

Greek Social Issues

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Citizen  
participation  
in Greece

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# Greek Social Issues

## Citizen participation in Greece

In democratic societies, the participation of citizens in associations and organizations is considered to be a basic right. Through participation, citizens form alliances in support of common interests, actively express their views about political and social issues of concern to them and influence decision-making.

Overall social participation in Greece is quite high: Nearly 1 in 2 citizens (47%) is a member of and participates in at least one association (professional, cultural, sports, community, agricultural, etc.) or organization (e.g. political party, religious affiliated, non-governmental). Among those participating, 24% are members of just one association or organization, 13% participate in two associations or organizations, and 10% in three or more (Figure 1).

Professional/labor organizations (20%) have the highest levels of participation<sup>1</sup>, whilst political participation in parties stands at 7%, which by international standards should be considered a high percentage<sup>2</sup>.

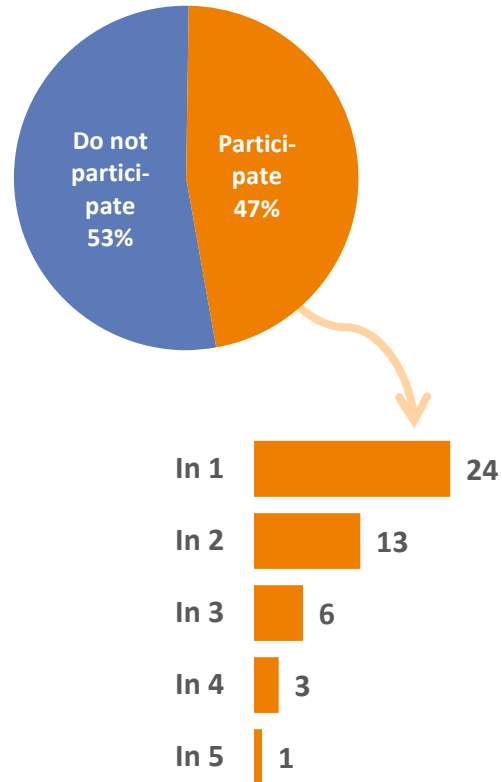
Men traditionally have higher participation rates than women (56%, against 39%). Moreover, high participation rates are recorded among unmarried cohabiting partners (53%), tertiary education graduates (62%), public sector employees (70%), residents of semi-urban areas (52%) and those ideologically positioned on the Center-Right (62%) (Figure 2).

Table 1 presents detailed demographic characteristics relating to citizen participation, separately for each association or organization.

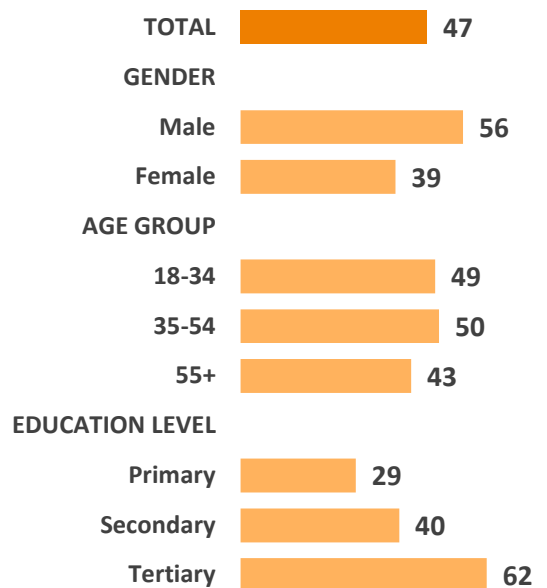
<sup>1</sup> For more information on participation rates of European citizens in professional/labor organizations, see: Visser J. (2013), 'Wage Bargaining Institutions – from crisis to crisis', European Economy – Economic Papers 488, Directorate General Economic and Monetary Affairs (DG ECFIN), European Commission and [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/publications/economic\\_paper/2013/pdf/ecp488\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/economic_paper/2013/pdf/ecp488_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> According to Van Biezen et al. (2012), the average rate of participation of European citizens in political parties is 4.7%. For more information regarding participation rates in 27 European Union member states, see: Ingrid van Biezen, Peter Mair and Thomas Poguntke (2012), 'Going, going... gone? The Decline of Party Membership in Contemporary Europe', European Journal of Political Research, 51(1): 24-56 and <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2013/05/06/decline-in-party-membership-europe-ingrid-van-biezen/>

