



Social Action and Innovation Centre



Child Guarantee Policies in Greece

The Social Solidarity Income in Greece

It started in 2014 and is based on three pillars:

- **Income Support:** Financial Aid is given under certain criteria to certain groups of beneficiaries.
- **In complementary social services, benefits and goods.**
- **In activation services.**



Basic benefits in the Health Sector for Vulnerable families:


Free medical care for:

- The uninsured Greek citizens
- The legally residing expatriates in the Greek territory
- The citizens Member States of the European Union and third country nationals
- Legally and permanently residents in Greece who are not insured in any public or private body
- The insured who have lost their insurance due to depts.

(The above exist also for the dependent family members)



Law 4368/2016, article 33

- Right of free access to all public health structures for the provision of nursing and medical care to the uninsured and in vulnerable social groups.
 - Problems faced by migrant families and unaccompanied migrant children, in accessing AMKA (a Social Insurance Registration Number)
 - In April 2020 the state issued another card: “the Provisional Social Security & Health Care Number” . It is at a pilot phase
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Early childhood Education and Care

All institutions providing care and education to children under the age of compulsory education.

Greek structures provide pre-Primary school care to children from the age of 6 months to 6 years.



Significant Interventions


1. The two-year compulsory preschool education
2. The creation of All-day School in Kindergartens from 2006 and other important measures.
3. Integration of refugee children up to 15 years old into the education system
(units for creative activity in hospitality structures)

Access to disadvantaged children and families

- Priority admission to children of working parents, children of unemployed and children from economically weak families.
- Fee reduction is given to working or unemployed mothers, mothers of children with special educational needs (SEN), individuals who are granted as guardians of the children and individuals in widowhood.



Limitations and recommendations

- Still substantial lack of services in certain areas
 - Problems with the operation of nursery schools and kindergartens
 - There are not sufficient structures to meet the needs of all the children
 - There is lack of evaluation of ECEC services
 - There is lack of a realistic strategic plan for ECEC services
 - The inhomogeneity of children's population should be taken into serious consideration
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Compulsory Education and characteristics of the children who drop-out of school


- Since 2000, Greece has made several efforts to implement measures to prevent early school leaving by targeting the factors affecting mostly school attendance
- Implementation of compensatory programs supporting equal access of vulnerable student groups to education.



Reasons composing ESL in Greece

- Survey of OECD (2018)
- Lack of an overall strategic planning
- Lack of knowledge about the reasons of premature school drop out
- Roma students & students from deprived families in rural areas have the largest drop-out levels in all stages of secondary education
- A great percentage of school staff are demotivated to work and feel insecure with their jobs, since they work under limited contracts with the Ministry and change places often.
- Austerity measures in Greece as an outcome of the economic crisis, exercise great negative forces on students.

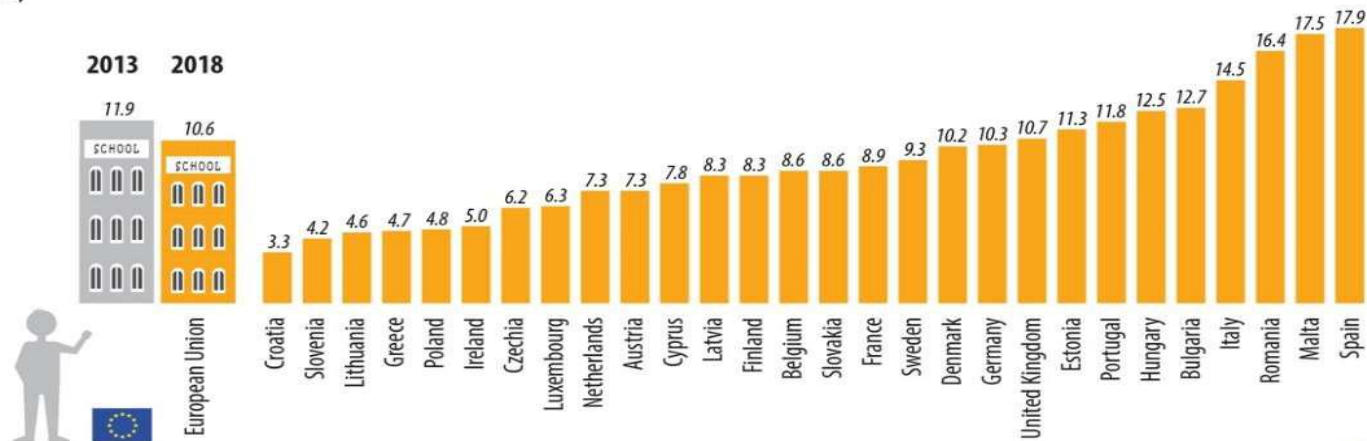
Some recommendations at a national level could be

