

Suicides in European Union

Greece, and the rest of the European countries



European Union

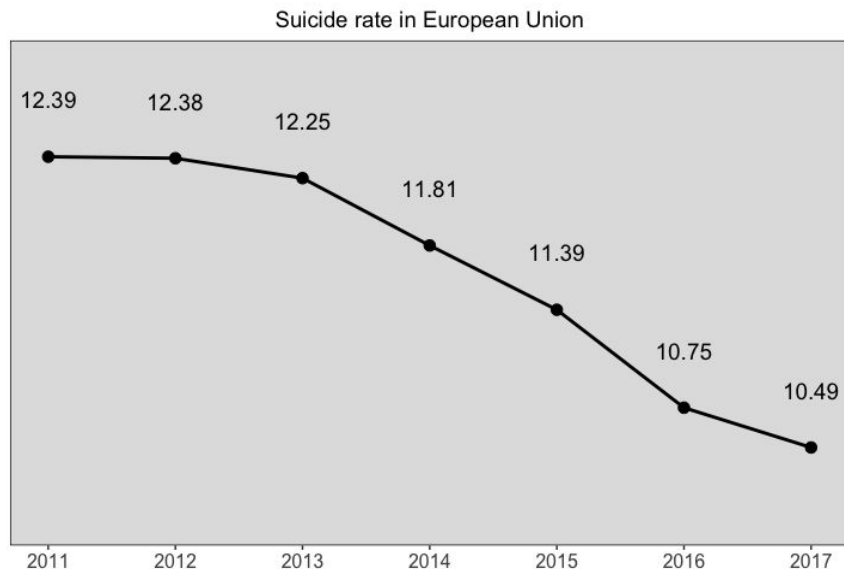
2011 - 2017



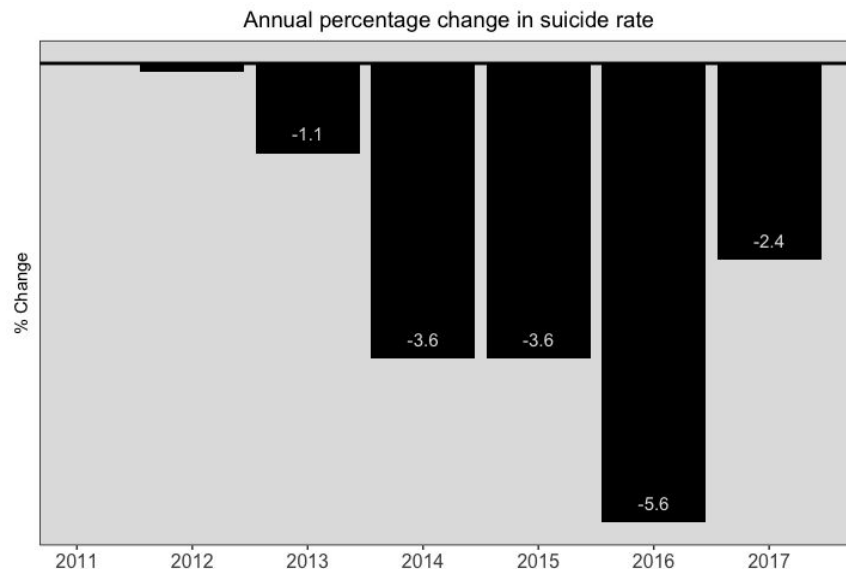
What happens in the European Union?



The suicide rate in the European Union has been steadily decreasing between 2011 and 2017. In particular, there was a drop of 2 percentage points.



The percentage decrease in the rate of suicides had an increasing trend until 2016, where the largest percentage decrease of 5.6 percentage points was recorded.



