

HISTORY OF GREECE

Greece has a history stretching back almost 4.000 years. The people of the mainland, called **Hellenes**, organised great naval and military expeditions, and explored the **Mediterranean** and the **Black Sea**, going as far as the **Atlantic Ocean** and the **Caucasus Mountains**. One of those expeditions, the siege of Troy, is narrated in the first great European literary work, Homer's Iliad. Numerous Greek settlements were founded throughout the Mediterranean, Asia Minor and the coast of North Africa as a result of travels in search of new markets.

During the **Classical period** (5th century B.C.), Greece was composed of city-states, the largest being Athens, followed by Sparta and Thebes. A fierce spirit of independence and love of freedom enabled the Greeks to defeat the Persians in battles which are famous in the history of civilization - Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis and Plataea.

In the second half of the **4th century B.C.**, the Greeks, led by Alexander the Great, conquered most of the then known world and sought to Hellenize it. In **146 BC** Greece fell to the Romans. In **330 A.D.** Emperor Constantine moved the Capital of the Roman Empire to Constantinople, founding the East-





ern Roman Empire which was re-named Byzantine Empire or Byzantium for short, by western historians in the 19th century. Byzantium transformed the linguistic heritage of Ancient Greece into a vehicle for the new Christian civilisation.

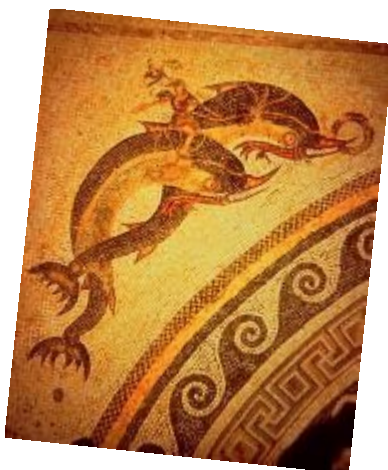
The Byzantine Empire fell to the Turks in **1453** and the Greeks remained under the Ottoman yoke for nearly 400 years. During this time their language, their religion and their sense of identity remained strong.

On March 25, **1821**, the Greeks revolted against the Turks, and by **1828** they had won their independence. As the new state comprised only a tiny fraction of the country, the

struggle for the liberation of all the lands inhabited by Greeks continued. In

1864, the Ionian islands were added to Greece; in **1881** parts of Epirus and Thessaly. Crete, the islands of the Eastern Aegean and Macedonia were added in **1913**

and Western Thrace in 1919. After World War II



Greece through the centuries

PREHISTORIC GREECE

During the Bronze Age three separate civilizations flourished in Greece: **the Cycladic**, during the third millennium; **the Minoan** based on Crete but with an influence that spread throughout the Aegean islands, and **the Mycenaean**, which was based on the mainland but spread to Crete in about 1450 BC when the Minoans went into decline. Both the Minoan and Mycenaean cultures found their peak in the Palace periods of the second millennium when they were dominated by a centralized religion and bureaucracy.



PREHISTORIC GREECE

■ Areas settled in the Bronze Age

THE DARK AGES AND ARCHAIC PERIOD

In about 1200 BC, Greece entered a period of darkness. There was widespread poverty, the population decreased and many skills were lost. A cultural revival in about 800 BC accompanied the emergence of the city-states across Greece and inspired new styles of warfare, art and politics. Greek colonies were established as far away as the Black Sea, present-day Syria, North Africa and the western Mediterranean. Greece was defined by where Greeks lived.



MEDITERRANEAN AREA, 479 BC



■ Areas of Greek influence

CLASSICAL GREECE

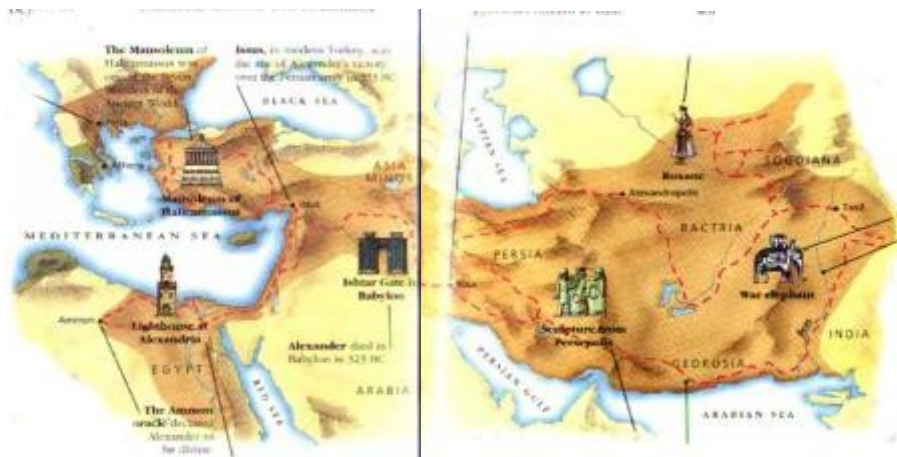
The classical period has always been considered the high point of Greek civilization. Around 150 years of exceptional creativity in thinking, writing, theater and arts produced the great tragedians **Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides** as well as the great philosophical thinkers **Socrates, Plato and Aristotle**. This was also a time at warfare and bloodshed however. The Peloponnesian War, which pitted the city-state of Athens and her allies, dominated the 5th century BC. In the 4th century Sparta, Athens and Thebes struggled for power only to be ultimately defeated by Philip of Macedon in 338 BC.




CLASSICAL GREECE, 440 BC

-  Athens and her allies
-  Sparta and her allies

HELLENISTIC GREECE



Alexander the  Alexander's empire **Great of Macedon** fulfilled his father Philip's plans for the conquest of the Persians. He went on to create a vast empire that extended to India in the east and Egypt in the South. The Hellenistic period was extraordinary for the dispersal of Greek language, religion and culture throughout the territories conquered by Alexander. It lasted from after Alexander's death in 323 BC until the Romans began to dismantle his empire in the mid-2nd century BC.

ROMAN GREECE

After the Romans gained control of Greece with the sack of Corinth in 146 BC, **Greece became the cultural center of the Roman Empire**. The Roman nobility sent their sons to be educated in the schools of Philosophy in Athens. The end of the Roman civil wars between leading Roman statesmen was played out on Greek soil, finishing in the battle of Actium in Thessaly in 31 BC. In AD 323 the Emperor Constantine founded the new eastern capital of Constantinople; the empire was later divided into the Greek-speaking East and the Latin-speaking West



ROMAN PROVINCES, AD 211

BYZANTINE AND CRUSADER GREECE

Under the Byzantine Empire which at the end of the 4th century succeeded the old Eastern Roman Empire, **Greece became Orthodox in religion** and was split into administrative *themes*. When the capital Constantinople fell to the Crusaders in 1204 Greece was again divided, mostly between the **Venetians and the Franks**. Constantinople and Mystras were recovered by the Byzantine Greeks in 1261, but the Turks' capture of Constantinople in 1453 marked the final demise of the Byzantine Empire. It left a legacy of hundreds of churches and a wealth of religious art.



BYZANTINE GREECE
IN THE 10TH CENTURY



VENETIAN AND OTTOMAN GREECE

Following the ottomans momentous capture of Constantinople in 1453, and their conquest of almost all the remaining Greek territory by 1460, the **Greek state effectively ceased to exist for the next 350 years**. Although the city became the capital of the vast Ottoman Empire, it remained the principal center of Greek population and the focus of Greek dreams of resurgence. The small Greek population of what today is modern Greece languished in an impoverished and under-populated backwater, but even there rebellious

bands of brigands and private militias were formed .The Ionian islands, Crete and a few coastal enclaves were seized for long periods by the Venetians -an experience more intrusive than the inefficient tolerance of the Ottomans, but one which left a rich cultural and architectural legacy.

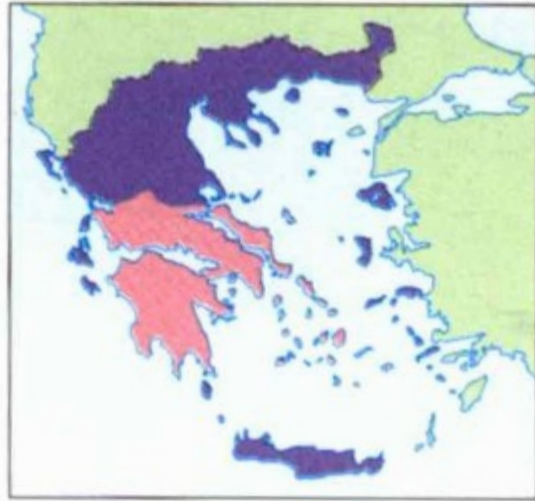


GREECE IN 1493

-  Areas occupied by Venetians
-  Areas occupied by Ottomans

THE MAKING OF MODERN GREECE

THE **GREEK WAR of independence** marked the overthrow of the Ottomans and the start of the '**Great idea**', an ambitious project to bring all Greek people under one flag (Enosis). The plans for expansion were initially successful, and during the 19th century the Greeks succeeded in doubling their national territory and reasserting Greek sovereignty over many of the islands. However, an attempt to take the city of Constantinople by force after World War I ended in disaster: **in 1922 millions of Greeks were expelled from Smyrna in Turkish Anatolia, ending thousands of years Greek occupation in Asia Minor.**



THE EMERGING GREEK STATE

- Greece in 1832
- Areas gained 1832-1923

Dodecanese islands were united with Greece in 1948

TWENTIETH-CENTURY GREECE

THE YEARS after the 1922 defeat by Turkey were terrible ones for the Greek people. The influx of impoverished refugees contributed to the political instability of the interwar years. The dictatorship of Metaxas was followed by invasion in 1940, then Italian, German and Bulgarian occupation and finally, the bitter civil war, between 1946 and 1949, with its legacy of division. After experiencing the **Cyprus problem** of the 1950s and the **military dictatorship of 1967 to 1974**, Greece is now an established democracy and a member of the European Union.

