

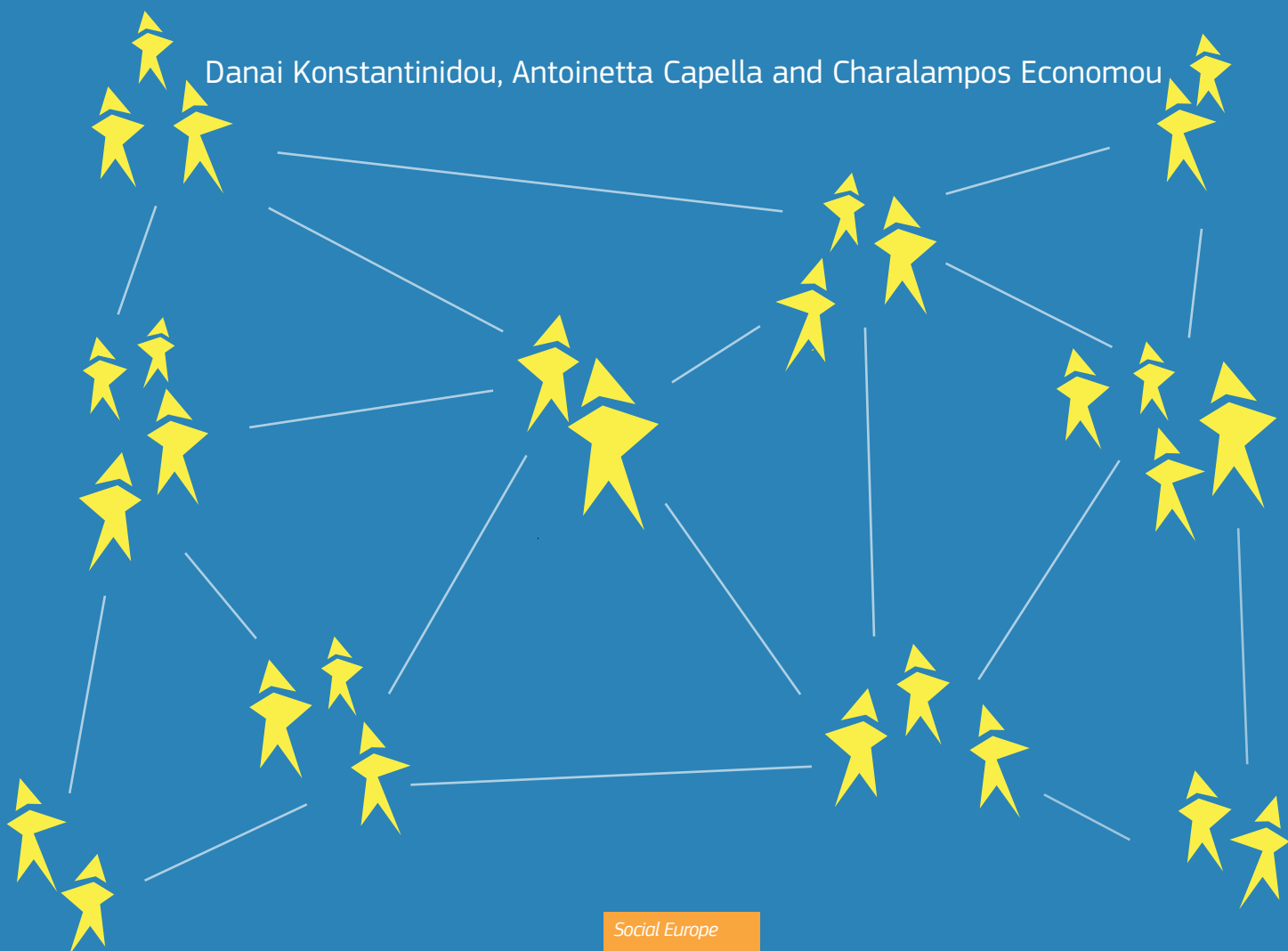


EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK (ESPN)

Social protection and inclusion policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis

Greece

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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European Social Policy Network (ESPN)

**ESPN Thematic Report:
Social protection and inclusion
policy responses to the
COVID-19 crisis**

Greece

2021

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Manuscript completed in July 2021

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SUMMARY

Between Monday 3 February 2020 and Sunday 18 April 2021, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people was 6,740 for the EU-27 as a whole; in Greece, it was 3,196. The total number of deaths per 100,000 people was 151 for the EU-27, versus 96 in Greece.

At the end of February 2020, following the first confirmed COVID-19 case in the country, the Greek government adopted social distancing measures in order to contain the spread of the coronavirus. In early March 2020, it declared an almost total lockdown, along with the closure of all education institutions and non-essential businesses. These timely measures were effective, as Greece managed to maintain a limited number of confirmed infections. On 28 April 2020, the government proceeded to the gradual relaxation of the confinement measures. However, in November 2020, in an effort to halt a surge of infections, the government decided to proceed to a second lockdown, which is still in place.

During both the first and second lockdowns, a number of measures were taken to mitigate the effects of the lockdown, and to help citizens maintain their income. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening the healthcare system (infrastructure and workforce capacity) so as to respond to the ever increasing needs resulting from the pandemic, as well as on maintaining jobs and on compensating employees' incomes. In addition, the government decided to extend the duration of unemployment and social protection benefits, provide one-off economic support to certain groups of the population and suspend the payment of tax obligations. Measures to ensure that employees and self-employed people are not infected, and to facilitate working parents to fulfil their care obligations, were also adopted.

Although these income-compensation measures are expected to cushion the negative impact on incomes to some extent, significant challenges remain. Not all people are covered by these measures, while no specific measures were taken to support certain vulnerable groups (disabled people, migrants and refugees, single-parent families, large families, Roma people) to cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, there are still major gaps in support to tackle the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, especially for the most vulnerable groups of population.

Most of the support measures taken during the pandemic in Greece are temporary income-support measures taken as a response to the crisis. They mainly concern adjustments to already existing social protection measures and, as such, they are not expected to bring about significant changes that will reshape the social protection system. However, they substantially increase spending and have a significant fiscal impact, which, along with reduced economic activity, may have significant consequences for the economy.

Moreover, economic disruption, and consequently large job losses, are expected to increase the already high unemployment rate, while declines in disposable incomes are expected to lead to a significant increase in the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the coming years. A huge increase in the numbers receiving social protection benefits (and, consequently, in expenditure) is therefore expected in the coming years. All these developments, in turn, are expected to increase the number of people in need of social protection in Greece, putting significant pressure on the social protection system.

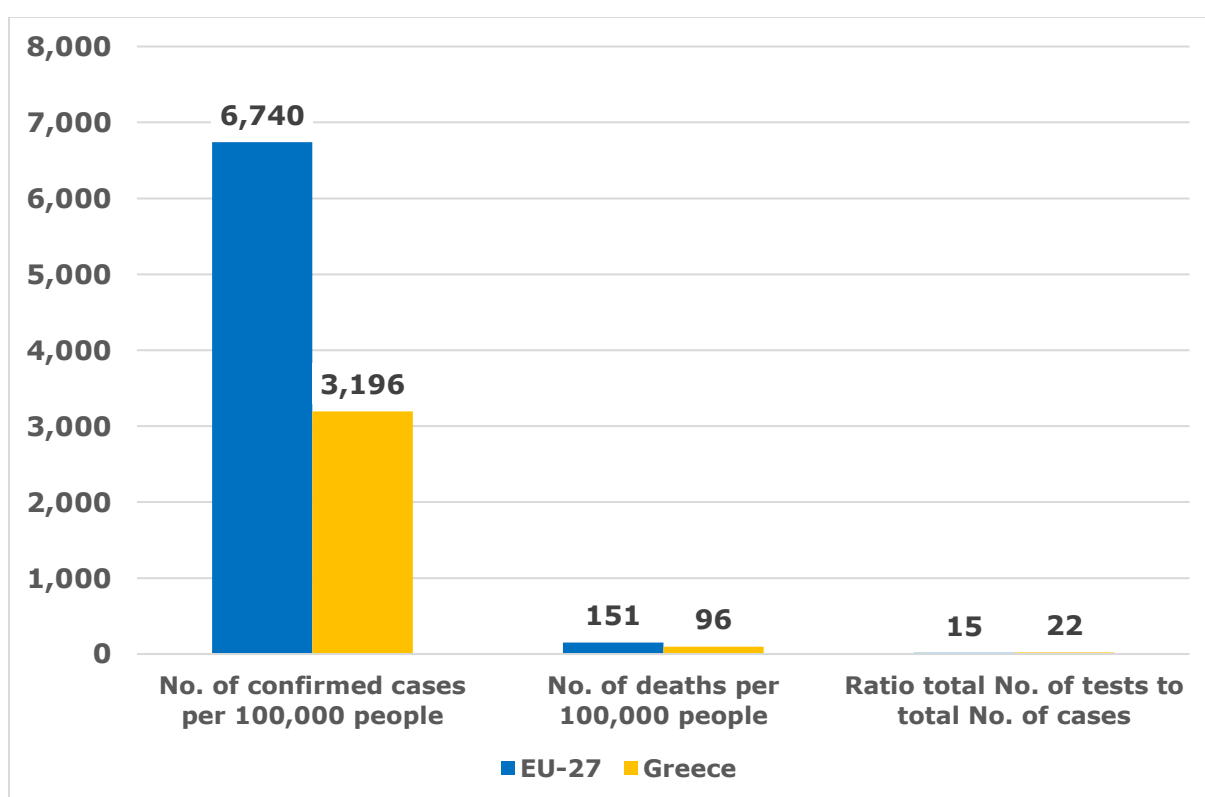
The pandemic revealed certain weaknesses of the social protection system in Greece, as it appears that the system had not developed robust mechanisms that would be able to prevent and mitigate income insecurity and vulnerability. Greece needs to strengthen social protection policies so as to respond effectively to the ever increasing pressure on the system and to cushion effectively both the short-term and the potential long-lasting socio-economic impact of the pandemic. Particular emphasis should be placed on designing and adopting a comprehensive recovery plan with clear-cut priorities, which should include, among other things, specifically targeted measures to: (a) strengthen social safety nets; (b) boost employment; (c) support the unemployed; and (d) ensure that the needs of vulnerable households are adequately covered.

1 TRENDS OF THE PANDEMIC AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT¹

1.1 Epidemiological situation

During the 63 weeks considered for these three indicators (from Monday 3 February 2020 to Sunday 18 April 2021), the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people was 6,740 for the EU-27 as a whole; in Greece, it was 3,196. The total number of deaths per 100,000 people was 151 for the EU-27 versus 96 in Greece. The ratio of the total number of COVID-19 tests conducted to the total number of confirmed cases was 15.3 for the EU-27 and 22.4 for Greece.

Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths per 100,000 people & ratio of total number of COVID-19 tests to total number of cases, 3 February 2020 to 18 April 2021 (EU-27 and Greece)

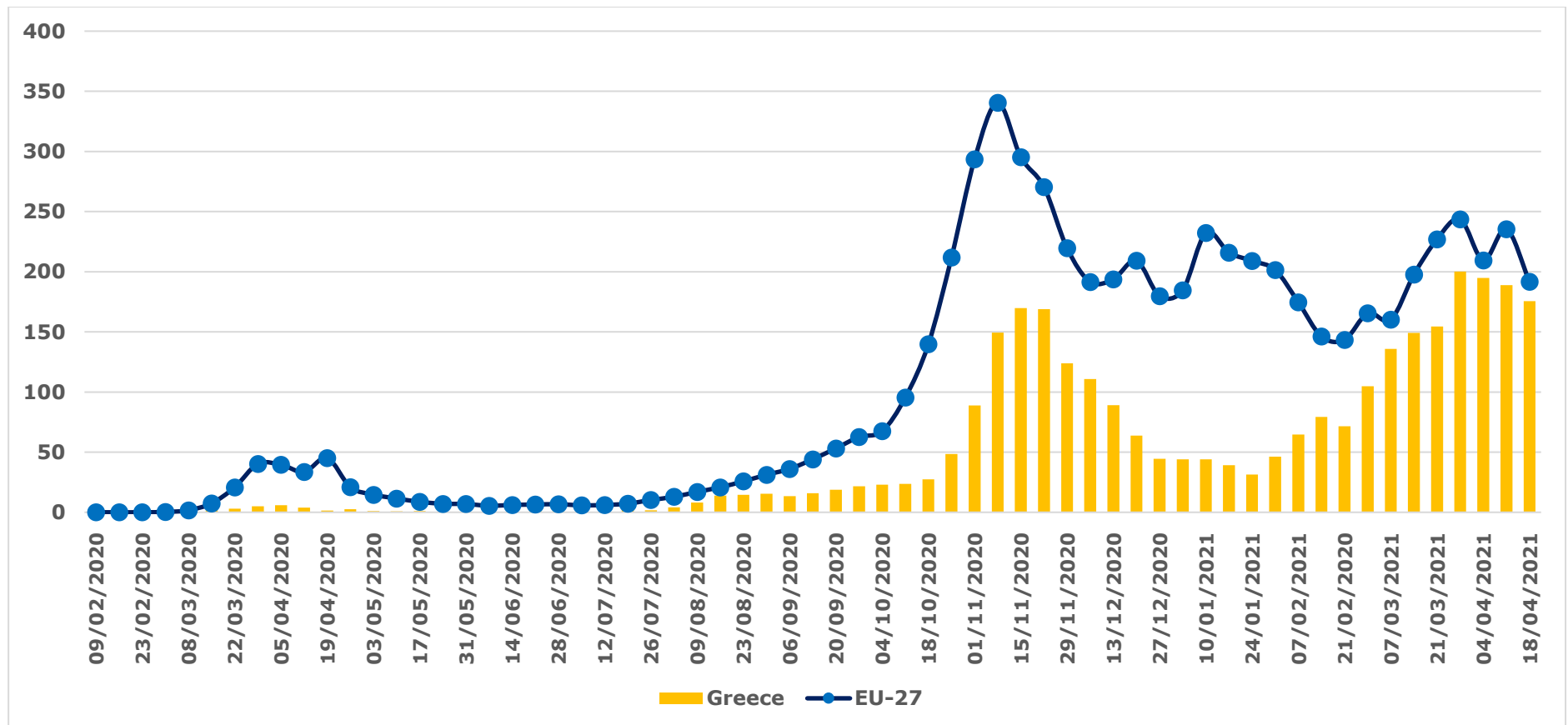


Source: Our World in Data (OWID) online database on COVID-19 - downloaded 26 April 2021

¹ Except if otherwise specified, the indicators presented in Sections 1.1 and 1.2 were calculated by the ESPN Network Core Team on the basis of data coming from two data sources: Our World in Data (OWID: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus-source-data>) and the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>). These indicators were calculated for all the 35 ESPN countries for which data were available. All of them are presented in Annex B of the following report: Isabel Baptista, Eric Marlier, Slavina Spasova, Ramón Peña-Casas, Boris Fronteddu, Dalila Ghailani, Sebastiano Sabato and Pietro Regazzoni (2021), *Social protection and inclusion policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis. An analysis of policies in 35 countries*, European Social Policy Network (ESPN), Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. This report also provides additional explanations on the data sources used and the calculation of the indicators. In addition, Annex B of the report provides the country results related to all ESPN countries included in the two international data sources used (see Tables B1.1, B2.1 and B3.1 for Figure 1, Table B1.2 for Figure 2, Table B2.2 for Figure 3, Table B3.2 for Figure 4, Tables B4.1, B4.2 and B4.3 for Figure 5, Table B5 for Figure 6, Tables B6.1-3 for Figures 7a-c, and Tables B7.1-3 for Figures 8a-c). The full report and its various annexes can be downloaded [here](#).

