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Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle



## Greeks among those who live longest in good health in the EU

Greeks are among those who live longest in good health in the European Union, a new study by the EU's statistical service has found.

Both men and women in Greece can expect to live more than 65 years in good health, according to information collected in 2011 that has just been published by Eurostat which said that average life expectancy in Greek men and women was 66 and 67 years respectively.

Healthy life years measure the number of years that a person can expect to live in a healthy condition – defined by the absence of

limitations in functioning and disability. At birth, women and men in the EU can expect to live 62 years enjoying good health.

However people who have reached the age of 50 can expect to live another 18 years in a healthy state, data showed. At the age of 65, they can expect another 9 years living in a healthy condition. Sweden and Malta were found to have the best record, Eurostat said, as both men and women in these countries can expect to live more than 70 years in good health.

The worst record belongs to Slovaks, according to the data, who can at birth expect to live 52 years in good health.

## Three suicides reported in just one day in Central Greece's Thessaly region

An 80-year-old woman who was found dead in the Pineios River in central Greece on Tuesday morning committed suicide, according to local media reports.

The death of the elderly woman was the third suicide reported in just one day in Thessaly, a largely agricultural region where unemployment is estimated to stand at just under 24 percent.

Also on Tuesday, a 45-year-old man was found hanged in his home by his mother in the Larissa suburb of Averof, while a 50-year-old man also hanged himself in the garden shed of his home in the village of Valanida.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of suicides in Greece since the beginning of the crisis in 2009, with official sources putting the figure at over 3,100 from the start of 2009 to August 2012, though experts say that deaths by suicide are often not documented as such because of the social stigma attached to them.

## Idea for Alexander theme park 'was pinched,' says Veria mayor

A row has broken out among local authorities in northern Greece over who should have the right to build an Alexander the Great theme park, dubbed Alexanderland.

The mayor of Veria, Haroula Ousoultzoglou, held a news conference on Tuesday to complain that the plans unveiled last week by Central Macedonia's Deputy Governor Giorgos Tsamaslis for such a theme park to open near Thessaloniki were a copy of a scheme that Veria had drawn up in 2007.

"We consider the proposal for an Alexander the Great park to be created in Thessaloniki as being unacceptable," she said.

The Municipality of Veria's plan includes a theme park, hotel, amphitheater and library to be housed in a 35-hectare plot near the ancient site of Vergina, birthplace of the Macedonian warrior king.

## SAMARAS: GREECE IS OVERCOMING THE RECESSION PEAK

Greece is overcoming the maximum point of the recession and gets stabilized, Greek premier Antonis Samaras said in the Hellenic-Turkish business forum in Constantinople, adding that the Greek government is proceeding with the reforms across the economy.

«It's the right moment to work together even more for the benefit of this bilateral entrepreneurship to create jobs for both countries. In 2012, Turkey ranked 10th as a supplier of goods in the Greek market. At the same time, it was in the 6th place as a host country of Greek exported products. Moreover, the last six years, there has been a remarkable increase of Greek investments in Turkey.»

Samaras spoke of the possibility that businesses from both countries could jointly penetrate the markets of other countries. «The joint ventures in the Balkans, in the Black Sea and Central Asian countries will also bring development and promotion of trade and economic relations, both bilaterally as well as multilaterally.»

He talked about the development of tourism between the two countries and noted that "we are moving in the establishment and expansion of the on-site issuing of visas from selected Turkish ports to Greek islands, in cooperation with the European Union and the Schengen countries."

In conclusion he said that the prospects of the Hellenic-Turkish cooperation are positive. «The relations between the two countries will only be strengthened through a stable political framework. However, to effectively move our relations we should always be guided by practical respect for the international law and international treaties.»

Turkish prime minister Tayyip Erdogan said his country «must contribute to the economic stability of Greece, Greece's problems are our problems.» He added that the business and economic relations are still not at the expected level and in the political field Greece's support for Turkey's EU perspective is continuing

