

## **Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications**

**Country:** Greece

**Contractor's name:** Centre for European Constitutional Law (in cooperation with Hellenic League for Human Rights and Antigone-Information and Documentation Centre on racism, ecology, peace and non violence)

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# 1 Measures taken by government/public authorities

## 1.1 Emergency laws/states of emergency

*Provide information on emergency laws/declarations of states of emergency, including actions taken by police to enforce them and court rulings concerning the legality of such measures. Please include in particular information on developments relating to the protection of the right of association/demonstration; for example, with respect to the public gatherings that took place concerning the death of George Floyd, or other such events.*

In **Greece**, measures adopted in June 2020 regarding Coronavirus-COVID 19 primarily focussed on the reopening of businesses and the implementation of health and safety regulations therein. In concrete, measures included the gradual lift of restrictions on financial activity in the sectors which had not restarted in May:<sup>1</sup>

-On 6 June 2020:

- Hotel restaurants can resume operations;
- Cafeterias in malls, public buildings and other facilities are allowed to serve food and beverages;
- Food and beverages can be served at outdoor events;
- Supporting activities at art events can restart.

-On 8 June 2020:

- Night clubs and internet cafes can reopen;
- Dance centres can reopen;
- Coffeehouses with electronic or board games can reopen;
- Businesses offering gambling machines can reopen;

-On 15 June:

- Short-term or seasonal lodging facilities can resume operations;
- Museums and archaeological sites can reopen;
- Sports and fitness centres can reopen;
- Theme parks can reopen;
- Entertainment centres can reopen.

-On 17 June:

- Children's playhouses can reopen.<sup>2</sup>

-On 29 June 2020:

- Summer camps for children can reopen;

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<sup>1</sup> Greece, Ministry of Development and Investments, "Presentation on the restart of financial activities by the Deputy Minister, Mr Nikos Papathanassis" ("Παρουσίαση του Υφυπουργού Ανάπτυξης & Επενδύσεων, κ. Νίκου Παπαθανάση για την επαναφορά οικονομικών δραστηριοτήτων"), Press release, 3-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/3grvJ99>

<sup>2</sup> Greece, Ministry of Development and Investments, "Reopening of children's playhouses" ("Επαναλειτουργία παιδότοπων"), press release, 14-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/38jilkd>

- Casinos can reopen;
- Indoor cinemas can reopen;<sup>3</sup>
- Concerts, theatrical plays and other artistic events can resume.<sup>4</sup>

In **Greece**, a new Government Committee was formed for the purposes of coordinating the state policies relating to the pandemic.<sup>5</sup> This Committee will be responsible for the design, monitoring, coordination and impact assessment of the government policies including COVID-19 measures. The focus of the Committee will be on public health, civil protection, social life and financial activity. The Committee will issue recommendations and submit them to the Prime Minister who will take the necessary steps towards implementation in collaboration with the Ministerial Council. Up until now, the policymaking and the measuring of results with regards to COVID-19 measures had not been assigned to a specific body in **Greece**.

In **Greece**, according to the news, incidents of violence took place during the protests for the death of George Floyd in the beginning of June.<sup>6</sup> The police used tear gas and some protestors threw rocks. It is noted that demonstrations were not prohibited in the context of limiting the transmission of COVID-19 and there has been no reporting by the media or the Ministry of Citizen Protection about breaches of physical distancing rules during these particular protests.

On 29 June 2020, a draft law was introduced to the Greek parliament on “Public outdoor assemblies and other provisions” (*«Δημόσιες υπαίθριες συναθροίσεις και άλλες διατάξεις»*).<sup>7</sup> The draft law includes provisions regarding the restriction of public assemblies in case they are deemed as disruptive of the socioeconomic activity in the area they take place or pose a threat to public security. According to the Explanatory Memorandum (*Αιτιολογική Έκθεση*) attached to the draft law, it is possible that the degree of disruption caused by the assembly results in substantial obstacles in the use of public spaces by the general public, the use of means of transport and public benefit facilities or can even lead to the temporary exclusion from these amenities. So if the freedom of assembly is exercised at the expense of socioeconomic life it is deemed abusive.<sup>8</sup> The draft law also provides for criminal charges against the “organisers” of the assemblies in case they do not comply with the orders of the police forces. According to the draft law in question, the organiser of an assembly must inform the competent authorities of the scheduled assemblies while the competent police authorities “can allow”

<sup>3</sup> Greece, Ministry of Development and Investments, “8<sup>th</sup> phase of restarting of services and activities” (“8η φάση επανεκκίνησης δραστηριοτήτων και υπηρεσιών”), press release, 27-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/31Kxo5B>

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>5</sup> Greece, Act of the Ministerial Council, “Formation, establishment and operation of the Government Policy Coordination and Monitoring Committee in response of the COVID-19 pandemic” (“Σύσταση, συγκρότηση και λειτουργία της Κυβερνητικής Επιτροπής Συντονισμού και Παρακολούθησης της Κυβερνητικής Πολιτικής για την αντιμετώπιση της πανδημίας του κορωνοϊού COVID-19.”), No 23, O.G 125/28-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/2NMsE7e>

<sup>6</sup> Greece, ETHNOS, “Tension in the centre of Athens after the march for the killing of George Floyd” (“Ένταση στο κέντρο της Αθήνας μετά την πορεία για τη δολοφονία του George Floyd”), 5-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.ethnos.gr/ellada/109194-entasi-sto-kentro-tis-athinas-meta-tin-poreia-gia-ti-dolofonia-toy-george-floyd>

<sup>7</sup> Greece, 2020, draft law, available in Greek at [https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Nomothetiko-Ergo/Epexergasia-stis-Epitropes?law\\_id=5b65c29b-6a12-49ef-85d1-abe9010df2fc](https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Nomothetiko-Ergo/Epexergasia-stis-Epitropes?law_id=5b65c29b-6a12-49ef-85d1-abe9010df2fc)

<sup>8</sup> Greece, Hellenic Parliament, “Explanatory Memorandum of the draft bill of the Ministry of Citizen Protection [...]” (“Αιτιολογική έκθεση στο σχέδιο νόμου του Υπουργείου Προστασίας του Πολίτη [...]”), page 4, 29-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/UserFiles/c8827c35-4399-4fbb-8ea6-aebdc768f4f7/11311404.pdf>

the “spontaneous” public assemblies. The draft law has been criticised by opposing parties such as Syriza who maintained that this bill goes against constitutional values that have been established following the Military Coup of 1967 and that is unacceptable as the last bill with similar content was enforced in 1971 during the Coup.<sup>9</sup> The government spokesperson, Mr Petsas maintained that the recent bill was introduced to ensure the democratic and peaceful enjoyment of the right to assembly for all.<sup>10</sup> It is noted that the bill in question has not been explicitly associated with the pandemic or the protests for the death of George Floyd by government officials as the first draft was published on 25 February 2020 for public consultation.<sup>11</sup> The draft law will be further processed by the relevant parliamentary committees on 1 July 2020.

## 1.2 Measures affecting the general population

### 1.2.1 Social distancing

Focus on:

- *Lifting of stay at home restrictions, and measures/rules for general physical distancing when in public or at home.*

In **Greece**, the general measures of physical distancing and fines imposed due to violations with regards to private businesses, public services and other public spaces are provided in Joint Ministerial Decisions issued on 4, 9, 17 and 27 June 2020. The decision issued on 4 June 2020<sup>12</sup> included measures for the period between 5 and 14 June, the decision issued on 9 June<sup>13</sup> provided some amendments to the previous one focussing on the penalty imposition, the one published on 17 June 2020<sup>14</sup> adopted

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<sup>9</sup> Greece, SYRIZA, “G. Ragkousis: After 46 years of Democracy, the Mitsotakis office attempts to abolish the fundamental right to assembly” (“Γ. Ραγκούσης: Μετά από 46 χρόνια Δημοκρατίας η κυβέρνηση Μητσοτάκη αποπειράται να καταργήσει το θεμελιώδες συνταγματικό δικαίωμα συμμετοχής σε συγκεντρώσεις”), press release, 30-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/2Zx6P10>

<sup>10</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Media and Communications, “Informing the political editors and correspondents of the foreign press (29/6/2020)” (“Ενημέρωση των πολιτικών συντακτών και των ανταποκριτών ξένου τύπου (29/6/2020)”), briefing, 29-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://media.gov.gr/enimerosi-ton-politikon-syntakton-kai-ton-antapokriton-ksenou-typou-29-6-2020/>

<sup>11</sup> Greece, SofokleousIn, “Demonstrations put on hold with new policy-a new bill is coming”, (“Πολιτική «Φρένο» στις διαδηλώσεις και τις πορείες-Έρχεται το νομοσχέδιο”), 21-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.sofokleousin.gr/freno-stis-diadiloseis-kai-tis-poreies-prosexos-to-nomosxedio>

<sup>12</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...], Joint Ministerial Decision, “Rules governing physical distancing in private businesses, public services and other gathering places in the entire territory to limit the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19” (“Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων σε ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις, δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και άλλους χώρους συνάθροισης κοινού στο σύνολο της Επικράτειας, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19”), No D1 a/GP.oik 34781, O.G B’ 2168/4-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-dia-gp-oik-34781-2020.html>

<sup>13</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...], Joint Ministerial Decision, “Amendment to JMD 34781/4-6-2020 [...] on Rules governing physical distancing in private businesses, public services and other gathering places in the entire territory to limit the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19” (“Τροποποίηση της υπ’ αριθ. Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ. 34781/4-6-2020 [...] Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων σε ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις, δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και άλλους χώρους συνάθροισης κοινού στο σύνολο της Επικράτειας, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19”), No D1 a/GP.oik. 35463, O.G B’ 2217/9-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-agp-oik-35463-2020.html>

<sup>14</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...], Joint Ministerial Decision, “Rules governing physical distancing in private businesses, public services and other gathering places in the entire territory to limit the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19” (“Κανόνες

measures until 28 June 2020 and the latest one refers to the period until 12 July 2020.<sup>15</sup> The measures included in the above Joint Ministerial Decisions refer to the different types of businesses which reopened during these particular time frames. The government aims to assess the measures adopted in each period taking into consideration the epidemiological data produced during their implementation. The measures included in all the above decisions are very detailed and are summarised as follows:

