

Greece

Ethnicity in Greece

Group selection

Politics in Greece are based on the image of a unified nation of Greeks. Consequently, the existence of ethnic minorities in Greece is denied by the government. According to the US Department of State, “the government continued to place legal restrictions on the names of associations involving certain ethnic minorities” in 2009 (1827). Due to the hostile state policy, there is no official data on ethnic minorities in Greece. Nevertheless, we identify the following ethnic groups as politically relevant in addition to **Greeks: Macedonians, Muslims, and Roma**.

¹⁸²⁷ [US Department of State, 2010]

Power relations

1946-2017

Greeks hold a monopoly on power during the entire period. Based on the repressive state policy of denial towards ethnic minorities, all minorities could be considered as discriminated. No ethnic minorities are represented in the cabinet of Greece (1828; 1829).

¹⁸²⁸ [Tovima, 2015]

¹⁸²⁹ [US Department of State, 2016]

In contrast to the other groups, the Turk/Pomak minorities enjoy some degree of political rights due to the status as a combined Muslim minority. The existence of the Muslim minority in Greece was recognized by the Treaty of Lausanne (1923). Under the treaty, “the Turkish minority of Thrace was granted a wide array of rights to ensure protection of their religion, language, culture, and equality before the law” (1830). Muslims are not represented politically with their own party, but there are some Muslim parliamentarians - though without claiming their Muslim identity in the political space. This implies that Muslims are powerless in Greece.

¹⁸³⁰ [Greek Helsinki Monitor, 2014]

Macedonians are discriminated. According to the Greek Helsinki Monitor, the Macedonian minority faced severe discrimination after WWII, and parts of them lost their citizenship (1831). Forced assimilation tactics were used: “The authorities pressured many villages to stage public swearing-in ceremonies in which they pledged never to use again the Macedonian language”. Although the situation has improved, “there is [still] no education in Macedonian, not even any teaching of the Macedonian language in the public schools of villages and towns with large, if not exclusive, Macedonian population”(1832). In 1998, the government refused to allow the registration of the group “Home of Macedonian Culture” as an

¹⁸³¹ [Greek Helsinki Monitor, 2014]

¹⁸³² [Greek Helsinki Monitor, 2014]

association in accordance with the provisions of the civil code. The ECHR ruled against the government's denial of the organization's registration, but in June 2009 the Supreme Court upheld the court decision to deny the group legal registration (¹⁸³³). This state of affairs continued through 2013 (¹⁸³⁴). On the other hand, there are legal restrictions on any organization using the term Macedonian in its name in order to self-identify (¹⁸³⁵). Since the existence of the Macedonians as an ethnic group is not recognized by the Greek state, they are coded as "discriminated".

The discrimination of the Roma in Greece is more pronounced than in some of the neighboring countries. Parts of the Roma population in Greece "are stateless, having never been provided with the most fundamental recognition of participation in society - citizenship" (¹⁸³⁶, p. 4). Roma are denied the right to establish their camps close to urban areas (¹⁸³⁷, 4-5). As the US Department of State notices, "the law prohibits the encampment of wandering nomads' without a permit and forces Roma to establish settlements outside inhabited areas and far from permanent housing" (¹⁸³⁸). In 2013, "[a]pproximately one-third of the Romani population was not registered to vote" (¹⁸³⁹). This pattern persisted in the 2015 election, where an unknown number was not registered (¹⁸⁴⁰). Thus, the Roma are coded as "discriminated".

¹⁸³³ [Greek Helsinki Monitor, 2014]

¹⁸³⁴ [US Department of State, 2013]

¹⁸³⁵ [US Department of State, 2016]

¹⁸³⁶ [European Roma Rights Center, 2003]

¹⁸³⁷ [European Roma Rights Center, 2003]

¹⁸³⁸ [US Department of State, 2010]

¹⁸³⁹ [US Department of State, 2013]

¹⁸⁴⁰ [US Department of State, 2016]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Greece

From 1946 until 2017

| Group name | Proportional size | Political status |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Greeks | 0.96 | MONOPOLY |
| Roma | 0.017 | DISCRIMINATED |
| Macedonians | 0.013 | DISCRIMINATED |
| Muslims | 0.01 | POWERLESS |



Figure 347: Political status of ethnic groups in Greece during 1946-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Greece

From 1946 until 2017

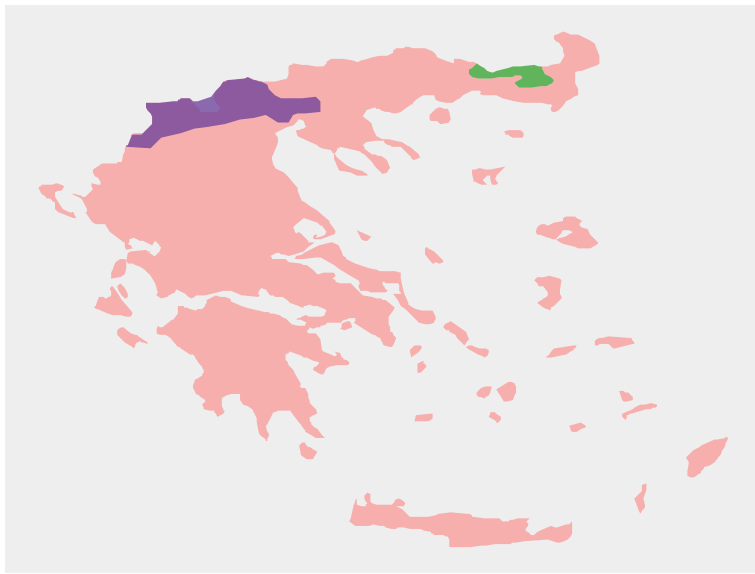


Figure 348: Map of ethnic groups in Greece during 1946-2017.

| Group name | Area in km ² | Type |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| █ Greeks | 127 646 | Statewide |
| █ Macedonians | 8366 | Regionally based |
| █ Muslims | 1551 | Regionally based |
| Roma | | Dispersed |

Table 115: List of ethnic groups in Greece during 1946-2017.

Conflicts in Greece

Starting on 1946-03-30

| Side A | Side B | Group name | Start | Claim | Recruitment | Support |
|----------------------|--------|-------------|------------|-------|----------------|---------|
| Government of Greece | DSE | Greeks | 1946-03-30 | No | Yes, from EGIP | Split |
| Government of Greece | DSE | Macedonians | 1946-03-30 | No | Yes | Yes |