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Anastas Philalithis, born in 1949, is Professor Emeritus of Social Medicine - Health Planning of the University of Crete, Greece.

He holds a degree in Medicine (1973) and a Master's in Community Medicine (1981) from the University of London and a PhD from the University of Athens (1978). He is a Specialist in Internal Medicine (Greece, 1979) and a Member of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK (1980).

He trained in internal medicine in the UK and Greece (1973-1979) and he was Locum Lecturer in Medicine at King's College Hospital Medical School (1980).

He served on the Executive Committee of the Central Health Council of Greece at the time of the first implementation of the National Health System (1982-1985).

From 1985 to 2016 he was Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor of Social Medicine - Health Planning at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Crete and at the University Hospital of Heraklion. He was Director of Studies of the Master's Course in Public Health and Health Care Management (MPH) and a member of the Master's Courses in Bioethics and in General Practice (2003-2016). He served as Vice-Rector of the University of Crete in 2010-2011 and in 2015-2016.

His main research interests are Health Services Research, Health Needs Assessment, Health Policy, Primary Health Care and Medical Education. His publications include more than 150 papers in peer reviewed journals, research reports and other publications. In Conferences, he has made >300 lectures, presentations and chairing of sessions and >160 announcements with published abstracts.

He has served as Greek representative, invited expert and adviser to the World Health Organization and the Commission of the EU as well as the Ministry of Health and the Central Health Council of Greece. He is currently Chair of the Hellenic Society for Social Medicine.