

# Review of: "Developments in Regional Inequality in Greece"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper makes a contribution to understanding income inequality in Greece, particularly by identifying a growing gap between regions and demonstrating that within-region inequality remains a dominant component. The study could be strengthened by deeper analyses of the socio-economic drivers of inequality and a discussion of potential policy measures aimed at reducing disparities both within and between regions. Adding a qualitative dimension or industry-focused analysis could also enhance the paper's relevance, particularly in informing policies that support more balanced regional development and post-pandemic recovery.

## Areas for Improvement

**Regional Policy Implications:** While the paper concludes that interregional cohesion is a concern for policymakers, it stops short of proposing specific policy measures that might address the regional income disparities highlighted. For example, suggestions for targeted economic support or investment in lagging regions could strengthen the policy relevance of the findings. Additionally, the findings point to a need for policies that address within-region disparities, yet this is not discussed in depth.

**Deeper Analysis of Pandemic Effects:** The paper attributes much of the income inequality dynamics during 2020–2021 to the pandemic's impact but could benefit from a more granular analysis of specific economic activities or sectors affected by the pandemic, such as tourism, retail, or hospitality. These details could help distinguish whether certain industries or types of employment were more resilient or more vulnerable, potentially informing sector-specific policy responses.

**Exploration of Socio-Economic Factors:** Although the paper acknowledges that within-region inequality is likely driven by other socio-economic factors, it does not delve into which factors may be at play. A multivariate analysis incorporating variables like education level, employment status, or urban versus rural residence could add significant value, especially given Greece's diverse economic structure.

**Longer-Term Inequality Trends:** Since Greece experienced a prolonged recession before the period studied (2017–2022), a brief comparison of income inequality trends before and after 2017 might provide useful context. This could clarify whether the observed trends are unique to the post-COVID recovery period or part of broader, ongoing economic patterns.