- Rules for private businesses: restricted number of customers per square metre, physical distance between employees in offices (1.5 metre), regular decontamination of surfaces, signage regarding personal hygiene measures, scheduling of appointments rather than open door policy, provision of antiseptics and masks, provision of rubbish bins opening through application of feet pressure rather than hand, natural airing, limitation of air conditioning, keeping the toilet covers closed, use of bottled water, use of masks;
- Rules for outdoor markets: distance of >3 metres between kiosks, mandatory use of face masks;
- Rules in means of public transport: the staff and passengers must wear face masks, the passengers must keep distances as much as possible;
- Rules in private and public vehicles: taxis and other vehicles with capacity up to 7 passengers can carry up to 3 passengers plus the driver, vehicles with capacity up to 8 or nine passengers can carry up to 5 passengers plus the driver, exceptions are allowed in case of parents accompanying underage children, mandatory use of face masks within taxis and other public vehicles, air conditioning must be used with windows open moderately, air flow must not be directed to the faces of the passengers;
- Busses, Trains: operation at maximum 65% passenger capacity;
- Air transport: distance keeping, special attention on preventing congestion during boarding and disembarking ;
- Sea transport: operation at maximum 60-65% passenger capacity, distance keeping (1.5 metre), up to 4 passengers per cabin;
- Schools and universities: distance keeping (1.5 metre), personal hygiene, surface decontamination, provision of antiseptics and masks, natural airing, use of disposable plastic covers for computer keyboards, provisional use of face masks;
- Hospitals and public services: mandatory use of face masks by patients, visitors and staff, distance keeping (1.5 metre);

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τήρησης αποστάσεων σε ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις, δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και άλλους χώρους συνάθροισης κοινού στο σύνολο της Επικράτειας, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19”), No D1 a/GP.oik 37992, O.G B’ 2401/17-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-agp-oik-37992-2020.html>

<sup>15</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...].Joint Ministerial Decision, “Rules governing physical distancing in private businesses, public services and other gathering places in the entire territory to limit the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19” (“Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων σε ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις, δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και άλλους χώρους συνάθροισης κοινού στο σύνολο της Επικράτειας, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19”), No D1 a/GP.oik 40381, O.G B’ 2601/27-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-dia-gp-oik-40381-2020.html>

- **Organised beaches:** 40 persons per 1,000 square metres, minimum 4 metres of distance between umbrellas , maximum 2 persons per umbrella except a family with underage children are seated,<sup>16</sup>
- **Penalties:** fines of €1,000-50,000 and imposition of closure for 15-90 days for businesses, fines of €150-300 for individuals and workers.

It is noted that the abovementioned Joint Ministerial Decisions contain very detailed measures for multiple undertakings such water sports facilities and others. It is understood that special precaution must be taken in water sports facilities for people suffering from lung impediments.

- *Enforcement and penalties.*

In **Greece**, penalties imposed upon infringement of health and hygiene COVID-19 regulations are provided in the abovementioned Joint Ministerial Decrees and range from fines of €150-300 for individuals and workers. The lowest fines are imposed on individuals whereas the higher ones primarily target workers violating the health and safety measures. Fines ranging from €1,000 to 50,000 for businesses are stipulated depending on the recurrence of the violation, the type and the subject of the infringement. Businesses may also be subject to mandatory temporary closure.<sup>17</sup>

Penalties for violations of health and safety measures by food and beverages businesses were specified in the Joint Ministerial Decision of 17 June 2020.<sup>18</sup> The additions of the new Joint Ministerial Decision in general terms are:

- heavier penalties for those who violate the framework more than once: fines of 1,000 up to 50,000 and imposition of suspension of operation for 15, 30 and 90 days depending on the recurrence of the violation;
- retrospective application of certain provisions so as to avoid unfair treatment violations occurred in the past.

In **Greece**, the Ministry of Development and Investments, in collaboration with the Hellenic police, conducted several controls throughout June in order to monitor the implementation of health and safety measures imposed to tackle Coronavirus COVID-19 as well as the compliance of businesses with

<sup>16</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...],Joint Ministerial Decision, “Rules governing physical distancing in organised beaches [...]from 9.6.2020 to 23.6.2020” (“Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων σε οργανωμένες ιδιωτικές και μη παραλίες [...] από τις 9.6.2020 έως και τις 23.6.2020”), No D1a/GP.oik. 35444, O.G B’2216/9-6-2020, available in Greek at <http://www.mindev.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/%CE%9A%CE%A5%CE%91-2216-9.6.2020-%CE%9A%CE%B1%CE%BD%CF%8C%CE%BD%CE%B5%CF%82-%CF%80%CE%BB%CE%B1%CE%B6-COVID-19.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...],Joint Ministerial Decision, “Rules governing physical distancing in private businesses, public services and other gathering places in the entire territory to limit the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19” (“Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων σε ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις, δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και άλλους χώρους συνάθροισης κοινού στο σύνολο της Επικράτειας, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19”), especially Arts. 22, 23,24,25,25, No D1 a/GP.oik 40381, O.G B’ 2601/27-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-dia-gp-oik-40381-2020.html>

<sup>18</sup> Greece, Ministry of Development and Investments, “New fines for violations of COVID-19 protection measures by food and beverage businesses, Joint Ministerial Decree”, (“Τα νέα πρόστιμα για τα καταστήματα υγειονομικού ενδιαφέροντος, που παραβιάζουν τους κανόνες προστασίας από τον Covid-19, καθορίζει Κοινή Υπουργική Απόφαση”), Press release, 18-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/2Zu3YWB>

provisions regarding commercial equity in the framework of balancing the negative financial impact of the pandemic. The Ministry of Development and Investments conducted 1,506 controls throughout June 2020 and found 267 violations regarding the legislation against illicit trading and health and safety. The violations are not further analysed in the press releases of the Ministry but surely primarily include violations of COVID-19 related measures.<sup>19</sup>

The National Authority for Transparency (*Εθνική Αρχή Διαφάνειας*), in collaboration with the Hellenic Police, Ministry of Health and Civil Protection also conducted controls throughout June focussing specifically on the compliance with the adopted measures in response to the pandemic. The findings of the controls are published by the National Authority for Transparency on its official website. Namely, controls in 968 businesses and undertakings took place and 93 of them were found in breach of their obligations with regards to mandatory use of face masks and minimum numbers of customers.<sup>20</sup> The controls carried out in the end of June concerned primarily beach bars and other businesses operating near the beach while the focus of the controls was also set on night clubs and bars. The sanctions imposed included both pecuniary penalties and imposition of temporary closure.

## 1.2.2 Education

*Focus on:*

- *Steps to reopen educational institutions (schools, third level and kindergartens). Include any specific measures aimed at children from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.*

Kindergartens and day care institutions reopened on 1 June 2020. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs issued a press release describing the steps to be followed upon reopening of preschool educational units. The measures focus on:<sup>21</sup>

- ✓ avoiding crowded classrooms and the use of common dining tables;
- ✓ the division of children into small groups.

Upon reopening of primary schools on 1 June 2020, the meal distribution program relaunched.<sup>22</sup> This program is materialised under the auspices of the Organisation of Welfare Benefits and Social Solidarity (*Οργανισμός Προνοιακών Επιδομάτων και Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης ΟΠΕΚΑ*) and its objective is to support families through offering free nutritious meals to all school students. This program relaunched on 1 June 2020 to support students especially bearing in mind those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds and show solidarity with the families in Greece.

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<sup>19</sup> Greece, Ministry of Development and Investments, “Control results from monitoring the market”, (“Αποτελέσματα ελέγχων για την εποπτεία της αγοράς”), combination of press releases of 9, 15, 22 and 29 June, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/2NMFkbc> , <https://bit.ly/31yLNkY> , <https://bit.ly/2BqlwcW> and <https://bit.ly/2AhiW9A>

<sup>20</sup> Greece, National Authority for Transparency, data extracted from combining press releases of 8, 12, 14, 23 and 30 June 2020, all available in Greek at <https://aead.gr/press/press-releases>

<sup>21</sup> Greece, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, “Conditions of operation of public and private kindergartens and day care institutions from Monday 1 June 2020” (*Προδιαγραφές για τη λειτουργία από Δευτέρα 1η Ιουνίου των ιδιωτικών και δημόσιων βρεφονηπιακών σταθμών.*), press release, 29-5-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.vpakp.gr/uploads/docs/12384.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Greece, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, “The school meal distribution program continues normally” (“Συνεχίζεται κανονικά το πρόγραμμα των σχολικών γευμάτων”), press release, 2-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.vpakp.gr/uploads/docs/12386.pdf>

- Measures to protect students and staff as they return to educational institutions (e.g. related to physical distancing, shift patterns, health and hygiene, etc.).

A detailed circular was issued with guidelines for teachers and parents of children attending preschool focussing on:<sup>23</sup>

- educating children to apply protection measures;
- temperature taking of children by their caretakers is highly recommended before attending school;
- self-quarantine in case of close contact with potentially infected individuals;
- change of duties for staff at high risk in case of infection;
- flexible arriving times for children;
- distance keeping through marking lines on the ground;
- allowing entry only to caretakers, necessary staff and children;
- transport of children to and from school should be conducted with a private vehicle where possible;
- staff must have regular meetings with caretakers and provide detailed guidance on the measures;
- each unit must document any potential symptoms expressed by children or staff.

Schools of musical, theatrical and fine arts fall under particular regulations due to the nature of the educational means used.<sup>24</sup> In concrete:

- Use and instruction of wind instruments is prohibited with limited exceptions for students in their final year of high school who will participate in the national exams;
- Vocal instruction must be conducted with the use of face masks by the instructors. The use of a panel as divider between them is recommended;
- The choir instructors must keep 1.5 metre distance from the choir and use face covers if possible. The use of a panel as divider between them is recommended;
- Regular airing, decontamination of surfaces and instruments, personal hygiene, physical distancing at all times.

