

TİCARİLEŞME,
SAĞLIK HİZMETLERİ VE
AKADEMİK ÖZGÜRLÜK

COMMERCIALIZATION,
HEALTH SERVICES AND
ACADEMIC FREEDOM

SAĞLIKTA
TİCARET ÖLÜM
DEMektİR

OUR HEALTH
IS NOT
FOR SALE

IAHPE ve
TTB Ortak Etkinliği
Pre-Conference
Workshop of
IAHPE in Collaboration
with TMA

14-15 JANUARY
OCAK 14-15
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İstanbul Tabip Odası
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Health reforms in Greece: a classic model

*Alexis Benos
Aristotle University
Selanik*

Historical review

- **Period 1920 – 1944:**
 - the cornerstones of social security in Greece
 - 1932 IKA's (blue collar workers) Foundation Act
- **Period 1944 – 1974:**
 - Major failures of health policy
 - 1961 OGA's (rural population) Foundation Act
- **Period 1974 - :**
 - 1983 NHS Foundation Act
 - 1983 – 9 implementation of NHS
 - 1990 - privatization, cost containment policies, regulation of a public/private health care market mix

National Health System's foundation act (L. 1397/83)

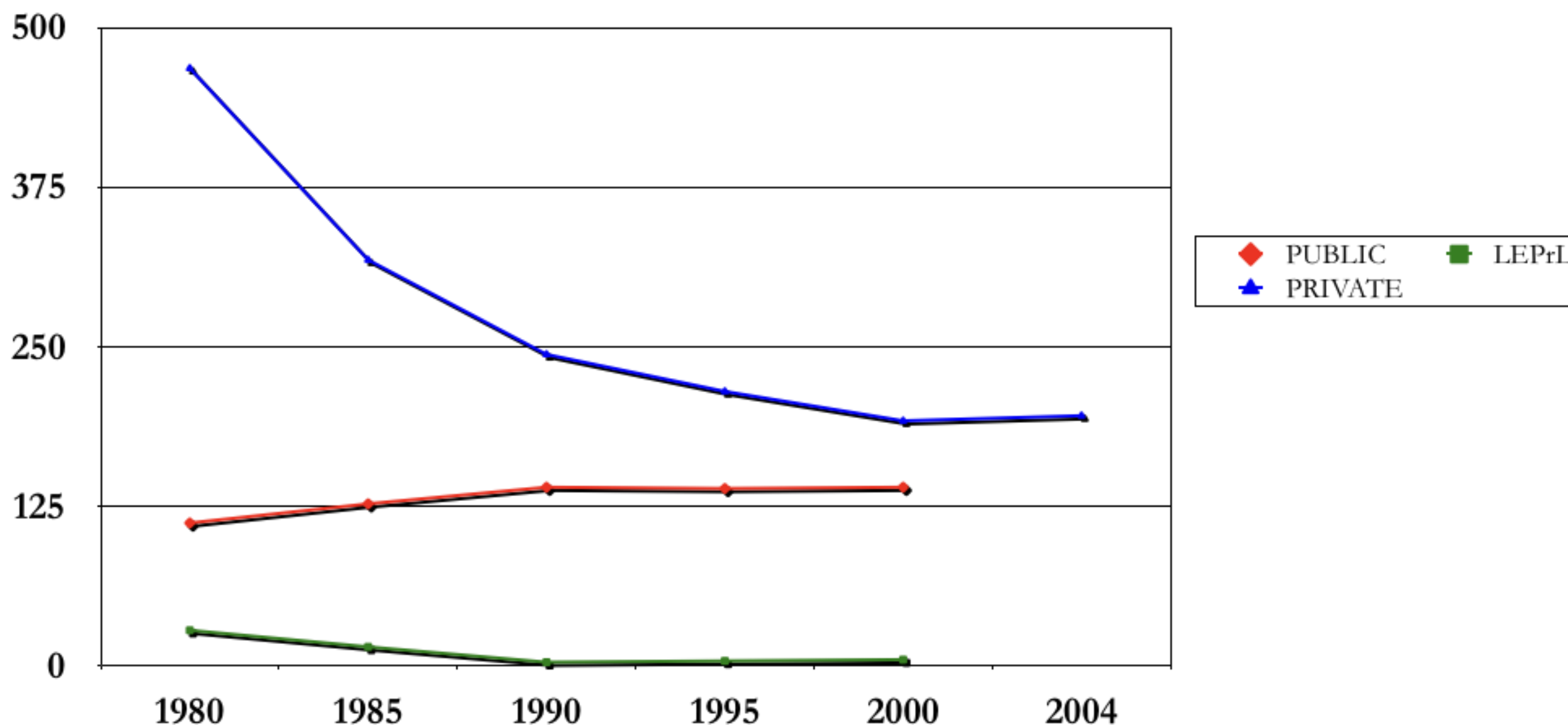
Article 6, §1

*“All hospitals are founded as Legal Entities of Public Law (LEPL) ... the foundation of hospitals with a **different Legal Entity is prohibited**”*

