



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
INFRASTRUCTURE, SHIPPING
& TOURISM

EEA GRANTS 2009-2014

STRATEGIC REPORT 2015

+ Annual report on Technical Assistance

(Covering year 2014)

31 March 2015

Independent Unit, National Focal Point-European Economic Area

10, Nikis str. GR-10563 Athens

eeagrants.gr

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FMC	Financial Mechanism Committee
FMO	Financial Mechanism Office
NFP	National Focal Point
PO	Programme Operator
FO	Fund Operator
PP	Project Promoter
PA	Programme Agreement
MCS	Management and Control System
SGS	Small Grant Scheme
BFNL	Bilateral Fund at National Level
GHG Emissions	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CRES	Centre for Renewable Energy Sources
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
AVR	Assisted Voluntary Return
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
01	Technical Assistance and Bilateral Fund at National Level
02	Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management
03	Renewable Energy
04	Funds for NGO
05	Adress urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accomdation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns
06	Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems
07	Research
08	Solidarity and Social Inclusion in Greece

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EEA Grants 2009-2014 implementation mostly started in Greece in 2014. The whole year was marked by political instability and continuous changes of the Ministers commanding the Programme Operators, including the NFP. Despite that, the POs demonstrated perseverance and tried to promote the various decisions as much as possible. The results started to be visible by the end of 2014.

The combination of poor welfare state, rising unemployment and sharp income decrease is producing a very unstable social image for Greece, despite the fact that the country is still among the most developed in the world. In this context, the mainly demonstrative character of the EEA Grants programmes in Greece is very important, providing simultaneously a certain improvement in the selected sector, and possibly ameliorating the perception of the general conditions in the country.

Special mention should be made for the programmes for Asylum, Assisted Voluntary Returns, Unaccompanied Minors and other vulnerable immigrants, as well as the social programmes targeting the less privileged. The statistics clearly show that these programmes (05, 06, 08) are filling an existing gap in the Hellenic social and administrative system.

Concerning the bilateral relations, some positive developments took place in 2014. The POs for 02, 03, and 04 organized a bilateral activity that, in their respective sectors, resulted in increased visibility, albeit with limited results as far as the establishment of permanent ties is concerned. The potential is more visible for 06, due to the successful partnership with the UDI, and for 03, concerning RES, where there is fertile common ground to work on. The prospects are mitigated for 02 and 07. Finally, there is serious concern for the bilateral Fund at National Level, due to the persisting impossibility of payments on the part of the PO.

A gap in the implementation progress is visible, between the Programmes managed by the Hellenic Administration and those managed by the FMO/contracted Fund Operators. The disbursements are very low on the PO side. However, it is important to note that these programmes started with considerable delays, mainly due to the political instability and the inexistence of monitoring on the part of the NFP itself, which remained understaffed for nearly half the year 2014. The delays in implementation should not be confused with poor quality, though. All PO are following the procedures and are ensuring quality of the projects selected.

The main challenge ahead is the smooth implementation. The lengthy procurements' procedures that must be followed on the part of many PPs, once these are contracted, may lead to further delays. Simultaneously, in some programmes, the new government has set other priorities, possibly delaying the implementation. Finally, the administrative capacity of the PO/PP may influence the progress too. The NFP has been closely monitoring progress, offering solutions when possible.

The visibility of the Grants is expected to rise from 2015 onwards, due to the hiring of a communications consultant – in time for communicating the results- and the functioning of the internet site www.eeagrants.gr.

2. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE GRANTS

As a general remark it is still very soon to assess the effect of the Grants for Greece. Indeed, the Programmes have only started implementation in mid-2014.

In this regard, the NFP has chosen to briefly present the trends in the main sectors where the Grants will intervene, during 2015 and 2016, when the results will start to be visible.

2.1 Cohesion

Although Greece is still among the economically developed countries in the world, ranking above many other EU countries according to the GDP/capita, it is also a country severely hit by the economic crisis, for the sixth consecutive year. This has negatively affected many indicators that contribute to the sentiment of quality of life. In fact, the sharp decrease of the available income has led to a general resentment, albeit not supported by statistics. That said, it is also clear that the crisis has hit more severely the low income households, thus leading to an increase of the number of people living under the poverty threshold, in a country where the welfare state and the social system have not yet reached a satisfactory level.

GDP growth rate (annual change)			
GEO/TIME	2008	2011	2013
EA-17	0,4	1,6	-0,4
EU-28	0,4	1,6	0,1
Bulgaria	6,2	1,8	0,9
Croatia	2,1	-0,2	-0,9
Cyprus	3,6	0,4	-5,4
Czech Republic	3,1	1,8	-0,9
Estonia	-4,1	8,7	2,2
Greece	-0,2	-7,1	-3,9
Hungary	0,9	1,6	1,1
Latvia	-2,8	5,3	4,1
Lithuania	2,9	6,0	3,3
Malta	3,9	1,4	2,9
Poland	5,1	4,5	1,6
Portugal	0,0	-1,3	-1,4
Romania	7,3	2,3	3,5
Slovakia	5,8	3,0	0,9
Slovenia	3,4	0,7	-1,1
Spain	0,9	0,1	-1,2
Iceland	1,2	2,7	3,3
Norway	0,1	1,3	0,6

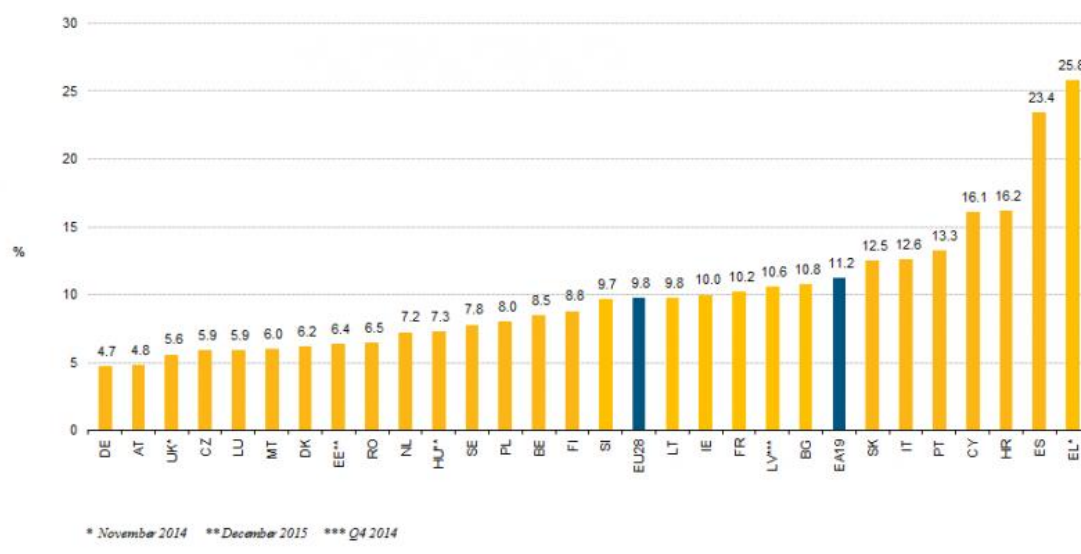
Source: Eurostat

GDP/capita in PPS			
GEO/TIME	2008	2011	2013
EU-28	100,0	100,0	100,0
EA-17	109,0	109,0	107,0
Bulgaria	43,0	44,0	45,0
Croatia	64,0	60,0	61,0
Cyprus	105,0	96,0	89,0
Czech Republic	82,0	83,0	82,0
Estonia	68,0	68,0	73,0
Greece	93,0	77,0	73,0
Hungary	63,0	65,0	66,0
Latvia	60,0	57,0	64,0
Lithuania	63,0	65,0	73,0
Malta	81,0	84,0	86,0
Poland	55,0	64,0	67,0
Portugal	79,0	78,0	79,0
Romania	48,0	51,0	55,0
Slovakia	71,0	73,0	75,0
Slovenia	89,0	83,0	82,0
Spain	102,0	95,0	94,0
Iceland	125,0	115,0	119,0
Norway	189,0	182,0	186,0

Source: Eurostat

According to Eurostat¹, in 2013 35.7% of Greeks were facing the risk of poverty or social exclusion during 2013, while 23.1% remained at the risk of poverty even after the social transfers and another 18.2% were living in households with very low work intensity, topping European Union's rankings in both categories. Greece ranked third amongst its European partners for the percentage of the population at risk of poverty and social exclusion, only behind Bulgaria with 48% and Romania with 40%. In addition, according to the OECD country survey 2013², there is a considerable gap between the richest and poorest – the top 20% of the population earn six times as much as the bottom 20%.

