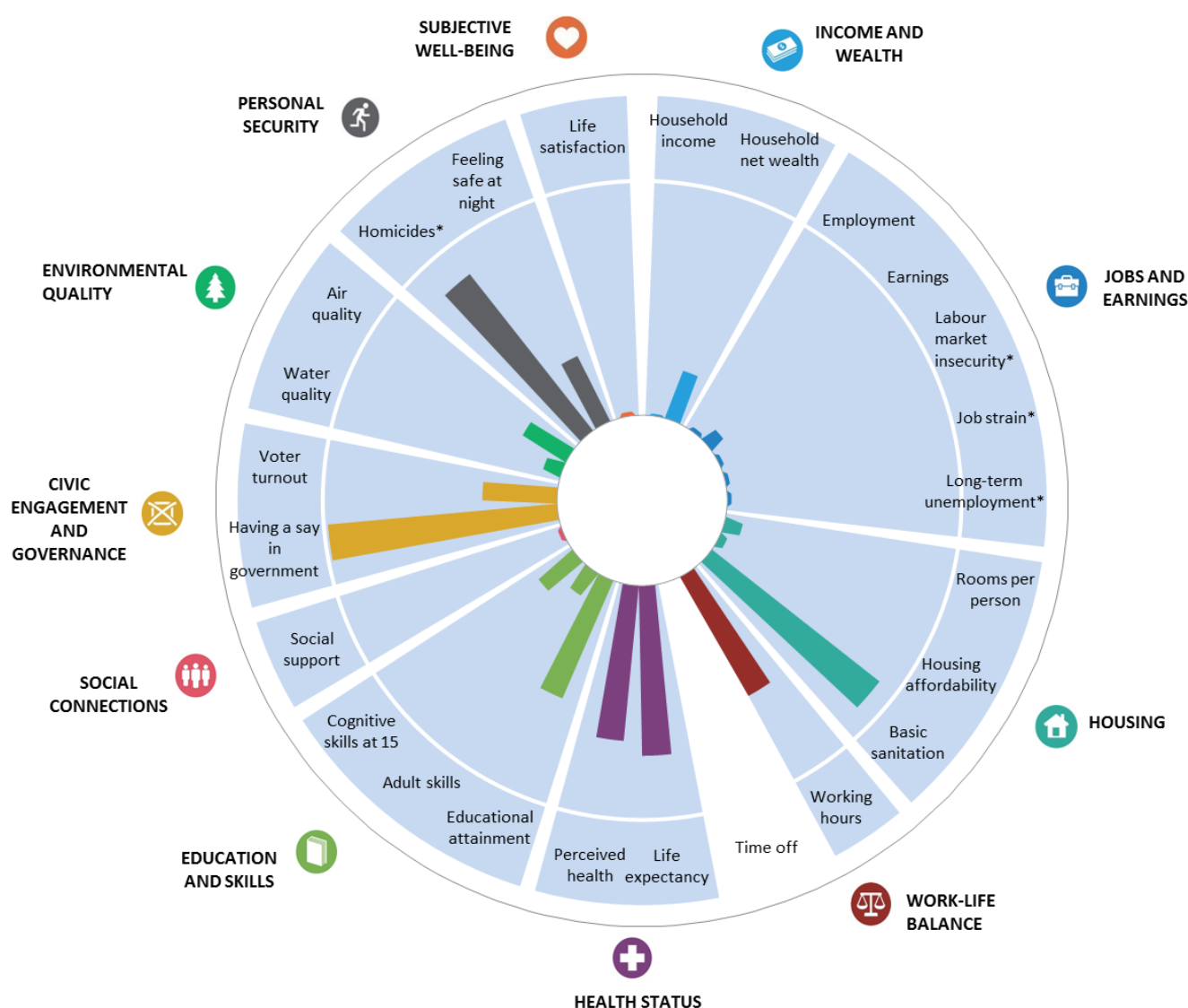


How's Life in Greece?

