

Conference

The
empowerment
of society
through
freedom of
education



Athens, Greece
14-16 April 2016



ECNAIS



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ECNAIS

European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools

Dear participant of the ECNAIS Conference in Athens 14-16 April 2016,

The Hellenic Association of Independent Schools and ECNAIS do welcome you in Athens to participate in the conference *The empowerment of society through freedom of education*.

Greece is considered to be the place of birth of democracy. True democracy requires respect for freedom, such as freedom of speech, of choice of assembly and last but not least freedom of education.

Within this concept of freedom we can distinguish different perspectives of the freedom of education. Perspectives like the economic one, the social and juridical ones, but also the pedagogical one.

In the last year seminar in Sofia, Bulgaria, we focused on the right of self organization and self-governance as proven concepts of strengthening the civil society. In this conference, as a logical next step, we will focus on the different perspectives of the freedom of education mentioned above.

The pedagogical perspective, from the point of view of educators the most important one, tells us something significant about the freedom of education.

It reflects a vision on humanity and the way we approach the generations to come: open minded, allowing them to be free and to make their own decisions in the future they will face.

It's this freedom, we believe, that in the long run empowers society.

On behalf of the boards of the Hellenic Association of Independent Schools and ECNAIS we wish you an inspiring conference and a good stay in the beautiful city of Athens.

Kyrailidis Charalampos,
Chairman HAIS

Simon Steen,
Chairman ECNAIS



CONFERENCE / AGM

Athens, Greece

April 2016 - Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 April

The empowerment of society through freedom of education

PROGRAMME

Thursday 14th April

8:30	WELCOME & REGISTRATION
9:00	OPENING STUDENTS' CHOIR
9:05	Kyralidis Charalampos (5') Chairman of the Hellenic Association of Independent Schools
9:10	Simon Steen (5') ECNAIS Chairman
9:15	Representative of the Greek Ministry of Education (10')
9:25	Andrew Lewer (10') Member of the European Parliament (Conservatives and Reformists Group)
9:35	Fortsakis Theodore (10') New Democracy MP
9:45	Christofilopoulou Evi (10') Democratic Coalition (PASOK- DIMAR) MP
9:55	Mavrotas George (10') Potami MP
10:05	Papadopoulou Erasmia (5') Parents Coordinating Committee
10:10	COFFEE BREAK
10:45	CONFERENCE Kostas Gouliamos (15') Rector of the European University of Cyprus President of Rector's Conference in Cyprus
11:00	Alivizatos Nikos (15') Professor of Constitutional Law at the Athens University Law School
11:15	Koskos Phoebus Leonidas (15') President of the Hellenic American University
11:30	Papandropoulos Athanasios (15') International Honorary President of the European Union of Reporters
11:45	Pagoulatos Georgios (15') Professor of European Policy and Economy at the Economic University of Athens
12:00	Vettas Nikos (15') General Director, Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE). Professor Athens University of Economics and Business
13:00	LUNCH
14:30	Simon Walker (20') Learning Group Leader of the Future of Learning Institute at Harvard Graduate School of Education
14:50	Veremis Athanasios (20') Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the Athens University
15:10	Kurt Ernst (20') Former chairman of Danmarks Privatskoleforening
15:30	Rodrigo Melo (20') Director of the Portuguese Association for Independent Schools
16:00	COFFEE BREAK
16:30	Schools' presentations (45') Preview of the school visits: 9 schools
19:30	CULTURAL EVENT: DINNER INCLUDED

Friday 15th April

9:00	Departure from the hotel
	School visits (lunch included) <i>Return of participants to the hotel</i>
14:30	Tsakanikas Aggelos (20') Assistant Professor, National Technical University of Athens. Research Fellow, Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE)
14:50	Maarten Simons (40') Associate Professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, KU Leuven, Belgium
15:30	Activating key issues and exchange from personal perspective in small groups (coffee or tea included) (60')
16:30	CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE (30')
20:00	Departure from hotel OFFICIAL ECNAIS DINNER Walking distance to restaurant approx 15 min.

Open for MCM members only

Saturday 16th April

9:00	Formal Annual General Meeting and
12:00	Management Committee Meeting Lunch will NOT be served after the meeting





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**The empowerment of society
through freedom of education**

The right to education, the freedom of parental school choice and the freedom to establish schools on the basis of self chosen religious, philosophical or pedagogical ideas are well known European values, e.g. mentioned as fundamental citizens' rights within the EU.

These human rights and fundamental freedoms go as far back as the first Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights, in which article 2 states: *'No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the rights of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions'*.

National school systems can only be 'read' as the outcome of a long term cultural-historical process, in many cases strongly connected with the rise and development of the nation state. That's why in several countries the parents' right to establish and choose an independent (non-state) school is mentioned in the constitution.

Independent schools all over Europe, each with their own profile and curriculum, offer parents, students and - within the given variety of schools - also teachers, the opportunity to choose just that specific school, that best meets their own expectations, talents and skills .

By so doing, independent schools are completing the different national school systems in Europe and contribute with school choice and innovative school practices to the modern social and economic development of their countries.

A country that neglects the freedom of education will in the long run pay a price for it in terms of the wasted talents of the new generation.

In some countries, freedom of education is seen by the government as a privilege for the elite, leading to the misunderstanding that independent schools can do without any legislative recognition and public funding.

In this conference we want to focus on the different perspectives of the freedom of education, such as the economic, social, juridical and last but not least the pedagogical perspective.

The empowering effect of the freedom of education for society as a whole will become more clear when we have a better understanding of these different perspectives.

It is important to realize that not only the independent schools, but also the public schools need a certain degree of autonomy to educate the new generation in the best possible way for the future they will face.





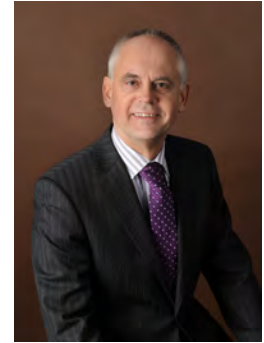
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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

SIMON STEEN, CHAIRMAN ECNAIS

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Simon Steen is one of the founding fathers of the European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools (ECNAIS) that was founded in 1988. Since 1998 he is a member of the Executive Committee, at first as treasurer and from 2008 on as chairman.