At the same time, Greece had the highest unemployment rate (figures seasonally adjusted for 01/2015):



Source: Eurostat.

The combination of poor welfare state, rising unemployment and sharp income decrease is producing a very unstable social image for the country. Hence, in the OECD Better Life Index 2013, Greece is ranking poorly. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of Greek people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 59% to 23%, the lowest share in the OECD area.

Below are the OECD Better Life Index statistics for Greece that are of concern to the EEA Grants, in a scale from 0 to 10, 0 being the less satisfactory:

Life satisfaction (how happy you are)	0
Environment (quality of environment)	4,6
Community (quality of social support network)	0
Jobs (earnings, job security and unemployment)	2,2
Income (household income and financial wealth)	1,9
Civic engagement (your involvement in democracy)	3,9

¹ Source:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00184&plugin=1>

² <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/greece/>

Work-life balance (how much you work, how much you play)	7,2
--	-----

Source: <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/greece/>

This situation clearly shows the need for social action, on top of what can be achieved by the State. Therefore, projects such as the “Ffourarcheion” (a social center proposing comprehensive services, from medical to legal support) are definitely contributing to ameliorating living conditions and access to services for the most deprived. Almost 2500 persons had access to the Ffourarcheion services during 2014.

On other sectors, the image is mitigated. For example, Greece has a higher rate of decrease of GHG emissions (13%) compared to the EU 28 average (11%) for the period 2002 to 2012 (last available Eurostat³ data). Simultaneously, only 6.03%⁴ of the energy consumption comes from renewable energy sources, demonstrating the lack of exploitation of the country’s huge potential in the sector.

The demonstrative character of the projects about to be financed by the EEA Grants will contribute to highlight the importance of a modal shift in energy production and consumption in Greece. In particular, the communication and publicity requirements of the Programme, and the close monitoring of the NFP will allow to spread the knowledge of the positive results of the projects.

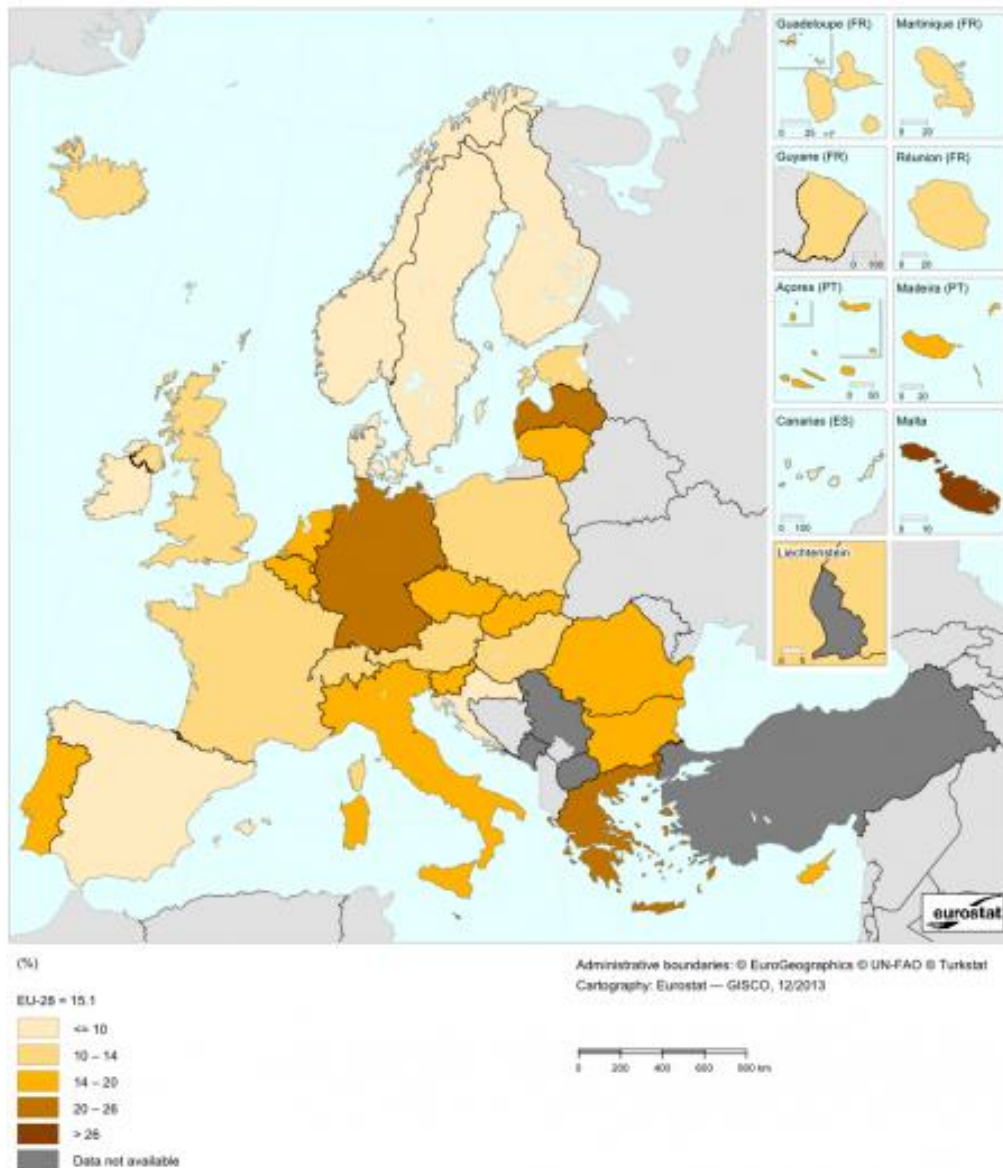
Greece is among the countries with high exposure to pollution:

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdcc210>

The data is expected to further decrease, not least because of the continuous decrease of private transport in the cities in the years after 2012, due to the crisis.

⁴ <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/greece/>

Share of population suffering from pollution, grime or other environmental problems, 2011 (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU-SILC (online data code: [ic_mddw02](#))

Equally, sea and inland water quality is one of the best in Europe⁵, but many regions, especially in the islands, are still lacking fresh drinking water⁶. The O2 Programme will contribute to improve these indexes and therefore to improve the living conditions in the targeted areas.

⁵ <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water/bathing-water-data-viewer>

⁶ [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Freshwater_resources_per_inhabitant_-_long-term_average_\(1_000_m%C2%B3_per_inhabitant\).png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Freshwater_resources_per_inhabitant_-_long-term_average_(1_000_m%C2%B3_per_inhabitant).png)

The Programmes O2 and O3 are expected to contribute to improving these indexes.

Due to its geographical position, its long seacoast and its proximity unstable regions, Greece is a major entrance for migrants and, according to the UNHCR⁷ has recorded a rise in asylum applications. The highest number of asylum applicants in the fourth quarter of 2014 was registered by far in Germany (65 100 applicants, or 32% of total applicants in the EU), Hungary (28 600, or 14%), Italy (21 500, or 11%), Sweden (21 100, or 10%) and France (16 800, or 8%)⁸. But absolute numbers may not translate the overall burden for the administration.

Residing in Greece	
Refugees	3,485
Asylum Seekers	43,883
Returned Refugees	0
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	0
Returned IDPs	0
Stateless Persons	178
Various	11,539
Total Population of Concern	59,085
Originating from Greece	
Refugees	94
Asylum Seekers	89
Returned Refugees	0
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	0
Returned IDPs	0
Various	0
Total Population of Concern	183

Source: UNHCR, 2014

In this context, the contribution of the Grants is crucial. According to the data presented in the 06 annual programme report, during the implementation period within 2014, 2663 third country nationals were accommodated in the Evros First Reception Centre and informed about the AVR procedure (137 requested so), along with 225 unaccompanied children. Equally, 320 asylum applications were submitted. The Asylum Service in Fylakio processed 260 applications.

⁷ <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e48e726.html#>

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report

Finally, concerning research capacity, Greece is ranking poorly. According to the “Innovation Union Progress at Country level” report 2014 by the European Commission, R&D intensity in 2012 was at 0.69 %, while the EU average was EU: 2.07 %.