RODOS island. Short history

Rodos in the mythological tradition

Rhodes is one of the largest and most beautiful Greek islands. Its history begins long ago, in the mist of mythology. According to the myth, Rhodes is the island of Helios, the sun god, who, when Rhodes emerged from the azure sea, flooded it with his eternal light and made it the most beautiful island in the Aegean. The first inhabitants of Rhodes were the Telchines, skilled craftsmen with a particular talent for metal-working. After a flood, they were succeeded by the Heliads, legendary descendants of Helios, who devised a system of measuring time and rules for navigation.



Prehistoric Period

The role of Rhodes in the history of the eastern Mediterranean begins with the establishment there of settlers from Minoan Crete. Later, around 1400 BC, the island was colonised by Achaeans, who founded the city of Achaea on what was later to become the site of Ialysos.



The Dorian colonisation

In about 1100 BC the Dorians migrated to Rhodes under their leader Tlepolemos, who - according to tradition - shared out the island between the three cities of Ialysos, Lindos and Kamiros. In about 700 BC those three cities, together with the island of Kos and the cities of Cnidus and Halicarnassus on the coast of Asia Minor,

lis, founded the Dorian Hexapolis - an alliance which was later called the Pentapolis when Halicarnassus withdrew from



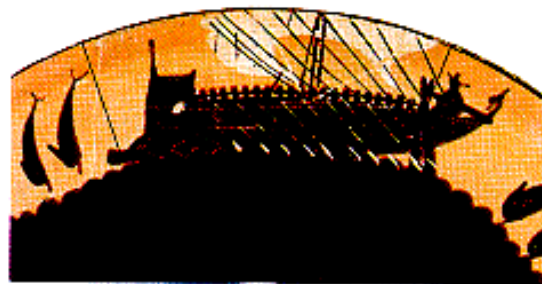
it.

Classical and Hellenistic Periods

-

The prosperity

This alliance or amphictyony survived until **408 BC**, when the new city of Rhodes began to be built. Their proximity to the East, with its monumental architecture, its colossal statues, its gold and silver works of art and the luxurious way of life of its wealthy princes, naturally had an effect on the Rhodians. Their activities in trade and in the founding of colonies were unparalleled for the time: fast Rhodian ships sailed to almost every corner of the Mediterranean, bringing home wealth and glory to their island. In order to ensure that navigation was properly ordered, the Rhodians introduced a system of international maritime law which was one of the most important early legal texts and was still used throughout the Roman period and down to Byzantine times. The arts and letters flourished, too, and in the 3rd century BC Rhodes was a major centre of learning, attracting young people from all over the known world. Distinguished Romans such as Cicero, Julius Caesar, Pompey and others studied rhetoric and philosophy in the famous schools in Rhodes town.



In the classical period, Rhodes was under the control now of Athens and now of Sparta-whichever of these two leading Greek cities happened to be more powerful at the time. In 408 BC, as we have seen, Ialysos, Lindos and Kamiros founded Rhodes city. When the power of Macedon began to rise, the Rhodians supported it and later helped Alexander the Great to found Alexandria in Egypt. Later, they refused to



fight on the side of Antigonus, one of Alexander's successors, against Ptolemy of Egypt, and as a result Antigonus' son Demetrius Peliorcetes laid siege to the own. The Rhodians were victorious, and to celebrate the defeat of Demetrius they dedicated the statue of the Colossus, by the Lindian sculptor Chares, to the sun god Helios. **The statue, 31 metres tall, was one of the Seven Wonders of the World.** In 226 BC, however, it collapsed in an earthquake.



Roman invasion- The decline

By **42 BC** Rhodes had entered a period of decline, and it was easily captured by the Roman general Cassius, who carried off many of its statues and other art treasures. After **50 AD**, St Paul made Rhodes into an important Christian centre. Later, it formed part of the Byzantine Empire. **In the centuries, which succeeded, invader followed invader and all left their traces: Persians, Saracens, and Genoese.**



Period of the Knights

There was again a period of prosperity **after 1309, when the Genoans sold the island to the knights of the Order of St. John.** The knights stayed in Rhodes for almost two centuries, leaving marked traces and giving the particular medieval atmosphere, which we can discern even today, with its strong walls, gates, churches, hospices, inns, and magnificent palaces. On 23 December **1522**, Villers de l' Isle Adam, the last Grand Master, was forced to surrender the city to **Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent** after a siege of six months. During this period, Lindos developed as a centre for handicrafts, and its pottery and embroidery were particularly famous.



Turkish and Italian Occupation Liberation

The Turks occupied Rhodes (and the rest of the Dodecanese) until 1912. The islands then passed to Italy, which acted like a liberator at first but eventually

SITES

Greece has a long and eventful history. It was part of each of the great empires - the Roman, the Byzantine and the Ottoman - that ruled the region. Greece has strong historical ties with southeastern and western Europe, Asia and Africa. At the crossroads of so many civilisations, Greece is gifted with a rich and fascinating cultural heritage.



REGIONS

CENTRAL GREECE

At the heart of Greece lies the oracle of Antiquity, **Delphi**. Running through central Greece is the rugged **Pindus** mountain range, with a peak of 2.637m (Mt. Smolikas). The dramatic mountain gorges and villages of **Epirus** rise above the plain of Thessaly, an agricultural heartland bordered by the Byzantine-era monasteries of **Meteora**



NORTH EASTERN GREECE

The port city of **Thessaloniki**, and the mountains and river plains of the north, have played a critical role in the history of South Eastern Europe. The **Chalkidiki Peninsula** is home to Mt. Athos (the **Holy Mountain**), a monastic state governed by the Greek Orthodox Church.

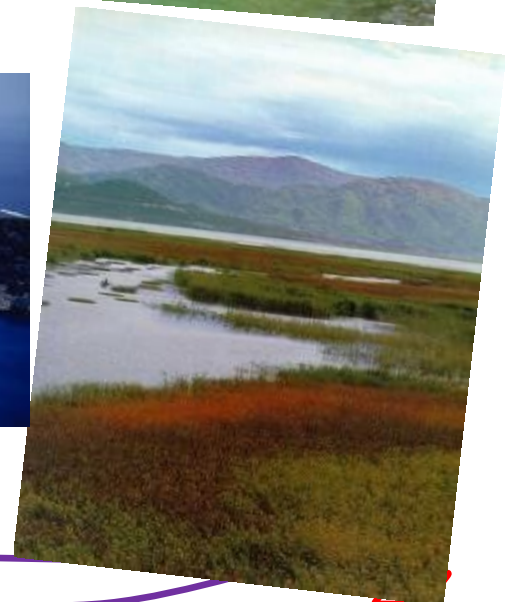


EASTERN GREECE

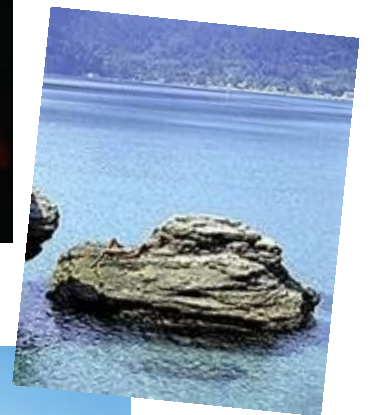
The plain of **Attica** (Attiki) was the site of Europe's first cities. Today, **Attica supports nearly half the Greek population**. The lush peninsula of **Pelion** is a land of cascading streams and beaches fringed by forests, and is topped by **Mt. Pelion**. The best known of eastern Greece's many mountains is **Mt. Olympus** (Olympos), fabled home of the **ancient gods**, which rises to 2,917m.



WESTERN GREECE's lakes and wetlands are vital to migratory birds and other endangered species. The **Ionian islands** have long been a commercial and cultural bridge between Greece and western Europe.




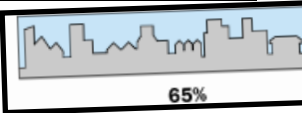
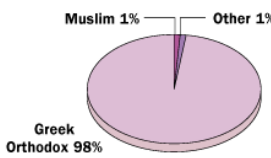
SOUTHERN GREECE The Peloponnese (Peloponissos) gave rise to many great cities of the ancient world, including **Mycenae, Sparta, and Olympia**, birthplace of the Olympic Games. A fertile region with a temperate climate, the Peloponnese is ideal for cultivating olives and vineyards. Southern **Mani** is renowned for its fiercely independent locals and stark landscapes.




The **2000 islands** of the archipelago share much common history and culture, but each has its own individual character. To the east of the mainland lie the **northern Aegean** islands and the **Sporades**. Further south, are the **Dodecanese**, and **Crete** (Kriti), the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean. The rocky **Cyclades** gave birth to ancient Cycladic civilization while the islands of the **Saronic Gulf** have a great seafaring tradition.



