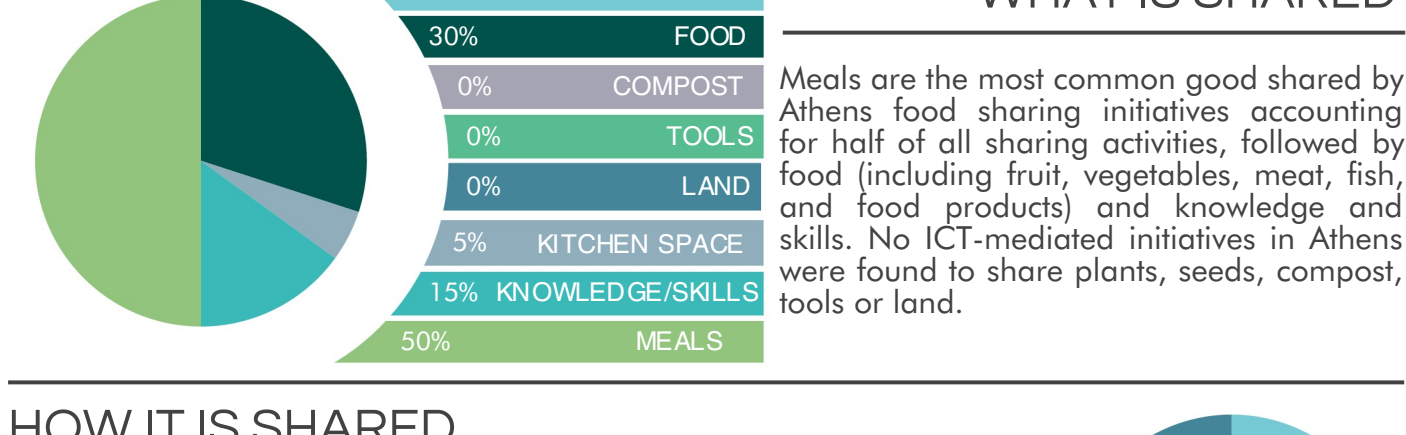


ATHENS

Athens is ranked 83rd in the SHARECITY100 Database of global ICT-mediated food sharing, with 14 initiatives currently active in the city.

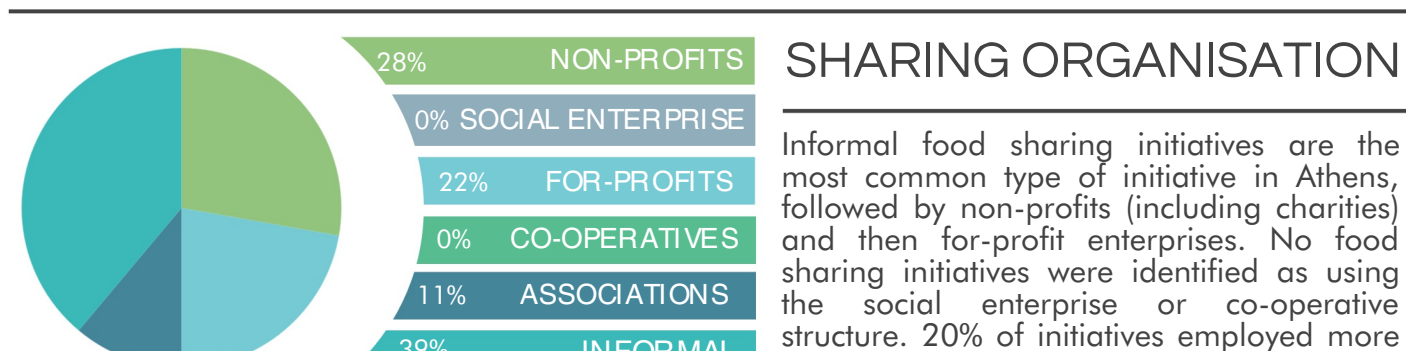
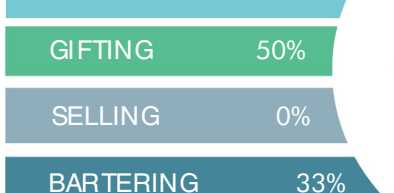


WHAT IS SHARED

Meals are the most common good shared by Athens food sharing initiatives accounting for half of all sharing activities, followed by food (including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, and food products) and knowledge and skills. No ICT-mediated initiatives in Athens were found to share plants, seeds, compost, tools or land.