The EEA Grants are expected to slightly contribute to improve the above indexes. The progress will only be measurable once the projects are contracted; although it will be difficult to measure the percentage of EEA Grants contribution to the changes, as the intervention areas are not only targeted by the EEA Grants, but also by other sources of financing.

The NFP, in cooperation with the Programme Operators, will ensure the maximum degree of visibility of all actions undertaken, so that the effect of the Grants is effectively communicated to the general public.

2.2. Bilateral relations

The progress during 2014 is mitigated. Overall, the trend is considered positive, as the POs have organized bilateral actions in the context of the launching of their respective calls, with the aim to create permanent ties with entities from the Donor states. On the other hand, technical problems concerning payments for the programme 01 (Technical Assistance and Bilateral Fund at National Level) have created delays in implementation of the BFNL, resulting to its temporary freezing. However, the NFP notes that, in view of the repeated requests from potential project promoters, once the payments issue is resolved, the actions under the BFNL will be implemented with success.

More in detail:

The Centre for International and European Economic Law, in collaboration with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, organized a joint seminar entitled “How can EU member states combat hate crime effectively? Encouraging reporting and improving recording”, on 28-29/04. The seminar was attended by more than 90 participants and indeed had an important impact, as far as the dissemination of results is concerned. This is the only event under the BFNL that was completed during 2014; it was also partly financed directly from the FMO. However, its significance in terms of strengthening the bilateral relations with the Donor countries is limited, consisting in the participation of professionals from the Donor countries as well.

The NGO “Junior Achievement Greece”, in cooperation with the “mother” NGO “Junior Achievement Norway”, has started implementing the activity “Entrepreneurship in Education”, with the organization of exchange visits. However, the PO (the NFP) is unable to proceed to any payments in this project, thus obliging the Promoter to temporarily suspend the implementation. The consequence is the necessity to extend the implementation until the end of the programming period and somehow alter the essence of the project, by replacing some planned activities with other, due to a later start.

Finally, under the BFNL, the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources started drafting the specifications concerning the implementation of the Project “Geothermal Development”. Due to late claims for daily allowances on the part of the donor project partner (“Orkustofnun”), the project has been delayed, until a decision is taken to increase the total available budget.

A part from the BFNL, some significant developments took place on the part of the Programme Operators. For instance it is worth mentioning that an excellent cooperation is taking place between the Norwegian Directorate for Immigration (UDI) and two Programme Operators, namely the European and Development Programmes Division of the Ministry of Public Order and Citizens (06) and the International Organization for Migration (contracted by the FMO for the 05). The Cooperation Committee for the 06 is meeting regularly, and the UDI has also detached at least one person to the PO in Greece in order to facilitate implementation and knowledge transfer.

The Programme 03 has organized a bilateral activity, in September 2014, in the context of communicating the then open calls. CRES had invited participants from the Donor countries, and in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Athens encouraged joint applications; however, these did not materialize. It is foreseen that bilateral actions will be organized by the Project Promoters once they are selected. It is important to note that this particular programme seems to have a great bilateral potential, due to its content (RES), on which extensive knowhow and expertise exists in the Donor countries, and also due to the Programme Operator’s willingness.

The programme 02 prepared a bilateral activity for the beginning of 2015. The “Research” programme (07) will implement bilateral actions only at project level.

As a conclusion, the bilateral activities are well under way. The prospects are positive, especially for the Programmes 01 (once the payments issue is solved), 03 – due to the subject matter and to the Promoter’s willingness- and 06 – due to the ongoing fruitful cooperation with the UDI. The NFP discerns some difficulties in implementing meaningful bilateral activities for the Programmes 02 and 07, due to their character. In fact, the call for scholarships in the Donor states within the 02 Programme would be issued again in late March, due to lack of interest. Concerning the 07 the evaluation of the proposals is under way and it is difficult to provide a clear assessment. In fact, only some proposals included bilateral relations with Universities/research centers from the donor states and it is not clear if these proposals will be finally co-financed.

REPORTING ON PROGRAMMES

3.1 Overview of Programme status

Calls per programme in 2014 (as in DoRIS, corrected by the NFP):

Programme	Publication date	End date
02 Integrated marine and inland water		

management		
More integrated management of marine and inland water resources	5/12/2014	06/02/2015
Scholarships for postdoctoral research or part of doctoral (Ph.D) studies in the field of Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, 2014-2015	05/11/2014	09/01/2015
03 Renewable energy		
RES Systems in Local Communities Call 1 & Pre-Defined Project	12/06/2014	03/11/2014
04 Funds for Non-governmental Organisations		
Social inequalities, poverty, social exclusion (including in rural areas) and provision of basic welfare services	22/01/2014	24/03/2014
Democracy, Transparency, Good Governance and Citizen Participation	22/01/2014	24/03/2014
Human Rights, including minority rights, especially the Roma, immigrants, racism and hate crime, gender equality and gender-based violence and trafficking	22/09/2014	24/11/2014
Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment	22/09/2014	24/11/2014
07 Research		
Open Call for the Programme "Diversity, inequality and social inclusion	21/10/2014	19/12/2014

Commitments and disbursements per programme, as reported by the PO, 2014

Programme	Commitments (€)	Disbursements (€)	Comments
01	220.000,00	50.000,00	
02	6.641.037,13	0	
03	11.188.235,00	293.188,00	
04	0	475.400,00	Advance payments only
05	2.381.623,70	2.143.109,30	90% absorption
06	PROJECT 1: 532.358,00	47.482,00	
	PROJECT 2: 778.724,00	201.023,00	
	PO: 89.348,00	31.425,00	
07	1.450.509,00	0	
08	1.272.384,00	1.242.978,00	The remaining would be

			disbursed in early 2015
--	--	--	-------------------------

The actual implementation of all programmes under the NFP's monitoring in Greece started in mid-2014. After several adjustments to some of the Program Agreements, in order to better reflect the goals to be achieved and the means to attain them, all issued their calls in that same period. Due to a very late start in implementation, the NFP has been closely monitoring the progress, by regularly organizing meetings with the Program Operators, as well as providing help in situ when deemed necessary. All POs have been asked to provide an implementation timetable, (updated when necessary) which is the main reference document for monitoring the progress and identifying delays.

Concerning the directly contracted programmes, the NFP has prepared short presentations on their progress during 2014, based on the annual report submitted by the FO.

The Programme 01 will not be reported, as, due to the impossibility of payments, no expenses or other progress took place in the examined period, except for one bilateral activity, reported in the section 2.2 above.

3.2 Individual Program Summaries

3.2.1 GR02 "Integrated marine and inland water management"

The Programme Agreement was the last to be signed, in June 2014. However, the PO (the Special Service for the Coordination of Environmental Activities) showed quick reflexes and proceeded to drafting the calls, as well as establishing the links with the project promoters of the predefined project and the two small grant schemes.

A combined call for the three outputs was launched in December 2014, ending in 6/02/2015. The call concerned:

- Water quality improvement projects for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands,
- Actions (such as studies or surveys) to increase knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems or biodiversity loss,
- Actions (such as studies, surveys) to increase knowledge in integrated marine and insular policy or in the protection or management of coastal areas.

The response to the above calls is expected to cover the first three outputs of the programme.

The pre-defined project "of implementing an integrated marine monitoring programme" was contracted in January 2015 and is being implemented.

A bilateral event, covering all the above calls as well as the presentation of the predefined project, with substantial participation from the Donors, was planned by the PO for January 12 & 13 2015.

The SGS on study visits from primary and secondary schools in order to increase knowledge on the importance of protecting the water resources, although long discussed with the PP, was delayed. The output is not in danger, though, due to the nature of the SGS and the expected response that it will certainly receive once published.

The SGS on post-doctoral research in integrated marine and inland management of water resources, in collaboration with a University from a donor state was also launched, but it received fewer responses than expected. Therefore, it is not sure whether the expected output will be reached.

Overall, the outcome of increased awareness of, and education in integrated marine and Inland water management, as measured by the PA indicators, may not be reached. However, it is important to note that this particular aspect of the Programme ends in 30/04/2017.

Although the implementation started late, the calls received significant response. The PO, in cooperation with the NFP and the Directorate for the implementation of the NSRF in Greece, had previously identified the specific needs of the potential candidates, so that the calls are drafted in a way that attracts more response. However, the main difficulty in timely implementation lies in the procedures that are ahead, namely public procurements that will follow, as well as the unknown parameter of the PP's administrative capacity.

