OECD REGIONS AND CITIES AT A GLANCE - COUNTRY NOTE
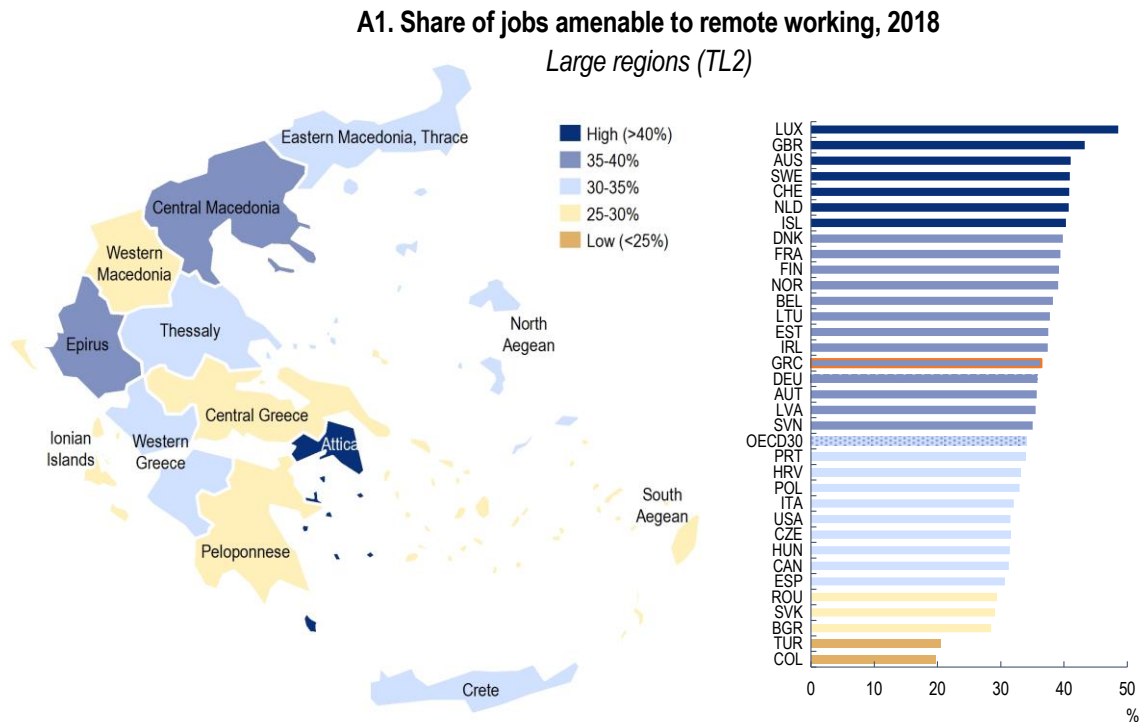
GREECE

A. Resilient regional societies

B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

C. Well-being in regions

D. Industrial transition in regions

E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **Regions** are classified on two territorial levels reflecting the administrative organisation of countries: large regions (TL2) and small regions (TL3). Small regions are classified according to their access to metropolitan areas (see https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en).

- **Functional urban areas** consists of cities – defined as densely populated local units with at least 50 000 inhabitants – and adjacent local units connected to the city (commuting zones) in terms of commuting flows (see https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en). Metropolitan areas refer to functional urban areas above 250 000 inhabitants.

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The Athens region has the highest potential for remote working, followed by Epirus and Central Macedonia

A1. Share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2)

The shares of jobs amenable to remote working in the Greek regions range from close to 41% in Attica to 27% in Central Greece and South Aegean (Figure A1). Such differences depend on the task content of the occupations in the regions, which can be amenable to remote working to different extents. As for most OECD countries, the occupations available in the capital region tend to be more amenable to remote working than in other regions.

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* OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus.