In the last week of observations (from Monday 12 April 2021 to Sunday 18 April 2021), the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people reached 191.8 for the EU-27. In Greece, it was 175.4.

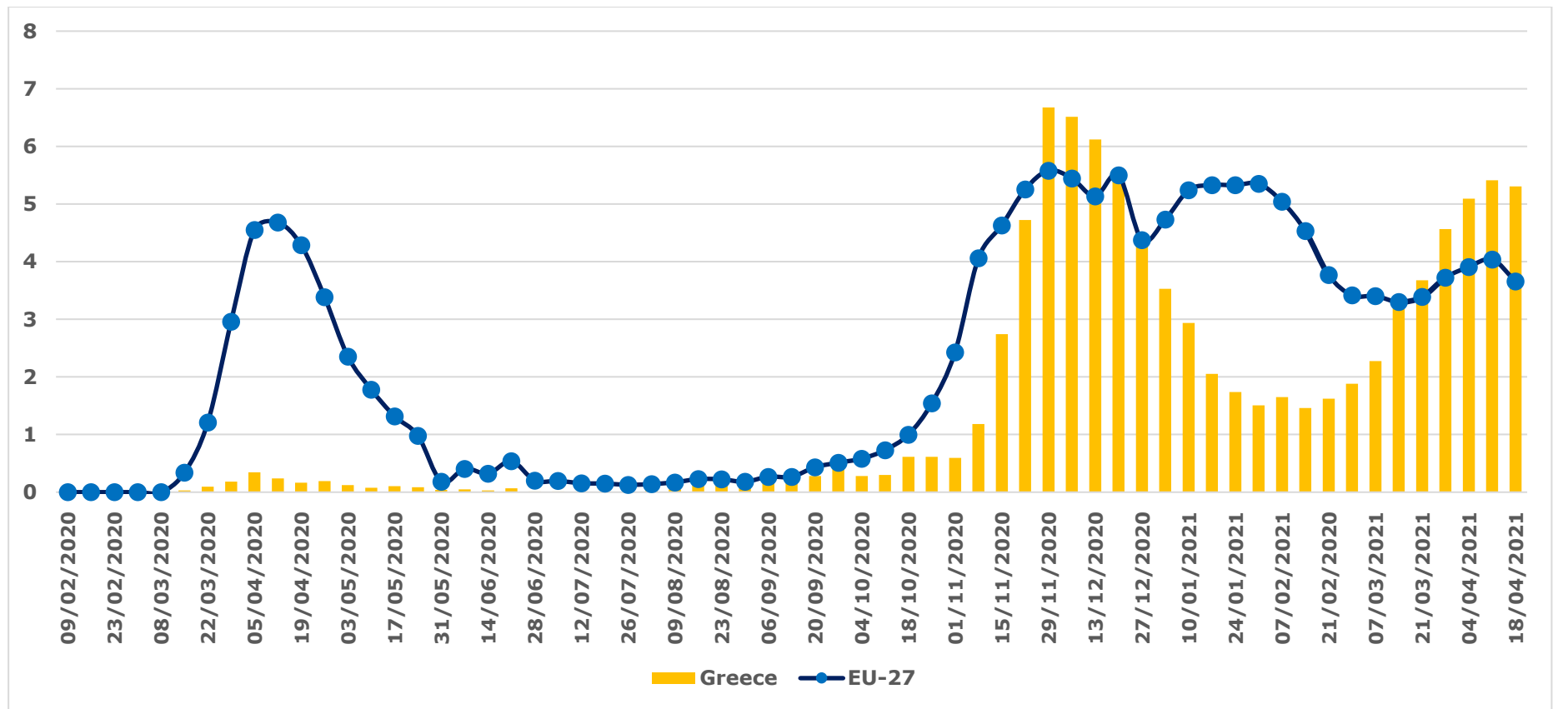
Figure 2: Weekly evolution - Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people from 3 February 2020 to 18 April 2021 (EU-27 and Greece)



Source: Our World in Data (OWID) online database on COVID-19 - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the last week of observations (from Monday 12 April 2021 to Sunday 18 April 2021), the number of COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 people reached 3.66 for the EU-27 as a whole. In Greece, it was 5.31.

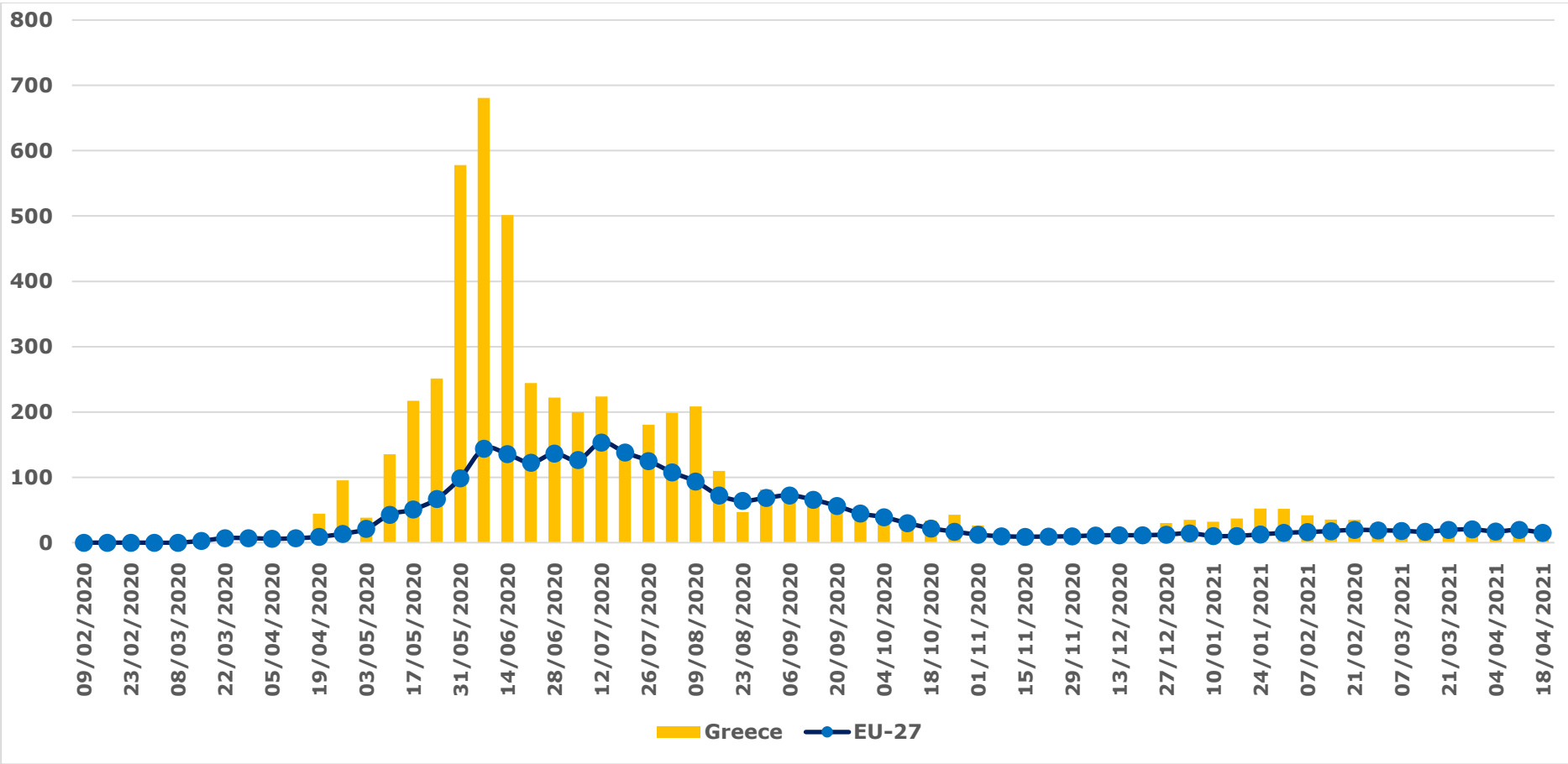
Figure 3: Weekly evolution - Number of COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 people, 3 February 2020 to 18 April 2021 (EU-27 and Greece)



Source: Our World in Data (OWID) online database on COVID-19 - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the last week of observations (from Monday 12 April 2021 to Sunday 18 April 2021), the number of COVID-19 tests per new confirmed COVID-19 cases was 15.2 for the EU-27. In Greece, it was 19.2.

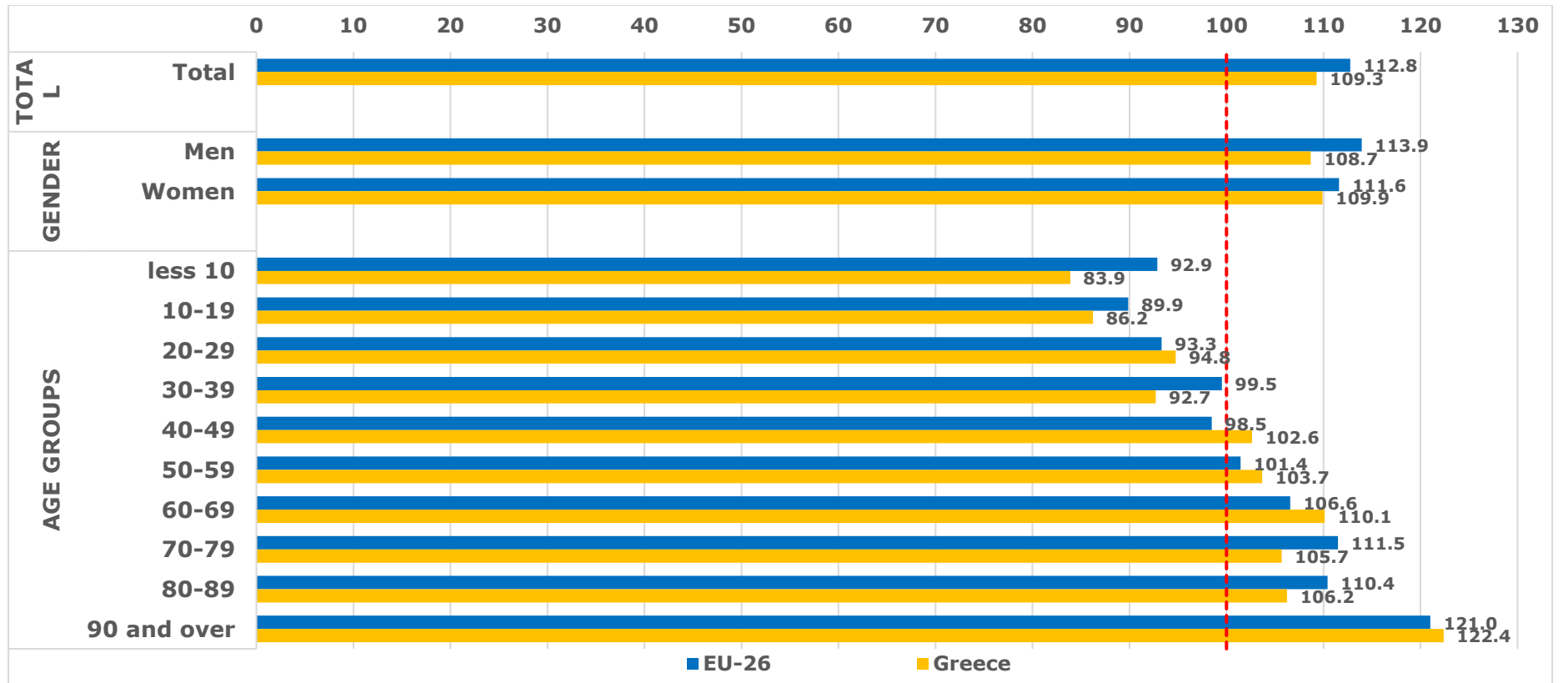
Figure 4: Weekly evolution - Number of COVID-19 tests per new confirmed COVID-19 case, 3 February 2020 to 18 April 2021 (EU-27 and Greece)



Source: Our World in Data (OWID) online database on COVID-19 - downloaded 26 April 2021. Full quote for these testing data: Hasell, J., Mathieu, E., Beltekian, D. et al. (2020). "A cross-country database of COVID-19 testing". *Sci Data* 7, 345 (2020) (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-020-00688-8>).

The excess mortality ratio for 2020 is the total number of deaths (without distinction of causes) in the year 2020 expressed as a percentage of the previous 4-year (2016-2019) annual average of the total number of deaths. For the EU-26 average (no data for Ireland), the ratio of the total population is 112.8% while it is 109.3% in Greece. For the EU-26, it is 113.9% for men and 111.6% for women. In Greece, these gendered ratios are 108.7% and 109.9% respectively. Excess mortality is higher among older age groups. For those aged 90 years and more it reaches 121.0% for EU-26 and 122.4% for Greece.