Relative to other OECD countries, Greece has a mixed performance across the different well-being dimensions. Material conditions in Greece are generally below the OECD average: the average **household net adjusted disposable income** was just over half the OECD average level in 2015, and the **employment rate** was 52% in 2016, compared to an OECD average of 67%. Greece suffers from some of the highest levels of **labour market insecurity**, **job strain** and **long-term unemployment** in the OECD, but the share of Greeks **working very long hours** (7%) is below the OECD average rate (13%). While **housing affordability** and the **number of rooms per person** are both below the OECD average, access to **basic sanitation** is comparatively high. Health status outcomes are also above average. **Voter turnout** in 2015 (64%) was below the OECD average (69%), yet in 2014/5 almost 71% of Greek adults felt that they **have a say in what the government does**, the highest percentage in the OECD.

Greece's average level of current well-being: Comparative strengths and weaknesses









Note: This chart shows Greece's relative strengths and weaknesses in well-being when compared with other OECD countries. For both positive and negative indicators (such as homicides, marked with an "*"), longer bars always indicate better outcomes (i.e. higher well-being), whereas shorter bars always indicate worse outcomes (i.e. lower well-being). If data are missing for any given indicator, the relevant segment of the circle is shaded in white.

Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found at:


www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2017-country-notes-data.xlsx


Change in Greece's average well-being over the past 10 years


Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	In 2014, household net adjusted disposable income was 27% lower than in 2005, the largest fall in the OECD over the decade. After having increased by 9% cumulatively from 2005 to 2009, it dropped sharply during the first years of the crisis and has fallen every year since. Household net wealth in Greece recorded a cumulative decrease of 22% between 2009 and 2014.	↘ ↘
 Jobs and earnings	Both the employment rate and earnings dropped sharply between 2008 and 2013, and improved only moderately in recent years. Labour market insecurity reached a high of 44% in 2012 (compared to an OECD average of 7% the same year) – and despite falling by 27 points since then, it remains over triple the OECD average. Long-term unemployment rocketed from 2009 onwards, peaking in 2014 at 20%, almost 4 times higher than the rate in 2005. Finally, the share of employees affected by job strain has also increased significantly in the past 10 years, from 50% in 2005 to nearly 59% in 2015.	↘ ↘ ↘ ↘ ↘
 Housing conditions	Although the average number of rooms per person has remained relatively stable over the past decade, spending on housing costs (as a proportion of household disposable income) has gone up from 19.7% in 2005 to 23.7% in 2015, one of the largest rises in the OECD. On the other hand, the percentage of people living in dwellings without basic sanitary facilities fell by more than two-thirds, and is now at half the OECD average level.	↔ ↘ ↗
 Work-life balance	At 7%, the share of employees regularly working 50 hours or more per week is almost one point higher today than it was 10 years ago. The rate fell considerably between 2005 and 2011, but has picked up in recent years.	↘
 Health status	Despite stalling in 2007, 2012 and 2015, life expectancy at birth is now over a year higher than it was a decade ago in Greece. This is less than the OECD average increase of 1.7 years. The share of people reporting “good” or “very good” health has remained broadly unchanged since 2005.	↗ ↔
 Education and skills	The 10-year change in upper secondary educational attainment cannot be assessed, due to a recent break in the data. However, between 2014 and 2016, attainment rates increased by 3.4 percentage points.	↗
 Social connections	In Greece, the current level of social support has not changed significantly compared to 10 years ago. However, it dropped by 5 percentage points between 2008-2010 and 2011-2013, before recovering in 2014-2016.	↔
 Civic engagement	In line with the OECD average trend, voter turnout has fallen in Greece over the past decade. In the 2015 parliamentary elections, the percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote was 64%: this was 11 points lower than in 2007, but over one point higher than in 2012.	↘
 Environmental quality	Satisfaction with local water quality has remained relatively stable since 2005-2007, and is still below the OECD average. Annual exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution has crept up by 10% since 2005, despite a recent fall from its 2009 peak.	↔ ↘
 Personal security	Both the homicide rate and the share of the population declaring that they feel safe when walking alone at night have remained broadly stable relative to 2005.	↔ ↔
 Subjective well-being	Life satisfaction has declined by more than one point (on a 0 to 10 scale) over the past decade, a larger fall than in any other OECD country.	↘


Note: For each indicator in every dimension: ↗ refers to an improvement; ↔ indicates little or no change; and ↘ signals deterioration. This is based on a comparison of the starting year (2005 in most cases) and the latest available year (usually 2015 or 2016). The order of the arrows shown in column three corresponds to that of the indicators mentioned in column two.

