



Finding a job in GREECE

Over the past few years, Greece has been making headlines with its financial crisis. Tough and unpopular austerity measures have been implemented by the government, and the economy seems to be going slowly back on track.

The principal body for the promotion of employment is the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED). It has 118 employment promotion centres (EPC or EPC2) throughout Greece and staff to whom unemployed people can turn to find a job and receive guidance. They also organise active employment, self-employment and retraining programmes to improve the qualifications of unemployed people. The OAED also has Greek EURES advisers who speak foreign languages and are specially trained. Their job is to help job seekers find work in an EU country and to fill the job vacancies that employers in the European area have available. Furthermore, they provide support and guidance to nationals of EU countries who are looking for work in Greece, informing them about the job market and assisting them in their job search. They also provide information and act as an intermediary between job seekers and employers as part of the European Jobs Network.

Unemployed people can also find work through private employment agencies which are authorised by the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs and mediate in finding employment. Mediation does not entail any financial burden for employees. The cost is borne by employers on behalf of whom the private employment agencies act as intermediate. Newspapers are also an important source of information. Advertisements for managerial and specialist staff are usually published both in Greek and English. Small ads, papers and newspapers with employment pull-outs can be found at kiosks. Moreover, both on social media (in particular [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)) and on the internet in general there are numerous websites, both private

and public, advertising jobs in various sectors in Greece. Surfing the internet and searching the ads are extremely popular ways of finding work in Greece. Both the OAED and private employment agencies have web portals or job search engines to provide information and assistance to job seekers, who may also submit their CVs electronically via the above portals to a register which can be accessed only by employers. The EURES web portal is currently the most developed job search engine of its kind.

Certain universities, or other entities, often organise career fairs mainly for graduates and students in the last year of their studies, at which job seekers can establish direct contact with interested employers. Using social networks and asking friends and acquaintances whether they know of an employer who is looking for staff is often a good way of finding a job. Searching specific companies' websites for job vacancies corresponding to your interests and skills and then sending off your CV electronically is another good way of finding employment matching your qualifications.

Taxpayer Identification Number

After finding a job and relocating to Greece, you should then apply for a taxpayer identification number (ΑΦΜ, short for *Αριθμός Φορολογικού Μητρώου*), as you need this number to complete many other daily transactions in Greece such as opening a bank account and setting up your utilities. You need to apply for your identification number at your [local tax office](#). In addition to filling out [Form M1](#), you also need to bring your passport. You should check with your local tax office to see if additional documents are required, such as your birth certificate, marriage certificate or visa.

Social Security in Greece

As in many other European countries, social security contributions are mandatory in Greece. These contributions are deducted directly from your paycheck. Both employers and employees contribute a share to the social insurance system. These contributions help finance the healthcare system as well as other benefits, such as pension and unemployment benefits. The employee contribution is about 16% of one's salary, while the employer pays about twice that amount.

The largest public social security organization in Greece is the Social Insurance Institute (IKA — *Ιδρυμα Κοινωνικών Ασφαλίσεων*), which covers about 50% of the workforce. The second and third largest social insurance providers are OGA, which insures those employed in the agricultural sector, and OAEE, the insurance company for the self-employed.

Please visit the website of the [Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Welfare](#) (in Greek) for up-to-date information on any changes in the laws and regulations regarding the Greek social security system.

AMKA – Your Social Security Number

In order to take advantage of your social security benefits, you will need to apply for an AMKA (*Αριθμος Μητρώου Κοινωνικής Ασφάλισης*), or social security, number. You can apply for this number at your nearest KEP (Citizens Service Center) or AMKA office. You will need to bring your passport and your certificate of familial situation (*Πιστοποιητικό Οικογενειακής Κατάστασης*) with you. This certificate verifies your family status and can be requested through the KEP.

If you already possess a similar document, it must be officially translated into Greek. A birth certificate must be submitted for dependent minors. You will then be issued an AMKA card. It is important not to confuse this number with your taxpayer identification number, as these are two separate numbers in Greece. See the [AMKA website](#) for further important information.

Websites:

- <http://www.kariera.gr>
- <http://www.skywalker.gr>
- <http://www.careerjet.gr>
- <http://www.psaxnodouleia.gr>
- <http://www.jobs.gr>