Simon Steen was till the end of 2014, and for more than 25 years, general director of the VBS, the National Association of Independent Schools in the Netherlands. He worked for many years as a juridical and policy advisor of school boards. He was for a long time president of the European Platform, centre for internationalization of Dutch education.

He has a masters degree in Law-study.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

CHARALAMPOS KYRAILIDIS, CHAIRMAN HAIS

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Charalampos Kyrailidis is Co-owner and Senior High School Director of the Synchroni Paideia Private School since 1997.

He is a graduate of the History and Archaeology Department of the University of Ioannina and a candidate for PhD in History of Arts.

He is and has been the Chairman of the Hellenic Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) for the last 4 years, while for several years before that has served as Vice-Chairman and Member of the Board of HAIS.

Opening remarks

Members of the Hellenic Parliament, University Professors, Esteemed Conference Speakers, members of the Press and the Mass Media,
Dear Chairman of ECNAIS,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Hellenic Association of Independent Schools, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the ECNAIS Conference, which this year the HAIS had the honour and pleasure to co-organize in close co-operation with the ECNAIS Executive Committee and to host in this lovely venue, in the Historical City of Athens.

The theme of this year's ECNAIS conference is "The empowerment of Society through Freedom of Education" and I feel that, in many respects, it could not come at a more appropriate time. I say this dear friends, because we live in strange and difficult times, which often burden our societies with new fears, stress our resources and reflectively lead many countries to policies of tighter controls and limitations of our freedoms.

It is our ardent conviction that the present and future challenges, we face in Europe, can be much more successfully addressed with more freedom in our societies, not less. The strongest advantage of our common European heritage is comprised by our democratic liberties and our civic rights. History proves that more freedom strengthens our societies and such a statement is nowhere more applicable than in the area of Education.

Dear Colleagues, perhaps the greatest social achievement of the 19th and 20th century, was the establishment of the free for all public education system. Through this for the first time in human



history universal school access was granted to all children irrespective of the social class they belonged.

A century and more later, the public school education system, in most European countries, appears to be becoming less and less satisfactory. Teachers in public schools appear less motivated. Students in public schools appear more estranged from their educational environment and with less interest for their school program. We feel the reasons of these inadequacies lie in the way public education is organized, in most countries. It is this type of organization that gave birth to a monopolistic, bureaucratic, non-competitive public school, incapable to evolve and incorporate the fast occurring changes in society and the new needs which emanate there off.

At the same time contemporary research shows that in most European countries, despite the fact that independent schools have less available resources than public schools, despite also the fact that their class sizes are usually larger than public schools, their students appear to gain more in competences and knowledge than their public schools counterparts.

The parents who opt for independent schools appear also more satisfied from the academic program, the social, cultural and athletic activities and the safety and security level of the school environment. Independent school students also tend to be involved in more interesting and productive projects, enjoy better communication with their teachers and appear more socially integrated, more tolerant, more eager and prone to learn.

Evidently research does not lead to the conclusion that all independent schools are better. There are unsatisfactory independent schools, but these sooner or later close down and thus make room for better schools.

The conditions I just described, stand valid in many European countries, certainly in Greece and as a result, public opinion demands change, demands educational reforms, demands more freedom in education, demands to be granted the parental right of choice of the right school and the institutional instruments to exercise this right, which may I remind us all, is a fundamental right of the EU citizens as inscribed in article 14 of the EU Charter.

Thus, the questions which must be addressed by our democracies are:

Firstly, up to which point should the State prevent the exercise of freedom of choice in education and secondly, who should choose the education of our children, the politicians, the educators or the parents?

We remain convinced that an education system, that would place parents and their rights between the State and the Schools, would offer such a freedom of choice to the parents, that no government thereafter would dare remove. Such a system would indeed empower our societies in more ways than we think possible.

It is indeed a shame that at present the Greek government is plotting a course in the opposite direction, diminishing instead of increasing the range of parental choice in education.

I would like to conclude my opening remarks by expressing on behalf of the HAIS a heartfelt thank you to the ECNAIS Executive Committee members and its Chairman, for their faultless cooperation, to all our esteemed speakers from Greece and abroad who honour us with their presence and to all of you who travelled from all corners of Europe to participate in our conference.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

ANDREW LEWER

Andrew Lewer MBE has been a Conservative MEP for the East Midlands since 2014. He serves as European Conservatives and Reformists Group Co-ordinator for both the Culture and Education and the Regional Development Committees of the European Parliament. He is a Member of the Parliament's Science and Technology Panel and Vice-President of the ECR's think tank "New Direction". Andrew also serves as a Governor of the University of Derby, a Vice-President of the Local Government Association and a Director of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust. He was awarded the MBE in 2014 for his services as Leader of Derbyshire County Council, 2009-13, and as Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association, 2011-14.





SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

THEODORE FORTSAKIS

Professor Theodore Fortsakis is a member of the Greek Parliament since January 2015. Previously he was the Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2014-15). He has also been Dean of the School of Law (2009-2014), Deputy Dean (2007-2009) and Director of the Department of Public Law (2009-2014).

Theodore Fortsakis is full Professor of Public Law and Tax law at the Law School of the University of Athens; Visiting Professor for over a decade at Sorbonne (Paris 1: 2003-2013, Paris 2: 2010-2011 & 2012-2013) and at the University Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille (2002-2003, 2006-2007, 2009-2010).

Professor Fortsakis is or has been:

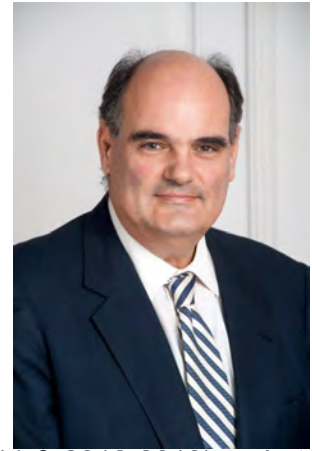
- Member of the Special Supreme Court of Greece (2012-2013);
- Chairman of the Association Franco-Hellénique (Lycée français Eugène Delacroix) (since 2010);
- Chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Orchestra of Athens (2012-2014);
- resident of the Supervisory Board of the public television (NERIT) (2013-2014);
- Chairman of the Consulting Committee of the General Secretariat of Public Revenues (Ministry of Finance) (2013-2014);
- President / Vice-President / member of numerous scholarly institutions in Greece and abroad and several ministerial draft law committees;
- Member of the Hellenic Competition Commission (2000-2003);
- Member of the Board of Directors of the National Library (2008-2011);
- Member of the National Commission for Human Rights (2003-2006);
- International expert at the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, with many missions in eastern Europe and central Asia (1998-2003).

