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**POVERTY AND ANTI-POVERTY POLICIES IN GREECE
AND A COMPARISON WITH OTHER MEDITERRANEAN
EU MEMBER-STATES**

Abstract

Poverty in Greece has been analysed thoroughly in recent years. The relevant studies show that poverty in Greece is closely associated with old age, residence in rural areas, low educational qualifications and, to a lesser extent, with lack of employment or employment in the agricultural sector. Since the mid-1970s poverty declined in both absolute and relative terms, but still remains higher than in most EU member-states. Then, the few existing anti-poverty policies are outlined and comparisons are attempted with the situation prevailing in the rest of the EU. The paper concludes that the relevant experience of Greece is not as unique as sometimes claimed in the public discourse and that considerable similarities can be found with the rest of the Mediterranean EU member-states.