



EHRA
European Heart
Rhythm Association

EHRA EP Working group of the moment: a joint initiative between the EHRA National Cardiac Societies committee, the EHRA Young EP and e-Communication committees

Presentation of the Working Group of Electrophysiology and Pacing of the Hellenic Society of Cardiology



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΑΡΔΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
HELLENIC SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY

The Greek Working Group (WG) of Electrophysiology and Pacing is one of the 17 WGs of the Hellenic Society of Cardiology, a scientific non-profit organization, with 3500 members, which was founded in 1948.

199 physicians are registered in the WG. They are all actively involved in arrhythmia management and provide health services to a population of approximately 10.7 million.

The WG Board is elected every 2 years. The following members form the current Board (2022-2023): Chairman: K. Gatzoulis, **Vice Chairman:** Andrikopoulos G., **Nucleus Members:** Letsas K, Pastromas S, Chaveles I.

More information about the WG can be found in the following link:

<https://www.hcs.gr/working-group/ilektrofysiologias-kai-vimatodotisis/>

Main goals:

To assure the quality standards of care in EP procedures performed in Greek centers, for the benefit of the patients.

To inform and educate the general population about arrhythmias and cardiovascular prevention.

To develop national plans and strategies for prevention and treatment of arrhythmias (in collaboration with the Hellenic Society of Cardiology and the national authorities).

To publish local guidelines and position papers in the field of EP.

To promote the implementation of current international guidelines into clinical practice.



ESC
European Society
of Cardiology



To encourage and facilitate collaboration and networking between members and EP centers.

To develop strong relations with National and International Societies and other Working Groups.

To establish standards for education, accreditation and certification, in the direction of homogenizing training programmes along all EP centers of the country and, if possible, Europe

To organize educational activities, aiming to improve the professional skills of physicians, nurses and technicians, who are involved in arrhythmia management.

To support young fellows, cardiologists and other specialists in the initial steps of their career in Electrophysiology.

To promote research and support members for the conduction of scientific projects.

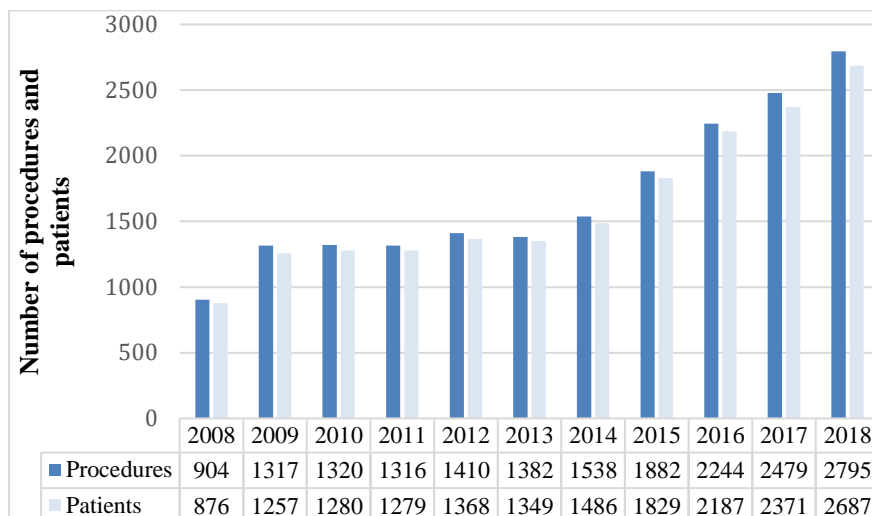
EP Procedures in Greece:

The Greek healthcare system incorporates both public and private sectors.

The annual number of EP procedures per million people in Greece is gradually increasing during the last decade and is significantly higher than the median number of ESC member countries, as shown in the following tables:

Type of EP Procedure	Cases/million inhabitants/year (Greece)	Median number of cases/ million inhabitants/year (ESC member countries)
Catheter Ablations	420	372
Pacemaker implantations	896	652
ICD implantations	135	105
CRT implantations	77	64

Data from 2020 ESC Atlas of Cardiology



Number of EP procedures and patients during the period 2008-2018

Data from WG registry for ablations

V.P. Vassilikos, A. Billis, M. Efremidis et al. *Hellenic Journal of Cardiology* 62 (2021) 48-54

EP centers in Greece:

Ablation centers	31	2.9 per million people
Pacemaker implanting centers	54	5 per million people
ICD implanting centers	34	3.2 per million people
CRT implanting centers	33	3.1 per million people

EP centers are encouraged to apply for EHRA accreditation.