He was awarded the French Decorations of «Officier de la Légion d'honneur» (2015) «Chevalier» (2006) and «Officier de Palmes Académiques» (2012) and «Guardian of the Law» of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa (2009).

Prof. Fortsakis is the author of numerous books and more than 130 articles in Greek, French and English.

Besides his native Greek Prof. Fortsakis speaks French, English and German.

Member of the Athens Bar Association (since 1981). Qualified to practice before the Supreme Court. Founding partner of the law firm "Fortsakis - Diakopoulos - Mylonogianis & Associates". Prof. Fortsakis' practice focuses on administrative and tax law.





SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY



EVY CHRISTOFILOPOULOU

Member of Parliament, Attica

DEMOCRATIC COALITION (PASOK - DIMAR)

Professional Activities:

- Lawyer (1982 - 1997)
 - Legal advisor and responsible for HR Development at a Local Authorities' Consultancy Firm (1986 - 1991)
 - Freelance consultant and trainer in HR (1992-1997)
 - Lectured as Assistant Professor of Public Administration, in the Faculty of Regional Development and Urban Planning, at the University of Thessaly (1992-1996)
 - Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Greek Open University since 2002.
- Author of research papers and articles on public administration, local government and human resources.

Parliamentary Activities:

- MP for Attica, PASOK (2004 – 2015)
 - MP for Attica, Democratic Coalition (PASOK - DIMAR) (September 2015 – today)
 - She has been a member of the Committees on Social Affairs, Public Administration, Public Order & Justice, Cultural and Educational Affairs, European Affairs, Parliamentary Ethics, Equality, Youth & Human Rights, Research and Technology, Road Safety.
- She is now a member of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, the Special Permanent Committee for Monitoring the Social Security System and the Subcommittee for the study and treatment of drug problems.
- Coordinator of the Sector of Social Affairs in PASOK Parliamentary Group (2004 – 2006).
 - Frontbench Spokesperson for Social Affairs in PASOK Parliamentary Group (2007 - 2009)
 - Spokesperson for the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). At the same time she was Head of the Standing Committee on Education of PASOK. (June 2012 – June 2013)
 - Frontbench spokesperson for Education in PASOK Parliamentary Group (February – September 2015)
 - Responsible for Labour, Social Insurance & Health in Democratic Coalition's (PASOK - DIMAR) Parliamentary Group (September 2015 - today).

Political Activities:

- Special Adviser to the former Minister of Economy, Giorgos Gennimatas on European Affairs issues (October 1993 – April 1994)
- Secretary General for the management of ESF at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (1997- 2002).
- Deputy Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning & Religious Affairs, (October 2009 - May 2012)
- Deputy Minister of Administrative Reform & e-Government (June 2013 -January 2015)



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

GEORGE MAVROTAS

George Mavrotas is a Member of Parliament with “Potami”, a new reforming social-liberal party, since January 2015. He was an international water polo athlete (1984-2002) with participation in 5 Olympic Games and captain of the national team from 1995 to 2000. Concurrently with his athletic career, he attended the courses in the Chemical Engineering department at the National Technical University of Athens. He received his PhD diploma in 2000 with expertise in Operational Research. He is Associate Professor in the School of Chemical Engineering in the National Technical University of Athens with rich research record including more than 60 publications in international scientific journals with more than 1100 citations and h-index of 20. He is responsible in “Potami” for the education agenda.



Wiki: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Mavrotas

Scholar google: <https://scholar.google.gr/citations?user=8iE8pMIAAAAJ&hl=en>

web site: <http://liee.ntua.gr/gm>

Session title

A school that builds integrated personalities

Abstract

We talk about the role of a modern school in today’s society. What activities are needed in a school in order to enrich the knowledge and the skills of young students? Why our educational system needs a reform and in which direction? Some words about the crucial role of sport and art in education and finally a few words about the state monopoly in tertiary education.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

ERASMIA PAPADOPOULOU

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More than twenty (20) years of continuously growing responsibility and result orientation, in Marketing & Sales within competitive business environment in the FMCGs sector. Developed and built brands in the Greek food industry, developed and implemented New Product Development process opening new market segments, effectively managed & cooperated with Marketing & Sales Executives. Worked as Director in, Marketing of MEVGAL Dairy Industry and Regency Casino Entertainment, International Development in Creta Farms, Marketing & Sales of Paliria-Souliotis.

Studied Business Administration in Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki. Holds an Executive MBA in General Management-University of Sheffield, UK with field of specialization: Business Strategy and Human Resource Management. Dissertation topic: Corporate Social Responsibility in the Greek Food & Beverage industry. Speaks Greek (maternal language), English, French, and Italian.

Other: President of Parents Association- Ekpedefiki Anagennisi-private school, President of the Alumni Association of Anatolia College in Athens, Member of the Steering Committee for Greek Private Schools.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

KOSTAS GOULIAMOS

Professor Kostas Gouliamos, PhD is the Rector (elected in 2014) of the European University Cyprus. He is newly elected (2015) President of the Cyprus Rector's Conference. He is Honorary Professor at Lanzhou City University /China. He studied political sciences in Greece and holds a PhD in public communication from Panteion University/ Athens, Greece (1988). Prior to this, he received a special two-year grant by the Ministry of Education/Republic of Greece to do his doctor research work at Carleton University, Canada (1984-1986). Before coming to European University Cyprus, Professor K. Gouliamos lectured, taught and researched for more than fifteen years at leading North American & European Universities. His research interests include domains of politics, political communication, media & culture. Professor Gouliamos was Member of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the European Social Survey (ESS): an innovative research project that won Europe's top social science award, the Descartes Prize. He has been appointed Member to the Steering Committee for Higher Education & Research (CDED) of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg/France; he as well served (2005-2011) as Member of the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation (ESF). He has been selected by Quality Assurance Agencies for Higher Education (HQAA) in Europe as an expert (external evaluator) in the domain of communication, culture and political studies. Since 2007 is an appointed Member of the European Commission /Research Directorate General – European RTD Evaluation Network and appointed Member of the EUROPRIX /International Center, (supported by the European Commission/ DG Enterprise and Information Society and the Austrian government). Since Professor Gouliamos began teaching (1980) in Higher Educational Institutions, he has written a considerable number of books, chapters and papers on issues pertinent to media, culture, politics and communication with a critical perspective and approach; his work has been translated in several languages. He has contributed to two World Reports on media, culture and communication published by the International Institute of Communication. He serves as Editor and member of Editorial Boards of notable and/or high-ranking Journals. Professor Gouliamos has taken part in numerous international conferences and he has given many lectures as a keynote speaker in a number of high-ranking academic institutions in Europe, North America and Australia. Moreover, he served as a senior communication & public affairs advisor to the Greek Government (1996-1999) and to the President of the Republic of Cyprus (2008-2013); he has also worked as communication & public affairs advisor to several public and private organizations (including Exxon/Mobil, Carlsberg, etc.) both in Cyprus and abroad.