## F.1 Participation in organizations/associations



## F.2 Main social characteristics of participation



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### F.3 Participation in organizations & associations

		95% confidence interval	
		Lower bound	Upper bound
Professional association	20	1,501,699	1,926,444
Cultural association	18	1,338,687	1,746,641
Community association	10	697,757	1,016,315
Parents' association	8	541,591	829,667
Party – Political organization	7	464,460	735,390
Sports association	6	388,132	640,311
Agricultural association	6	388,132	640,311
Non-governmental organization	4	238,774	446,855
Supporters' club	2	97,077	245,737
Student association	2	97,077	245,737
Religious-affiliated organization	2	97,077	245,737
Scout association	1	32,877	138,531

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## ○ Professional associations

One in 5 citizens (20%) is a member of a professional association, labor union or employee association. Participation rates are high among men (27%), persons aged 35-54 (25%), tertiary education graduates (37%), public sector employees (53%) and those ideologically positioned on the Left (26%) and Center-Left (26%) (Table 1).

## ○ Cultural associations

Almost 1 in 5 citizens (18%) is a member of a cultural association (music, dance, art, drama, etc.). High participation rates are seen among unmarried cohabiting partners (22%), tertiary education graduates (23%), the self-employed or employers (29%), residents of rural areas (26%) and those ideologically positioned on the Center-Right (29%) (Table 1).

## ○ Community associations

One in 10 citizens (10%) is a member of a community association or neighborhood group. The participation rate is higher among private sector employees (13%), residents of rural areas (13%) and those ideologically positioned on the Center-Right (15%) (Table 1).

## ○ Parents' and guardians' associations

Nearly 1 in 10 citizens (8%) belongs to an association of parents and guardians (also, 9% of citizens were in the past members of such an association). Participation rates are higher among the 35-54 age group (16%) and married couples (11%). Equally high rates are recorded among tertiary education graduates (12%), the economically active population, i.e. the employed (15%) and residents of semi-urban areas (13%) (Table 1).

## ○ Parties – Political organizations

7% of citizens are members of a party, party youth or political organization. Participation rates are higher among men (10%, against 4% for women), public sector employees (11%, against 6% for their private sector counterparts), residents of semi-urban areas (11%) and those ideologically positioned on the Left (13%) and the Right (13%) (Table 1).

## ○ Sports associations

6% of citizens are members of a sports association, club or group. Higher rates of participation are evident among men (9%), persons aged 18-34 (13%), unmarried cohabiting partners (12%), private sector employees (11%) and those ideologically positioned on the Center-Right (10%) (Table 1).

## ○ Agricultural associations

6% of citizens are members of an agricultural association. High participation rates are recorded among men (8%, against 3% for women), primary education graduates (10%), employers or the self-employed (16%) and residents of rural areas (12%) (Table 1).

## ○ Non-governmental organizations

4% of citizens are members of a non-governmental organization (e.g. for the protection of the environment, of human rights, etc.). The participation rate is higher among women (5%, against 3% for men) and young people aged 18-34 (8%). With regard to other demographic characteristics there are no significant differences (Table 1).

## ○ Supporters' clubs

2% of citizens are members of a supporters' club or association. Participation rates are higher among men (3%, against 1% for women), the self-employed or employers (5%) and those on the Center-Right (5%) (Table 1).

## ○ Student associations

2% of citizens are members of a student association or study group. The participation rate is high among the 18-34 age group (8%) and unmarried cohabiting couples, evidently students (8%) (Table 1).

