

ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX **EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS** EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE **EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN** DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΔΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI **DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING** ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVINIKOV **EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV** EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIH LIJEČNIKA ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ ASOCIATIA EUROPEANĂ A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE

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Author :	Dr Konstantinos Koumakis, Panhellenic Medical Association
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# NATIONAL REPORT OF GREECE TO THE AEMH PANHELLENIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# AEMH-FEMS General Assembly, 12-14 May 2022, Austria

Total increase in the budget for 2021 for health, ranges at the level of 2,4% compared to 2020 and 5,85% for 2022 compared to 2020. Additionally, in 2022, together with the 6,000 recruitments that will be made in the health sector, total expenditures will reach 6.48 billion euros, recording an increase of 24.1% compared to 2021 and 33.6% compared to 2020.

A draft Bill to be voted soon, will increase flexibility for the National Health System and give NHS doctors the possibility to have some private practice in the public hospitals and access for private practice doctors to work within public hospitals.

## **THE PANDEMIC SITUATION IN GREECE**

Although the covid-19 pandemic second wave has been far more severe than the first one in Greece, the national Healthcare System resisted and as in the rest of Europe, the situation is improving.

As of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 19 new deaths of patients with COVID-19 have been recorded. The number of intubated patients is 210 (63.8% men). Their median age is 71 years. 92.9% have underlying diseases and / or age 70 years and older. Among intubated patients, 109 (51.9%) are non-vaccinated or partially vaccinated and 101 (48.1%) are fully vaccinated.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, a total of 29,369 deaths have been recorded. 95.6% had underlying diseases and / or age 70 years and older.

Since May 1<sup>st</sup>, no vaccination or test certificate is required for restaurants and shops, whereas no traveling certificates would be necessary after May 15<sup>th</sup>.



### **PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SECTOR**

Hospitals and PHC: Expenditures for Hospitals - PHC will increase, on an accrual basis, by € 205 million, exceeding the initial forecast of the Medium Term (July 2021) for an increase of € 50 million.

Furthermore, as announced by the political leadership of the Ministry of Health, the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) will be promoted to improve the "flexibility" of the system.

For the same reason the legal status of the Hospitals will be changed from Public to Private Law Entities.

ICU beds have been increased from 557 in June 2019 to 1300 today.

Regular expenditure for the Ministry of Health, excluding COVID emergency expenditure, amounts to 4.52 billion euros in 2022 compared to 4.27 billion euros in 2021, an increase of 250 million euros. For 2021, COVID expenditures were made by the Ministry of Health, in addition to the above, 944 million euros, while for 2022, COVID credits for Health have been provided at 736 million euros.

The reduction of the budget that some claim, concerns the extraordinary expenses foreseen for 2021. If it is obviously needed, as it was the case in 2021, the budget will be strengthened with the corresponding funds. Total costs for Health together with the Recovery Fund are much higher.

As of February 5, 2021, 939 permanent positions of doctors of various specialties were announced, while for the specialties of Internal Medicine, Pneumology and Anesthesiology, the Hospitals were asked to announce all the vacancies that they had and amount to 379.

For the year 2022 the Minister of Health Mr. Plevris assured that "announcements for permanent recruitment have been issued or will be issued, concerning 4,000 positions of nurses, 900 positions for other staff and 700 positions of medical staff with the possibility of these increasing".

Concerning the public hospital doctor's salaries which had been decreased during the 2012 crisis, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the salary cuts of the NSS doctors that were made in accordance with law 4093/2012. Specifically, with its 3/2022 decision, it ruled that the NSS doctors' salaries (doctors in Primary Health) had been unfairly cut, as had been imposed by the Law 4093/2012 (approval of the Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2013-2016).



### PRIVATE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

For doctors in private Hospitals the new law on Social Security that gave an end to the very high (27% of the net income) and non-reciprocal contributions for social security has been a serious relief.

Unfortunately, on behalf of the state, considerable delays still remains concerning private insurances compensations to private hospitals that have profound impact on the timely payment of doctors' fees. As a result of this situation, doctors to pay income tax for income not yet received, which leads them to financial suffocation. During the first wave of the covid 19 pandemic, a serious decrease in beds occupancy in private hospitals has been observed; but afterwards it returned to normality, as many people avoided admissions in Public Hospitals, since most of them have developed covid units.

During the second wave of the pandemic, the Ministry of health issued special regulation authorizing private Hospitals to receive covid-19 patients in any adequate department or ICU, if the number of available beds in public Hospitals was not sufficient. Therefore, most of the large private hospitals (private Clinics) have conceded a subsequent percentage of their beds to covid cases and other patients treated in public hospitals, without any financial charge for them. This measure has given the possibility to the National Healthcare System to face the second wave of the pandemic, which was much stronger than the first one in Greece. On the other hand, financial compensation from the public health insurance to the private hospitals being underpriced, most of the private hospitals balance sheet turned negative, thus prolonging the financial difficulties of private hospitals and consequently these passed on their doctors.

In conclusion, we can say that the working conditions for doctors in the public and the private healthcare sector started to improve during the previous years and the first three months of 2022, but the covid 19 pandemic cased caused severe difficulties that are not been completely overcome yet.

Dr Konstantinos Koumakis PhMA Delegate to the AEMH 2<sup>nd</sup> AEMH Vice-President