Session title

«Responding to 21st century challenges for decentralization: From Educational Freedom to Pedagogical Excellence and from School Autonomy to the Parental Right of Choice»

Abstract

Decentralization of educational system today plays a fundamental role in facilitating development and improving educational standards of the 21st century. The imminent importance of decentralization is based on exactly chief pillars which must be well positioned to improve how resources are used and citizen (students and parents) needs are satisfied.

Within this framework, experts, professionals and authorities of education have more and more responsibilities in responding to chief pillars such as Educational Freedom, Parental Right of Choice Pedagogical Excellence, and School Autonomy.

However, if the responsibilities are growing, the pale of decentralization available to ensure these responsibilities is often inadequate due to the low level - in most European countries - of school autonomy as well as to the eclipse of the parental right of choice.

Moreover, without the parental right of choice, autonomy, educational freedom and pedagogical excellence, decentralization is crippled. Its advances remain precarious and can generate a profound disillusionment which threatens decentralization's own democratic or/and pedagogical foundation.

In view of this, close collaboration and innovative institutional arrangements are needed to provide policies or reforms contained by the content and context of decentralization as the transfer of decision-making authority closer to the education user or beneficiary.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

NIKOS C. ALIVIZATOS



Nicos C. Alivizatos is professor of Law at the University of Athens; he practices law since 1978. He is pleading regularly before the Greek Council of State, the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice. After studying law in Athens (LL.B. 1972), professor Alivizatos obtained his PhD from the University of Paris 2 in 1977; the late *doyen* Georges Vedel was his *directeur de thèse*, which was published in Paris in 1979 (: *Les institutions politiques de la Grèce à travers les crises*, Paris, L.G.D.J., *Bibliothèque constitutionnelle*, tome 60). He has been teaching constitutional and public law since 1980. He was a visiting scholar at Stanford (1988-89), Princeton (1997) and Oxford Universities (2005). His books include *The Constitutional Status of the Armed Forces*, vols 1 & 2, (in Greek, Athens, Ant. Sakkoulas, 1987 & 1992 respectively), *Beyond Article 16* (in Greek, Athens, Metaichmio, 2007), *The Constitution and its Enemies, 1800-2010* (in Greek, Athens, Polis, 2011) and *What Kind of Democracy After the Crisis* (in Greek, Athens, Polis, 2013).

Session title

The Contribution of Private Education to the Formation of Civil Society

Abstract

The paper will focus on the constitutional treatment of the private education, with special reference to the Greek case. Is the establishment of private schools a constitutional right? If yes, to what extent is it recognized to aliens? Does it comprise higher education as well? And finally, may private schools deviate from the State school model as regards faculty carrier and course curricula?



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY



LEONIDAS KOSKOS

Leonidas Koskos is an attorney-at-law, member of the Athens Bar Association. He has served as the Executive Vice President, Deputy Chairman and President of various Greek industries. He was the Chairman and Governor of National Welfare Organization, Chairman, President of the Confederation of Greek food Industries, President of the CIAA (the Confederation of Agro-food Industries of the European Union) in Brussels and member of Board of Directors of Hellenic Federation of Enterprises. He co-founded the National Council for Free Enterprise Greece where he served as Secretary General and President. He has instructed Philosophy of Law and Jurisprudence at the University of Athens Law School and gave lectures at the Economic University of Athens, at Chambers of Commerce and at conferences in Greece and abroad. He has served as Executive Director of the Hellenic American Union and Executive vice President of the Hellenic American University. He has been President of the Hellenic American University since 2012.

Session title

Liberated School and Social Change

Abstract

The Greek crisis exists independently of the international financial crisis that triggered it. The global crisis only highlighted the structural and functional problems of the Greek economy, Greek society and the Greek state apparatus, problems that are reflected in the Greek educational system.

The global financial crisis also brought to light weaknesses born of the failure of the industrial revolution to take root in Greece and absence of a civil society in the country.

The emancipation of the school from the state's stranglehold, together with the ability of the private school to act as a social catalyst, will help empower the private sector and citizens alike. It will be a springboard for the growth and development of the country's economy and society.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

ATHANASE C. PAPANDROPOULOS

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Born in Athens (1941), he studied economics, politics and media communication in Belgium and France (university of Mons, university of Liege and university of Lille). He obtained his PhD in Economics in Mons.

He started his career as a journalist in 1963 working at the weekly financial magazine "Economikos Tachidromos" and the daily newspaper "Vima". He was also the first Greek correspondent in Brussels (1965).

Today he is:

- Columnist at the daily Greek newspapers "Estia", "Naftemporiki", "Peloponnissos"
- Advisor and columnist at magazine "European Business" (English language)
- Columnist at the weekly magazines "Ad-Business" and "Retail Business"
- Managing editor at the magazine "Manager".

At social level he is:

- 1) International honorary president of the Association of European Journalists and secretary general of the Greek section of the AEJ
- 2) Member of the board of the Association of the Journalists of the European Parliament
- 3) Member of the International Federation of Journalists
- 4) Member of the "Association Royale des Ingénieurs Commerciaux, Licenciés et Docteurs de l' Université de Mons"

He is the author of four books about the European Union, human rights and totalitarianism, Greek exports.

He has been awarded with 42 Greek and international awards, such as: "Golden Hermes", "Golden Pen", "Stendhal", "Golden Communication" and others.