EU Countries

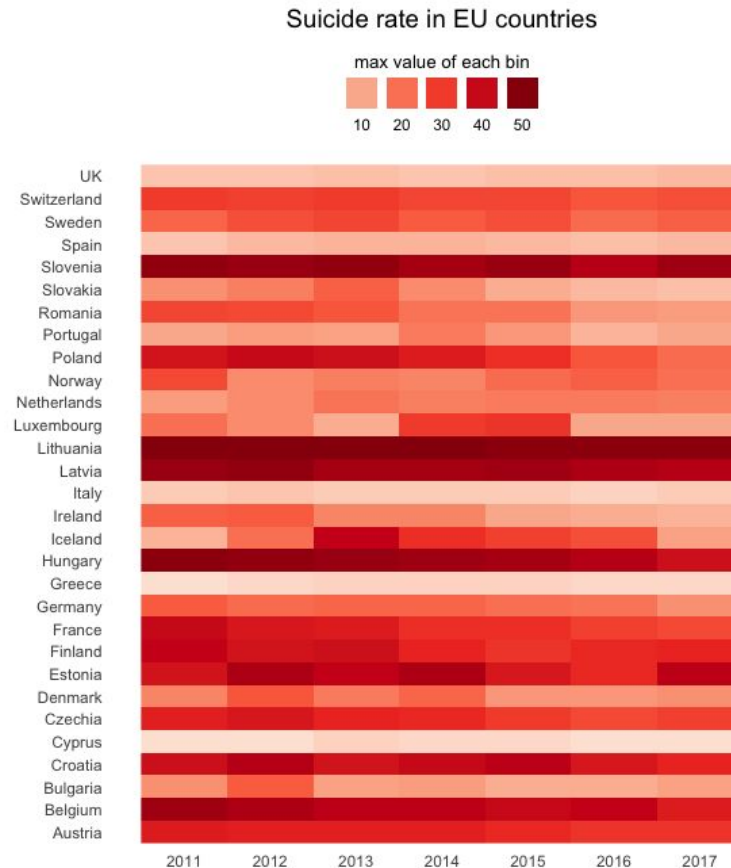
2011 - 2017



The rates

As we can see from the density of colours, Slovenia, Lithuania and Hungary have the highest suicide rates among European countries, reaching values of more than 40% for each year from 2011 to 2017.

On the other hand, Greece, along with Cyprus, seems to have the lowest suicide rates throughout the period with their rates never exceeding 10%.



Searching for the trend...

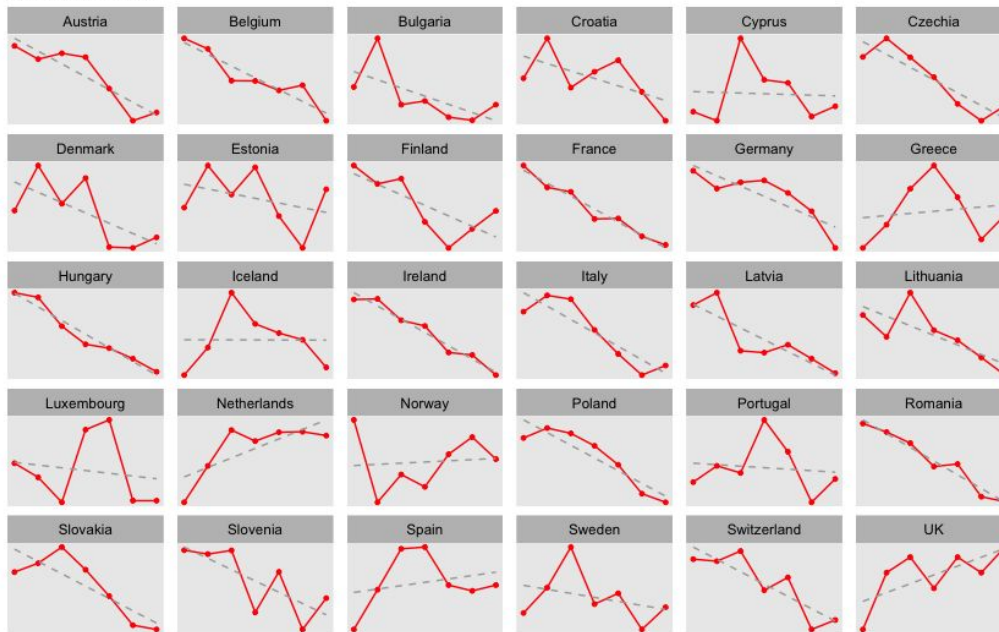


According to the graph, for the majority of countries, there is a downward trend in the suicide rate over the years.

