

GREECE

SWIMMING SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Reason for introducing the programme → High rate of drowning despite Greece's extensive coastline
→ Develop swimming skills
→ Create a certain mentality in young people in Greece
→ Not all parents can afford to enroll their children to private swimming clubs

Practical issues → Public schools in Greece do not have swimming facilities
→ Cooperation with the Municipalities and the Hellenic Swimming Federation was needed
→ More staff needed (specialized in swimming)

OBJECTIVES

Safety → Students learn about the importance of hygiene

- They acquire knowledge of First Aid
- They develop a healthy attitude to swimming (when, where, and how to swim)

Skills → Students familiarize themselves with the aquatic environment through play

- They develop social skills (pair/group activities)
- They are exposed to a variety of swimming techniques according to their age and level of competence

APPROACH

Policy/Scheme:

- 2015 implementation year in Athens (pilot)
- 12 hours/per year for students aged 8 and 9 years old
- Teacher-Student ratio 1:10
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Ministry of Education Research and Religious Affairs, the Hellenic Swimming Federation, Municipalities, Districts
- Safety measures during transportation and training
- Free transportation to and from nearby swimming pools
- Part of the Physical Education Course

Action Plan:

- Instructors and Physical Education teachers work collaboratively
- Swimming instructors use a variety of techniques to familiarize with the aquatic environment.
- Enhancing social and integration skills: → Students work in groups
 - They learn how to trust one another
 - They learn the value of cooperation and fair play
 - Incorporation of refugee children in the programme (51)
 - Incorporation of disabled children in the programme (187)



RESULTS

- 2015-2016, Pilot project around Athens schools.
- 2016-2017, 2210 groups, 40000 pupils and 174 teachers of physical education
- 2017-2018, 2800 groups, more than 44000 pupils and 260 teachers of physical education

The increasing number of schools incorporating the programme in their curriculum testifies its success

FUTURE PLAN: All primary schools and all levels of primary education

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Difficulties in implementing the programme in areas without the necessary/appropriate facilities,
- Some families are not open to the idea,
- + Recruitment of staff,
- + Familiarization with the aquatic environment,
- + Upgrading of the Physical Education course.

REFERENCES

www.minedu.gov.gr

<http://www.gss.gov.gr/>

<https://koe.org.gr/>