

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

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The paper approaches a quite interesting topic. The author attempts to investigate income inequality trends in Greece between 2017 and 2022, focusing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and regional disparities.

Although the manuscript is well-written and its structure is appropriate, some concerns are proposed to be taken into account, mainly regarding the literature review and additional data to strengthen the research. More specifically, the following are recommended:

- Some additional references to support the complex relationship between regional inequality and economic growth, highlighting how this relationship varies across countries and regions. [*Iammarino, Rodriguez-Pose, and Storper (2019): This study highlights that regional inequality in Europe has persisted and, in some cases, worsened due to globalization, technological advances, and uneven investments across regions. Regional inequality can hinder national economic growth by undermining social cohesion and limiting access to opportunities.*]
- Extend the analysis beyond the 2017-2022 period. A longer-term analysis would provide more insight into how inequalities have evolved over the past decade or more, including the financial crisis and the recovery period.
- Integrate other social and economic indicators (e.g., economic structure, education, healthcare access, unemployment, infrastructure investments) for each region to analyze the underlying causes of disparities in inequalities. Linking regional income inequalities with other crucial social indicators would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the drivers of inequality.
- Add cross-country comparisons with other European countries with similar characteristics (e.g., Southern European countries like Italy or Spain) in terms of regional inequality, crisis management, and recovery. This would offer a comparative analysis and place Greece in a broader context, providing better insights into structural characteristics affecting inequality.
- Some additional references about the existing methodologies to support the selected ones.
- Develop more specific policy recommendations based on the study's findings. Instead of focusing on general recommendations for economic cohesion, propose concrete policies that could reduce inequality, such as targeted investments in regions with higher inequality or improvements in education and healthcare infrastructure. This would strengthen the practical application of the research and assist in the discussion of future policies to reduce regional inequalities.
- Enhance the presentation of findings using geographic maps (GIS) that show the distribution of inequality across the country. Also, include graphs that show changes more visually. Data visualization makes the results more accessible

and understandable to a wider audience and decision-makers.

- Provide a more detailed view of how specific regions were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with insights into specific sectors (e.g., tourism, agriculture) and how they contributed to local inequality. This would show which regions and sectors were more vulnerable to the crisis and suggest strategies to improve the resilience of these areas in the future.