

The COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be the most significant disruption to health systems in recent decades. It has shed light on the vulnerabilities and challenges within countries' emergency preparedness strategies and on their ability to provide healthcare services to their populations. In response to the enduring effects of the pandemic Greece is implementing policies to fortify its preparedness for future shocks.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an important issue for Greece's ability to meet emerging health threats. Because antibiotic over prescription and overuse in humans are major contributors to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, antibiotic consumption data are a useful tool to evaluate the risk of AMR and the efficacy of programmes to promote their appropriate use. AMR is a high priority issue, particularly as Greek hospital patients with bloodstream infections show among the highest rates of selected antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the EU (ECDC & WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2023). Antibiotic consumption in Greece was also among the highest in the EU, in 2021. Greece is addressing the issue through the implementation of its One Health National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance 2019-23, which takes an integrated approach in the human health, animal health, food and agriculture, and environment sectors to prevent the rise and spread of AMR. While the trend in antibiotic consumption in the community decreased markedly between 2019 and 2021, it is not yet clear whether this decline is temporary and mainly driven by a reduction in infections during the pandemic, or whether it is due to changes in medical prescribing behaviours and better infection prevention and control in hospitals. (from State of Health in the EU - Greece - Country Health Profile 2023

[https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/2023\\_chp\\_gr\\_english.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/2023_chp_gr_english.pdf))

The recent pandemic showed that interdisciplinary teams are needed for addressing emerging threats.

## ***R&I Policies and Strategies***

Country has a dedicated strategy for research and innovation related to pandemic threat? No

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research? No

Country has R&I webpage on COVID-19; Monkey pox

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name	URL	Short Description
	<a href="https://www.pasteur.gr/en/diagnostic-department">https://www.pasteur.gr/en/diagnostic-department</a>	
Research Data Alliance COVID-19 Working Group	<a href="https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-covid19">https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-covid19</a>	the Department of Library Science and Information Systems (ATEI of Thessaloniki), the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens and the Institute of Applied Biosciences at the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, have provided their software and data expertise within the context of the Research Data Alliance COVID-19 Working Group, towards defining a set of RDA COVID-19 Guidelines and Recommendations, addressing various stakeholders (policy makers, funders, publishers and researchers) with clear and practical recommendations for Clinical, Community Participation, Epidemiology, Legal and Ethical, Omics, Social Sciences and Research Software best practices
Statistical data Weekly epidemiological reports – West Nile Virus disease	<a href="https://eody.gov.gr/en/epidemiological-statistical-data/weekly-epidemiological-reports/weekly-epidemiological-reports-west-">https://eody.gov.gr/en/epidemiological-statistical-data/weekly-epidemiological-reports/weekly-epidemiological-reports-west-</a>	

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs? Yes

Coordinating structures URL [www.gsri.gr](http://www.gsri.gr)

## **R&I Infrastructures**

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction

BSL 3; Open genome deposits for viruses

Name Infrastructure	Type Infrastructure	URL	Max Capacity	Available for	Open to
COVID19 genomic biobank	biobank	<a href="https://www.bioacademy.gr/search/COVID19">https://www.bioacademy.gr/search/COVID19</a>		government/academia /industry	Yes
BSL3	BSL3 facility	<a href="https://www.pasteur.gr/en/diagnostic-department">https://www.pasteur.gr/en/diagnostic-department</a>		6 working places available to users of academia and industry	Yes
BSL3 and ABSL3 under construction					
Research Data Alliance COVID-19 Working Group	Open genome deposits	<a href="https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-covid19">https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-covid19</a>			Yes

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives relevant for infectious diseases