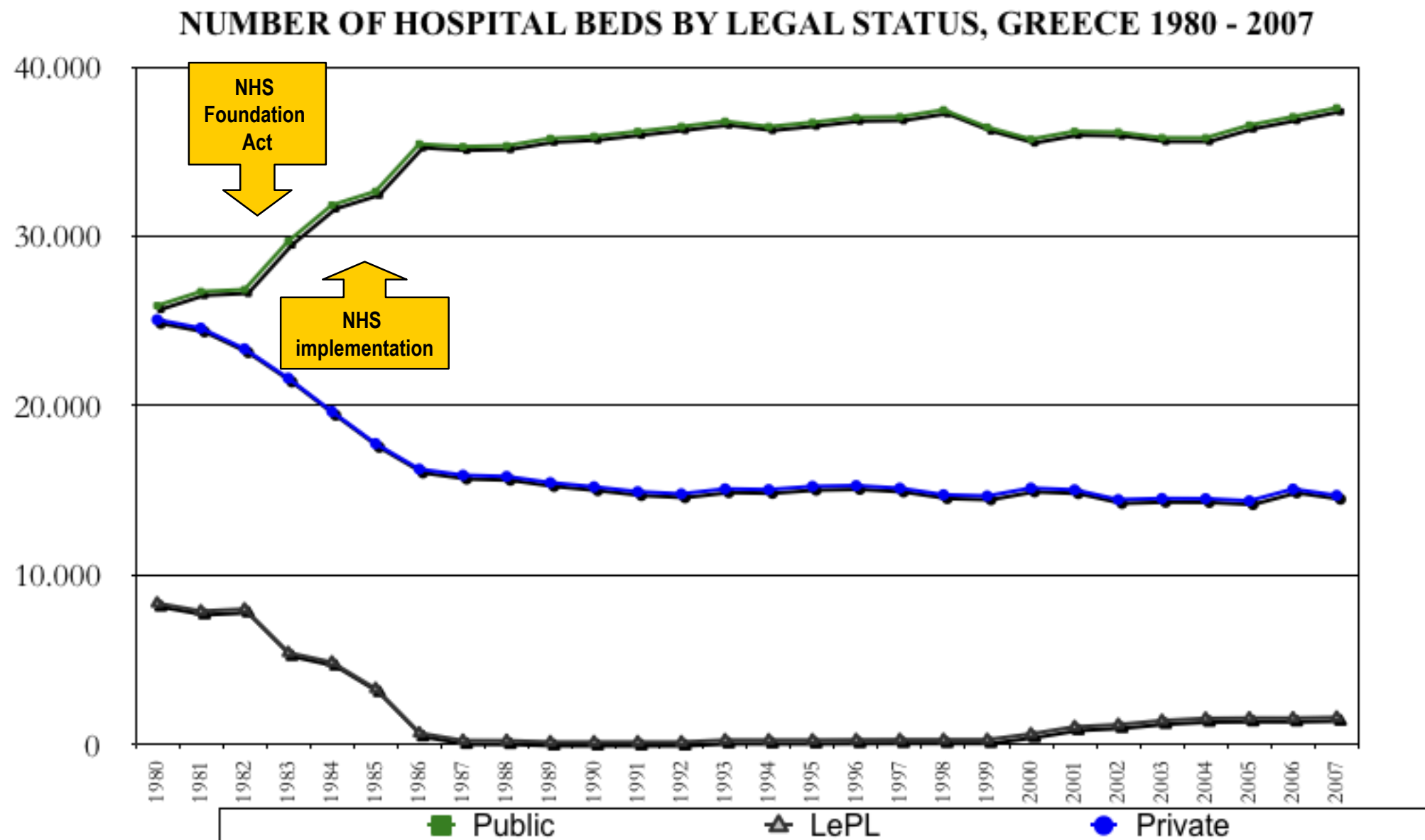
Article 6, §2

*“all hospitals owned by sickness funds or function as Legal Entities of Private Law (LEPrL) and **receiving public subsidies must be converted into LEPL**, within a year after the law has being issued”*

Number of hospitals by legal status, Greece 1980 - 2004



Historical review



Market driven “reforms” in E.U.

