

GREECE

Greece has received funding since the EEA Agreement came into force in 1994. For the period 2009-2014, Greece has been allocated €63.4 million; up from €34.3 million over the previous five-year period. Projects may be implemented until 2016.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Safeguarding the right to seek asylum and improving the reception conditions, particularly of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- › Capacity building of Greek NGOs in policy and decision-making processes
- › Improving the environmental standard of marine and inland waters and promoting renewable energy and research
- › Alleviating the adverse social effects of the economic crisis

BILATERAL COOPERATION

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration has for a long time been involved in the joint European efforts to assist Greece in strengthening its migration management system, and continues this work with support from the EEA Grants. A number of study visits, seminars and joint activities are also being arranged.

At a national level, funding is available through the bilateral funds to support networking and foster project partnerships.

The EEA and Norway Grants provide €1.8 billion in funding to 150 programmes in 16 beneficiary countries. EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.8%, Iceland 3.0%, Liechtenstein 1.2%). Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone.

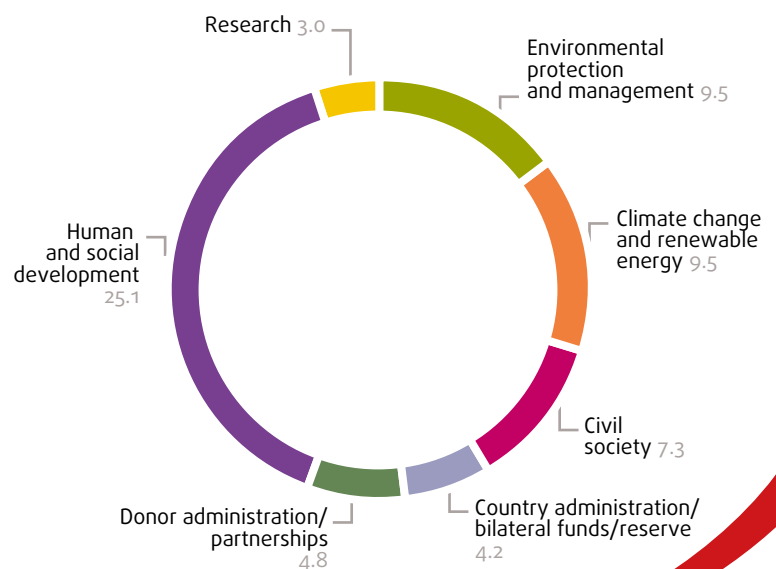


EEA GRANTS €63.4 M

	Greece	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	73	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-3.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	26.5	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	52.3	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	174.9	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)-	15	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	35.7	24.5
Human development index	16 (EU-28 ranking)	
Corruption perception index*	25 (EU-28 ranking)	

Sources: Eurostat, UNDP, Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014 and - indicates 2010

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



IN FOCUS

SUPPORTING ASYLUM REFORM

As a main point of entry into the EU, Greece faces considerable challenges relating to the influx of asylum seekers and illegal migrants. A significant proportion of the grant funding is focused improving conditions for asylum seekers.

The EEA Grants are enabling the UN's Refugee Agency to assist Greece in establishing a functioning asylum system. Local NGOs are receiving support enabling them to offer accommodation and services, especially to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Funding will make it possible for asylum seekers to use the services of the International Organisation of Migration and return voluntarily to their country of origin. With help from the donor countries through the Grants, Greece is also able to establish more screening centres for new arrivals.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

The economic and financial crisis has increased inequalities in Greece; recently many people have lost their jobs and social tensions have risen. Against this background it is essential that NGOs are able to advocate for vulnerable groups and provide key services, particularly to the most deprived.

A civil society programme funded through the Grants has been established for the first time in Greece. This shows a commitment from both the Greek authorities and the donor countries to strengthen the capacity of NGOs. The support enables national and local NGOs to contribute to the protection of human rights and provide services to vulnerable groups, including migrants and Roma. NGOs promoting social inclusion and anti-discrimination and addressing good governance and transparency are also benefiting from support.

Read more about all the programmes:
www.eegrants.org/greece

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management		9.5
Renewable energy		9.5
NGO Fund		7.3
Asylum and migration	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	20.9
Research		3.0
Solidarity and social inclusion		4.3

■ EEA Grants



Many illegal immigrants and asylum seekers who enter Greece cross at the Evros border and are housed in the Filakio detention centre. Funding in Greece aims to help improve conditions for asylum seekers.