Greece's resources and risks for future well-being: Illustrative indicators

 Natural capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	②	↗ 2005-2015
CO ₂ emissions from domestic consumption	②	↗ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	③	↘ 2005-2013
Forest area	②	↔ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	②	.. Long-term annual avg
inFreshwater abstractions	③	.. 2015
Threatened birds	①	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	③	.. Latest available
Threatened plants	①	.. Latest available

 Human capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	②	↗ 2014-2016
Educational expectancy	②	.. 2014
Cognitive skills at age 15	③	.. 2015
Adult skills	③	.. 2014/2015
Long-term unemployment	③	↘ 2005-2016
Life expectancy at birth	②	↗ 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	③	↗ 2009-2014
Obesity prevalence	②	↔ 2006-2014

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Produced fixed assets	③	↔ 2005-2014
Gross fixed capital formation	③	↗ 2005-2016
Financial net worth of total economy	③	↘ 2005-2015
Intellectual property assets	③	↔ 2005-2014
Investment in R&D	③	↔ 2005-2015
Household debt	②	↘ 2005-2015
Household net wealth	③	↘ 2009-2014
Financial net worth of government	③	↘ 2005-2016
Banking sector leverage	③	↘ 2005-2015

 Social capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Trust in others	③	.. 2013
Trust in the police	③	.. 2013
Trust in the national government	③	↘ 2005-2016
Voter turnout	②	↘ 2007-2015
Government stakeholder engagement	②	.. 2014
Volunteering through organisations	③	.. 2014/2015

①	Top-performing OECD tier, latest available year
②	Middle-performing OECD tier, latest available year
③	Bottom-performing OECD tier, latest available year

↗	Improving over time
↘	Worsening over time
↔	No change
..	No data available

HOW LARGE ARE WELL-BEING INEQUALITIES IN GREECE?

What is inequality and how is it measured? Measuring inequality means trying to describe **how unevenly distributed** outcomes are in society. *How's Life? 2017* adopts several different approaches:

- Measures of “**vertical**” inequalities address how unequally outcomes are spread across all people in society – for example, by looking at the size of the gap between people at the bottom of the distribution and people at the top.
- Measures of “**horizontal**” inequalities focus on the gap between population groups defined by specific characteristics (such as men and women, young and old, people with higher and lower levels of education).
- Measures of “**deprivation**” report the share of people who live below a certain level of well-being (such as those who face income poverty or live in an overcrowded household).

Vertical inequalities in Greece are comparatively large (i.e. in the least equal third of the OECD) for income, very long working hours, the cognitive skills of 15-year-old students, and life satisfaction. By contrast, inequalities are narrower than for the OECD on average for both net wealth and having a say in government.

When it comes to the **gender gap**, Greek women are less disadvantaged than women in other OECD countries in 7 out of 15 well-being indicators. So while they are still worse-off than men in terms of earnings, low pay, for instance, the gap is narrower than in many other OECD countries. In other cases, Greek women are equal to or doing better than men, including for educational attainment, voter turnout and life satisfaction – which is not always true in other OECD countries. However, in some areas, such as employment, unemployment and cognitive skills at 15, gender gaps are still wider than in most OECD countries.

Looking at well-being gaps with the **middle-aged, young adults** in Greece fare comparatively badly in terms of having a say in government and employment, in particular. Nevertheless, young people in Greece have adult skills that are comparable to those of the middle-aged, and a higher level of educational attainment, which is not always the case in OECD countries.