Statistics

CATEGORY	GREECE
TOTAL AREA	131.957 sq km
Mainland Greece	107.000 sq km
Islands	25.000 sq km
Beaches	30.000 sq km
DODECANESE 2.663 sq km	
POPULATION	10.542.000 
SEX DISTRIBUTION %	male 49,24 female 50,76
DENSITY per sq km	79,5
URBAN RURAL %	urban 65,7  35%
OFFICIAL NAME	Hellenic Republic
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	Unitary multiparty republic
CHIEF OF STATE	PRESIDENT: Stefanopoulos
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	PRIME MINISTER: Simitis
CAPITAL	Athens
MONETARY UNIT	1 drachma
OFFICIAL RELIGION	Christian (Eastern Orthodox)
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION %	Christian(Eastern Orthodox) 98,1 Muslim 1 Other 1
	
BIRTH RATE per 1000 population	9,7 (world average 25,0)
DEATH RATE per 1000 population	9,6 (world average 9,3)
MARRIAGE RATE per 1000 population	6,1
DIVORCE RATE per 1000 population	0,7
LIFE EXPECTANCY	MALE 74,6 FEMALE 79,4
TOURISM	1. receipts from visitors 3.980.000.000 EURO 2. expenditures by nationals abroad 1.270.000.000 EURO

EXPENDITURE %	Rent, food, beverages and tobacco	35,7
	transportation	14,7
	clothing and footwear	13
	housing	8,6
	education	6.5
	other	21,5
POPUL. ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE	40,2 %	
	unemployed	10 %
GPD	Primary (Agriculture)	12%
	Secondary (Industry)	30%
	Tertiary (Services)	58%
RAILROADS route length	2.474 km	
passengers per km	1.399.000.000	
ROADS total length	116.440 km	
VEHICLES passengers cars	2.204.761	
CAR OWNERSHIP 	1 in 5	
MERCHANT MARINE vessels 100 gross tons and over	2.128	
AIR TRANSPORT passengers-km	7.945.008.000	
airports	36	
TELEVISION RECEIVERS	1 per 4,5 persons	
RADIO RECEIVERS	1 per 2,5 persons	
TELEPHONES	1 per 1,9 persons	
FAX MACHINES per 1000 population	2	
COMPUTERS per 1000 population	33	
INTERNET per 10.000 population	12	

AIR TRANSPORT

Athinai, Athens
6.300.000 passengers per year



The easiest and cheapest method of transportation between the islands and the mainland is by boat. Greece has 444 ports, of which 123 are large enough to handle passenger or freight traffic. A major new airport at Spata, 20 km east of Athens, is to open in 2001 with a capacity of 16 million passengers a year. **Piraeus** is the country's main port.



THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK



29.400 km




420 km



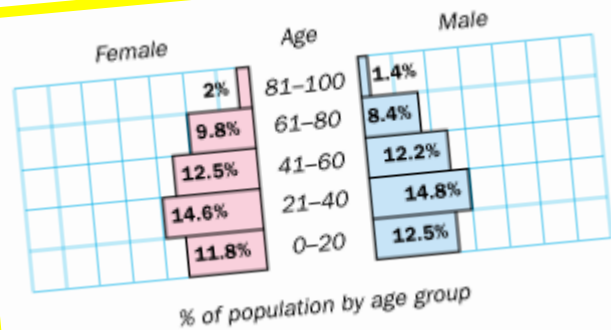
2.503 km



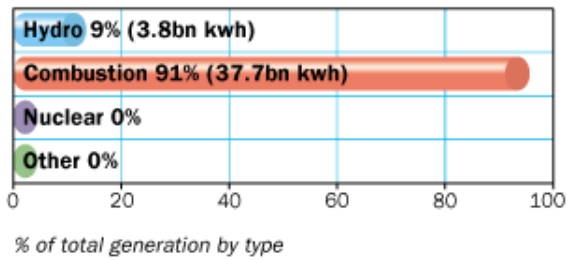
None

PERCENT ADULT LITERACY	97,3	
TOTAL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS	17	
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION (percent of GNP)	3,1	
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH (percent of GNP)	5,4	
INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD	US \$ 15.660 16.922 EURO	
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	2,9	
HOME OWNERSHIP	4 out of 5	

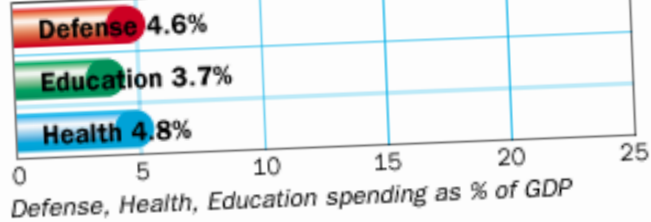
POPULATION BREAKDOWN



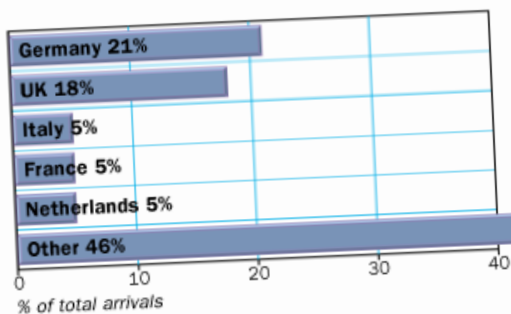
ELECTRICITY GENERATION



SPENDING



VISITORS

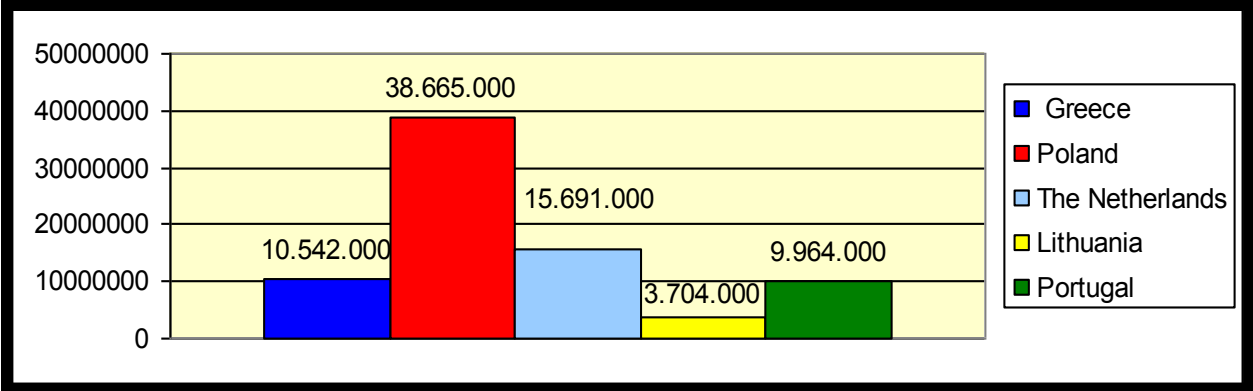


Tourism is a mainstay of the Greek economy, contributing some 15% to GDP, and a major source of foreign exchange.

