

HELLENIC REPUBLIC GREECE

Public Administration Country Profile

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
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GREECE

[Click here](#) for detailed map



Source: [The World Factbook - Greece](#)

In 1967 a putsch took place resulting in a military dictatorship. Political personalities were arrested, thrown in jail and sent to exile. The military junta abolished the 1952 Constitution as well as most political liberties, imposed censorship to the media, and abolished political parties. Student revolts broke out in the fall of 1973 and in July 1974 the junta resigned.

After a nationwide referendum in 1974, the monarchy was abolished and the constitution took its present form.ⁱ The political party of New Democracy (ND), under the leadership of Costantinos Karamanlis, won the first elections following the political changeover.

In the 1977 elections ND won again, while the Panhellenic Social Party (PASOK), under the leadership of Andreas Papandreou, came in as the second major party.

Greece officially became a member of the European Community in 1981. In the parliamentary elections in October the same year PASOK won a decisive victory, and Andreas Papandreou became the first socialist Prime Minister of the country.

The 2004 elections ended the PASOK rule that had lasted since 1993.ⁱⁱ

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Modern Greece](#)

Government type

Parliamentary republic

Independence

1829 (from the Ottoman Empire)

Constitution

11 June 1975; amended March 1986 and April 2001 ([click here](#))

Legal system

Based on codified Roman law; judiciary divided into civil, criminal, and administrative courts

Administrative divisions

13 regions and 51 prefectures (nomos) and 1 autonomous region (Agion Oros - Mount Athos)

Source: [The World Factbook - Greece](#)

ⁱ [Greece Now - Country Profile](#)

ⁱⁱ [Greece Now - "New Democracy claims victory" \(2004\)](#)

1. General Information

| 1.1 People | Greece | Portugal | Spain | 1 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|
| Population | | | | a |
| Total estimated population (,000), 2003 | 10,976 | 10,062 | 41,061 | |
| Female estimated population (,000), 2003 | 5,567 | 5,223 | 20,928 | |
| Male estimated population (,000), 2003 | 5,409 | 4,839 | 20,133 | |
| Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2003 | 97 | 93 | 96 | |
| Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2000-2005 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.21 | |
| Youth and Elderly Population | | | | b |
| Total population under age 15 (%), 2003 | 15 | 17 | 14 | |
| Female population aged 60+ (%), 2003 | 26 | 24 | 24 | |
| Male population aged 60+ (%), 2003 | 22 | 18 | 19 | |
| Human Settlements | | | | c |
| Urban population (%), 2001 | 60 | 66 | 78 | |
| Rural population (%), 2001 | 40 | 34 | 22 | |
| Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05 | 0.46 | 1.93 | 0.28 | |
| Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05 | -0.62 | -3.61 | -1.08 | |
| Education | | | | d |
| Total school life expectancy, 2000/2001 | 14.9 | .. | 15.5 | 1 |
| Female school life expectancy, 2000/2001 | 15.1 | .. | 15.7 | 1 |
| Male school life expectancy, 2000/2001 | .. | .. | 15.2 | 1 |
| Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 1991 | 4.1 | 10.1 | 3.2 | 2 |
| Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 1991 | 1.5 | 5.3 | 1.5 | 2 |
| Employment | | | | e |
| Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 2001 | 10.2 ⁱ | 4 ⁱⁱ | 10.5 ⁱⁱⁱ | 1 |
| Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2001 | 38 | 54 ^{iv} | 40 ^v | 2 |
| Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2001 | 61 | 71 ^{iv} | 66 ^v | 2 |

Notes: ⁱ Second quarter of year; ⁱⁱ 2000, Data with an error of more than 20% are not published; ⁱⁱⁱ Age 16+ years; ^{iv} De jure population; ^v Age 16+ years, Excluding conscripts, De jure population

| 1.2 Economy | Greece | Portugal | Spain | 2 |
|---|---------|-------------------|---------|---|
| GDP | | | | a |
| GDP total (millions US\$), 2002 | 132,834 | 121,291 | 649,792 | |
| GDP per capita (US\$), 2002 | 12,495 | 12,090 | 15,779 | |
| PPP GDP total (millions int. US\$), 2002 | 193,312 | 178,644 | 852,320 | |
| PPP GDP per capita(int. US\$), 2002 | 18,184 | 17,807 | 20,697 | |
| Sectors | | | | b |
| Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2002 | 7.4 | 3.9 ⁱ | 3.4 | |
| Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2002 | 22.4 | 30.4 ⁱ | 30.1 | |
| Value added in services (% of GDP), 2002 | 70.3 | 65.7 ⁱ | 66.5 | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | c |
| GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2003 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 4.3 | |
| Private consumption (% of GDP), 2002 | 67.3 | .. | 57.9 | |
| Government consumption (% of GDP), 2002 | 15.8 | .. | 17.6 | |