Figure 5: Excess mortality - Total number of all deaths in 2020 as percentage of the 2016-2019 annual average (including gender and age breakdowns (EU-26 and Greece))

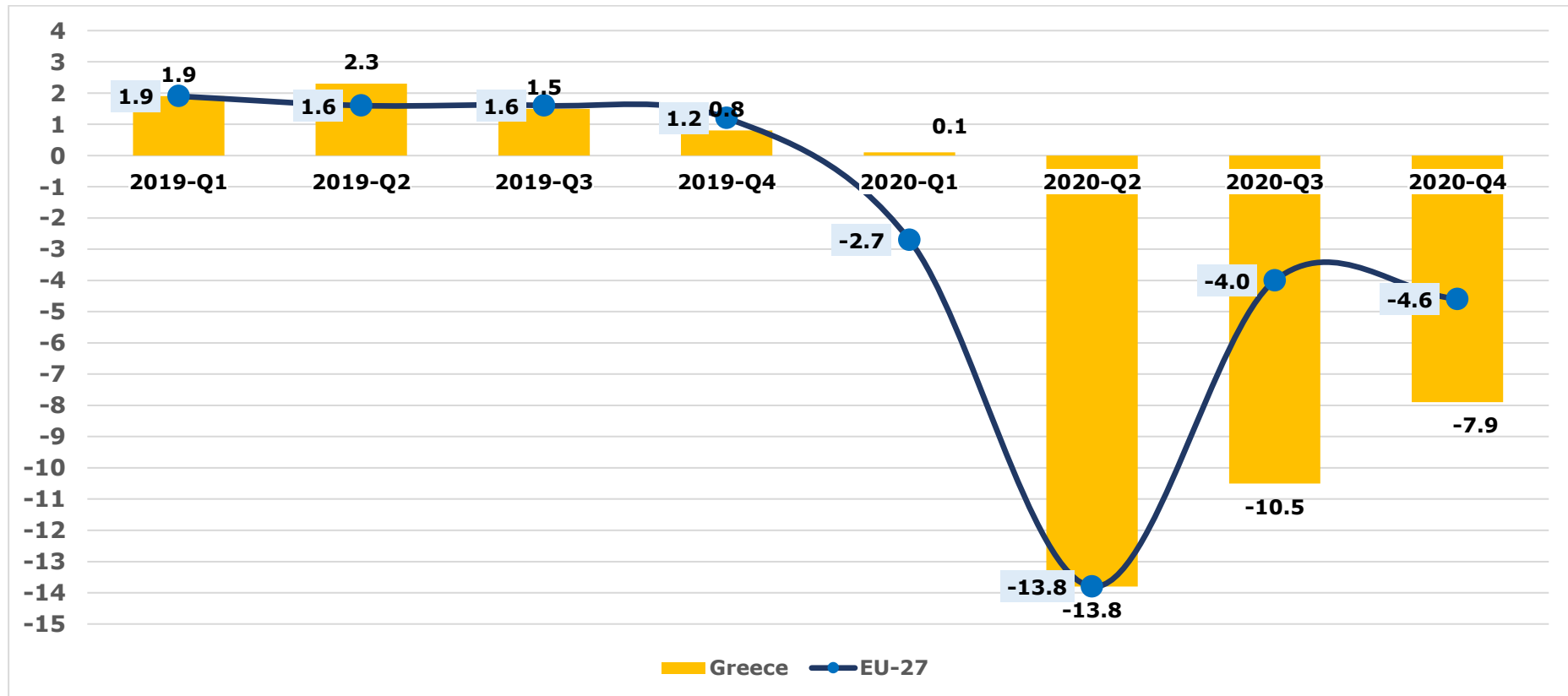


Source: Eurostat - indicator [DEMO_R_MWK_10__custom_560457] Deaths by week, sex and 10-year age groups - downloaded 26 April 2021. For Bosnia and Herzegovina: Agency for statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (data received upon request on 19 April 2021).

1.2 Economic and (un)employment situation

In the EU-27, GDP in the fourth quarter (2020-Q4) of 2020 fell by 4.6% compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 (2019-Q4). In Greece, the decrease was 7.9% for the same period.

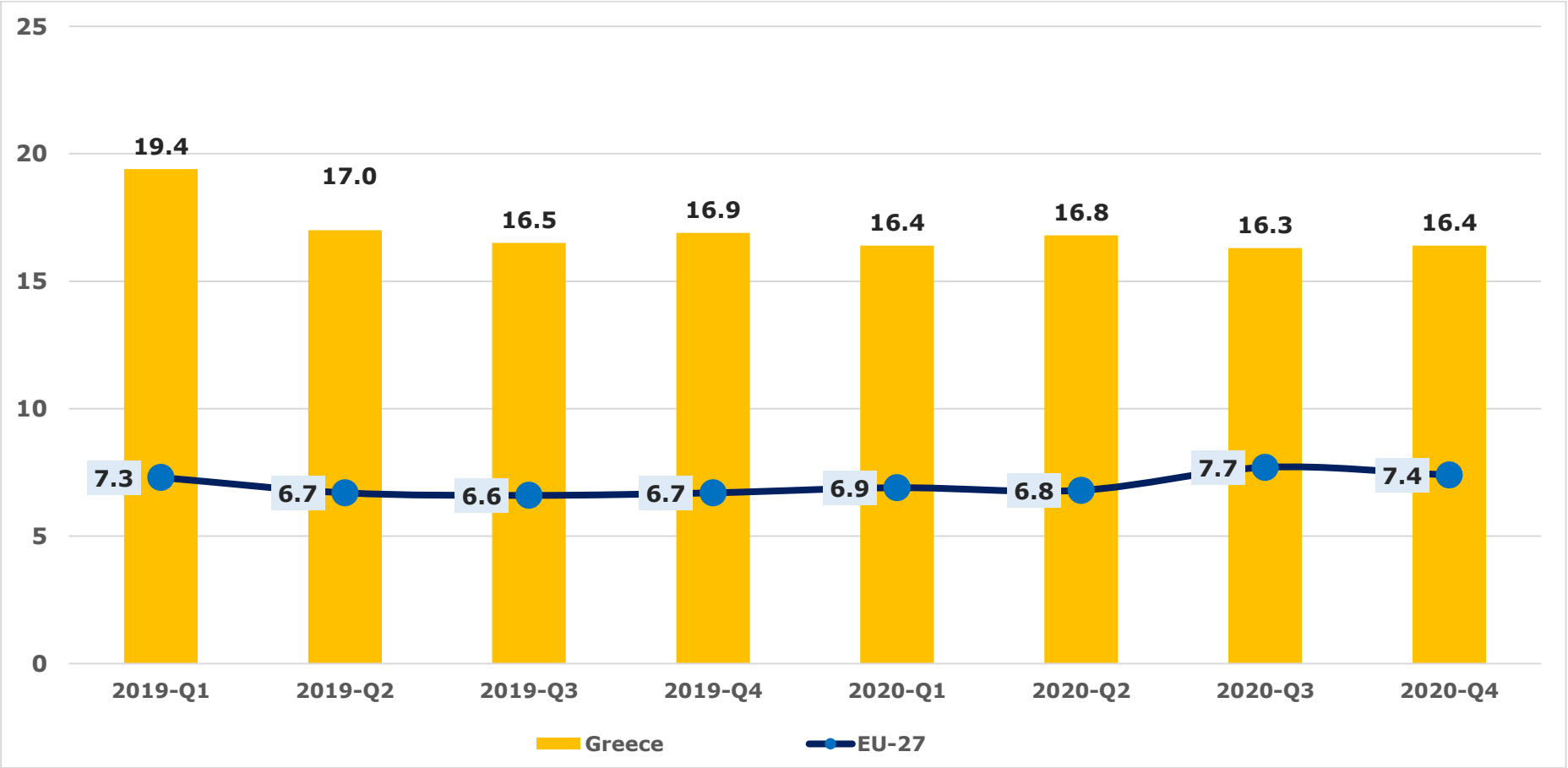
Figure 6: Gross domestic product at market prices, chain-linked volumes prices adjusted, percentage changes in quarter compared with same quarter in previous year (2019-2020, EU-27 and Greece, %)



Source: Eurostat -GDP and main components (output, expenditure and income) - indicator [NAMQ_10_GDP__custom_507806] - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2020 (2020-Q4), the unemployment rate in the EU-27 for people aged 15-64 years is 7.4%. In Greece, it is 16.4%.

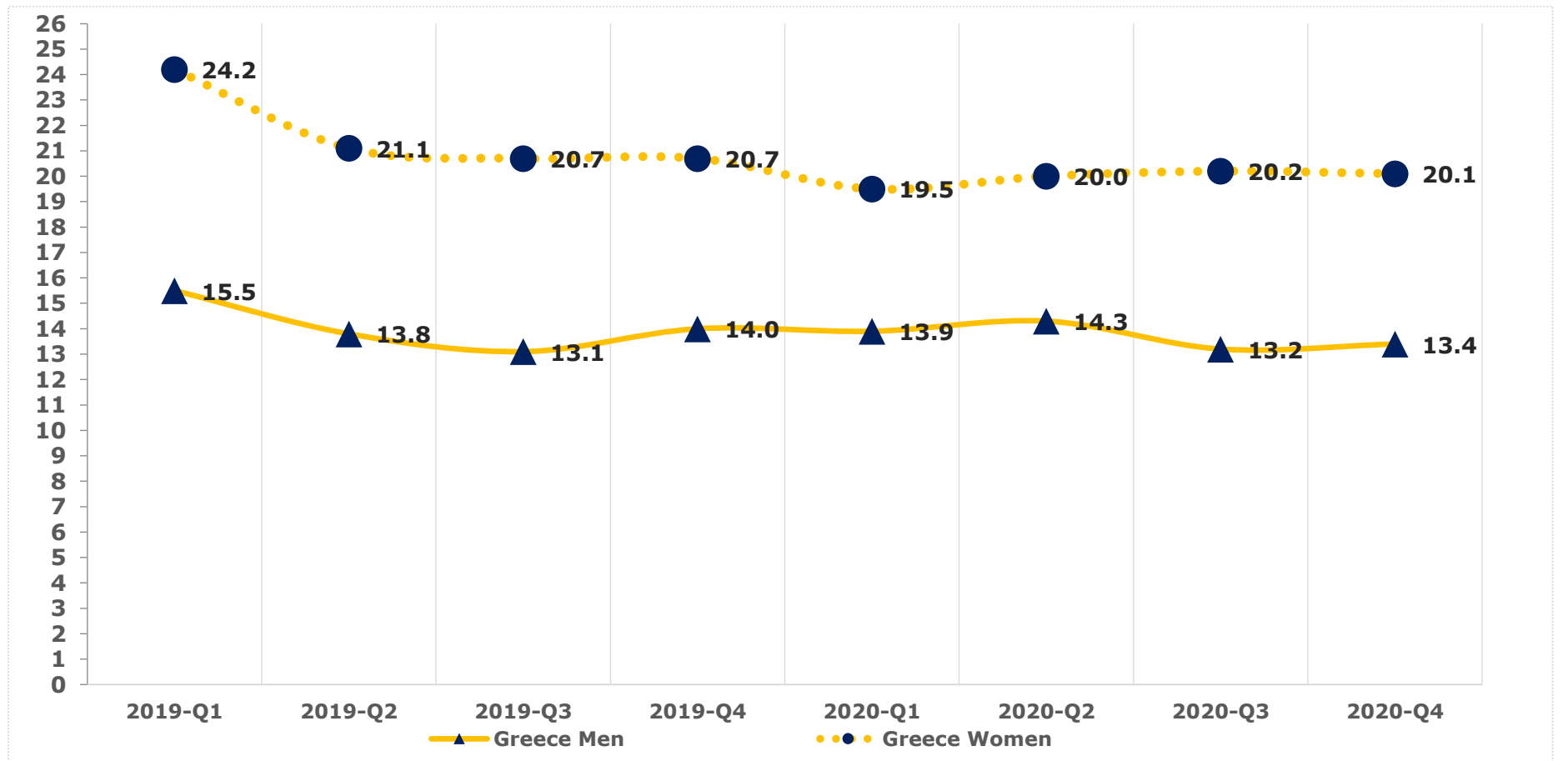
Figure 7a: Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate, quarterly data, total population aged 15-64 (2019-2020, EU-27 and Greece, %)



Source: Eurostat LFS - indicator [lfsq_urgan] - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2020 (2020-Q4), the unemployment rate in the EU-27 for people aged 15-64 years is 7.1% for men and 7.7% for women. In Greece, these figures are 13.4% and 20.1% respectively.

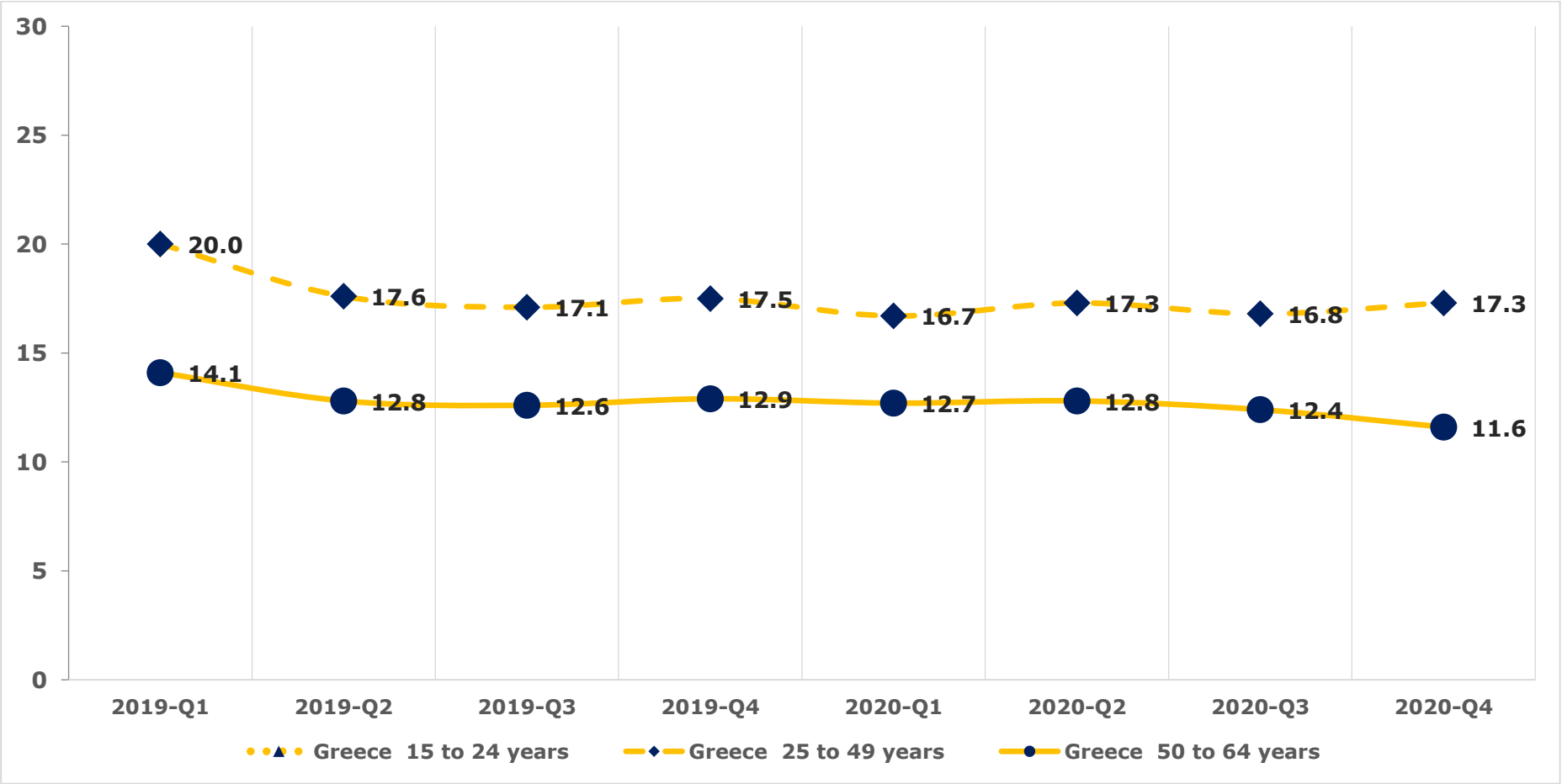
Figure 7b: Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate, quarterly data, total population aged 15-64 – by gender (2019-2020, Greece, %)



Source: Eurostat LFS - indicator [lfsq_organ] - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2020 (2020-Q4), the unemployment rate in the EU-27 is 16.9% for the 15-24 age group. In Greece, it is 35.3%.