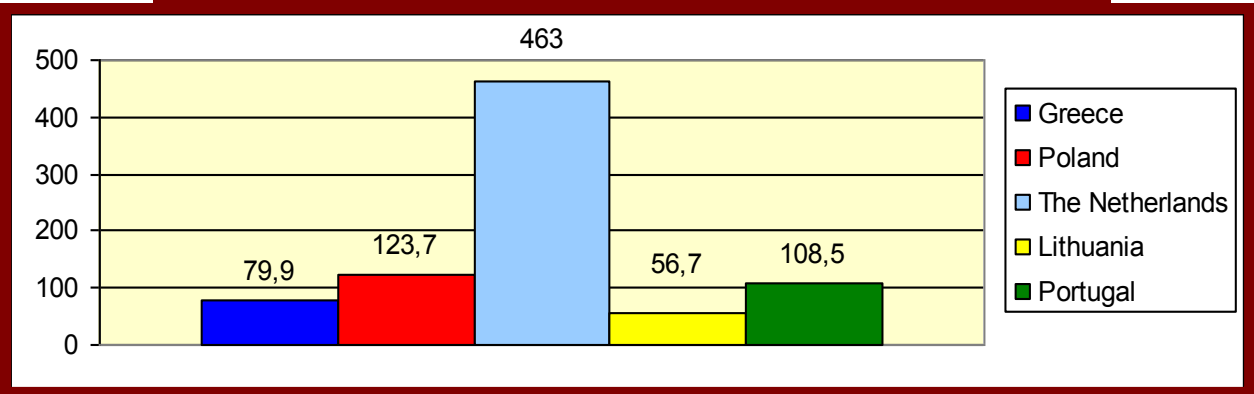
Comparative statistics

Made by George Papanikolas
B class

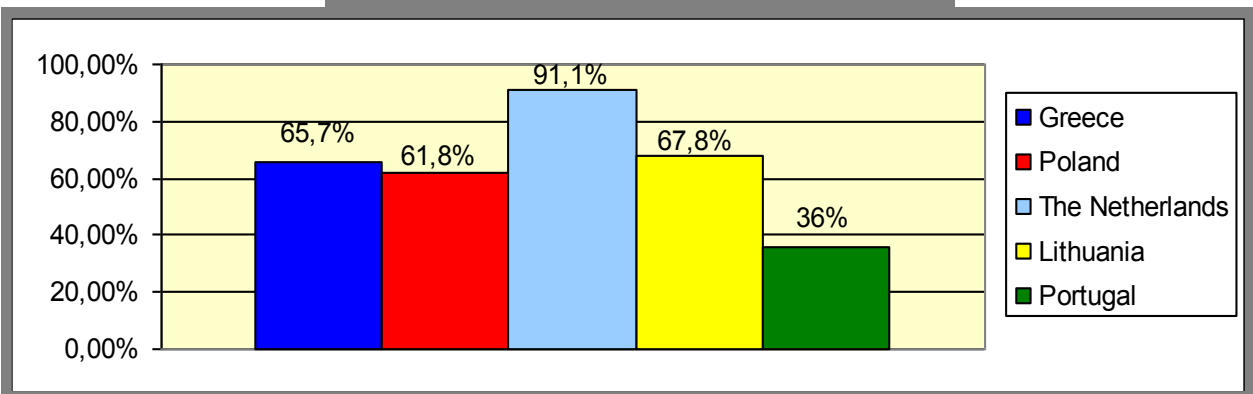
POPULATION



POPULATION DENSITY PER SQUARE KM

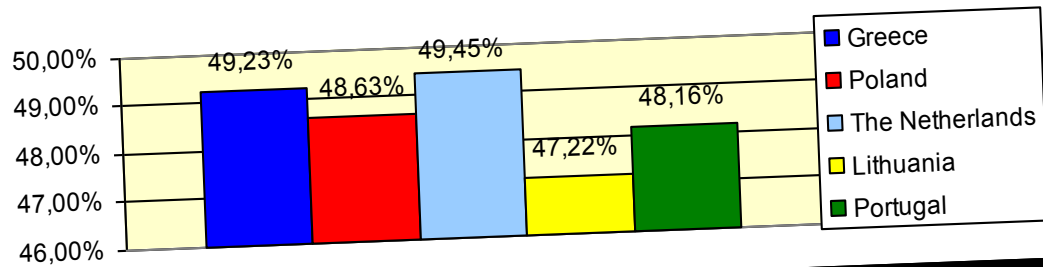


URBAN POPULATION

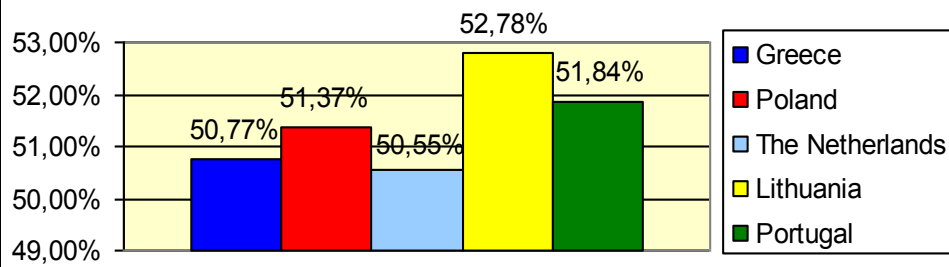


SEX DISTRIBUTION

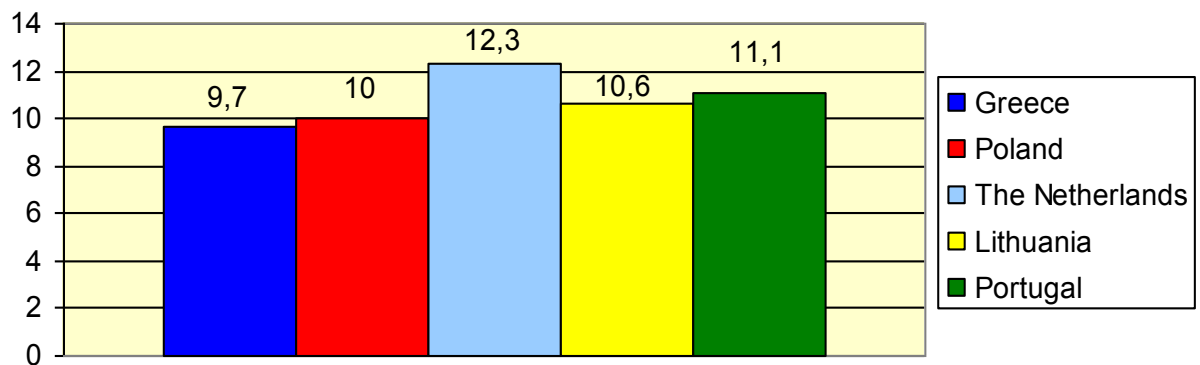
MALE



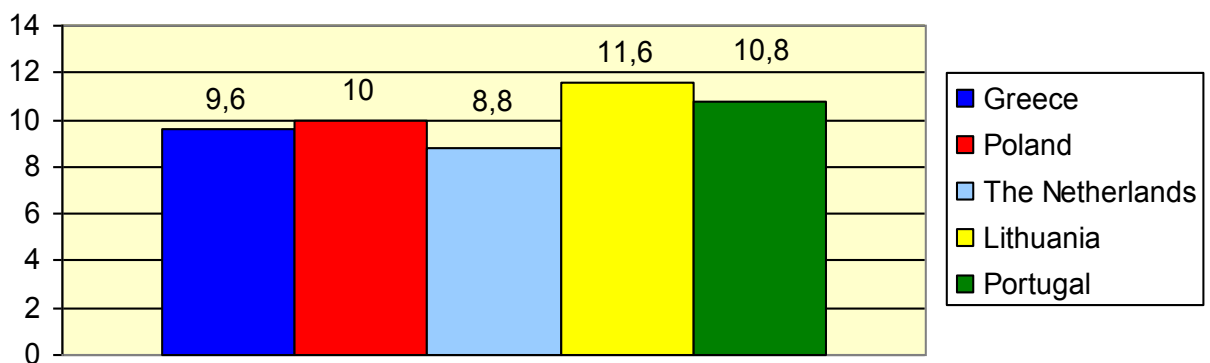
FEMALE



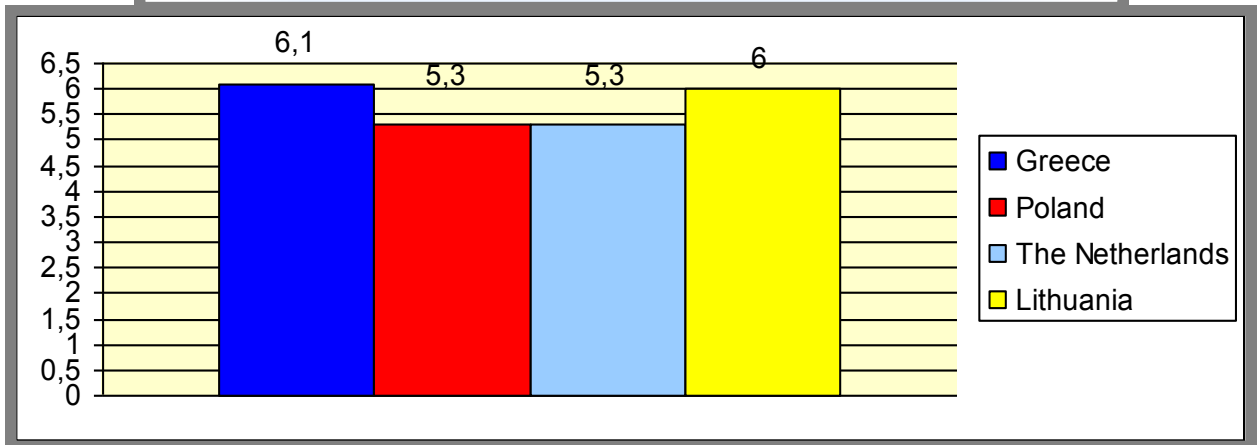
BIRTH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION



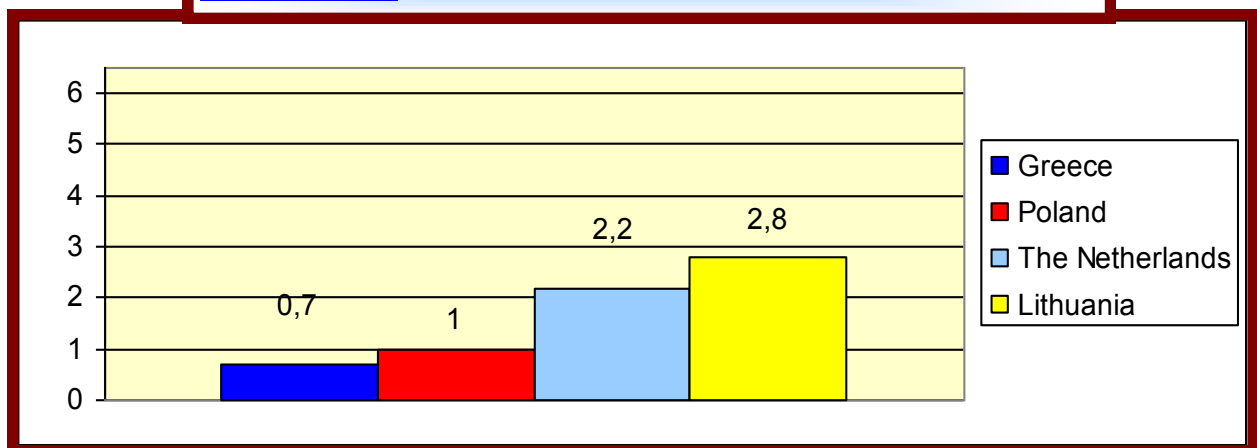
DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION



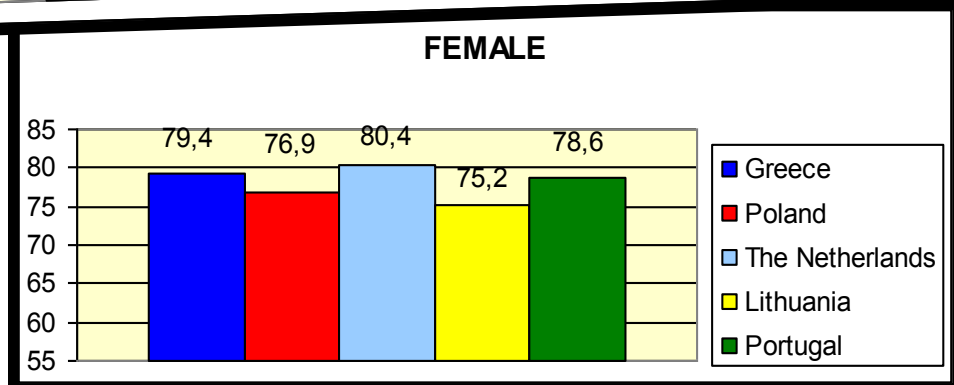
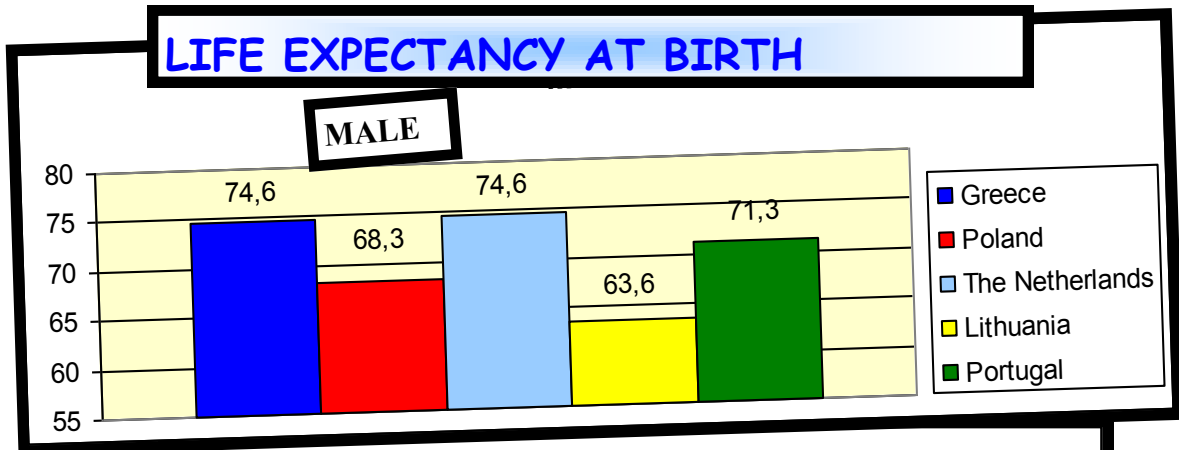
MARRIAGE RATE PER 1000 POPULATION



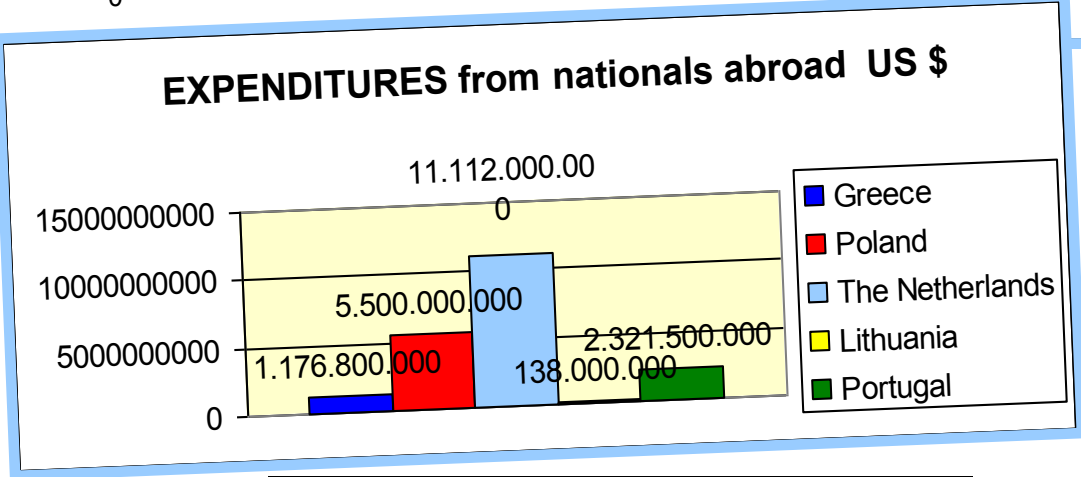
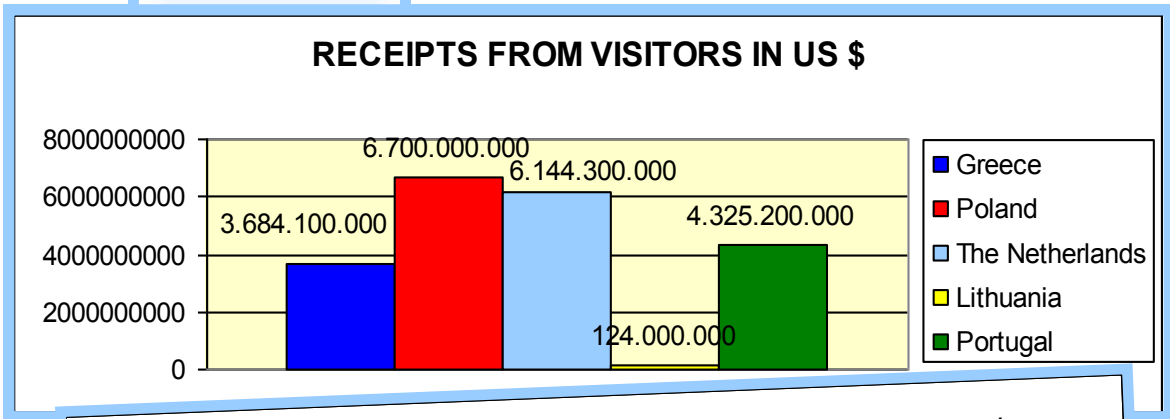
DIVORCE RATE PER 1000 POPULATION



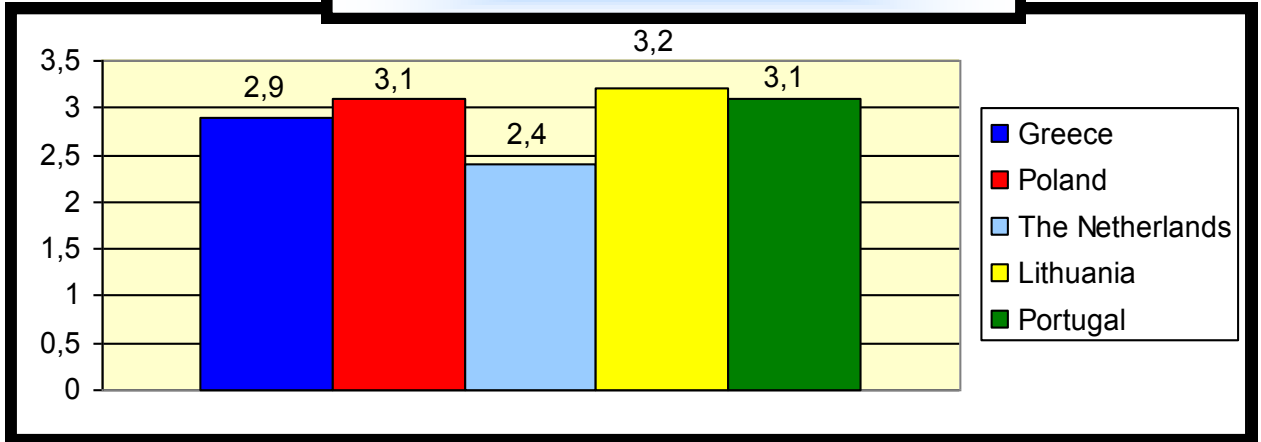
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH



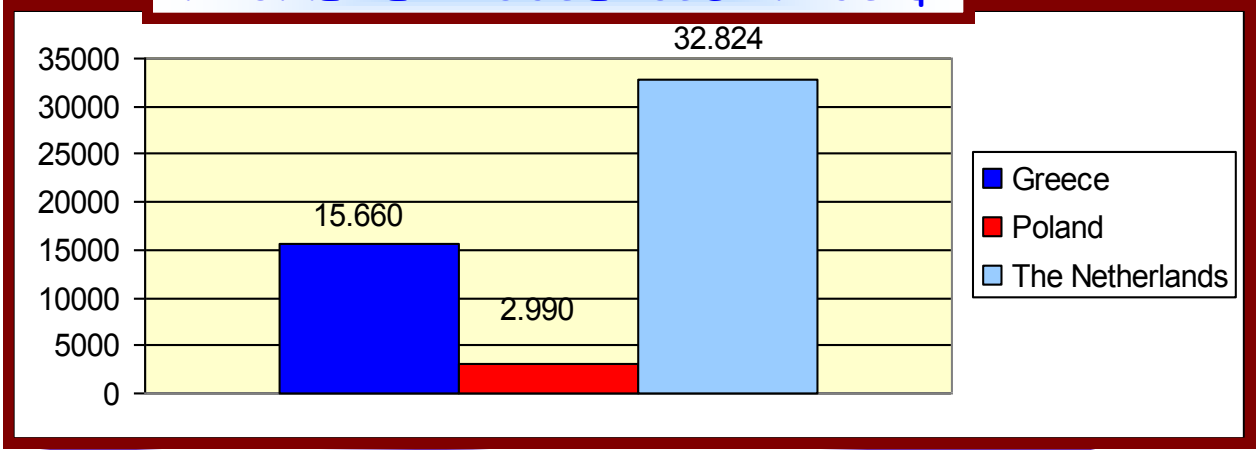
TOURISM



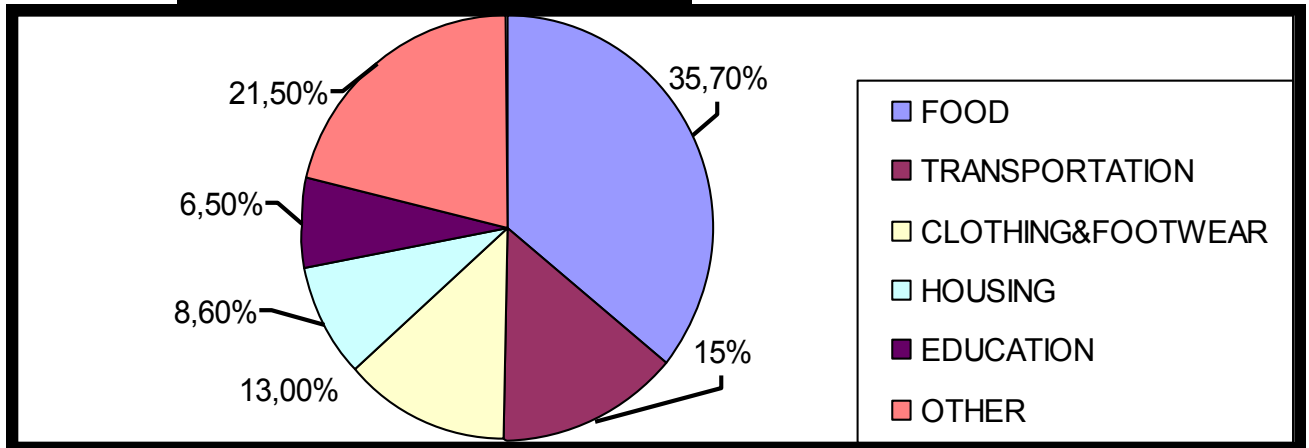
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE



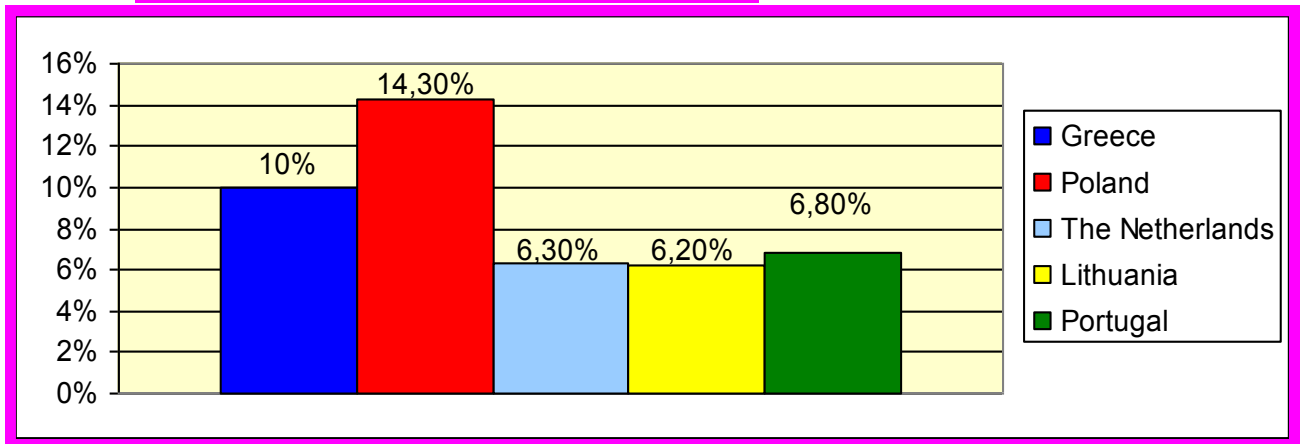
INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD IN US \$



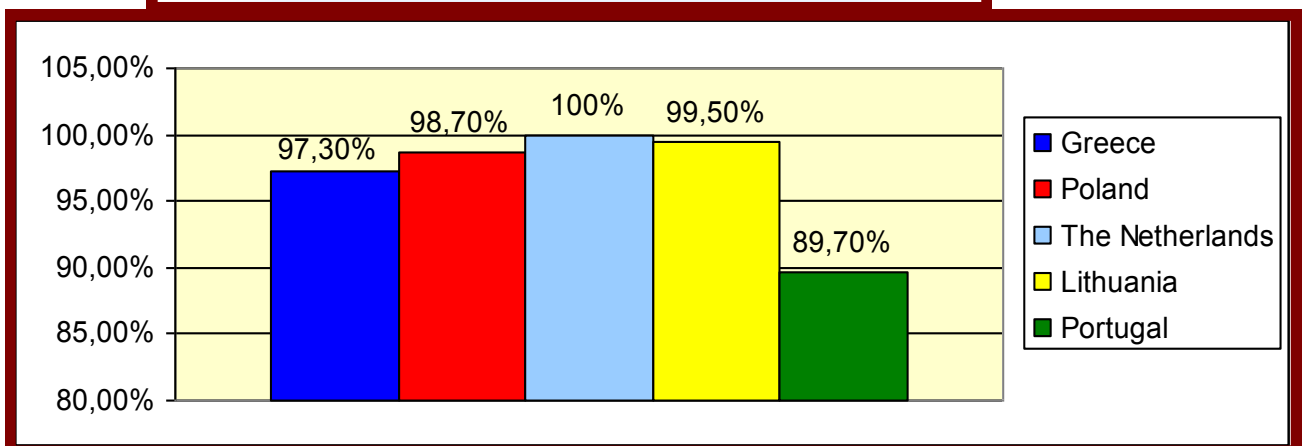
GREECE Expenditures



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

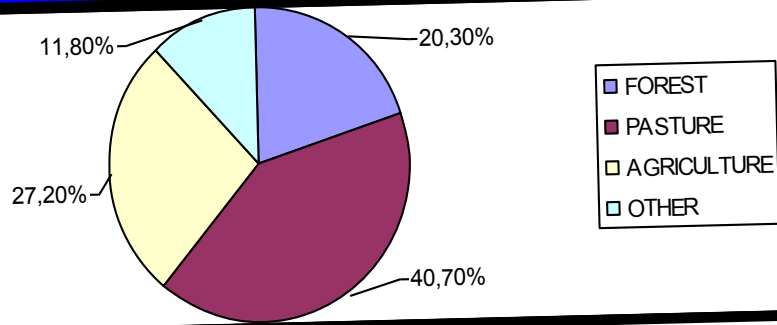


LITERACY RATE (Population over 15)