Notes: ⁱ 1999

¹ [United Nations Statistics Division](#):

^a [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^b [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^c [Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^{d1} [UNESCO](#); ^{d2} [UNESCO](#); ^{e1} [ILO](#); ^{e2} [ILO/OECD](#)

² [World Bank - Data and Statistics](#):

^a [Quick Reference Tables](#); ^b [Data Profile Tables](#); ^c [Country at a Glance](#)

| 1.3 Public Spending | Greece | Portugal | Spain | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Public expenditures | | | | 3 |
| Education (% of GNP), 1985-1987 | 2.2 | 3.8 ⁱⁱ | 3.7 | a |
| Education (% of GNP), 1995-1997 | 3.1 ⁱ | 5.8 ⁱ | 5 ⁱ | a |
| Health (% of GDP), 1990 | 4.7 | 4.1 | 5.2 | |
| Health (% of GDP), 1998 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 5.4 | |
| Military (% of GDP), 1990 | 4.7 | 2.7 | 1.8 | b |
| Military (% of GDP), 2000 | 4.9 | 2.1 | 1.3 | b |
| Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990 | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total debt service (% of GDP), 2000 | .. | .. | .. | |

Notes: ⁱ Data may not be strictly comparable with those for earlier years as a result of methodological changes; ⁱⁱ Data refer to the ministry of education only

| 1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|---|
| <i>Data from the latest year available</i> | | Greece 1991-1995 | Greece 1996-2000 | High-income OECD average ⁴ 1996-2000 | European Union average ⁴ 1996-2000 | High income group average ⁴ 1996-2000 |
| Employment | | | | | | |
| Civilian Central Government ⁵ | (,000) | 111.0 | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | 1.09 | .. | .. | 4.05 | 2.80 |
| Sub-national Government ⁵ | (,000) | 40.0 | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | 0.39 | .. | .. | 4.05 | 2.80 |
| Education employees | (,000) | 121.0 | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | 1.19 | .. | .. | 1.24 | 1.32 |
| Health employees | (,000) | 6.0 | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | 0.06 | .. | .. | 1.18 | 1.08 |
| Police | (,000) | .. | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Armed forces | (,000) | 171.0 | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | 1.64 | .. | .. | 0.48 | 0.53 |
| SOE Employees | (,000) | 138.0 | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | 1.36 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total Public Employment | (,000) | .. | .. | | | |
| | (% pop.) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Wages | | | | | | |
| Total Central gov't wage bill | (% of GDP) | .. | .. | .. | 3.6 | 4.2 |
| Total Central gov't wage bill | (% of exp) | 23.0 | 28.9 | .. | 12.8 | 16.4 |
| Average gov't wage | (,000 LCU) | .. | .. | | | |
| Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price) | (,000 LCU) | .. | .. | | | |
| Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Source: [World Bank - Public Sector Employment and Wages](#)

³ UNDP - [Human Development Report 2002](#)

^a Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

^b As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI (2001).

⁴ Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

⁵ Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

2. Legal Structure

The present form of the political system was ratified in the referendum on 8th December 1974 when 70% of the population voted in favour of a non-monarchical democracy. The Constitution currently in force was voted for on 11th June 1975 and reviewed in both 1986 and 2001. The supreme authority in the Hellenic Republic is the President, whose wide range of activities characterizes the political system as a Presidential Democracy.

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Politics](#)

2.1 Legislative Branch

Unicameral Parliament or Vouli ton Ellinon (300 seats; members are elected by direct popular vote to serve four-year terms).⁶

women in parliament: 42 out of 300 seats: (14%).⁷

The legislative powers shall be exercised by the Parliament and the Presidents of the Republic [Article 26(1)].

The number of the Members of Parliament is specified by statute; it cannot, however, be below two hundred or over three hundred. The Members of Parliament are elected through direct, universal and secret ballot for a term of four consecutive years.

The 300 members of the Assembly are elected from fifty-six local constituencies, which are represented by from one to 32 seats according to their population. Candidates are elected under a unique "reinforced" proportional representation system.

Since the 1974 election, 288 members of the Assembly have been chosen directly on the basis of constituency votes; these members must belong to a particular constituency and must compete for election. The remaining twelve seats are occupied by "national deputies," elected at large from party lists in proportion to the popular vote the parties receive.⁹

The right to introduce Bills belongs to the Parliament and the Government [Art. 73].

