

# Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0)

(user oriented)

**Country:** Greece

**Compiling agency:** ELSTAT

**Domain name:**

## ELSTAT metadata

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1. Contact <a href="#">Top</a>	
1.1 Contact organisation	Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)
1.2 Contact organisation unit	Division of Sectoral Statistics (B5), Department of Health Statistics and Social Protection (B54)
1.3 Contact name	Evangelos Kokotas, Employee of the Department
1.4 Contact person function	Transmission and collection of questionnaires, checking and data entry, management of the software application for the Physicians-Dentists census, production of results, compilation and release of data tables.
1.5 Contact mail address	46, Peireos & Eponiton str., 185 10 Piraeus
1.6 Contact email address	<a href="mailto:e.kokotas@statistics.gr">e.kokotas@statistics.gr</a>
1.7 Contact phone number	+30 2131352133
1.8 Contact fax number	-

<b>2. Metadata update</b>		<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>2.1 Metadata last certified</b>	December 2020	
<b>2.2 Metadata last posted</b>	December 2020	
<b>2.3 Metadata last update</b>	September 2022	

<b>3. Statistical presentation</b>		<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>3.1 Data description</b>		
<p>The purpose of the survey on Physicians (medical doctors) and Dentists is to collect data on the number of physicians by speciality and on the number of dentists at the level of Regional Unit.</p> <p>Data are collected from administrative sources, specifically from the Medical and Dentists' societies all over Greece, hence the survey covers Greece in total.</p> <p>The survey is a census survey conducted on a yearly basis and the its results refer to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the reference year. The results of the survey are available and published on ELSTAT's website and on the website of international organizations such as Eurostat, OECD and WHO.</p>		
<b>3.2 Classification system</b>		
<p>The implemented classification system refers mostly to medical specialties at the level of Regional Unit. Using the NUTS classification, geographically the census is conducted and the results are presented at NUTS 3 level (Regional Unit).</p>		
<b>3.3 Sector coverage</b>		
All medical specialties are covered.		
<b>3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions</b>		
<p>The basic variable is "medical speciality" which covers all the existing medical specialties. It is fully compatible with the requirements of international standards, specifically with the Joint Questionnaire of EUROSTAT – OECD – WHO (Joint Data Collection on Non-Monetary Health Care Statistics).</p> <p>According to the international classification medical doctors are grouped into three categories:</p> <p>A) Physicians licensed to practice, B) Practising physicians and C) Professionally active physicians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on physicians which are produced by ELSTAT refer to the physicians classified in the first category, i.e., "Physicians licensed to practice".</li> <li>Physicians licensed to practice are those who practice medicine and those who do not practice medicine but are officially registered and licensed to practice medicine as health care professionals. This includes: Medical doctors that provide health care activities directly to patients, medical doctors who are obliged to be medically trained prior to their practising medicine, medical doctors who are not obliged to be medically trained prior to their practising medicine, physicians licensed to practice but due to various reasons are not economically active (eg. unemployed or pensioners), medical doctors working abroad and other.</li> </ul>		
<b>3.5 Statistical unit</b>		
The statistical unit is the "medical doctor" (physician) and the "dentist" of Greece.		
<b>3.6 Statistical population</b>		
The statistical population is all the medical doctors and dentists of Greece that are licensed to practice medicine.		
<b>3.7 Reference area</b>		
Greece total.		
<b>3.8 Time coverage</b>		
The survey results that are published on ELSTAT's website cover the years from 1999 until 2020.		

### 3.9 Base period

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## 4. Unit of measure

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Unit of measure is the number of physicians and dentists.

## 5. Reference period

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The 31<sup>st</sup> of December of each reference year.

## 6. Institutional mandate

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### 6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

- The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:
  - **Law 3832/2010** (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "*Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority*", as amended and in force
  - **Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority** (ELSTAT), 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012)
  - **Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council**, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
  - **Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006** (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "*National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions*".
  - **Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006** (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): "*For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization*".
  - **European Statistics Code of Practice**, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
  - **Presidential Decree 226/2000** (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): "*Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece*".
  - **Articles 4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996** (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): "*Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece*".
- The Legal Framework is detailed in the following link: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework>

### 6.2 Data sharing

Data are collected in cooperation with Eurostat, the World health Organization (WHO) and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Since 2010 a survey is conducted using the Joint Questionnaire on non-Monetary Health Care Statistics of Eurostat- OECD- WHO-Eurostat.

## 7. Confidentiality

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### 7.1 Confidentiality - policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Law 3832/2010 as in force, by Articles 8, 10 and 11(2) of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and by Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

More precisely: ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-confidentiality?inheritRedirect=true>

## 7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

- ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or

b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

- The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.
- ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:
  - a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;
  - b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;
  - c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.
- Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:
  - the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
  - the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
  - the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.
- The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.
- Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.
- ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.