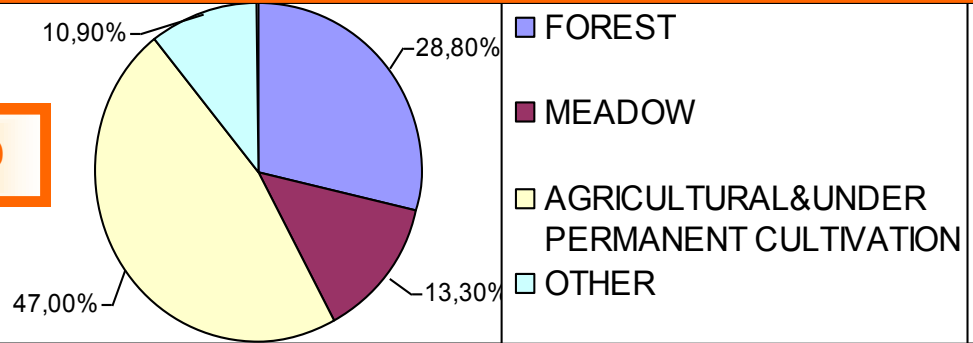


LAND USE

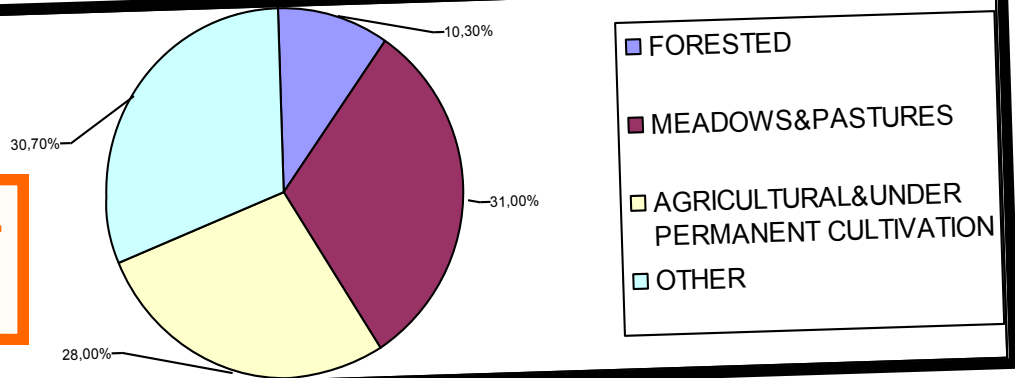
GREECE



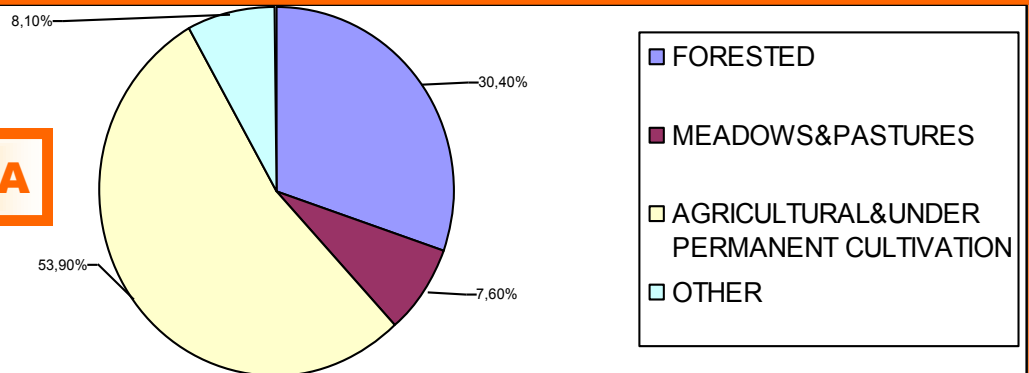
POLAND



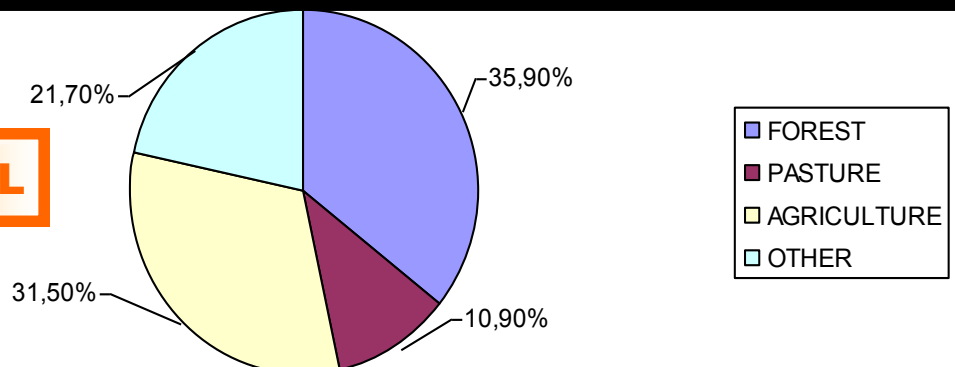
THE NETHERLANDS



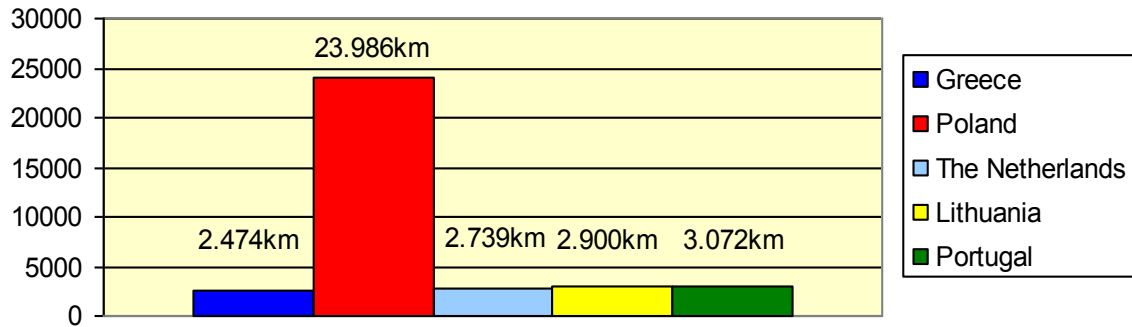
LITHUANIA



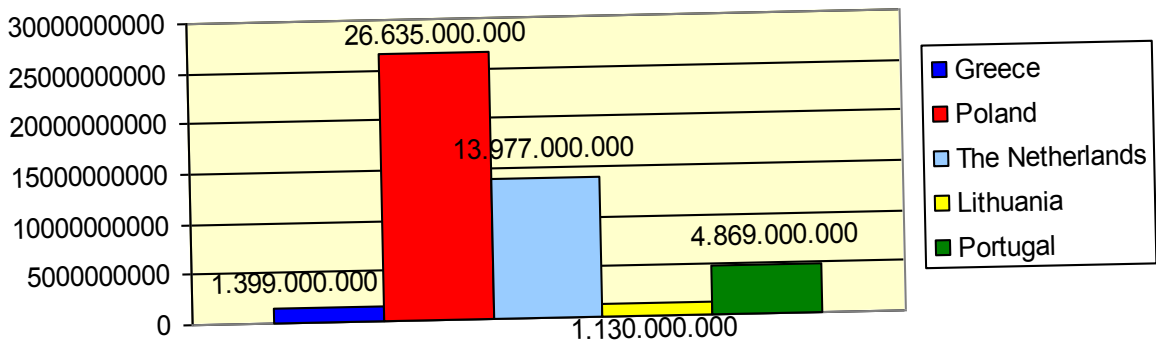
PORTUGAL



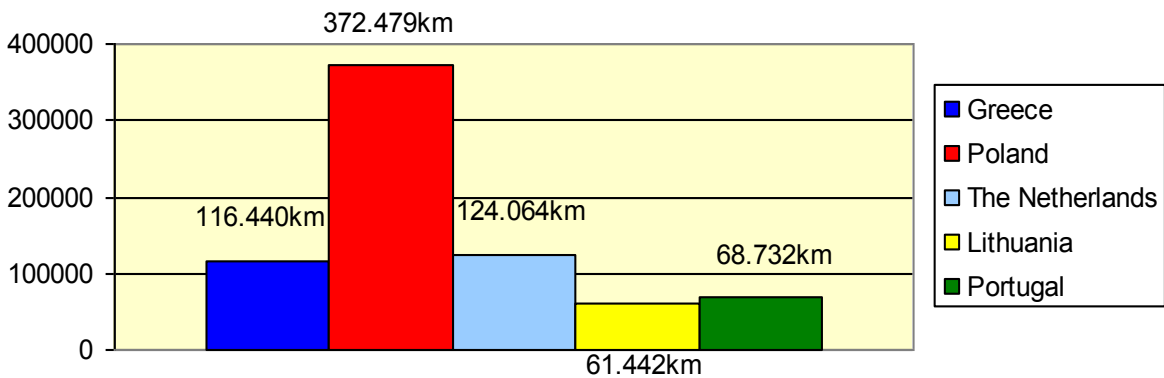
RAILROADS LENGTH



PASSENGERS per km

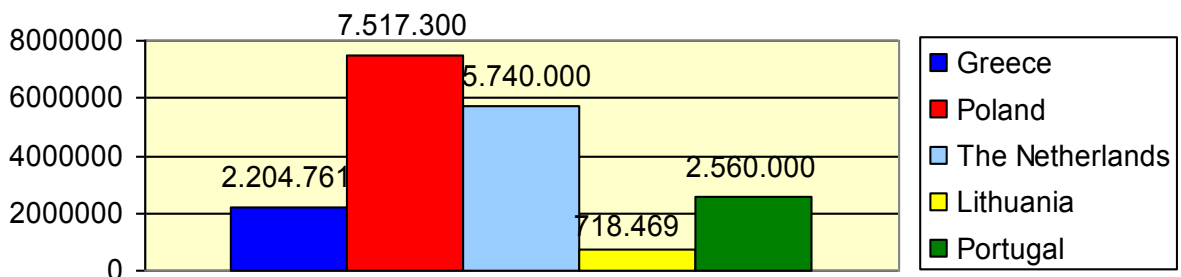


ROADS LENGTH



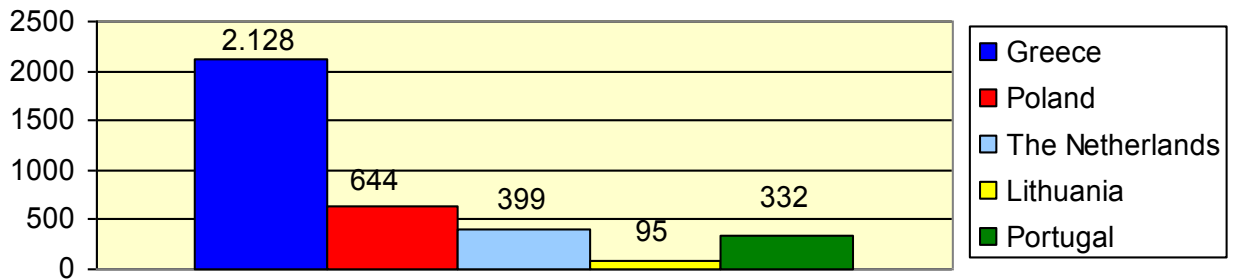
CARS

Passenger cars



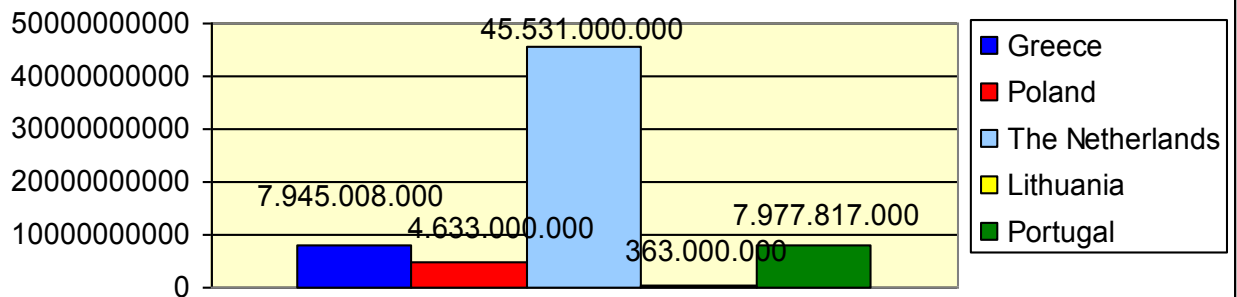
MERCHANT MARINE

VESSELS (100 gross tons and over)