## ○ Religious-affiliated organizations

2% of citizens are members of a religious or church organization. The participation rate is higher among widows/widowers and divorcees/divorcés (5%). With regard to other demographic characteristics there are no significant differences (Table 1).

## ○ Scout/girl guide associations

1% of citizens are members of a scout or girl guide association. The highest participation rates are among unmarried cohabiting partners (3%) and those ideologically positioned on the Right (3%) (Table 1).

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### T.1a Participation in organizations/associations, by social category

	Participants	Professional associations	Cultural associations	Community associations	Parents' associations	Parties – Political organization	Sports associations	Agricultural associations	NGOS	Supporters' clubs	Student associations	Religious-affiliated organizations	Scout associations
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>GENDER</b>													
Male	56	27	20	11	9	10	9	8	3	3	2	1	2
Female	39	14	16	8	7	4	4	3	5	1	1	2	1
<b>AGE GROUP</b>													
18-34	49	17	18	11	2	7	13	3	8	3	8	2	2
35-54	50	25	17	9	16	6	8	7	4	2	1	1	1
55+	43	17	19	10	2	9	3	5	3	2	0	2	1
<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b>													
Primary	29	3	12	6	2	9	3	10	0	0	0	2	0
Secondary	40	11	15	8	7	7	7	6	4	2	2	2	0
Tertiary	62	37	23	12	12	7	6	3	6	3	2	1	2
<b>ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>													
Active	62	36	22	10	15	8	9	8	5	3	2	2	1
Unemployed	30	6	11	7	4	4	5	3	5	1	1	0	1
Inactive	38	10	16	10	2	7	4	4	3	1	1	2	1
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>													
Employers/Self-employed	67	40	29	7	16	9	10	16	5	5	2	1	2
Public sector salaried employees	70	53	23	10	15	11	5	1	5	3	2	1	1
Private sector salaried employees	53	22	14	13	15	6	11	5	5	1	3	3	1
Unemployed	30	6	11	7	4	4	5	3	5	1	1	0	1
Pensioners	41	14	18	12	1	8	4	5	4	1	0	1	1
Housewives	29	1	13	6	7	3	3	3	3	2	0	3	0
Students*	58	0	17	0	0	17	33	0	8	8	42	8	8

## Greek Social Issues

### T.1b Participation in organizations/associations, by social category

	Participants	Professional associations	Cultural associations	Community associations	Parents' associations	Parties – Political organization	Sports associations	Agricultural associations	NGOS	Supporters' clubs	Student associations	Religious-affiliated organizations	Scout associations
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA</b>													
Urban	45	22	13	8	7	6	6	3	4	2	2	2	1
Semi-Urban	52	20	25	9	13	11	7	7	5	1	1	1	1
Rural	50	15	26	13	6	7	7	12	3	2	0	0	0
<b>Household type</b>													
Single/Living alone*	39	29	13	8	0	3	8	0	8	3	3	0	0
Single/Cohabiting	53	15	22	11	0	8	12	8	7	2	8	1	3
Married/No children*	48	28	13	4	0	2	0	7	4	0	0	0	2
Married/With children	47	22	18	10	11	8	6	5	3	2	1	1	1
Divorced/Widows-Widowers/Other	42	10	17	10	5	7	7	7	9	0	0	5	1
<b>ASSESSMENT OF INCOME</b>													
Facing financial difficulty	45	19	15	9	8	6	7	6	4	2	1	1	1
Making ends meet	55	23	26	11	9	10	4	5	5	2	2	2	2
<b>POLITICAL SELF-PLACEMENT</b>													
Left	57	26	24	9	8	13	8	6	6	3	4	2	1
Center-Left	54	26	23	12	8	8	4	8	3	1	1	0	1
Center	54	23	22	14	11	6	5	8	5	1	2	2	2
Center-Right	62	25	29	15	8	11	10	6	6	5	1	2	0
Right	50	21	16	8	9	13	7	5	1	2	3	2	3
Apolitical	33	13	10	5	7	1	6	3	4	1	1	2	0



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