Ageing challenges regions far from metropolitan areas more strongly

The elderly dependency rate has been increasing in all types of regions in Greece since 2000. Regions far from metropolitan areas show the highest elderly dependency rate (38%) among different types of regions (Figure A2). In almost 30% of the small regions in Greece, there were two elderly for every three persons in their working-age in 2019 (Figure A3).

A2. Elderly dependency rate
By type of small regions in Greece (TL3)

A3. Elderly dependency rate, 2019
Small regions (TL3)
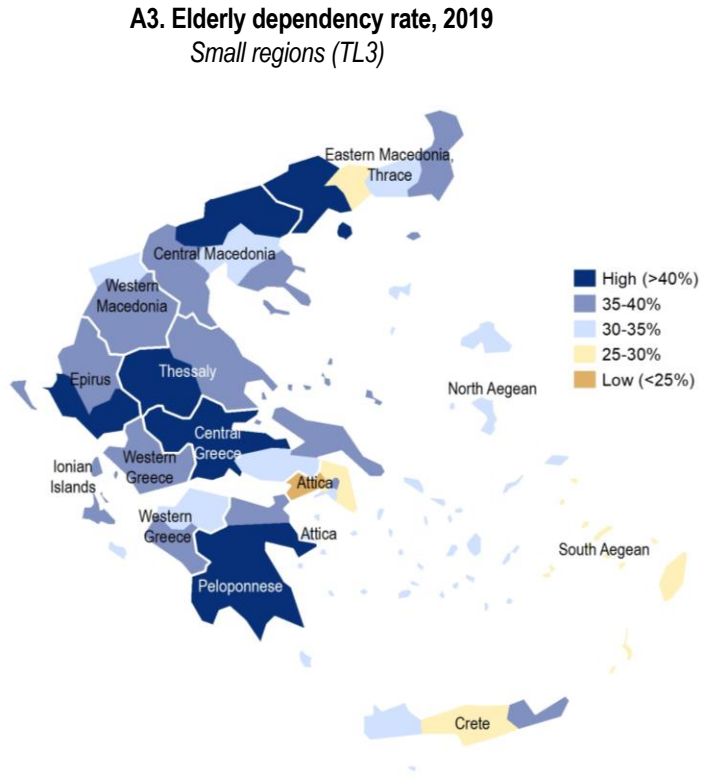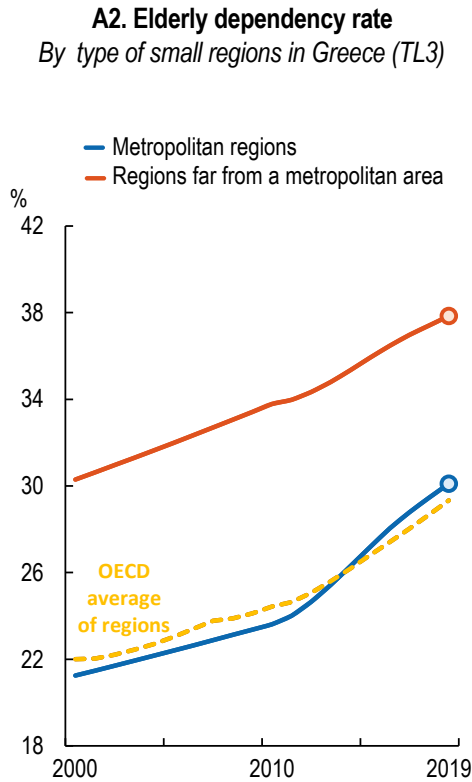
Regional disparities in hospital beds per capita in Greece are above OECD average