The two SGS were late in kicking off, but their nature allows for hope for timely implementation.

3.2.2 GR03 "Renewable Energy".

The programme aims at contributing to a less carbon-dependent economy, and is fully aligned with Greece's obligations under the 20-20-20 strategy. The PO (the Center for Renewable Energy Sources) issued a call in June 2014, ending on 03/11, for a total of € 9,67 million, comprising:

- Category 1: RES integrated actions in local "Communities", and
- Category 2: RES integrated actions in a "small island" (predefined project).

The CRES received 67 proposals for Category 1. It proceeded to a thorough evaluation, according to EEA Grants' Regulation requirements, which ended in the end of December 2014. The Selection Committee decided to select a list of projects to be proposed for contacting. However, due to numerous appeals concerning the first stage of evaluation, namely admissibility of applicants, the list is not finalized yet. The final results will depend on the outcome of the appeals.

The PO received only 2 applications for Category 2 (small island). After evaluation and careful discussion within the Selection Committee, the two applications were rejected. The PO has requested the transfer of the available funding to Category 1.

On Sept. 11 2014, the PO organized a successful launching/match-making event, with significant participation both from Hellenic interested parties as well as from the Donor

countries. The CRES then created a list of participants, available to those interested in bilateral activities. It is worth mentioning the PO has experience in international cooperation, including ties with entities from the donor countries.

Although there were no proposals including a DPP, the CRES will allocate the necessary amounts to the selected Project Promoters and guide them in organizing bilateral activities.

The early stage of implementation does not allow for identifying achieved outputs already. The NFP and the PO are convinced that the targets set will be reached, because of the quality of the proposal received and the expected renewable energy production that will be generated and consequent CO2 emission reduction.

However, if the proposed transfer of funding from the Category 1 to 2 is accepted, this will lead to the cancellation of the output “RES integrated actions in a small island” and its merging with the output “RES integrated actions in Local Communities”. It is worth mentioning that the essence of the output, the estimated energy production and CO2 emission reduction, will still be valid, but it will not concern a small island.

The NFP notes the experience of the PO and its diligence in the implementation of the Programme. However, the lengthy procurement procedures that must follow, once the contracts are signed, as well as the lack of capacity on the part of the Project Promoters, might jeopardize the timely implementation of the Program.

3.2.3 GR04 “We are all citizens”

The programme “We are all citizens”, operated by the FMO/Bodossaki Foundation, extends to the following thematic areas:

- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Democratic values, including human rights promoted
- Advocacy and Watchdog role development
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased

The Capacity Building (CB) initiative has focused on four main areas of activity with project promoters: Capacity assessment, Promoting access to information, Training activities, Promoting networking.

Since the CB programme is in the very early stages of implementation, it is too early to report on progress regarding the CB indicators. However, as series of developments took place during 2014, with very positive results for the NGOs involved.

The CB team developed the “Capacity Map” which is a user-friendly tool that operationalizes the CB matrix with project promoters. Specifically, the needs of the project promoters were evaluated and their abilities were mapped. The designing of the tool was based on the experiences of the 3 FOs that piloted the use of the CB matrix with project promoters and the feedback from Greek NGOs and researchers.

By the end of December 2014 the first capacity assessment had been completed with approximately on third of the project promoters from the first two calls (13 organizations) through a process of “facilitated self-assessment”, involving meetings between the Programme team and each project promoter. This data will be used for the CB training. Also, the CB assessment has raised the general understanding of the project promoters and their needs and contributes to the monitoring process.

An “Implementation Pack” was created for the project promoters, so that they would manage their projects successfully and in accordance with the programme procedures. Guidelines on project monitoring, financial and narrative reporting and communication requirements were presented to the project promoters at the Implementation Workshop, which was held in Athens on 18 November 2014.

Eight “How to apply Workshops” were conducted across Greece. There was a presentation of the programme aims, the application and assessment process, practical tips on writing project proposals and question and answer sessions with the relevant programme officers. These workshops, along with a pre – Christmas “Scanditeranean Cooking” event, offered opportunities for networking among NGOs. Also, a Facebook group of the project promoters was created in November 2014 as a further means of networking.

Additional support was offered to small NGOs in rural areas so as to apply for the third and fourth call. There was little response to that initiative due to the fact that the small organizations in rural areas of Greece cannot easily correspond to the demands of financial liquidity and project management capacity.

A pilot workshop on financial management and reporting was held on 16 December 2014 for the nine project promoters of the call “Advocacy and watchdog role development”.

Social sustainability has been defined as “a positive condition within communities and a process within communities that can achieve that condition”. All 31 projects under the call “Provision of basic and welfare services to defined target groups increased” aim at the equity of access to social welfare services, such as health, education, transport, housing and recreation. The social sustainability is connected with project implementation for this call. A potential threat to social sustainability could be the lack of financing and liquidity problems.

The majority of the projects under the call “Advocacy and Watchdog role development” contribute to social sustainability; two of them also concern environmental sustainability.

Several projects foresee economic sustainability, as their implementation is expected to be continued after the implementation of the programme. For example, the exhibit on Social and Cultural diversity, created for the Hellenic Children’s Museum, will be accessible by the public after the end of the programme.

Regarding the bilateral relations, measure A, two calls were announced. In the first call three proposals were approved, linked to the outcomes “Advocacy & Watchdog role” and “Provision of Social Welfare”. In the second call concerning the outcomes “Democratic values, including human rights” and “Strengthened capacity building”, seven proposals were

submitted. Regarding bilateral relations measure B, a call was launched in July 2014 and it is still open.

According to the Fund Operator, the greatest risk for the implementation of the programme is the project promoters' inability to successfully complete the projects due to financial difficulties (economic crisis, delays in payments and/ or insufficient cash-flow). The close monitoring, site visits, collaboration with project promoters and assistance through the Capacity Building Programme are means of mitigating the risk. Another main risk derives from the fact that NGOs, which have applied for funding as a consortium, get into irremediable disagreements and the consortium to which the project was assigned is being dissolved. The means of risk mitigation are the close monitoring and communication with the FO's experienced legal department.

3.2.4 GR05 "Address urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns"

The remaining active part of the Program 05 is the SOAM: "Supporting Organizations that assist migrant asylum seeking population in Greece", which is being implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office in Greece. Three Consortiums meet the standards in order to work on the Program, and the progress in 2014 is described below:

1. The consortium Médecins du Monde- Greece / Greek Council for Refugees, entitled "Reception Center for vulnerable asylum seekers at the center of Athens with capacity of 70 places" (Athens, center)

Medical care services (general health checks, vaccinations, psychiatric or psychological support), were offered when needed. The legal assistance was provided despite the obstacle of access to Asylum service. For example, GCR informed the Asylum Service that applicants are not to be blamed for the delay in filing their appeal and lawyers intervened in the transfer of the applications of asylum seekers from the regional state authority to police officers or the Asylum Service. Also, an interpreter of the applicants' language was requested by the legal service and he was granted after the pressure of MDM.

The social services proceeded to various actions besides the standard reception process. Seminars, day trips and visits at educational or entertainment venues provided beneficiaries with accurate information and encouragement/motivation for their smooth integration in the Greek society. Moreover, a "Survival Guide" for asylum seekers, edited in Greek, English and French was issued by the social services department. Lessons of Greek for adults and musical workshops for children are held at Pyxis on weekly basis. Last but not least, successful requests for sponsorship have been made for covering specific material needs of beneficiaries, such as medical devices or clothing.

2. Consortium NOSTOS (Applicant NGO)/ IASIS/ ERGOEREVNITIKI/ Society for the Development and Creative Occupation of Children (EADAP), entitled "Hospitality structure for asylum seekers – FUTURE" (Athens, Moschato),

Regarding the Project of “Nostos”, during the reporting period both Coordination and Monitoring Units were in full operation, as building and facilities maintenance was done on weekly basis. A significant number of volunteers, along with the fruitful cooperation with the National Centre of Social Solidarity and the regular monitoring by IOM/SOAM supported the actions of the Shelter. Moreover, the development of publicity and sensitization activities has led to the networking of the Shelter with the local and national authorities, as well as the neighbourhood.