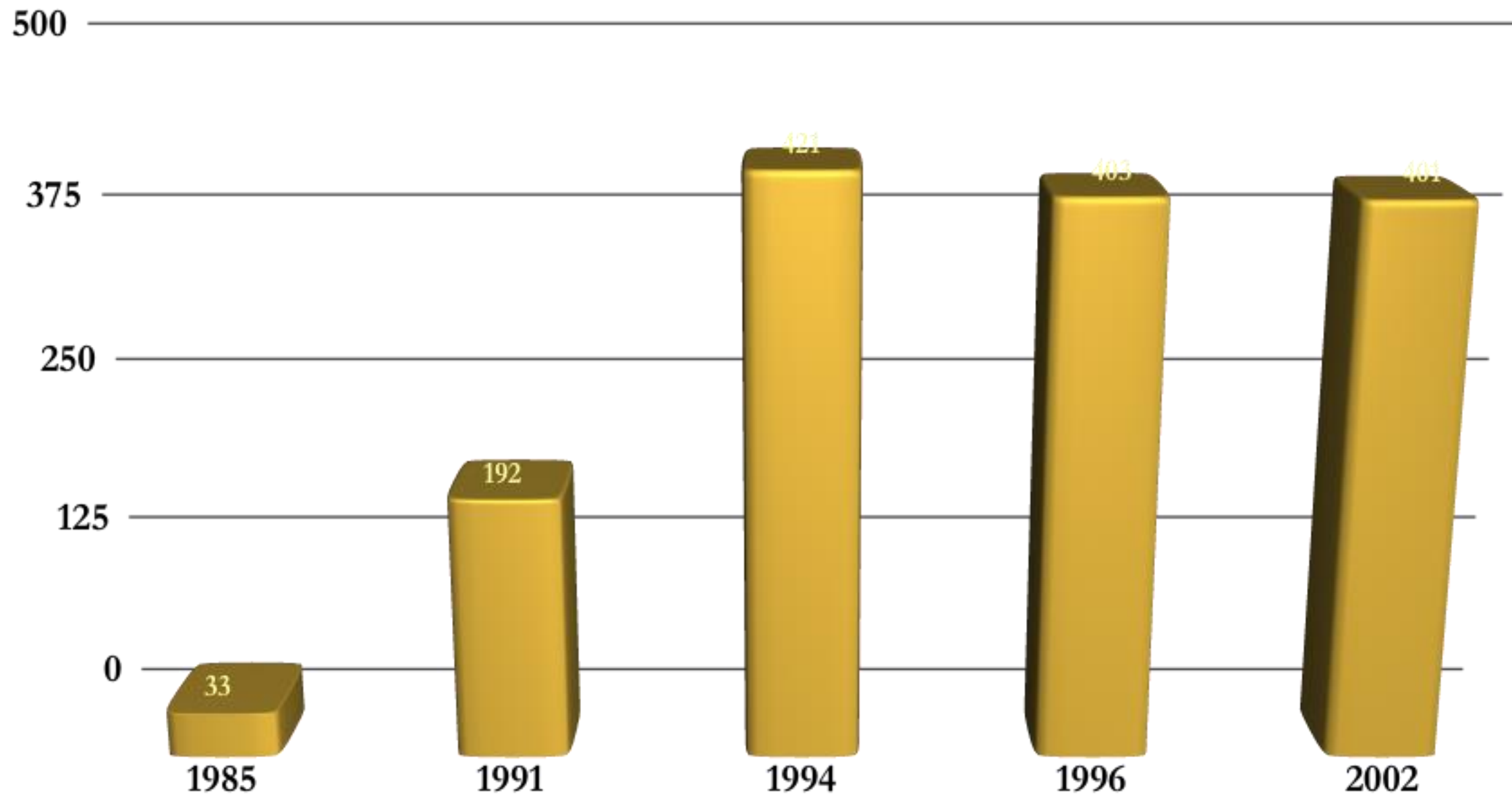
- **Neoliberalist consensus**
- **Goal for competitive european market**
- **Monetarist policies of retrenchment in welfare – Maastricht treaty 1991**
- **Leading role of OECD vs WHO**
- **Special role of the european social democracy**
- **Absence of any resistance**

Post – NHS development period of private for – profit health sector in Greece (1983 - 2002)

Main features:

