

# OSH Authorities — Greece

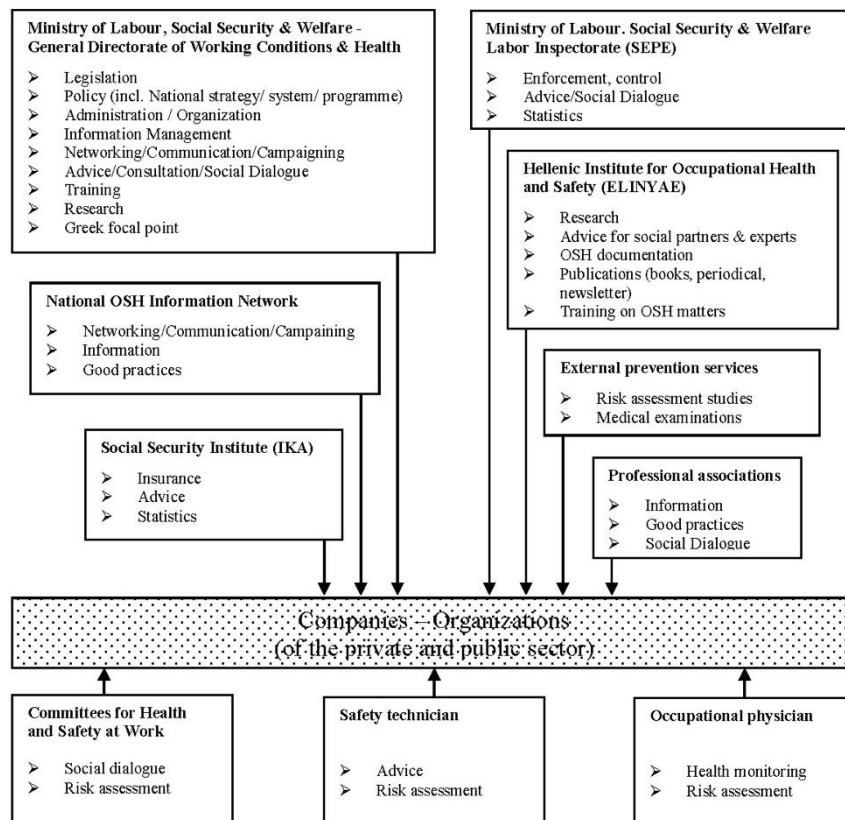
## Description scheme for country overviews

### GREECE

Source: [https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH\\_system\\_at\\_national\\_level\\_-\\_Greece](https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_system_at_national_level_-_Greece)

#### OSH infrastructure

##### Scheme:



▪ **OSH authorities**

Name of authority	<b>Directorate for Safety and Health at Work of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.ypakp.gr">http://www.ypakp.gr</a>
Short abstract	<p>The Directorate for Safety and Health at Work, which promotes all issues related to occupational safety and health (OSH) (except the inspection and enforcement of national OSH legislation), is the principal OSH administration authority of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity. The Directorate is responsible for, among other things, the planning, organisation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national OSH strategy and policies, the national OSH system and the national OSH programme, in accordance with national priorities and the running of the European Union (EU) OSH strategy. Its activities are mainly directed at the fields of OSH legislation, policy-making, decision-making, administration, information management and documentation, awareness raising, networking, education, training and research.</p> <p>To implement these actions, the aforementioned directorate, with the principal operational objective of planning, monitoring and evaluating actions under the national strategy for safety and health at work, is divided into six departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Working Conditions;</li> <li>• Department of Health Promotion, Harmful Factors, Safety and Ergonomics;</li> <li>• Department of the National Focal Point for OSH Information and Documentation;</li> <li>• Department for the Major Accidents (under the Seveso Directive);</li> <li>• Department for OSH Training and Monitoring of Policies on OSH issues;</li> <li>• Department for People with Disabilities.</li> </ul>
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Name of authority	<b>Labour Inspectorate (SEPE)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.ypakp.gr/">http://www.ypakp.gr/</a>
Short abstract	<p>Law 2639/1998 instituted SEPE in its current form. Its central services are located in Athens, and a number of regional services are located throughout the country. The regional services are divided into two categories: 16 regional directorates for the inspection of social matters, such as illegal occupation and lack of social security cover; and five regional directorates for the inspection of safety and health at work (formerly centres for the prevention of occupational risk — KEPEK), which are charged with the inspection of working conditions for safety, health and hygiene matters. SEPE is responsible for the inspection and application of national legislation either on social matters (work times, wages, social security, occupational legality) or on the physical conditions of work (safety and health), and also plays an important consulting role in properly informing and guiding the employers to achieve a better compliance level. Law 3996/2011 has introduced reforms to the SEPE.</p> <p>To fulfil its role, inspectors of safety and health at work can enter private or public workplaces at any time without prior notice. SEPE examines the implementation of OSH legislation. In cases of violations, it can impose administrative sanctions and fines. In cases of major violations, SEPE can order the temporary or permanent closure of a section or entire company. It investigates and reports on the causes of serious and fatal accidents. It also investigates the causes of occupational diseases, takes samples, and determines physical, chemical and biological parameters. Furthermore, it intervenes to resolve disputes in the workplace.</p>
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#### ▪ Compensation and insurance bodies