As far as Greece is concerned, we can observe a slight upward trend in the suicide rate. Although the rate peaked during 2014, it followed a sharp decline in the next two years.

However, since 2016, the rate seems to be increasing again.

Suicide rate trendline by country
From 2011 to 2017

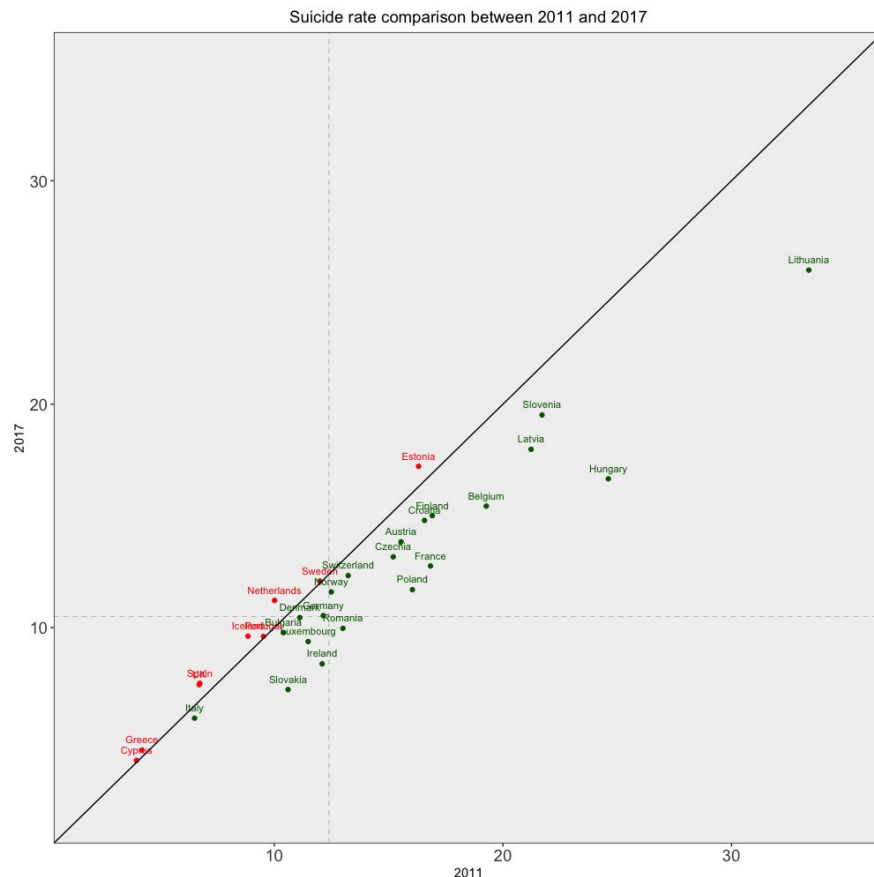


2011 vs 2017

Countries along the diagonal line have little change in their suicide rate from 2011 to 2017, while countries away from it have a larger change.

Furthermore, countries above the line (red) correspond to countries where the suicide rate has increased over the years, while the opposite is true for countries below the line.

