

Childbirth in Greek maternity hospitals and the community (birth centers - home births)

Submission date 22/11/2025	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☒ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 26/11/2025	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☐ Results
Last Edited 25/11/2025	Condition category Pregnancy and Childbirth	☐ Individual participant data ☒ Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

In Greece, the rates of caesarean sections have exceeded 50%, while those who give birth vaginally are subjected to a large number of interventions during labour, such as episiotomy, administration of oxytocin, and frequent vaginal examinations, among others. In Europe and the United States, there is currently a trend toward less medical interventions at childbirth without compromising perinatal outcomes, while enhancing women's positive childbirth experiences. The purpose of the GENESIS study is to explore the magnitude and type of medical interventions during childbirth, women's childbirth experience, and perinatal outcomes according to the place of birth (hospital, birth center, home) in Greece.

Who can participate?

In the GENESIS study, women who have given birth in Greece within the past five (5) years may participate. These women may have given birth in a maternity hospital (public or private) (hospital births), at home (home births), or in a birth center (birth center).

What does the study involve?

The GENESIS study will be conducted as an online survey using a questionnaire specifically designed to collect data and information regarding childbirth among women in Greece. The data to be recorded will include: demographic characteristics; details of the participants' most recent birth (place of birth [hospital, birth center, home], mode of delivery [CS/VB], medical interventions, if any, etc.); perinatal outcomes (maternal/neonatal morbidity and mortality); and women's childbirth experiences.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no benefits or risks associated with participating.

Where is the study run from?

The University of Western Macedonia, Greece.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

December 2025 to February 2026.

Who is funding the study?
The University of Western Macedonia, Greece.

Who is the main contact?
Dr Dimitrios Papoutsis, Associate Professor at the Department of Midwifery, in the University of Western Macedonia in Greece, dpapoutsis@uowm.gr

Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title
Childbirth in Greek maternity hospitals and the community (birth centers - home births)-the GENESIS study

Acronym
GENESIS

Study objectives
The primary objectives are to explore the magnitude and type of medical interventions during childbirth, women's childbirth experience, and the perinatal outcomes according to the place of birth (hospital, birth center, home) in Greece

The secondary objectives are to identify the factors that may reduce the medical interventions during labour, improve perinatal outcomes, and enhance women's childbirth experiences. For example, such factors may include the presence of a midwife during labour, attendance of antenatal childbirth preparation classes, the public or private nature of the maternity hospital, and home birth, among others.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 19/11/2025, Research Ethics Committee of the University of Western Macedonia, Greece (ZEP area - University of Western Macedonia Kozani Greece, Kozani, 50100, Greece; +30 2461056500; ehde@uowm.gr), ref: 220/2026/19.11.2025

Primary study design

Observational

Secondary study design

Cross sectional study

Study type(s)

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Exploring the magnitude and type of medical interventions during childbirth, women's childbirth experience, and perinatal outcomes according to the place of birth (hospital, birth center, home) in Greece

Interventions

The GENESIS study will be conducted as an online survey using a questionnaire specifically designed to collect data and information regarding childbirth among women in Greece. The data to be recorded will include: demographic characteristics; details of the participants' most recent birth (place of birth [hospital, birth center, home], mode of delivery [CS/VB], medical interventions, if any, etc.); perinatal outcomes (maternal/neonatal morbidity and mortality); and women's childbirth experiences.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

1. The magnitude and type of medical interventions during childbirth; women's childbirth experience; and perinatal outcomes, according to the place of birth (hospital, birth center, home) measured using an online questionnaire with targeted questions, such as what medical interventions were applied (ie CS, epidural analgesia etc), how would you rate your childbirth experience, was the neonate admitted to the NNU etc at over the past 5 years

Key secondary outcome(s)

Completion date

28/02/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

In the GENESIS study, women who have given birth in Greece within the past five (5) years may participate. These women may have given birth in a maternity hospital (public or private) (hospital births), at home (home births), or in a birth center (birth center).

Healthy volunteers allowed

Yes

Age group

Mixed

Lower age limit

16 Years

Upper age limit

54 Years

Sex

Female

Total final enrolment

0

Key exclusion criteria

Women who have given birth in Greece more than five (5) years ago.

Date of first enrolment

01/12/2025

Date of final enrolment

28/02/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Greece

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Western Macedonia

ROR

<https://ror.org/00a5pe906>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Funder Name

University of Western Macedonia

Alternative Name(s)

Πανεπιστήμιο Δυτικής Μακεδονίας, UoWM

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Universities (academic only)

Location

Greece

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**IPD sharing plan summary**

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date