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

Submission date
22/11/2025

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
26/11/2025

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
25/11/2025

Condition category
Pregnancy and Childbirth

[X] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] 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