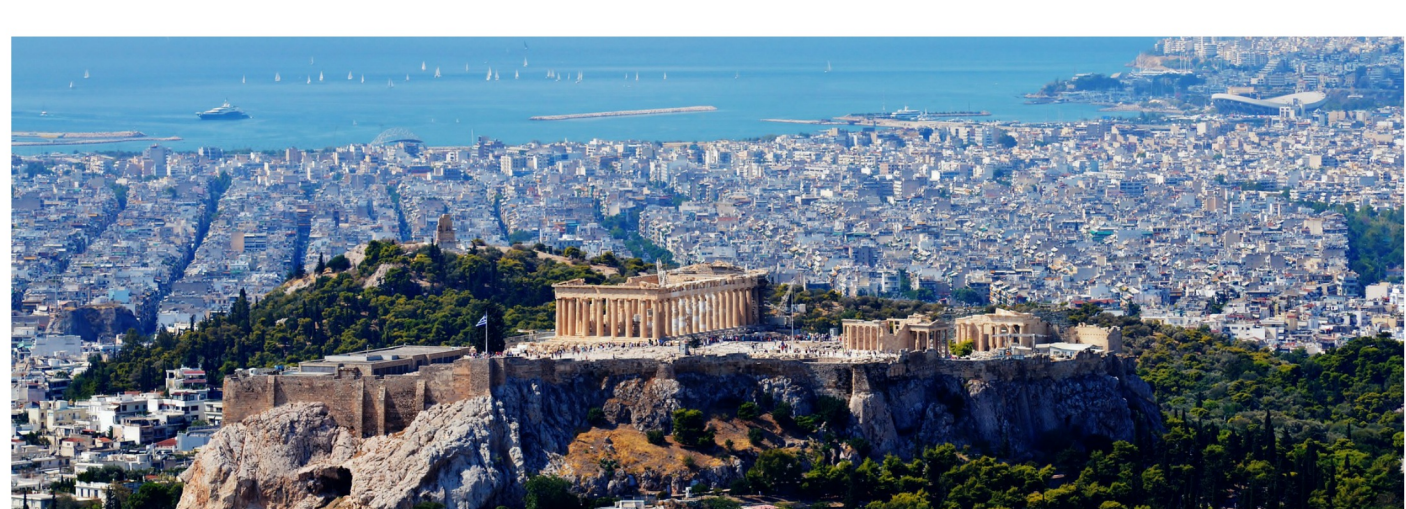
HOW IT IS SHARED

Gifting is the most common form of exchange used by food sharing initiatives, making up half of all activities, followed by bartering and collecting. No food sharing initiatives were found to use selling as a form of exchange and 20% were found to utilize more than one exchange mode.



SHARING ORGANISATION

Informal food sharing initiatives are the most common type of initiative in Athens, followed by non-profits (including charities) and then for-profit enterprises. No food sharing initiatives were identified as using the social enterprise or co-operative structure. 20% of initiatives employed more than one organisational form.



GEOGRAPHY & POLITICS



Athens, the capital and largest city of Greece, is located in the Attica region on the Balkan Peninsula. The Attica region covers a about 3% of the total surface of Greece, and has a population of 3,828,434 (35% of the national population) (1). The city of Athens is one of the most ancient cities in the world, with traces of human habitation on the Acropolis, an ancient citadel located in the city, dating back 7000 BCE (2). The Parthenon, a temple on the Acropolis and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is regarded today as the symbol of Classical Greece and of the beginnings of Western civilization.

The city is comprised of seven City Districts, each with its own council which manages a wide range of local services including sanitation, environmental conversation, greenery, road maintenance, transport, lighting, urban planning, and schools (3).

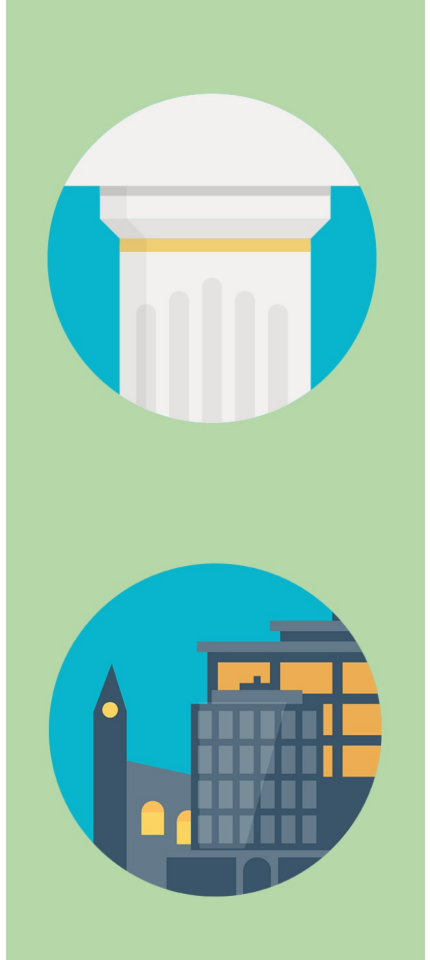
ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Greece joined the European Community in 1981, becoming part of the Eurozone and adopting the Euro in 2001. Tourism makes up 17.3% and supports 401,000 jobs or 11.3% of national employment (4). It has been estimated that the informal sector accounts to 24.3% of GDP.

