

BUILDRES Project

Project number: 2024-2-CY01-KA220-YOU-000295718

EU COUNTRIES DESK RESEARCH

Partner organisation: University of Thessaly

Research on: Greece

1. Country overview

Greek population is 10.400.720, with the registered births in 2023 to be 71.455. In comparison to the year 2022, ELSTAT proves a 6,1% decrease (ELSTAT, 2024). In comparison to the rest of the European Union that has an average of 1,45 birth per woman, World Bank shows that the total fertility rate of Greece in 2023 was 1,32 births per woman (World Bank, 2024).

Regarding the **average age of mothers at childbirth** in Greece in 2023, it was approximately around 32 years old, placing Greece among the EU countries where women give birth at relatively older ages (ELSTAT, 2024; Eurostat, 2024).

As far as employment status concerned, despite OECD data show that **over 90% of employed mothers** in Greece work **full-time**, while **fewer than 10%** are employed part-time (OECD, 2021), still the maternal employment rate is lower compared to other EU countries. This is due to limited childcare infrastructure and traditional gender role expectations (OECD, 2021; Eurofound, 2023).

Greece seems to remain a traditional society. According to ELIAMEP study of 2025, **48% of survey's respondents** agreed with the statement that *"women should give priority to family responsibilities over their career"*, compared with an **EU average of 34%** (ELIAMEP, 2025). In addition, Greek mothers perform an average of **4.7 hours per day** of domestic and care work, significantly higher than fathers, underlining the persistence of gendered divisions of labour within the household (Kathimerini, 2025).

2. Healthcare services available & accessibility

Focusing specifically on Public Healthcare Entitlements, Greece operates a **public health system (ESY – Ethniko Systima Ygeias)**, financed through taxation and social security contributions, which provides free or heavily subsidised health services to insured residents (those paying into EFKA or equivalent). Eligible individuals who can take use of it are employees, pensioners, the unemployed who maintain social insurance contributions and they are entitled to obstetric, prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal services within the public hospitals. In terms of reproductive health entitlements, **abortion is legal in Greece** since 1986, with on-demand termination allowed up to the 12th week, and in special circumstances later (e.g. rape, fetal abnormality, health risks). **Assisted reproductive technologies** (ART / IVF) are regulated by law, possible to women up to age **54**, including unmarried women and cohabiting couples. **Postnatal care** is typically hospital-based: mothers stay on average about **three days** in the public hospital after the birth.

3. Financial and Social Benefits Related to Family, Parenthood, and Health:

Maternity and Paternity Leave

Women insured under the national social insurance fund (**EFKA**) are entitled to **17 weeks (119 days)** of fully paid maternity leave; 8 weeks before and 9 after childbirth. An additional **six-month special maternity leave**, paid at the national minimum wage, is available through **DYPA** (formerly OAED). Fathers are entitled to **14 consecutive days** of paid paternity leave, and both parents can take up to **four months of parental leave** until the child reaches eight years old (Law 4808/2021; transposing EU Directive 2019/1158).

Family and Child Benefits

The **Child Benefit (Epidoma Paidiou)**, administered by **OPEKA**, is a means-tested monthly allowance ranging from **€42–70 per child**, increasing with family size. In addition, since 2020 all families receive a **€2,000 birth allowance per child**, paid in two instalments (Law 4659/2020). Low-income or large families may also access **nursery subsidies, housing aid, and heating or energy support**, depending on income thresholds.

Non-Governmental and Community Services

Civil-society actors complement public provision. **AMURTEL Greece** supports refugee and migrant mothers with prenatal and postpartum care; **Babel Day Center** offers multilingual mental-health services; **Médecins du Monde Greece** and **IASIS NGO** provide reproductive and psychosocial health for vulnerable groups; and **Hope Center Athens** offers pregnancy counselling and support.

Hotlines and Emergency Services

- **15900** – National Domestic Violence Helpline (24/7, women's support)
- **1018** – Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Hotline (*Klimaka NGO*)
- **166** – National Ambulance / Medical Emergencies (EKAV)
- **112** – European emergency number (multi-service)

Digital Resources and Online Platforms

Migrants and citizens can access reliable information and care through:

- **doctoranytime.gr** – database for booking private doctors (gynecologists, psychologists, etc.);
- **migration.gov.gr** – official information on healthcare entitlements for migrants;
- **babeldc.gr** and **greece.amurtel.org** – multilingual reproductive and mental-health resources;

Name of the organisation	National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (EOPYY – Εθνικός Οργανισμός Παροχής Υπηρεσιών Υγείας)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	EOPYY is Greece’s main public health authority, coordinating access to hospitals, clinics, and contracted doctors. It covers maternal, reproductive, and mental health care for insured citizens and residents through the public health system (ESY). Eligible individuals must be nationally insured.
Country	Greece
Mail	info@eopyy.gov.gr
Phone	+30 210 811 0600
Website	https://www.gov.gr/upourgeia/upourgeio-ugeias/ethnikos-organismos-parokhes-uperesion-ugeias-eopuu
Address	
Name of the organisation	IVF Athens Center (Κέντρο Εξωσωματικής Αθηνών)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Accredited fertility clinic offering assisted reproduction (IVF, egg freezing, donor programmes) in line with Law 4958/2022. Provides accessible reproductive health services to Greek and international patients with licensed medical staff.
Country	Greece
Mail	info@ivfathenscenter.gr
Phone	+30 210 681 3363
Website	www.ivfathenscenter.gr
Address	Kifisias Ave 5, 115 23 Athens
Name of the organisation	Babel Day Center – Syn Eirmos NGO (Κέντρο Ημέρας Βαβέλ)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Babel provides free, culturally competent mental health and psychosocial services for migrants and refugees in Athens. It operates multidisciplinary teams (psychologists, social workers, interpreters) and promotes mental-health accessibility.
Country	Greece
Mail	babel@syn-eirmos.gr
Phone	+30 210 861 6266 / +30 210 861 6280
Website	www.babeldc.gr
Address	I. Drosopoulou 72, 112 57 Athens
Name of the organisation	DoctorAnyTime Greece
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	A national online platform connecting patients with certified doctors across Greece. Users can search by specialty (gynecology, psychiatry, psychology, fertility, etc.), location, availability, and language, and book appointments online.
Country	Greece
Mail	contact@doctoranytime.gr
Phone	+30 210 300 9323
Website	www.doctoranytime.gr
Address	



Name of the organisation	Papageorgiou General Hospital (Γενικό Νοσοκομείο Παπαγεωργίου)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Major public hospital in Thessaloniki providing high-quality maternity, gynecology, neonatal, and general medical care. It operates under the National Health System and offers free or low-cost services for insured citizens.
Country	Greece
Mail	info@papageorgiou-hospital.gr
Phone	+30 2313 323 000
Website	www.papageorgiou-hospital.gr
Address	Ring Road, N. Efkarpia, 564 03 Thessaloniki