With the exception of Thessaly and Eastern Macedonia, Thrace, hospital beds per capita have decreased in all regions in Greece since 2000 (Figure A4). Regional disparities in hospital beds are above OECD average, with Central Greece having the lowest number of hospital beds per capita in 2017, almost 4 beds less per 1 000 inhabitants than in Thessaly.
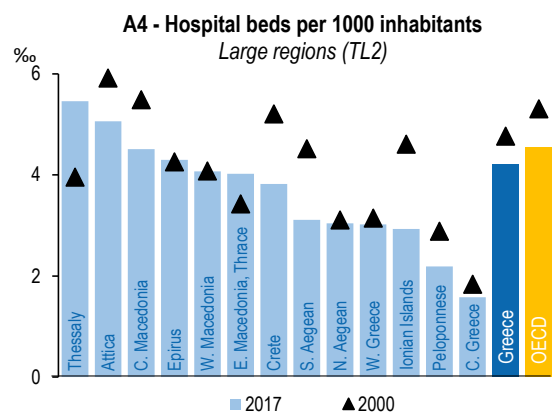
A4 - Hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants
Large regions (TL2)

Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en. Slope for the period 2000-10 has been corrected using compound average growth rate, and for the period 2010-19two-year moving averages have been used. [A4]: Small (TL3) regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Greece are composed by 52 regional units and combinations of regional units.

Greece experienced the second highest increase in regional economic disparities among OECD countries between 2000 and 2018
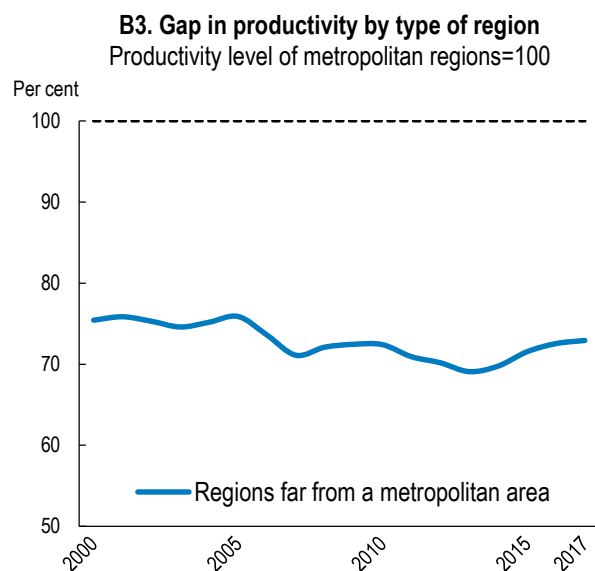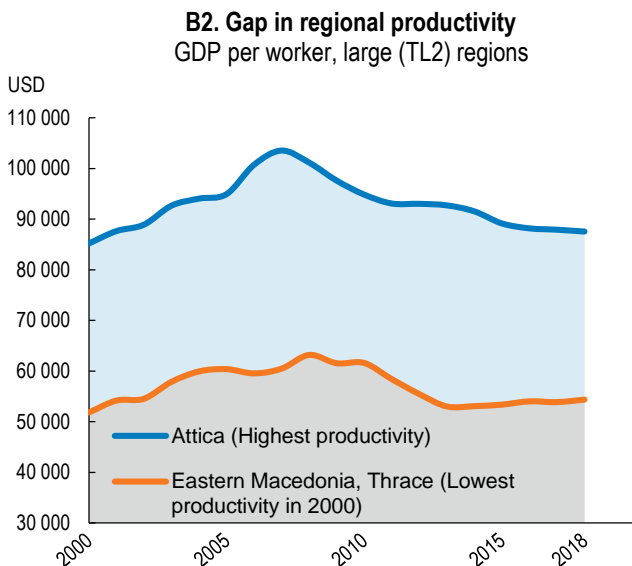
The gap in GDP per capita between the richest and poorest Greek regions has increased over the last eighteen years. In 2018, the level of GDP per capita in the capital region (Attica) was twice as high as in Northern Aegean and East Macedonia, the regions with the lowest GDP per capita in the country. Greece ranks 2nd in term of highest growth in regional disparities in GDP per capita among 29 OECD countries with comparable data (Figure B1).

While the South Aegean region and the Attica region had similar levels of productivity in 2000, the former experienced a fast decline in productivity (-0.9% per year) whereas the latter experienced modest growth (0.2% per year) between 2000 and 2018. Crete recorded the highest regional growth in productivity (+0.6 % per year), although, in 2018 no Greek region had recovered their 2008 productivity levels (Figure B2).

