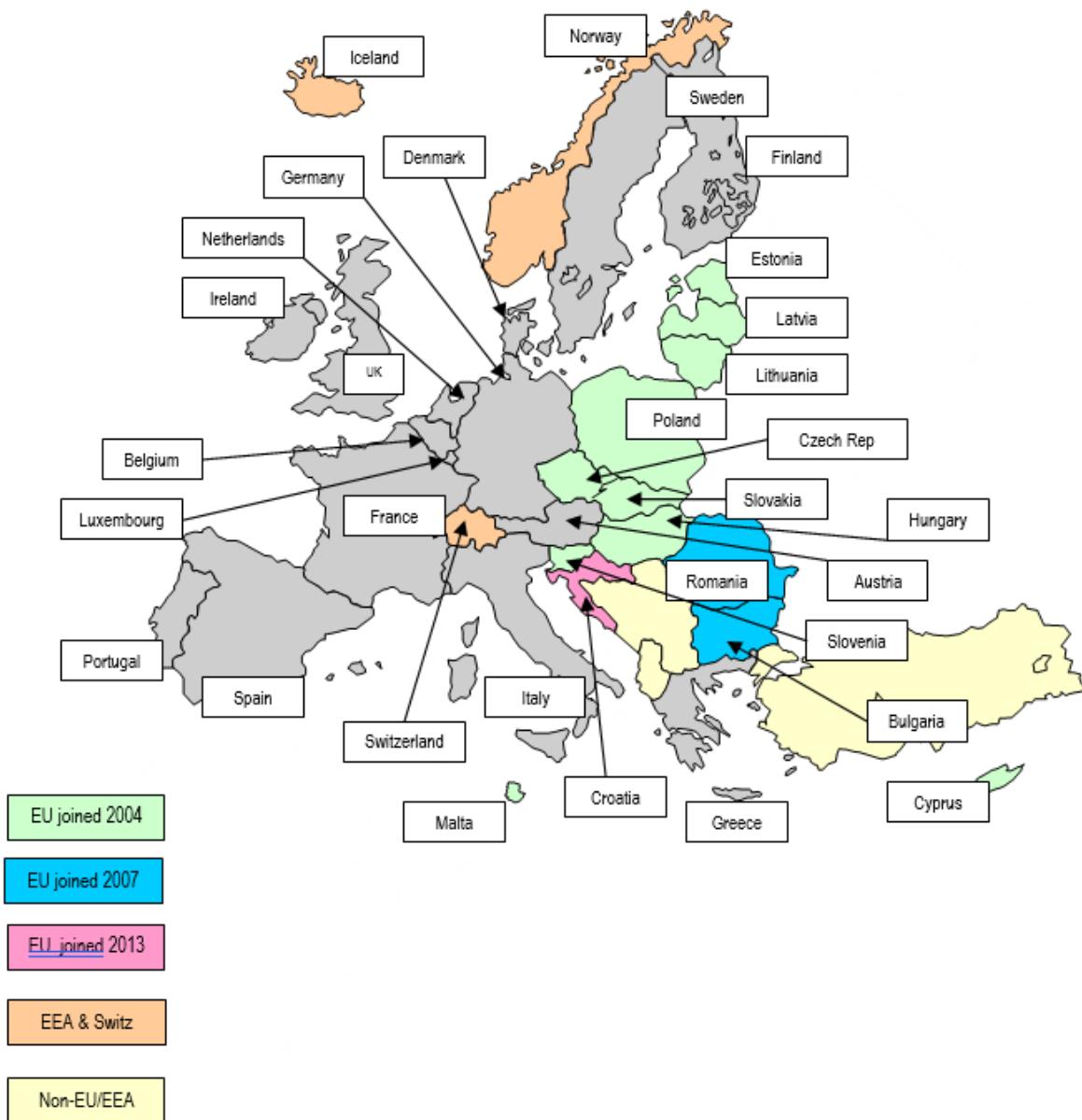


Council of European Dentists

MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

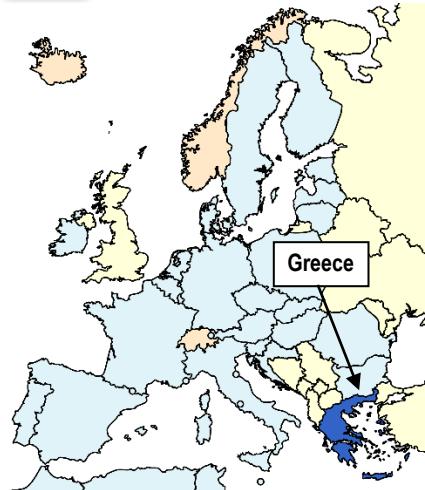
Greece

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2026





Greece



In the EU/EEA since
Population (2024)
GDP PPP per capita (2023)
Currency
Official language

