



**Youth**Partnership

# **FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN GREECE**



**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France  
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: [youth-partnership@coe.int](mailto:youth-partnership@coe.int) :: [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

## Table of contents

1) Risk of poverty .....	3
2) Social Subsistence/Protection.....	3
3) Equal opportunities .....	4
ANNEX 5.....	5
ANNEX 6.....	6

## 1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	Results
At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006	Less than 18	23,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>work income</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward</a> . EC.2008 p.158	2005		<b>81,4</b>
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Unemployment benefit</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward</a> . EC.2008 p.158	2005		<b>2,8</b>
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Family allowance</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward</a> . EC.2008 p.158	2005		<b>2,2</b>
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward</a> . EC.2008 p.166	2005		<b>29</b>
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward</a> . EC.2008 p.166	2005		<b>65</b>
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward</a> . EC.2008 p.166	2005		<b>50</b>
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward</a> . EC.2008 p.166	2005		<b>2</b>
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Single parent with dependent children</b> (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		30,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household without dependent children</b> (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		19,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household with dependent children</b> (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		23,00

## 2) Social Subsistence/Protection

Social protection in Greece is carried out via three systems: social security system, social welfare system and the national health system. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2005, pp. 5.)

Social security in Greece is enshrined in the Constitution (article 22, par. 5 of the Constitution). The social security system operates with self-governed security organisations and covers the working population throughout Greece. It is divided into three pillars: The system of main and auxiliary compulsory insurance (1st pillar), the occupational supplementary (2nd pillar) and the private insurance policies (3<sup>rd</sup> pillar). The

main and auxiliary insurance system is based on the pay-as-you go system, while the occupational insurance is a funded scheme/system. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006, pp. 45.)

The Healthcare scheme in Greece could be described as a mixed system between the Bismarck model (active role and presence of social insurance) and the Beveridge model (main funding provided through the national Budget). The main elements of the Greek Healthcare Scheme are as follows:

- Insurance (there are 30 healthcare regimes or health insurance bodies) which guarantees health insurance and ensures free access to and free of charge use of health services.
- Benefits and provision of services (health services) which include (a) the National Health System (ESY) (public hospitals and healthcare dispensaries), (b) the Units which belong to social security funds, mainly IKA, (polyvalent surgeries, surgeries and special centers), and (c) private practitioners and centers approved by the social security offices (doctors of various branches, clinics, diagnostic centers and laboratories).

Although private health insurance is rather limited in Greece compared to other E.U countries, this market segment has been developing over the last years. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006, pp. 51.)

There is also an allowance for young people (20 – 29 years age) in Greece. The allowance is paid to young people in condition that they are unemployed and have been registered in the unemployed persons list for one year. The allowance is 73 Euro per month and is paid for a period of 5 months. It aims at supporting the new entrants in the labour market. (OECD Social Policy Division 2005, pp. 3.)

In addition, also family allowances are paid in Greece. There is a general scheme and supplementary amounts on employer's part. The children must be younger than 18 years or younger than 22 years if they study. (General scheme) The amounts of the allowances following the adjustment for the year 2004 are as follows: 1 child 8,22 €, 2 children 24,65 €, 3 children 55,47 €, 4 children 67,35 € per month. For every additional child 11,298 € (OECD-Social Policy Division 2005, pp.6.)

#### **Sources:**

Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2005. [Greek National Strategy Report on Pensions](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006. [National Strategy Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2006 – 2008](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

OECD Social Policy Division 2005. Directorate of Employment Labour and Social Affairs. [Country Chapter – Benefits and Wages, Greece](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

### **3) Equal opportunities**

Disabled children, who can continue their studies at lyceums or tertiary education, are given the possibility to do so. There are 35 special schools for deaf children and 20 for the physically handicapped. Blind children attend regular education secondary schools, while all disabled students can continue their studies in the university without entrance examinations. (European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education 2007.)

Disabled individuals may go to nursery schools, elementary schools, high schools, lyceum, TEE (technical vocational institutes) and to Special Vocational Education and Training Laboratories, depending on their age and their skills.

Education and Religious Affairs Ministry's interventions on cross-cultural education cover mainly four population groups: gypsies, Muslims from Thrace, Greeks of the Diaspora, repatriated individuals and foreigners. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006.)

The Ministry of Welfare estimated that there were 180 thousand to 200 thousand children with special education needs, out of whom only 18 585 attend in school in 2004 due to either lack of special schools in their area or deficient accessibility. (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor 2006.)

Youth unemployment remains at very high levels in Greece, among other things to a mismatch between education and labour market. In a context of high unemployment, the role of the family for the employment perspectives of its members becomes more and more important. Many unemployed youngsters resort to the family network in order to obtain a job. The persistence of high youth unemployment and high costs of children's education borne by families contribute to a deterioration of their financial status. Unemployment among those under age 25 has decreased slightly in recent years to 25,7 %. Young workers are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than those 25 years and older. Youth unemployment is believed to have contributed to the delay in marriage, family formation, and the decrease in fertility rates. (Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies 2004.)

