



## Athens Declaration For public education, students, teachers, society

28 November 2019

The two Federations DOE (Greek Primary Teachers' Federation) and OLME (Greek Federation of Secondary Education State School Teachers) are firmly committed to defending public education and have fought hard over the years to this end.

The latest link in the chain of these struggles and the actions under them is their joint participation in the independent study entitled "Public Education in Greece. Aspects and Trends of an Emerging Privatisation", which was conducted by a team of university teachers and is part of Education International's "Global Response to the Commercialisation and Privatisation of Education".

The study highlights the urgent need for immediate action to urge the state to provide effective support for public education by adopting the policy positions of the trade union movement, increasing teachers' salaries, providing them with sufficient professional development and pedagogical support and secure employment, and strengthening all public education structures and programs that have been brutally affected throughout the years of the financial crisis.

Drawing upon the findings of the study, DOE and OLME commit to intensify their action for quality public education and to engage in a series of initiatives targeting the educational and academic community and the entire Greek society, including:

- Holding meetings with the government and all parties in Parliament, seeking their commitment to join forces to strengthen education as a public good;
- Lobbying the government for a substantial increase in public education funding;
- Holding regional meetings with the local educational organisations, unions and parents' associations, as well as local University Education Departments and other departments, and

promoting them in the media, in order to rally people to support:

- Our fight against any attempt to undermine the public character of education and our efforts to counter any venture aiming to discredit public education (from media, governments, private bodies and organisations seeking to increase distrust of parents and Greek society as a whole towards public education).
- The prevention of commercialisation and privatisation of education, by calling on the government to take political, economic and institutional measures to fully implement two-years of compulsory pre-school education, all-day primary school and kindergarten for all students to meet their educational needs, quality general and technical-vocational education and quality in all other forms of education (in high schools and lyceums, schools for special education, music schools, art schools, intercultural schools, education for refugees, prison schools, etc.), as well as the provision of quality compensatory educational measures by the state (e.g. strengthening special education, additional teaching support, remedial tuition, "second chance" schools, etc.).
- The provision of special care and multimodal support to socially vulnerable groups throughout our educational system, with the aim to address educational and social inequalities.

Our fight originates from our past collective struggles for quality public education for all and aims at victory in the future for public education, students, teachers, and society.



Διδασκαλική  
Ομοσπονδία Ελλάδας  
Greek Primary Teachers'  
Federation



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ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΩΝ  
ΜΕΣΗΣ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ  
Greek Federation of  
Secondary Education  
State School Teachers