

# OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN GREECE IN CREATIVE AND CULTURAL SECTORS DURING THE COVID-19

## Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has led Culture in an unprecedented state of emergency, imposing, for more than a year, the halting of all cultural activities. The global health crisis has changed the status quo in our lives, in our means of living, in the social and cultural fabric, by introducing new balances.

The cultural sector was the first to be affected by the global prohibition measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic: Museums, monuments, archaeological sites, cultural and art galleries, cinemas, theaters, galleries ceased to operate. The measures of total prohibition, the "suspension" of cultural life, as required by the instructions of experts, were implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

The health crisis has paralyzed the modern, global and national, cultural industry, imposing a suspension or cancellation of any kind of activity. The immediate consequence was the revelation of decades of structural pathogenesis. Let us not forget that the cultural industry, according to Eurostat data, 3.7% of total employment in the European Union - proportionally in Greece - forming a dynamic sector of economy and development.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, special programmes with clear developmental characteristics were prepared, along with the support programs in the form of allowances and aid in full cooperation with the competent Ministries of Economy, Labour and Development. To date, the cultural sector has been supported with more than EUR 350 million. euro.

The health crisis has led professionals in the field to redefine the classic ways of contacting the public and to "think alternatively". The potential of modern technology and the Internet was fully exploited to keep the relationship with the public alive. There has been a sharp increase in

traffic to the available digital cultural indexes and the websites of museums and cultural sites worldwide.

Greek museums, seeking to keep themselves active, accelerated the online promotion of their content, following the model of international institutions, in an effort to access remotely, with simulations, virtual tours, but also with the free provision of multimedia applications, websites and educational programs. The use of digital applications has shown that culture can be kept "alive" by making it easily accessible. The pandemic has highlighted the multiple options offered by Art, not only in the development of skills and creative expression, but also in quality entertainment.

In May 2020, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, after the gradual lifting of restrictive measures, attempted, to open the cultural infrastructure and the places of live entertainment and listening by meticulously applying the safety protocols.

Greece inaugurated the institution "All Greece one Culture" taking into consideration the huge advantage of our country, to be able to host actions of contemporary creation in archaeological sites and monuments. 251 performances were hosted in 111 archaeological sites and museums in 38 regional units of the country. More than 1,200 creators and 500 supporting staff were employed. The Greek National Opera inaugurated the institution by presenting from the Roman Agora, for the first time in live streaming, the recital of Anita Ratsvelisvili, sending from Athens a message of hope and optimism to the whole world. The Athens and Epidaurus Festival was the only one in Europe that gave performances, exporting also for the first time live streaming ancient tragedy from the theatre of Epidaurus.

In Greece, there has never been such a great debate about the sustainability of cultural spaces and the ways of their audience participation, as during the pandemic. Although all the effects of the health crisis have not yet been fully assessed, it is a given that the emergence and management of Art and Culture - cultural heritage and contemporary creation - has entered a new historical era.

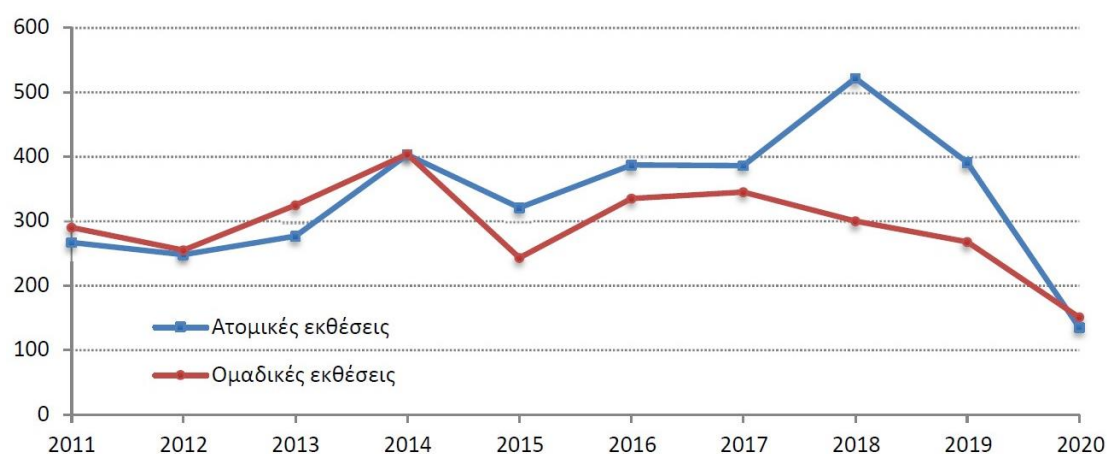
## Statistics Reports

### Exhibitions

Below you can find different statistics reports on how certain sectors of the cultural industry have been affected.