Source: [Constitution of the Hellenic Republic](#)

Fact box:

elections: Elections last held 7 March 2004 (next to be held by 2008)⁸

election results: percent of vote by party - ND 45.4%, PASOK 40.5%, KKE 5.9%, SIN 3.3%; seats by party – ND 165, PASOK 117, KKE 12, SIN 6⁸

2.2 Executive Branch

cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister

elections: President elected by Parliament for a five-year term; election last held 8 February 2000 (next to be held by February 2005); prime minister appointed by the president

The executive powers shall be exercised by the President of the Republic and the Government [Article 26(2)]. The President is elected by Parliament for a term of five years. Re-election of the same person as President is permitted only once.

The person receiving a two-thirds majority of the total number of Members of Parliament is elected President of the Republic. Should a third ballot fail to produce

⁶ Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook - Greece](#)

⁷ [Inter-Parliamentary Union - Women in National Parliaments](#)

⁸ [Electionworld.org - Greece](#)

⁹ [Russians Abroad \(Greece\) - The Electoral System](#)

a three-fifths majority, Parliament shall be dissolved within ten days of the ballot, and elections for a new Parliament shall be called.

Source: [Constitution of the Hellenic Republic](#)

However, no act by the President of the Republic is valid or executed without the countersignature of the appropriate minister with the exception of certain acts specified in the Constitution in article 35, paragraph 2. The last revision of the Constitution on March 6, 1986 abolished the super-powers of the President of the Republic contained in the Constitution of 1975 and made the text of Constitution conform to the basic principles of the parliamentary system.

Source: [Greek Embassy in Pakistan - Constitution](#) & [Constitution of the Hellenic Republic](#)

The Cabinet constitutes the Government and is composed of the Prime Minister and the Ministers. The Government defines and directs the general policy of Greece.

Source: [Constitution of the Hellenic Republic](#)

Fact box:
chief of state:
President
Konstandinos (Kostis)
STEPHANOPOULOS
(since 10 March 1995)
– 90% of Parliament
vote
head of government:
Prime Minister Kostas
KARAMANLIS (since
10 March 2004)¹⁰

2.3 Judiciary Branch

Supreme Judicial Court; Special Supreme Tribunal; all judges appointed for life by the president after consultation with a judicial council.

The judicial powers shall be exercised by courts of law [Article 26(3)].¹¹

The courts are separated into administrative, civil or penal courts in accordance with the cases they have to deal with. The Aeropagus is the Supreme Court of appeal for civil and penal cases. The Council of State is the Supreme Court for the administration and the Audit Office is a special administrative court, which tries administrative and judicial cases concerning such things as state expenditures, for instance. Finally, the Special Supreme Court (Constitutional Court) is made up of the presidents of the Council of State, the Aeropagus and the Audit Office together with four councilors of state and four Aeropagus judges who are appointed by ballot every two years. It is a permanent court and is not made up each time it is called upon to try a certain case.

The Special Supreme Court deals with cases such as dissent on the validity of parliamentary elections, the results of a referendum, critical national matters and social questions, resolving conflicts between courts and administrative authorities, resolving questions about constitutionality or the interpretation of a generic law if there is disagreement among the country's three supreme courts (the Aeropagus, the Council of State and the Audit Office) and resolving questions on the designation of rules of international law as generally accepted.

Regular judges are civil servants with life tenure and enjoy individual freedom in the exercise of their judicial duties. The Constitution spells out in detail the procedure for their appointment, change in status, privileged salary scales and acts deemed incompatible with their judicial functions.

Source: [Greek Embassy in Pakistan - Constitution](#)

¹⁰ [Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic](#) & [Nea Demokratia](#)

¹¹ [Constitution of the Hellenic Republic](#)

2.4 Local Government

The Constitution contains two articles concerning the administration of the country: Article 101 refers to the organization of the administration according to a decentralized system and contains the constitutional principle of decentralization and regional administration. Article 102 is an outline of the constitutional frame of local government and describes its functional guaranties as an independent unit of administration.

Source: [Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government - Local Government](#)

In November 1997 the Greek Parliament adopted a comprehensive programme of local government reform ("[Kapodistrias Plan](#)") in the face of considerable opposition.¹² The plan reorganized the map of the country at an administrative level abolishing the plethora of previously existing 'communities' and creating uniform, larger municipalities.¹³

Today there are two levels of local government: Municipalities and communities (demos, kinotita) form the first level and the prefectural administration (nomarchiaki autodioikisi) the second level of self governing local authorities.