Name of body	<b>Social Insurance Institute (IKA)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.ika.gr/en/home.cfm">http://www.ika.gr/en/home.cfm</a>
Short abstract	<p>The IKA is by far the largest social security organisation in Greece. It covers salaried employees in Greece or abroad for an employer who is based in Greece, as well as those employees who offer full-time or part-time personal labour on commissioned work agreements and who are not insured with any other main insurance agency.</p> <p>In Greece, the old Royal Decree 473/1961 concerning ‘Contributions for Occupational Risk’ is still in force. This decree obliges nearly all employers to pay an insurance contribution to the IKA amounting to 1% of total wages. Theoretically, this contribution is paid for protection against occupational risks. However, in reality the sum is not used for this purpose and is redirected to further finance the IKA’s obligations (pensions, etc.). Given that occupational diseases are significantly underreported, this leads to reduced insurance cover. A continuous demand of trade unions is the establishment of a body of insurance against occupational risks under the IKA’s umbrella.</p>
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Name of body	Single state social security organisation (EFKA)
Link	<a href="http://www.efka.gov.gr/">http://www.efka.gov.gr/</a>
Short abstract	Since 1 January 2017, a single state social security organisation named EFKA has been operating as a result of the unification of the pre-existing social security institutions operating in Greece. Regulated by the Law No 4387 (FEK 85/A/12-5-2016) and with a view to ensuring decent living and social protection in terms of equality, social justice, redistribution and solidarity of generations, all state social benefits are granted within the framework of the umbrella organisation EFKA, which includes the National Health System (for health benefits), the National Social Solidarity System (for welfare benefits) and the National Social Security Funds (for insurance benefits). Everyone is now insured with EFKA; employers and employees — identified as either wage earners or self-employed — pay their contributions to EFKA, and all pensioners receive their main pension from the same organisation.
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#### ▪ Research institutes

Name of institute	<b>Hellenic Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (ELINYAE)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.elinyae.gr/el/index.jsp">http://www.elinyae.gr/el/index.jsp</a>
Short abstract	ELINYAE is a bipartite (employers and employees), non-profit organisation. The General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE), the Federation of Greek Industries (SEV), the National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce (ESEE) and the Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (GSEVEE) founded the institute in 1992. One of its objectives is to study the impact of applications of new technologies and new preventive measures for occupational risks, and to provide expertise on issues of OSH.
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#### ▪ Other OSH services

Name of association	<b>Greek Society for Environmental and Occupational Medicine (EEIEP)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.iatrikiergasias.gr/">http://www.iatrikiergasias.gr/</a>
Short abstract	The EEIEP is a professional and scientific association providing services to its members on OSH matters. It helps its members to fulfil their duties as occupational physicians, members of Committees for Health and Safety at Work (EYAE), unionists, researchers, etc. The EEIEP also participates via its representatives in the national OSH tripartite social dialogue, which takes place at the National Council for the Safety and Health of Workers (SYAE).
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Name of association	<b>Permanent Committee on Occupational Safety and Health of the Technical Chamber of Greece</b>
Link	<a href="http://portal.tee.gr/portal/page/portal/TEE_HOME">http://portal.tee.gr/portal/page/portal/TEE_HOME</a>
Short abstract	<p>The Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE), established in 1923, is a legal entity of public law with elected administration. According to the rules of the Hellenic State as a legal entity of public law, it is formally supervised by the Ministry of Infrastructure for Transport and Networks (Ministry Submedi).</p> <p>The TEE aims to promote science in fields related to the specialty of its members, technology in general and the exploitation of both these subject areas for the economic, social and cultural development of the country, in the framework of the principles of sustainability and protection of the environment.</p>
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Name of association	<b>Department for the Environment and Health and Safety at Work of the Greek Chemists' Association (EEX)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.eex.gr/">http://www.eex.gr/</a>
Short abstract	EEX is a scientific association that provides services to its members on OSH matters.
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#### ▪ Standardisation bodies

Name of body	<b>Hellenic Organisation for Standardisation (ELOT)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.elot.gr/default_en.aspx">http://www.elot.gr/default_en.aspx</a>
Short abstract	<p>ELOT is the national body responsible for the elaboration, approval, publication and distribution of Hellenic Standards. The elaboration of standards is entrusted to ELOT's technical committees and working groups. Representatives from both the public sector and the private sector express their opinions on the different issues to achieve the maximum possible consensus among them. Technical Committee 59 (Health and Safety at Work) is responsible for the elaboration of standards on OSH issues. The Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Development, the TEE, the EEX, the EEIEP and SEV as well as representatives from the private sector offer their expert opinions to this technical committee.</p>
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