1981
10 400 720
€ 27 760
Euro € (EUR)
Greek

The Greek healthcare system operates on a mixed funding model, combining state budget allocations and social insurance contributions. Greece's National Health System (ΕΣΥ) is based on universal health coverage principles, providing healthcare to all citizens and legal residents. Oral healthcare is not covered under public health insurance, and private dental practices are not contracted through the National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (ΕΟΠΥΥ). Some dental services are offered to children up to the age of 18.

Number of dentists (active) 13.141
Active dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhabitants) 126
Members of Dental Association 100%

Four specialities are officially recognised in Greece. These are completed by an important number of master specialisation degrees, following graduation. The use of dental technicians and chairside assistants remains the same in recent years.

Date of last revision: 26 February 2025

Government and healthcare in Greece

Close to half of the Greek population (over 4 million people) live in the capital, Athens. Greece is based on a Presidential Parliamentary Republic, with a Parliament, a President, a Government and Courts.

Greece's healthcare system is characterized by its complexity and unique challenges, particularly due to its numerous small islands and layered administrative structure. Here's an overview: Greece comprises 13 regions and 52 prefectures, each with its own public health department led by an elected prefect. The country's geography, with many small islands, complicates the planning and delivery of healthcare services. Since 1975, access to health services has been enshrined as a constitutional right.

The Greek healthcare system operates on a mixed funding model, combining state budget allocations and social insurance contributions. Out-of-pocket payments by individuals account for about 34.3% of total health spending, covering co-payments, services not included in the benefits package, and informal payments.

Greece's National Health System (ΕΣΥ) is based on universal health coverage principles, providing healthcare to all citizens and legal residents. EU citizens with a certificate of entitlement (EHIC, S form) issued by the statutory health insurance service of their state of social insurance have access to the public healthcare system on the same terms and conditions as the domestic insured population. The system is overseen by the Ministry of Health and services are delivered through a network of public hospitals in urban areas, rural health centers, and regional medical centers staffed by full-time salaried doctors.

The National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (ΕΟΠΥΥ) serves as the sole health insurer, contracting both public and private healthcare providers under the NHS benefit package, which includes primary care, diagnostics, specialist

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	9.7%	2024	HSA
% of this spent by government	6.09%	2023	HSA

outpatient and inpatient care. The healthcare system faces challenges such as underfunding and high out-of-pocket expenses for patients.

Under the NHS, beneficiaries can access primary healthcare services only under the Primary National Health Network (P.E.D.Y), by contracted private practitioners and public hospitals.

Free dental care under the NHS is provided only at dental units of public hospitals (ΕΣΥ) or Healthcare Centres of NHS units. Care is limited for children up to 18 in P.E.D.Y. centres, as well as free emergency dental treatment for all. Only 505 dentists nationwide, practising in public hospitals, and outpatient clinics of public hospitals.

The latest development in the Greek healthcare system includes the adoption of a Greek National Strategy for Quality of Care and Patient Safety on 31 January 2025. This strategy aims to improve healthcare professionals' well-being, use of data, health professionals' education and improved good practices.

Furthermore the "Dentist Pass" programme was launched on 24 May 2023 by the Greek government for one year. This included a voucher of 40€ for preventative dental care treatment for children between 6 to 12 years old. The voucher included services providing oral hygiene control cleaning and removal of plaque, fluoridation, and instructions for oral hygiene.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

There are two public dental schools in Greece. The Dental School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Dental School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Admission to the schools requires the obtention of an upper secondary degree and the successful participation to highly competitive national entrance exams.

There are no private dental schools in Greece.

Year of data	2024
Number of schools	2
Student intake	250
Number of graduates a year	245
Gender balance (% of female students)	64,17
Duration of studies	5

The duration of training is 10 semesters (5 years), during which the first two years are devoted to medico-biological sciences courses taught in medical school, along with medical students. Students must complete theoretical courses with laboratory exercises, one full year of pre-clinical courses, and a total of two full years of clinical training (internship). Dental students are also expected to have the proficiency to practice in a second language.