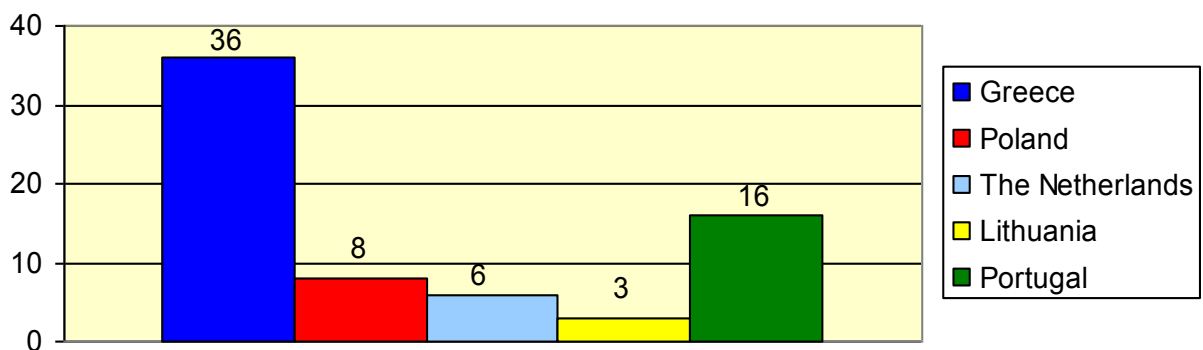


AIR TRANSPORT

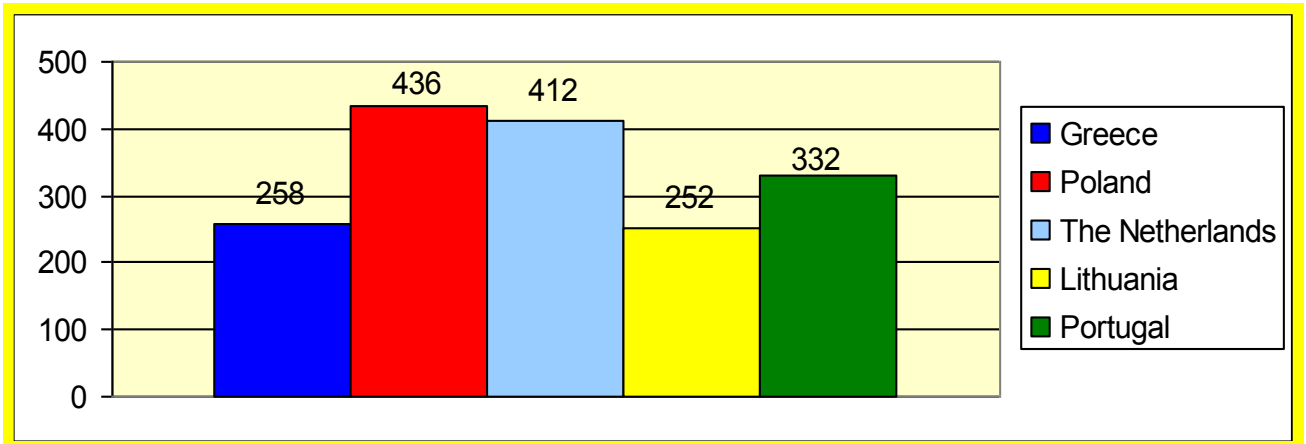
PASSENGER-KM



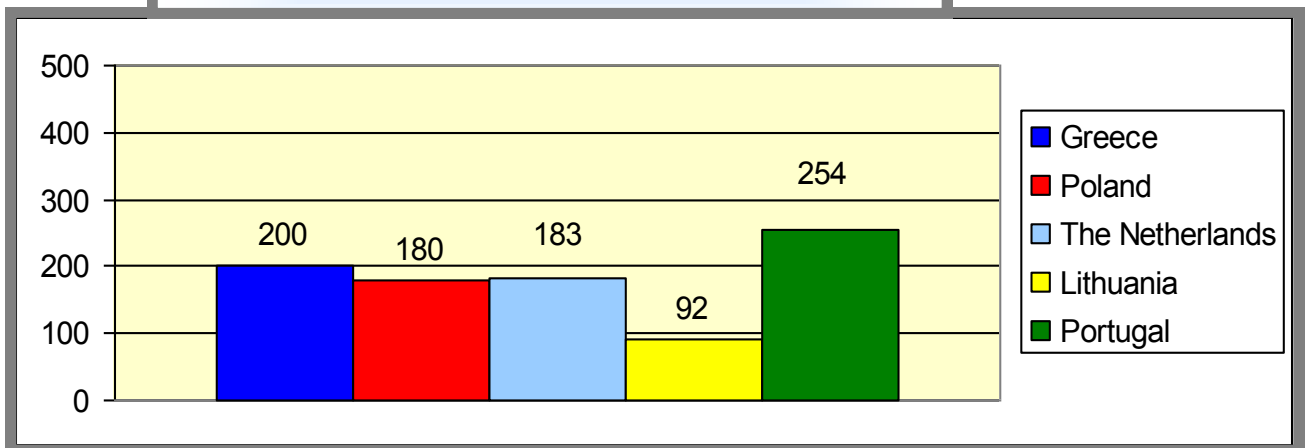
AIRPORTS WITH SCHEDULED FLIGHTS



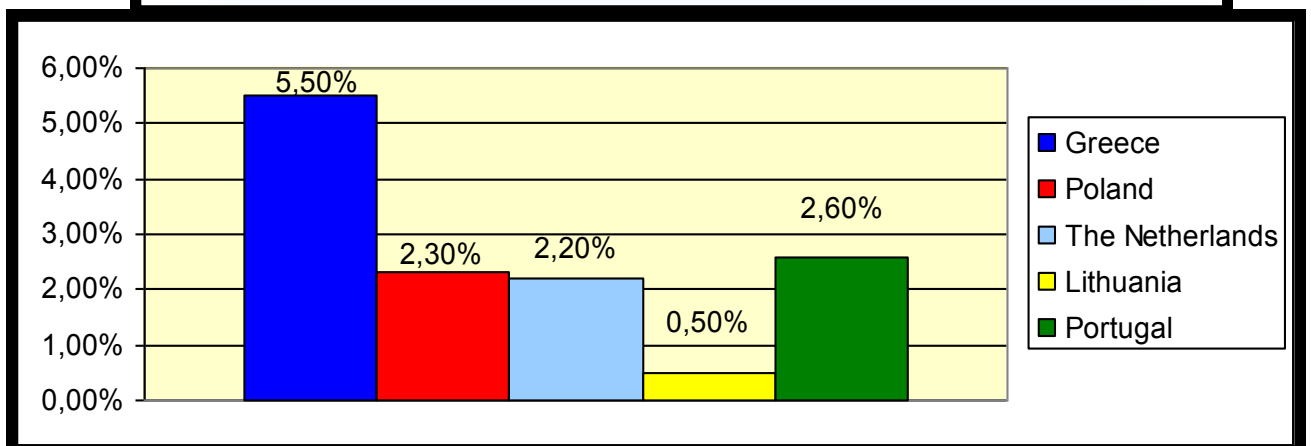
PHYSICIAN PER POPULATION



HOSPITAL BEDS PER POPULATION



MILITARY EXPENDITURE AS PERCENTAGE OF GROSS NATURAL PRODUCT (GNP)



Greek money

The unit of currency is the **drachma (GrD)**.
1 Euro is 340,7 GrD

There are notes of 10.000 GrD (purple), 5.000 (blue), 1.000 (brown), 500 (green) and 100 (red).



10.000 GrD



5.000 GrD



1.000 GrD



500 GrD



**500 GrD
(coin)**



200 GrD

There are coins of 5, 10 (silver), 20, 50 & 100 GrD (bronze).



Coca cola (250ml) is 350 drachmas = 1,03 Euro

Hamburger with cheese at Mc Donalds is 380 drachmas = 1,11 Euro



Levis 501 jeans are 25.000 drachmas = 73,35 Euro

Mobile NOKIA 3210 is 80.000 drachmas =



STAMPS FROM GREECE