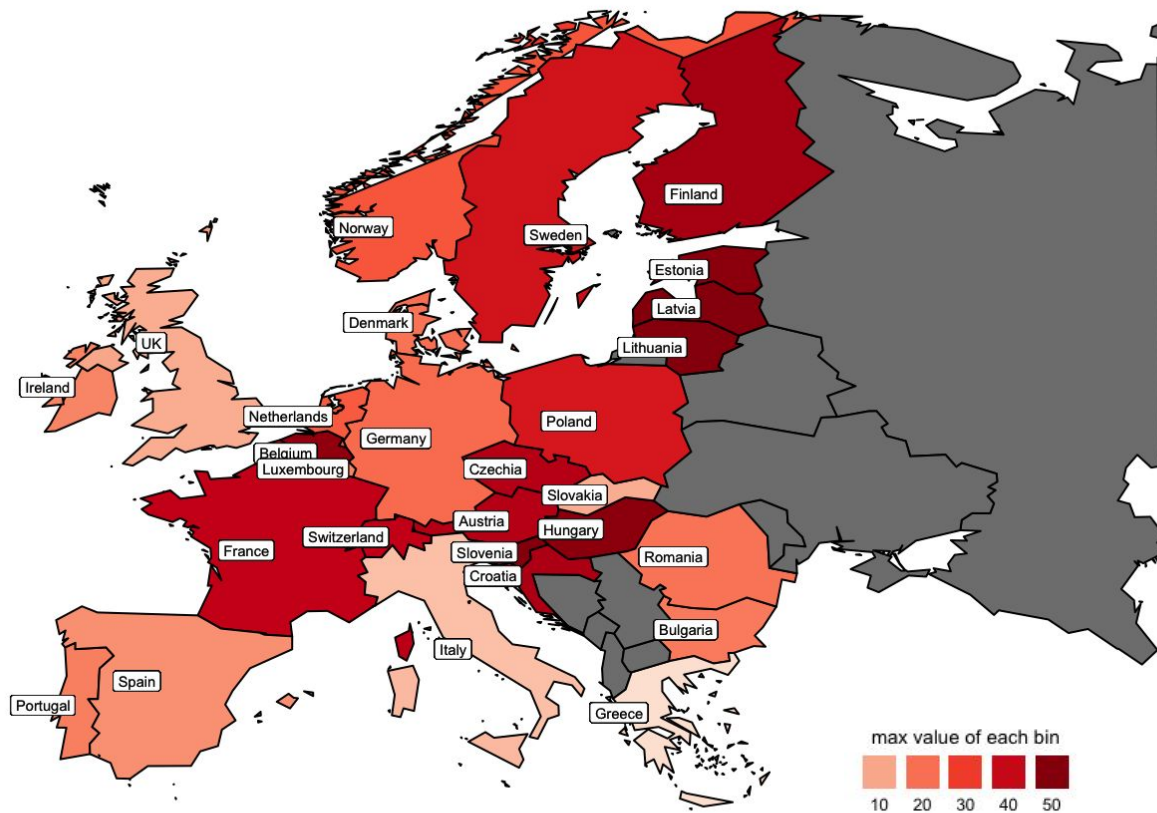
The dashed lines show the average suicide rate in 2011 and 2017. Countries to the left or below the dashed lines are countries whose rates are lower than the EU average, while countries to the right or above had rates higher than the EU average.



The landscape

The landscape in the European Union in 2017 shows that Mediterranean countries had lower suicide rates.

In contrast, the Balkan and Nordic countries had the highest suicides rates in EU.



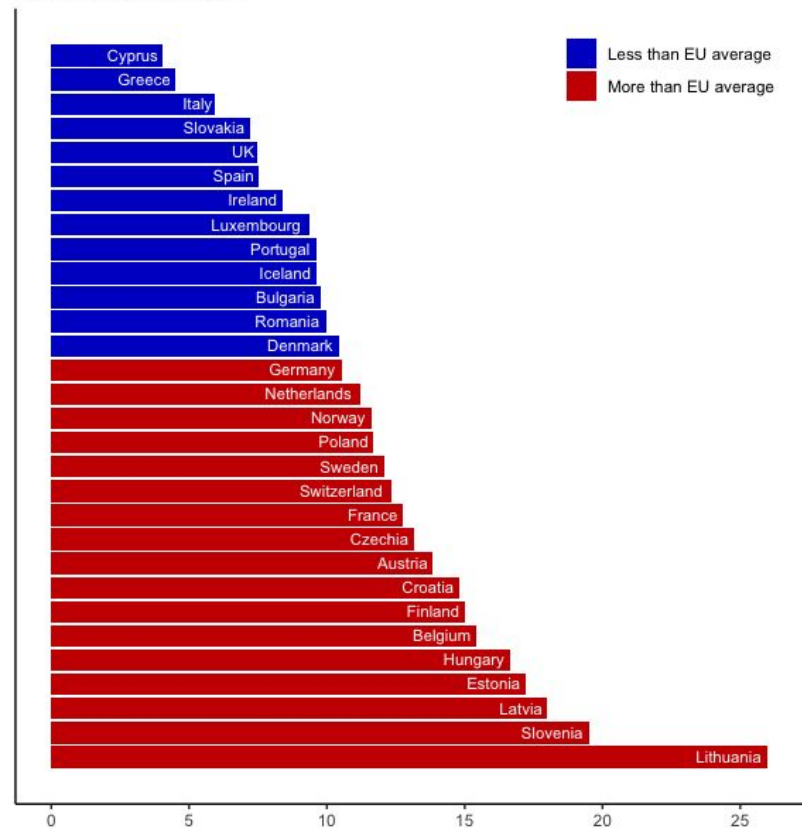
Compared to EU...