Municipalities and communes form the first tier of local government. They are autonomous units, their organs are elected through universal and secret ballot, they perform their functions independently without any hierarchical relationship to each other or to the second tier of local government units, or to the central government.

Prefectural Administrations form the second level of local government. They are run by directly elected organs, enjoy full competence for local affairs within their geographical jurisdiction, have the legal form of public law entities and enjoy also administrative and financial independence. They have no hierarchical relation to the first level units, upon which they do not exercise any control at all.

The Regional Administration is a third level of decentralized administration and self-government with particular functions and perspectives, primarily defined by Law 1622./86 as being developing and programming, and completed later by Laws 2218/94, 2240/94 and 2503/97 in order to provide to Regional Administration its own administrative independence. Under that point of view the Regions are a combined third level, where both the decentralized administration and the local self-government meet through the participation of productive, cultural and scientific associations representatives in the administration's organs.

Source: [Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government - Local Government](#)

¹² [Federal Foreign Office \(Germany\) - Greece](#)

¹³ [Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Politics](#)

3. The State and Civil Society

3.1 Ombudsperson

The Greek Ombudsman is a constitutionally sanctioned Independent Authority. It was founded in October 1998 and operates under the provisions of Law 3094/2003. The Greek Ombudsman investigates individual administrative actions or omissions or material actions taken by government departments or public services that infringe upon the personal rights or violate the legal interests of individuals or legal entities.

The purpose of the Greek Ombudsman is to mediate between public administration and private individuals, for the purpose of protecting citizens' rights, their ensuring compliance with the rule of law rights, observe the rule of law, and combating maladministration. In addition, the mission of the Greek Ombudsman includes protection and promotion of the rights of the child. The Ombudsman does not have the power to impose sanctions or to annul the illegal actions of the public administration.

As a mediator, the Greek Ombudsman makes recommendations and puts forward specific proposals towards the public administration.

The complaints citizens submit are investigated in terms of thematic categories, which correspond to five different areas of activity in the Institution: a) The Human Rights Department; b) The Health and Social Welfare Department; c) The Quality of Life Department; d) The State-Citizen Relations Department; and e) The Children's Rights Department.

Source: [The Greek Ombudsman - Role and Mission](#)

3.2 NGOs

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

3.3 Civil Society

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

4. Civil Service

[Click here](#) for the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization.¹⁴

4.1 Legal basis

The legal framework regulating civil service in Greece comprises the [Constitution](#) and the [Public service Code](#) – Code of Regulations of Public Civil Administrative Servants and Employees of Legal Persons of Public Law adopted and promulgated in 1999. The objective of the Code is to establish unified and uniform rules governing the hiring and status of civil administrative servants, on the basis of the principles of meritocracy and social solidarity, and the safeguarding of the maximum possible productivity in their work. The function of the Independent Administrative Authority for hiring, the National Public Administration School and the Personnel Training Institute, in the framework of the National Public Administration Center, is intended to contribute to the realization of these objectives [Article 1 of the Code].

Article 2 of the Code stipulates that civil administrative servants working for the State and legal persons of public law are under the provisions of the Code. Civil servants or functionaries working for the State as well as civil servants working for local government agencies are subject to those provisions of the Code to which the special statutes governing them make reference.

Source: [Code of Civil Servants \(Law 2683/1999\)](#)

4.2 Recruitment

The hiring proceedings are carried out by an independent administrative authority. The Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization coordinates the human resources planning in the framework of the general government policy according to the actual needs of the services.

The filling of vacancies is governed by the principles of equal participation opportunities, meritocracy, objectivity, social solidarity, transparency and publicity.

The filling of vacancies takes place by public competition, in writing and exceptionally oral, or according to the order of precedence on the basis of clearly defined criteria.

The hiring proceedings require prior announcement, which must be published in a special issue of the official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic. A summary of the announcement is published in the Press and broadcasted by other mass media.

Civil servants are appointed by decision of the competent Minister, unless the law provides otherwise. A summary of the appointment act will be published in the Official Gazette and notified to the appointee at the latest within thirty days from the date of publication.

Civil servants of the public sector and civil servants working for legal persons of public law and appointed to posts provided by law will be required to spend a two-year trial period of probation, during which they may be dismissed on grounds pertaining to their service only upon decision of the civil service council. During probation, civil servants are required to follow introductory training programs. Within

¹⁴ In Greek

three months of the completion of the probation period, the civil service council is required to decide whether the civil servants on probation qualify for permanency. Civil servants qualifying for permanency become permanent by act of the body responsible for their appointment.