In **Greece**, a new law on the “Upgrade of School” was published on 12 June 2020.<sup>25</sup> It is noted that the issuance of this law is not strictly part of the government policy in response to the pandemic. This legislation piece is part of the general government policy on education and refers to changes in curricula, introduction of English as foreign language in preschool, change in the access to higher

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<sup>23</sup> Greece, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, “Reopening of day care and preschool institutions[...]” (Επαναλειτουργία Μονάδων Φροντίδας, Προσχολικής Αγωγής και Διαπαιδαγώγησης[...]) circular, No GPD11/oik. 20799/711, 29-5-2020, available in Greek at <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/%CE%A8%CE%9F%CE%97746%CE%9C%CE%A4%CE%9B%CE%9A-%CE%95%CE%97%CE%9C?inline=true>

<sup>24</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...], Joint Ministerial Decision, “Rules governing physical distancing in private businesses, public services and other gathering places in the entire territory to limit the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19” (“Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων σε ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις, δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και άλλους χώρους συνάθροισης κοινού στο σύνολο της Επικράτειας, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19”), Art. 15, No D1 a/GP.oik 40381, O.G B’ 2601/27-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-yeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-dia-gp-oik-40381-2020.html>

<sup>25</sup> Greece, Law, “Upgrade of School and other provisions” (“Αναβάθμιση του Σχολείου και άλλες διατάξεις.”), No 4692, O.G A’ 111/12-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://collab.lawspot.gr/sites/default/files/mashup/feka/2020/fek-111-2020.pdf>

education, assessment of teaching staff and enhancement of the international reputation of Greek universities.

### 1.2.3 Work

Focus on:

- Steps for specific sectors/the general population to return to work and measures to protect employees in the workplace (physical distancing, health and hygiene, shift patterns, etc.). Please include any specific measures aimed at people in precarious work.

In **Greece**, businesses allowed to reopen throughout June are subject to special health and safety provisions for the protection of their workers. General measures revolve around physical distancing, personal hygiene, regular surface decontamination and natural airing. Special measures are adopted for some categories of workers who are particularly exposed to potential infections due to the nature of their work.<sup>26</sup>

- Gym workers: mandatory use of mask during the entire shift, training on personal hygiene, encouragement to wash hands regularly, abstain from work in case of illness, removal from the workplace in case of COVID-19 symptoms, if the worker belongs to a high risk group he/she must be transferred to a unit/work station where the exposure to potential infection is lower;
- Sex workers: regular hand-washing before, during and after work, avoid the use of door handles and stair rails, avoid interfering with clients' clothes and items brought from outside, removal of magazines and other brochures from waiting areas, avoid using common kitchens, avoid cash payments, keeping 1.5 metre distance between workers and clients in waiting areas, adopting appointment-based service rather than open door system is recommended, maximum number of clients in a house is one per 10 square metres, groups of more than two clients are not allowed in the premises at once, keeping waiting areas separate from service areas, keeping windows open, airing of service rooms every 15 minutes, prohibition of service to clients with COVID-19 symptoms, recording the clients by first name and phone number in a book and keeping the data for 4 weeks following last service to enable tracing, towels and sheets must be washed with detergent in hot water (at least 60°C), use of condoms is mandatory, showers must be available for workers and clients;
- Casino workers: mandatory temperature taking of the staff before they enter the premises, mandatory use of mask during work, provision of antiseptics, regular cleaning of the gambling machines after each use, abstain from work in case of COVID-19 symptoms.

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<sup>26</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Development and Investments-Citizen Protection-Education and Religious Affairs [...].Joint Ministerial Decision, "Rules governing physical distancing in private businesses, public services and other gathering places in the entire territory to limit the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19" ("Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων σε ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις, δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και άλλους χώρους συνάθροισης κοινού στο σύνολο της Επικράτειας, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19"), Annex I, II, III, IV, V, VI No D1 a/GP.oik 40381, O.G B' 2601/27-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-yeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-dia-gp-oik-40381-2020.html>

In **Greece**, according to its press release of 23 June 2020, the Manpower Employment Organization (*Οργανισμός Απασχόλησης Εργατικού Δυναμικού, ΟΑΕΔ*) extended the unemployment allowance for two months for the beneficiaries who would normally stop receiving in May 2020.<sup>27</sup>

In **Greece**, the possibility of telework was renewed until 30 June 2020 pursuant to the Joint Ministerial Decision of 30 May 2020.<sup>28</sup> Work contracts suspended in March, April and May can no longer be suspended for workers employed in businesses that reopened. However, a grace period is given to the air transport sector<sup>29</sup> as well as to food and beverage, touristic, cultural and athletic businesses under the condition they are significantly affected by the negative financial impact of the pandemic. The businesses “significantly affected” by the negative financial impact of the pandemic are found in lists regularly updated by the Greek authorities and referenced by code of financial activity (*Κωδικός Αριθμός Δραστηριότητας ΚΑΔ*) in the relevant pieces of legislation (Acts of Legislative Content, Joint Ministerial Decisions). The criteria used to assess whether a business is significantly impacted are primarily economic and the list is updated in light of the data of the Ministry of Finances.<sup>30</sup> These businesses can extend the suspension of the work contracts of their employees for June and July 2020.<sup>31</sup> The employees whose work contracts are suspended are entitled to a special purpose benefit of € 534 per 30 days.

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<sup>27</sup> Greece, Manpower Employment Organization, “Tomorrow starts the two-month payment extension of unemployment allowance that ended in May (“Από αύριο ξεκινά η καταβολή της 2μηνιαίας παράτασης των επιδομάτων ανεργίας που έληξαν το Μάιο”), press release, 23-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/3gdrCgH>

<sup>28</sup> Greece, Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs-Health, Joint Ministerial Decision, “Extension of emergency temporary measures [...]”(“Παράταση της ισχύος των έκτακτων και προσωρινών μέτρων [...]”), No 20788, O.G B’ 2083/30-5-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.forin.gr/articles/article/34578/k-u-a-20788-610-2020>

<sup>29</sup> Greece, “Joint Press Release of the Ministries of Finance, Labor & Social Affairs and Infrastructure & Transport -Support framework for the aviation sector (Κοινό Δελτίο Τύπου των Υπουργείων Οικονομικών, Εργασίας & Κοινωνικών Υποθέσεων και Υποδομών & Μεταφορών Πλαίσιο στήριξης του τομέα των αερομεταφορών), press release, 25-5-2020, available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/3crb8PC>

<sup>30</sup> Greece, Ministry of Finances, “Codes of activity of the sectors affected by...”(“Κωδικοί Αριθμοί Δραστηριότητας (ΚΑΔ) των κλάδων που πλήττονται από τ...”), press release, 2020 (updated regularly), available in Greek at <https://www.minfin.gr/-/ypologizetai-oti-perilambanontai-peri-tis-440-000-idiotikes-epicheirseis-me-1-ekatommyrio-ergazomenous-kai-meniaio-tziro-peri-ta-6-5-dis-euro->

<sup>31</sup> Greece, Ministries of Finances-Labor and Social Affairs, Joint Ministerial Decision, “Measures of financial support of seasonal workers-Suspension of work contracts of employees in private businesses significantly affected” (“Μέτρα οικονομικής ενίσχυσης εποχικά εργαζομένων - Αναστολή συμβάσεων εργασίας εργαζομένων των επιχειρήσεων - εργοδοτών του ιδιωτικού τομέα που πλήττονται σημαντικά.”), No οικ. 23102/477, O.G B’ 2268/13-6-2020, available in Greek at [https://www.ergasiaka-gr.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/fek-2268\\_20-metra-gia-epoxikoys-ypallhloys.pdf](https://www.ergasiaka-gr.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/fek-2268_20-metra-gia-epoxikoys-ypallhloys.pdf)

## 1.2.4 Access to justice

Focus on:

- Steps to lift restrictions previously imposed on court proceedings and any strategies to deal with case backlog or increased litigation due to COVID-19 measures (e.g. criteria to prioritise certain types of cases/disputes)

On 28 May 2020, the suspension of criminal trials for the period 1 June until 21 June 2020 was ordered.<sup>32</sup> Civil and administrative courts resumed operations on 1 June 2020 and measures are taken to tackle backlog and manage caseload.<sup>33</sup> These measures include:

- further extension of deadlines of lodging petitions for legal remedies;
- cases which started during the suspension period but were adjourned due to other reasons will be prioritised;
- possibility to subpoena parties to the next session of an adjourned trial via email;
- possibility to lodge release requests and other petitions via email;
- possibility to receive copy of files via email;
- lawyers are given the authority to take sworn witness statements until 31 October 2020;
- enforcement proceedings are suspended until 31 July 2020.

In Greece, safety measures are adopted for staff and attendants of the courts to prevent the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 once courts reopen on 1 June 2020.<sup>34</sup>

- strong recommendation for the use of a non-medical mask or face protection shield by prosecutors, judges, secretaries, lawyers and parties;
- supply of an alcoholic antiseptic solution in all areas ;
- keeping a distance of 1.5 metre between individuals;
- setting a maximum of 20-25 persons in small court rooms and maintaining the same proportion for larger court rooms.