The beneficiaries were given legal information, for example about their rights and the asylum procedures. A personal counselor was appointed for each beneficiary and all were health screened. Eighteen (18) cases of family reunification were accomplished. Also, 250 out of 285 unaccompanied minors (UAMs) left the Shelter within the allowed 49-days period. Personal hygiene project groups for all new comers, regular young mother/parental training groups, intercultural projects, outdoors and recreational activities are some of the accomplishments of the project. Greek and English language courses, ICT lessons and visits at museums and cites of Athens were some of the educational and creative services. Also, UAMs took part in the UNHCR, in the Greek Institute for Child Health Projects and in various athletic events.

One of the most serious challenges is the implementation of practices and techniques for supporting the decision – making process of the UAMs while they are in transitional stage. The “crisis management procedure”, which is part of the Shelter’s guidelines, was applied while facing very few incidents of violence.

3. Consortium PRAKSIS (Applicant NGO)/ Hellenic Red Cross, entitled “STEGI (House) PLUS (+)” (Athens & Patras).

The Project of “Praksis” is to manage the Accommodation Centres STEGI PLUS (+) in Athens and Patras for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable cases of asylum seekers. The total number of unaccompanied minors – beneficiaries in the reporting period was 317 (reaching the target). The other vulnerable cases were only 44 due to these facts: a) the families were reluctant to move to Patras, b) there is no Asylum Service office in Patras which would deal with such cases and c) the delay of hospitals in making the referral medical texts. During the reporting period the services mentioned in the Action Plan were offered to the beneficiaries; namely, their basic needs were covered; they had psychological support medical care, legal and labour counseling. Also, the beneficiaries were offered interpretation and escort services. Moreover, they were engaged in educational and creative indoor and outdoor activities.

Fundraising and volunteerism played a significant role in the implementation of the project. The “buddy-system” was applied at STEGI PLUS (+) in Athens. An adult (buddy) is connected to a minor, so that the latter has a person he can talk to and share experience with. Moreover, the project has contributed in the recognition of the rights and needs of asylum seekers by the local community. Regarding communication, press releases were published, interviews were given, an inauguration ceremony took place on 21st March at STEGI PLUS at Patras and a press conference in Athens on 26th March.

There are two groups of minors placed at the Accommodation Centres: a) the ones who want to apply for asylum and follow the procedures for their integration in the Greek society b) the ones who want to proceed with their journey. Therefore, the minors are given forty nine days to reflect and take a decision. Another issue is that the minors who attend classes at the intercultural schools face difficulties because they are not placed in appropriate classes according to their educational level. Last but not least, the transportation expenses – either of beneficiaries who travel to Patras or of minors who go to the Asylum Service in Athens - are not covered. Likewise, the transportation expenses within city limits have not been foreseen by the project; so, there have been discussions with IOM for resolving this issue.

The goal of the Programme - to achieve the provision of 100 new places for vulnerable asylum seekers in Greece- has been succeeded: through SOAM, 3 new reception centres were established, hosting 202 people, and 1 centre hosting 70 people continues to be operational.

3.2.5 GR06 “Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems”

The program, through the financing of three pre-defined actions, is providing vital aid to the Greek asylum and migration system. It is considered a flagship program for Greece, as it received attention from the political hierarchy as well as from the donor countries. The Programme Operator is the European and Development Programmes Division of the Ministry of Public Order and Citizens’ Protection (the name has changed since then).

The three pre-defined projects are as follows:

1. Operational costs of the First Reception Centre in Fylakio, Evros.
2. Assistance to the Asylum Service” and
3. Temporary accommodation and care for unaccompanied minors. This project, initially to be carried out through open calls, was changed into a predefined following the change in the Hellenic legislation that designated the First Reception Service as responsible for this type of activities (Sept. 2014). Therefore, the FRS is the designated Project Promoter.

In addition, in Sept. 2014 a fourth predefined project was officially proposed by the PO (the financing of operational costs of a FRS in Lesbos island), in order to reallocate the funding that would remain unspent due to the late starting of the Program. The official decision on its inclusion is still pending, due to lengthy exchange of information between the PO and the FMC. Due to the delay and to its nature, it is probable that this proposal is changed by another.

Despite the late start of the Program, the overall assessment of the progress is very positive. It is clear that, without EEA Grants financing the facilities would not be fully operational.

However, the progress towards meeting the output indicators (in general, number of foreigners -various categories- accommodated/informed, applications treated, etc) remains

uncertain, especially due to the late start of the Program, but also to legal constraints that result to a delay of some calls. In fact, the Program and its targets were designed for a period of implementation of 36 months, but to date the effective implementation period will only be 26 months, hence the lagging behind in meeting them. What is more, there are other structures of accommodation that are not financed by the EEA Grants, somehow “competing” with those under this program. The PO has provided an analytical table for all output indicators for the 2014, which can be found in the annual report.

The PO, after consultation with the NFP, has suggested a revision of the indicators.

It is important to note that the bilateral aspect of this Program is very active. The Norwegian Directorate for Immigration is an active and very helpful Donor Program Partner. The NFP participates as an observer to its meetings, and has noticed the fruitful cooperation between the partners.

Additionally, the PO has organized the seminar “Contract management for the reception facilities and for the services provided to asylum seekers”, in the framework of its bilateral fund. Other bilateral activities are discussed with the DPP.

Finally, it should be stressed that this particular program is being implemented in some coordination with the 04 “Funds for NGOs”, as well as, the 05 “Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns”, operated by the International Organization for Migration.

The nature of this program differs from the rest of the programs financed by the EEA Grants in Greece, in the sense that it is designed to finance operational costs (procurements with immediate implementation) rather than the completion of any particular project. Therefore, the delays that occur could be countered by the launching of more procurement procedures.

However, the NFP is concerned about the timely completion of the Program. The administrative changes that affect the PO, the numerous calls that must be launched and the understaffing or the project promoters are the main concerns.

3.2.6 GR07 “Academic research”

The programme, operated by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, aims to finance research in the fields of (the outputs):

- Local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion,
- Mainstream gender equality and promoting work-life balance,
- Promotion of diversity in culture and arts within European cultural heritage

In a context of persistent financial crisis, such researches can lead to specific measures to be undertaken by the responsible authorities, in order to promote cohesion and wellbeing in Greece. Furthermore, it is clear that such projects are beneficial to strengthening bilateral ties with research institutions in the donor countries.

After a delayed start, due to a modification of the annex II of the PA, the PO launched the official call, concerning the three potential outputs, in October 2014. The call, which had been pre-announced, received a good response from potential candidates; 103 proposals were submitted. The last date for submission being December 19th, 2014, there is no progress to report concerning the outcomes. Accordingly, bilateral actions will only be undertaken in the framework of the projects to be selected.

The PO has had serious difficulties in implementation, mainly due to understaffing and a general lack of administrative capacity, an issue that has been also raised by the Audit Authority to the assessment of the MCS. Cooperation between the NFP and the PO has been difficult in the beginning; however, the situation has greatly improved since.

The NFP has been closely monitoring the program, offering help in resolving outstanding issues, such as payment procedures and other administrative difficulties.

The main uncertainty concerning this particular program lies in the short remaining period for implementation. The researchers are expected to sign contracts in late spring 2015, therefore the actual research will be for less than a year.

3.2.7 GR 08 “Solidarity and Social Inclusion in Greece”

The program (FO: FMO/Pricewaterhouse) contributes in the combat against the poverty, unemployment and social exclusion in Greece. It comprises two predefined projects.

Regarding the first project “Tackling Poverty and Social Marginalization” (promoter: Municipality of Athens, KYADA), after the call for hiring the project staff was announced, the Project Manager and the Assistant Project Manager were hired, whereas the rest of the posts are expected to be filled in the first quarter of 2015. The process was lengthy because KYADA is a public body and special controls were made by the Troika on the hiring procedure. Also, an agreement was signed with EDENRED, which has undertaken the management of voucher systems and the printing of the food vouchers. Therefore, the funds are used in the best possible way and the possibilities for mismanagement are minimized. The first distribution of vouchers took place in December 2014 and lasted until the first days of January. 5,009 vouchers, corresponding to 3,334 beneficiaries were distributed.