People with a **tertiary education** tend fare better than those without across a wide range of well-being outcomes. Compared to other OECD countries, these **education-related gaps** in Greece are large when it comes to earnings, employment, social support and feelings of safety, for example. However, gaps are narrower than in the OECD on average for household net wealth, having a say in government, and perceived health.

Greece suffers from a comparatively high share of well-being **deprivations**, with 15 out of 20 deprivation indicators ranked in the bottom (most deprived) third of OECD countries. This includes income and wealth, housing conditions, education and skills environmental quality and subjective well-being. Two exceptions are perceived health and having a say in government, where Greece has a lower share of deprivations than in the OECD on average.

Well-being inequalities in Greece

● top third of OECD countries

● middle third of OECD countries

● bottom third of OECD countries

○ data gaps

■ no measures

	Vertical inequality	Horizontal inequality by			Deprivation
		Gender	Age	Education	
		Women relative to men	Young relative to middle-aged	Secondary relative to tertiary	
Household income	●	■	●	■	●
Household net wealth	●	■	●	●	●
Earnings	●	●	●	●	■
Low pay	■	●	■	■	●
Employment	■	●	●	●	■
Unemployment	■	●	●	●	●
Housing affordability	■	■	■	■	●
Rooms per person	■	■	■	■	●
Life expectancy	○	■	■	■	■
Perceived health	■	●	●	●	●
Working hours	●	●	●	●	●
Time off	■	○	○	■	■
Educational attainment	■	●	●	■	●
Cognitive skills at 15	●	●	■	●	●
Adult skills	●	●	●	●	●
Time spent socialising	■	○	○	■	■
Social support	■	●	●	●	●
Voter turnout	■	●	●	●	●
Having a say in government	●	●	●	●	●
Air quality	■	■	■	■	●
Water quality	■	●	●	●	●
Homicides	■	●	■	■	●
Feeling safe at night	■	●	●	●	●
Life satisfaction	●	●	●	●	●
Negative affect balance	■	■	■	■	●

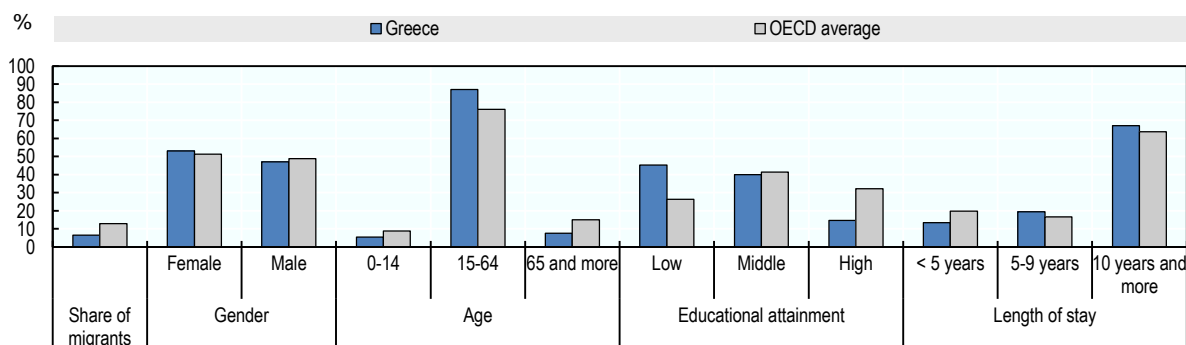
HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN GREECE?

Migrants (defined as people living in a different country from the one in which they were born) represent an important share of the population in most OECD countries. Capturing information about their well-being is critical for gaining a fuller picture of how life is going, and whether it is going equally well for all members of society.

Who are the migrants in Greece and OECD?

