

# Athina Anna Christopoulou

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

### JOB DESCRIPTION:

- **Head of the Unit for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, National Representative of Board – Elected Member of Management Board of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education**
- **External Associate, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens**

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Tel.: 2103442928

## EDUCATION

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2012-present | <b><i>PhD candidate in Special - Inclusive Education, National &amp; Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Early Childhood Education</i></b>  |
| 2007-2011    | <b><i>MEd «Studies on Education», Hellenic Open University</i></b>   |
| 2007-2010    | <b><i>MA in Education and Human Rights (Specialization: Special Education), National &amp; Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Early Childhood Education &amp; London School of Education</i></b> |
| 2003-2004    | <b><i>Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling and Vocational Guidance, The Higher School of Pedagogical and Technological Education (ASPETE)</i></b>   |
| 1999-2001    | <b><i>MEd Educational Psychology, University of Manchester, England</i></b>  |

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|--------------|---|
| 1993-1997    | <b><i>BSc Philosophy School, University of Ioannina, Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology (Specialization: Psychology)</i></b>  |
| 2018-present | <b>Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs &amp; Sports, Department of Special Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head of the Unit for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</li><li>• National Representative of Board / Elected Member of Management Board of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education</li></ul> |
| 2015- 2018   | <b>Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs &amp; Sports, Department of Special Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondment at the Unit of Education and Projects Implementation</li><li>• National Representative of Board / Elected Member of Management Board of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education</li></ul>                |
| 2013- 2015   | <b>Institute of Educational Policy, Ministry of Education &amp; Religious Affairs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondment at the Unit of Research, Design &amp; Implementation B</li></ul>   |
| 2012- 2013   | <b>Institute of Educational Policy, Ministry of Education &amp; Religious Affairs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondment at the Unit for European &amp; International Educational Policy</li></ul>  |

2010- 2012	<b>Pedagogical Institute, Ministry of Education &amp; Religious Affairs</b> • Secondment at the Unit of Special Education, Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs
2009- 2010	<b>Centre for the Differential Diagnosis, Diagnosis and Special Needs Support, 4<sup>th</sup> Directorate of Secondary Education, Athens, Ministry of Education &amp; Religious Affairs</b> Special Needs Teacher
2008-2009	<b>High School of Sifnos (Inclusion class)</b> Special Needs Teacher
2007-2008	<b>Laboratory of Special Vocational Education of Elefsina, West Attica Directorate of Secondary Education</b> Special Needs Teacher
2005-2007	<b>Laboratory of Special Vocational Education of Pyrgos, Elia Directorate of Secondary Education</b> Special Needs Teacher
2005-2006	<b>Laboratory of Special Vocational Education of Elefsina, West Attica Directorate of Secondary Education</b> Special Needs Teacher
2002-2005	<b>Centre of Vocational Education «DIASTASI»</b> Vulnerable Groups Counsellor
1999-2002	<b>Burnage High School: Learning Support Unit, Manchester, UK</b> <b>Wigan &amp; Leigh College, UK</b> Special Needs Teacher

## EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-present **A) Teaching as external Associate at the following postgraduate courses of the National & Kapodistrian University:**

a) **Common, Transnational Master's Degree programme titled "School Counselling & Guidance"**, Department of Pedagogy and Primary Education of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens & Department of Psychology, University of Cyprus

- Teaching part of the course titled: «Inclusive Education»
- Teaching part of the obligatory internship seminars
- Teaching part of the lesson: "Internship Supervision"

b) **Master's Degree programme titled: «School Management and Lifelong Learning;** Department of Pedagogy and Primary Education of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

- .Teaching part of the lesson titled: «Inclusive Education»

c) **Master's Degree programme titled: «Special & Inclusive Education»**, European University of Cyprus & Department of Pedagogy and Primary Education of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

Teaching part of the lesson titled: «Inclusive Education»

d) **E-learning Courses of the Centre of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning (CCE/KEDIVIM)**, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

- Contribution of authorship-educational work in the framework of the course titled "Inclusive Education"
- Contribution of authorship-educational work in the framework of the course «Educational inclusion of persons with disabilities and special capacities»

**B) Teaching as external Associate at the following postgraduate course of the University of Western Attica:**

**Interdepartmental Master's Degree titled: «Sciences of Education through innovative technological and biomedical approaches»,** Department of Biomedical Sciences & Department of Education and Support in Early Childhood

- Teaching of the lesson titled: "Educational & Social Inclusion of students with disability and/or special educational needs"
- Teaching part of the lesson titled: «Design & Implementation of Programmes with the method of Projects in the context of education and pedagogy"