Productivity levels in regions far from a metropolitan area of at least 250 000 inhabitants represent three quarter of those in metropolitan regions in Greece, a stable gap since 2000 (Figure B3).

B1. Regional disparity in GDP per capita
Top 20% richest over bottom 20% poorest regions
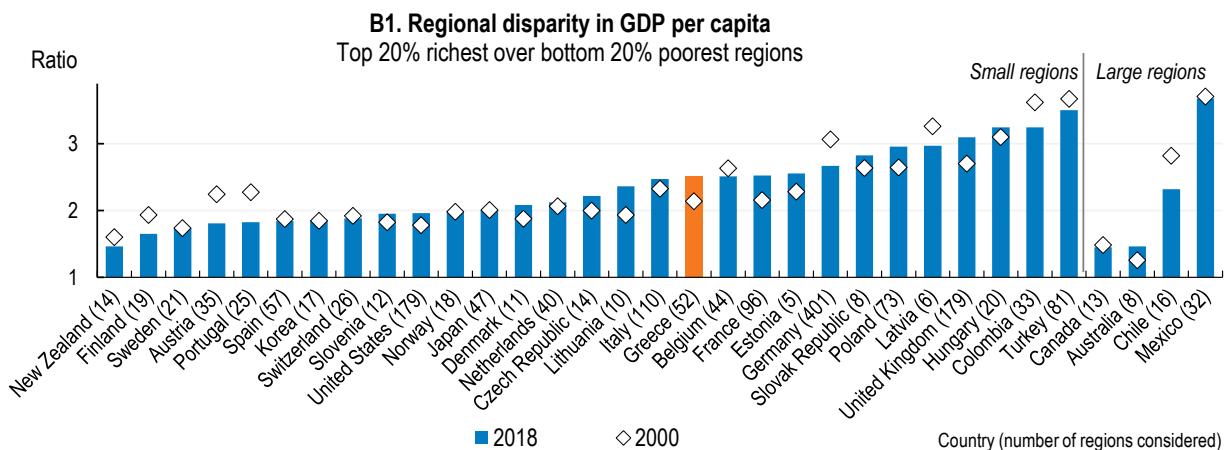
Note:A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.

B2. Gap in regional productivity
GDP per worker, large (TL2) regions

B3. Gap in productivity by type of region
Productivity level of metropolitan regions=100

C. Well-being in regions

The largest regional disparities in people's well-being concern the sense of community, safety and environmental quality.

C1 Well-being regional gap
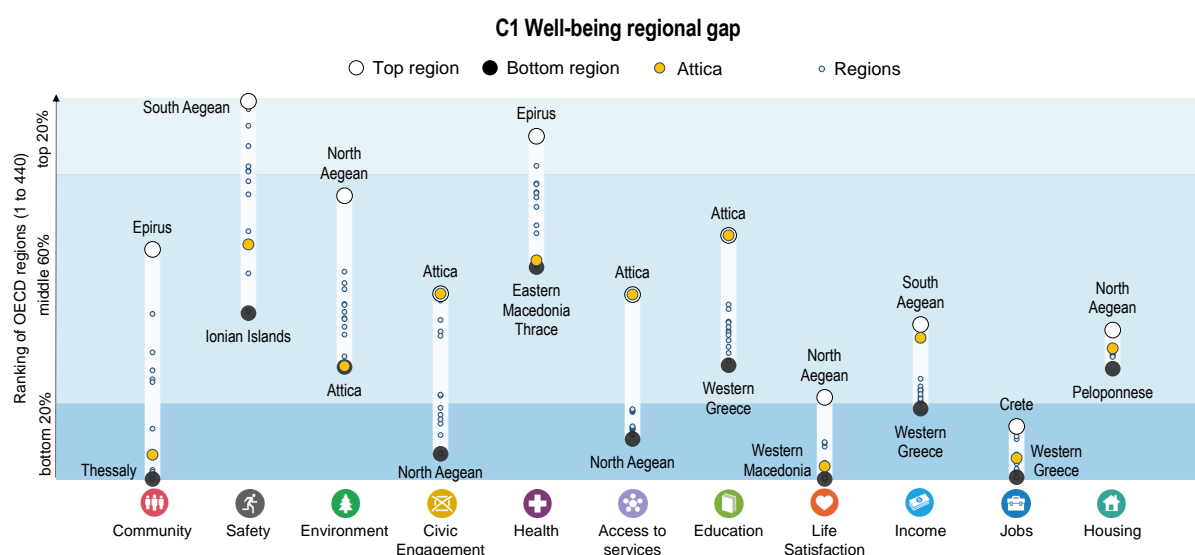
Note: Relative ranking of the regions with the best and worst outcomes in the 11 well-being dimensions, with respect to all 440 OECD regions. The eleven dimensions are ordered by decreasing regional disparities in the country. Each well-being dimension is measured by the indicators in the table below.