The Code further regulates the possibility of reassignments from one unit to another under the same authority, the transfer upon request of civil servant or ex officio by the service as well as secondments in cases of serious and urgent temporary official needs.

Source: [Code of Civil Servants \(Law 2683/1999\)](#)

4.3 Promotion

According to Article 82 of the Code, civil servants are promoted to the immediately following rank if they have completed the required time of service at their current rank and if they have the material qualifications for the post. Years of service in one rank and time of promotion are regulated in article 81 of the Code.

Source: [Code of Civil Servants \(Law 2683/1999\)](#)

4.4 Remuneration

The salary is determined on a monthly basis and aims to allow civil servants to live decently. Any additional salaries or emoluments of kind of the civil servants may not exceed the total salary received per month from their post which is provided by law. Salary is paid in advance at the beginning of each fortnight.

Source: [Code of Civil Servants \(Law 2683/1999\)](#)

4.5 Training

Article 47 of the Code stipulates that service training constitutes a right for civil servants. Training is effected through the participation of the civil servants in introductory training programs, personnel training programs, further training programs and post-graduate studies program or courses.

These programs take place in the framework of the national Public administration center according to the effective provisions.

Introductory training is compulsory, takes place during the civil servants` period of probation. Personnel training may be general or offer specialization in the subject-matter of the civil servants duties. The participation in the personnel training may also be compulsory.

Further training aims to equip civil servants with the specialized knowledge necessary towards the performance of their duties. It takes place at public or private institutes in Greece or abroad.

Post-graduate studies take place through the participation of civil servants in postgraduate programs or courses in recognized Greek or foreign Universities.

Source: [Code of Civil Servants \(Law 2683/1999\)](#)

4.6 Gender

Gender balance in decision-making positions in national government and central administration in Greece (total of 13 out of 18 Ministries):

National Government based on level:

| National Government | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Senior Ministers | | Junior Ministers | | N-1 ¹⁵ Level | N-2 ¹⁶ Level |
| | Persons | (%) | Persons | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Women | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 20 | 25 |
| Men | 18 | 95 | 27 | 93 | 80 | 75 |

Source: [European Commission \(Employment & Social Affairs\) - Political Domain & Public and Juridical Domain](#)

Central Administration based on functions:

| Central Administration | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | Basic, | Economic, | Infrastructure, | Socio-cultural, |
| | | 4 ministries (%) | 2 ministries (%) | 3 ministries (%) | 4 ministries (%) |
| N-1 Level | Women | 0 | 8 | 22 | 44 |
| | Men | 100 | 92 | 78 | 56 |
| N-2 Level | Women | 25 | .. | .. | .. |
| | Men | 75 | .. | .. | .. |

Source: [European Commission \(Employment & Social Affairs\) - Public and Juridical Domain](#)

¹⁵ One level below Minister

¹⁶ Two levels below Minister

5. Ethics and Civil Service

5.1 Corruption

2003 CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

| Corruption Perceptions Index | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Rank | Country | 2003 CPI Score | Surveys Used | Standard Deviation | High-Low Range | Number Inst. | 90 percent confidence range |
| 1 | Highly clean | 9.7 | 8 | 0.3 | 9.2 - 10.0 | 4 | 9.5 - 9.9 |
| 50 | Greece | 4.3 | 9 | 0.8 | 3.7 - 5.6 | 5 | 3.9 - 4.8 |
| 133 | Highly corrupt | 1.3 | 8 | 0.7 | 0.3 - 2.2 | 6 | 0.9 - 1.7 |

Source: [Transparency International - Corruption Perceptions Index 2003](#)

Surveys Used: Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 17 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

Standard Deviation: Indicates differences in the values of the sources. Values below 0.5 indicate agreement, values between 0.5 and c. 0.9 indicate some agreement, while values equal or larger than 1 indicate disagreement.

High-Low Range: Provides the highest and lowest values of the sources.

Number Institutions: Refers to the number of independent institutions that assessed a country's performance. Since some institutions provided more than one survey.

90 percent confidence range: Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. With 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below.

In the 2002 Evaluation Report on Greece, Greek officials state that "the Greek Government has made one of its main priorities the development of a legal framework for fighting corruption and the implementation of policies to promote transparency in all public sector activities and effectively tackle the phenomenon of corruption".