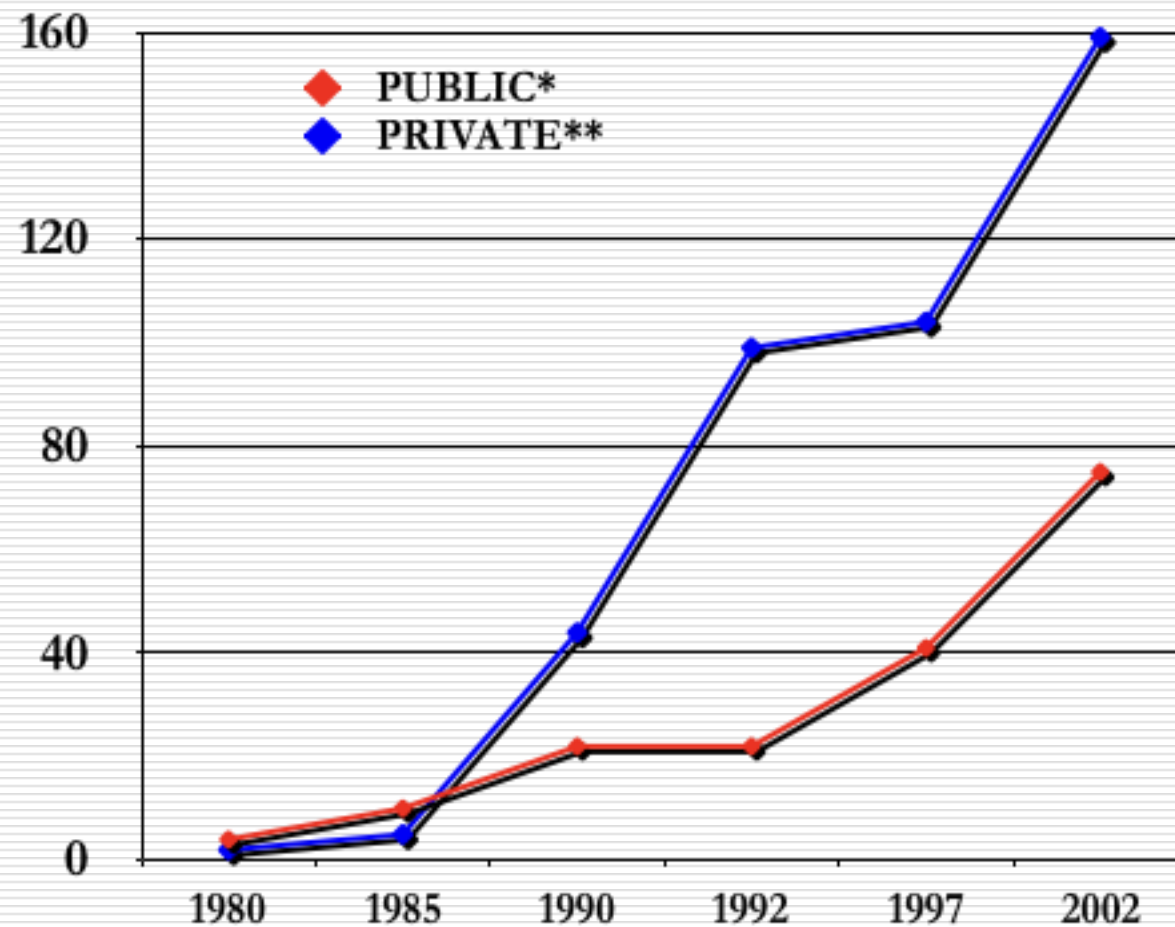
- high investment rate of private enterprises in biomedical technology
- selective development of private enterprises on the most profitable health care sectors
- absence of governmental control on the quality, the quantity and the type of services provided by the PFP health sector

