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Company formation in Greece

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Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	IKE (private company) or EPE [1]
Registry	General Commercial Registry (GEMI) [1]
Minimum capital	IKE: no meaningful minimum [1]
Directors	1 administrator [1]
Local director	Not required; a Greek tax number is needed for each founder [1]
Corporate tax	22% [2]
VAT / sales tax	24% [2]
Typical timeline	Often 1–3 days through a one-stop shop [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Euro (EUR)

In short: To set up a company in Greece, most founders form an IKE, registered with the General Commercial Registry (GEMI). [1] Minimum capital: IKE: no meaningful minimum. Corporate tax: 22%. Registration: often 1–3 days through a one-stop shop (as of November 2026).

The **IKE** (private company) is Greece's most popular company form for small businesses. It is registered with the **General Commercial Registry (GEMI)**, usually through a one-stop shop, and can be set up without meaningful share capital.

Business structures

Most founders in Greece form an IKE, registered with the General Commercial Registry (GEMI). [1] Other forms are listed below.

- **IKE** – private company, the usual choice for SMEs
- **EPE** – limited liability company
- **AE** – société anonyme, €25,000 capital
- **Sole trader** – registered individual

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Greece (2026): IKE: no meaningful minimum. Directors required: 1 administrator. Local resident director: not required; a Greek tax number is needed for each founder. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: IKE: no meaningful minimum.
- Directors: 1 administrator.
- Local residency: not required; a Greek tax number is needed for each founder.
- A registered office address in Greece.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.
- Beneficial owners reported to the Central Register of Beneficial Owners.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Greece (2026): often 1–3 days through a one-stop shop. [1] The usual steps are:

1. Choose the company form and check that the name is available.

2. Prepare and sign the articles of association.
3. File the registration with the General Commercial Registry (GEMI).
4. Receive the company's registration number, and pay in the share capital where required.
5. Register for corporate tax and VAT or sales tax with the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Greece in 2026 is 22%. [2] Standard VAT or sales tax: 24%. [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	22%
VAT / indirect tax	24%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	5%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Greece: Companies file financial statements with GEMI and tax returns with the AADE. [1]

Double tax treaties

Greece has a network of double tax treaties. A double tax treaty decides which country may tax cross-border income and usually caps the withholding tax the paying country can charge.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Dividends	Interest	Royalties
5%	15%	20%

Within the EU, the Parent-Subsidiary and Interest and Royalties Directives can reduce these rates to 0% for qualifying group payments.

The reduced rate for each partner country is set by the treaty concerned; PwC's withholding tax summary for Greece lists them.

Domestic rates from the PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries withholding tax quick chart (November 2026). Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to register a company in Greece?

Typical registration time in Greece: often 1–3 days through a one-stop shop (as of November 2026), once all documents are ready. Opening a bank account and tax registrations can take longer.

What is the minimum share capital for a company in Greece?

Minimum share capital in Greece: IKE: no meaningful minimum (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Greece in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Greece in 2026 is 22%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in Greece?

Yes. There is no nationality requirement for shareholders. Local director rule in Greece: not required; a Greek tax number is needed for each founder.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Greece?

Greece withholds 5% on dividends paid to non-resident companies under domestic law, often reduced by a tax treaty or the EU Parent-Subsidiary Directive. See the Double tax treaties section.

Official registries and resources

- General Commercial Registry (GEMI)
- Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE)

Figures as of November 2026. Rates, thresholds and procedures change; confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a local adviser before filing.

See also

- Comparison of company formation by country
- Company formation in the United Kingdom
- Company formation in Germany
- Company formation in Poland
- Company formation in Ireland
- All countries

References

Entries marked **Official** are the registry, government and tax authority sources for this country; footnote numbers in the infobox point to them.

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2. Official Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE) . Government of Greece. Accessed November 2026.
3. Greece: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 08 September 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
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