No official study has been made of the extent and nature of corruption in Greece. According to the Greek authorities the detection of corruption is hindered by the reticence of citizens to report corruption related incidents. In an opinion poll conducted by the Greek section of Transparency International in 2001, around 80% of the persons questioned considered Greek society to be affected by corruption. According to the same poll, the public sectors particularly affected are hospitals and the tax department. However, the departments responsible for general administration and the sovereign functions of police and justice are no more immune than the providers of services.

According to the Ombudsman of the Greek Republic, civil servants enjoy too great a discretion in regard to the texts they have to apply, or else the procedures are so lacking in transparency and so open to interpretation that they encourage corruption among the public who want their administrative problems settled in a reasonable time.

Greek laws, notably Criminal Code regulate forms of corruption. Definitions provided, however are generally broad and reflect the relevant international instruments. The relevant jurisprudence confirms that the advantage obtained through corruption can be tangible or intangible (professional promotion). The sanctions foreseen are

generally 1 to 5 years of imprisonment. As a consequence, and according to Greek law, these are misdemeanors.

The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Justice monitors the effectiveness of the anti-corruption measures. Apart from the regular institutions in charge of preventing and prosecuting the general crimes, the Police and the Courts, sustained efforts have been made in recent years to modernize and enhance the transparency and scrutiny of the Greek political and administrative system. These efforts have resulted, inter alia, in the passing of Law in 1997 establishing the Public Administration Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate is equipped with new tools for combating corruption. Although belong to the administration, its members may carry out preliminary investigations for the public prosecutor. The purpose of the Inspectorate is to check the efficiency and performance of government departments and scrutinize the activities of local authorities. On the other hand it has no supervisory role powers over independent administrative authorities, the judicial authorities, military/police authorities etc. Its role is prevention and enforcement. It opens its investigations either at the Minister's request or on its own initiative. The Inspectorate does not make its checks public, but commissions consider and where appropriate, take account of complaints by members of the public and by the press against government departments. The Inspectorate must draw up a report on any check it makes and send a copy to the government department concerned.

Source: [GRECO \(Council of Europe\) - Evaluation Report on Greece \(2002\) \(edited\)](#)

5.2 Ethics

A Civil Servants' Code of Ethics is in place. The code aims at safeguarding the civil servants' status and its constant upgrading by systematic observance of the fundamental rules governing correct conduct, in the context of the legislation in force and the everyday practices.

The generally accepted civil servants' ethics code promotes their moral nature, the quality of the services provided to the citizen as well as the public interest.

Source: [The Greek Civil Servants' Code of Ethics](#)

However, in 2002 the GRECO Evaluation Team expressed concern as to whether the Public Servants Code, which contains anti-corruption standards as well as provisions on public servants' moral and ethical duties, was effectively applied.

Source: [GRECO \(Council of Europe\) - Evaluation Report on Greece \(2002\)](#)

6. e-Government

e-Government Readiness Index:

The index refers to the generic capacity or aptitude of the public sector to use ICT for encapsulating in public services and deploying to the public, high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools that support human development.

The index is comprised of three sub-indices: Web Measure Index, Telecommunications Infrastructure Index and Human Capital Index.

Web Measure Index:

A scale based on progressively sophisticated web services present. Coverage and sophistication of state-provided e-service and e-product availability correspond to a numerical classification.

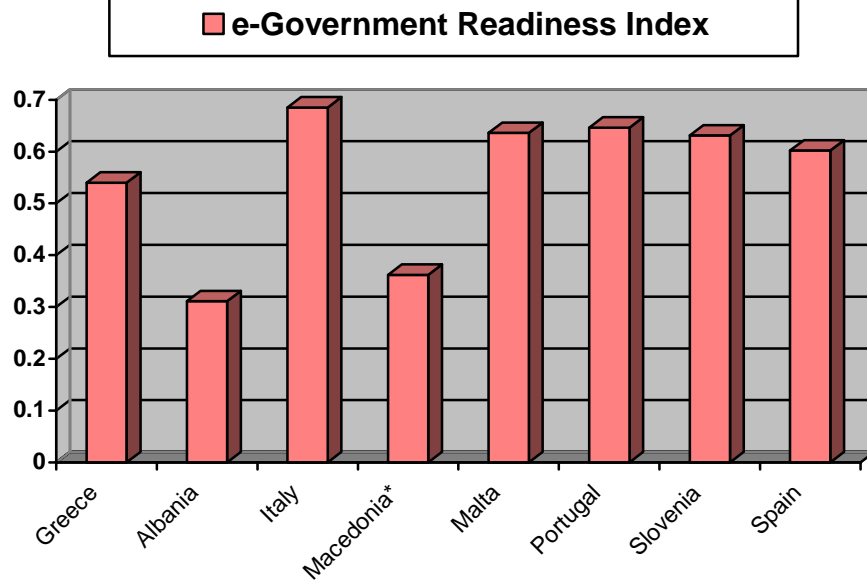
Telecommunications Infrastructure Index:

A composite, weighted average index of six primary indices, based on basic infrastructural indicators that define a country's ICT infrastructure capacity.