In order to be included in the dental register and be authorised to practice, dental graduates must present the following documents:

- Diploma in Dentistry ('Ptychio odontiatrikis')
- Certification (Licence to Practise Dentistry) from the Hellenic Dental Association.
- Registration to a Regional Dental Society.

Registration

A licence to practice is granted on the basis on a recognised diploma from Greece or another EU member state.

The Hellenic Dental Association (HDA) is the competent authority in charge of issuing the Certificate "licence to practice", by examining the diploma and ensuring the applicant a clean criminal record.

After registration, the newly qualified dentist will be registered with one of the 52 competent Regional Dental Societies. The respective Regional Dental Society then delivers a Certificate of "Operation of the Dental Office", authorising the dental practice to operate.

All regional Societies are automatically members of the Hellenic Dental Association. Dentists pay an initial fee of up to 280€ to both authorities (the HDA and the Regional Dental Society including the annual membership fee, in order to be registered with the competent Regional Societies).

Each Regional Dental Society sets a fixed amount of subscription required of the dentist each year; this amount may vary, according to the needs of each Regional Dental Society. The average amount is €120. On this fee, a fixed amount (€50) is contributed to the HDA.

Vocational Training (VT)

There is no structured, regulated post-qualification vocational training in Greece. However, for candidates to a postgraduate programme, in a clinical dental specialty, graduates must complete a mandatory 2-year period of clinical experience.

Language requirements

A B2 level of Greek language, through presentation of a learning certificate is mandatory to practice in Greece.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

For dentists practising within the NHS, continuing education is required by law. However, since there is no structured continuing education programme available, there are no sanctions connected with non-compliance.

Although a large number and variety of scientific activities take place annually all over the country for all dentists, no mandatory CPD system has come into force.

Specialist Training Requirements

Four dental specialties are recognised by the Ministry of Health & Social Solidarity, namely Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, Dentistry of Special Care and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS), with the latter requiring a dental and a medical diploma.

Orthodontic training is provided in both dental schools and lasts for 3 years.

The study of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery lasts 5 years and includes general surgery and 48 months of specialty training. It is both a dental and a medical specialty and, although the specialty is under the Medical Directive, the holders of this specialty are required to be registered in both dental and medical associations.

The Ministry of Education also recognises the existence of postgraduate programmes in clinical dental specialisations, leading to a master's degree at Athens University. The duration of these programmes is 2 to 3 years and a certificate along with the master's degree is awarded at the end of this period, for the following specialisations:

- Prosthodontics (3 years)
- Orthodontics (3 years)
- Oral Biopathology oriented to oral surgery (3 years)
- Endodontics (3 years)
- Paediatric dentistry (3 years)
- Oral biopathology oriented to oral diagnosis and radiology (3 years)
- Oral pathology (3 years)
- Operative dentistry (3 years)
- Dental biomaterials (2 years)
- Periodontology (3 years)
- Implant biology (3 years)
- Oral biology (2 years)
- Community dentistry (3 years)

There are various scientific societies dedicated to specialists. These are best contacted via the Hellenic Dental Association

Workforce

Dentists

The number of dentists has increased in Greece over the last few years, achieving one of the highest dentist-to-population ratios in the European Union.

Year of data	2024
Total Registered	13.141
In active practice	13 141
Dentist to population ratio*	126
Percentage female	50%
Qualified overseas	744
*active dentists only, per 100 000 inhabitants	

There are no dental chains (DC) operating presently. However, the Hellenic Dental Association has submitted legislation in case that DC appear to have the same obligations for all employed dentists and to adhere to the same laws and Code of Ethics. Dental chains are required to register separately with the respective regional dental association.

Movement of dentists across borders

744 dentists with dental diplomas from outside of Greece have registered in Greece since 2019. Additionally since 2019, an influx of 28 Dentists has been recorded in Greece from non EU/EEA countries.

A number of dentists moving from Greece to another EU countries relates to remaining economic challenges in Greece. Recent years, 720 "member in good standing" certificates were issued to Greek dentists, facilitating their practice abroad. However, as some individuals received multiple certificates, the exact number remains unclear.