## 8. Release policy

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### 8.1 Release calendar

On December each year are announced data concerning the previous year.

### 8.2 Release calendar access

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/calendar#12018>

### 8.3 User access

According to the legal framework of the European Community, ELSTAT publishes statistical data on the Physicians-Dentists Survey on it's website at: «Statistics> Population and Social Conditions> Health> > Health Care> Physicians and Dentists», in order for all independent users to have access. Consequently, all users are treated equally. Users with further requests on data apart from those which are published on ELSTAT's website, have to address in written or via e-mail the Division of Statistical Information and Publications and in case the requested data are available or do not confront the European Statistics Code of Practice and its provisions on persona data protection, data is provided either electronically or in written within a short period of time. Moreover, statistical data are transmitted electronically on a regular basis (every year) to international organizations such as Eurostat, WHO and OECD through the Joint Questionnaire.

Finally, users have no access to data before their release.

## 9. Frequency of dissemination

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The frequency of dissemination is annual.

## 10. Accessibility and clarity

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### 10.1 News release

Yearly on the 20<sup>th</sup> December.

### 10.2 Publications

The results of the survey on Physicians -Dentists of ELSTAT are published in the Statistical Yearbooks of ELSTAT.

- 1) «Statistical Yearbook of Greece». It is provided to subscribers for a fee or after an application to the Hellenic Statistical Authority.
- 2) «Concise Statistical Yearbook of Greece». ». It is provided to subscribers for a fee or after an application to the Hellenic Statistical Authority.

All above mentioned data are available upon request at:

Division of Statistical Information and Publications  
46, Peiraeus & Eponiton str., 185 10 Peiraeus  
Tel. (+30) 213-1352173  
e-mail : [data.dissem@statistics.gr](mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr)

Moreover, apart from ELSTAT's website, data are available to international organizations such as Eurostat – Physicians per 100.000 residents at NUTS1 level and Dentists per 100.000 residents at NUTS1 level, OECD - Number of Physicians (Physicians of Greece – OECD) and WHO - Health at a Glance (World Health Statistics) etc.

Further information on Physicians and Dentists can also be found in other publications of ELSTAT such as “Living Conditions in Greece”, etc.

<b>10.3 On-line database</b>
Users can find more data on the survey on Physicians -Dentists on ELSTAT's website at: <a href="http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SHE09/">http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SHE09/-</a>
<b>10.3.1 Data tables - consultations</b>
Total access to the website as regards the above survey for the year 2021 amounts to 4562 hits.
<b>10.4 Micro-data access</b>
The micro data are available upon request at: Division of Statistical Information and Publications 46, Peireos & Eponiton str., 185 10 Piraeus Tel. (+30) 213-1352173 e-mail : <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a>
Due to confidentiality reasons, access to micro data is allowed only under strict conditions, fully observing the relevant process.
<b>10.5 Other</b>
<a href="http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/">http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/</a>
<b>10.5.1 Metadata – consultations</b>
Not calculated. The latest data were validated on December 2021.
<b>10.6 Documentation on methodology</b>
The methodological notes used in this survey are those already adopted by the international organizations (Eurostat, WHO, OECD) such as the <u>"Guidelines for completing the OECD/Eurostat/Who-Europe Questionnaire 2011"</u> .
<b>10.6.1 Metadata completeness – rate</b>
100%.
<b>10.7 Quality documentation</b>
No quality report is compiled.

<b>11. Quality management</b>		<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>11.1 Quality assurance</b>		
<p>Controls on data in order to assure quality mainly refer to comparisons (through logical checks) of data of the current year with the corresponding data of previous years at the level of Regional Unit (NUTS 3). In cases – though rare- where there is significant difference within the time series, the data provided are confirmed after communication with the responsible agency.</p>		
<p>Usage of parallel data sources when it is possible (as for instance, comparison of statistical data at the level of the Regional Unit deriving from the local Dentist's Society and from the Pan Hellenic Dentist's Society), also contributes to the quality of the produced survey results.</p>		
<b>11.2 Quality assessment</b>		
<p>The quality of the statistical data of the survey on Physician-Dentists usually depends on the response of data providers.</p>		

<b>12. Relevance</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>12.1 User needs</b>	
<p>Users are basically individual users or agencies relating to health issues for professional or training research purposes.</p> <p>Moreover, the results of the survey are transmitted to international organizations, such as Eurostat, OECD and WHO.</p>	

<b>12.2 User satisfaction</b>
<a href="http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey">http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey</a>
<b>12.3 Data completeness</b>
Completeness of the survey is considered satisfactory.