Primary indicators are: PC's, Internet users, online population and Mobile phones. Secondary indicators are TVs and telephone lines.

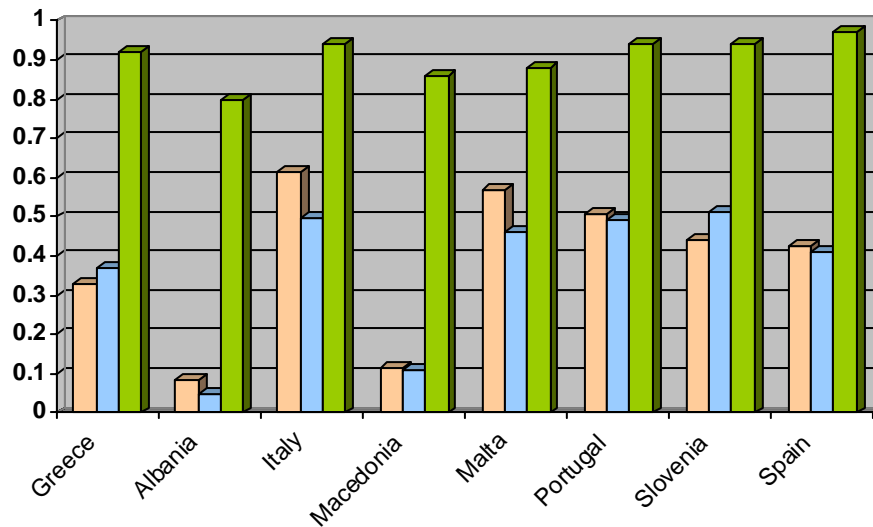
Human Capital Index:

A composite of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio, with two thirds of the weight given to adult literacy and one third to the gross enrolment ratio.



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

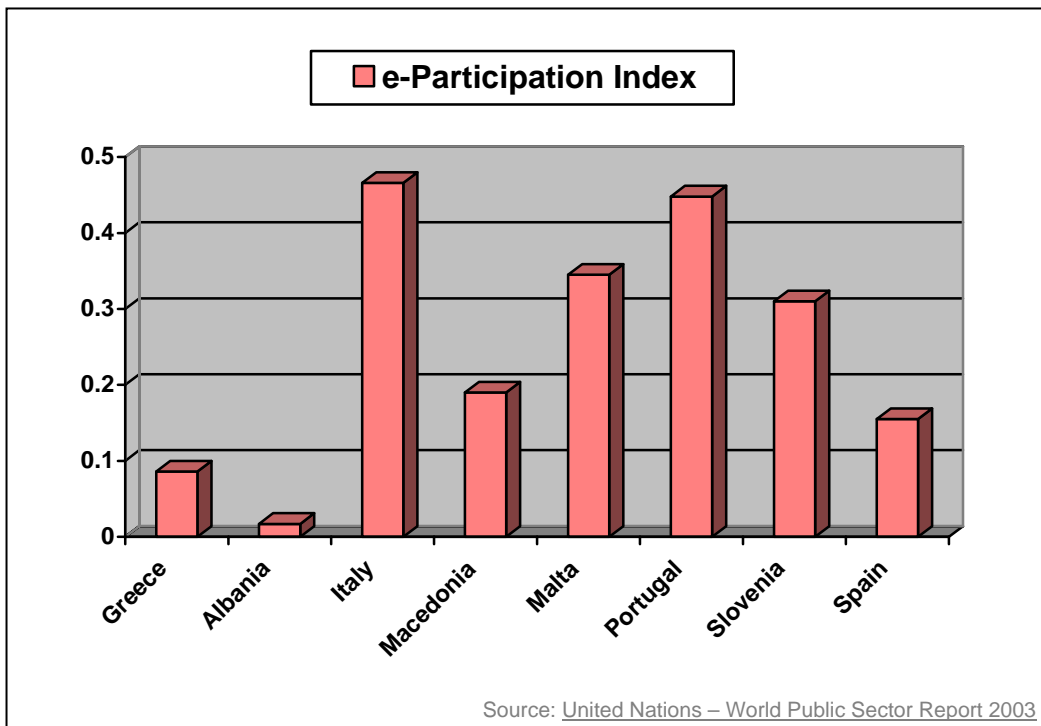
Web Measure Index Telecom. Infrastructure Index Human Capital Index