He is visiting professor at the School of Journalism "Akmi" and lecturer at the Greek Management Association.

He speaks perfectly French and is fluent in English. He has also knowledge of Italian and Spanish.

He has visited a lot of countries around the world.

Abstract

My intervention will focus on the role of freedom of education within a globalized world. I believe that what Greece and other countries in the world need is more educational freedom.

Parents must be free to choose the education they believe is best for their children, no matter where they live or how much they earn.

Educators must be free to determine their own curricula and methods and free to set their own prices and compensation. Schools must be free to innovate and compete to attract and retain students. And they must be both free to profit from their successes and compelled to suffer losses for their failures, because the profit-and-loss system spurs innovation, efficiency and the dissemination of best practices. Likewise, educators must be free to compete in the labor market for positions that give them the greatest professional freedom and compensation.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY



GEORGE PAGOULATOS

George Pagoulatos is professor of European Politics & Economy at the Athens University of Economics & Business (AUEB), and visiting professor at the College of Europe, Bruges. He was senior advisor and director of Strategy at the PM Office under prime ministers Lucas Papademos and P. Pikrammenos (2011-12). He is member of the Board of Directors of ELIAMEP and the European Policy Centre (EPC), the advisory board of Social Europe, and senior advisor at Macro Advisory Partners (MAP). He was member of the High Council of the European University Institute (2010-13), and President of ECSA-Greece (2013-14). Regular columnist in the Sunday edition of the main centrist newspaper *Kathimerini* since 2007. He holds degrees from the University of Athens and the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. His research focuses on the EMU and the EU, Southern European and Greek political economy, economic governance, political economy of reform.

Session title

Investing in Education, a strategy for social and economic development

Abstract

Education can transform society, and investment in education is a key strategy for economic and social development. Greece lags in a number of comparative indicators when it comes to its education system. In particular, the Greek education system is unfit for the challenges of a modern, globalized economy in the era of information. Despite the extensive state centralization and control, the Greek education system scores low also in terms of fairness. Extensive influence of teacher associations, a corporatistic structure, excessive state regulation and bureaucracy, procrastination in implementing an integrated and effective evaluation system, have all contributed to low education performance. What needs to be done.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

NIKOS VETTAS

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Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business

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<http://www.aueb.gr/users/vettas/>
www.iobe.gr



Nikos Vettas is the General Director of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research IOBE since 2013; also a Professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business, since 2003, where he has served as the Chairman of the Economics Department and a member of the University Council. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and has been an Associate Professor at Duke University and a visiting Professor at INSEAD. He serves as Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Industrial Organization* and of the *Journal of Industrial Economics* and a Research Fellow at CEPR. He has served as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of the European Economic Association*, a member of the Hellenic Competition Commission and of the *Economic Advisory Group for Competition Policy* at the European Commission. His interests are primarily in the area of microeconomics, industrial organization and competition and regulation policy. He is a co-organizer of the annual Conference for Research on Economic Theory and Econometrics and a co-founder of www.greekeconomistsforreform.com. His work has been published at academic journals such as the *International Economic Review*, *European Economic Review*, *Journal of Industrial Economics*, *Rand Journal of Economics*, and the *Review of Economic Studies*.

Session title

Education: Public goods, private incentives and growth

Abstract

For countries that, in order to grow, need to rely on the human capital of their population and on innovation, to not be continuously improving their education system is not an option. While the State has to ensure a well functioning and efficient regulatory framework for education services, it is of primary importance to ensure that all private incentives are aligned in the right direction and strong enough. Imposing an excessive degree of uniformity and centralization, weakens incentives for education effort and acts as an impediment for innovation.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

SIMON WALKER

Originally from Scotland, Simon is in his thirteenth year of international school leadership. Following five years at the British School in Tokyo, he returned to Europe as Middle School Principal at the Bavarian International School in Germany. From August 2012 and until recently Simon served as the Headteacher of the Berlin British School and will soon take up a new role as the High School Principal of the ABA in Muscat, Oman.

Simon has working experience of the Scottish, English and International Baccalaureate education frameworks and has achieved the National Professional Qualification in Headship. Simon qualified as a history teacher and continues to teach.

Simon has facilitated a number of seminars at ECIS and IB conferences, including a workshop for the IB academic team. For four consecutive years Simon has led learning groups at *Future of Learning Institute*, held annually at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



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Session title

Feeling the tension

Abstract

The impact of globalisation is leading to more diverse student populations in our schools, yet there has and continues to be an emphasis upon standardisation in different educational systems. This session will highlight some of the connected talking points.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

THANOS VEREMIS

**Thanos Veremis, Professor Emeritus of History,
University of Athens, ELIAMEP VICE PRESIDENT**

Thanos Veremis (D. Phil, Oxon) is Professor Emeritus of Political history at the University of Athens, Department of European and International Studies and Founding Member of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP).

He has been Research Associate, at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London 1978-79; Visiting Scholar, Center for European Studies, Harvard Univ. 1983; Visiting Professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton Univ. 1987; Visiting Fellow, St. Antony's College, Oxford 1993-94; Constantine Karamanlis Professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford Massachusetts (2000-2003); and more recently President of the National Council of Education, 2004-2010 .

Publications include: The Military in Greek Politics, London: Hurst & Co (1997); with Mark Dragoumis, Greece, World Bibliographical Series, vol.17, Oxford: Clio Press (1998); with John Koliopoulos, Greece. The Modern Sequel, London: Hurst & Co, (2002); The Balkans. Construction and Deconstruction of States, Patakis (2005); Modern Greece: A History since 1821, Wiley- Blackwell (2010); Eleftherios Venizelos: A Biography, Pella Publishers (2011).



Session title

GREEK EDUCATION, "A VICTIM OF POPULISM"



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

KURT ERNST

Born in Kolding, Denmark, in 1951. First impression of free and independent schools in 1961 (at the age of 10) when my parents moved me from the ordinary public school (Folkeskolen) to a private primary school. Since then and until today the private schools of Denmark have been an inseparable part of me and my thinking.

University studies in the early 1970's. Teacher Training, Graduated from Aarhus College in 1977.

Teacher at Elise Smiths (Private) School from 1974 to 1982 and headmaster from 1982 to 2006.