Less than one in ten people living in Greece (7%) were born elsewhere, below the OECD average (13%), and 53% of them are women (51% for the OECD average). Migrants in Greece are more likely to be of working age than in the OECD on average (87% of them are aged 15 to 64, as compared to 76% across the OECD), and are more likely to have a low or a middle educational attainment than a high level. More than two in three migrants arrived in Greece ten years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics

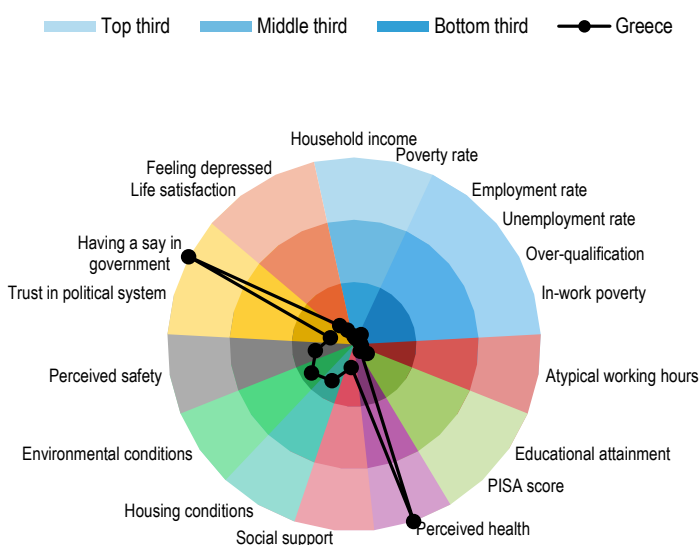


How is migrants' well-being in Greece?

When compared with the migrant populations of other OECD countries, migrants living in Greece have relatively high levels of perceived health and a greater share of migrants feels they have a say in government. However, migrants settled in Greece rank in the bottom third of OECD countries for 16 out of 18 selected well-being indicators.

As in many other OECD countries, migrants in Greece tend to experience lower well-being outcomes than the native-born population: this is the case for 8 out of 14 selected well-being indicators. However, migrants in Greece experience a similar situation to the native-born population with respect to environmental conditions, perceived safety, trust in the political system, life satisfaction and feeling depressed. They report a higher level of perceived health than the native-born.

Comparing well-being outcomes for migrants in Greece with the migrant populations of other OECD countries



Comparison of migrants' and native-born well-being in Greece

	Migrants have a worse situation	Same situation	Migrants have a better situation
Household income	▲		
Wealth	▲		
Atypical working hours	▲		
Literacy scores	▲		
PISA score	▲		
Perceived health			▲
Social support	▲		
Housing conditions	▲		
Environmental conditions		▲	
Perceived safety		▲	
Trust in political system		▲	
Having a say in government	▲		
Life satisfaction		▲	
Feeling depressed		▲	

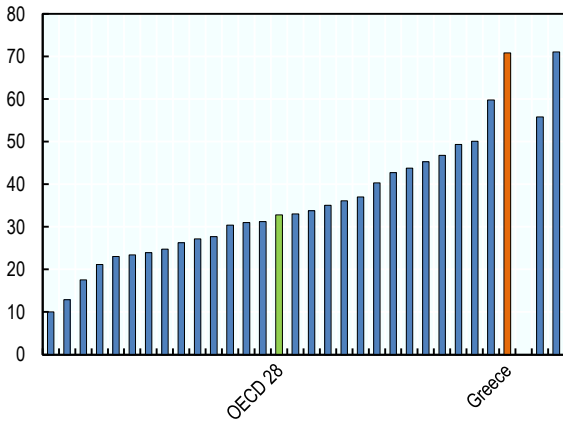
GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN GREECE

Public institutions play an important role in well-being, both by guaranteeing that people’s fundamental rights are protected, and by ensuring the provision of goods and services necessary for people to thrive and prosper. How people experience and engage with public institutions also matters: people’s political voice, agency and representation are outcomes of value in their own right.

In Greece, almost 71% of the population feels that they have a say in what the government does, one of the highest rankings in the OECD where the average is 33%. Despite this, voter turnout fell by nearly 11 points between 2007 and 2015. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 80% of Greeks answered "yes", which is higher than the OECD average of 56%. Since around 2006, the share of people in the OECD who report that they have confidence in their national government has fallen from 42% to 38%.