Regarding the second project “Supporting Solidarity Now” (promoter: Foundation Solidarity Net), the renovation of the Ffourarcheio building was completed within the autumn of 2014 and the agreements with the implementing partners were finalized and signed. Therefore, the implementing partners moved in in November. By the end of 2014 all services had become operational in Ffourarcheio. Due to the slight delay, caused by the public ownership of the building, some amounts of the implementing partner budgets have remained unabsorbed; so, budget amendments have been proposed and are expected to be completed within the first quarter of 2015. In the premises of Ffourarcheio, the operation of the clinics started in late November 2014, the legal services, the employability services and the mothers’ counseling services started operating in December 2014. 1,263 children

received Day Care service and the help line was initiated before the actual services moved in Frouaracheio. Street work is expected to be fully operational within the first quarter of 2015.

Since the two projects were in initial stage during 2014, the bilateral actions fund at programme level has not been activated yet. Nevertheless, all promoters have set their ideas and the FO will prepare a proposal for activating the bilateral actions within the early 2015.

The complementary actions of the programme budget have been undertaken by the Greek Ombudsman for the support of human rights and more disadvantaged groups in the Greek society. This process was completed at the end of the reporting year and the actions of the Greek Ombudsman are expected to start in the first months of 2015.

The KYADA project was extended for six months within the reporting period. However, the overall programme duration was not prolonged as the initial duration of the KYADA project was fourteen months whereas the duration of the SN project was twenty six months. Due to the delays in the staff hiring and in reaching the voucher management agreement more time was needed for the voucher distribution. Moreover, some minor budget adjustments were made and they will be concluded in the Project Contract but there is no need for programme amendments.

The FO considers the economic crisis, the instability of the Greek system, the delays in the public procurement and the double funding, potential risks for the implementation of the programme. However, all these risks are rated of low likelihood.

Apart from the Programme and Projects signature ceremony in February 2014, there were no other publicity events, as both projects were in the setting up process during 2014. The FO expects the communication activities and campaigns to take place in early 2015.

Overall, to date the programme is proceeding quite speedily towards its goals, since the Programme Implementation Agreement was signed in late February 2014. Also, the FO considers that the programme is well advanced in reaching the target indicators although the projects actually started operating in the last three months of 2014. Totally 8,679 people have been served by the programme (plus 4,731 calls in the helpline). According to the FO the programme is expected to reach 40,000 beneficiaries.

4. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Management and control systems

The Management and Control System (MCS) for the implementation of the EEA FM 2009-14, that was published in the Official Government Journal of the Hellenic Republic (1307/B/30.5.2013), assessed by the Audit Authority and finally approved by the Donors on 10.1.2014, was modified by the Joint Ministerial Decision 12104/SSM & MODP 275 (Official Journal 781/B/28.3.2014). The modifications concern points of the regulation that were not included in the MCS. Subsequently, the NFP, with the support of the Management and

Organization Unit prepared a draft manual on the MCS for the POs. The manual was distributed to the POs in order to help them prepare their own MCS.

The first certified interim financial reports of the Programmes submitted to the FMC and the expected date of submission of MCS, are presented in the following table.

Programme	Date of first interim report (Doris)	Final date of submission MCS
GR 02	13/11/14 (only provisions)	13/5/15
GR03	8/9/14 (expenses)	8/3/15
GR06	14/7/14 (expenses)	14/1/15
GR07	14/7/14* (provisions)	14/1/15

*The first IFR was returned to the PO and a revised version was sent on 16.10.2014. There was a misunderstanding about the actual date of submission of the MCS for the programme GR07. The second date of submission was considered to be the official one, in order to calculate the six months period and this is the reason for the delay of the submission of the MCS. The rest MCS of programmes are expected on time (report and opinion of Audit Authority and Greek version of MCS). The English version will follow.

The entry into force of the Presidential Decree 116 (OJ 185/A/3.9.2014) in November, reorganizing the structure of the Ministry of Economy and Development, had a consequence mainly on the NFP. The NFP became an Independent Unit, under the General Secretariat for Public Investments and the NSRF and there is not any connection with the previous Special Service for Management & Monitoring of other Development Programmes. This change was also one of the reasons that the persons selected for the staffing of NFP (open call April 2014) did not finally accept the position.

Concerning the implementation framework, several amendments of Annexes were proposed and agreed with the FMC. The Annex A of MOU was proposed to be amended in the annual meeting of 2014 and an exchange of letters between the FMC and the NFP took place till January of 2015. The amendments proposed were based on the new structure of NFP and some changes concerning Certifying Authority. The process was not finalized during 2014.

Amendments of Annexes I and II were also proposed by the programme operators of GR03, GR06 and GR07. The amendment of Annex II of Programme Agreement for the financing of Programme GR 07 refers to the point 1.2 “eligible applicants”, and 3.2 “Open calls & availability of funds”. This amendment was also the reason for the delay of the open call for the “Diversity, Inequalities & social inclusion”.

The amendment of Annex II of Programme Agreement for the financing of Programme GR03 refers to point 1.3 “special rules on eligibility of costs”, point 2.1 “minimum & maximum grant amount per project” & point 6 “predefined projects”.

The amendment concerning the programme Agreement for the financing of Programme GR06 “Capacity building of national asylum & migration management systems” refers to the 3rd project “Temporary accommodation & care for unaccompanied minors” and defines it as a predefined project, due to several changes in the Hellenic legislation.

4.2 Compliance with EU legislation, national legislation and the MoU

As it is described in the Management and Control System for the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-14 and the MCs of the Pos, all the programmes and projects must have compliance with the EU and national legislation, for instance on the public procurement procedures (article 44 of MCS), the state aids rules and environmental directives. Concerning the state aids rules all the approved by the Selection Committees projects were, or will be sent to the Unit of State aids and Competiveness / Special Coordination Service for the Implementation of Operational Programmes (the Ministry of Economy) before the signature of the contracts, in order to express an opinion. Also, the drafting of some calls was done in close cooperation with the State Aid Unit, in order to avoid unnecessary burden to potential candidates or to the selection procedures that would follow.

Irregularities

According to the Management and Control System for the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-14, article 60 and the ANNEX A of the MoU, the National Focal Point is responsible for the preparation and submission of irregularities. As the implementation of the programmes started in the second semester of 2014 and the first expenses were declared at the end of the year, no audits were planned to be carried out during the reporting period (2014) and therefore no irregularities have been detected.

The NFP has submitted to the FMO the Quarterly Irregularities Reports, where it is mentioned that there is no detection of irregularities.

4.3 Audit, monitoring, review and evaluation

The Audit Authority submitted the Annual Control Report on December 2014, where it is mentioned that no systems or projects audits were carried out during the reference period July 2013 - 30th June 2014, since the first interim financial reports were submitted to the FMO after the reference period and therefore the submission of the MCS of POs is due to be on 2015. For this reason the Audit Authority was not in the position to issue an opinion. The audit strategy is currently being drafted and it is expected to be submitted in April 2015⁹. For the coming year the Audit Authority is planning to proceed to audits on systems and projects and also to an on the spot verification to the NFP.

The NFP organizes regular meetings with the POs in order to monitor, synchronize, guide them and at the same time to collect from the programme Operators information on the progress towards the implementation of the programs. In July of 2014 the NFP send to the operators guidelines for the modification of the programs due to the late implementation progress. After a thorough review of the implementation state of play in all programs in September the NFP submitted to the FMO a proposal for modification in the Programs 01 and 06. No decision was taken during 2014, on both issues.

4.4. Information and publicity

In the framework of the Technical Assistance of the Programme GR01, the implementation of two major projects, as part of the Communication Strategy, started in 2014: a) the building of a website, designated to present the role and scope of the EEA Grants in Greece, as well as the implementation progress and b) the collaboration of the NFP with a communication consultant.

⁹ Therefore the document will be submitted to the FMO at that time.

An open call for the website building of the EEA Grants in Greece (www.eeagrants.gr) was launched on 27th May 2014. The project contract between the company “Andromeda” and the NFP was signed on 22nd October 2014.

The website, which is both in Greek and English, serves as a platform for the public acknowledgement of the programmes of EEA Grants in Greece. Along with the definition of the EEA Grants and the role of the Donor States, brief but concise information regarding the main use and scope of each Programme, is cited. The publication of the open calls and the launching events of the Programme Operators on the website, raise the public awareness of the projects. Moreover, the website of EEA Grants in Greece is linked to the websites of the Programme Operators, where more details on each Programme can be found.

Also, a complaint mechanism displayed on the website, mitigates the corruption and mismanagement risk. For transparency and accountability purposes, the mail and email addresses of the NFP, Audit Authority and FMO for complaints are cited, and also confidentiality is ensured.

