

# Measures combating the COVID-19 pandemic

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 GREECE

## Timeline

2020 Implementation

2021 Implementation

2022 Discontinued

ID number 37619

## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected VET programmes. Measures apply till the pandemic is constrained.

## Objectives

COVID-19 has fundamentally affected the national education and training system. As of March 2020, the education ministry ruled that education provision should continue digitally (remote learning, homework) as necessary.

## Description

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, and according to the recommendations of the National Public Health Organisation, the education ministry launched several digital tools enabling distance learning as a response to the challenges posed by schools' closure. Priority was given to the implementation of distance learning in the last year of upper secondary education, but it was also applied at all education levels (including VET). As far as post-secondary VET (IEK) is concerned, 95% of the courses were offered in distance learning mode. International mobility programmes were suspended. Ministerial decrees ordained the restart of education and training institutions so the academic year 2019/20 could be completed.

During the lockdown (school years 2019/20 and 2020/21), teachers and trainers were supported technically by the central technical team based at the education ministry and pedagogically through short-term training sessions in digital skills. Nationwide, all schools at all levels have been swiftly provided with tablets and laptops by the education ministry; the action was supported by EU funds. Considerable support was also provided by private donations. The Greek government also gave access to digital classrooms via landline telephones (with minimal charge). Discussions with internet providers took place to further support distance learning. Three forms of learning have been provided: synchronous and asynchronous learning, and educational television.

### 2020 Implementation

During the lockdown, for as long as education institutions remained closed, the

education ministry made digital platforms for distance education and interactive digital media available to teachers and students. Even after re-opening the economy, distance learning remained available. In addition, the principle of social distancing remained applicable (e.g., the use of masks, and other limitations relevant physical with the number of students in classes and laboratories.

### **2021 Implementation**

In the school year 2021/22, schools returned to in-class teaching following all the necessary hygiene protocols to combat COVID-19. Regular self-tests by teaching staff and students took place along with the vaccination campaign. When 50% of students in the class became infected, online teaching was enabled.

### **2022 Discontinued**

In the school year 2022/23, the use of a protective mask for teachers and the students, for drivers of school buses and attendants, boarding on them became optional. The PCR or rapid test once per week became obligatory only for non-full vaccinated teachers, trainers and staff.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs
- National Public Health Organisation (NPHO)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### **Education professionals**

Teachers  
School leaders

## **Thematic categories**

### **Modernising VET infrastructure**

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Acquiring key competences

### **Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences**

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## **Further reading**

[Instructions and necessary measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the school](#)

environment in the context of the reopening of education institutions

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Ministerial Decision for emergency instructions and measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the school environment

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Greece: responses to the COVID-19 outbreak

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Ministerial Decision 6/1/2022

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Ministerial Decision 1192/2023

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