Private Diagnostic Centers, Greece 1980 - 2002

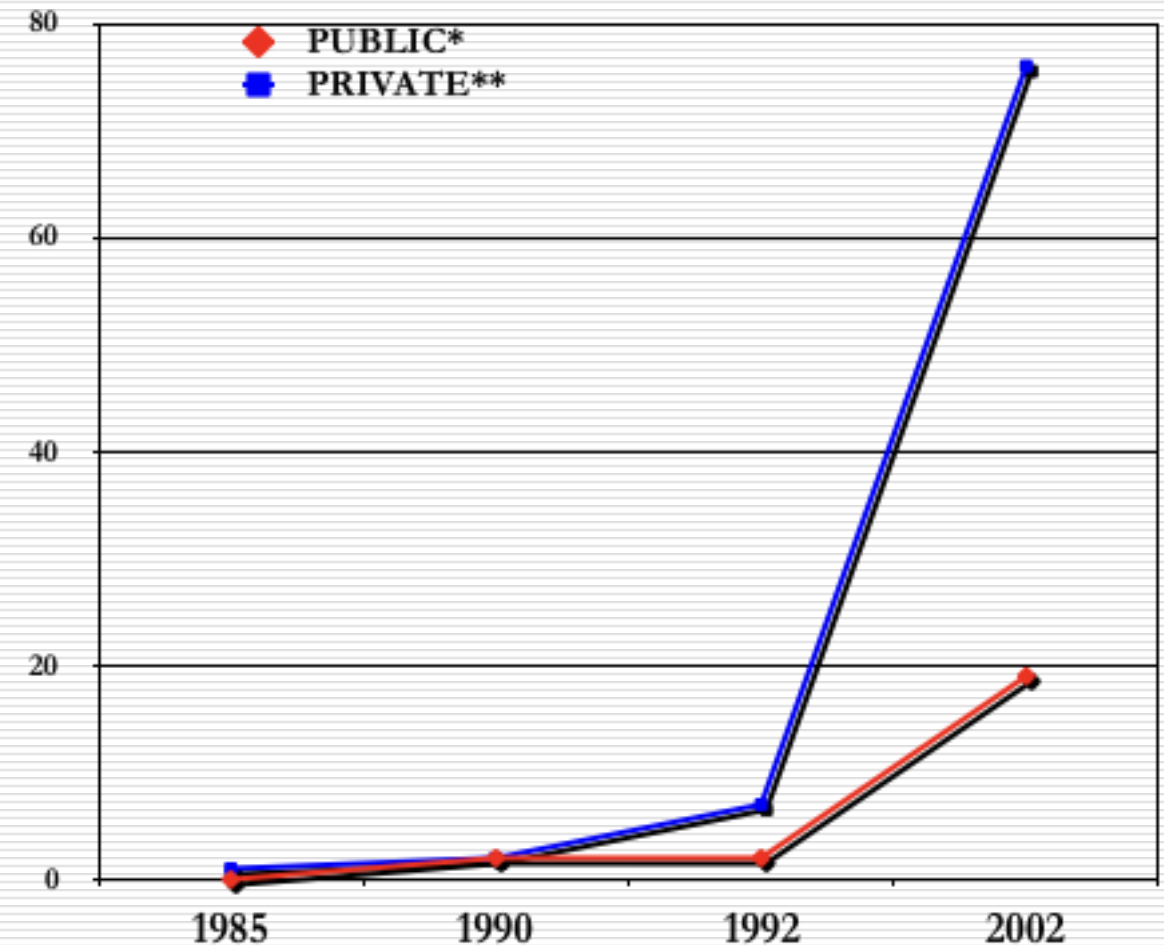


Private for-profit health sector in Greece: an overview

CT Scanners in Public and Private health sector, Greece 1980-2002



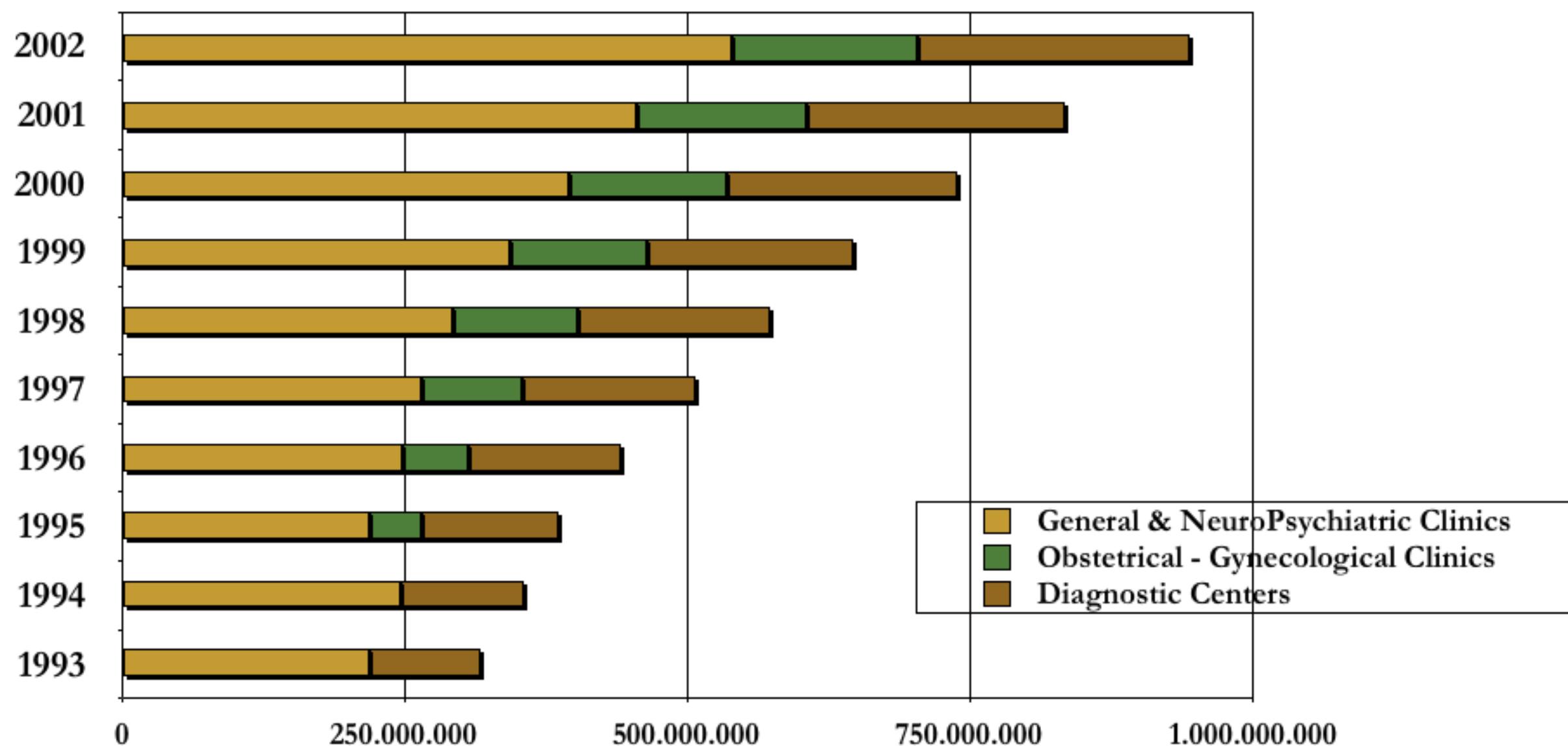
MRI Units in Public and Private health sector, Greece 1980-2002