Member of the board of "The Teachers' Union for Danish Independent Schools" (1979-1982), member of the board of Danish Centre for Educational Environment (DCUM) (2008-2015), member of the board of "Private Schools in Denmark" (1988-2015).

Chairman of the same organization from 1992-2015.



Session title

Empowerment of society through freedom in education – seen in a Nordic Light

Abstract

Comments on the freedom of education - the empowerment - from different perspectives such as *economic, social, juridical and in particular pedagogical and philosophical*. According to the speakers definition of Empowerment this is in fact the completion of the full social perspective.

There are very few common contributes to a specific Nordic way or enlightening on this empowerment. What we note is that the keyword for the Nordic *also* is "diversity".

Some comments on the economy, grants and-relationship between state and private schools in Denmark. Also in Denmark we talk (too much) about economy, grants and **results**.

And *yet* ...maybe the Nordic Countries have something in common (except for the language): **What does it take to be happy!**

The Nordic Countries have the so called Nordic Welfare Models in common, and all Nordic countries score and rate high when it comes to trust in the political system and state institutions. Confidence and lack of corruption in government and public institutions means a lot - and also in terms of empowerment *this means everything to the conditions and recognition of the free schools*.

Openness and transparency are fundamental principles of the utmost importance.

Values make all the difference. And it's important that the schools respect a balance between on the one side: Unity, integration, belief and TEACHING and: Pluralism, diversity, knowledge and LEARNING, on the other.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

RODRIGO MELO

Executive Director of the Portuguese Association of Private Schools, Assistant professor at the Portuguese Catholic University (UCP) and President of the General Council of Instituto de Avaliação Educativa (entity responsible for national exams in Portugal). Former member of the Board of the Lisbon School of the Law School of UCP and Chief of staff for the Minister of Education. Author of numerous articles on education systems, school assessment and school management.



Session title

Political implications of the empowerment of society through freedom of Education

Abstract

The empowerment of society through the freedom of education has different political and societal implications through Europe. Diverse historical backgrounds have given way to different solutions. One may see a divide between northern and southern European countries and also divides among political parties. Nowadays, two countries have seen an inversion in the political approach to freedom of education. Notably, Greece and Portugal.

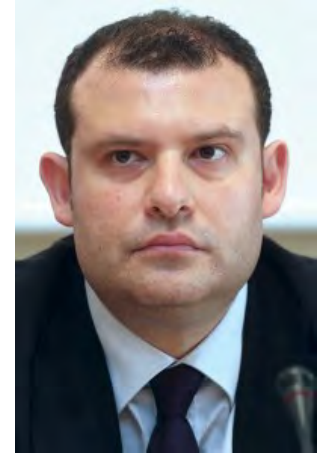
In Portugal, the change of government resulting from the October 2015 general elections has brought new tensions to the private sector of education. Most notably in what regards freedom of education. In this presentation, we will present the Portuguese case and lessons to be learned.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

AGGELOS TSAKANIKAS

Aggelos Tsakanikas is an Assistant Professor in the field of economic evaluation of technological systems, at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and Research Fellow at the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (FEIR / IOBE). He has conducted his PhD thesis in the area of Technology Economics and Business Strategy. From May 2004 he has been working at IOBE being Head of research from 2007 to April 2012 and Research Director till 2014, when he was then appointed as an Assistant Professor at NTUA. His main research interests and most of his published work are in the area of technology strategy of the firm, business strategy, economics of innovation, entrepreneurship and relevant public policies. He also teaches at the "Athens MBA" the course of "Industrial policy and International Competitiveness". In the context of his research activity has been involved with numerous sectoral studies, reports on the Greek Economy, studies on entrepreneurship and competitiveness and related public policies. He is also a member of the research consortium of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor and a member of the group Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit of NTUA.



Session title

The economic impact of private education in Greece: a quantitative approach

Abstract

In the current study, we examine the role of primary and secondary private education in the Greek economy. More specifically we try to estimate the impact of this economic activity on GDP, employment and tax revenues. Methodologically we use the input – output table analysis, which is a quantitative approach that tries to assess the effect of a specific activity on the economy, by taking into consideration not only direct effects but also indirect and induced effects of the sector's output. Our results indicate that the total impact of the sector on GDP is close to €1.2 billion (0.8% of GDP), whereas it has a total impact on employment of nearly 39.000 jobs (1% of total employment in Greece). We also examine the effect on the sector's elasticity of demand, in the case of the introduction of VAT on private education services. We find that, should a VAT cause a 23% increase in tuition fees, private schools would suffer from a decrease of nearly 16.000 students.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

MAARTEN SIMONS

Maarten Simons (28-07-1975) is Professor of Educational Policy and Theory at the Laboratory for Education and Society of the University of Leuven (Belgium). His principal interests are in educational policy, new mechanisms of power, and new global and European regimes of governing education and life-long learning. His research focuses explicitly on the challenges posed to education with a major interest in (re-)thinking the public and pedagogic role of schools and universities.



Session title

School, Freedom, Society: An Educational Claim of Independency

Abstract

The freedom and autonomy of schools is defended from several perspectives and with multiple arguments. It is striking to notice that the same social, economic, political perspectives are mobilized to actually oppose or limit the freedom of schools. After disentangling all these perspectives, an obvious observation can be made: the freedom of schools is very often defended or opposed from an outside, non-educational perspective. This observation is the point of departure to explore whether a claim of independency can be formulated from an inside, educational perspective. This is not a far-stretched idea since the word 'school' is derived from the Greek *scholé* which means 'free time'. From this school perspective the question becomes whether society offers itself – and the new generation – free time beyond mere reproduction or initiation.



