

IRINI VARELTZI

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General Education Teacher (PE70), Sociologist

I am a permanent primary school teacher with 15 years of experience, having served both as a substitute and a permanent educator. I hold a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from the Department of Sociology at the University of the Aegean. My background, bridging pedagogy and sociology, has helped me understand and address contemporary educational and social issues. I have completed specialized training in intercultural education, special education, and school administration, and I have implemented numerous initiatives with significant community impact regarding racism, bullying, and children's rights. Furthermore, I am involved in topics such as reading promotion, creative writing, environmental education, and European projects (Eco-Schools, eTwinning, Erasmus+ KA122). Finally, I have participated in pedagogical and sociological publications, many of which were presented at scientific conferences (e.g., Hellenic Psychological Society - HPS, 2017).

EDUCATION

2023–2024: *Organization, Administration, Leadership and Operation of School Units*, 9-month professional development programme (338-hour online course), Centre for Training and Lifelong Learning, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. **Certificate awarded:** 17 July 2024.

2023–2024: *Special Education and Training: Identification, Differential Diagnosis and Intervention*, 9-month professional development programme (440-hour online course), Centre for Training and Lifelong Learning, University of the Aegean. **Certificate awarded:** 1 May 2024.

2019–2020: *Intercultural Education: Theoretical and Experiential Approaches*, 7-month professional development programme (410-hour online course), Centre for Training and Lifelong Learning, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. **Certificate awarded:** 4 June 2020.

2014–2016: M.A. in *Research on Local Social Development and Cohesion*, Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean (**Grade: Excellent**).

Master's Thesis: *Low Academic Achievement and Social Exclusion: Views of General Education Primary School Teachers in Lesvos*.

2009–2014: B.A. in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean (**Grade: Very Good**).

2005–2009: B.Ed. in Primary Education, Department of Primary Education, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (**Grade: Very Good**).

2005: Graduate of the 5th General Lyceum of Mytilene.

SHORT-TERM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024:

1. **ECML Training and Consultancy Workshop: *Language of Schooling: Developing Language Awareness in Subject Classes***, European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML), Directorate for European and International Affairs, Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, 18–19 June 2024.
2. Professional development and experiential training activities for teachers organized by the **WEGERLAND European Centre**, entitled *Refugee Education: Investing in People, Investing in the Future*, organized by the Regional Directorate of Education of the North Aegean in cooperation with the Independent Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, 26–27 March 2024.

2023:

Induction Training Programme for Newly Appointed Teachers (96 hours, 20 February–12 May 2023), implemented under the project *Induction Training for Teachers* (MIS 5070654), co-funded by Greece and the European Union through the Operational Programme *Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning 2014–2020*, Institute of Educational Policy (IEP). **Certificate awarded:** 28 August 2023.

2021:

Teacher Training on Skills through Educational Workshops (15 September–24 October 2021), implemented under the project *Teacher Training on Skills through Educational Workshops* (MIS 5092064), co-funded by Greece and the European Union through the Operational Programme *Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning 2014–2020*, Institute of Educational Policy (IEP). **Certificate awarded:** 1 November 2021.

2014:

Phase A and B Training Programme under the project *Specialized Educational Support Programme for the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs*, Priority Axes 1, 2 and 3 of the Operational Programme *Education and Lifelong Learning* (NSRF 2007–2013), organized by the Ministry of Education and the Regional Training Centre (PEK) of Mytilene, Lesvos, 17–21 March 2014.

2012:

Professional Development Seminar: *The New Curriculum for the Teaching of Modern Greek Language – Teaching Scenarios and Instructional Strategies for the Meaningful Approach to Texts (Active–Critical Reading)*, organized by the Ministry of Education and the School Advisor of the 4th Primary Education District of Lesvos, 25 May 2012.

2010:

Induction Training Programme for Substitute Teachers, organized by the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, Regional Directorate of Primary Education of Attica, 2nd Regional Training Centre (PEK) of Athens, co-funded by the NSRF, 18 October–17 December 2010.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022–Present: Permanent Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **9th Primary School of Mytilene** (14-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2021–2022: Permanent Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Loutra** (6-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2020–2021: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **3rd Primary School of Mytilene** (12-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2019–2020: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Vareia** (6-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2018–2019: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Kato Tritos** (6-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2017–2018: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Polichnitos** (12-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2016–2017: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Kalloni** (6-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2015–2016: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Eresos** (6-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2014–2015: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Vrisa** (3-teacher school) and **Primary School of Vareia** (6-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2013–2014: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education) providing **parallel support** to a pupil with **amblyopia**, **Primary School of Taxiarches** (6-teacher school), Lesvos, Greece.

2012–2013: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **Primary School of Sykaminea** (3-teacher school, remote and hard-to-staff area), Lesvos, Greece.

2011–2012: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **1st Primary School of Myrina** (6-teacher school), Lemnos, Greece.

2010–2011: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **21st Primary School of Acharnes** (12-teacher school), Thrakomakedones, East Attica, Greece.

2009–2010: Substitute Primary Education Teacher (General Education), **6th Primary School of Acharnes** (6-teacher school), East Attica, Greece.

SKILLS

FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

- 2024–2025 (ongoing): Attending Spanish language courses in preparation for obtaining a B2-level certification.
- 2002: English language certification (C2 – Cambridge Proficiency in English, CPE).
- 2002: German language certification (B1 level).

ICT SKILLS:

- 2019–2021: ICT user competence – Level B1 Certification: ICT skills and knowledge. (Provider: Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs – OEPEK – ESF-funded program).
- 2019: KeyCERT IT Initial (Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Internet Services), 19/02/2019, Registration No. 57759, EOPPEP.
- 2011: ICT user competence – Level A Certification: ICT skills and knowledge. (Provider: Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs – OEPEK – ESF-funded program).