A further improvement of the website of EEA Grants in Greece has been scheduled, as the update and more extended use of this communication tool would have even more beneficial effects on the visibility and the awareness of the financial mechanism and its outcome on the reduction of social and economic disparities and on the strengthening of the bilateral relations between the Donors and Greece.

The need for a more professional approach of the public profile of EEA Grants in Greece led to the cooperation with a communication consultant. The call was launched on 29th September 2014 and the project contract between “Choose PLC” and the NFP was signed on 31st December 2014. The communication consultant contributes in raising the public awareness of the EEA Grants programmes in Greece, by making press releases (with the guidance of NFP), by preparing a press kit when needed, by doing the electronic indexation, by supporting and updating the website, by organizing events of the NFP, and generally by suggesting and designing actions that will promote the EEA Grants programmes to the Media. This project is in its early stage, as it started in the end of the 2014. However, the communication consultant and the NFP have agreed on a work plan for the actions that will take place in 2015. All actions will be implemented in close collaboration with the PO and the Embassy of Norway / FMO.

4.5 Work plan

- Regular, at least bimonthly Meetings with the POs for the effective implementation of Programs
- Meetings of the Selection Committees for Programmes GR02, GR03,GR07 (January – May)
- Submission to the FMC of all the Program Operators Management & Control systems, translated in English, and the corresponding opinions by the Audit Authority (February – May)
- Submission by the Audit Authority of the audit Strategy (April)
- Audits and on the spot verifications by the Audit Authority on Programmes and Projects (second semester of 2015)
- Intensification of communication activities
- Issuing communication material (e.g. leaflet)
- Meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the bilateral relations

- Actions to solve the problem of the accounting officer in the Ministry of Economy in order to energize the fund for bilateral relations at national level and the technical assistance
- Organizing the Annual Meeting in Athens (in October 2015) and preparing the mid-annual meeting in May 2015
- Minor modifications in the budget of Programmes (reallocation of funds) based on the implementation of projects

Especially in 2015 the following calls are expected:

- Open call for the establishment and creation of the Monitoring Information System for EEA Grants in Greece (12.1.2015)
- A second call for scholarships granted by IKY-EEA for Postdoctoral Research or PHDs in the field of integrated marine & inland management of water resources (expected in 30 March)
- Open call for environmental education programs in primary & secondary education in the fields of water resources (expected in September)

5. SUMMARY LIST OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main issues that were raised during 2014 are the following:

- Inadequacy of the PA as signed with the reality on the ground. The problems were identified in the early stages of the implementation process. This led to revisions in all PA. New revisions are expected, in order to reflect the developments concerning the indicators.
- Delays in the preparative procedures, due to the administrative capacity shortcomings of the PO. Close monitoring is continuous and brings results.
- The NFP, as a PO for the Programme 01, was faced with the total impossibility of payments, due to the lack of a dedicated accounting officer. This leads to impossibility of payments. An alternative solution, if a dedicated accountant is not available by the date of the mid-annual meeting in the first quarter of 2015, would be to externalize payments to a third party.
- Lack of visibility for the EEA Grants in Greece. The NFP has hired a communications consultant and has also a functioning internet site (including a complaints mechanism). Both actions were completed towards the end of 2014 and the results are expected in 2015 and beyond.
- Lack of EEA Grants experience from the NFP itself. The NFP was virtually headless for a long time, and despite the efforts permanent staff was only hired towards the end of 2014. As a result, there is no “administrative memory” and the risk of encountering problems that were created in the recent past but not dealt with is existent. The NFP is currently working on resolving past problems, and trying to acquire the “Administrative memory” by contacting the persons who used to work in the NFP previously.
- Heavy and lengthy administrative procedures in the EEA Grants Regulation. The NFP has suggested some changes which could speed up the implementation processes, without losing in information quality, transparency or efficiency.

Annexes A & B: Risk Assessment

Annex A: risk assessment at the national level

Type of objective	Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation planned/done
Operational	Ministerial / other administrative restructurings, affecting decision taking processes. General political uncertainty	Possible	Major It is added to the general delays	It is difficult to influence such decisions that are taken at the Prime Ministerial level
Bilateral	Worsening of bilateral relations due to inability of payments on the part of the 01 PO (the NFP)	Likely	Major	Efforts to resolve the payments issue

Annex B: Risk assessment of the Programmes

Programme	Type of Objective	Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation planned/done
All programmes monitored by the NFP + 08	Operational/Bilateral	Delays in implementation, due to late start, lengthy procedures, red tape and lack of administrative capacity on the part of the PO/PP	Almost certain	Major The Programmes will be fully implemented, as the State will have contracted the relative obligations. But they will not be financed by the EEA Grants, thus affecting the impact and visibility of the Grants	Close monitoring by the NFP, in situ visits and provision of help.
01	Bilateral/Operational	Inability to proceed to payments	Likely	Major Impossibility to implement the programme, including the BFNL. No progress in bilateral relations, or technical assistance actions	Continuous pressure from the NFP to the administration in order to solve this problem. Preparation of an alternative solution of externalizing payments to another authority

					if no other solution possible
07	Cohesion	Delays in projects' implementation due to late contracts signing. Unfinished projects or poor quality.	Likely	Minor	Close monitoring of the PO.
08	Operational	Double Funding	Unlikely	n/a	

Annexes extracted from DoRIS

Annex 1: Applications per programme, 2014

Calls for Proposals

Applications for GR02: Integrated marine and inland water management

Calls for proposals	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Educational programmes in primary and secondary education in marine and inland water management	0	0	0	0	0	0
More integrated management of marine and inland water resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scholarships for postdoctoral research or part of doctoral (Ph.D) studies in the field of Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, 2014-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management

Applications for GR03: Renewable energy

	2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
RES Systems in Local Communities Call 1 & Pre-Defined Project	67	0	0	67	0	0
RES Systems in Local Communities Call 2 (Only if there is an unallocated amount from call 1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	67	0	0	67	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- A less carbon-dependent economy

Applications for GR04: Funds for Non-governmental Organisations

	2014	Total
--	------	-------

Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Democracy, Transparency, Good Governance and Citizen Participation	86	5	9	86	5	9
Human Rights, including minority rights, especially the Roma, immigrants, racism and hate crime, gender equality and gender-based violence and trafficking	124	4	0	124	4	0
Social inequalities, poverty, social exclusion (including in rural areas) and provision of basic welfare services	218	10	31	218	10	31
Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment	143	3	0	143	3	0
Total	571	22	40	571	22	40

Open call related outcomes:

- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased

Applications for GR05: Adress urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accomdation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns.

	2011			2012			2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			1			1						2
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED IN GREECE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE "SOAM PROGRAMME"							5	0	3	5	0	3
Total			1			1	5	0	3	5	0	5

Open call related outcomes:

- Well-functioning asylum system in place, enabling asylum-seekers to bring forward their claim for international protection, have their claim processed in due time and be offered accommodation during the processing of their case, or to return voluntary to their country of origin

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Capacity-building
- Information and awareness raising
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Applications for GR06: Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems

	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			2			2
Total			2			2

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Provision of services

Applications for GR07: Research

	2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received*	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Open Call for the Programme "Diversity, inequality and social inclusion	104	34	0	104	34	0
Total	104	34	0	104	34	0

- Number corrected by the NFP

Applications for GR08 Solidarity and Social Inclusion in Greece

	2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			2			2

Total			2			2
--------------	--	--	----------	--	--	----------

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Bilateral Calls for Proposals

Applications for GR04: Funds for Non-governmental Organisations

Calls for proposals	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Bilateral relations measure B_on-going call (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bilateral relations measure A_Call (2)	11	4	0	11	4	0
Bilateral relations measure B_on-going call (1)	1	0	0	1	0	0
Bilateral relations measure A_Call (1)	22	6	2	22	6	2
Total	34	10	2	34	10	2

Open call related outcomes:

- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased

Applications for GR05: Address urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accomdation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns.