	SCHOOL	CONTACT PERSON	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	SITE
1.	AVGOULEA LINARDATOU SCHOOL	Ms Elli Linardatou	112-114 EL. VENIZELOU 12132 PERISTERI GREECE	+30 211 5002300	www.avgouleaschool.gr
2.	Costeas-Geitonas School		153 51 Pallini, Athens, Greece	+30 2106030411- 418	www.cgs.gr
3.	Doukas School		151, Messogion Str., 15126 Athens, Greece	+30 210 6186000	www.doukas.gr
4.	Ellinogermaniki Agogi School		Dimitriou Panagea Str. Pallini Attikis GR 15351	+30 2108176700	www.ellinogermaniki.gr
5.	I.M.Panagiotopoulos School		3, N.Milisi St., 153 51 Pallini, Greece	+30 2106666117	www.impanagiotopoulos.gr
6.	Kessariss School			+30 210 9656300-5	www.kessariss.edu.gr
7.	The Moraitis School		Al. Papanastasiou & Ag. Dimitriou Str. GR-154 52 Psychiko, Athens, Greece	+30 210 6795000	www.moraitis.edu.gr
8.	Nea Genia Ziridis School				
9.	PALLADIO SCHOOL				www.palladio.edu.gr



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School 1

AVGOULEA LINARDATOU SCHOOL



SCHOOL BIO

- Nursery to Senior High School (2 to 18 years of age)
- Technology immersed educational environment
- 21st century skills
- Innovative knowledge based learning experiences
- Democratic & humanitarian values

1.300 students and 296 employees offer us the capabilities of a large educational organization. We pride ourselves however for maintaining the convivial atmosphere and warmth of a small school.

Our past goes 67 years back, but we live in the present and we anticipate the future. This is certified by the state of art educational technology we employ and the rich e-learning content we produce and use in our classrooms. For our innovative approaches in using ICT in education we have been recognized as a Microsoft Showcase School.

Our educational program is Greek centered but with a very strong European and Global dimension. We aspire to raise future citizens proud of their national heritage but capable to succeed in the international environment. To support this we teach effectively three foreign languages.

We believe in creating learning experiences and thus our students are encouraged to participate in a multitude of educational programs, innovative activities and humanitarian actions, on a National, European and World level.

We operate athletic teams in most sports. Our theatre groups, our dancing troupes, our orchestras and choirs offer our students opportunities for cultural development and lead to significant cultural events.

As a natural outcome of our multifaceted education program, our graduates, year after year, are accepted by the most prestigious University Schools in Greece and abroad.

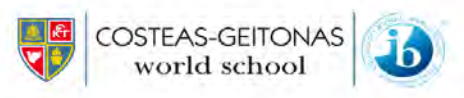


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School 2

Costeas-Geitonas School



Founded in 1973, Costeas-Geitonas School is one of Greece's oldest and most prestigious private schools providing educational programmes from the pre-school to the secondary level.

Our aim is to provide an environment where students cultivate individual skills, explore interests and develop a deep sense of ethos for their academic, professional and personal life.

More than 21 years ago, Costeas-Geitonas School (CGS) was one of the first schools in Greece to provide International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) educational programmes.

Today, it is a multifaceted educational institution authorized to offer all three IB study programmes for students as young as 3 years old up to 18 years old, across all levels including the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the IB Diploma Programme (DP). For the senior high school level, The Lyceum students follow the Greek National Curriculum, leading to the "Eniaio Apolytirion Lykeiou".

Committed to professional development, CGS places a premium priority on faculty training and evaluation; external assessment of our programmes, teachers and partnerships with outside organisations has led to a strong national, European and international profile. CGS enjoys many dynamic partnerships and collaborations with educational organisations and leading postsecondary institutions abroad.

CGS provides students with diverse opportunities to experience learning outside the classroom. Curricula is combined with interest clubs, national and international conferences and competitions, summer courses, volunteer and work placements, internships and active participation in the arts and athletics, presenting young people with exciting avenues to explore as an integral part of their education.

Located in Pallini, a northern suburb of Athens, on an 8.2 hectare campus, the total CGS student population for the academic year 2015-16 is 1300 with the majority of the student body comprised of Greek nationals with an emerging international student population.

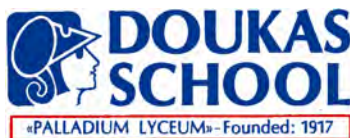


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School 3

Doukas School



Since its founding in 1917, Doukas School (www.doukas.gr) has aimed at providing quality services while meeting the needs and expectations of students, parents, teachers and the society at large. Doukas School mission is to educate World Citizens with a Greek Identity and train students in 21st century Competences, a sum total of Knowledge Skills, and Values. Doukas School is a Creative, Pleasant, Useful and Effective School.

Today, on its 40.000m² campus, the setting of instructional, cultural and athletic facilities of the highest standard, Doukas School offers to its more than 1.500 student body, ranging from Kindergarten to High School and IB Diploma, one of the finest and most innovative pedagogical programs in the country, by using its award receiving, highly acclaimed and certified, Educational Model.

The school has organized numerous Conferences on Mathematics, Pre-school Education, Educational Computing & New Technologies, General Gymnastics and Sports. Doukas School also organizes *LYSIAS*, the *Web-based Panhellenic Student Competition*, (<http://www.lysias.gr>) that attracts more than 45.000 students annually since 1997.

Being one of the first Greek schools to identify the implementation of ICT as a useful tool towards improving the effectiveness of the learning opportunities and challenges we offer our students, the ICT department has developed and integrated computational environments that incorporate the use of computers for various teaching purposes, since 1983. As a result the school received awards in the field of "Technology in Education" from pioneer organisations, in particular, Microsoft Showcase School, Greece Innovates (Hellenic Federation of Enterprises), Apple Mentor School.

Additionally, the school participates in a wide range of R&D projects (<http://bit.ly/doukasresearch>) and coordinates extensive [European Networks](#) under Erasmus+ and Lifelong Learning Programs.

Doukas School has been officially recognized and commended both Nationally and Internationally for its innovative educational practices (http://bit.ly/excellence_sch_gr) and is the first educational institution in Greece that received the European Foundation for Quality Management (E.F.Q.M.) award "Recognized for Excellence" 4 stars in 2012, (http://www.eede.gr/pdf/efqm_elite.pdf).

Doukas School

"A 100 year Educational Organization that balances Tradition with Progress"



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School 4

ELLINOGERMANIKI AGOGI SCHOOL

ELLINOGERMANIKI



The world we live in is constantly changing. Frontiers fade and the information we are exposed to is either altering or increasing more and more rapidly. It is, therefore, our primary concern to cultivate the skills and abilities that will allow our children to live successfully in the world. Our mission is to provide the appropriate environment so that the Ellinogermaniki Agogi graduates have all the necessary skills for a prosperous life and a successful career.

Our school's educational planning has a basic core and is unified from the Kindergarten all the way to Senior High School. The focal point is gradually shifted from the rich educational activities to the purely academic learning, so that, upon completing Senior High School, our students will have fulfilled all the necessary requirements in order to successfully continue their studies in Greek, German or English universities.