- 2010-2015 Teaching as external associate in the lesson: «Counselling and Vocational Guidance of people with special needs and members of vulnerable social groups» in the context of the **Master's Degree titled "Counselling and Vocational Guidance", School of Philosophy, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens**
- 2011-2012 Teacher educator in the field "Physical Disability" of the e-learning seminar «**Special Education and Vocational Guidance**», **Centre of Research and Evaluation in Vocational Counselling, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Psychology Department**
- 2009-2010 Teacher Educator in the field "Physical Disability" of the seminar titled «**Special Education & Vocational Guidance**», **Centre of Research and Evaluation in Vocational Counselling (KEAES), National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Psychology Department**

#### PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS

- 2022-present Member of the Greek Ministry of Education Working Group for the European-funded technical support project titled: «**Implementation of the European Child Guarantee - Promoting Inclusive Education in Greece Phase II**», (Technical provider: European Agency for Special Needs & Inclusive Education)
- Coordinator on behalf of the Greek Ministry of Education of the project titled: «**Building Resilience through inclusive education systems**» which is implemented by the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education
- 2022-2017 Coordinator of the Ministry of Education Working Group for the European-funded technical support programme (SRSP) titled: «**Promoting Inclusive Education: addressing challenges in legislation, educational policy and practice**» (Technical Provider: European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education)
- Participation as an expert in the transnational Erasmus+ project titled: «**Upgrading of the inclusive potential of educational institutions that provide vocational education through the utilization of Information and Communication Technologies**». **Coordinator:** Institut für Technologie und Arbeit (ITA), Kaiserslautern
- Participation as coordinator on behalf of Greece in the transnational research project titled: «**Prevention of school failure**», European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education
- Participation as an expert-coordinator on behalf of the Greek Ministry of Education in the transnational project titled: «**Changing the Role of the Special School in supporting inclusive education**», European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education
- Participation as an expert- coordinator on behalf of the Greek Ministry of Education in the transnational project titled: «**Supporting Inclusive School Leadership**», European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education
- Participation as an expert- coordinator on behalf of the Greek Ministry of Education in the transnational project titled «**Country Policy Review & Analysis (CPRA)**», European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education

- 2018-2019 Member of the Greek Ministry of Education's **Working Group for the European committee-funded technical support project (TSI) titled: Cultivating Digital Skills in compulsory education**
- 2016-2017 Participation as an expert-coordinator in the transnational research project titled: «**European Agency Statistics on Inclusive Education (EASIE)**», European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Participation in Scientific Committees-Groups for Policy Shaping

2021-present **Regular Greek Representative in the European Commission's Working Group on equality and values in education and training** in the context of the first cycle (2021 -2025) of the Strategic plan for the European cooperation in education and vocational training in the European Field of Education) (in accordance with No. 163198/H1/14-12-2021 Ministerial Decision)

**Member of the trans-Ministerial Working Group for the Social Protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the context of the National Strategy for the social inclusion and the elimination of Poverty 2021-2027** (in accordance with the No. 1468/07.06.2022 Decision of the Minister of Labour & Social Affairs. Coordinator: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)

**Alternate member of the transministerial working group for the development and supervision of the implementation of Greece's Child Guarantee National Action Plan** Coordinator: National Centre for Social Solidarity.

**Coordinator of the Committee for supervision and assessment of the course of implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Equal Access to Education for Persons with Disabilities of the Greek Ministry of Education** (in accordance with the No. 25198/Δ3/03-03-2021 Ministerial Decision & No. 17821/Δ3/17-02-2022 Ministerial Decision)

**Member of the counselling committee for the supervision of physical accessibility for people with disability of the educational and administrative structures of the Ministry of Education** (in accordance with the No. 81399/Δ3/07-07-2021 Ministerial Decision and the No. 17734/Δ3/17-02-2022 Ministerial Decision)

**Member of the counselling committee for the supervision of the digital accessibility of the educational material and the school webpages** (in accordance with the No. 42112/Δ3/13-04-2021 Ministerial Decision & the No. 169337/Δ3/24-12-2021 Ministerial Decision)

**Member of the working group for the collection of data and assessment of the current legislative context as well as the mapping of ameliorative changes for the education of persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs at all school grades** (in accordance with the No. 31311/Δ3/18-03-2021 Ministerial Decision & the No. 167966/Δ3/22-12-2021 Ministerial Decision)

2019-2020 **Member of the transministerial technical group for the Design of a Strategic Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (Coordinator: Ministry of State)

Member of the Greek Representative Committee for Greece's Assessment **with regard to the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, Geneva, September 2019.