The suspension of operations of criminal courts was not further extended and so criminal proceedings resumed fully on 22 June 2020. No particular reference has been made by the Greek Plenary of Bar Associations (*Ολομέλεια Δικηγορικών Συλλόγων Ελλάδας*) or the Greek Ministry of Justice to the number of cases accumulated or the plan on how to further work on the backlog. Some news portals have reported that around 35,000 criminal cases are pending before the criminal courts of first instance and appeals in Athens.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Greece, Joint Ministerial Decision, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-d1a-gp-oik-33202-2020.html>

<sup>33</sup> Greece, Law No 4690, O.G A' 104/30-5-2020, Articles 33,74, 75 , available in Greek at <https://collab.lawspot.gr/sites/default/files/mashup/feka/2020/fek-104-2020.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Greece, Ministries of Citizen Protection-Development and Investments-Interior-Justice-National Defence-Labor and Social Affairs, Joint Ministerial Decision, "Rules relating to physical distances in the courts and prosecution offices of the country [...]" (*Κανόνες τήρησης αποστάσεων στα δικαστήρια και τις εισαγγελίες της χώρας [...]*), No D1a/GP.oik. 33202/2020, O.G B' 2033/28-5-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-d1a-gp-oik-33202-2020.html>

<sup>35</sup> Greece, Capital.gr, "Criminal courts reopen on 22 June 2020 with a stock of 34,000 pending cases due to coronavirus" ("Ανοίγουν στις 22 Ιουνίου τα Ποινικά Δικαστήρια με "στοκ" 34.000 αδικαστων υποθέσεων λόγω κορονοϊού"), 9-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.capital.gr/epikairoτητα/3459437/anoigoun-stis-22-iouniou-ta-poinika-dikastiria-me-stok-34-000-adikaston-upotheseon-logo-koronoiou>

- Continued use of remote hearings and videoconferences within court proceedings despite the lifting of restrictions (e.g. for which proceedings).

Remote hearings and videoconferences within court proceedings were not adopted in Greece. Only certain applications and petitions mentioned above were made possible through electronic means.

### 1.2.5 Freedom of movement

Focus on:

- Steps to reopen borders/lift restrictions on freedom of movement to and within the EU, including rules or restrictions applying to certain categories of people (e.g. citizens; ‘essential workers’). Please mention what requirements are in place for various categories of people to enter country (e.g. negative COVID-19 test result and/or obligation to self-isolate etc).

The mandatory self-isolation of travellers entering Greek territory was renewed until 30 June 2020.<sup>36</sup> There are two phases to this extension:

- Until 14 June 2020: all passengers, including Greek ones travelling from abroad, must take a COVID-19 test. If it is negative they must self-isolate for 7 days. If they are positive to the virus they must self-isolate for 14 days. The airport of Athens, “Eleftherios Venizelos”, remains the only airport in Greece where international flights arrive;
- From 15 June 2020: all passengers having been to airports characterised by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) as high-risk will be tested.<sup>37</sup> Passengers coming from other airports may as well be subject to testing since a minimum of passengers per flight must be tested. The airport of Thessaloniki, “Macedonia”, will start accommodating international flights as well.

The following passengers are excluded from the quarantine measure:

- ✓ passengers in transit;
- ✓ flight crew;
- ✓ passengers on state flights;
- ✓ passengers on sanitary flights ;
- ✓ passengers on humanitarian flights ;
- ✓ passengers on emergency flights;
- ✓ passengers on military flights
- ✓ passengers on cargo flights;
- ✓ passengers on Frontex flights.

The temporary ban on entry of non-EU/EEA citizens is renewed<sup>38</sup> until 30 June 2020. The following groups of people are not affected by the ban:

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<sup>36</sup> Greece, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Civil Aviation Authority, “Aviation guidelines (NOTAMS): Mandatory provisional quarantine for travellers entering Greece. The ban on entry of non-EU citizens is extended to 15 June 2020” (“Notams-Παρατείνεται και τον Ιούνιο η υποχρεωτική προληπτική καραντίνα των ταξιδιωτών που εισέρχονται στην Ελλάδα. Έως τις 15 Ιουνίου ισχύει και η απαγόρευση εισόδου μη Ευρωπαίων Πολιτών .”), press release, 1-6-2020, available in Greek at <http://www.ypa.gr/news/notams-parateinetai-kai-ton-iounio-h-ypoxrewtikh-prolhptikh-karantina-twn-tajidiwtwn-poy-eiserxontai-sthn-ellada>

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>38</sup> Greece, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Civil Aviation Authority, “Aviation guidelines for the period 15-30 June 2020” (“Αεροπορικές οδηγίες (Notams) για το διάστημα 15 έως 30 Ιουνίου 2020”), press release,

- ✓ family members of EU and Schengen states citizens;
- ✓ healthcare workers;
- ✓ long term residents in EU or Schengen Agreement member-states and holders of a residence permit in EU or Schengen Agreement member-states.
- ✓ government officials, diplomats, military officials;
- ✓ humanitarian aid workers;
- ✓ non EU/EEA citizens in possession of a special permission to travel to Greece for duly justified, exceptional personal or professional reasons, issued by the competent Greek Consulate.

The temporary ban on flights from Italy, Spain, Holland, the UK, Albania, Turkey and North Macedonia and Qatar<sup>39</sup> remains in force until 14 June 2020. The ban on flights from Turkey and the UK was further extended until 30 June 2020.<sup>40</sup>

All passengers arriving to Greece are obliged to fill out a Passenger Locator Form until 31 August 2020.<sup>41</sup> This measure was adopted on 27 June 2020 and passengers must complete the form at least 48 hours prior to their check-in. This form aims to gather information on the departure airport, the place where the passenger will stay in Greece, the length of their stay and their contact details to facilitate the tracing in case of infection.

Land border arrivals from Albania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria will be allowed as of 15 June. Visitors will be subject to random tests upon arrival. Arrivals by sea will be allowed as of 1 July. Visitors will be subject to random tests upon arrival.<sup>42</sup>

- Changes to asylum application procedures (e.g. lifting of temporary suspensions or restrictions on procedures) or available statistics on numbers of asylum applications (e.g. being much lower than for same period in previous years due to travel restrictions).

In Greece, all measures taken in refugee camps, refugee hosting facilities and Reception & Identification Centres are further extended until 5 July 2020.<sup>43</sup> In concrete, the measures include:

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15-6-2020, available in Greek at <http://www.ypa.gr/news/aeroporikes-odhgies-notams-gia-to-diasthma-15-ews-30-ioynioy-2020>

<sup>39</sup> Greece, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Civil Aviation Authority, "Temporary ban on flights to and from Qatar" ("Προσωρινή απαγόρευση πτήσεων από και προς Κατάρ."), press release, 3-6-2020, available in Greek at <http://www.ypa.gr/news/proswrinh-apagoreysh-ptshewn-apo-kai-pros-katar>

<sup>40</sup> Greece, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Civil Aviation Authority, "Aviation guidelines for the period 15-30 June 2020" ("Αεροπορικές οδηγίες (Notams) για το διάστημα 15 έως 30 Ιουνίου 2020"), press release, 15-6-2020, available in Greek at <http://www.ypa.gr/news/aeroporikes-odhgies-notams-gia-to-diasthma-15-ews-30-ioynioy-2020>

<sup>41</sup> Greece, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Civil Aviation Authority, "Aviation guidelines on the mandatory completion of a PLF by all passengers of international flights to Greece" ("Αεροπορική οδηγία (Notam) για υποχρεωτική συμπλήρωση του PLF από όλους τους επιβάτες διεθνών πτήσεων προς την Ελλάδα."), press release, 27-6-2020, available in Greek at <http://www.ypa.gr/news/aeroporikh-odhgia-notam-gia-yproxrewtikh-sympplrwhsh-toy-plf-apo-oloys-toys-epibates-die8nwn-ptshewn-pros-thn-ellada>

<sup>42</sup> Greece, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Greece welcomes the world", press release, 30-5-2020, available in English at <https://www.mfa.gr/en/current-affairs/statements-speeches/greece-welcomes-the-world.html>

<sup>43</sup> Greece, Ministers of Citizen Protection- Health – Migration and Asylum, Joint Ministerial Decision, "Extension of D1a/GP.oik20030/21/3/2020 (B'985) Joint Ministerial Decision of [...] until 5.7.2020" ,(Παράταση ισχύος της υπ' αρ. Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ.20030/ 21.3.2020 (B' 985) [...]έως και τις 7.6.2020.), No D1a/GP.oik. 38739, O.G B' 2453/20-6-2020, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-ygeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-dia-gp-oik-38739-2020.html>

- restriction of movement within Reception and Identification Centres for residents;
- residents can move outside only between 7:00 and 19:00 to cover basic needs;
- staff is obliged to practise protective personal hygiene measures;
- special medical units are established within the camps.

According to the UNHCR,<sup>44</sup> 10,348 people have arrived through the Greek land and sea borders (until 28 June 2020) while the number of arrivals for the same time frame in 2019 was 18,404. The available data on asylum applications submitted to the Greek Asylum Service have not been updated since February 2020 and thus cannot be interpreted under the prism of COVID-19 measures. The monthly average of asylum applications for January and February 2020 was increased by 66.4% compared to the same time frame in 2019.<sup>45</sup>

### 1.3 Impact of measures on particular groups

Select the three most relevant groups from the following:

- *persons with disabilities,*
- *homeless people,*
- *older people,*
- *women,*
- *Roma and Travellers (Note – for those countries requested to collect additional data on the impact of COVID-19 on Roma – Service request No 33 (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden), information submitted on Roma for Bulletin 4 should not be exactly duplicated in this additional data collection; however, a summary of main points concerning the Roma can be included in your submission for this Bulletin – to ensure that, where appropriate, any major developments in your Member State concerning this group are reported in Bulletin 4. The same approach applies regarding information supplied on asylum seekers/refugees).*
- *Detainees (including measures on early release or alternatives to detention)*
- *or another group not listed that have emerged in your country as facing particular challenges - before selection, this should be discussed with FRA.*

#### 1. Roma

In Greece, the general restrictive measures adopted by the Greek Government did not include special measures for Roma settlements and applied to the entire population. Special measures were enacted on an ad hoc basis, following the emergence of COVID-19 positive cases in Roma settlements and specific locations.