* **PUBLIC**: included NHS, LEPrL, military hospitals

****PRIVATE**: included private clinics and diagnostics centers

Revenues of Private for – profit health sector, Greece 1993 – 2002



All amounts in €
Private Medical Consultants' Revenues not included

PFP health sector's development characteristics, Greece 1980–2002

- **The impact of NHS foundation on PFP health sector**

private hospitals decreased by 60%

private inpatient care beds decreased by 40%

patient discharged from PFP hospitals decreased by 28%

- **Post – NHS development period of PFP health sector**

high investment rate in biomedical technology

selective development on the most profitable health care sectors

absence of governmental control

- **Contemporary development characteristics of PFP Health Sector**

high rate of revenue increase

increase of private hospitals' mergers and acquisitions

creation of oligopoly

health care in Greece

- **Multitier**
- **Tripartite**
- **Fragmented structure**

- **“Public – private mix”
both in the provision
and financing of
health care services**

Market driven “reforms” in E.U.

- *Neoliberalist consensus*
- *Goal for competitive european market*
- *Monetarist policies of retrenchment in welfare –
Maastricht treaty 1991*
- *Leading role of OECD vs WHO*
- *Special role of the european social democracy*
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neoliberal imposed policies regarding public health services

- Under funding
- Dismantlement of public infrastructures
- Deregulation
- Fragmentation and
- Privatisation of services

Recent crisis in Greece

EU, ECB & IMF

structural adjustment policies in Europe:

- **antidemocratically imposed**
- **austerity policies**
- **war against labor**
- **war against environment**
- **war against values of collectivity and solidarity**

Greece

Privatization of health services

- *Understaffing public health services*
- *abolishing health personnel's life tenure,*
- *financing restraints in public health sector,*
- *outsourcing (security, cleaning services, food,..)*

Greece

- Contracting policy between public sickness funds and Private for Profit
- High growth rates of private for profit health care providers
- Public private hospital partnerships

Greece ..