The Art Gallery Survey is an annual census survey and records the Individual and Group exhibitions held in art galleries and other art spaces regarding the number of exhibitions (individual and group) by type (painting, sculpture, photography, etc.), the number of works exhibited and the number of artists who participated.

The following are tables with data describing in detail the individual and group exhibitions, which took place during the last decade (Graphs 1).



Graph 1: Total number of Individuals and Group Exhibitions

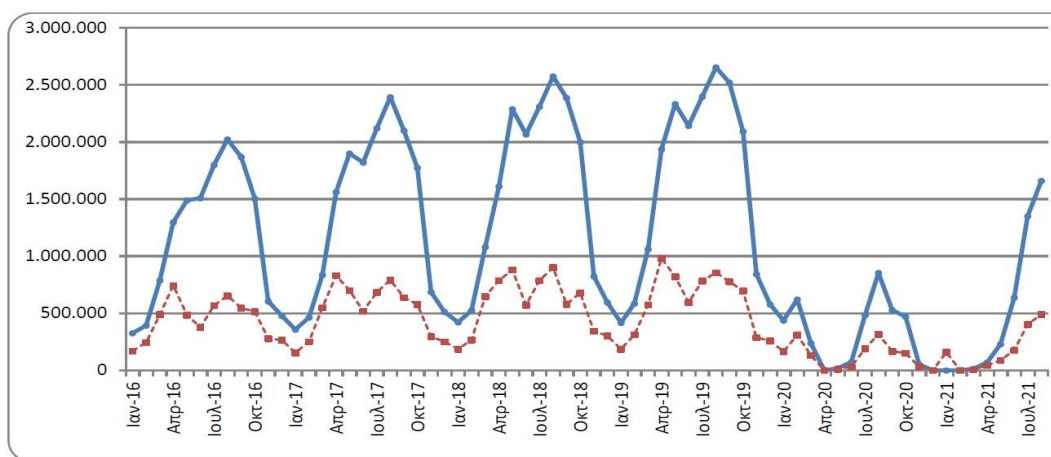
— Individual Exhibitions      — Group Exhibitions

### Museums & Archeological Sites

About the situation in museums we can see that during the eight months of January - August 2021 there is an increase compared to the corresponding period of the year 2020 by 26.0% for museum visitors, a decrease of 4.3% for visitors with free entry, while an increase of 108.9% is observed in the corresponding receipts, given the suspension of operation of the Museums from March 14, 2020 to June 16, 2020 and gradually from the 1 November 2020 to 13 May 2021, in application of

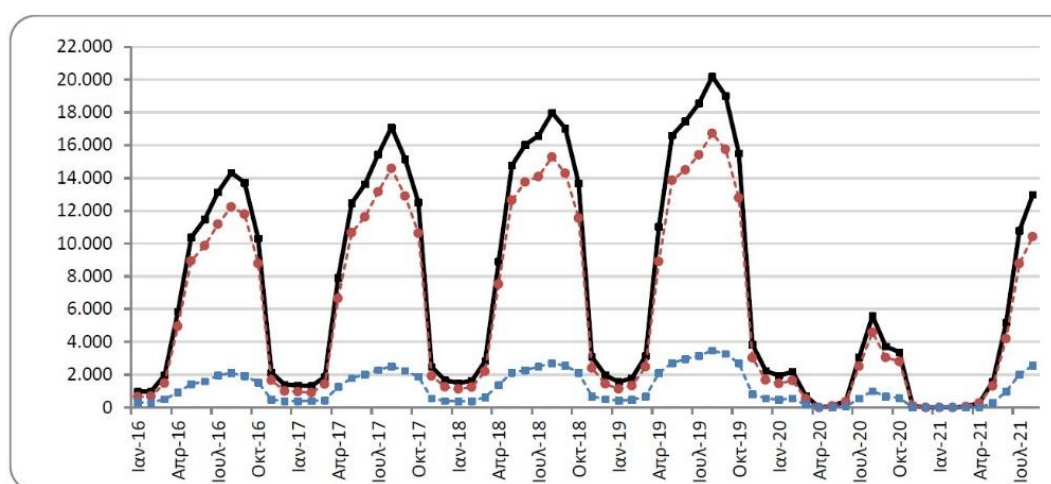
the measures taken to address of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19) (Table 1).