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<sup>44</sup> UNHCR, Operational Portal, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179>

<sup>45</sup> Greece, Asylum Service Statistical data, available in English at <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Greek-Asylum-Service-data-February-2020-en.pdf>

The specific measures started on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020, when 20 persons residing in a Roma settlement in Nea Smyrni in Larissa city were tested positive for COVID-19.<sup>46</sup> The settlement was immediately placed under a state of emergency including a complete lockdown of residents and a complete ban of movement outside of the camp for 14 days<sup>47</sup>. On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2020, a comprehensive operational plan took effect in the Region of Thessaly with 1.200 tests conducted in all Roma settlements<sup>48</sup>. The tests gave only one positive result.<sup>49</sup> On 13 May, the operational plan 'Plan Day 0- Day 7- Day 14' was initiated in the Roma settlement (Larissa)<sup>50</sup>, as a response to the growing number of positive COVID-19 cases. The operational plan included testing (starting from May 13<sup>th</sup>), extended tracing and repeated tests in 3 phases (day 0, day 7 and day 14), quarantines in settlement blocks and neighborhoods with a number of positive tests, transfer and isolation of positive cases without symptoms or with mild symptoms to a specialized center. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 35 positive tests in a total of 637 were announced and were transferred to a Rehabilitation Center. Extended tracing of contacts continued and further measures included ban of movement for 14 days, prohibition of gatherings, use face masks etc.<sup>51</sup> In specific, the measures included:

- Restriction of movement from 22.00pm to 06.00am from 15-5- 2020 and for 14 days. Movement was allowed only for important health reasons.
- A prohibition of gatherings of more than 10 persons and a strict supervision of the measure
- Obligatory use of face masks for everyone
- Street vendors and people working in local markets are allowed to exist the area of New Smyrni for work purposes if they have two consecutive negative tests that will be repeated every 5 days. It should be noted that several Roma are occupied as street vendors or work in local markets
- The Region of Thessaly will distribute 1500 face masks and antiseptic solution to each family

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<sup>46</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release , 10 April 2020, available in Greek at <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/enimerosi-apo-ton-yfypoyrgo-politikis-prostasias-kai-diaheirisis-kriseon-niko-hardalia-kai-ton-14>

<sup>47</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release , 10 April 2020, available in Greek at <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/enimerosi-apo-ton-yfypoyrgo-politikis-prostasias-kai-diaheirisis-kriseon-niko-hardalia-kai-ton-14>

<sup>48</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (Ενημέρωση από τον Υφυπουργό Πολιτικής Προστασίας και Διαχείρισης Κρίσεων Νίκο Χαρδαλιά και τον εκπρόσωπο του Υπουργείου Υγείας για το νέο κορονοϊό, Καθηγητή Σωτήρη Τσιόδρα), 15.04.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/enimerosi-apo-ton-yfypoyrgo-politikis-prostasias-kai-diaheirisis-kriseon-niko-hardalia-kai-ton-18>

<sup>49</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (Ενημέρωση από τον Υφυπουργό Πολιτικής Προστασίας και Διαχείρισης Κρίσεων Νίκο Χαρδαλιά και τον εκπρόσωπο του Υπουργείου Υγείας για το νέο κορονοϊό, Καθηγητή Σωτήρη Τσιόδρα), 16.04.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/enimerosi-apo-ton-yfypoyrgo-politikis-prostasias-kai-diaheirisis-kriseon-niko-hardalia-kai-ton-19>

<sup>50</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (Σε εξέλιξη το Επιχειρησιακό "Σχέδιο Ημέρα 0- Ημέρα 7- Ημέρα 14" στην συνοικία Ρομά της Νέας Σμύρνης Λάρισας), Press Release, 13/05.2020, [https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/se-exelixa-epiheirisiáo-shedio-imerá-0-imerá-7-imerá-14-stin-synoikia-roma-tis-neas-smyrnis-larissas](https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/se-exelixa-epiheirisiako-shedio-imerá-0-imerá-7-imerá-14-stin-synoikia-roma-tis-neas-smyrnis-larissas).

<sup>51</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (35 κρούσματα σε σύνολο 637 δειγμάτων στη Νέα Σμύρνη Λάρισας - Σε κατάσταση ενισχυμένης επιτήρησης η περιοχή με απόφαση της Γενικής Γραμματείας Πολιτικής Προστασίας), 15.05.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/simantika-themata/35-kroismata-se-synolo-637-deigmaton-sti-nea-smyrni-larissas-se-katastasi>

- On 15/05/2020 mobile health units will conduct tests to street vendors and those who were not at home during the previous tests and tracing of contacts for cases tested positive<sup>52</sup>.

A similar operation was initiated on 13 April 2020 in Drosero in the area of Xanthi, where more than 5000 Roma reside, following a positive test from a 15-month old infant. However, 335 samples gave no positive results and no restrictive measures were adopted beyond a strong recommendation for residents to stay at home until April 27<sup>th</sup> and abide to the general protective measures<sup>53</sup>. On June 4, further tests were announced in the area of Xanthi, although these did not target the Roma settlements specifically<sup>54</sup>. On June 11 2020 special measures were announced for the broader area of Xanthi, following the identification of 15 positive cases<sup>55</sup>.

The impact of the COVID-19 restrictive measures on the Roma community are considered significant due to vulnerability of the Roma population. However, it should be mentioned that the measures taken in Roma settlements were the same as in any other region of the country facing problems with COVID-19 pandemic, aiming at limiting its spread. Ellan Passe reported that the communities affected include some of the most deprived communities in Athens, in Western Achaia, in Central Greece, in Lesvos, in Southern Greece, in Thrace and reported that some of them lack basic products, antiseptics and drugs, and suffer from malnutrition or even starvation<sup>56</sup>.

The General Secretary of Social Solidarity addressed Mayors on 18 March 2020 requesting special measures for the protection of the Roma populations from the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19.<sup>57</sup> A circular from the General Secretariat of Public Health<sup>58</sup> on 16.04.2020 identified specific preventive measures for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in Roma settlements focusing on hygiene infrastructure in Roma settlements, hygienic waste management, disinfection, personal hygiene instructions and limitation of contacts. Further, the Ministry of Interior distributed from March to June 2020 almost

<sup>52</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (35 κρούσματα σε σύνολο 637 δειγμάτων στη Νέα Σμύρνη Λάρισας - Σε κατάσταση ενισχυμένης επιτήρησης η περιοχή με απόφαση της Γενικής Γραμματείας Πολιτικής Προστασίας), 15.05.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/simantika-themata/35-kroysmata-se-synolo-637-deigmaton-sti-nea-smyrni-larissas-se-katastasi>

<sup>53</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (Ενημέρωση από τον Υφυπουργό Πολιτικής Προστασίας και Διαχείρισης Κρίσεων Νίκο Χαρδαλιά και τον εκπρόσωπο του Υπουργείου Υγείας για το νέο κορονοϊό, Καθηγητή Σωτήρη Τσιόδρα), 14.04.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/enimerosi-apo-ton-yfypoyrgo-politikis-prostasias-kai-diaheirisis-kriseon-niko-hardalia-kai-ton-17>

<sup>54</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (Covid19 - Επιχείρηση μαζικού μοριακού ελέγχου για την αντιμετώπιση του επιδημιολογικού φορτίου στην ευρύτερη περιοχή της Ξάνθης), 04.06.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/simantika-themata/covid19-epiheirisi-mazikoy-moriakoy-eleghoy-gia-tin-antimetopisi-toy>

<sup>55</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (Λήψη έκτακτων μέτρων στην περιοχή της Ξάνθης λόγω αυξημένου επιδημιολογικού φορτίου, Press Release), 11.06.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/simantika-themata/lipsi-ektakton-metron-stin-periohi-tis-xanthis-logo-ayximenoy-epidimiologikoy>.

<sup>56</sup> Greece, Ronald SCHÖNKNECHT, The Roma communities in Greece and the consequences of COVID-19, 09/06/2020, [https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/roma-communities-greece-and-consequences-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR2rQYp6GTWS4B4xY2k9KHnCUyjHT8f00BFvomPFkSq9FenMNUeO\\_0tNVlg](https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/roma-communities-greece-and-consequences-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR2rQYp6GTWS4B4xY2k9KHnCUyjHT8f00BFvomPFkSq9FenMNUeO_0tNVlg)

<sup>57</sup> Greece, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Circular "Necessary measures in Roma camps", 18 March 2020, available in Greek at <http://www.nomotelia.gr/photos/File/261-20.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> Greece, Ministry of Health, Prevention measures against the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in temporary Roma settlements (Μέτρα πρόληψης κατά της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού SARS-CoV-2 σε προσωρινούς χώρους εγκατάστασης και διαμονής POMA), 16.04.2020, <https://www.moh.gov.gr/articles/health/dieythynsh-dhmosias-ygieinhs/metra-prolhpsis-enanti-koronoioy-sars-cov-2/7084-metra-prolhpsis-kata-ths-diasporas-toy-korwnoioy-sars-cov-2-se-proswrinoys-xwroys-egkatastasys-kai-diamonhs-roma>

2.500.000,00 euros to municipalities in Greece, for the purpose of limiting the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 within Roma residential areas.<sup>59</sup> The General Secretariat of Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty coordinated all stakeholders (Ministry of Interior - Local and regional authorities, National Organization of Public Health, Civil Protection, Ministry of Health, Civil Society of Roma Community) and the NRCP is monitoring the implementation of these measures<sup>60</sup>. The Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma together with volunteers has distributed food supplies to affected Roma families in the Attica Region<sup>61</sup>.

Measures to alleviate vulnerable groups due to the pandemic<sup>62</sup> included extension of free medical insurance for the uninsured, extension of payment of disability benefits and postponement of meetings of KEPA health committees. However, none of these applied in specific to Roma populations and no Roma-specific measures were adopted apart from food deliveries and protective equipment.