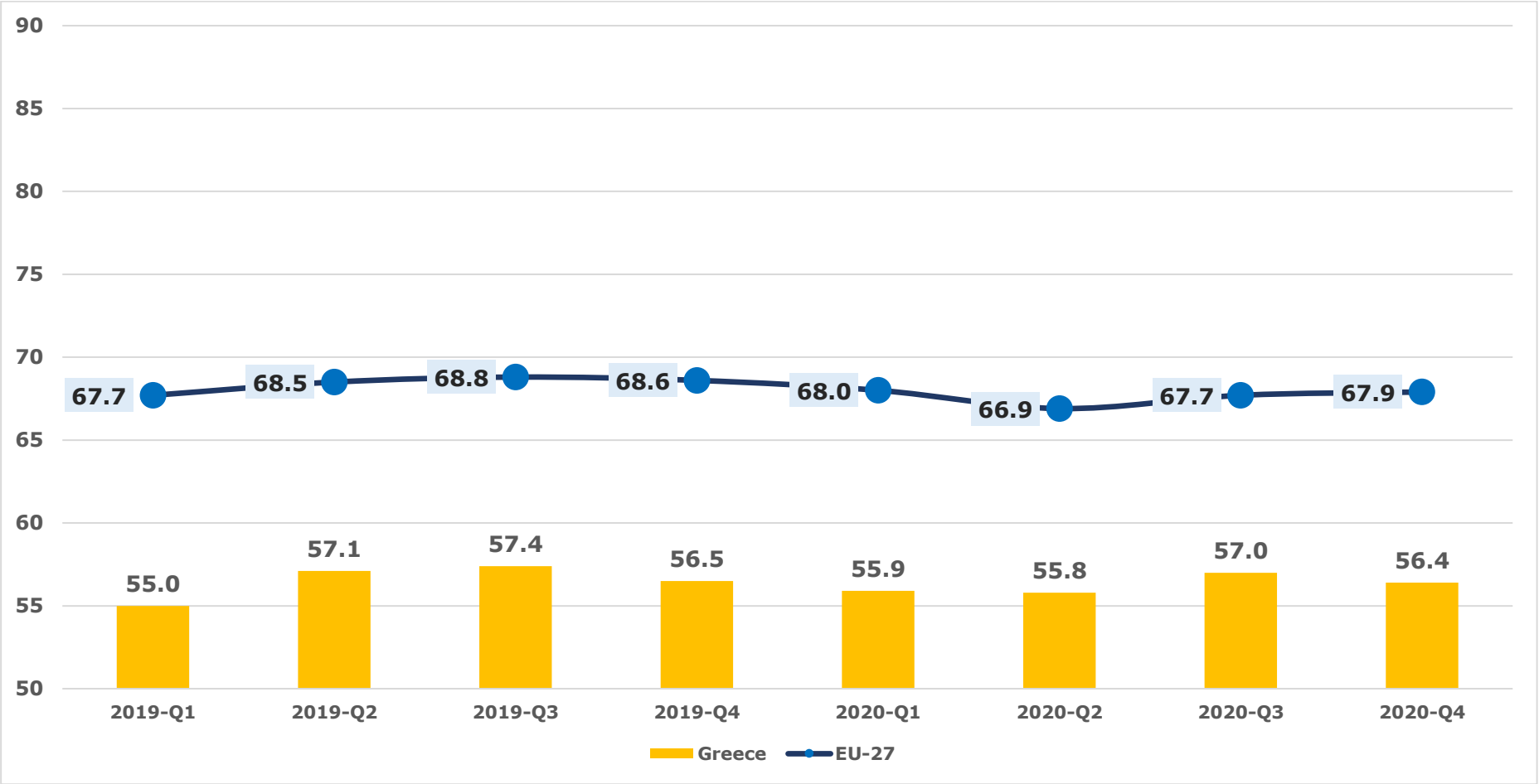
Figure 7c: Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate, quarterly data, total population aged 15-64 – by age group (2019-2020, Greece, %)



Source: Eurostat LFS - indicator [lfsq_urgan] - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2020 (2020-Q4), the employment rate for people aged 15-64 in the EU-27 is 67.9%. In Greece, it is 56.4%.

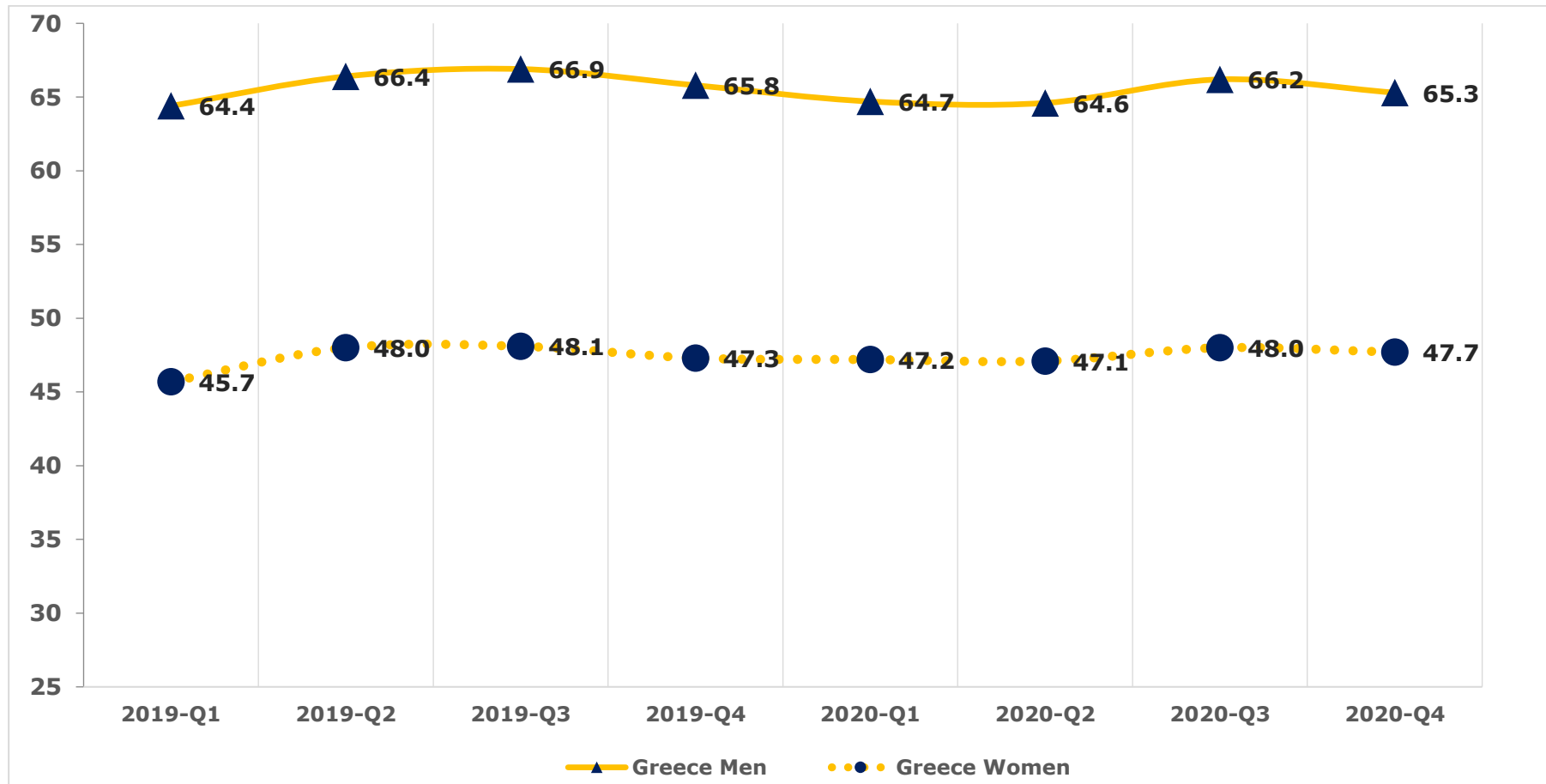
Figure 8a: Seasonally-adjusted employment rate, quarterly data, total population aged 15-64 (2019-2020, EU-27 and Greece, %)



Source: Eurostat LFS - indicator [lfsq_ergan] - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2020 (2020-Q4), the employment rate in the EU-27 is 73.0% for men and 62.8% for women. In Greece, these figures are 65.3% and 47.7% respectively.

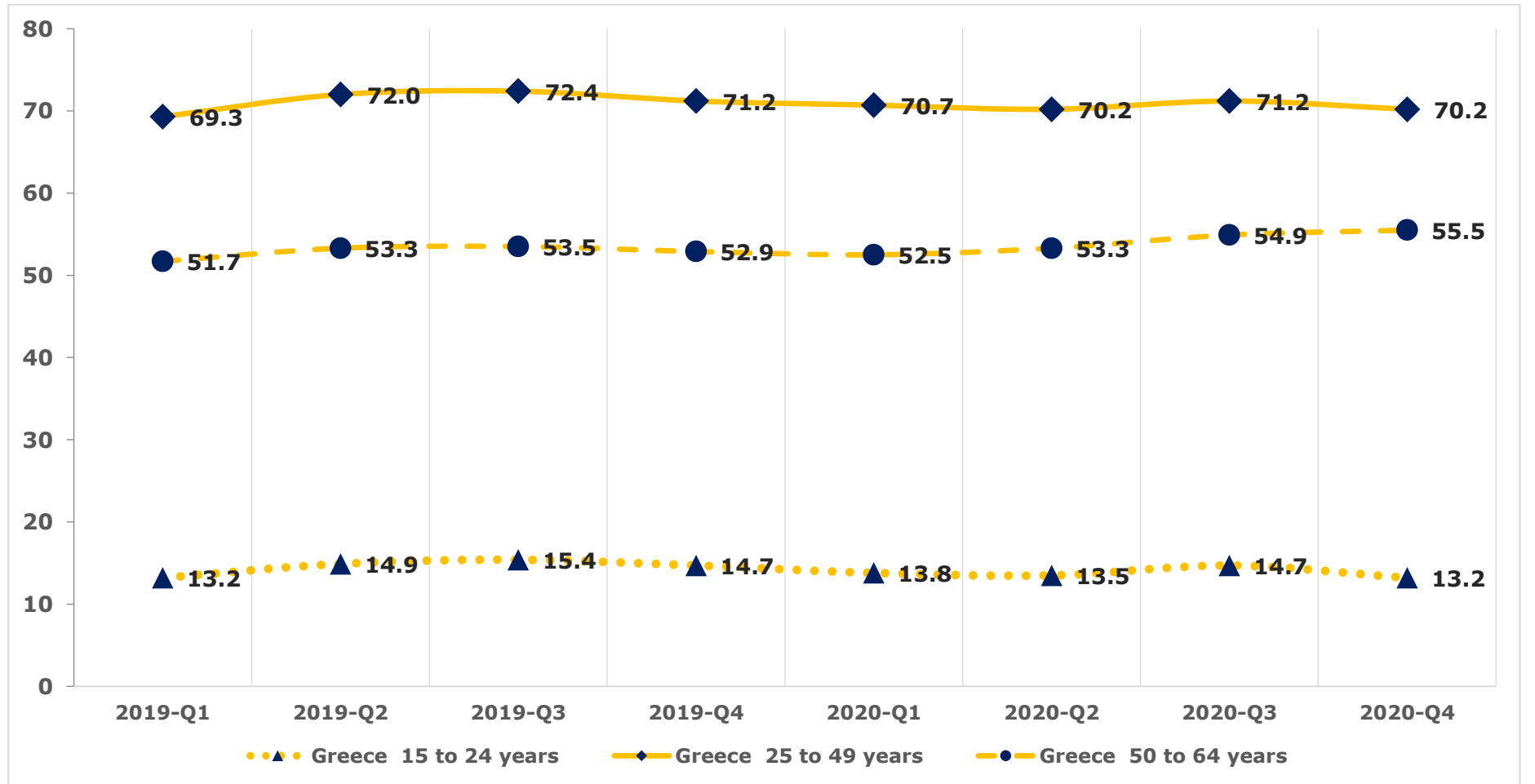
Figure 8b: Seasonally-adjusted employment rate, quarterly data, total population aged 15-64 – by gender (2019-2020, Greece, %)



Source: Eurostat LFS - indicator [lfsq_ergan] - downloaded 26 April 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2020 (2020-Q4), the employment rate in the EU-27 is 31.1% for the 15-24 age group. In Greece, it is 13.2%.

Figure 8c: Seasonally-adjusted employment rate, quarterly data, total population aged 15-64 – by age group (2019-2020, Greece, %)



Source: Eurostat LFS - indicator [lfsq_ergan] - downloaded 26 April 2021.

1.3 Poverty, inequality and social exclusion situation

There are no data on poverty, inequality or the social exclusion situation that illustrate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

2 SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC²

This section provides a brief description of the main measures related to social protection and social inclusion that have been put in place to help mitigate the financial and social distress produced by the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. It is based on readily available data and evidence. For each measure, it provides the following information.

- a) Short description of the measure.
- b) Category: Is it a flat benefit, a conditional benefit, both a flat and a conditional benefit, or neither a flat nor a conditional benefit?
- c) Timing: When did the measure start/end? Has it been extended?
- d) Depending on the category:
 - amount and duration (for flat measures); and
 - range (minimum-maximum), duration and conditionality (thresholds) (for conditional measures).

If the measure is neither flat nor conditional, this is indicated by "Not applicable".

- e) Targeted population: what is/are the target(s) of the measure? – that is to say, which parts of the population or of the labour force. Where data and evidence are readily available, estimated number of people targeted and/or applicants.
- f) Beneficiaries: What is the number of recipients of the measure (if relevant and available)?
- g) Novelty (was the measure new or an already existing one that was adjusted?).

