



TRENDS IN THE WELL-BEING OF GREEK WOMEN, 1981-2008

NELLY-ELENI PAVLIDOU¹

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Abstract

Aim of the paper is to analyse the trends in the well-being of Greek women since 1981, the year when Greece became a full member of the European Union.

The adaptation of the Greek Constitution to the European Union legal framework that promotes equal opportunities and eliminates gender discrimination in the labour market and in the society as a whole formed a positive legal environment for women. These legislative gains together with the achieved high growth rates and development, the creation of new jobs, the rise of employment especially of women and the rise of wages, improved the lives of women in Greece over a period of more than two decades.

Because of imported problems due to global economic changes in the recent years and domestic problems as a result of the governmental adherence to unsuccessful policies, the country is confronted with high inflation rates, high unemployment rates, poverty, the rise of household debt, phenomena of corruption. Unfavorable changes, such as changes in the status quo of the labor relations and the loss of vested rights in the insurance and the social security system, affect significantly the living standard of Greek people, especially that of women, who are still the disadvantaged ones in the family, in the labor market and in the society.

In order to study the trends in the well-being, we examine first a number of indicators by which the objective well-being of women relative to men can be measured and second their changes in absolute levels for women over time. Evidence of the trends in the well-being of Greek women over a period of almost three decades will rely on existing research and new tabulations of the various indicators of women's well-being calculated from a wide range of datasets.

Keywords: Gender well-being, Gender discrimination, Gender wage gap, Unemployment, Greece

JEL-Codes: I31, J16, J71, J31, J6

¹Department of Economics, Division of Development & Planning, University Campus, Law School Building, GR-541 24 Thessaloniki, Greece. Email: pavlid@econ.auth.gr