2016-2017 Member of the Working group for the upgrade of Integrated Special Vocational Middle Schools- High Schools

#### Other scientific activity

2015- Participation in research titled: «**Mapping & needs assessment of the schools embedded**

- 2016 **in Special Custody Units and the Reformatory Centre for Juvenile Delinquents»** (Collection, processing and analysis of research data) Coordinator: Institute of Educational Policy
- 2014-2015 Participation in Sub-project 2: «Training of multipliers (school counsellors & special needs teachers) for the development of a guide for differentiating the curricula and digitalization of tools» of the Project: **«Programme of individualized measures to support students with disabilities and/or special educational needs for the maximization of their academic and social development through the utilization of New Technologies and Digital Educational Material»**, as an expert for the development of a Differentiated Instruction Guide for blind people. Coordinator: Institute of Educational Policy.
- 2012-2013 Participation in the implementation of Sub-project 1 of the Project: **«New School (School of the 21<sup>st</sup> century)-New Curricula»** (Priority axis 1,2,3 - Horizontal Action M.I.S. Code 295450), as expert for the development of “Modern Tools for Differentiated Instruction” for Compulsory Education, field “Modern Greek Language and Literature”. Coordinator: Institute of Educational Policy, Ministry of Education
- 2012-2013 Participation in the working group for **the adjustment of Primary and Secondary education books** to the needs of students with amblyopia. Coordinator: Institute of Educational Policy, Ministry of Education
- 2012-2013 Participation in Action 1.5 «Development of accessible digital educational material for blind students” of Subproject 1, Project **«Design and development of accessible educational material for persons with disabilities.** Coordinator: Pedagogic Institute, Ministry of Education
- 2005-2006 Participation in Measure 4.6, **Operational Plan “Integrated Actions for Urban Development of the Western Entry to Corinthos City”**, as counsellor providing support to members of special, vulnerable groups. Coordinator: Technical Education Ltd.
- 2004-2005 Participation in Measure 4.6, **Operational Plan “Support of Employment through applying a Local Quality Agreement (LQA) in the context of Integrated Actions for the Development of Lakonia Prefecture areas”**, as counsellor providing support to members of special, vulnerable groups. Coordinator: Technical Education Ltd.

### Presentations in conferences / Day workshops

- 09/2023 Day Conference: **«The contribution of the Observatory for Disability Issues in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities»**, Organizer: National Confederation of People with Disabilities. Title of presentation: «Building cooperation bridges for the promotion of equal access of persons with disabilities to education»
- 05/2023 International Conference: **“Quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities including autism: Advances in practice and research”**. Organizer: University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki. Title of presentation: “Forging national educational policies for the equal access of students with disabilities and/or special educational needs to education: Goals, priorities, challenges.”
- 03/2023 Day Conference: **«Inclusive Education and refugee students with disabilities and/or special educational needs: challenges and perspectives»**, Organizers: Unit for the Coordination and Supervision of the Education of Refugees & Special Needs Department of the Greek Ministry of Education
- 03/2023 Web Day Conference: **«Projects and interventions for the social and vocational inclusion of Special Vocational Education and Training graduates»**. Organiser: Special Vocational Education and Training of Ag. Dimitrios.
- 12/2022 Web Day Conference **«Special Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: trends, challenges and perspectives»**, **Institute of Educational Policy, Greek Ministry of Education.** Presentation title: Strategic Planning for the Equal Access of students with disabilities to education.

- 04/2021 Round Table: «**Challenges and Lessons Learned from Reform Processes**», in the context of the Conference: «**Equity and Inclusion in Education: Challenges and Perspectives**». Organizers: Portuguese Presidency of the European Committee & European Committee.
- 11/2019 Transnational Day Conference of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Round Table: «**Presentation of the legislative progress of countries in the field of inclusive education**», Budapest. Title of (main) presentation «Developing inclusive education policy and practice in Greece: the current state of affairs & future priorities»
- 06/2019 **11<sup>TH</sup> Panhellenic Child Psychiatry Conference: «Theory and Clinical Practice in the Psychiatry for Children and Juveniles: Tracing new Pathologies»**, Hellenic Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical School of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens & European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Presentation title: Challenges and perspectives in the education of people with disabilities: Findings of an archival research (co-presenter: Emeritus Prof. Athina Zoniou-Sideri)
- 11/2018 **Day Conference «Data on student population with emphasis on students with disabilities and/or special educational needs for the period 2007 - 2016»**  
(Organizers: Centre for the Development of Educational Policies of the General Confederation of Greek Workers & National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities:  
Title of presentation: “Barriers in the equal access of persons with disabilities to education: an archival research”
- 06/2018 Transnational Day Conference of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education: **Financing Policies for Inclusive Education Systems** Presentation title: “Priorities for financing a more inclusive education system”
- 09/2017 **10<sup>o</sup> Panhellenic Child Psychiatry Conference titled: «The child and the juvenile in a world that changes: multidisciplinary approach»**, Hellenic Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Title of presentation: “Inclusive Education in Greece: Issues of Educational Policy and pedagogy (co-presenter: Prof. A. Zoniou-Sideri)
- 06/2016 International Conference titled: **“Purposeful Agency and Governance: A Bridgeable Gap”, University of Kent, UK**  
Title of presentation:  
1. “Considering the dynamics of thresholds: the role of schools within prison heterotopias” (co-presenters: Dr. M.Kokkolaki, G.Papastavriniidou)  
2. “Secondary Education and Vocational Training for Students with Disabilities in Greece: Mapping Heterotopias” (co-presenter: Dr. A. Zoniou-Sideri)
- 04/2016 Day Conference titled: **«Looking at the past, designing the future of special education», Regional Directorate of Education, Thessaly**  
Title of presentation: «Mapping needs in the secondary special vocational education: Considerations and concerns», Greek Ministry of Education
- 03/2016 Evening Conference titled: **«The anthropology of violence II: Tradition & Progress», Greek Society for Ethnology**  
Title of presentation: “School Violence & Bullying: psychological, sociocultural dimensions- anthropology perspectives”
- 01/2016 Conference titled: **“The education of juvenile offenders: Experiences, Challenges and Perspectives”**. Institute of Educational Policy, Volos  
Τίτλος εισήγησης: «Mapping and investigating needs of the educational units functioning within Special Custody Units and the Reformatory Centre for Juvenile Delinquents of Elementary Education» (Co-presenters: Dr. M. Kokkolaki, G. Papastavriniidou)
- 09/2015 **European Conference on Educational Research, Budapest, European Educational Research Association**  
Title of poster: “Secondary Education and Vocational Training of people with disabilities in Greece: Institutions, Concepts and Practices”