2.1 Measures related to unemployment benefits

2.1.1 *Παράταση διάρκειας τακτικής επιδότησης ανεργίας και επιδόματος μακροχρονίως ανέργων (Extension of the duration of regular and long-term unemployment benefits)*

- a) Short description of the measure: The measure concerns a two-month extension of all unemployment benefits (i.e. the regular unemployment benefit, the long-term unemployment benefit and the unemployment benefit provided to self-employed people and freelancers) provided by the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED). It should be noted that the regular unemployment benefit does not cover self-employed people and freelancers who have become unemployed. However, self-employed people and freelancers can claim (subject to strict eligibility criteria) a means-tested unemployment benefit, the payment of which typically lasts from three to nine months, depending on the period of contributions (the minimum being three years). The duration of unemployment benefits provided by the OAED was extended by two months for those beneficiaries whose benefits expired during the period January 2020 to March 2021. As a result, both the regular unemployment benefit (€399.25 per month) and the long-term unemployment benefit (€200 per month) were provided for 14 months instead of

² The relevant legislation concerning the support measures is provided (by policy area) in the Annex. The temporary measures mentioned in this report refer to the situation as of 15 April 2021. Their duration may have been extended since then.

12 months. The duration of the unemployment benefit provided to self-employed people and freelancers (€399.25 per month) was also extended by two months. In the case of those beneficiaries whose benefits expired in April 2021, the duration of their unemployment benefits was extended by one month. It should be pointed out, however, that unemployed people who receive any unemployment benefit could benefit only once from this measure (i.e. the two-month extension is applied only once per beneficiary).

- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was first introduced in March 2020 and was initially aimed at all beneficiaries whose benefits expired during the first quarter of 2020. Subsequently, the measure was extended to cover people whose benefit expired during the period May-December 2020, and was extended once more in order to cover people whose benefit expired during the period January-April 2021.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: The measure was aimed at all registered unemployed people (including seasonal workers) whose benefits expired during the period January 2020 to February 2021. According to announcements made by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs,³ it is estimated that approximately 123,000 people whose benefit expired during the period September-December 2020 were eligible to benefit from the two-months extension of the duration of regular and long-term unemployment benefits.
- f) Beneficiaries: In total, according to the governor of the OAED (OAED, 2021), approximately 370,000 unemployed people had benefited from this measure up to January 2021.
- g) Novelty: The measure introduced an adjustment of the already existing unemployment benefits.

2.1.2 Παροχή ηλεκτρονικών υπηρεσιών του Οργανισμού Απασχόλησης Εργατικού Δυναμικού (Provision of the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation's services electronically)

- a) Short description of the measure: In order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, almost all OAED services have been provided electronically since April 2020 (OAED, 2020). In particular, the OAED provides various digital services to unemployed people and employers, including the application procedure for benefits, registration with the unemployment registry, and issuing/renewal of the unemployment card. The aim is to improve both access to, and the quality of, OAED services by simplifying the procedures.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The digitalisation of OAED services was first introduced in April 2020, with a view to gradually transforming all OAED services. Over the period April 2020 to January 2021, almost all OAED services were digitalised and are now provided exclusively online.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: All citizens (unemployed people, employers, employees, businesses) can benefit from this measure. This measure is not targeted at a particular part of the population, but is instead aimed at improving access to OAED services for all citizens.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not applicable.
- g) Novelty: Prior to the pandemic, the OAED offered only a limited number of services electronically. However, almost all OAED services are now provided exclusively online.

³ See <https://ypergasias.gov.gr/dilosi-g-vroutsi-stis-anakoinoseis-gia-tin-ektakti-oikonomiki-enischysi-ton-evaloton-omadon-19-11-2020> (in Greek).

Given this, it may be argued that the measure introduced adjustments to the provision of already existing services.

2.1.3 Μείωση απαιτούμενων ημερών ασφάλισης για τη λήψη επιδόματος ανεργίας για τους απασχολούμενους σε τουριστικά, επισιτιστικά και άλλα εποχικά επαγγέλματα (Loosening of the eligibility conditions for the regular unemployment benefit for those employed in tourism, food and other seasonal occupations)

- a) Short description of the measure: The measure concerns the loosening of eligibility conditions for the regular unemployment benefit for those employed in tourism, food and other seasonal occupations. In particular, those employed in these occupations (seasonal workers) in 2020, in order to receive the unemployment benefit, were required to have worked for at least 50 days (instead of 100 days) during the 14 months preceding the termination of employment.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was adopted in December 2020 (Law 4764/2020) and it is not expected to be extended.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: The measure was aimed at people who had been employed in tourism or other businesses that operate seasonally (restaurants, bars, leisure centres, cafes, etc.) for one or two seasons. It was also targeted at people who had been employed in businesses that, due to the nature of their operation, the weather or special conditions, operate for a period between two and nine months yearly. In addition, the measure included people who had been employed in businesses that operate all year round but have periods of recession, during which the employed staff does not exceed 25% of the employed staff during peak periods.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: The measure introduces an adjustment of the already existing unemployment benefits for seasonal workers. The adjustment concerns the eligibility conditions and, in particular, a reduction of the minimum number of days of work (from 100 to 50) required for the granting of the regular unemployment benefit for seasonal workers.

2.2 Measures of job protection provided through support to employers, employees and the self-employed

2.2.1 Αποζημίωση ειδικού σκοπού σε εργαζόμενους σε αναστολή εργασίας (Special-purpose compensation to employed people whose labour contracts have been suspended)

- a) Short description of the measure: The “special purpose” compensation (a wage-subsidy scheme) is granted to all private sector employees whose labour contracts have been suspended, working in businesses whose work has been suspended or which have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: this is done on the basis of their business activity codes.⁴ Employers are being fully compensated by the state for the social insurance contributions of all employed people whose labour contracts have been suspended.⁵ In order to benefit from the scheme, employers are obliged to retain the same number of employees for a period equal to the period for which the labour contract had been suspended.

⁴ Since April 2020, the Ministry of Finance issues on a monthly basis a list of business activity codes of businesses that are considered to be significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵ The proportion of the Easter and Christmas bonuses that correspond to the period of suspension of employees will also be covered by the state.

- b) Category: Flat benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was adopted for the first time in March 2020 and, in order to continue protecting jobs, the government extended it to April 2021. This measure is likely to be extended for as long as lockdown measures are in place.
- d) Amount and duration: The special-purpose compensation of €534 per month (i.e. 97% of the net minimum salary, which is €550) is granted to all private sector employees whose labour contracts have been suspended, working in businesses whose work has been suspended or which have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, seasonal workers whose labour contracts have been suspended can also receive the compensation on the condition that they were employed in 2019 and rehired in 2020. The amount of the compensation corresponds to 30 working days, irrespective of the employee's monthly salary (i.e. the employee is entitled to €17.80 for each day of suspension). This amount is exempted from any tax and is not subject to any deduction or seizure by the state or a third party. It should be noted that for the 45-day period from 15 March 2020 to 30 April 2020 the compensation amounted to €800. Additionally, the compensation of €534 per month was increased by €266 only for November 2020 (amounting thus to €800).
- e) Targeted population: All employees whose labour contracts (irrespective of their contract type, full-time or part-time) have been suspended, working either in businesses whose work has been suspended or in businesses significantly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. This compensation is also provided to the self-employed, freelancers and business owners (with up to 20 employees) financially affected by the COVID-19 outbreak (again on the basis of their business activity codes). It should be noted that, for the period June-October 2020, the compensation was also provided to seasonal workers in tourism and transport whose labour contracts were suspended, on the condition that they were employed in 2019 and rehired in 2020. According to the Ministry of Finance (2020), when the measure was announced it was estimated that 1.7 million employees could receive it, covering 81% of all private sector employees.
- f) Beneficiaries: Available information concerning the number of monthly payments reveals that, in March-April 2020 (first lockdown), 810,028 suspended employees and 453,780 self-employed people received the special-purpose compensation (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2020). In May 2020 (gradual reopening of businesses), the compensation was provided to 542,244 employees (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2020) and 79,000 self-employed people (Social Protection Committee, 2021). In June and July 2020, the number of beneficiaries showed a downward trend, amounting to 134,175 employees and 133,000 self-employed people in June, and 70,254 employees and 20,920 self-employed people in July (Social Protection Committee, 2021). In August 2020, 101,406 employees and 4,000 self-employed people received the compensation (Social Protection Committee, 2021). In September 2020, the number of beneficiaries amounted to 120,471 employees, and in October 2020 to 134,829 employees;⁶ there are no available data for the number of self-employed beneficiaries. In November 2020, when the second lockdown started, 738,843 employees received the compensation, followed by 645,054 in December 2020 (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2021). In January 2021, the compensation was provided to 623,557 employees (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2021a), while the number of beneficiaries showed a downward trend over the next few months, amounting to 532,208 employees in February 2021, 503,691 in March 2021 and 472,899 in April 2021 (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2021b; 2021c; 2021d).

The latest available data (Social Protection Committee, 2021) reveal that 102,426 seasonal employees received the compensation in June 2020, 68,355 in July 2020, 42,226 in August 2020, 37,379 in September 2020 and 57,954 in October 2020.

⁶ Own calculations based on ministerial decisions concerning payments of the special-purpose compensation.

- g) Novelty: This is a new measure taken by the Greek government to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market, funded by the European instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE).

2.2.2 Μηχανισμός ενίσχυσης της απασχόλησης "Συν-Εργασία" ("Syn-Ergasia" employment-subsidy mechanism)

- a) Short description of the measure: In order to support employment and help businesses to maintain full-time jobs in the private sector, the government has launched an employment-subsidy mechanism, taking the form of a short-term work scheme, called "Syn-Ergasia". The scheme is aimed at businesses, regardless of their business activity codes, that have recorded a drop in their turnover of at least 20% over a specific reference period (determined by the month of their accession to the mechanism). In addition, they are not allowed to terminate or change the employment contracts (including the salaries) of employees during their participation in the mechanism.
- b) Category: Conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: This mechanism was introduced in June 2020 and was expected to be implemented from 15 June 2020 until 15 October 2020; but it was initially extended to 31 December 2020 and subsequently to 31 March 2021. Very recently the mechanism has been extended to 30 September 2021.
- d) Range, duration and conditionality: The Syn-Ergasia employment-subsidy mechanism provides that, for the period 15 June 2020 to 30 September 2021, employers can reduce by up to 50% the weekly working hours of their personnel (working on a full-time labour contract) with a corresponding reduction in their salary, on the condition that the employment relationship is retained. The state will cover 60% of the reduction in employees' net salary and 100% of their social insurance contributions for hours not worked, as long as businesses retain the same number of employees they had in June 2020. Where the net salary of an employee after the adjustment is lower than the minimum wage, the state tops up the payment to the minimum wage. Since 25 January 2021, the nominal salary taken into account for the calculation of short-term financial support cannot exceed €6,500 per month.
- e) Targeted population: All full-time employees working in eligible businesses. People in part-time employment and people whose contract has been suspended are not eligible for this mechanism. The scheme was expected to cover 394,000 beneficiaries (European Commission, 2020). No information is available as to the number of applicants.
- f) Beneficiaries: In July 2020, approximately 5,500 businesses (concerning 48,500 employees) benefited from the Syn-Ergasia mechanism, while in August 2020 this number declined to 4,900 businesses (concerning 41,200 employees) (European Commission, 2020). In September 2020, 41,504 employees benefited from the scheme, falling to 41,144 in October 2020,⁷ 27,466 in November 2020,⁸ 19,288 in December 2020,⁹ and 14,432 in January 2021.¹⁰
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure funded by SURE.

2.2.3 Κάλυψη από τον κρατικό προϋπολογισμό των εργοδοτικών ασφαλιστικών εισφορών εργαζομένων σε τουριστικές εποχικές επιχειρήσεις (Financing

⁷ See Ministerial Decision οικ. 43881/8458, available at: <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/6ZE646MTAK-1Ψ4> and Ministerial Decision οικ. 48720/1234 available at: <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/9ΨNH46MTAK-ΧΚΦ> (in Greek).

⁸ See Ministerial Decision οικ. 52472/10438, available at: <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/oc/ΨΠΓΦ46MTAK-ΗΓΑ?inline=true> (in Greek).

⁹ See Ministerial Decision οικ. 52910/1341, available at: <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/ΩTK246MTAK-B5Ω> and Ministerial Decision οικ. 5148/177, available at: <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/6ΦBK46MTAK-2Δ5> (in Greek).

¹⁰ See Ministerial Decision οικ. 12101/2063, available at: <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/Ψ63046MTAK-7Ε1?inline=true> (in Greek).

by the state of employers' social insurance for employees working in seasonal businesses in the tourism and transport sectors)

- a) Short description of the measure: This measure involved the financing by the state of employers' social insurance contributions in respect of people employed in seasonal businesses in the tourism and transport sectors. According to Law 4714/2020, the state covered 100% of the social insurance contributions of seasonal employees for July, August and September 2020, on the condition that employers retained the same number of employees as they had on 30 June 2020.
- b) Category: Conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was in force in July-September 2020, and is not expected to be extended.
- d) Range, duration and conditionality: The measure, which was in force in July-September 2020, involved the 100% financing by the state of employers' social insurance contributions in respect of people employed in seasonal businesses in the tourism and transport sectors (on the basis of their business activity codes). Eligible businesses were those with 50% of their turnover concentrated in the third quarter of the year based on 2019 data. They were obliged to retain the same number of employees as they had in June 2020 for the whole period that they benefited from the measure.
- e) Targeted population: The measure was targeted at all employees working in seasonal businesses with 50% of their turnover concentrated in the third quarter of the year, determined on the basis of 2019 data.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure funded by SURE.

2.2.4 Παράταση προθεσμίας καταβολής ασφαλιστικών εισφορών (Extension of the deadline for payment of social insurance contributions)

- a) Short description of the measure: This measure concerns the extension of the deadline for payment of social insurance contributions (for February, March and April 2020) of employed people, without interest or surcharges. Businesses that benefit from this measure are obliged to maintain all job positions. As for freelancers, self-employed people and farmers, they could benefit from a 25% reduction in their social insurance contributions for February, March, April and May 2020 if these were paid on time, or they could decide to postpone these payments to a later period. Beneficiaries can benefit from a settlement scheme, according to which the deferred amounts can be paid in up to 48 instalments, starting in December 2021 without the imposition of penalties or/and interest for late payments.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The payment delay for social insurance contributions for businesses and employers was introduced in March 2020, and concerned employees' social insurance contributions for February, March and April 2020 that were due on 31 March, 30 April and 30 May 2020. These were initially foreseen to be paid on 30 September, 31 October and 30 November 2020 respectively, but were again postponed until 30 April 2021. In February 2021, the deadlines were further extended to 31 December 2021.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: All businesses, employers, self-employed people, freelancers and farmers whose work has been suspended or are significantly affected by the emergency measures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic (on the basis of their business activity codes).
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure.