Specialists

There are four categories of recognised specialists:

- Orthodontists
- Oral Maxillo-facial Surgeons
- Oral Surgeons
- Special Care Dentistry

Orthodontists work in private practice, while the rest specialists work in Hospitals and private practice.

Year of data	2025
Oral Surgeons	139
Orthodontists	578
OMFS	350
Special Care Dentistry	31

Besides the aforementioned recognised specialists there is a considerable number of non-recognised specialists who are working in private practice or at a the University, and they are covering all the common specialisations in Dentistry.

Patients usually consult specialists on referral from a primary care dentist, but they are permitted to go directly to specialists.

Auxiliaries

The only recognised dental auxiliaries in Greece are dental technicians, and dental chairside assistants. There are no denturists, hygienists or therapists.

Year of data	2025
Technicians	1822
Chairside assistants	4800*

Dental Technicians

In order to become a Dental Technician in Greece a 4-year training is required, in a Higher Technological Educational Institute.

A license to practice is issued by the Ministry of Health, and registration with the Panhellenic Dental Technicians' Association is mandatory. The annual subscription fee for the Association is €70 for owners of a dental laboratory and €50 for dental technicians who are employees.

In order to become a Dental Technician Assistant, it is necessary to train for 3 years in a Technical Professional Institute or Lyceum and work in a dental laboratory. Upgrading to a Dental Technician obtaining a licence to work, following exams, is with the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Dental technicians are allowed to work independently, by establishing a private laboratory and working under the strict prescription of the dentist. They can provide services to dentists only by manufacturing dental prostheses, orthodontic appliances and occlusal splints. Dental technicians are not allowed to work in the mouth of a patient by constructing or repairing dental appliances.

There are 980 dental laboratories operating in 2025 according to the Panhellenic Dental Technicians' Association.

Dental Chairside Assistants

Dental Chairside Assistants are persons who are employed by a dentist in order to assist him/her in practising 4-handed sitting Dentistry and they are not permitted to work independently or without the supervision of a dentist.

They must hold a diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualification, after a two-year course at a Private Technical College, along with at least 6 months post-qualification in a practice. Obtaining a licence to work is with the Ministry of Health, following examinations. Registration in a State body is not obligatory.

Their duties include the preparation of the dental office and the patient before treatment, as well as secretarial duties, infection control, procedures, equipment maintenance, public relations, secretarial duties and assisting the dentist at the chairside.

The number of dentists working with assistants has significantly grown in recent years, with 40% of dentists employing at least one dental assistant in 2022, leading to an estimated total of 4,800 dental assistants (without formal qualifications).

This is based on an extrapolation from an NDA survey of 2022* in dentists.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

Hellenic Dental Association

Themistokleous 38
P.C. 10678 - ATHENS
GREECE
Tel: +30.210 38 13 380
+30.210 38 03 816

E-mail: info@eoo.gr / heldenas@eoo.gr
Website: www.eoo.gr

Competent authorities and information centre for the NHS

Ministry of Health

17-19 Aristotelous Street
GR- 101 87 ATHENS
GREECE
Tel: + 30 2132161000
+ 30 2132161001

Email (Central Protocol): protokollo@moh.gov.gr
Website: www.moh.gov.gr

Main Professional Journal

Journal Hellenic Hospital Dentistry

Mavrogenous 32
12461, Chaidari
Tel: +30 210 5816778
Email: eno.gr@gmail.com

Dental Schools:

National & Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Dentistry	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki School of Dentistry
<p>National & Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Dentistry 2 Thivon Str, 115 27 Goudi, Athens, Greece Tel Dean's Office: +30 210 746 1114 Tel undergraduate studies: +30 210-746-1105 Tel postgraduate studies: +30 210-746-1120</p> <p>Email: secr@dent.uoa.gr Website: www.dent.uoa.gr</p> <p>Dentists graduating each year: 78 (2024-2025) Number of students: 716</p>	<p>Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Faculty of Health Sciences Department of Dentistry Central Secretariat, 1st Basement P.C. - 54124 Thessaloniki</p> <p>Tel general information: +30 2310 999 471 Tel undergraduate studies: +30 2310 999 468 Tel postgraduate studies: +30 2310 999 477</p> <p>Email: info@dent.auth.gr Website: www.dent.auth.gr</p> <p>Number of enrolled undergraduate students (2024): 870 Number of enrolled postgraduate students (2024): 189</p>