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# **GREECE**

## **Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2017–2019)**

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**Prof. Athanasios Loukas**  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

# Introduction - Background

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Greece – commitment on achieving sustainable development through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education is a high political priority for Greece, as the country is now exiting a period of prolonged economic crisis. Actions undertaken:

- ❑ The **National Growth Strategy of Greece (NGS)** adopted in May 2018 --- in line with the overall themes and provisions of the SDGs, including **SDG 4** and in particular **SDG 4.7** related to ESD as well as other education-related SDGs, e.g. **SDG 12.8**. (<http://www.mindev.gov.gr/greece-a-growth-strategy-for-the-future/>)
- ❑ Greece presented its **1<sup>st</sup> Voluntary National Review (VNR)** (July 2018) at the 2018 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable development (HLPF) covering all 17 SDGs through eight (8) National Priorities for adapting the SDGs to national needs and promoting the open dialogue within all government units and with a wide array of stakeholders. One of the eight National Priorities focuses on “Providing high-quality and inclusive education”, linked to **SDG 4**. The **National Implementation Plan** for the SDGs, in 2019, is currently being launched (October 2018) in line with the NGS and promoting cross-sectoral approaches and actions.

([https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19378Greece\\_VNR\\_Greece\\_2018\\_pdf\\_FINAL\\_140618.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19378Greece_VNR_Greece_2018_pdf_FINAL_140618.pdf))

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# ESD Implementation

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The **UNESCO Global Action Plan on ESD (GAP)** provides the overall framework for ESD implementation in Greece, linking policies and activities with the **UNECE Strategy for ESD** as well as **the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD**. *The Hellenic Ministry of Education Research and Religious Affairs:*

- ❑ **Promotes policies and measures at all education levels**, for the integration of the basic principles of sustainable development, in line with the overall national education policy, and implements interventions at all levels of education, supported by a number of laws and Ministerial Acts
  - ❑ **A new legislative framework for ESD** has been designed, which integrates all related thematic areas (Environmental Education, Health Education and Cultural Issues) into a common sustainable whole-school approach (Law 4547/18)
  - ❑ **A new Directorate** has been established , in 2018, responsible for the “Support of School Programs and Education for Sustainability”, with the aim to better coordinate related activities at all levels and support further the notion of ESD in Greece
  - ❑ **An Inter-ministerial Working Group on Education of Sustainable Development** that has been formulated initially on an ad-hoc basis but is planned to be officially formalized to operate and convene regularly as a horizontal coordination platform
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# ESD Implementation

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**Inclusive Education**: Students with disabilities and special educational needs can follow main school system through three options, *promoting equality, social cohesion, respect of people diversity, human rights and human dignity*:

1. in a school class of the general school
2. in a school class of the general school with parallel support
3. in specially organized and suitably staffed Integration Teams operating in general and vocational schools

If the students are not able to attend general school, they attend **Schools of Special Needs Education**, in which the objectives and themes of ESD are integrated in the educational programs as in general schools.

Inclusive education programs, or so-called co-education programs, are also implemented in **Primary** and **Secondary** Special Education Schools

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# ESD Implementation

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## Higher Education – Research on ESD

- ❑ All Master Post-Graduate Programs have been re-established in 2018
  - ❑ There are five (5) official post-graduate Master programs on Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development. However, an additional large number of Master programs in various University departments address issues of ESD
  - ❑ Thirty seven (37) Ph.D. dissertations on Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development have been concluded and deposited in the National Documentation Centre (2010-2018)
  - ❑ Forty three (43) scientific papers in the field of Environmental Education and ESD, have been published in international journals (2011-2018) (source: Google Scholar database).
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# ESD Implementation Challenges

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- ❑ Involvement, actions undertaken and coordination of all involved Ministries, Governmental Institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders for the implementation of ESD actions
  - ❑ Focus on the ESD implementation in Technical and Vocational Education Schools
  - ❑ Structure and monitoring of the ESD implementation
  - ❑ Evaluation of ESD implementation – results, correction measures, outcomes--- feedback mechanism
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# National Report on ESD

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**The Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs** sent an official letter to various involved Ministries and stakeholders, accompanied by the reporting template and the previous National Implementation Report. They were asked to fill in the fields and indicators related to their activities in the template, and to provide general information of their ESD related activities.

The Directorate of European and International Affairs, the national focal point on ESD, coordinated the preparation of the National Report

Finally, the following Ministries and stakeholders responded and participated in the preparation of the National Report:

- ❑ Four (4) Governmental institutions : the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Institute of Educational Policy, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Ministry of Environment and Energy
  - ❑ Three (3) stakeholders: the Museum of the Natural History of Lesvos (management body of Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark), the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation (PIOP.gr) – Network of nine Thematic Museums), the National Observatory of Athens
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# National Report on ESD

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- ❑ Ten (10) NGOs: the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), NGO Aeiforum, Hellenic Platform (of NGOs) for Development - National platform of CONCORD (the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs), Organization Earth, Action Aid Hellas, AISEC Hellas, KMOP - Social Action and Innovation Centre, Center of Life, Positive Voice, Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN)
  - ❑ Four (4) Academic Institutions: UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean (University of Athens), Department of Special Education, University of Thessaly, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Thessaly, Department of Rural and Surveying Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
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