



THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE CITIES MONITOR

Country fact sheet: GREECE



The **Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor** is a new tool to **benchmark the performance** of European cities compared to their peers using both quantitative and qualitative data. It provides a common evidence base at city level that helps decision-makers learn from each other and inspires fit-for-purpose policies to boost economic growth and job creation, foster social development and citizens' well-being, and strengthen resilience. This year's first edition covers **168 cities in 30 countries, selected from about 1000 cities** in Eurostat's Urban Audit on the basis of their **verifiable engagement** in promoting **culture** and **creativity**. Being included in the Monitor is thus in itself an acknowledgement of the importance these cities attach to culture and creativity.





The Monitor's quantitative information is captured in **29 indicators**. These are grouped into **9 dimensions** reflecting **3 major facets** of cities' cultural, social and economic vitality: **'Cultural Vibrancy'**, **'Creative Economy'** and **'Enabling Environment'**. In addition, qualitative evidence helps illustrate what cities are good at.

Selected cities

- Four European Capitals of Culture Winners: Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras - shortlisted: Kalamata¹

Key findings

 **Athens** comes 7th on **'Cultural Vibrancy'** in the XL group of 34 ranked cities thanks to the good performance on Cultural Venues & Facilities (5th). The Greek capital is home to a very rich historical, cultural and artistic heritage including, amongst others, two UNESCO World Heritage Sites (the Acropolis of Athens and the medieval Daphni Monastery) and about 150 theatrical stages such as the ancient Herodes Atticus Theater, where the famous Athens Festival takes place.

 **Thessaloniki** ranks 14th on **'Cultural Vibrancy'** in the L group of 36 ranked cities, owning this position mainly to Cultural Venues & Facilities (9th). Long known in Greece for its vibrant culture, the city held the title of European Capital of Culture in 1997. Its cultural richness is proven by the dozens of museums, theatres, art

¹ Elefsina, which will be European Capital of Culture in 2021, could not be included due to poor data coverage. Cities with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants are indeed not included in Eurostat's Urban Audit - the major data source of this work.

centres and outdoor sculptures and monuments, as well as the Thessaloniki Concert Hall. The City Council has recently issued a long-term Resilience Strategy, in which the cultural and creative economy plays a central role.

📍 **Kalamata** does best on '**Cultural Vibrancy**' (15th in the S-M group of 64 ranked cities). This is mostly due to its good performance on Cultural Venues & Facilities (12th). Kalamata's reputation as a cultural destination has been growing in the last decade. The Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe-labelled Kalamata International Dance Festival, for instance, has gained a special position on the festival map of the Mediterranean. Also, the city was shortlisted to become a European Capital of Culture in 2021.

📍 **Patras** ranks 33rd in the S-M group on New Jobs in Creative Sectors underpinning '**Creative Economy**'. The city hosts various museums (such as the Archaeological Museum, the Folk Art Museum), a strong indie rock scene and an active theatre - the Patras Municipal and Regional Theatre - which has staged critically acclaimed performances ranging from ancient dramaturgy to an international repertoire. Patras was a European Capital of Culture in 2006.

Population group	Sub-indices		
	1. Cultural Vibrancy	2. Creative Economy	3. Enabling Environment
XL Athens			
L Thessaloniki			
S-M Kalamata			
Patras			
Scores	Top 33%	Middle 33%	Bottom 33%

Note: Cities are ordered by Cultural and Creative Cities (C3) Index score within each population group. The Index is obtained by aggregating weighted scores of sub-indices as designed by experts in the field. The [C3 online platform](#) allows customising the weights, inserting your own data and comparing cities.

Did you know that...?

📍 **Athens** was the first city to hold the title of European Capital of Culture, back in 1985.

📍 **Thessaloniki** has initiated various initiatives in recent years to 'inject' creativity in its economy and society. In 2015, for instance, the city established the LABATTOIR, an applied creativity laboratory to address social needs.

📍 **Kalamata** has been a cultural city for a long time. Kalamata intensified its efforts to evolve culturally in recent years when the city decided to bid to become a European Capital of Culture in 2021. Although the city did not obtain the title, the local authorities want to keep culture at the centre of the city's activities.

📍 **Patras** counts two main cultural events: the Patras Carnival - the largest event of its kind in Greece and one of the biggest in Europe, and the Patras International Festival - one of the major summer cultural happenings in the country.



Museum of Cycladic Art. Credit: DL_chap under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 licence