OTHER SKILLS:

- 2014: Certification in the Braille reading and writing system, 09/2014, Center for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind (KEAT), Thessaloniki.

CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

2026: Participation in the **10th Regular Conference of the Hellenic Sociological Society (HSS)**, *"Sociology in the Contemporary World of Multiple Uncertainties"* (26–28 June), with the paper entitled: **"The Role of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE) in the Institutionalization of Private Universities: Quality Assurance or a Mechanism of Higher Education Governance?"**

2017: Participation in the **16th Conference on Psychological Research**, *"Individuals, Institutions, Society: The World of Psychology"* (10–14 May 2017), with the following presentations:

- **A.** *"Social Representations of Migrants and Refugees among the Residents of Mytilene."*
- **B.** *"Who Is the Stranger to Me...?": Social Representations among Sixth-Grade Primary School Students in Lesvos Prefecture."*
- **C.** *"The 'Profile' of Students with Low Academic Achievement: Interpretations and Representations of Teachers in Lesvos Prefecture."*

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Presentations (Peer-Reviewed; Abstracts Published in Conference Abstract Book)

Giavrimis, P., Vareltzi, E., & Koutrouka, T. (2017, May 10–14). *Who is the "stranger" to me...? Social representations among sixth-grade students in Lesvos* [Conference presentation]. 16th Panhellenic Conference of Psychological Research: Individuals, Institutions, Society: The World of Psychology, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Koutrouka, T., Vareltzi, E., & Giavrimis, P. (2017, May 10–14). *Social representations of immigrants and refugees among the residents of Mytilene* [Conference presentation]. 16th Panhellenic Conference of Psychological Research: Individuals, Institutions, Society: The World of Psychology, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Vareltzi, E., & Giavrimis, P. (2017, May 10–14). *The profile of students with low academic achievement: Teachers' interpretations and representations in Lesvos* [Conference presentation]. 16th Panhellenic Conference of Psychological Research: Individuals, Institutions, Society: The World of Psychology, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Note: Since these presentations were published only in the conference abstract book (without full proceedings), the designation [Conference presentation] is appropriate in APA 7.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Vareltzi, E., & Giavrimis, P. (2018). *Students with low academic achievement and labeling theory*. Sciences of Education, 1, 137–152. <https://ejournals.lib.uoc.gr/edusci>

PRESENTATIONS

2017 – Presentation of Research Findings, Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean (8 May 2017). Presented findings from a qualitative study conducted with sixth-grade students from Kalloni Primary School, where I was teaching. The study employed content analysis of students' essays to explore the relationship between **low academic achievement** and students' **cultural capital**.

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS AND SCHOOL-BASED INITIATIVES

Selected educational projects and initiatives from recent years are presented below.

2023–2024

1. **Environmental Education Initiative – "Let's Do It, Greece"**
Organized and implemented an environmental awareness activity involving the clean-up of a nearby beach as part of the national "Let's Do It, Greece" campaign.
2. **Volunteerism Promotion Initiative – Hellenic Red Cross Competition**
Coordinated students' participation in the **Hellenic Red Cross** volunteerism competition. Students produced and presented a video promoting volunteerism, for which the class received an **Honorary Commendation** from the Hellenic Red Cross.
3. **Childhood Cancer Awareness Campaign**
Designed and produced a public awareness video for **International Childhood Cancer Day**, aiming to foster empathy and raise awareness within the local community.
4. **Animal Welfare Awareness Initiative**
Coordinated students' participation in the **Municipality of Mytilene** competition through the creation of a video promoting the protection and welfare of stray animals.
5. **School Journalism Project – "Young Journalists"**
Coordinated a school journalism project that included:
 - Educational visit to local media organizations;
 - Publication of the school newspaper, *Young Journalists of the 9th Primary School in Action*;
 - Collaboration with journalist **Stratis Samiotis** from the local newspaper *Ta Nea tis Lesvou*, who supervised and supported students throughout the project.

2022–2023

1. **Anti-Bullying Awareness Campaign**
Coordinated the production of a student-created awareness video addressing school bullying. The project received extensive coverage by local media and generated significant engagement within the local community.
2. **Children's Rights Awareness Project**
Co-organized a school initiative on children's rights through the production of audiovisual educational material (video) in collaboration with fellow teachers.
3. **Mother's Day Educational Video Project**
Coordinated the creation of a video highlighting the role of mothers within the family in celebration of **Mother's Day**.

PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

2024–2025

- Participated in the **eTwinning** programme (*Project title: A.II. Inclusive*).
- Participated in the **Erasmus+ KA122** project as a member of the school's pedagogical team.
- Participated in the **Eco-Schools** programme.

2023–2024

- Participated in the **Eco-Schools** programme.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES

2026:

- Participated as a **Delegate** in the **95th General Assembly of the Hellenic Primary Teachers' Federation (DOE)**.

2025–2026:

- Candidate with the **Autonomous Network of Teachers** in the elections for:
 - the **Lesvos Prefectural Department of the Civil Servants' Confederation (ADEDY)** (November 2025), and
 - the **Lesvos Primary Teachers' Association** (June 2026) for the Board of Directors and delegates to the **Hellenic Primary Teachers' Federation (DOE)**.
- Elected **Treasurer** of the Lesvos Prefectural Department of **ADEDY**.
- Elected **Board Member** of the Lesvos Primary Teachers' Association (the Board has not yet been formally constituted).
- Elected **Delegate** to the **Hellenic Primary Teachers' Federation (DOE)**.

2024:

- Candidate with the **Collective of Teachers** in the elections for teachers' representatives to the **Regional Primary Education Service Councils (PYSPE–APYSPE)** (November 2024).