- 06/2015 **Evening Conference: «From school to society: The inclusion of students with autism in Greece and the challenge of good practice», Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation**  
Title of presentation: "Inclusive Education in Greece: Particularities, contradictions and perspectives" (Co-presenter: G. Papastavriniidou)
- 05/2015 **Day Conference on school bullying, 1<sup>st</sup> Primary School of Perama, Piraeus**  
Title of presentation: «School violence & bullying: Phenomenon definition, consequences, treatment»
- 05/2015 **Scientific Day Conference titled: «One inclusive school open to all students», Piraeus University & 1<sup>st</sup> Special School of Drapetsona**  
Title of presentation: "Differentiated instruction for the inclusion of students with special educational needs in the general school: Principles, conditions and challenges from the perspective of inclusive pedagogy" (Co-presenter: G. Papastavriniidou)
- 12/2014 **8<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Conference: Science teaching at nursery school. National & Kapodistrian University of Athens**  
Title of presentation: «Differentiated pedagogy & educational inclusion: Conceptual clarifications, ideological background, basic principles»
- 11/2014 **5<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Conference of Counselling Psychology, University of Patras**  
Poster title: «Perceptions, experiences and professional needs of carers of children who live in a Child Protection Institute. (co-presenters: Lia Tsermidou, G.Papastavriniidou)
- 9/2013 **European Conference on Educational Research, Istanbul, European Educational Research Association**  
Presentation title: «Differentiated Pedagogy and Inclusive Education: Limits and possibilities in the context of two recent Greek curriculum reforms» (Co-presenter: G. Papastavriniidou)
- 12/2005 **Day Conference concerning issues of Special Needs, West Attica Directorate of Secondary Education**  
Presentation title: "Education of persons with disabilities: Current trends and perspectives"
- 11/2005 **10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Hellenic Psychological Society, University of Ioannina**  
Title of presentation: "Juvenile persistent delinquency & current educational and psychosocial interventions"

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Zoniou-Sideri, A., Lampropoulou, K., Papastavriniidou, G., Tsermidou L, Christopoulou, A (2020): **Differentiated pedagogy & Inclusive education: theoretical context, concerns and perspectives.** Theory & Praxis in Education, Vol. 6.: *School of Early Childhood Education*, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Available at: <https://ejournals.e-publishing.ekt.gr/index.php/dialogoi/article/view/23334>  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.12681/dial.23334>

Kokkolaki M., Papastavriniidou G., Christopoulou, A. (2023): **Considering the dynamics of thresholds: the role of schools within prison heterotopias.** In the under publication book with the temporary title: *Anthropology and Education*. AnthroNexus Press & CSAC

Christopoulou A. & Zoniou-Sideri A. (2012): **Perceptions and experiences of the personnel of the Centres for Differential Diagnosis, Diagnosis and Support of special educational needs with regard to inclusive education and the elimination of school and social exclusion of children with special needs.**, in: Zoniou A., Nteropoulou-Nterou E., Papadopoulou K. (eds): *Research in special education, inclusive education and disability* (2<sup>nd</sup> collective volume), Athens: Pedio. ISBN: 9789605460952