



## Economic crisis impacts upon Greek child health

Georgios Tsobanoglou<sup>1</sup>, Ioanna Giannopoulou<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

*This paper focuses on the effects of economic crisis, which is assumed as a stressor or traumatic event, on children's emotional, physical and developmental well-being. Emphasis is placed on how individual, family and community risk factors and resources might be critical in increasing children's psychological vulnerability in times of economic crisis. The key issues related to the provision of mental health services in times of increased pressure put upon them are discussed.*

*Key words: economic crisis, mental health, child*

The global economic crisis that started in late 2008 is still ongoing in Greece. The country undergoes the sixth consecutive year of economic recession, with its economy shrinking by 25% between 2008 and 2012, and with a few prospects of recovery. For the general public, the direct effects of the economic crisis are the losses of jobs and income, and pay cuts. Unemployment has more than tripled, as the total number of the employed population is standing at 3.482.345 (March, 2014) and the unemployed were recorded as standing at 1.274.843 while the economically inactive population was registered at 3.393.042 (Roussos, 2014). According to the statistics produced by the Public Employment Service (OAED) the unemployment figure was 1.077.876 in 2013; this year a decline was recorded to 993.118 – down by 84.758 less unemployed (Roussos, 2014). The difference in the labor employment accounts between the official statistics of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT) and the Public Employ-

<sup>1</sup> PhD, Sociology Dept., University of the Aegean, Mytilini.

<sup>2</sup> MRCPsych, PhD, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, NHS Community Mental Health of Peristeri, Attica & Attika Hospital, West Attica, Greece.