While people in all Greek regions tend to have health outcomes above the OECD median, high unemployment rates place most Greek regions in the bottom 15% of OECD regions in terms of jobs. Outcomes across regions are very unequal in terms of sense of community, safety, and environment (air quality) (Figure C1).

The top performing regions in Greece fare better than the top 20% of OECD regions only in 2 out of 13 well-being indicators, namely homicide rates and life expectancy (Figure C2).

**C2. How do the top and bottom regions fare on the well-being indicators?**

	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Greek regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	80.2	94.1	88.1	71.1
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.2
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	18.4	7.0	11.8	16.8
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	63.6	84.2	69.5	54.9
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	81.4	82.6	82.9	81.3
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	7.5	6.6	7.0	7.9
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	75.0	91.3	82.7	69.0
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	76.8	90.3	85.0	66.0
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	5.2	7.3	5.6	4.8
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	14 373	26 617	16 542	12 265
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	56.5	76.0	60.9	52.1
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	17.7	3.3	13.3	22.0
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	1.5	2.3	1.5	1.5

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Greece is composed of 13 large regions.
Visualisation: https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org.

D. Industrial transition in regions

The share of manufacturing employment has decreased in almost all Greek regions since 2000, whereas gross value added has grown in many regions

D1. Manufacturing employment share, regional gap
Large TL2 regions
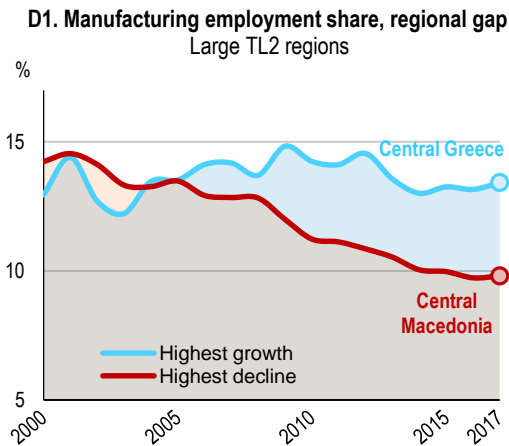
Between 2000 and 2017, all Greek regions experienced a decline in the share of manufacturing employment, except Central Greece and Crete. With a reduction of 4.4 pp in the share of manufacturing employment, Central Macedonia, the second most populous region, recorded the largest decrease (Figure D1).