Private health sector in Greece is publicly financed

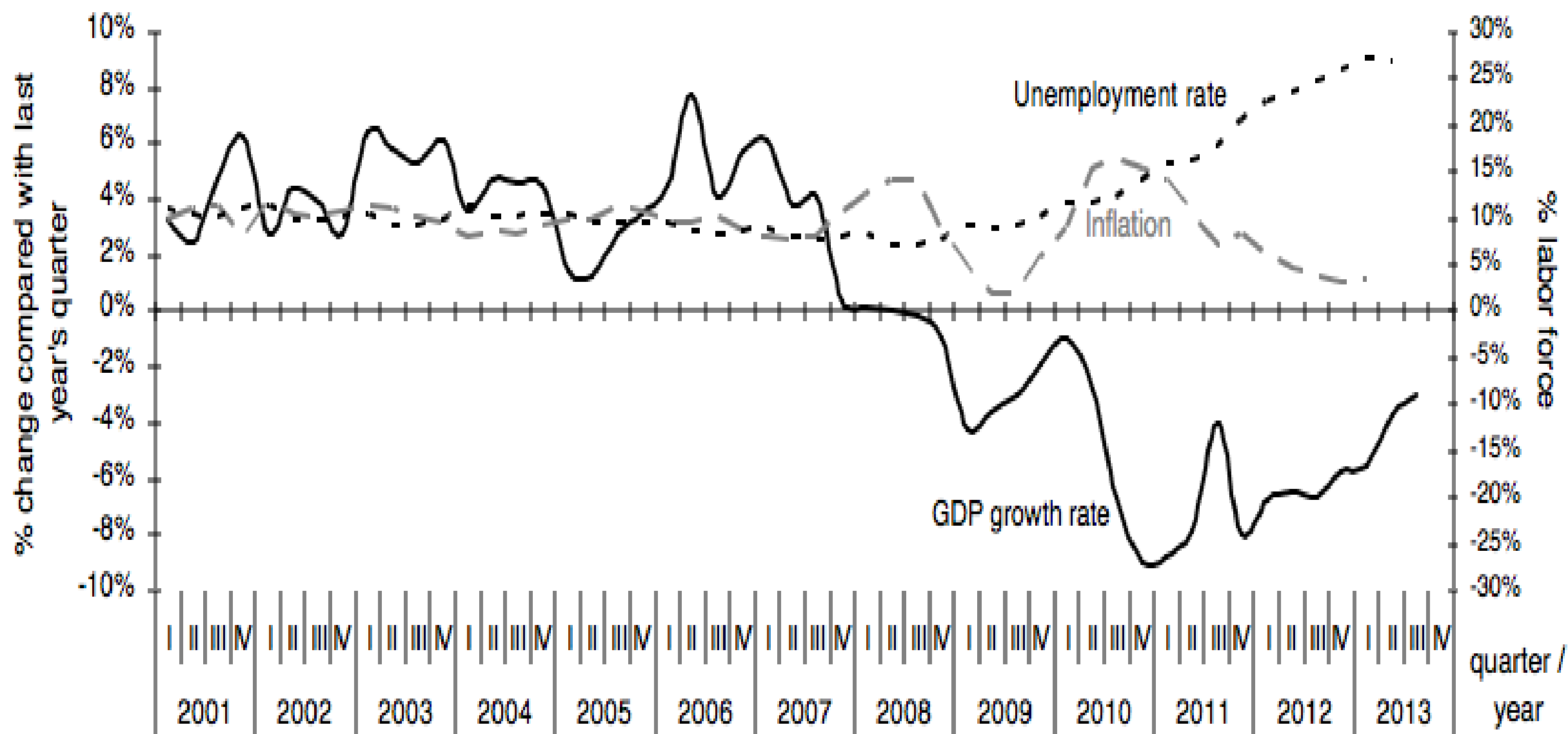
- **60% of private health care providers' revenues comes from publicly funded sickness funds**

(Kondilis E, Giannakopoulos S, Gavana M, Zdoukos T, Benos A. 2007)

Greece ..

- Private health expenditure represents 57% of total health expenditure (OECD Health Data 2007, WHO National Health Accounts 2007)
- **97% of which consists of out of pocket payments**

Economic crisis in Greece



GREECE 2016

	2014	2015	2016
* GDP growth (%)	0,7	-0,2	-0,3
inflation (%)	-1,4	-1,1	-0,3
unemployment (%)	26,5	24,9	24,7
public dept (% GDP)	180,1	176,9	182,8

Economic crisis, debt relief arrangements

- “After 1989 all **Central-Eastern European** (CEE) countries implemented large scale reforms (...) that were heavily influenced by foreign advisors like the World Bank and the international Monetary Fund”
- Common issues among these **health care reforms** were:
 - The reduction of government health spending
 - The introduction of co-payments
 - The introduction of several market-based instruments
 - The swift from taxation based systems to health insurance financing systems

The Greek EAPs and healthcare reform

“Health care reform is a crucial component of Greece’s fiscal consolidation efforts”

(EC Occasional paper 87, October 2011)

- The Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that the Greek government signed with the Troika from May 2010 to May 2013 included **170 conditionalities related to healthcare**:
 - Fiscal consolidation conditionalities related to healthcare (40 austerity measures)
 - Structural healthcare reform conditionalities (60 measures)
 - Pharmaceutical policy conditionalities (70 measures)