#### **Sources:**

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor 2006. U.S. Department of State. [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices -2005 - Greece](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

[Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies – Greece](#). Columbia University, Greece. Referred 19.10.2008.

European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education 2007. [Complete National Overview Greece](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006. [National Strategy Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2006 – 2008](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

## **ANNEX 5**

### **SOCIAL SUBSISTANCE/PROTECTION**

Social protection in Greece is carried out via three systems: social security system, social welfare system and the national health system. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2005, pp. 5.)

Social security in Greece is enshrined in the Constitution (article 22, par. 5 of the Constitution). The social security system operates with self-governed security organisations and covers the working population throughout Greece. It is divided into three pillars: The system of main and auxiliary compulsory insurance (1st pillar), the occupational supplementary (2nd pillar) and the private insurance policies (3<sup>rd</sup> pillar). The main and auxiliary insurance system is based on the pay-as-you go system, while the occupational insurance is a funded scheme/system. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006, pp. 45.)

The Healthcare scheme in Greece could be described as a mixed system between the Bismarck model (active role and presence of social insurance) and the Beveridge model (main funding provided though the national Budget). The main elements of the Greek Healthcare Scheme are as follows:

- Insurance (there are 30 healthcare regimes or health insurance bodies) which guarantees health insurance and ensures free access to and free of charge use of health services.
- Benefits and provision of services (health services) which include (a) the National Health System (ESY) (public hospitals and healthcare dispensaries), (b) the Units which belong to social security funds, mainly IKA, (polyvalent surgeries, surgeries and special centers), and (c) private practitioners and centers approved by the social security offices (doctors of various branches, clinics, diagnostic centers and laboratories).

Although private health insurance is rather limited in Greece compared to other E.U countries, this market segment has been developing over the last years. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006, pp. 51.)

There is also an allowance for young people (20 – 29 years age) in Greece. The allowance is paid to young people in condition that they are unemployed and have been registered in the unemployed persons list for one year. The allowance is 73 Euro per month and is paid for a period of 5 months. It aims at supporting the new entrants in the labour market. (OECD Social Policy Division 2005, pp. 3.)

In addition, also family allowances are paid in Greece. There is a general scheme and supplementary amounts on employer's part. The children must be younger than 18 years or younger than 22 years if they study. (General scheme) The amounts of the allowances following the adjustment for the year 2004 are as follows: 1 child 8,22 €, 2 children 24,65 €, 3 children 55,47 €, 4 children 67,35 € per month. For every additional child 11,298 € (OECD-Social Policy Division 2005, pp.6.)

#### **Sources:**

Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2005.

[Greek National Strategy Report on Pensions](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006.

[National Strategy Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2006 – 2008](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

OECD Social Policy Division 2005. Directorate of Employment Labour and Social Affairs.

[Country Chapter – Benefits and Wages, Greece](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

## **ANNEX 6**

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Disabled children, who can continue their studies at lyceums or tertiary education, are given the possibility to do so. There are 35 special schools for deaf children and 20 for the physically handicapped. Blind children attend regular education secondary schools, while all disabled students can continue their studies in the university without entrance examinations. (European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education 2007.)

Disabled individuals may go to nursery schools, elementary schools, high schools, lyceum, TEE (technical vocational institutes) and to Special Vocational Education and Training Laboratories, depending on their age and their skills. Education and Religious Affairs Ministry's interventions on cross-cultural education cover mainly four population groups:

gypsies, Muslims from Thrace, Greeks of the Diaspora, repatriated individuals and foreigners. (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006.)

The Ministry of Welfare estimated that there were 180 thousand to 200 thousand children with special education needs, out of whom only 18 585 attend in school in 2004 due to either lack of special schools in their area or deficient accessibility. (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor 2006.)

Youth unemployment remains at very high levels in Greece, among other things to a mismatch between education and labour market. In a context of high unemployment, the role of the family for the employment perspectives of its members becomes more and more important. Many unemployed youngsters resort to the family network in order to obtain a job. The persistence of high youth unemployment and high costs of children's education borne by families contribute to a deterioration of their financial status. Unemployment among those under age 25 has decreased slightly in recent years to 25,7 %. Young workers are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than those 25 years and older. Youth unemployment is believed to have contributed to the delay in marriage, family formation, and the decrease in fertility rates. (Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies 2004.)

**Sources :**

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor 2006. U.S. Department of State.

[Country Reports on Human Rights Practices -2005 - Greece](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

[Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies – Greece](#).

Columbia University, Greece. Referred 19.10.2008.

European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education 2007. [Complete National Overview Greece](#). Referred 19.10.2008.

Ministry of Employment and Social Protection 2006.

[National Strategy Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2006 – 2008](#). Referred 19.10.2008.