In 2004 Athens hosted the Olympic Games, investing not only in sports venues, but also in large-scale infrastructural works such as an airport, suburban rail systems, and highways, transforming the suburban landscape of the city (5). The country has been deeply impacted by the financial crisis of the country which officially started in 2009. Since 2010 the GDP of Greece has reduced by 25% and the drastic austerity measures implemented by the Greek parliament have provoked numerous riots and demonstrations and ultimately the rejection of austerity proposals from the country's creditors by the Greek people at a referendum (6). Financial supports from international agencies are sill being negotiated at the benefit of the IMF and ECB.

Urban space and urban life in Athens have been deeply affected by the crisis, and a 2015 report ranked Athens 44th for wage level and 45th for domestic purchase power out of 71 global cities (7). Unemployment levels are high, with youth employment in the Attica region reaching 46.5% in 2016 (8) and over 20% of the general population being viewed as at-risk-of-poverty (9). Since the austerity measures were introduced there has been also a noted increase in suicides among citizens of working age (10) and more than 200,000 university graduates have left Greece for countries such as Germany and the UK (11).

Greece has a fairly homogenous population, with only 6% of the population made up of non-nationals (12). Though traditionally an emigration country, it started receiving the first flows of migrants from Central and Eastern Europe during the 80s, mainly, from Albania, Russia and Pakistan (13). 40% of the foreign population now reside in the municipality of Athens, making up 19% of the city's population (14). In recent years there has been a huge increase in asylum applications by refugees from Syria, Pakistan and Afghanistan (15). Together with Italy Greece has been the European country most affected by the refugee crisis, receiving 300,000 new arrivals by sea in 2016. It is estimated that 172,160 refugees are currently residing in Greece (16).



FOOD, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



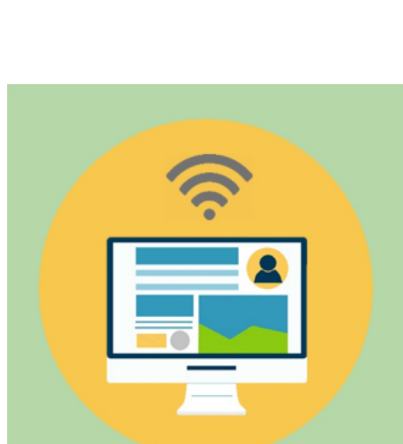
Despite the renowned health benefits of its Mediterranean diet, Greece has one of the highest rates of adult, adolescent and childhood obesity in the EU (17). Additionally a 2012-2013 program analysing food insecurity in Greek schools revealed 64% of children participating were at risk of food insecurity and many pupils had experienced hunger (18). This program also provides free healthy meals to all students in the participating schools and encourages and educates the pupils and their families about healthy eating (19). Various organisations on the ground have organised themselves to respond to the increasing level of food poverty, which is particularly evident in the city (20). Grassroots initiatives such as soup kitchens are forming and expanding in Athens to address the needs of elderly population and homeless people (21). Since 2012 the city of Athens has a Sustainable Food Policy, aiming to help vulnerable groups and feed the poor (22), and in 2015 the Mayor of Athens signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

Athens was ranked 22nd out of 30 cities in the Siemens Green City Index, with its low ranking is largely a result of poor air quality and management of waste and land use (23). Residents of Athens are exposed to significant levels of air pollution caused mainly by traffic, domestic heating and industry, and despite the implementation of numerous measures to improve air quality, the concentration of air pollutants is currently exceeding the levels recommended by the World Health Organization (24). Such environmental programmes can be hindered by the overlap in jurisdiction between the city authorities, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Transport.

TECHNOLOGY

Athens has 100% broadband coverage and high levels of internet penetration at 79% (26). The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities lists a wide range of commitments embraced by the city of Athens in the fields of technology and sustainability (27), and in 2017 Athens will host the Building Green Expo, an exhibition in the fields of sustainability, green buildings, and energy-saving technologies (28). Despite the challenging economic landscape, some start-ups have been successfully established in Athens and elsewhere in Greece, and the Athens Tech College plays a very active role in the promoting technology and entrepreneurship.

In 2014 the city won the Bloomberg Mayor's Challenge with the project synAthina , which was initiated by the former Deputy Mayor for Civil Society of the Athens municipality. synAthina is a web platform for civil action groups , which aims to increase citizens' participation in the civil life of neighbourhoods and of the city (29) (30).



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