- The development of a system for monitoring and preventing students at risk of dropping out under secondary school.
 - The empowerment of the educational community, so as to raise awareness to Roma parents and their local communities about the necessity of education
 - Trainings of teachers should be implemented on a regular basis
 - The role of school social workers and psychologists in lower and upper secondary education should be strengthened so as to work as intermediators close to the parents to facilitate children's school adjustment.
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Early school-leaving in Greece

One out of ten young people in the EU have completed at most a lower secondary education and are not in further education and training

Early leavers from education and training (% of population aged 18–24)
(2018)



The national context of migrant/refugee children in the Greek educational system

Based on reports of the European Commission (2015)

Massive influx of refugees who hope to cross the Mediterranean sea and have access in Europe. Greece has been at the crossroads of the refugee migrant flow

- 861,630 arrivals in 2015
- 177,234 arrivals in 2016
- 36,310 arrivals in 2017
- 50,508 arrivals in 2018
- 9,223 arrivals in 2019



The national context of migrant/refugee children in the Greek educational system

- UNICEF (2019)
- 19.300 migrant and refugee children are enrolled in any type of school all over Greece (66% of the assessed refugee & migrant children aging (4 to 17 years old) that are residing in urban accommodation, are enrolled in formal schools.


An overview of National Policies and Strategies related to the integration of migrant & refugee students in the school system

- Since 1996, The Hellenic Republic has started to integrate laws into the legal system for supporting the integration of refugee and migrant children in the Greek educational system (creation of intercultural schools)
- In 2016, The Hellenic Language Center provides for the granting of the certificate of Greek language, which is in full correspondence with the levels of the common European framework of reference for languages.
- Until April 2017, host structures for refugee education, hosted 2.643 students of school age in primary and secondary schools

National and local level limitations

- Primary and secondary schools in Greece have no integrated practices for the recognition of prior assessment learning of migrants, refugees, newly arrived asylum seekers or unaccompanied children.
- Children up to a great extent manage to attend pre-school and early primary education, however they fail to attend a little higher level courses, since they lack the corresponding level of knowledge
- In Greek schools, challenges such as learning a new language, understanding of an unfamiliar educational system and adjusting to it, are not efficiently faced yet

Some recommendation at a national level, could be:

- The development and implementation of appropriate diagnostic tests, based on the previous experience, knowledge and school background of the children
 - The support of on-going evaluation of students' learning and social inclusion progress
 - The inclusion of newly arrived parents in all aspects of schooling
 - The training of educators for learning how to better assist children's integration
 - A needs assessment tool should be developed, so as to investigate the current needs of students and educators
 - The role of municipalities should be strengthened, so as to play an active role for informing the vulnerable populations concerning the services provided for them
 - The role of the intermediators who work with vulnerable populations should also be strengthened, for meeting better the needs of these people
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Live Without Bullying: A long-term project of KMOP addressing to all children, educators and parents, who face bullying

- Online counseling for school and cyber bullying
- Children – Parents – Educators
- Anytime – Free of charge – Anonymous and Safe
- All-over Greece
- 2016: Memorandum of Collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Education
- Easily adapted for every other organization abroad who may need it

From 2016 till now this service has helped more than 1600 children and 1400 parents & educators all over Greece