<b>13. Accuracy and reliability</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>13.1 Overall accuracy</b>	
The overall accuracy of the survey on Physicians - Dentists is considered satisfactory.	
<b>13.2 Sampling error</b>	
Data refer to census survey. There are no sampling errors.	
<b>13.3 Non-sampling error</b>	
<p>Non-sampling errors relate to the response rate of the respondent Medical and Dentist Societies. The response rate is about 100%. Moreover, for some of the societies that have responded some of the questions items are likely to remain unanswered (item non-response).</p> <p>There are no coding errors, and errors during data entry are traced and corrected with logical checks. The inability of several societies to provide additional data for their members which correspond to new variables (such as the categorisation of physicians to physicians licensed to practice, practising physicians and professionally active physicians, or the distribution of resident physicians), creates problems to the level of responsiveness of the survey to the information needs on whole sets of variables expressed by International Organisations such as OECD/WHO and Eurostat.</p> <p><b><u>13.3.1 Coverage error</u></b></p> <p>The survey is a census survey, therefore there are no coverage errors.</p> <p><b><u>13.3.1.1 Over-coverage – rate</u></b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b><u>13.3.1.2 Common units – proportion</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><b><u>13.3.2 Measurement error</u></b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b><u>13.3.3 Processing error</u></b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b><u>13.3.4 Model assumption error</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>	

<b>14. Timeliness and punctuality</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>14.1 Timeliness</b>	
The final results are published approximately 330 days after the end (31/12) of the reference year.	
<b>14.2 Punctuality</b>	
Results are usually published on time and the statistical product is updated.	

<b>15. Coherence and comparability</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>15.1 Comparability - geographical</b>	
<p>There is geographical comparability since all Regional Units use the same definitions.</p> <p>Comparability at international level is ensured since the basic variables are the medical specialties which cover the total of practising medical specialties. Variables are harmonized with the requirements of the</p>	



international standards and follow the joint questionnaire EUROSTAT-OECD-WHO (Joint Data Collection on Non – Monetary Health Care Statistics).

#### **15.1.1 Assymetry for mirror flows statistics – coefficient**

N/A

#### **15.2 Comparability over time**

The produced data are comparable over time.

#### **15.3 Coherence cross-domain**

There is internal coherence between the results of the survey on Physicians-Dentists and the results of the Labour Force Survey that is conducted by ELSTAT every quarter.

##### **15.3.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics**

N/A, the survey is conducted on a yearly basis.

##### **15.3.2 Coherence – National Accounts**

N/A, there are no common variables with the National Accounts.

#### **15.4 Coherence - internal**

Variables of the census have internal coherence. ELSTAT's questionnaire has not typically changed before and after the year 2013 in relation to the produced statistics with the exception of small differences (eg. at a time where a new medical speciality that did not exist before has been added).

### **16. Cost and burden**

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Not calculated.

### **17. Data revision**

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#### **17.1 Revision policy**

The survey adheres to the Revision policy of ELSTAT posted on ELSTAT's website at:  
<http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/a49dca9a-dacf-4b52-b5df-b156216cb354>

#### **17.2 Revision practice**

ELSTAT's revision policy is implemented.

### **18. Statistical processing**

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#### **18.1 Source data**

The primary data of the survey on Physicians-Dentists census are based on administrative sources and are provided by the local Medical and Dentist Societies of the country. They are collected by the Regional Units (the Health Departments) and are sent to ELSTAT via post or email for the completion of the survey.

#### **18.2 Frequency of data collection**

Data are collected on an annual basis.

#### **18.3 Data collection**

Hardcopy questionnaires of the survey are sent by post or email to the Health Departments of the Regional Units of the country and from there, they are transmitted to local Medical and Dentist Societies. After having completed them, they send them back to the Regional Units, which then transmits them to the Head Office of ELSTAT.

#### **18.4 Data validation**

Qualitative and quantitative checks are carried out on the data of the survey on Physicians -Dentists. Primary data are mainly checked for chronological consistency. Cases that are examined are those with significant differences from year to year related to the total number of Physicians and Dentists per Regional Unit.



### 18.5 Data compilation

Primary data are processed in order for the final table of data to be compiled containing the number of medical doctors per specialty mainly by grouping similar specialties having a limited number of members, to broader ones. For instance, Microbiologists and Haematologists are presented in the table under one category, namely “Microbiologists –Haematologists”, etc.

In cases where there is no response by a medical society for one variable of the survey, either data re used from other sources, when possible, or the data are estimated on the basis of the general trend of that variable, in accordance with the value of the same variable during the previous year.

#### **18.5.1 Imputation – rate**

Imputation rate for the year 2020 is 0% on both Physicians and Dentists.

### 18.6 Adjustment

No adjustments are conducted.

#### **18.6.1 Seasonal adjustment**

N/A

## 19. Comment

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