2.2.5 Αναστολή καταβολής ΦΠΑ και άλλων φορολογικών υποχρεώσεων (Suspension of VAT and other tax payments)

- a) Short description of the measure: The measure concerned the suspension of VAT and other tax payments without interest or surcharges for businesses, self-employed people, freelancers and farmers whose work had been suspended or significantly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. A prerequisite for businesses to benefit from this deferral was that they had to maintain all job positions.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: VAT and other tax payments for businesses that were due during March-June 2020 were suspended until August-October 2020. In August 2020, the deadlines were further extended until 30 April 2021. Freelancers, self-employed people and farmers could benefit from a 25% reduction in their VAT and other tax payments for March, April, May and June 2020 if these were paid on time, or they could decide to postpone these payments to a later period, in four equal monthly instalments starting from September 2020.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: All businesses, self-employed people, freelancers and farmers whose work had been suspended or was significantly affected by COVID-19 crisis (on the basis of their business activity codes).
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure.

2.2.6 Προσωρινή απαγόρευση καταγγελιών σύμβασης εργασίας και ρήτρα διατήρησης θέσεων εργασίας (Temporary prohibition on employers carrying out dismissals, and job-retention clause)

- a) Short description of the measure: This measure introduces a temporary prohibition on employers carrying out dismissals, and a job-retention clause for private sector businesses whose work has been suspended or significantly affected (on the basis of their business activity codes) by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those that are benefiting from a support measure. In addition, businesses are obliged to maintain the same number of employees, after the suspension expires, for a period of time equal to the suspension period.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure, which has been in force since March 2020, was initially expected to last until 31 December 2020, but it has been extended to last for the whole period that the COVID-19 support measures are in force.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: This measure is targeted at protecting all private sector employees (irrespective of their work contract) working in businesses whose work has been suspended or significantly affected (on the basis of their business activity codes) by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure.

2.3 Measures related to sickness benefits and sick pay

2.3.1 **Άδεια γονέων λόγω νόσησης των τέκνων από τον κορωνοϊό (Special leave for working parents whose child/children have been infected with COVID-19)**

- a) Short description of the measure: Special leave is provided to working parents (in both the public and private sectors) whose child/children have been infected with COVID-19. The special leave is provided in addition to other leave relating to sickness or childcare, irrespective of the parents' prior term of service with the employer, and is applied to employees of the public as well as the private sector.
- b) Category: Conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was adopted in September 2020 and is likely to be extended until the end of the pandemic.
- d) Range, duration and conditionality: Special leave of 14 days (or longer, if this is deemed necessary, based on a medical examination or in cases where a child is hospitalised) is provided to working parents (in both the public and private sectors) whose child/children have been infected with COVID-19. During the period of this special leave, two thirds of the employee's salary are paid by the employer and a third by the state. Employers are obliged to declare to the "ERGANI" information system the employees who received the special-purpose leave, as well as its duration.
- e) Targeted population: The measure is targeted at working parents (employees and non-standard workers) in both the public and the private sector. Self-employed people are not covered by this measure.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure aiming at helping working parents to provide care to their children.

2.3.2 **Μέτρα στήριξης εργαζομένων του ιδιωτικού τομέα που ανήκουν στις ευπαθείς ομάδες (Support measures for high-risk people employed in the private sector)**

- a) Short description of the measure: Vulnerable people and/or people at high risk of illness from COVID-19 because of an underlying health condition (as specified by a ministerial decision) who are employed in the private sector can request either the use of teleworking or to undertake positions that do not require person-to-person contact. Employees should accompany their request with the relevant medical certificate. Employers are obliged to accept the requests. If teleworking is not feasible, employers must temporarily suspend the labour contracts, in which case the employees are granted special-purpose compensation (see Sub-section 2.2.1)
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was first introduced in August 2020 and was initially expected to be in force until 30 September 2020, but it has been extended to last until 30 April 2021. The measure is likely to be extended until the end of the pandemic.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: The measure is targeted at vulnerable people and/or people at high risk of illness from COVID-19 because of an underlying health condition who are employed in the private sector.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure.

2.3.3 Μέτρα στήριξης εργαζομένων του δημόσιου τομέα που ανήκουν στις ευπαθείς ομάδες (Support measures for high-risk people employed in the public sector)

- a) Short description of the measure: For as long as the pandemic lasts, “special leave of absence” is provided to vulnerable people and/or people at high risk of illness from COVID-19 because of an underlying health condition who are employed in the public sector. The special leave is subject to the provision of a relevant medical certificate. From 15 September 2020, for every fourth day that public sector employees (who cannot work remotely) benefit from this special leave, one day is deducted from their annual leave.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was introduced in March 2020 and is expected to last until the end of the pandemic.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: The measure is targeted at vulnerable people and/or people at high risk of illness from COVID-19 because of an underlying health condition who are employed in the public sector.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure.

2.4 Measures related to health insurance

Given that the Greek health system provides (nearly) universal population coverage, no significant measures related to health insurance were adopted during the pandemic. Instead, most of the measures related to the health sector introduced during the pandemic in Greece concern preventing transmission, ensuring sufficient physical infrastructure and health workforce capacity, and maintaining essential services. Instead, there have been no major changes in relation to the breadth (who is covered) and the scope (what is covered) of health insurance coverage (Economou et al., 2020). This is congruent with the fact that all citizens and legal residents are entitled to public healthcare coverage. In general, the healthcare coverage package includes primary/ambulatory, diagnostic, in-patient and out-patient specialist care, including from private providers contracted with the National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (EOPYY) (Economou et al., 2017).

In this context, COVID-19 screening is available at no charge for those meeting the medical eligibility criteria set by the National Public Health Organisation, while no charges apply to COVID-19-related health services (testing, primary care, hospital care, medicines, post-acute care etc.) provided by the National Health System. Additionally, all non-COVID-19 patients directed to private health facilities for hospitalisation, in an attempt to alleviate the pressure on public hospitals, are not subjected to any co-payments.

Finally, it is worth noting that, since April 2020, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the psychiatric clinic of the University of Athens’ Medical School and the Federation of Psycho-social Rehabilitation and Mental Health Institutions (ARGO), has operated a national phone helpline for the provision (free of charge) of psycho-social and mental health support to the whole population. Services are accessible to adults and children struggling to deal with the impact of the pandemic. In total, the helpline offered support services to more than 126,000 people during April 2020 to April 2021. Since December 2020, the operation of the helpline has been funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

2.5 Measures related to minimum-income schemes and other forms of social assistance

2.5.1 Οικονομική ενίσχυση για επιστήμονες-ελεύθερους επαγγελματίες (One-off economic support payment to certain liberal professions)

- a) Short description of the measure: A one-off economic support payment was provided to certain liberal professions (i.e. economists/accountants, engineers, lawyers, doctors, teachers and researchers). In addition, an extra one-off means-tested economic support payment was provided to certain self-employed people fulfilling specific eligibility criteria.
- b) Category: Flat benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was adopted in March 2020 and the economic support was provided to beneficiaries in April 2020. The extra support for self-employed people was adopted in November 2020 (Law 4756/2020).
- d) Amount and duration: The measure concerns: (i) a one-off economic support payment of €600 which was provided in April 2020 to certain liberal professions (i.e. economists/accountants, engineers, lawyers, doctors, teachers and researchers) who have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, on the basis of their business activity codes; and (ii) an extra one-off means-tested economic support payment of €400 to certain self-employed people.
- e) Targeted population: Self-employed economists, accountants, engineers, lawyers, doctors, teachers and researchers who were financially affected by the pandemic.
- f) Beneficiaries: According to a press release by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2020), 182,839 people received the one-off payment in April 2020. In addition, according to the latest available data (16 March 2021), 44,248 people received the extra support for self-employed people (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2021e). However, it should be noted that, due to a significant number of rejected applications, the authorities decided to amend the eligibility criteria in order to increase the number of beneficiaries.
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure.

2.5.2 Εφάπαξ χορήγηση οικονομικής ενίσχυσης σε μη επιδοτούμενους μακροχρόνια ανέργους (One-off economic support payment to long-term unemployed people who do not receive the long-term unemployment benefit)

- a) Short description of the measure: A one-off economic support payment to registered long-term unemployed people not eligible for the long-term unemployment benefit.
- b) Category: Flat benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was first introduced in April 2020 and renewed in December 2020 for different recipients. The one-off payment was provided twice, in April 2020 and in December 2020.
- d) Amount and duration: A one-off economic support payment of €400 was provided to registered long-term unemployed people not eligible for the long-term unemployment benefit. In particular, the support provided in April 2020 was aimed at registered unemployed people who became long-term unemployed (i.e. more than 12 consecutive months of registered unemployment) between 1 April 2019 and 16 April 2020, remained unemployed until 16 April 2020, and were not eligible for the long-term unemployment benefit. The support provided in December 2020 was aimed at registered unemployed people who became long-term unemployed after 1 March 2020, were not eligible for the long-term unemployment benefit, remained unemployed until December 2020, and did not receive the support paid in April 2020.

- e) Targeted population: Registered long-term unemployed people not eligible for the long-term unemployment benefit. According to the OAED (2020a), the estimated number of eligible people for the first payment (April 2020) amounted to approximately 168,000, while the estimated number eligible for the second payment (December 2020) amounted to approximately 130,000 (OAED, 2020b).
- f) Beneficiaries: For the first payment (April 2020), the number of recipients was 150,000 (89.3% of eligible people) (OAED, 2020a), while 96,767 people (74% of eligible people) received the second payment (December 2020) (OAED, 2020b).
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure.

2.5.3 Έκτακτη αποζημίωση εποχικά εργαζόμενων του τουριστικού και επισιτιστικού κλάδου χωρίς δικαίωμα υποχρεωτικής επαναπρόσληψης (Special allowance for seasonal workers in tourism and food sectors who did not have to be rehired in 2020)

- a) Short description of the measure: The measure concerned a special allowance granted to seasonal workers in tourism and food sectors, who were employed in 2019 but not rehired in 2020.¹¹
- b) Category: Conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was introduced in May 2020, and the special allowance was provided in June, July and August 2020. In April 2021, the authorities decided to provide an extra special allowance for January and February 2021, which was expected to be paid in May 2021.
- d) Range, duration and conditionality: Those eligible for the special allowance provided in 2020 were those who fulfilled the following conditions: (i) they were employed in 2019; (ii) they were not rehired in 2020 (as the relevant legislation foresees); (iii) they remained on the unemployment registry over the period June-August 2020; and (iv) they received the regular unemployment benefit for seasonal workers for three months and five days over the period September 2019 to February 2020. For the special allowance provided in 2021, eligible beneficiaries, in addition to the above-mentioned conditions, had to have remained registered as unemployed at least until February 2021. The amount of both special allowances was equal to the last monthly unemployment benefit they received (OAED, 2020c).
- e) Targeted population: Seasonal employees in tourism and food supply sectors, who were employed in 2019 and were not rehired in 2020.
- f) Beneficiaries: According to the governor of the OAED (OAED, 2021), approximately 20,000 unemployed seasonal workers benefited from this measure.
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure.

2.5.4 Εφάπαξ έκτακτη οικονομική ενίσχυση σε δικαιούχους του "Ελάχιστου Εγγυημένου Εισοδήματος" (An extra one-off income-support payment to beneficiaries of the "guaranteed minimum income" scheme)

- a) Short description of the measure: An extra one-off income-support payment granted to "guaranteed minimum income" (GMI) scheme beneficiaries' households with at least one child. In addition, in December 2020 all GMI beneficiaries received an extra one-off amount.
- b) Category: Flat benefit.

¹¹ According to the relevant legislation, any business that employs seasonal workers is obliged to rehire the employees who were employed in the previous year and wish to be rehired for the next year (it is considered a 'right' of the employee). Employees who wish to be rehired have to inform the employer in writing at the end of the working season.

- c) Timing: The first income-support payment, to GMI beneficiary households with children, was introduced in May 2020 and paid in June 2020. The extra payment, to all GMI beneficiaries, was introduced in November 2020 and paid in December 2020. At present, there is no indication that these measures will be extended.
- d) Amount and duration: Beneficiaries of the GMI scheme with at least one child had their monthly GMI benefit increased by €100 for the first child and by €50 for each additional child; the total extra amount was capped at €300, irrespective of the composition of the household. In addition, in December 2020 all GMI beneficiaries received an extra one-off amount, equal to their monthly GMI benefit.
- e) Targeted population: The first payment was targeted at GMI beneficiaries with at least one child, while the second payment was targeted at all GMI beneficiaries. According to the relevant announcements by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,¹² the measure was targeted at approximately 63,900 households with children who received the GMI benefit in April 2020. In addition, in December 2020, all GMI beneficiaries (approximately 500,000 people) received an extra one-off amount equal to their monthly GMI benefit.
- f) Beneficiaries: Available data reveal that the first payment was granted to 50,128 GMI beneficiaries with at least one child, while the second amount was granted to 256,562 households (or 482,335 people) (Secretariat General for Communication & Media, 2020).
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure.

2.5.5 Παράταση ισχύος εγκριτικών αποφάσεων καταβολής "Επιδόματος Στέγασης" και "Ελάχιστου Εγγυημένου Εισοδήματος" (Extension of the duration of receipt of the "rent subsidy" and GMI scheme approved beneficiaries)

- a) Short description of the measure: The Greek government extended the duration of receipt of the "rent subsidy" for approved beneficiaries whose allowance expired over the period February 2020 to April 2021. In particular, for those beneficiaries whose allowance expired over the period February-May 2020, a two-month extension was granted, while for those whose allowance expired over the period November 2020 to April 2021 a three-month extension was granted. In addition, the government extended the duration of receipt of the GMI benefit for approved beneficiaries whose allowance expired over the period February 2020 to April 2021. In particular, for those beneficiaries whose allowance expired over the period February-May 2020, a two-month extension was granted; while for those whose allowance expired over the period November 2020 to April 2021, a three-month extension was granted. It should be noted that approved applications for receiving both these benefits are valid for a six-month period, after which beneficiaries have to make a new application.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was first introduced in February 2020 and has been extended four times since then.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: The measure is targeted at: (i) beneficiaries of the rent subsidy and (ii) GMI beneficiaries whose allowance expired over the period February 2020 to April 2021.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.

¹² See <https://covid19.gov.gr/efapax-ektakti-isodimatiki-enischysi-apo-100-eos-300-evro-se-dikeouchous-tou-elachistou-engyimenou-isodimatos-pou-ine-gonis-anilikon-teknon> (in Greek).