As we have already seen, the majority of countries with suicide rates above the EU average are either Balkan or Nordic countries.

On the other hand, we see that Greece, together with two other Mediterranean countries, Cyprus and Italy, are not only below EU average, but also have quite low rates.


Suicide Rate by Country (2017)

Compared to EU average



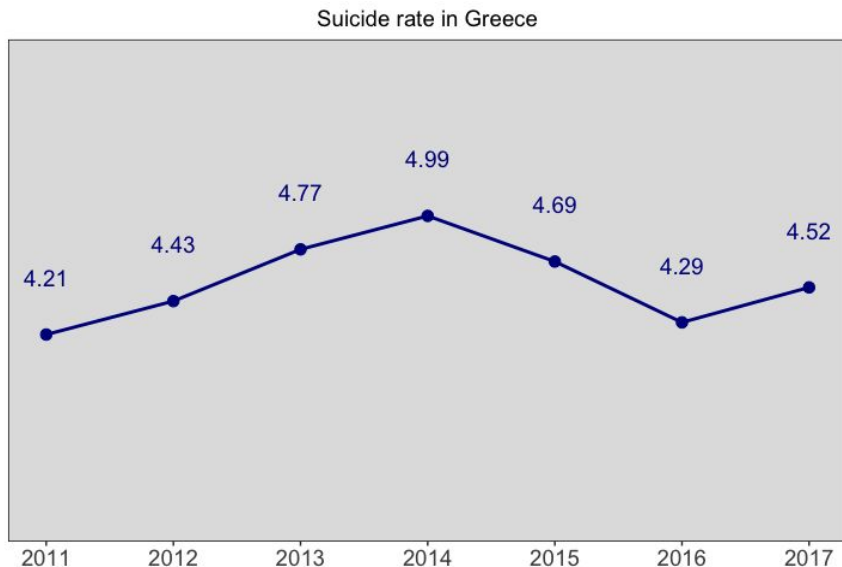
Greece

2011 - 2017

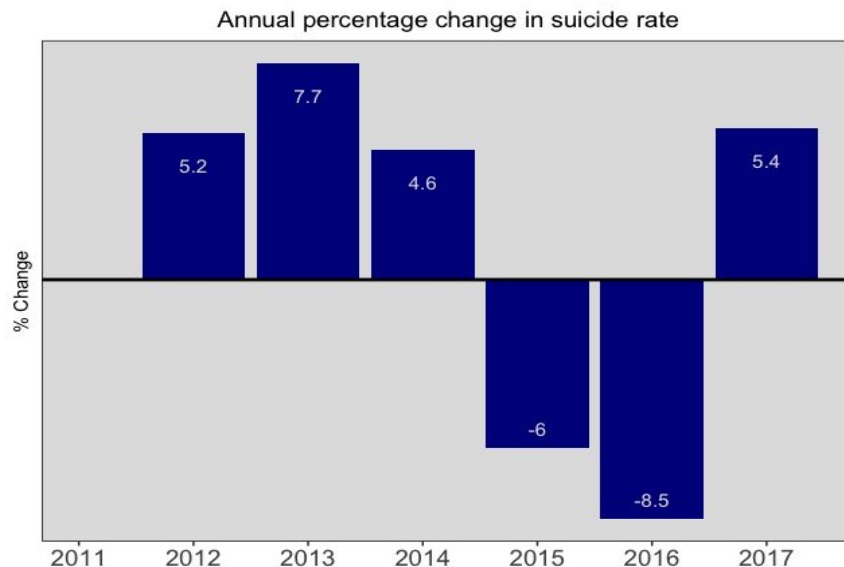


The Greek reality

