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The Family and Greek State's Social Policy

The issue of family and familial policy has always been opportune in current times where the significance of the family in all social levels is becoming all the more evident.

The family, being the indimentary primary social factor, comprises the corner stone of the social structure. The acknowledgement and promotion of the role of the family as a fundamental component of the society within which the moral, cultural, material and spiritual values are developed which are essential for the support of the inter-generation solidarity and financial and social cohesion is undeniable.

The institution of family is affected by the re-organisation that it undergoes depending on the time and place where it lies, as well as the historical, social and political-economic influences which define its organisation, operativeness and the size of its population.

In our days the de- institutionalization of the family is noticeable in many developed countries, which is not unexpected if we contemplate on the social and political changes that are occurring. Nowadays the family is less capable of fulfilling its socialization task owing to the fact that the diversification of the social roles weakens the cohesion of the familial system.

The family is exposed to tensions and conflict of roles that serve as de-stabilising factors, debilitating its function. In modern societies the total abandonment of the entire familial model is explicit as well as the multiplication of the main patterns of private life which are not in the position to correspond to the rising socio-economic conditions.

The Greek family could not be unaffected by these international changes and the intense crisis both on a financial and on a political level. The socio-economic and demographic changes have influenced the structure and the relationships in the family.

With the present study we attempt to outline the main trends in the political measures that have been adopted by Greece as well as their effect on the family. Moreover recommendations are made for the amelioration of the present state.