primary Education** consisting of compulsory one-year attendance in Pre-primary school and six-year attendance in Primary School (ISCED 0, ISCED 1).
- **Secondary Education** including two cycles; the first one is compulsory and corresponds to Lower Secondary School (Gymnasio - ISCED 2) of three-year attendance and the second one is optional corresponding to Upper Secondary School (Lykeio-General and Vocational - ISCED 3), of three-year attendance for Day Schools and of four-year attendance for Evening Schools or Vocational Schools for two-year duration.

Lower Secondary school and Primary education attendance constitute the ten-year compulsory education in Greece extending from the age of 5 to the age of 15 years. The Penal code foresees sanctions to anyone having the custody of an under age pupil but omitting to enrol the child or supervise its school attendance.

- **Higher Education**, including the University Sector (Universities, Technical Universities, School of Fine Arts) and the Technological Sector (Technological Educational Institutions and the Higher School of Pedagogical and Technological Education).

Formal education includes the general formal education of adults, such as Second Chance Schools because they lead to acquisition of certifications recognized at national level enabling their holder to continue studying within the formal education system.

**Non Formal Education**, pursuant to [Law 3879/2010](#), is offered in an organized educational framework outside the formal education system and can lead up to the acquisition of certifications recognized at national level. It includes the initial vocational training, continuous vocational training and General Adult Education. It is also offered in Vocational Training Institutes, Colleges, Vocational Training Centers addressed to graduates from lower and upper secondary schools or higher education on a case by case basis.