The suicide rate in Greece over the years has had both ups and downs, and even though its variation has been quite small, we could say that there is a small but steady upward trend.

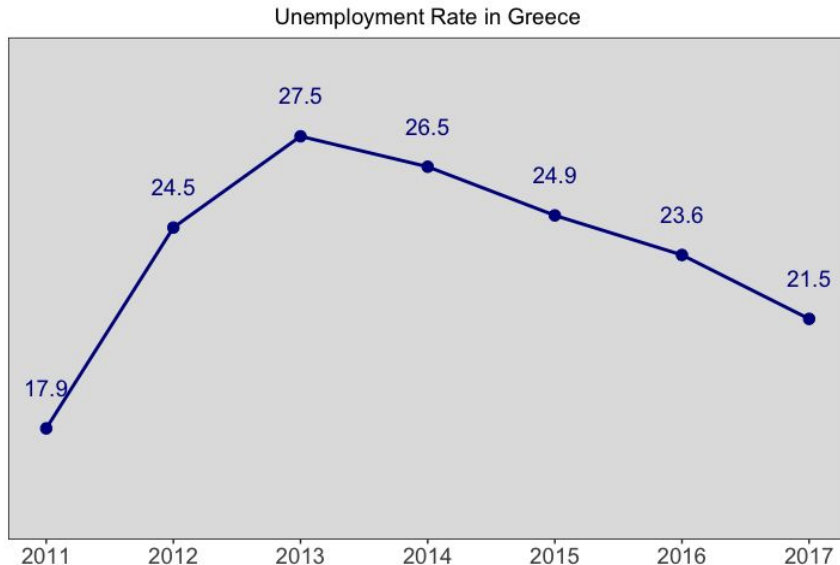


Also, if we compare the suicide rate in Greece with the EU rate, we can observe that the Greek rate follows the opposite trend to the EU average.

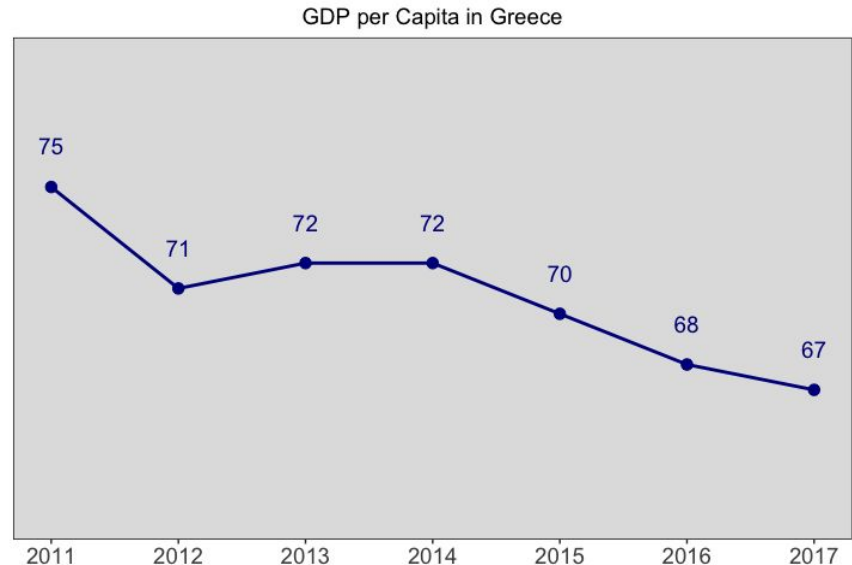


External factors

One would argue that the suicide rate is influenced by external factors, such as unemployment. The unemployment rate was on an upward trend until 2013, when it increased by 10pp.