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

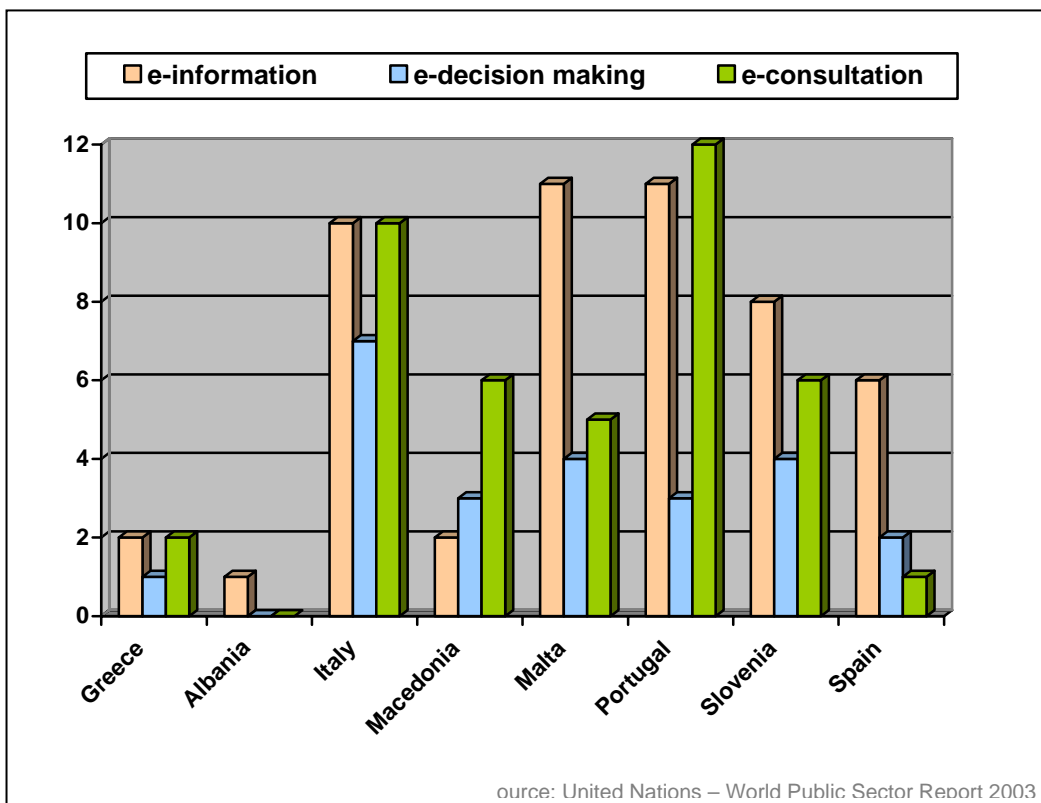
e-Participation Index:

Refers to the willingness, on the part of the government, to use ICT to provide high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools for the specific purpose of empowering people for able participation in consultations and decision-making both in their capacity as consumers of public services and as citizens.



e-information:

The government websites offer information on policies and programs, budgets, laws and regulations, and other briefs of key public interest. Tools for disseminating of information exist for timely access and use of public information, including web forums, e-mail lists, newsgroups and chat rooms.



e-decision making:

The government indicates that it will take citizens input into account in decision making and provides actual feedback on the outcome of specific issues.

e-consultation:

The government website explains e-consultation mechanisms and tools. It offers a choice of public policy topics online for discussion with real time and archived access to audios and videos of public meetings. The government encourages citizens to participate in discussions.

7. Links

| 7.1 National sites | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Authority | Topic |
| Greece Now | http://www.greece.gr/ |
| | |
| Parliament | http://www.parliament.gr/ |
| Prime Minister | http://www.primeminister.gr/ |
| Ministries | http://www.mfa.gr/english/greece/today/politics/government.html |
| | |
| National Statistical Service | http://www.statistics.gr/ |

| 7.2 Miscellaneous sites | |
|---|---|
| Institution | Topic |
| Council of Europe (COE) | http://www.coe.int |
| European Union (EU) - Greece | http://europa.eu.int/abc/governments/greece/index_en.htm |
| International Labour Organization (ILO) | http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home |
| Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - legislation | http://www.legislationline.org |
| Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) | http://www.oecd.org/infobycountry/... |
| World Bank (WB) | http://worldbank.org/greece |