

Table 1. National Information Greece

	Early Childhood Sector	Primary school
Age of children		
Policy responsibility at central level	Childcare (0 - 4 years) Ministry for Health and Social Solidarity. Ministry of Interior (Kendriki Enosi Dimon ke kinotiton Elladas (KEDKE) Early Education (4 -6 years) Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs (YP.E.P.TH)	Primary education: Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs (YP.E.P.TH)
Operational responsibility at regional level (leave blank if not relevant)		
Operational responsibility at local level	The Municipality board	The Municipality board
% proportion of public, non profit and for-profit provision	2.5 - 4 years Non-profit: about 50% For-profit: about 50% 4-6 years Public 98% For-profit 2%	Public: 93.3% For-profit: 6.7%
Annual public funding per child	Childcare (0-4 years) No data at present Early Education (4-6 years) + Primary School (6-12 years) 5.146 € (2005)	Primary school: Early Education (4-6 years) + Primary School (6-12 years) 5.146 € (2005)
Levels of access – what percentage of children in the age group attend	Childcare (0-4 years) no data at present Early Education (4-6 years) approximately 97%	Primary school at 6 years: 100%
Average hours of attendance per day of children	Childcare (2.5 – 4 years) 7-8 h/d Early Education (4 -6 years) 4-8 h/d	4-8 h/d
Do national or regional curricula or guidelines exist	Childcare (0-4 years) No Early Education (4-6 years) Yes	Yes
Do the curricula include guidelines concerning transitions or continuity	No. Just in the school year 2007-2008 a pilot programme concerning transition was launched from the Ministry (YP.E.P.TH)	No. Just in the school year 2007-2008 a pilot programme concerning transition was launched from the Ministry (YP.E.P.TH)
How would you describe the continuities that exist between early years and primary schools.	Could be greatly improved	
What is the relationship between ECEC staff and primary school staff? Close, distant, very distant	Childcare (0-4 years) staff with Primary School staff: very distant Early Education (4-6 years) staff with Primary School staff: distant	
Do the curricula include guidelines concerning emergent literacy	Yes	Yes
Job titles of lead contact staff and assistant staff involved (please provide original language title and a literal translation)	Lead contact staff: Nipiagogos (Pre-primary school teacher or Kinder-garten teacher, for children 4-6 years) Assistant staff:	Lead contact staff: daskalos/a (Primary school teacher, for children 6-12 years) Assistant staff:
Length and level of initial training of lead staff and assistant staff	Lead contact staff: 4 years university education Assistant staff	Lead contact staff: 4 years university education Assistant staff
Days per year entitlement to in-service training of each category	Lead contact staff: In-service training offered depended on service years Assistant staff	Lead contact staff: In-service training offered depended on service years Assistant staff
% of lead staff with graduate training as a proportion of all staff	100%	100%
What is your opinion of the suitability of staff in terms of qualifications, experience and motivation for development	Lead contact staff: Good Assistant staff:	Lead contact staff: Good Assistant staff:
Average number of children per teacher, e.g. 10:1	12:1	15:1
Salaries of teachers per annum in	15,500 – 23,500	15,500 – 23,500

Euros		
Required working hours per week	23	21-25
Occupational status of ECEC staff – high, medium, low	Lead contact staff: medium Assistant staff: low	Lead contact staff: medium + Assistant staff: medium

Sources: Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs (2008), Kendriki Enosi Dimon ke kinotiton Elladas (available online: www.kedke.gr), Zachopoulos, A. (2008) "The Functioning of the Paidikos Stathmos" (nursery centre), in: Athens Chamber of Commerce, Online journal, issue Nr. 508 (Zachopoulos, A. (2008): "Η λειτουργία των Παιδικών Σταθμών", στο Ηλεκτρονικό περιοδικό του Επαγγελματικού Επιμελητηρίου Αθηνών, τεύχος 508).

Table 2. Curriculum features across the countries

Country	Curriculum name	Age group covered	Author and responsible levels	Main content orientations	Literacy orientation	Open framework or adult-driven	Other initiative related to Curriculum	Curriculum implementation features	Assessment process
Greece	Diathematiko Programma Cross-thematic Curriculum Framework for Pre-primary School 2002.	4-6 years	Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs (Y.P. E. P. TH) Pedagogical Institute	The Cross-thematic Curriculum Framework sets directions for programs regarding planning and development of activities in the context of the following subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Language, ▪Mathematics ▪Studies of the Environment ▪Fine Arts, Drama, Music, Physical Education ▪Computer Science. These programs are not conceived as independent subjects for independent teaching. Instead, they should be taken into consideration during planning and implementing of meaningful and purposeful activities for the children.	No explicit literacy orientation. The Greek pre-primary school curriculum emphasis not on phonics but on language acquisition and practice, based on projects and on the holistic perception of knowledge.	Open framework giving principles – 36 A4 pages. In addition to the pre-primary school curriculum, there is also the " <i>Book of the Nipiagogos (pre-primary school teacher)</i> ", which contains detailed instructions and practical recommendations on how to organize and conduct each class.	No	Favourable child: staff ratios 12:1 The proportion of the university graduate pre-primary school teachers is currently approximately 45% and this number increases yearly as non-degree-holding teachers retire and are replaced with university graduates.	The assessment of the child's development by the pre-primary school is based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Information supplied by the family ▪The constant observation of the behaviour, the posture and the activities of the child ▪ portfolio

SOURCE: Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs (Y.P.E.P.TH)/ Pedagogical Institute