Ellinogermaniki Agogi is a school with tradition and future perspective. Our school pursues with great interest and a restive mind the developments in the field of education; it constantly sets and invariably achieves new goals holding at the same time an eminent position in the educational vanguard. Through the use of the most up-to-date facilities, an enriched curriculum, experienced and skilled teaching staff and, most importantly, through consistency on principles and respect towards pupils and parents, our school has been struggling for more than five decades for the edification and the multifaceted education of our students.

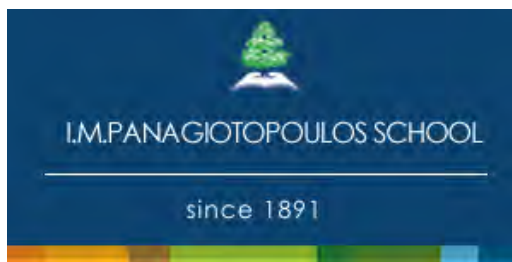


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School 5

I.M.PANAGIOTOPOULOS SCHOOL



I.M.Panagiotopoulos School is one of the earliest-established schools in Greece. It was founded in 1891 under the name of “Hellinikon Ekpaideftirion”/“Hellenic Education Institution”. Nowadays, it is re-orienting itself to becoming an International School that offers its pupils an education that meets international levels.

The essential elements of its curriculum are as follows:

1. Multilateral cultivation of pupils’ personality through various subjects (sciences, humanities) and activities (artistic, athletic) etc.
2. Active learning of the three most popular international languages and cultures: English which is taught as a second language in partnership with British Council Greece, and French and German, which are taught as foreign languages. These help our pupils realize their role within the global community and act as world citizens.
3. Participation in international and Panhellenic student competitions and educational programmes that stimulate healthy competition as well as their exposure to a variety of educational experiences.

Our School premises are in Palaio Psychiko and Pallini. Currently, its main activities take place in Pallini and it offers an educational structure for children from 2 to 18 (Nursery, Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Senior High School). It is also the official in-house branch of the National Conservatory in the municipality of Pallini-Gerakas. In parallel, a full afternoon activity programme is offered that provides further learning opportunities in non-curricular subjects as well as athletics and the Arts.



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School 6

Kessarís School



Nursery to Senior High School (2.5 to 18 years of age)

Kessarís School was founded in 1960 in Paleo Faliro by Mr. Andreas Kessarís who envisioned a school with a family environment. The school focuses on maintaining personal relationships with its students and their families. Since 1995, Kessarís School has been located in Vari, in an idyllic rural area covering 40.000m².

Over the years, the school has evolved into a very modern academic institution. High educational standards and successful endeavours in every field have been achieved, due to its innovating teaching methods and accomplished and highly qualified teaching staff.

Our school is equipped with a technologically advanced infrastructure (interactive whiteboards, video projectors, peripheral devices, laptops and internet access in all our classrooms). Moreover, we have introduced, with great success, the use of tablets in our classrooms from year 4 Primary school through to High school. All the material used in this educational programme has been created by our teachers.

All students attending high and Senior High school have access to the the material that has been organised on our online educational platform (moodle). We have also adopted an innovative system of informing parents about their child's performance through an online platform. Our sports facilities include an indoor swimming pool, a tennis court, a five-a-side football pitch, 4 basketball courts and playgrounds as well as of an outdoor setting, 4000 m², designated for outdoor teaching and various activities.

Upon graduation our students are admitted to the most prestigious Greek, British and American Universities. Finally, we have acquired both ISO 9001:2008 as well as ISO ELOT EN 1176 – 1:2008 for the exceptional quality and high standards of our school and our playgrounds.



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School 7

The Moraitis School



The Moraitis School, a Private K-12 school, was founded in 1936. It is located in Psychiko, a northern suburb of Athens. It is one of the largest and most acclaimed Educational Institutions in the country, with more than 2,000 students and a teaching staff of 240 educators.

In 1991, the Moraitis School was the first Greek school to launch the International Baccalaureate Program and has since continued to sustain the highest success rate in the examinations' results.

Throughout the years, the School has established its reputation due to the consistently high academic level of education it offers its students, the result of which is evident in the exceptionally high University and College success rate, as well as in the creative and often outstanding careers of its alumni. The commitment in setting high standards and the ethos of its teaching staff, the modern pedagogical approach and the constant improvement of its educational program guarantee its enduring success.

Added to this, the Moraitis School has earned a commendable number of distinctions in sports, the arts, in natural sciences and robotics and in mathematics, poetry and rhetorical contests held in Greece and worldwide.



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School 8

Nea Genia Ziridis school



Nea Genia Ziridis school combines a historic, family tradition of 85 years with continuous innovation and development, effectively implementing personalized learning to achieve exceptional academic results. Our school's campus with its ecological facilities on 20 acres of land in Spata, constitutes an ideal environment which offers a diverse and specialized spectrum of educational, social and athletic activities focused on the special talents and uniqueness of each and every student. As registered Cambridge International school, we are running a bilingual programme, in our mission to prepare the citizens of the world; citizens who can live successful lives in every continent of the planet. At Nea Genia Ziridis, we equip our students with all the indispensable skills for life, as our mission is to mould the leaders of tomorrow; citizens who can face contemporary challenges and live authentic, fulfilled lives aligned with their own personal charisma.



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School 9

PALLADIO SCHOOL



PALLADIO is a modern and friendly school with origins that date back to 1921. A new campus has been established since 2009, in Vari, a suburb of Athens, with modern facilities that create an effective and pleasant educational environment for the students.

The school's educational programme is greatly characterised by innovation. It is one of the leading schools in Greece in terms of adopting the 1:1 educational model and creating digital content. Students have access to a 3d printer, a weather station, a biology lab with digital equipment, an astronomy lab with a robotic telescope, and an earthquake-logging device. Courses such as robotics and electronics broaden the students' horizons and encourage them to look for lifelong education. PALLADIO is also a school with a view to the world, implementing various short-term educational projects in collaboration with other schools in Europe.

Last but not least, PALLADIO is always in touch with the school community, using an online educational and parental platform, which allows students and their families to be informed of every aspect of school's life.



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www.ecnais.org

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