Calls for proposals	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Asylum programme 1 fund managed by UDI	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Well-functioning asylum system in place, enabling asylum-seekers to bring forward their claim for international protection, have their claim processed in due time and be offered accommodation during the processing of their case, or to return voluntary to their country of origin

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Capacity-building
- Information and awareness raising
- Information and awareness raising

- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Annexes 2 & 3: Projects with donor project partners

GR04 - Funds for Non-governmental Organisations

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
GR04-0008	Fight Hate Crime Now	No	Norway	The Norwegian Centre against Racism	Service provision organization (NGO)
GR04-0014	Self-help, Networking and Therapeutic Support in coping with depression at urban and isolated areas	No	Norway	NORDLAND HOSPITAL TRUST	National agency
GR04-0038	Guardianship Network for Unaccompanied Minors	No	Norway	VERGEFORENINGEN FØLGESVENNEN (THE ASSOCIATION OF GUARDIANS, THE COMPANION)	Other type of NGO
Projects with donor project partners 3 out of 40 (7.5%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 481,551		

Greece - Summary	
Project grant amount total	€ 24,337,603
Number of projects	50

Number of projects with donor project partners	3
Proportion of projects with donor project partners	6.00 %
Number of programmes *	7
EEA and Norway grants committed	€ 55,566,164
* Excluding Technical assistance programmes and PA22	

Annex 4: Programme and country irregularities as initially reported

Reported by designated entities in or before 2014

1) No irregularities reported at state level

2) Irregularities detected at Programme level

Irregularity case	Irregularity status	Case opened	Case closed	Irregularity period	Followed up	Initial nature of irregularities	Amount of recovered funds	Grant amount reduced
IR-0092	Closed	30/01/15	03/02/15	2014Q4		deviation from project contract	NA	NA
Total							NA	NA

Annex 5: Project irregularities as initially reported

None reported for 2014.

Annual report
Technical Assistance Agreement
EEA Grants 2009-2014

• **OVERVIEW OF MAIN ACTIVITIES**

The National Focal Point from the 5th of December 2013 (signature of MOU) and the 23rd of April 2014 (publication of MD) till the end of 2014 carried out the following activities:

- Organising the 4th Annual Meeting in Athens on 30.10.2014
- Open call for the design & support of the EEA grants website and hiring of the company Andromeda
- Open call for expression of interest regarding the communication consultant and hiring of the company Choose PLC
- Appointment of the Special Service for the Monitoring Information System as the project promoter for the project of preparing the MIS for EEA Grants (additional management systems)
- Elaboration and distribution of a manual on the management & control systems to the POs

• **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

The first IFR for the Programme GR01 was submitted on 14.7.2014, for the amount of €100.00 -Technical Assistance and € 140.000 for the bilateral fund and it covers the period Sep 2014-Dec 2014 (provisions). The amount of €230.000 was disbursed by the FMC.

The second IFR was submitted on 12.11.2014, for the amount of €100.000 (provisions) TA and it was disbursed on 16.12.14.

The NFP has not yet declared any actual incurred expenditure for certification to the FM, due to the lack of an “accounting officer” in the Ministry, who will have the financial and legal responsibility in certifying the correctness of expenses and who will also pay the promoters.

The expenditure due to be paid for the year 2014 is 8.917,5 Euros and for the year 2013, 24.464,7. The total not certified amount of 33.382 is only the 29.3 % of the planned expenditure (114.000 euro for 2014) and the 4.4% of the total budget of TA.

In the coming year the NFP expects to have an accounting officer in order to effectively manage the TA budget.

• **PROCUREMENTS**

Two open calls for the Technical Assistance were launched in the past year.

- The first call, dated on 27th May, referred to the building and development of a website for the EEA Grants programme in Greece, with a budget of €20.000 (including V.A.T). Three offers were made and finally the project was assigned on the company “Andromeda” with the offer of 17.835 euro (included V.A.T). The

project contract between the NFP and the aforementioned company was signed on 22nd October and the project deliverables were: a) the design, development and building of the website www.eeagrants.gr and b) the technical support for the website until 31 October 2017. The website www.eeagrants.gr functions and provides information on the programmes and their calls, links to the Programme Operators' websites, press releases on events and projects of the EEA Grants, a complaint mechanism and contact information for the NFP and FMO.

- A call for the appointment of a communication consultant was launched on 29th September, with a budget of €30.000 (including V.A.T). Four companies responded. "Choose PLC" was the one that signed the project agreement with the NFP on 31st December for the amount of €17.835 (including V.A.T). The defined project deliverables are: a) a list of journalists in the print and electronic press b) press releases c) electronic indexation of the articles regarding EEA Grants d) organization of events for the promotion of EEA Grants in Greece and e) support and update of the website of the NFP. None of the above actions were implemented in 2014.
- In December of 2014 the Special Service for the Monitoring Information System was appointed by the NFP as programme Operator for the expenditure of €150.000 "additional management systems", (article 7.12.2 (a), Annex II 6 of programme Agreement). The activities of the NFP that have been outsourced, are: a) open call for the expression of interest regarding the establishment and creation of the Monitoring Information System for EEA Grants in Greece, b) technical support to the project.

• STAFFING

From January to April of 2014 the only permanent staff of NFP was the Head of Unit A of DPM & MSS. On April 1st there was an open call for expression of interest regarding NFP staffing. One staff member was appointed on November 2014 and a second in 2015.

However from April the NFP was supported by three full time desk officers from the MOU.S.A. Two of them were withdrawn on November. After the Publication of the Presidential Decree 116 on November 3rd and the new organizational structure of the Ministry of Development & Competitiveness, the NFP is designated to be an Independent Unit under the General Secretariat for Public Investment –NSRF and 3 persons (permanent staff) have been appointed.

National Focal Point: Ministry of Development and Competitiveness (new title since 26/01/2015: Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Maritime Affairs & Tourism), Unit A of SSM & MODP (replaced by Independent Unit)				
Name of staff	Official position	Main tasks	Level of effort (% of working time)	Funded through the Grants (Y/N)
Mrs. Fevronia Striaga	Head of Unit A of SSM & MODP	NFP	100%	N
Mrs. Anastasia Panopoulou	Head of Independent Unit of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Maritime Affairs & Tourism for the European Economic Area	NFP	100%	N

Mr. Paraschos Lygeroudis	Desk officer	GR01,GR06, Bilateral	100%	N
Mr. Nikos Mniestris	Desk officer	GR07	100%	N
Mrs. Eugenia Fotoniata	Desk officer	GR03,GR02	100%	N
Miss Vicky Kaza	Desk officer	GR06,GR01, Bilateral	100%	N
Certifying Authority: Single Paying Authority				
Name of staff	Official position	Main tasks	Level of effort (% of working time)	Funded through the Grants (Y/N)
Katsaros Ioannis	Staff Member of Unit A	Desktop controls, Financial Management of Programmes GR01, GR02 and GR03 at the level of C.A.	70%	NO
Gravias Ioannis	Staff Member of Unit A	Desktop controls, Financial Management of Programme GR06 at the level of C.A.	50%	NO
Kastani Vasiliki	Staff Member of Unit A	Desktop controls, Financial Management of Programme GR07 at the level of C.A.	50%	NO
Margaritis George	Staff Member of Unit A	IT related and other technical issues concerning all EEA 2009-2014 Programs.	10%	NO
Alesta Vasiliki	Head of Unit A	Horizontal issues concerning all EEA 2009-2014 Programs.	10%	NO
Audit Authority: EDEL				
Name of staff	Official position	Main tasks	Level of effort (% of working time)	Funded through the Grants (Y/N)
Mrs. Psyla Thelxi	Head of Unit	1.Submission to the FMC of the Annual Audit Report and	1%	N
Mrs. Eugenia Triantafyllopoul	Desk officer		5%	N

ou		Opinion		
Mrs. Panagopoulou	Desk officer	2.Report and opinion for the MCS of the GR06	2%	N
Mrs. Tasoula Travlou	Desk officer		2%	N
Mr. Vassilis Dikopoulos	Desk officer		2%	N
Name of national entity (irregularities): Independent Unit of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Maritime Affairs & Tourism				
Name of staff	Official position	Main tasks	Level of effort (% of working time)	Funded through the Grants (Y/N)
Anastasia Panopoulou	Head of Independent Unit of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Maritime Affairs & Tourism		0% No irregularities were spotted.	N

- **THE COMING YEAR**

- Open call for the establishment and creation of the Monitoring Information System for EEA Grants in Greece (12.1.2015). The project is under way.
- Intensification of communication activities
- Issuing communication material (e.g. leaflet)
- Organising the Annual Meeting in Athens (probably in October 2015)