## 2. *Refugees*

In Greece, the National Public Health Organisation issued guidance for the management of COVID infections in reception facilities on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020<sup>63</sup>. The Government adopted measures to prevent the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 within refugee hosting facilities on 21 March 2020<sup>64</sup>. On 24 March 2020 the “Agnodiki” scheme was implemented<sup>65</sup>, which included emergency measures of seclusion, quarantine, evacuation, movement restriction, food distribution and establishment of medical units within infected areas.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 restrictive measures in the facility of Polykastro in Nea Kavala, Kilkis were extended until 19.06.2020<sup>66</sup>. Measures were extended until 21-06.2020 also in the facilities of Ritsona,

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<sup>59</sup> Greece, Ministry of Interior, Ministerial Decision No 20210/ 27-3-2020, Έκτακτη κατανομή ποσού 2.255.000,00 €, από τους Κεντρικούς Αυτοτελείς Πόρους έτους 2020 σε Δήμους της Χώρας, προς κάλυψη αναγκών για την αποφυγή της διάδοσης του κορονοϊού COVID-19 σε οικισμούς και καταυλισμούς Ρομά. available in Greek at <https://bit.ly/2VRJNkA>

<sup>60</sup> Greece, Overview of the Impact of Corona Virus Measures on the Marginalised Roma Communities in Greece – section on Greece, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/overview\\_of\\_covid19\\_and\\_roma\\_-\\_impact\\_-\\_measures\\_-\\_priorities\\_for\\_funding\\_-\\_23\\_04\\_2020.docx.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/overview_of_covid19_and_roma_-_impact_-_measures_-_priorities_for_funding_-_23_04_2020.docx.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> Greece, Overview of the Impact of Corona Virus Measures on the Marginalised Roma Communities in Greece – section on Greece, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/overview\\_of\\_covid19\\_and\\_roma\\_-\\_impact\\_-\\_measures\\_-\\_priorities\\_for\\_funding\\_-\\_23\\_04\\_2020.docx.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/overview_of_covid19_and_roma_-_impact_-_measures_-_priorities_for_funding_-_23_04_2020.docx.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> Greece, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Press Release 13.04.2020

<sup>63</sup> Greece, National Public Health Organisation, Guidance for sorting and management of COVID infections in reception facilities for refugees and migrants (Οδηγίες διαλογής και διαχείρισης λοίμωξης COVID σε δομές υποδοχής προσφύγων και μεταναστών), Press release, 29.02.2020, <https://eody.gov.gr/odigies-dialogis-kai-diacheirisis-loimoxis-covid-se-domes-ypodochis-prosfygon-kai-metanaston/>

<sup>64</sup> Greece, Minister of Migration and Asylum, “Joint Ministerial Decision on the restriction of movement in asylum seekers’ hosting facilities” (“ΚΥΑ Περιορισμού Κυκλοφορίας στις Δομές Φιλοξενίας Αιτούντων Άσυλο”), press release, 23 March 2020, available in Greek at <https://www.mitarakis.gr/gov/migration/1962-dt-yma-kya-periorismou>

<sup>65</sup> Greece, Ministry of Health, “Information of accredited health reporters [...] Professor Sotiris Tsiodras” (“Ενημέρωση διαπιστευμένων συντακτών [...] Καθηγητή Σωτήρη Τσιόδρα”), available in Greek at [https://eody.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/0403\\_briefing\\_covid19.pdf](https://eody.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/0403_briefing_covid19.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> Greece, Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ. 35114/2020 “Measures against the occurrence and spread of cases of COVID-19 in the accommodation facility “POLYKASTROU”, in “NEA KAVALA” of the Municipality of Paionia Kilkis, for the period from 5.6.2020 to 19.6.2020” (Λήψη μέτρων κατά της εμφάνισης και διασποράς κρουσμάτων του κορωνοϊού COVID-19 στη δομή φιλοξενίας μεταναστών «ΠΟΛΥΚΑΣΤΡΟΥ», στη θέση «NEA KAVALA» του Δήμου Παιονίας Κιλκίς, για το χρονικό διάστημα από 5.6.2020 έως και 19.6.2020), <https://www.forin.gr/articles/article/34851/d1a-gp-oik-35114-2020>; “Restriction of movement in the accommodation facility of Polykastro - Extension of measures in the Reception and Identification Centres and accommodation facilities” (Περιορισμός της κυκλοφορίας στη δομή φιλοξενίας του Πολυκάστρου- Παράταση

Malakassa and Koutsochero and the Reception and Identification Centers. The strict limitation of movement in Kranidi was extended until 14.06.2020. Further, on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the measures in RIC and the Facilities of Ritsona, Malakassa and Koutsochero were further extended until the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020<sup>67</sup>.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020, following reported cases of COVID 19 in the area of Xanthi, the National Public Health Organisation mobilised a plan for testing by mobile units. Samples were taken also from the facility in Nea Kavala following the identification of infection in a pregnant woman. 6 schools were preventively closed as they were attended by children who reside at the facility and the will reopen in a week<sup>68</sup>.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the media reported three COVID-19 positive cases in Lesvos. The patients were migrants and refugees without symptoms that were rescued together with 33 more on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> in the northern part of Lesvos. During testing by EODY, 1 person was found positive to COVID. All 36 people were quarantined in Megala Therma in a facility for newcomers. IN a second round of tests the positive case was negative while three negative ones were positive. All 36 people were quarantined for 14 days while the three patients were transferred to a separate space<sup>69</sup>.

### 3. Detainees

On March 13, 2020 the National Public Health Organisation issued instructions addressing the personnel of penitentiary institutions<sup>70</sup>. These instructions concerned the management of suspect cases of COVID-19 infection (use of face masks by patient, use of mask, gloves and robe by the persone, referral of case to EODY) and prevention measures (hygienic measures, use of personal protective equipment, disinfection and cleaning of surfaces etc). Additional protective measures for incidents of potential infection included prevention of contacts, use of protective equipment, hygienic protection, restriction of movement of patients, tracing of contacts, among others.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, the National Public Health Organisation issued guidance for detention centers<sup>71</sup>. The Guidance mentioned that detention centers are high risk for the transmission and spread of COVID - 19 and require systematic preventive measures for timely detection and prevention of the spread of the virus. The guidance measures relate to detainees, guests and staff and apply to detention centers, court transfer departments, detention centers for aliens, detention centers in police stations, all services of the Hellenic police with detention areas. The guidance provides for measures on

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μέτρων σε ΚΥΤ και δομές φιλοξενίας) , 05.05.2020, <https://www.mitarakis.gr/press/80-press-releases/6166-periorismo-kikloforias-polikastro-kranidi-ritsona-malakasa>

<sup>67</sup> Greece, Extension of measures restricting movement in RIC and accommodation facilities (Παράταση των μέτρων περιορισμού της κυκλοφορίας σε Κ.Υ.Τ. και επιμέρους δομές φιλοξενίας), Press release, 20.06.2020, <https://www.mitarakis.gr/gov/migration/6184-metra-domes>

<sup>68</sup> Greece , Kathimerini, Coronavirus:Alert in Xanthi (Κορωνοϊός: Συναγερμός στην Ξάνθη), 05.06.2020, <https://www.kathimerini.gr/1081493/article/epikairothta/ellada/korwnoios-synagermos-sthn-3an8h>; <https://www.skai.gr/news/ygeia/synagermos-sti-nea-kavala-thetiki-ston-koronoio-egkyos-apo-ti-domi-filoksenias>

<sup>69</sup> Greece, Protothema.gr, COVID: Where 23 new cases were recorded – Three asymptomatic immigrants in Lesvos were positive (Κορωνοϊός: Πού καταγράφηκαν τα 23 νέα κρούσματα - Θετικοί και τρεις ασυμπτωματικοί μετανάστες στη Λέσβο), 27.06.2020, <https://www.protothema.gr/koronoios-live/article/1021280/koronoios-pou-katagrafikan-ta-23-nea-krousmata-thetikoι-kai-treis-asubtomatikoi-metanastes-sti-lesvo/>

<sup>70</sup> Greece, National Public Health Organisation, Instructions for the personnel of penitentiary institutions (Οδηγίες για το προσωπικό των σωφρονιστικών ιδρυμάτων), 13.03.2020, <https://eody.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/covid-19-sofronistika-idrimata.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> Greece, National Public Health Organisation, Guidance for detention centers (Οδηγίες για καταστήματα κράτησης), 07.05.2020, <https://eody.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/covid-19-katastimata-kratisis.pdf>

preparation, coordination and communication of detainees, staff and guests on COVID-19, timely detection of cases, procedures for safe referral to health services, communication and cooperation with EODY and other competent bodies. It also determined the operational plan for the management of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, staff management, planning for absence of staff, prevention, management of new detainees, management of visitation, management of suspect or confirmed case of COVID-19 infection, management of detainees in high risk groups

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 the media reported that the restrictive measures in prisons would be relaxed<sup>72</sup> following a decision by the Ministry of Citizen Protection and the General Secretariat for Anti-Crime Policy. The Secretary General reported that there have been no incidents in detention centers and that the measures adopted are considered to be sufficient. Transfers would restart, as well as closed visitation, incoming food and clothing, leave of staff, the operation of schools, second opportunity schools and vocational training institutions in detention centers. She also mentioned that discussions around the conditional release of approximately 1.000 detainees were not operationalised because it was not considered necessary. A partial decongestion of the Korydallos prison was expected through 200 new positions in Detention Center II that was adjusted to receive potential COVID-19 cases and will operate as an annex to the prison<sup>73</sup>.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the General Secretariat of Anti-Crime policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection announced that an alien detainee in the Korydallos I detention center that was initially tested positive on 23/6/2020 had negative results in second and third tests. The initial result of the test led to an immediate application of all measures in the Korydallos detention Center I (quarantine of detainees and staff, disinfections, testing)<sup>74</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the General Secretariat of Anti-Crime policy<sup>75</sup> announced that following the negative test, additional 198 samples were taken by a unit of the National Public Health Organisation related to the incident, and all were negative. Measures were relaxed following the negative results of the tests.