During the period 2000-17 manufacturing gross value added in manufacturing increased in most regions, except in Central Macedonia, Peloponnese, Central Greece, and South Aegean. Epirus recorded the highest growth, while Central Greece − where the GVA in manufacturing represented 28% of the regional GVA in 2017 −, recorded the highest decline (-0.8% per year) (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-17

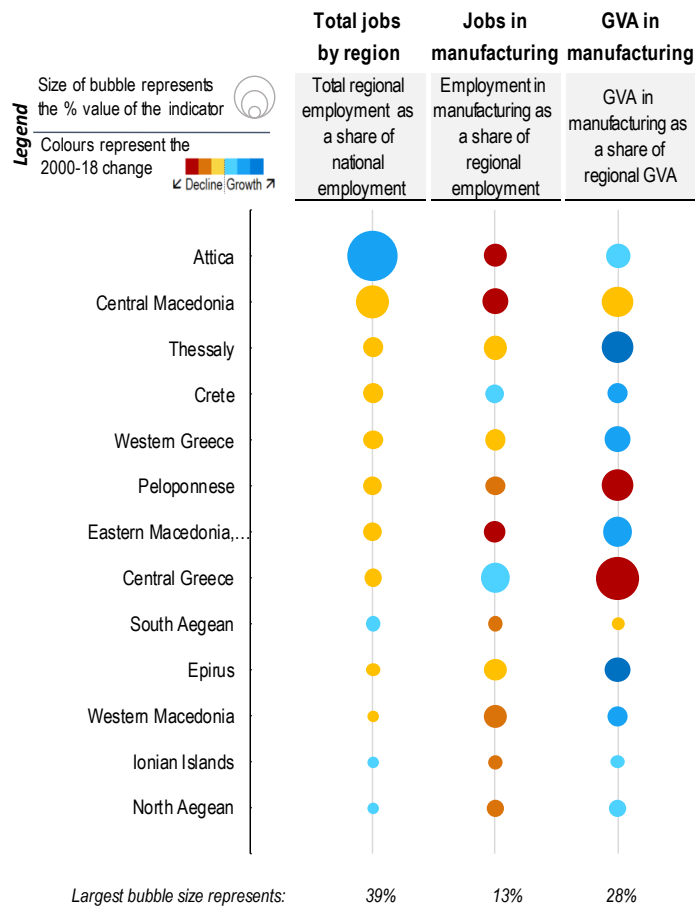*Largest bubble size represents:*   *39%*   *13%*   *28%*

Figure [D.2]: Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour of the bubbles represents the evolution of the share over the period 2000-17 in percentage points: red: below -2 pp; orange: between -2 pp and -1 pp; yellow: between -1 pp and 0; light blue: between 0 and +1 pp; medium blue: between +1 pp and +2 pp; dark blue: above +2 pp over the period.

E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

While most Greek regions are transitioning to clean electricity production, Western Macedonia and Peloponnese – two regions among the largest electricity producers – still rely on coal

While 6 out of 11 Greek regions produce 30% or more of their electricity using renewables, Western Macedonia and Peloponnese, which generate 45% of Greek electricity, still largely rely on coal for electricity generation. In 2017, these two regions used coal-fire power for at least one quarter of their electricity production. In contrast, Central Greece – which is the second largest producer of electricity in the country – has made important progress in the transition to clean electricity. In 2017, 36% of Central Greece's electricity production came from renewable sources (Figure E1).

E1. Transition to renewable energy, 2017

	Total electricity generation (in GWh per year)	Regional share of renewables in electricity generation (%)	Regional share of coal in electricity generation (%)	Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generated (in Ktons of CO2 eq.)	
Western Macedonia	17 359	5%	95%	13 563	Wes.
Central Greece	9 600	36%	0%	3 066	Cen.
Peloponnese	7 847	19%	29%	3 887	Pel.
Attica	3 910	9%	0%	1 760	Att.
Crete	3 801	3%	0%	2 342	Cre.
Eastern Macedonia, Thrace	3 779	58%	0%	815	Eas.
Central Macedonia	2 505	49%	0%	673	Cen.
South Aegean	2 265	0%	0%	1 484	Sou.
Western Greece	2 061	100%	0%	71	Wes.
Epirus	1 041	100%	0%	30	Epi.
Thessaly	787	100%	0%	28	The.

