

ENSP FACT SHEET

Greece Tobacco Control Policies Implementation level

On 20 September 2016, Greece adopted the Law no. 4419/2016 in view of implementing the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD), related to the manufacture, presentation, and the sale of tobacco products and similar products.¹

The level of enforcement during the first years was limited. Although there were legislative restrictions for smoking in bars, restaurants and workplaces less than 50% were smoke-free. Smoking is banned in public transport (REFERENCE). Despite the slow progress, during the past few years the level of implementation of the smoke-free law is gradually improving.

Greece has one of the highest rates of smoking observed in the EU (37%), more than 12.000 children (10-14 years old) and 2.559.000 adults (15+ years old) continue to use tobacco each day. Complacency in the face of the tobacco epidemic insulates the tobacco industry in Greece and ensures that tobacco's death toll will grow every year. Tobacco control advocates must reach out to other communities and resources to strengthen their efforts and create change.²

Even though fewer people use smokeless tobacco on average in Greece than on average in very high-Human Development Index HDI countries, 18100 people still currently use smokeless tobacco, indicating an ongoing public health challenge, including heightened levels of oral cancers.³

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) implementation level Ratification: 27/01/2006 Entry into force: 27/04/2006

| Policy ⁴ | Status |
|---|--|
| Protection from tobacco smoke | |
| The comprehensiveness of protection in health-care facilities | Complete |
| The comprehensiveness of protection in educational facilities | Complete |
| Tobacco-related mortality | |
| Estimated total number of tobacco-related deaths | 25400 ⁵ |
| Taxation of tobacco products | |
| The proportion of the retail price consisting of taxes | 68% |
| Only specific tax levied | Yes |
| Only ad valorem tax levied | Yes |
| Combination of specific and ad valorem taxes levied | Yes |
| Supply of tobacco and tobacco products | |
| Tracking regime to further secure the distribution system developed | No |
| Sales of tobacco products to minors prohibited | Yes |
| Sales of tobacco products from vending machines prohibited | Yes |
| Sales of cigarettes individually or in small packets prohibited | Yes |
| Tobacco growing | |
| Viable alternatives for tobacco growers promoted | No |
| Number of workers | Family workers 45.000 - Seasonal workers 15.000 |
| General obligations | |
| Comprehensive multisectoral national tobacco control strategy | No |
| Focal point for tobacco control | Yes |
| National coordinating mechanism for tobacco control | Yes |
| Packaging and labelling of tobacco products | |
| Health warnings occupying 50% or more | Yes |
| Health warnings in the form of pictures or pictograms | Yes |
| Liability | |
| Criminal and/or civil liability action launched by any person | No |
| Education, communication, training and public awareness | |
| Implemented educational programs targeted to adults | Yes |
| Implemented educational programs targeted to children and youth | Yes |
| Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship | |
| Comprehensive ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship | No |
| Ban on display of tobacco products at points of sales | No |
| Ban covering tobacco sponsorship | No |
| Ban covering cross-border advertising originating from the country | No |
| Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation | |
| Evidence-based comprehensive and integrated guidelines developed | Yes |
| Implemented media campaigns to promote tobacco cessation | Yes |
| Implemented telephone quit lines | No |
| Primary health care providing programs on diagnosis and treatment | Yes, partially |
| Nicotine replacement therapy available | Yes, but not reimbursed |
| Surveillance | |
| National system for surveillance of patterns of tobacco consumption established | Yes |
| National system for surveillance of consequences of tobacco consumption established | Yes |

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Greece has put in place a ban on advertising of tobacco products on television and radio, in out-door advertisement, printed material such as newspapers, and international sponsorship. However, Greece does not have a ban on point of sales or display, national sponsorship or indirect advertising.

The country has also enforced pictorial health warnings on tobacco products covering 65% of the front and the back of cigarette and roll-your-own tobacco, following provisions of the TPD.

Raise taxes on tobacco: Greece has mixed excise tax, 68 % of cigarette price.

References:

- 1 Government Gazette Of The Hellenic Republic. September 20, 2016; Law No. 4419, Issue No. 174. First Issue. <http://www.tobaccocontrolaws.org/files/live/Greece/Greece%20-%20Law%20-No.%20 4419.pdf>. Accessed June, 2017.
- 2 FCTC Implementation Database: Greece 2016. <http://apps.who.int/fctc/implementation/database/parties/Greece#>. Accessed June, 2017. WHO FCTC Implementation Database: Greece Report 2018.
- 3 <https://tobaccoatlas.org/country/greece/>
- 4 https://untobaccocontrol.org/impldb/wpcontent/uploads/greece_2018_WHO_FCTC_report.pdf
- 5 <https://untobaccocontrol.org/impldb/greece/>
- 6 <https://www.who.int/teams/health-promotion/tobacco-control/who-report-on-the-global-tobacco-epidemic-2019>

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National Action Points:

Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies

Functional national assistance for surveillance of tobacco consumption and consequences surveillance. Despite this there is a huge need for comprehensive system of tobacco industry monitoring

Protect people from tobacco smoke from

Greece has smoking ban in all healthcare facilities, educational facilities, government facilities, indoor offices, restaurants, pubs and bars and public transport.

Offer help to quit tobacco use:

Greece does not have National Quitline, the cost of any first line pharmacotherapy is not covered but any type can be obtained from pharmacy. There is no national tobacco treatment training curricula for Health professionals provision, not in all hospital are offering help to quit tobacco use⁶.

Warn about the dangers of tobacco:

Greece does not have media campaigns emphasizing the importance of quitting and the harm of tobacco use, but implemented media campaigns to promote tobacco cessation for all genders and age categories⁵.

Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship:

Greece has a ban on tobacco advertising on television, radio, in cinema, outdoor advertising, printed material, but not in point of sales and internet, international and national sponsorship and indirect advertising⁶.

Raise taxes on tobacco:

The retail price for a pack of cigarettes in weighted-average price in Greece was 3,71€ as of 1 July 2019, retail price used as base of ad valorem component in ad valorem or mixed excise.