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<sup>72</sup> Greece, efsyn.gr, Relaxation of COVID -19 measures in prisons (Χαλαρώνουν τα μέτρα για τον Covid-19 στις φυλακές), 17.05.2020, [https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/dikaiosyni/243700\\_halaronoy-n-ta-metra-gia-ton-covid-19-stis-fylakes](https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/dikaiosyni/243700_halaronoy-n-ta-metra-gia-ton-covid-19-stis-fylakes)

<sup>73</sup> Greece, naftemporiki.gr, Lifting of measures in prisons from tomorrow – the detention center in Drama opens in June (Άρση μέτρων από αύριο στις φυλακές- Παραδίδεται τον Ιούνιο το Κατάστημα Κράτησης Δράμας), 17.05.2020. <https://www.naftemporiki.gr/story/1599781/arsi-metron-apo-aurio-stis-fulakes-paradidetai-ton-iounio-to-katastima-kratiseis-dramas>

<sup>74</sup> Greece, Ministry of Citizen Protection, General Secretariat of Anti-Crime Policy, Announcement on a negative result from the COVID -19 test to an alien detainee at Corydallos I detention center (Ανακοίνωση σχετικά με αρνητικό αποτέλεσμα εξέτασης για τον κορωνοϊό Covid-19 σε αλλοδαπό κρατούμενο του Καταστήματος Κράτησης Κορυδαλλού I), Press Release, 24-06-2020, [http://www.minocp.gov.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&lang=GR&perform=view&id=7121&Itemid=700](http://www.minocp.gov.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=GR&perform=view&id=7121&Itemid=700).

<sup>75</sup> Greece, Ministry of Citizen Protection, General Secretariat of Anti-Crime Policy, Announcement on negative results from 198 samples taken in Korydallos Detention Center (Ανακοίνωση σχετικά με αρνητικό αποτέλεσμα από την εξέταση (198) δειγμάτων ανίχνευσης COVID-19 στο Κατάστημα Κράτησης Κορυδαλλού), Press release, 25-06-2020, [http://www.minocp.gov.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&lang=GR&perform=view&id=7122&Itemid=700](http://www.minocp.gov.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=GR&perform=view&id=7122&Itemid=700)

## 2 Selected issues emerging during the COVID-19 crisis

### 2.1 Xenophobic speech, acts of harassment and violent attacks

- *In reference to Bulletin #1 where these issues were addressed, please report incidents of xenophobic speech, acts of harassment and violent attacks against specific minority groups on the grounds of race or ethnic origin during the reporting period and on any key developments since you last reported on this issue.*

Several negative reactions and statements were identified in relation to the Roma population and the positive COVID-19 cases identified. On one instance, the mayor of Larissa reported that Roma did not respect the protective measures and engaged in gatherings. He mentioned that he found one Roma at a local market and ‘collected him’. According to the mayor, individuals living within the quarantined blocks in Nea Smyrni (that go beyond the Roma settlement) are complaining because the Roma are disrespecting the measures. He mentioned ‘I do not see calm and prudence in the Roma’<sup>76</sup>.

Media reports focused mainly on the alleged non-respect of restrictive measures by Roma in locations over Greece or their reactions to the lockdowns imposed. It was reported that in Irakleia in Serres the Roma organised gatherings to celebrate ‘Ederlezi’, a festivity that celebrates the arrival of spring<sup>77</sup>.

Reactions were also reported in response to the lockdown orders in specific Roma settlements where COVID-19 positive cases were found. In particular, the media reported alleged resistance and violent reactions from Roma residents in Nea Smyrni in Larissa to the lockdown orders, violent protests in response to what they call racial targeting. Dumpsters were set ablaze and a local journalist was brutally beaten, hit with stones and pummeled in the face. Health officials were chased away and residents refused to heed a 14-day lockdown order<sup>78</sup>. No arrests were made but police was on standby<sup>79</sup>. The Deputy Minister of Civil Protection and Crisis Management denied the reports on violent protests and claimed that the Roma listened to the authorities and understood why they needed to be quarantined and what they had to do. He mentioned that there were few dissenting voices that were asking why measures were not extended to the rest of the settlement, but did not actually question the need for the measures<sup>80</sup>.

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<sup>76</sup> Greece, Iefimerida, Report by the Mayor of Larissa: the Roma did not respect protective measures in the settlement (Καταγγελία δημάρχου Λάρισσας: Οι Ρομά δεν τηρούσαν τα μέτρα προστασίας στον οικισμό), 13.04.2020, <https://www.iefimerida.gr/ellada/koronoios-den-tiroyntan-metra-prostasias-roma-larisa>.

<sup>77</sup> Greece, Liberal, Roma celebration in Irakleia Serron despite the measures (Γλέντι Ρομά στην Ηράκλεια Σερρών παρά τα μέτρα), 25.04.2020, <https://www.liberal.gr/news/glenti-roma-stin-irakleia-serron-para-ta-metra/299025>.

<sup>78</sup> Greece, To Vima, The attack from Roma to Tsiodras and Chardalias in Larissa (Η επίθεση Ρομά σε Τσιόδρα και Χαρδαλιά στη Λάρισσα), 10.04.2020, <https://www.tovima.gr/2020/04/10/society/vinteo-i-epithesi-roma-se-tsiodra-kai-xardalia-sti-larisa/>.

<sup>79</sup> Greece, VOA news, Fresh COVID Outbreak in Greek Roma Camp Sparks Violence, 16.05.2020, <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/fresh-covid-outbreak-greek-roma-camp-sparks-violence>; Iefimerida, The Roma settlement in Larissa is secluded – policy blocks (Αποκλεισμένος ο οικισμός Ρομά στη Λάρισσα -Μπλόκα της αστυνομίας), 10.04.2020, <https://www.iefimerida.gr/ellada/koronoios-kroysmata-oikismo-roma-larisa-karantina>; Lifo, A compelling image of Sotiris Tsiodras in the Roma settlement in Larissa (Μια συγκλονιστική εικόνα του Σωτήρη Τσιόδρα στον οικισμό Ρομά της Λάρισσας), 10.04.2020, <https://www.lifo.gr/now/greece/277877/mia-sygklonistiki-eikona-toy-sotiri-tsiodra-ston-oikosmo-roma-tis-larisas>

<sup>80</sup> Greece, General Secretariat of Civil Protection (Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας), Press release (Ενημέρωση από τον Υφυπουργό Πολιτικής Προστασίας και Διαχείρισης Κρίσεων Νίκο Χαρδαλιά και τον

Reactions were also reported in Drosero in Xanthi with citizens complaining on the Roma and the possibility of them being positive to the virus. Police patrols were present and the media. The Roma reacted saying they are not a 'health bomb' but no tension of violence took place<sup>81</sup>.

The Hellenic Ombudsman is currently investigating possible disciplinary liability by police officers in abuse of power with a discriminatory intent in three cases related to Covid-19 containment regulations. The cases concern a Roma, a Syrian asylum seeker and a Pakistani immigrant. Disciplinary investigations by the Police are pending and the Ombudsman will review the relevant Police files before disciplinary decisions are adopted<sup>82</sup>.

On the positive side, the head of the ad hoc expert committee for the pandemic, set up by the Ministry of Health to advise the Government<sup>83</sup>, referred to the Roma community and to the need to improve the living conditions of many poor Roma in Europe. He visited Roma settlements and publicly said 'the Roma cannot be a scapegoat. They are not a threat, they are a vulnerable group. He highlighted that the protective measures are not about them but about the spread of the epidemic<sup>84</sup>. He said that the Roma will have equal access to health protection and that there is no room for discrimination, hate, fear and division.

The Racist Violence Network did not report any incidents of racist violence or hate speech related to COVID-19. Its press release from March 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 condemned the targeting of refugees, asylum seekers and staff of humanitarian organizations in the islands of the Aegean and Evros but these incidents condemned were not related to COVID-19<sup>85</sup>. The latest report of the network, presented on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 refers to the incidents recorded in 2019 but makes no direct reference to COVID-19<sup>86</sup>.

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εκπρόσωπο του Υπουργείου Υγείας για το νέο κορονοϊό, Καθηγητή Σωτήρη Τσιόδρα), 10.04.2020, <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/enimerosi-apo-ton-vfyypoyrgo-politikis-prostasias-kai-diaheirisis-kriseon-niko-hardalia-kai-ton-14>.

<sup>81</sup> Greece, Newsbomb, coronavirus-Xanthi: Tension in the Roma settlement at Drosero – They shouted that there were no cases (Κορονοϊός - Ξάνθη: Ένταση στον οικισμό Ρομά στο Δροσερό - Φώναζαν ότι δεν έχουν κρούσματα), 14.04.2020, <https://www.newsbomb.gr/ellada/story/1072367/koronoios-xanthi-entasi-ston-oikismo-roma-sto-drosero-fonazan-oti-den-exoyn-kroysmata>

<sup>82</sup> Greece, Response from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to request for information, General Secretariat for Social Solidarity and Fight against poverty.15.06.2020

<sup>83</sup> Greece, skai.gr, An expert group on coronavirus from the Ministry of Health. Who are the members (Επιστημονική ομάδα για τον κορονοϊό από το Υπουργείο Υγείας. Ποιοι την αποτελούν) 17.02.2020, <https://www.skai.gr/news/yegeia/epistimoniki-omada-gia-ton-koronoio-apo-to-ypourgeio-yegeias-poioti-tin-apoteloun>

<sup>84</sup> Greece, iefimerida.gr, Sotiris Tsiodras: the Roma cannot be a scapegoat- we support them and they support us (Σωτήρης Τσιόδρας: «Οι Ρομά δεν μπορούν να είναι αποδιοπομπαίος τράγος» -«Είμαστε μαζί τους και είναι μαζί μας»), 10.04.2020, [https://www.news247.gr/koinonia/pos-o-tsiodras-tsakise-me-dyo-logia-ton-ratsismo-se-varos-ton-roma.7620925.html](https://www.iefimerida.gr/ellada/sotiris-tsiodras-roma-apodiopompaios-tragos; In.gr, Tsiodras on Roma: They are not a threat but a vulnerable group (Τσιόδρας για Ρομά: «Δεν είναι απειλή, αλλά ευάλωτη ομάδα»), 10.04.2020, https://www.in.gr/2020/04/10/greece/tsiodras-gia-roma-den-einai-apeili-alla-eyaloti-omada/; News247. How Tsiodras beat racism against the Roma in few words (Πώς ο Τσιόδρας τσάκισε με δύο λόγια τον ρατσισμό σε βάρος των Ρομά),10.04.2020, <a href=).