Having a say in what the government does

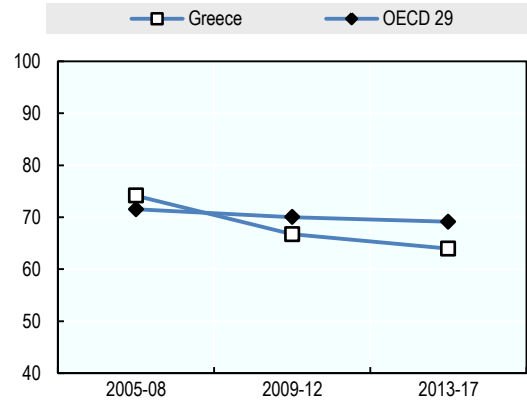
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



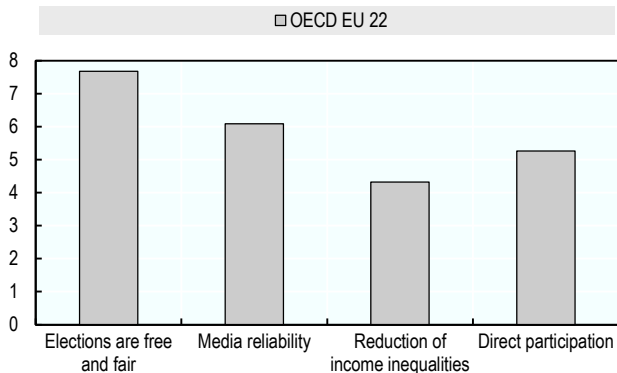
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

Source: IDEA dataset

In the 22 European OECD countries where it can be assessed, satisfaction with democracy varies, depending on which aspect is considered. While Europeans tend to be reasonably satisfied with the way elections are held (7.7 on a 0-10 scale), they are relatively less satisfied with policies to reduce inequalities (4.3) or the existence of direct participation mechanisms at the local level (5.3). Meanwhile, satisfaction with public services varies according to whether people have used those services in the last year: people with direct experience of using those services recently are more likely to be satisfied than those without. In Greece, satisfaction with both health and education services is lower than the European OECD average level.

OECD EU average satisfaction with different elements of democracy

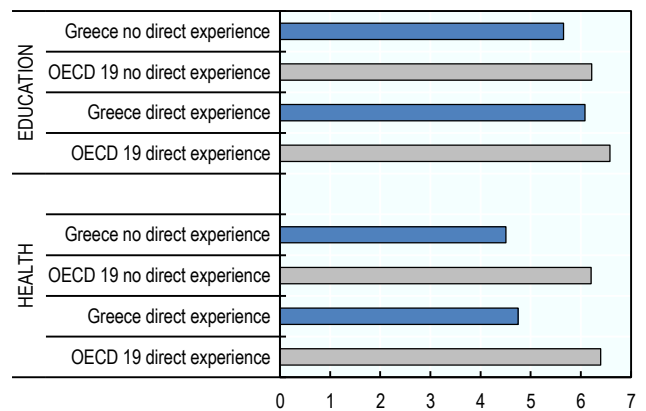
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



Source: OECD calculations based on wave 6 of the European Social Survey (ESS), special rotating module on citizens’ valuations of different elements of democracy.

Satisfaction with public services by direct experience

Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction, 2013



Source: OECD calculations based on the EU Quality of Government (QoG) for 19 European OECD countries.

BETTER LIFE INDEX

The **Better Life Index** is an interactive web application that allows users to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators used in *How's Life?*. Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and then see how countries perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.