- g) Novelty: This measure amended the duration of already existing welfare benefits (rent subsidy and GMI scheme).

2.6 Measures related to housing support¹³

2.6.1 *Μείωση μισθώματος επαγγελματικών μισθώσεων, μισθώσεων κύριας κατοικίας και εξαρτημένων μελών φοιτητών (Reduction of rent amounts for rented professional premises, primary residences and student-rented residences)*

- a) Short description of the measure: A mandatory (without the consent of the property-owner) reduction in the monthly rent applied to: (i) the rented professional premises of those businesses whose operation was suspended and certain businesses (specified in the relevant Act of Legislative Content) which were affected by the COVID-19 crisis; (ii) the rented primary residence of employees working in businesses which were obliged to suspend operations; (iii) the rented primary residence of employees whose labour contracts were suspended; (iv) student-rented residences of children of those in categories (ii) and (iii).
- b) Category: Conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was first implemented for the period March-October 2020 for those businesses which were obliged to suspend operations. The measure was extended for certain businesses (specified in the relevant Act of Legislative Content) which were affected by the COVID-19 crisis for the period April-October 2020. The reduction of rent amounts was also implemented for November and December 2020 and concerned both businesses whose operation was suspended and businesses which were affected by the COVID-19 crisis. According to the recently adopted Law 4772/2021, for January and February 2021, businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis or whose operation was suspended were not obliged to pay rent for their professional premises. As for employees working in businesses which were obliged to suspend operations or whose labour contracts were suspended, they could benefit from the measure for the period March 2020 to February 2021.
- d) Range, duration and conditionality: A mandatory 40% reduction in the monthly rent was applied for the period March-October 2020 to businesses which were obliged to suspend operations; and for the period April-October 2020 the reduction in the monthly rent was also applied to other businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis. For these periods, the amount of the compensation provided (taking the form of tax offsets), to property-owners was equal to 20% of the remaining 60% of the total rent amount. The 40% reduction of rent was also implemented for November and December 2020 and concerned both businesses whose operation was suspended and businesses which were affected by the COVID-19 crisis. For these two months, the amount of the compensation provided (in cash) to property-owners was equal to 50% of the rent reduction. For the period January-April 2021, the 40% reduction in the monthly rent was applied to businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis (on the basis of their business activity codes); property-owners will be compensated by the state with 50% of the rent reduction. For the same period, businesses whose operation was suspended were not be obliged to pay rent for their professional premises; property-owners will be compensated by the state with 80% of the monthly rent. As for employees working in businesses which were obliged to suspend operations or whose labour contracts were suspended, they could benefit from the 40% rent reduction for the period March 2020 to April 2021.
- e) Targeted population: The measure is targeted at: (i) businesses whose operation was suspended or which were affected by the pandemic; and (ii) employees working in businesses which were obliged to suspend operations, as well as employees whose

¹³ See also Sub-section 2.5.5.

labour contracts were suspended. According to official data, for the period March-August 2020 (Independent Authority for Public Revenue, 2020), 338,528 applications were submitted, which concerned 259,530 rented professional premises and 78,998 rented primary residences. Available data for November and December 2020 reveal (Independent Authority for Public Revenue, 2021) that 570,480 applications were submitted, which concerned 455,795 rented professional premises and 114,055 rented primary residences. It should be noted that no relevant information is available as regards the estimated number of eligible people and the number of applicants for January-April 2021.

- f) Beneficiaries: For the period March-August 2020, 79,306 applications were rejected for various reasons, such as the lack of requested documents and/or the non-fulfilment of the eligibility criteria. After the verification of data by the competent authority, 263,379 tax offsets (corresponding to a total of €42.8 million) were provided to 227,887 property-owners. For November-December 2020, 109,986 applications were rejected, while, after the verification of data, 439,413 payments were provided to property-owners. According to the latest available data issued at the end of March 2021 by the Ministry of Finance (2021), it is estimated that 971,482 property-owners received compensation for the monthly rents over the period March 2020 to January 2021 (amounting to €179.6 million).
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure.

2.6.2 Πρόγραμμα "Γέφυρα" ("Bridge" programme)

- a) Short description of the measure: The "Bridge" programme introduced a new temporary mortgage instalment subsidy scheme for vulnerable debtors who had a mortgage on their primary residence and whose finances had been negatively affected by the COVID-19 crisis; the scheme was means-tested, based on income and assets. The overall aim of the programme was to support debtors who encountered difficulties in repaying their loans related to primary residence due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- b) Category: Conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: This programme was introduced in July 2020 and was open for applications during August-October 2020.
- d) Range, duration and conditionality: Eligible debtors received state subsidies of up to 90% of their monthly instalment for up to nine months for loans related to their primary residence (including non-performing loans; i.e. loans that are in default or close to being in default). The programme involved a subsidy (subject to a maximum amount) per monthly instalment for each beneficiary depending on the loan category – that is, performing loans, non-performing loans (more than 90 days overdue as of 29 February 2020) or "denounced" loans (non-performing loans that had been denounced by the financial institution as of 29 February 2020). The maximum amount of state subsidy for each monthly instalment was: (i) €600 for performing loans; (ii) €500 for non-performing loans; and (iii) €400 for denounced loans. Eligible beneficiaries had to fulfil income and assets criteria which were specified depending on the category of loan concerned.
- e) Targeted population: Debtors who had a mortgage on their primary residence and had been financially affected by the COVID-19 crisis, provided that they fulfilled specific income and assets criteria. According to official data (Ministry of Finance, 2021a), up to 31 January 2021, 160,477 applications had been submitted, though there is no available information concerning the number of people targeted.
- f) Beneficiaries: In total, 72,581 people (113,961 loans) benefited from this programme (Ministry of Finance, 2021c).
- g) Novelty: This was a new measure that introduced a new temporary primary residence protection scheme.

2.7 Leave for parents whose children are unable to attend school or a pre-school service by reason of COVID-19

2.7.1 Άδεια ειδικού σκοπού για εργαζόμενους γονείς (Special-purpose leave for working parents)

- a) Short description of the measure: "Special purpose" leave is provided for at least four days to working parents (in both the public and private sectors) of pre-school-aged children, students in compulsory education (under the age of 15) and children attending special education schools (irrespective of their age) as long as education units remain closed.
- b) Category: Conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was adopted in March 2020 following the closure of all education institutions, and is expected to last as long as they remain closed.
- d) Range, duration and conditionality: The leave is provided for at least four days; two days are fully remunerated by the employer, one is subsidised by the state and one is deducted from the employee's regular annual leave. The special-purpose leave can be claimed on the condition that both parents are working, unless one of them is hospitalised or infected by COVID-19 or certified with more than 67% level of disability. However, both parents cannot claim the leave at the same time; and, if they wish to share the leave, they have to provide their employer with a joint declaration determining the respective periods of use by each of them.
- e) Targeted population: Working parents (employees and non-standard workers) in both the public and private sectors who meet the statutory requirements for receiving the regular annual leave. Self-employed parents are not covered by this measure or any other support measure concerning childcare leave during the closure of educational units.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure introduced to support working parents.

2.7.2 Δυνατότητα χρήσης μειωμένου ωραρίου εργασίας γονέων ως έκτακτο και προσωρινό μέτρο (Working parents may make use of a temporary measure that introduces the possibility of reduced working hours)

- a) Short description of the measure: Working parents, in both the private and public sector, may agree with their employer to reduce their daily working hours (up to 25%) without a corresponding reduction in their salary. They are employed instead on other working days at a time agreed between the parties, without overtime pay.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was adopted in March 2020 following the closure of all education institutions and concerned initially only public sector employees. In May 2020, this measure was extended to cover private sector employees too. The measure is expected to last as long as education units remain closed.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: Working parents (employees and non-standard workers) in both the public and private sectors, whose child/children attend a pre-school setting, compulsory or special education schools. Self-employed parents are not covered by this measure.
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure.

2.8 Other important temporary social protection/inclusion measures adopted in the context of the pandemic, which do not fall in any of the categories listed in the previous sections

2.8.1 Νέο πρόγραμμα επιδοτούμενων θέσεων εργασίας για 100.000 ανέργους (A new programme subsidising employment for a total of 100,000 unemployed people)

- a) Short description of the measure: This programme is aimed at creating 100,000 new jobs (full- or part-time) by subsidising employment.
- b) Category: Flat benefit.
- c) Timing: The programme was launched in October 2020 and will remain in force until all 100,000 jobs have been created. However, implementation of the programme has been significantly affected by the second lockdown that started in November 2020.
- d) Amount and duration: The state subsidises the total amount of social insurance contributions for six months for jobs created in the private sector under this programme. An extra wage subsidy of €200 per month is provided for every long-term unemployed person registered with the OAED who is hired. Participating employers should maintain, on average, the same number of employees (as of September 2020) throughout the duration of the programme, while they must not alter the terms of the employment contract during the subsidy period.
- e) Targeted population: Businesses that have no outstanding tax or social insurance liabilities can benefit from this programme for every person hired as of 1 October 2020. According to data reported in the media,¹⁴ up to 22 February 2021, 32,202 applications had been submitted.
- f) Beneficiaries: 14,862 applications have been approved and people have been hired; 8,823 have been rejected for various reasons; and 8,517 have been approved, but people have not yet been hired. It should be noted that 3,779 long-term unemployed people (0.66% of all long-term unemployed people registered with the OAED in February 2021) have been hired in these new subsidised jobs.
- g) Novelty: This is a new measure.

2.8.2 Εξ αποστάσεως παροχή εργασίας (Use of teleworking)

- a) Short description of the measure: The measure concerns the use of teleworking in order to protect employees (in both the public and private sectors) and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Since March 2020, private sector employers can unilaterally impose remote working in cases where it is feasible. For the period November 2020 to May 2021, teleworking – where possible – is compulsory for at least 50% of personnel in both the public and private sectors.
- b) Category: Neither flat nor conditional benefit.
- c) Timing: The measure was first introduced in March 2020 and has been extended every month since then; it is expected to be further extended until the end of the pandemic.
- d) Amount and duration/range, duration and conditionality: Not applicable.
- e) Targeted population: The measure concerns employees (in both the public and private sectors).
- f) Beneficiaries: Not available.
- G) Novelty: This is a new measure.**

¹⁴ See <https://www.dikaiologitika.gr/eidhseis/ergasiaka/332782/trexei-to-programma-gia-tis-100-000-epidotoymenes-proslipseis-kalyfthike-to-25-ton-theseon> (in Greek).

3 SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS: OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND POSSIBLE GAPS

This third section briefly considers three aspects: the expected cost of the social protection and inclusion measures put in place by the country (Section 3.1), the impact of these measures on the social protection system and on social inclusion policies (Section 3.2), and the possible remaining gaps in the social protection system and in social inclusion policies (Section 3.3). It concludes with Section 3.4 on debates and recommendations.

3.1 Expected cost of social protection and inclusion measures

As the preceding analysis reveals, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the Greek government adopted several income- and employment-protection measures in order to cushion the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to available information, the cost of the main social protection and inclusion measures (as described in Section 2) is estimated at approximately €7.14 billion in 2020 (or 3.89% of 2019 GDP). These measures substantially increase spending and have a significant fiscal impact, which, along with reduced economic activity, may have significant consequences for the economy. It should be noted that, according to the European Commission's 2020 autumn forecast, the Greek economy is predicted to experience one of the biggest economic downturns in the EU (European Commission, 2020a). According to the 2021 draft budgetary plan (Ministry of Finance, 2020b), real GDP is expected to have declined by 10.5% in 2020, and to grow by 4.8% in 2021. It is also worth noting that, according to the Hellenic Statistical Authority's (ELSTAT, 2021) first estimate, 2020 GDP (at current prices) will record a fall of 9.6% compared with 2019.

Turning to examining the cost of support measures by policy area, evidence suggests that the total cost of the main new measures related to unemployment benefits (as described in Section 2.1) amounted to approximately €848 million for 2020 (0.46% of 2019 GDP). This included, in particular, €540 million (0.29% of 2019 GDP) for the two-month extension of unemployment benefits (i.e. the regular unemployment benefit, the long-term unemployment benefit and the unemployment benefit provided to self-employed people and freelancers) for the period March-August 2020¹⁵ and €308 million (0.17% of 2019 GDP) for the two-month extension provided to beneficiaries whose entitlement expired during the period September-December 2020 (Ministry of Finance, 2020a).

As to the cost of the main measures related to job protection (as described in Section 2.2), according to the 2021 state budget introductory report (Ministry of Finance, 2020b), this was estimated at approximately €4.83 billion for 2020 (2.63% of 2019 GDP). In particular, this amount included: (i) €2.8 billion (1.53% of 2019 GDP) for the special-purpose compensation (see Section 2.2.1), social insurance contributions covered by the state, and the proportion of the Easter and Christmas bonuses that correspond to the period of suspension of their labour contracts; (ii) €495 million (0.27% of 2019 GDP) for the special-purpose compensation provided to the self-employed, freelancers and business owners (with up to 20 employees); (iii) €76 million (0.04% of 2019 GDP) for the Syn-Ergasia employment-subsidy mechanism; (iv) €240 million (0.13% of 2019 GDP) for the financing by the state of social insurance contributions for people employed in seasonal enterprises; (v) €315 million (0.17% of 2019 GDP) for the extension of social insurance contributions payments for businesses; (vi) €744 million (0.40% of 2019 GDP) for the cost of the suspension of VAT and other tax payments for businesses; and (vii) €154 million (0.08% of 2019 GDP) for the cost of the 25% reduction in VAT and other tax obligations, if these were paid in time.

No information is available as to the measures related to sickness benefits and sick pay. With regard to the total cost of measures related to the healthcare system, it should be noted that the pandemic imposed extra costs that represented a heavy burden on the regular health budget of the country. Greece mobilised the government emergency budget,

¹⁵ See https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/coronavirus_policy_measures_14_january_2021.pdf.

but also relied on private donations. According to the Ministry of Finance data (Ministry of Finance, 2020c), additional COVID-19 health spending commitments by central government for February-November 2020 amount to €786 million (0.43% of 2019 GDP). These included: financing the procurement of specialised medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment; hiring additional health workers (€200 million: 0.11% of 2019 GDP); enhancing laboratory capacities and supporting hospitals, other healthcare facilities, and regional health authorities (€293 million: 0.16% of 2019 GDP); and covering the revenue backlog from insurance contributions incurred by the EOPYY (€293 million: 0.16% of 2019 GDP).