Greek EAPs and austerity

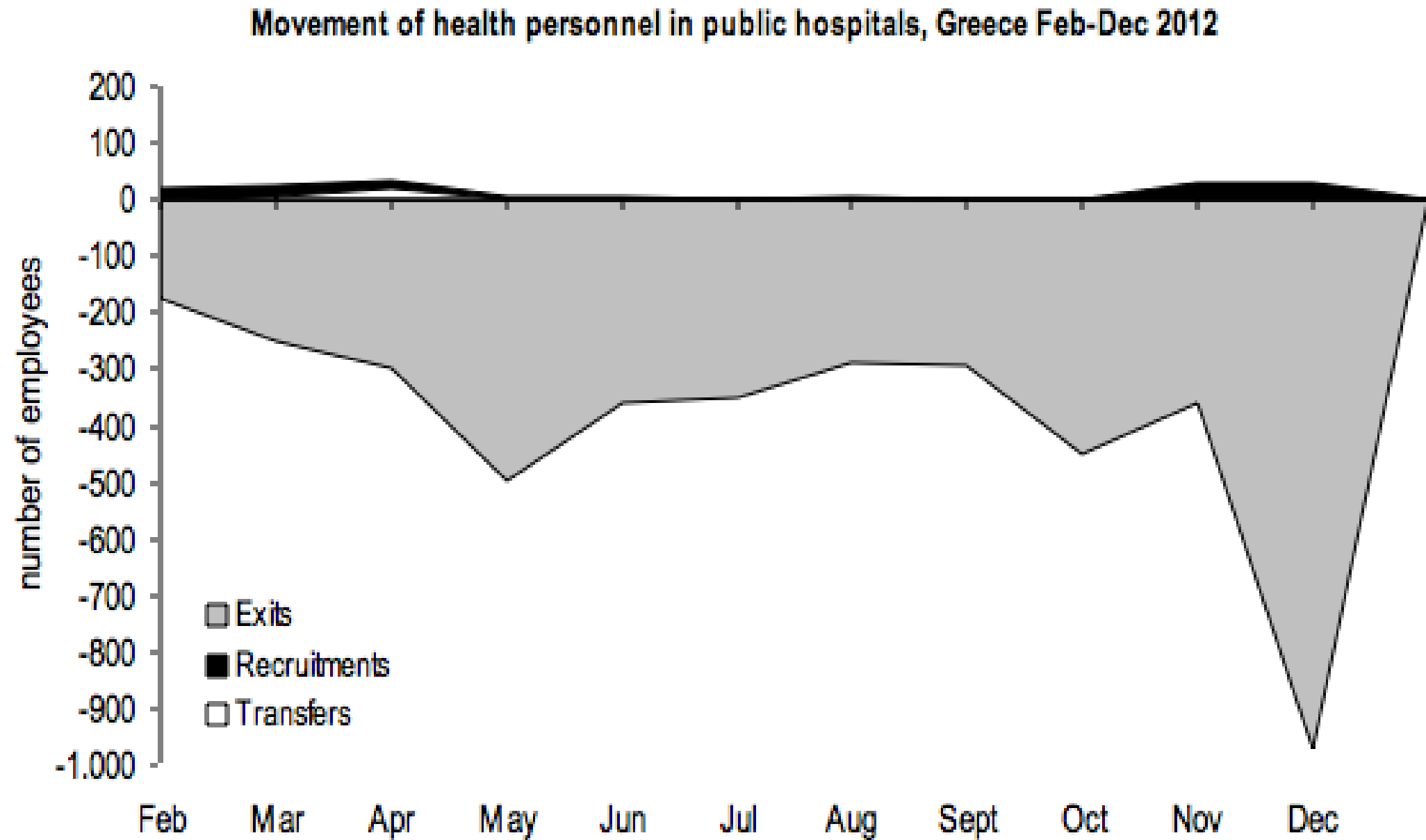
MoUs' user fees conditionalities

€3-5 co-payment for outpatient services in public hospitals	€30 million
Extension of “all day” functioning of public hospitals	€40 million
Fee on prescription	€115 million
Increased co-payments for public inpatient care	
Restriction of EOPYY's health benefit package	€180 million
Total	€365 million

Note: co-payments for pharmaceuticals and increased co-payments to private, contracted to SSFs providers are not included in the above table since Troika didn't quantify the subsequent projected savings resulting from these measures

Economic adjustment programme and healthcare

Greece 2010-2013



Sources: Kondilis E. et al (forthcoming)

EU, ECB & IMF

structural adjustment policies in Europe:

- antidemocratically imposed**
 - austerity policies**
 - war against labor**
 - war against environment**
 - war against values of collectivity and solidarity**
-

Destructive impacts of the implementation of neoliberal policies

deterioration of population's health determined by

deregulation of working conditions

unemployment

poverty

dismantlement of the welfare state

war - massive destruction

massive wave of refugees



“Like blood, health care is too precious, intimate and corruptible to entrust to the market”

(Woolhandler S, Himmelstein D.U. 1999)

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