Carbon efficiency in electricity generation is very unequal across Greek regions. While Central Greece emitted 320 tons of CO_2 per gigawatt hour of electricity produced in 2017, Western Macedonia released almost 780 tons of CO_2 per gigawatt hour. For this reason, Western Macedonia alone was responsible for half of Greece's CO_2 emissions from electricity generation in 2017 (E2).

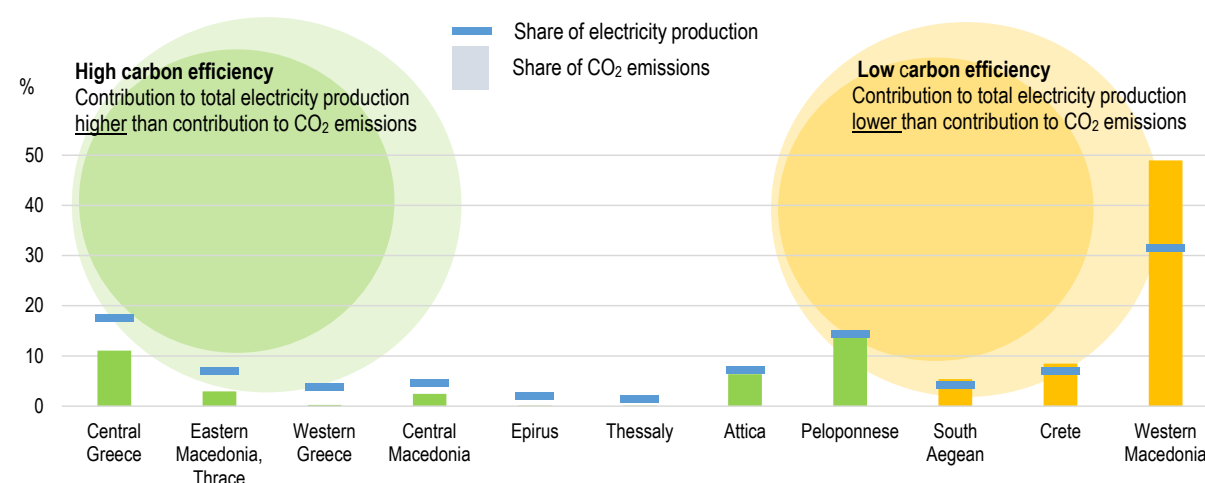### E2. Contribution to total CO₂ emissions from electricity production, 2017

Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO_2 emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national power grid, as registered in the Power Plants Database. As a result, small electricity generation facilities disconnected from the national power grid might not be captured. Renewable energy sources include hydropower, geothermal power, biomass, wind, solar, wave and tidal and waste. See here for more details.

Greece has a higher concentration of people in metropolitan areas above half a million inhabitants, a higher share compared to the European average, but lower than the OECD average

In Greece, 57% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs). The share of population in FUAs with more than 500 000 people is 43%, 18-percentage points higher than the European average (Figure F1).

F1. Distribution of population in cities by city size
Functional urban areas, 2018

Greece, percentage of population in cities

Population by city size, a global view
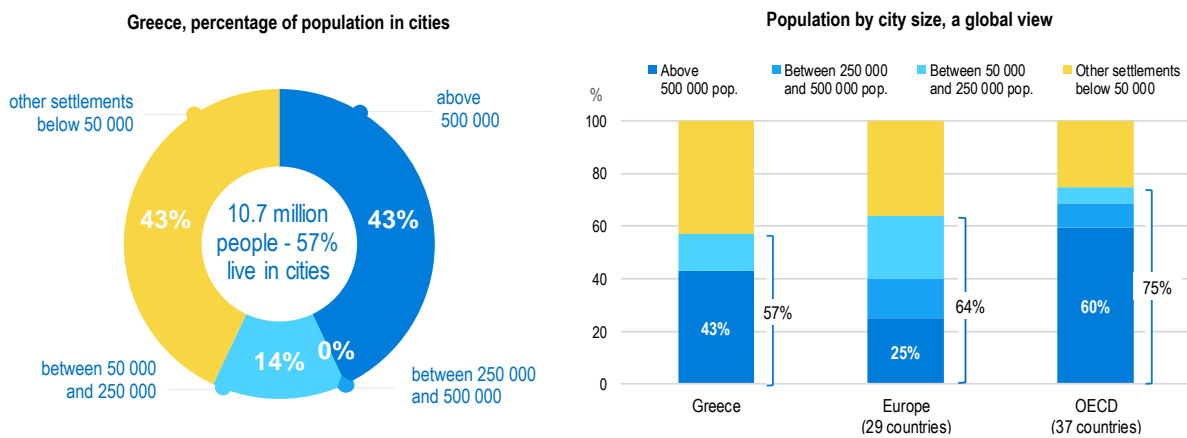
Built-up areas per capita slightly increased faster than population in Greek metropolitan areas