In addition, the total cost of the main measures related to minimum-income schemes and other forms of social assistance (as described in Section 2.5) amounted to €428 million (0.23% of GDP) for 2020 (Ministry of Finance, 2020b). In particular, this amount included: (i) €103 million (0.06% of 2019 GDP) for the one-off economic support payment of €600 provided to six scientific sectors; (ii) €117 million (0.06% of 2019 GDP) for the one-off economic support payment of €400 (in April and December 2020) to registered long-term unemployed people not eligible for the long-term unemployment benefit; and (iii) €208 million (0.11% of 2019 GDP) for the special allowance for seasonal workers in the tourism and food sectors. It should be noted, however, that there are no publicly available data concerning either the cost of the extra one-off income-support payment which was granted in June and December 2020 to GMI scheme beneficiaries' households, nor the cost of extending the duration of receipt of the rent subsidy and GMI scheme.

As regards the expected cost of measures related to housing support for 2020, according to the 2021 state budget introductory report (Ministry of Finance, 2020b), this was expected to reach €206 million (0.11% of 2019 GDP). This amount included: (i) €29 million (0.02% of 2019 GDP) for the compensation of 50% of the monthly rent paid to property-owners who received reduced rent; (ii) €69 million (0.04% of 2019 GDP) for the tax offsets provided to property-owners who received reduced rent; and, (iii) €108 million (0.06% of 2019 GDP) for the temporary mortgage instalment subsidy scheme for vulnerable debtors (bridge programme). However, according to official data up to 31 January 2021, the total budget for bridge programme payments amounted to €47.9 million (0.03% of 2019 GDP) (Ministry of Finance, 2021e).

The expected cost of special-purpose leave for working parents was estimated at €20 million (0.01% of 2019 GDP) for 2020 (Ministry of Finance, 2020b).

Finally, the cost of social insurance contributions for jobs created under the new programme for subsidising employment for a total of 100,000 unemployed people, along with the extra wage subsidy of €200 per month for every long-term unemployed person, was estimated to reach €26 million (0.01% of 2019 GDP) for 2020 (Ministry of Finance, 2020b).

Overall, according to the 2021 draft budgetary plan (Ministry of Finance, 2020b), the total cost of the measures adopted was estimated at €23.9 billion (13.03% of 2019 GDP) for 2020, while the expected cost for 2021 was €7.5 billion (4.09% of 2019 GDP).¹⁶ However, it should be noted that, according to announcements made by the Minister of Finance (Ministry of Finance, 2021b), the total cost of measures concerning the first quarter of 2021 is estimated at €5.9 billion (3.22% of 2019 GDP), which is much higher than the expected cost that was included in the state's budget for 2021. Worse still, according to the Minister of Finance's latest announcement, the total expected cost of the measures for 2021 is estimated at approximately €14 billion (7.63% of 2019 GDP), which is double the expected cost included in the state's budget for 2021 (Ministry of Finance, 2021d).

¹⁶ It should be pointed out that these amounts include approximately €5.5 billion for 2020, and €3 billion for 2021, concerning measures to support business liquidity.

3.2 Impact on the social protection system and on social inclusion policies

Most of the support measures taken during the pandemic in Greece, though highly welcome, are income-support measures with low coverage and a low level of income support; and it is therefore questionable whether they can effectively mitigate the impact of the crisis and protect people from falling into situations of poverty. Most of them are temporary extraordinary measures taken as a response to the crisis. They mainly concern adjustments to already existing social protection measures and, as such, they are not expected to bring about significant changes that will reshape the social protection system. The only exception in this regard is the digitalisation of OAED services; the OAED will continue providing its services electronically, thus improving access for unemployed people all over the country.

It is also important to note that, at the onset of the pandemic, the Greek health system had a limited capacity for the hospitalisation of patients with highly infectious diseases, especially in isolation negative pressure chambers or single rooms, some of which were already occupied by existing cases requiring isolation (TBC, meningitis, immunosuppression, transplants, etc.). Through co-ordinated actions and co-operation between the administrations of the Ministry of Health and the nursing units as well as the private sector, the Greek health system managed to increase its physical infrastructure and the availability of services. These actions have contributed to strengthening the capacity of the public healthcare system, which is still faced with significant problems and challenges that are largely a result of the public underfunding of the healthcare system in Greece over the course of the prolonged – almost 10-year – economic crisis after 2008-2009 (Ziomas et al., 2018).

In this context, the pandemic could be a window of opportunity for the Greek healthcare system to address long-standing deficiencies. For example, telecounselling (if that finally becomes operational) and e-prescription (the ability to receive regular prescriptions on mobile devices) could become enduring tools for developing telemedicine, e-therapies, and e-healthcare services (Giannopoulou and Tsobanoglou, 2020). The increase in the number of ICUs and the new recruitments of medical, nursing and paramedical staff are also positive evolutions to fill major gaps in the health system. Finally, it may be argued that the COVID-19 crisis has revealed certain weaknesses of the social protection system in Greece, as it appears that the social protection system had not developed robust mechanisms that would be able to prevent and mitigate income insecurity and vulnerability.

3.3 Remaining gaps in the social protection system and social inclusion policies

As the description of the support measures reveals, the main focus of the government has been to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures on the labour market. Emphasis has been placed on maintaining jobs and on compensating employees' incomes. Nonetheless, despite the fact the income-compensation and job-protection measures are expected to cushion the negative impact on incomes to some extent – given that the average net monthly wage is around €1,300 – the negative impact on incomes will be sizeable (European Commission, 2020b). Additionally, not all people are covered by these measures. Unemployed people who receive no benefit, workers in the informal economy (undeclared work), and people in non-standard employment who are generally less covered by the social protection system (Theodoroulakis et al., 2017) and faced with significant drops in their income, are expected to be particularly affected by the pandemic, and are thus more exposed to situations of poverty and social exclusion.

Moreover, one-off payments and short-term extensions of the duration of social protection benefits are certainly not sufficient to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population. Worse still, given the fact that eligibility for most social protection benefits (i.e. GMI, rent subsidy, child benefit) is assessed based on the income of the previous year, there is a number of people who experienced a significant decline in their income in 2020

because of the reduced economic activity but who cannot yet receive these benefits. This implies that there is a significant part of the population that cannot cover their needs. It should be also noted that the main measures related to unemployment benefits (see Section 2.1) concern only a limited number of unemployed people, given that the granting of unemployment benefits is subject to strict eligibility criteria and, thus, a huge number of registered unemployed people are not eligible to receive unemployment benefit. According to the latest available OAED data (OAED, 2021a), out of the total number registered unemployed people in December 2020 (1,133,432), only 202,504 (17.87%) received unemployment benefit.

In addition, it should be underlined that, at present, there are no specific measures aimed at supporting certain vulnerable groups (disabled people, migrants and refugees, single-parent families, large families, Roma people) to cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. These groups can only benefit from the programmes and support measures that were already in place. Therefore, these groups are insufficiently covered or not covered at all. This is despite the fact that the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis can potentially be more profound for these people as they were already in a vulnerable position prior to this crisis. It becomes evident, therefore, that there are still major gaps in support to tackle the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, especially for the most vulnerable groups of population (Konstantinidou, 2020).

Finally, it should be noted that there are still gaps in the public healthcare system. Although the Ministry of Health announced the operational expansion of health centres to include case management of citizens with coronavirus symptoms, as well as the operation of designated COVID-19 health centres on a 24-hour basis, a strategy to enhance community care has not yet been developed. Public health services and primary care are still in the back seat compared with hospital services. Public health and primary healthcare should be seen through the prism of their interconnectedness. So far, a strategic reform plan based on new approaches that address all the root causes of communicable as well as non-communicable diseases, including the social determinants of health, environmental factors and behavioural risk, is still an exercise on paper.

3.4 Debates and recommendations

As is the case in most EU Member States, the COVID-19 pandemic has significant consequences for the Greek economy. Economic disruption, and consequently large job losses, are expected to increase the already high unemployment rate, while declines in disposable incomes are expected to lead to a significant increase in the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the coming years.

Moreover, given that eligibility for most social protection benefits is assessed based on the income tax declarations of the previous year, the consequences of the pandemic are not yet reflected in the take-up rates of social protection benefits in Greece. A huge increase in the numbers receiving social protection benefits (and, subsequently, in expenditure) is therefore expected in 2021.

All these developments, in turn, are expected to increase the number of people in need of social protection in Greece, putting significant pressure on the social protection system. In this context, Greece needs to strengthen social protection policies so as to respond effectively to the ever increasing pressure on the system and to cushion effectively both the short-term and the potential long-lasting socio-economic impact of the pandemic. Particular emphasis should be placed on designing and adopting a comprehensive recovery plan with clear-cut priorities, which should include, among other things, specifically targeted measures to: (a) strengthen social safety nets; (b) boost employment; (c) support the unemployed; and (d) ensure that the needs of vulnerable households are adequately covered. Securing adequate financial resources to be used in an economically viable manner is a first step in addressing these challenges successfully (Konstantinidou and Capella, 2020). To this end, the funds available under the recovery and resilience facility, if used in an efficient and appropriate way, provide a huge opportunity for the country to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, but also to establish

a comprehensive social protection system – that will include crisis response measures – in the long run (Konstantinidou, 2020).

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ANNEX – SUPPORT MEASURES LEGISLATION

Measures related to unemployment benefits

Legal Act of 20 March 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 68, Vol. A', 20 March 2020 ratified by Article 1 of Law 4683/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 83) (in Greek).

Legal Act of 30 March 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 75, Vol. A', 30 March 2020 ratified by Article 1 of Law 4684/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 86) (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.24760/550, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 2484, Vol. A', 22 June 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.37453/963, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 4172, Vol. B', 28 September 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.47166/1180, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 5051, Vol. B', 16 November 2020 (in Greek).

Measures of job protection provided through support to employers, employees and the self-employed

Legal Act of 14 March 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 64, Vol. A', 14 March 2020 ratified by Article 3 of Law 4682/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 76) (in Greek).

Legal Act of 20 March 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 68, Vol. A', 20 March 2020 ratified by Article 1 of Law 4683/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 83) (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision A1053, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 949, Vol. B', 21 March 2020 (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision A1061, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1043, Vol. B', 26 March 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision Δ.15/Δ'/οικ.13226/325, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1044, Vol. B', 26 March 2020 (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision A1075, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1160, Vol. B', 3 April 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision Δ.15/Δ'/οικ.16484/499, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1775, Vol. B', 7 May 2020 (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision A1108, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1822, Vol. B', 13 May 2020 (in Greek).

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Ministerial Decision A1107, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1824, Vol. B', 13 May 2020 (in Greek).

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Law 4690/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 104, Vol. A', 30 May 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.23103/478, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 2274, Vol. B', 14 June 2020 (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision A1147, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 2449, Vol. B', 19 June 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision A.1200, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 3612, Vol. B', 31 August 2020 (in Greek).

Law 4722/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 177, Vol. A', 15 September 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.47167/1181, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 5051, Vol. B', 16 November 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.48713/1232, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 5246, Vol. B', 26 November 2020 (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision 49989/1266, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 5391, Vol. B', 4 December 2020 (in Greek).

Law 4764/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 256, Vol. A', 23 December 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.3208/108, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 234, Vol. B', 25 January 2021 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.4374/131, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 345, Vol. B', 31 January 2021 (in Greek).

Law 4778/2021, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 26, Vol. A', 19 February 2021 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.9500/322, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 821, Vol. B', 2 March 2021 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.22547, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1683, Vol. B', 24 April 2021 (in Greek).

Measures related to sickness benefits and sick pay

Legal Act of 14 March 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 64, Vol. A', 14 March 2020 ratified by Article 3 of Law 4682/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 76) (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision ΔΙΑΔ/Φ.64/346/9011, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1856, Vol. B', 15 May 2020 (in Greek).

Legal Act of 22 August 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 161, Vol. A', 22 August 2020 ratified by Article 2 of Law 4722/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 177) (in Greek).

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Joint Ministerial Decision 37095/1436, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 4011, Vol. B', 18 September 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 39363/1537, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 4262, Vol. B', 30 September 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 5648/120, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 456, Vol. B', 6 February 2021 (in Greek).

Measures related to minimum-income schemes and other forms of social assistance

Ministerial Decision Δ13/οικ.14717/303, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1379, Vol. B', 8 April 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ. 15687/282, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1468, Vol. B', 16 April 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.16604/3224, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1629, Vol. B', 29 April 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision Δ13/οικ.16250/321, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1655, Vol. B', 4 May 2020 (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision Δ13οικ.17784/368, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1897, Vol. B', 18 May 2020 (in Greek).

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Joint Ministerial Decision οικ. 23102/477, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 2268, Vol. B', 13 June 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.48222/1215, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 5225, Vol. B', 25 November 2020 (in Greek).

Law 4756/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 235, Vol. A', 26 November 2020 (in Greek).

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Joint Ministerial Decision οικ.5629/22, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 450, Vol. B', 5 February 2021 (in Greek).

Ministerial Decision 15241, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1355, Vol. B', 6 April 2021 (in Greek).

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Measures related to housing support

Law 4690/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 104, Vol. A', 30 May 2020 (in Greek).

Law 4714/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 148, Vol. A', 31 July 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision A.1228, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 4582, Vol. B', 16 October 2021 (in Greek).

Law 4753/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 227, Vol. A', 18 November 2020 (in Greek).

Law 4764/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 256, Vol. A', 23 December 2020 (in Greek).

Law 4772/2021, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 17, Vol. A', 5 February 2021 (in Greek).

Law 4778/2021, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 26, Vol. A', 19 February 2021 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision A.1059, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1155, Vol. B', 24 March 2021 (in Greek).

Leave for parents whose children are unable to attend school or a pre-school service by reason of COVID-19

Legal Act of 11 March 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 55, Vol. A', 11 March 2020 ratified by Article 2 of Law 4682/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 76) (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision οικ. 17787/520, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1778, Vol. B', 10 May 2020 (in Greek).

Law 4690/2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 104, Vol. A', 30 May 2020 (in Greek).

Other important temporary social protection/inclusion measures adopted in the context of the pandemic, which do not fall in any of the categories listed in the previous sections

Legal Act of 11 March 2020, Official Journal of Government, Issue No 55, Vol. A', 11 March 2020 ratified by Article 2 of Law 4682/2020 (Official Journal of Government, A' 76) (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 14556/448, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1208, Vol. B', 7 April 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 16135/499, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 1566, Vol. B', 24 April 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 20788/610, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 2083, Vol. B', 30 May 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 26308/768, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 2684, Vol. B', 1 July 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 30742/1002, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 3148, Vol. B', 30 July 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 36124/1194, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 3945, Vol. B', 15 September 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 39539/996, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 4261, Vol. B', 30 September 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 52241/1567, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 5586, Vol. B', 18 December 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 52831/1581, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 5759, Vol. B', 28 December 2020 (in Greek).

Joint Ministerial Decision 3813/102, published in Official Journal of Government, Issue No 289, Vol. B', 27 January 2021 (in Greek).

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