BBMRI; ECRIN; MIRRI

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in

<https://eu-response.eu/>

<https://ecrin.org/>

<https://vaccelerate.eu/>

## **Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources**

### **Basic Research**

url <https://www.elidek.gr/>  
Private foundations

funding for basic research accessible for industry? No

source of funding Public (research) agencies; Private industries/ philanthropic

### **Applied Research**

url [www.gsrt.gr](http://www.gsrt.gr)  
Private foundations

funding for applied research accessible for industry? Yes

source of funding Public (research) agencies; Private industries/ philanthropic

### **Translational Research**

url [www.gsrt.gr](http://www.gsrt.gr)

funding accessible for industry? Yes

source of funding Public (research) agencies; Private industries/ philanthropic

### **Clinical Research (in general and pandemic phase)**

url Private/industry

funding accessible for industry?

source of funding Public (research) agencies; Private industries/ philanthropic

phase funded? Phase 1; Phase 2; Phase 3

### **Innovation Projects**

url [www.gsrt.gr](http://www.gsrt.gr)

funding for innovation projects accessible industry? Yes

source Public (research) agencies; Private industries/ philanthropic

Flexible funding possible in case of emergency (<https://www.moh.gov.gr/> and <https://eody.gov.gr/en/> )

# **R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat**

R&I actors, authorities and

ministries involved in case of an outbreak; incentives ensuring qualitative scientific dissemination during a crisis; international scientific collaboration in case of an outbreak

Name	Description	url
General Secretariat for Research and Innovation	funds translational-applied innovation-industry research	<a href="http://www.gsrt.gr">www.gsrt.gr</a>
Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI)	The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation is a new institution through which a profound reforming effort is being undertaken in the field of Research and Innovation in the country. The Organization supports unrestricted research (the systematic inquiry born of scientific curiosity) and new researchers by providing scholarships for doctoral candidates, as well as research projects for post-doctoral students, Researchers and Faculty Members. Through H.F.R.I., the research and academic community is, for the first time, actively involved in shaping the country's R&I policy without thematic or geographical exclusions, but with the sole criterion of scientific quality and excellence. H.F.R.I. was created out of the vital need to support young scientists and as a necessary tool in reversing the outflow of outstanding scientists abroad. Indeed, one of H.F.R.I.'s key goals is to impede the scientific and economic haemorrhage that the loss of gifted Greek researchers entails.	<a href="https://www.elidek.gr/en/homepage/">https://www.elidek.gr/en/homepage/</a>
Ministry of Citizen Protection		<a href="https://www.minocp.gov.gr/en/">https://www.minocp.gov.gr/en/</a>
Ministry of Digital Governance	The ministry deals with challenges arising with new technologies like AI and providing a wide range of applications in the field of health (Internet of Medical Things - IoMT, digital health system, interconnection of health services and health resources) as the rapid spread of an unprecedented pandemic (COVID - 19) triggered the need for increased use of new technologies and digital applications to serve citizens and businesses.	<a href="https://mindigital.gr/">https://mindigital.gr/</a>
Ministry of Health		<a href="https://www.moh.gov.gr">https://www.moh.gov.gr</a>
National Organization of Public Health (eody)	The purpose of the EODY is to provide services that contribute to the protection and improvement of health and the increase of the population's life expectancy by strengthening the capacity of the National Health System, particularly the public health services, to effectively deal with threats to human health from communicable diseases through early detection, monitoring and assessment of risks, reporting and submission of scientifically based proposals and intervention measures. The basic functions of EODY include activities such as epidemiological surveillance, risk assessment, providing opinions on scientific issues, preparedness and response, providing reliable and comparable epidemiological data and statistics to the competent bodies at national, European and international level, education and training/training in the field of public health, informing the public and health professionals about the risks of serious health threats and promoting awareness and information actions on public health issues. EODY is the operational center for planning and implementing actions to protect public health with a preventive, operational and interventional nature, with readiness to respond to emergency health risks, coordinating its functions with the needs of the country and the international organizations with which it cooperates.	<a href="https://eody.gov.gr/en">https://eody.gov.gr/en</a>



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This country profile is based on input received via [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BEREADY\\_Questionnaire\\_Observatory](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BEREADY_Questionnaire_Observatory) and desktop research and does not contain any private information