Built-up area per capita has slightly increased in Greek functional urban areas since 2000. In Athens the growth of built-up area was combined with a decline of population, while in Thessaloniki both built-up area and population grew at similar rates (Figure F2).

F2. Built-up area per capita
Selection of functional urban areas with more than 500 000 population
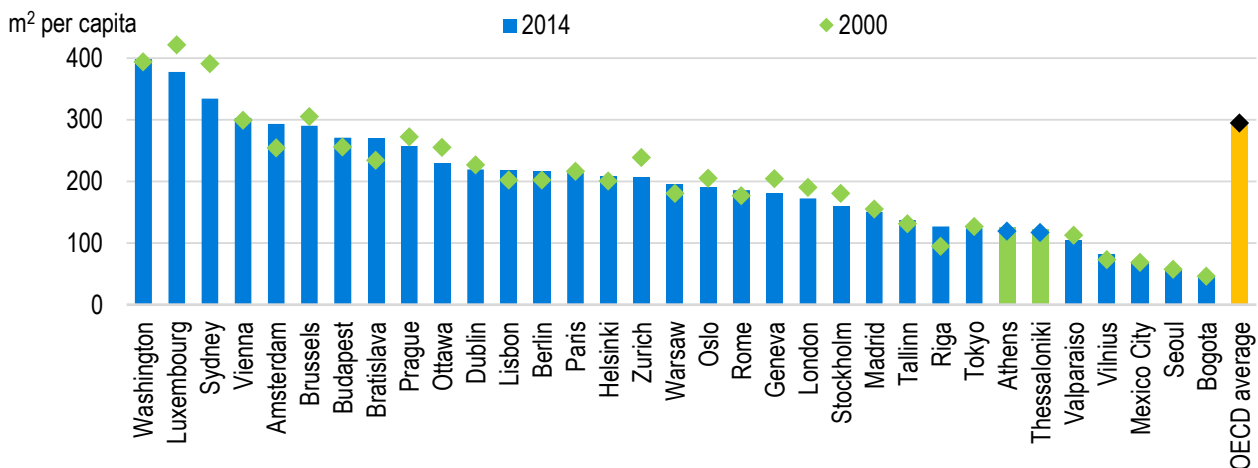
Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: two in Greece compared to 349 in the OECD.

GDP per capita in Athens metropolitan area has grown by 5% over the whole 2001-17 period, while it stagnated in Thessaloniki

In terms of GDP per capita, Athens metropolitan area is among the bottom 25% of OECD metropolitan areas − with more than 500 000 people. Economic growth in Greek metropolitan areas has not been particularly strong since 2001, with Athens and Thessaloniki experiencing a moderate growth and a stagnation of GDP per capita, respectively (Figure F3).

F3. Trends in GDP per capita in metropolitan areas
Functional urban areas above 500 000 people

GDP per capita, 2018
- High (>60 KUSD)
- 50-60 KUSD
- 40-50 KUSD
- 30-40 KUSD
- Low (<30 KUSD)

Annual growth GDP per capita 2001-18
- High (>1.5%)
- 1% to 1.5%
- 0.5% to 1%
- 0% to 0.5%
- Low (<0%)