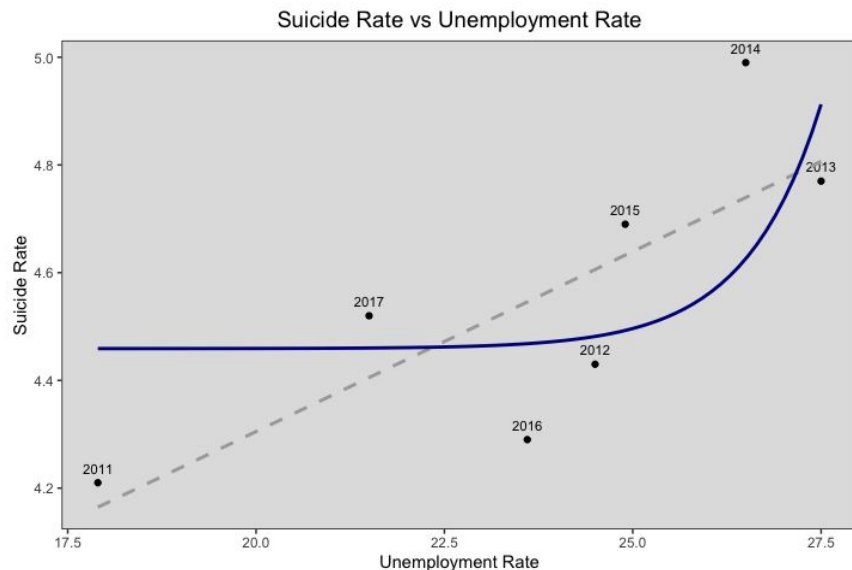
Another external factor that could affect the suicide rate is the GDP per capita. In particular, the GDP per capita in Greece was on a continuous decreasing trend since 2011 dropping by 8pts.



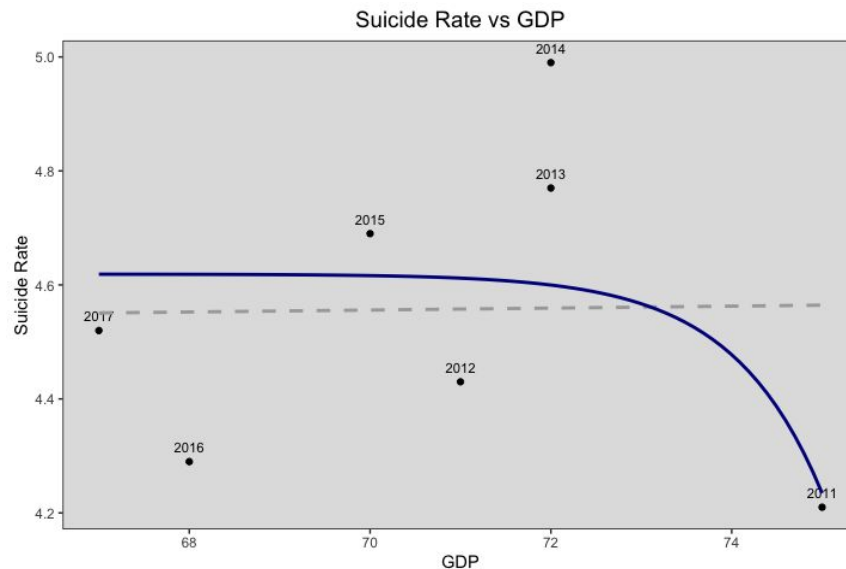
How is the suicide rate affected?



There is a positive correlation between the suicide rate in Greece and unemployment. An increase in the latter above 25% led to an increase in the suicide rate of more than 0.4pp.



Unexpectedly enough, there is a negative correlation between the suicide rate and the GDP. A decrease in the GDP (due to the greek debt crisis) did not lead to an increase in the suicide rate.



Thank you!