- Archaeological sites, during the eight months of January - August 2021, there is an increase compared to the corresponding period of the year 2020 by 53.9% to visitors, by 9.3% to visitors free entry and by 124.2% in the corresponding receipts, given the suspension of operation of the Archaeological sites from March 14 to May 17, 2020 and again from November 7 2020 by 21 March 2021 in implementation of the measures taken to address the pandemic of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) (Table 1).



Graph 2: Museums and Archeological Sites Visitors (January 2016 – August 2021)

— Total Visitors      · - - Free Entry Visitors



Graph 3: Revenue of Museums and Archeological Sites (January 2016 – August 2021) (thousands of €)

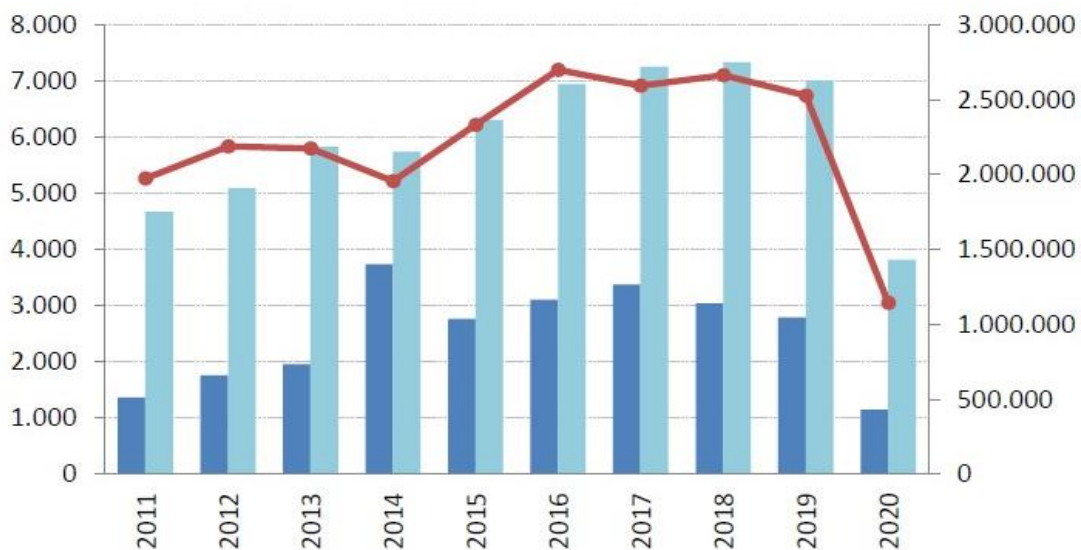
— Total Revenue      - - Revenue of Archeological Sites      — Revenue Museums

TABLE 1: Visitors Museums and Archeological Sites - Revenue

NUMBER OF VISITORS				
Museums – Archeological Sites	2019	2020	JANUARY	AUGUST
			2020	2021
<b>Total Number of visitors (A+B)</b>	<b>19.559.278</b>	<b>3.772.828</b>	<b>2.725.377</b>	<b>3.957.379</b>
A. Museums (C+E)	5.895.927	1.100.904	849.973	1.071.033
B. Archeological Sites (D+F)	13.663.351	2.671.924	1.875.404	2.886.346
<b>Total Number of Visitors with Tickets</b>	<b>12.434.987</b>	<b>2.268.397</b>	<b>1.570.975</b>	<b>2.750.434</b>
C. Museums	3.345.997	605.426	447.473	685.725
D. Archeological Sites	9.088.990	1.662.971	1.123.502	2.064.709
<b>Total Number of Visitors with Free Entry</b>	<b>7.124.291</b>	<b>1.504.431</b>	<b>1.154.402</b>	<b>1.206.945</b>
E. Museums	2.549.930	495.478	402.500	385.308
F. Archeological Sites	4.574.361	1.008.953	751.902	821.637
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>130.938.846</b>	<b>21.176.036</b>	<b>13.967.007</b>	<b>30.884.834</b>
Museums	23.343.026	4.047.401	2.797.926	5.844.932
Archeological Sites	107.595.820	17.128.635	11.169.081	25.039.902

#### National & Municipal Theaters & Orchestras

From the results of the survey of the year 2020, regarding the activity of the National, Municipal Theatres and Orchestras compared to the corresponding year 2019 there is a decrease in by 58.9% in the number of works, by 45.6% in the number of performances and by 54.7% in the number of performances and by 54.7% in the number of performances.



Graph 4: National – Municipal Theaters and Orchestras, 2011-2020

— N. of Plays(left) — N. of performances (left) — N. of spectators(right)