1 EHRA Recognised Training Centre (ERTC): Mitera Hospital Athens (Head Dr. Stylianos Tzeis)

2 Centers participating in the EHRA Young EP Insight programme:

- ⇒ Athens Medical Center (**Head of EP:** Dr. Dimitris Tsiachris)
- ⇒ 1st Department of Cardiology, Athens Medical School of National and Kapodistrian University, Hippocratio Hospital (**Head of EP:** Prof. Konstantinos A. Gatzoulis)





Electrophysiologists practicing in Greece:

Currently, 80 Electrophysiologists perform catheter ablation procedures independently.

No official accreditation or certification is required for practicing EP in Greece. However, our WG members are encouraged to participate in the EHRA certification exams.

EHRA certified Electrophysiologists:

34 Cardiac Device Specialists (ECDS) and 10 Electrophysiology Specialists (ECES)
Members are also encouraged to join EHRA and get involved in the association activities.

EHRA Young EP Community: 10 EHRA Young EP members from Greece

EHRA Young EP Ambassador: Dr. Konstantinos Triantafyllou

Representation within EHRA

1. EHRA Board (2020-2022):

- ⇒ Rep of the ESC Working Group on e-Cardiology (ex-officio): Dr. Polychronis Dilaveris, FESC

2. EHRA Committees (2020-2022):

- ⇒ Education Pillar and Certification Committee Chair: Dr. Stylianos Tzeis
- ⇒ Research Pillar and Scientific Documents Chair: Dr. Nikolaos Dages
- ⇒ Certification Committee Members: Dr. Dimitrios Asvestas, FESC, Dr. Konstantinos Letsas, FEHRA, Dr. Georgios Kollias
- ⇒ National Cardiac Societies Committee Member: Dr. Anna Kostopoulou
- ⇒ Scientific Initiatives Committee Member: Dr. Konstantinos E. Iliodromitis
- ⇒ Congress Pillar Members: Prof. Demosthenes Katrasis, Dr. Stylianos Tzeis

6 Fellows of the European Heart Rhythm Association (FEHRA): Dr. Polychronis E Dilaveris, Dr. Dimitris Tsiachris, Dr. Stylianos Tzeis, Dr. Michael Spartalis, Associate Prof. Panagiotis Korantzopoulos, Dr. Konstantinos Letsas

Notable Activities of the WG:

The major scientific event of the WG is the annual conference of the HCS Working Groups. Lectures and educational courses referring to the whole spectrum of



arrhythmias, cover a full-day programme. A joint session with EHRA, on the topic 'Debated issues in Syncope', was also hosted in the recent 2022 conference.

On 14-15 May 2021, the WG organized a Preparatory Course for the EHRA Cardiac Pacing Exams, under the auspices of the European Heart Rhythm Association. 17 HSC members attended the event and gave very positive feedback.

During the previous year, an educational series of hands-on courses on CIED interrogation and programming, was launched, with 40 participants.

On 25 April 2021, during the EHRA 2021 Online Congress, the Greek WG of EP and Pacing hosted a meeting for further discussion on the EHRA session: 'Sudden death prevention and ICD therapy: unsolved issues'. WG members, who were registered to the Congress, had the opportunity to participate and interact with experts in the field.

The Greek WG of EP and Pacing runs 2 important national registries, ie. the Catheter Ablation registry (started 2008) and the Cardiac Device registry (started 2015), under the supervision of prof. V. Vassilikos. Both registries provide valuable real-world data, which are regularly presented in congresses and published in scientific journals.

Members of the WG have participated in various ESC-EHRA-EORP registries, ie. ELECTRa (European Lead Extraction ConTrolled) and Atrial Fibrillation registries while currently they do participate in the ReConsider study (a multicenter prospective observational study for DCM patients regardless of the LVEF and CHF status based on a multifactorial non-invasive EP inclusive approach). They also are actively involved in the preparation of four position statements for the management of patients with 1) atrial fibrillation, 2)SVT, 3)VT and 4) ICD/CRT implantation. There is also a current national effort to coordinate the OHCA victims management in the community with the support of the Hellenic Cardiac Society.