<sup>85</sup> Greece, Racist Violence Network (Δίκτυο Καταγραφής Περιστατικών Ρατσιστικής Βίας), Serious concerns on attacks against refugees and workers in humanitarian organisations (Σοβαρή ανησυχία για τις επιθέσεις κατά προσφύγων και εργαζομένων σε ανθρωπιστικές οργανώσεις), Press Release, 05.03.2020, <https://www.unhcr.org/gr/14145-epitheseis-kata-prosfygon-kai-ergazomenon.html>

<sup>86</sup> Greece, Racist Violence Network (Δίκτυο Καταγραφής Περιστατικών Ρατσιστικής Βίας), Press Conference and discussion on the occasion of the National Report 2019 (Συνέντευξη Τύπου και Συζήτηση με αφορμή την Παρουσίαση της Ετήσιας Έκθεσης 2019), Press Release, 16.06.2020, <http://rvrn.org/2020/06/etisia-ekthesi-2019/>

Amnesty International initiated a petition to protect refugees from COVID -19. The petition refers to the risks for refugees in Greek islands that include older people, people with chronic diseases, children, pregnant women, young mother and people with disabilities trapped in overpopulated conditions and requests specific measures and transfer to safe spots<sup>87</sup>.

## 2.2 Infringement of privacy and/or data protection rights

- *In reference to Bulletin # 1 and Bulletin #2 where these issues were addressed, please describe instances of infringement of privacy and/or data protection rights related to the pandemic during the reporting period and on any key developments since you last reported on this issue.*

Research conducted by Kaspersky reported that during the lockdown Greeks used their smartphone (63,3%) and to a lesser extent their laptop (15,1%) to access the internet. More than half of the respondents (55,2%) were reported as victims of fake news, 1 in 3 had been approached by individuals hiding their identity and intentions, 26,9% had received requests for personal data, while sexual harassment (15,1%), electronic fraud (12,4%) and cyberbullying (7,3%) were also reported. The majority of respondents reported being interested in ensuring privacy and anonymity when surfing the internet and being safe in cyberspace. However, less than half of them (49,1%) have installed anti virus programmes or VPN (16,3%)<sup>88</sup>.

On the 12th May 2020 the President of the Data Protection Authority had a teleconference with the Federation of Greek Teachers, the Greek Federation of Secondary Education State School Teachers and the Panhellenic Association of Deputy Teachers following their request<sup>89</sup>. The teleconference focused on the legislative provision for the use of teleconferencing for distance schooling. The DPA advised on issues related to the recording and storage of the lesson, the use of the data and determined the obligation to conduct an impact assessment.

On the 29th June 2020 the Data Protection Authority issued an opinion<sup>90</sup> on the Draft Presidential Decree on the use of videosurveillance systems used by public authorities in public spaces.

A Ministerial Decision determined the conditions for the entry of travellers to Greece as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July<sup>91</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the Civil Aviation Authority issued a notam, according to which the

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<sup>87</sup> Greece, Amnesty International, Greece: Protect now refugees from COVID (ΕΛΛΑΔΑ: ΠΡΟΣΤΑΤΕΨΤΕ ΤΩΡΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΕΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΚΟΡΟΝΟΙΟ), 27.03.2020, <https://www.amnesty.gr/action/petitions/23112/ellada-prostatepste-tora-toys-prosfyges-apo-ton-koronoio>

<sup>88</sup> Greece, CNN Greece, Research: Greeks are vulnerable to the dangers of the internet (Έρευνα: Ευάλωτοι στους κινδύνους του διαδικτύου οι Έλληνες), 01.07.2020, <https://www.cnn.gr/news/ellada/story/225536/ereyna-eyalotoi-stoys-kindynoys-toy-diadiktyoy-oi-ellines>

<sup>89</sup> Greece, Hellenic Data Protection Authority, Teleconferences of the President of the HDPa with the Federation of Greek Teachers, the Greek Federation of Secondary Education State School Teachers and the Panhellenic Association of Deputy Teachers following their requests, Press Release, 12.05.2020, [https://www.dpa.gr/portal/page?\\_pageid=33%2C15131&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&\\_piref33\\_24849\\_33\\_15131\\_15131.etos=2020&\\_piref33\\_24849\\_33\\_15131\\_15131.minas=05&\\_piref33\\_24849\\_33\\_15131\\_15131.a\\_naneosi=%CE%91%CE%BD%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%AD%CF%89%CF%83%CE%B7](https://www.dpa.gr/portal/page?_pageid=33%2C15131&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&_piref33_24849_33_15131_15131.etos=2020&_piref33_24849_33_15131_15131.minas=05&_piref33_24849_33_15131_15131.a_naneosi=%CE%91%CE%BD%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%AD%CF%89%CF%83%CE%B7)

<sup>90</sup> Greece, Hellenic Data Protection Authority, Opinion 3 /2020, Prot: Γ/ΕΞ/2566-1/29-06-2020, 29-06-2020, <https://www.dpa.gr/APDPXPortlets/htdocs/documentSDisplay.jsp?docid=135,127,231,131,72,198,37,128>

<sup>91</sup> Greece, Ministerial Decision Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ. 40383 Imposition of the measure of sample laboratory tests and temporary restriction of persons coming from abroad in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 (Επιβολή του

Passenger Locator Form (PLF) is a mandatory element for the diagnostic screening of incoming passengers<sup>92</sup>. The protocols announced over air, sea and land borders arrivals and apply to all incoming travellers from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020<sup>93</sup>. As of July 9th 2020, all travelers are required to complete a PLF at least 24 hours before entering the country, providing detailed information on point of departure, the duration of previous stays in other countries, and the address of their stay while in Greece. In case of multiple stays, they are required to provide the address for the first 24 hours at least. Travelers will receive a confirmation email upon submission of the PL. They receive the PLF with their unique Quick Response (QR) code on the day of their scheduled arrival in Greece (at midnight) and are notified via email (the QR code will be provided in a link in the confirmation email). Criticism of the PLF<sup>94</sup> touches upon its complexity, the availability of the form only in the English language, the fact that the protocols were announced during a weekend with immediate effect but also potential adverse impacts on the tourism sector and specific groups of travellers like order tourists or work travellers. The purpose of data collection, the types of data collected and their processing can be found in the “privacy policy” link at the bottom of the travel.gov.gr webpage (<https://travel.gov.gr/#/>). However, concerns relevant to personal data relate to the fact that no specific criteria are announced for the choice of passengers who need to undergo a test, passengers are asked to disclose information and personal data but are not informed on why, whether and for how long their data is stored, while there is no reference to data protection in the government webpage<sup>95</sup>. The Greek government responded that the collected data is anonymised while the names are not stored. However, concerns remain as to whether mobile phone data is used to create movement profiles and tracking of contacts<sup>96</sup>.

### 2.3 Spread of disinformation online

- *In reference to Bulletin #1 where these issues were addressed, please describe measures taken to counter the spread of disinformation online, during the reporting period and on any key developments since you last reported on this issue.*

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μέτρου του δειγματοληπτικού εργαστηριακού ελέγχου και του προσωρινού περιορισμού προσώπων που εισέρχονται από την αλλοδαπή, προς περιορισμό της διασποράς του κορωνοϊού COVID-19), ΟΓ Β 2602/28.06.2020, <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-yegeia/astheneies/koine-upourgike-apophase-dia-gp-oik-40383-2020.html>

<sup>92</sup> Greece, Ministry of Infrastructure and Civil Aviation Authority, Notam on the mandatory use of PLF from all passengers of international flights to Greece (Αεροπορική οδηγία (Notam) για υποχρεωτική συμπλήρωση του PLF από όλους τους επιβάτες διεθνών πτήσεων προς την Ελλάδα), Press Release, 27.06.2020, <http://www.yra.gr/news/aeroporikh-odhgia-notam-gia-yproxrewtikh-symplhrwsh-toy-plf-apo-oloy-s-toys-epibates-die8nwn-ptlsewn-pros-thn-ellada>

<sup>93</sup> Greece, gov.gr, [Protocol for Arrivals in Greece](https://travel.gov.gr/#/), <https://travel.gov.gr/#/>

<sup>94</sup> Greece, naftemporiki.gr, Handelsblatt: The greek passenger locator form has problems (Προβληματική η ελληνική φόρμα εντοπισμού τουριστών), 29.06.2020, <https://www.naftemporiki.gr/finance/story/1614051/handelsblatt-problimatiki-i-elliniki-forma-entopismou-touriston>

<sup>96</sup> Greece, naftemporiki.gr, Handelsblatt: The greek passenger locator form has problems (Προβληματική η ελληνική φόρμα εντοπισμού τουριστών), 29.06.2020, <https://www.naftemporiki.gr/finance/story/1614051/handelsblatt-problimatiki-i-elliniki-forma-entopismou-touriston>.

In Greece, an expert Committee was set up to advise the Government since the early steps of the pandemic<sup>97</sup>. The head of the Committee and the Deputy Minister for Civil Protection appeared daily on TV at 18:00pm to brief the public on new COVID-19 cases, the measures adopted and any developments related to the pandemic. Transcripts of the daily briefings, and the official data, were then available to download both at the website of the Ministry of Health and the website of the National Public Health Organisation. This simple measure proved to be very effective for preventing disinformation as the public had reliable points of reference for every rumour that was circulating. Disinformation online circulated mostly in relation to the lifting of the restrictive measures or, more recently, with regard to the opening of the borders and the initiation of flights. However, the daily briefing addressed all issues directly providing first hand information. So there was limited room for disinformation to thrive. e

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<sup>97</sup> Greece, skai.gr, An expert group on coronavirus from the Ministry fo Health. Who are the members (Επιστημονική ομάδα για τον κορωνοϊό από το Υπουργείο Υγείας. Ποιοι την αποτελούν) 17.02.2020, <https://www.skai.gr/news/ygeia/epistimoniki-omada-gia-ton-koronoio-apo-to-ypourgeio-ygeias-poiOI-tin-apoloun>