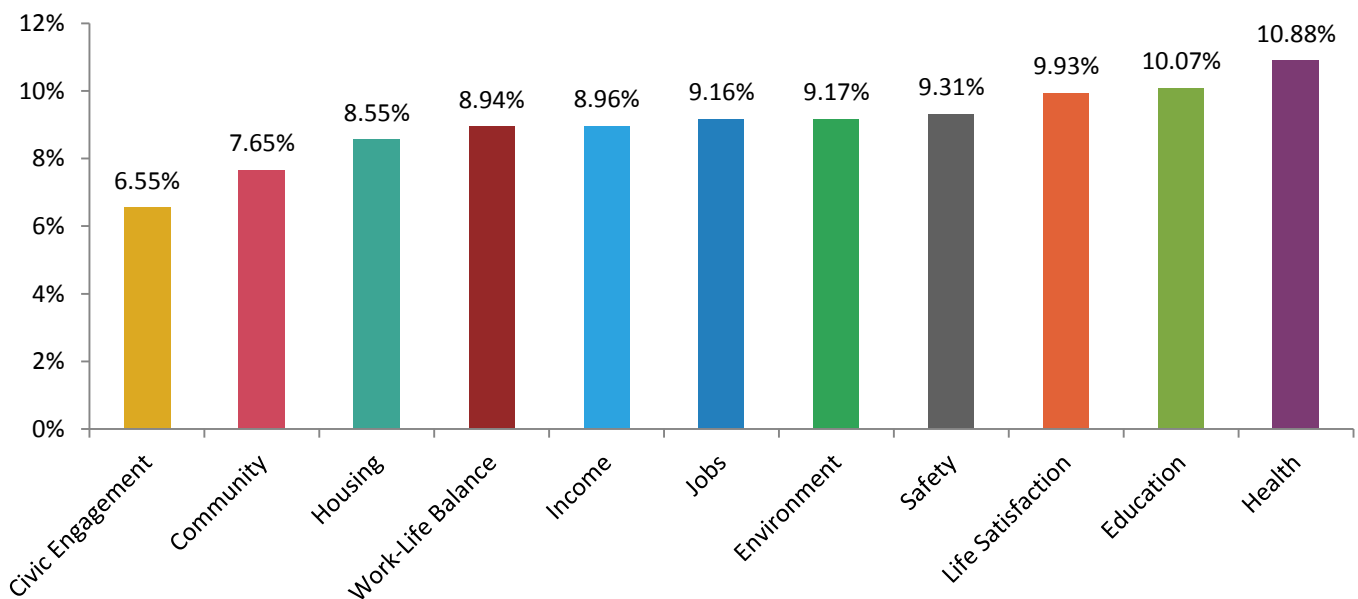


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN GREECE?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over ten million visits from just about every country on the planet** and has received over **22 million page views**. To date, over 45,000 people in Greece have visited the website making Greece the 38th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Athens (62% of visits), Thessaloniki, Acharnes, Vrillissia and Heraklion.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 827 website visitors in Greece. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Greek users of the Better Life Index, health, education and life satisfaction are the three most important topics** (shown below).¹ Up to date information, including a breakdown of participants in each country by gender and age can be found here: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#GRC.



¹ User information for Greece is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and September 2017.

The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's Life?* report. It also includes an interactive web application, the *Better Life Index*, and a number of *methodological and research projects* to improve the information base available to understand well-being levels, trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

- Helps to inform policy making to improve quality of life.
- Connects policies to people's lives.
- Generates support for needed policy measures.
- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own *Better Life Index* and share their preferences about what matters most for well-being
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This note presents **selected findings for Greece from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-6) and shows what **Greek users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 7).

HOW'S LIFE?



How's Life?, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD and selected partner countries by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It considers eleven dimensions of current well-being including: income and wealth; jobs and earnings; housing; health status; work-life balance; education and skills; social connections; civic engagement and governance; environmental quality; personal security; and subjective well-being. It also looks at four types of resources that help to sustain well-being over time: natural, human, economic and social capital.

The *How's Life? 2017* report presents the latest data on well-being in OECD and partner countries, including how lives have changed since 2005. It includes a special focus on inequalities, the well-being of migrants in OECD countries, and the issue of governance – particularly how people experience and engage with public institutions. To read more, visit: www.oecd.org/howslife.

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