# Department of Early Childhood Education

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/teapi.ekpa

Webpage:

https://www.ecd.uoa.gr

2024

### DECE

# 37 years of operation

#### Our objectives:

The scientific formation of future teachers and professionals in the field of education.

The research development in the field of Educational Sciences.

The connection with the educational community.

The continuous renewal and enrichment of the methodology of university education.

The creation of networks and partnerships with our colleagues locally and abroad, as well as with the broader educational community.

# The academic profile of DECE

In its 37 years of operation, the academic profile of DECE is defined by:

An interdisciplinary approach to education, with many key components, apart from the Educational Sciences, offering a wide range of disciplines from different sciences (Psychology, Sociology, History, Linguistics, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Arts).

The development of research and an international scientific approach.

Student-centered learning process, while developing critical and reflective skills.

Social intervention, aiming at an open and inclusive school, while combating inequalities in education.

### DECE

### in numbers

1550 undergraduate students

250 postgraduates students

132 doctoral candidates

19 faculty members, 3 members of special education staff and 8 members of laboratory & teaching staff

9 members of administrative staff

4 postgraduate programs

7 research laboratories

# Interdisciplinary curriculum

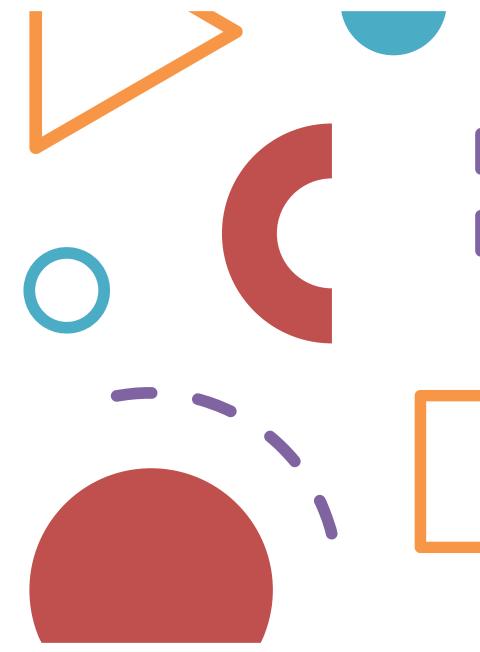
The Undergraduate Studies Program meets the objectives of DECE by attempting to ensure:

• Adequate (quantitative and qualitative) teaching of the subjects required based on international trends in educational science.

• Students' professional/pedagogical competence (with an emphasis on the connection between theory and practice – enrichment and expansion of practical exercise).

The courses are divided into 10 modules:

- Pedagogy
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Methodology
- Science education
- Art Education
- Greek Language, Literature, History
- Foreign Language
- Practical Exercises in Education and Research
- Thematic Weeks



Continuous renewal of university teaching methods by creating conditions for experiential learning and connection with social reality The objective is to create conditions that allow students to process their individual knowledge contents and to understand the interdisciplinary character of education:

- **Rupture** with their previous educational experience. Emphasis on the process of knowledge building and the use of conceptual and methodological tools, in order to formulate questions and explore them.
- **Deconstructing** professional stereotypes and exploring the elements that constitute teachers' contemporary professional identity (the teacher as a reflective scientist).
- Variety of teaching-learning approaches (lectures, familiarization with research methods, laboratory approaches, supervision, cooperative learning, experiential methods).
- Film screening, experiential seminars and discussions as part of the Gender Equality Committee, which aims at implementing the Gender Equality Action Plan of the NKUA on the topic of consent and sexual harassment.

### Cooperation with institutions

# Participation in networks

### **Creating learning communities**

DECE, aiming at extroversion and social connection, develops partnerships at many levels:

- Educational Institutions (RCEP, SEE, IEP, SEP, DECE's Network of Kindergarten teachers, Freinet Network, Skasiarxeio).
- 140 kindergartens in the Attica region, many primary & secondary schools (Hill, 132<sup>nd</sup> Primary School of Athens, Secondary School of Avlonas).
- Museums (Benaki Museum, Museum of Greek Children's Art, Museum of Greek Folk Musical Instruments, National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens, National Gallery) and cultural EKKOMED institutions.
- NGO's, International Organizations (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], UNICEF, The Council of Europe).
- Social Organizations (Ark of the World, Greek Council for Refugees, Rainbow School), Municipality of Athens.
- In the framework of ERASMUS and CIVIS, there have been developed many collaborations with universities in Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania.
- Memoranda of cooperation with universities in the USA, France and UNICEF Center for Children's Rights.
- Participation in the network of Practicums of DECE. The last 15 years, the Network of Cooperating Kindergarten Teachers has been developed for the practicums of DECE.
- Dissemination of scientific knowledge and cooperation with the educational communities through workshops, conferences and lectures by faculty members, special education staff, and laboratory and teaching staff.

Participation in working groups and committees of NKUA

Collaboration with institutional entities, holding accountable positions in Ministry of Education  Participation in the Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Committee of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens: <u>https://genderequalitycommittee.uoa.gr</u>

Many DECE faculty members have actively contributed, from various levels, in the formulation of the educational policy:

- Formulation of Analytical Programs in collaboration with IEP.
- Participation in Training Programs formulation Committees.
- Participation in the Educational Dialogue.
- Refugee Education, program supporting committee.
- General Secretariat in the Ministry of Education: Dimitris Chasapis General Secretary of Ministry of Education, Thaleia Dragona, Secretary of Intercultural Education.

Mutual student support and active participation in solidarity actions

Creating opportunities for a professional development and a professional identity: A Department with a clear social orientation

- The Counselling Center for Adults (SY.KE.OM.) is located at 5 Stadiou street, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, office 714.
- It is staffed by student volunteers who have been trained in the basics of Counselling and Communication. After their initial training, they offer their services.
- Services of the Counselling Centre:
  - Conversations about emotional or academic issues.
  - Evenings full of discussion, information and support.
  - New teachers support group.
  - Training of new volunteers.

#### Solidarity Group: Samatasavvata



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