



EEA GRANTS 2009-2014



STRATEGIC REPORT

+ ANNUAL REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

(Covering year 2016)

MARCH 2017

EEA UNIT, NATIONAL FOCAL POINT – EEA GRANTS

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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
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CRES	Centre for Renewable Energy Sources
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
AVR	Assisted Voluntary Return
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework (Greek: ESPA)
GR01	Technical Assistance and Bilateral Fund at National Level
GR02	Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management Programme
GR03	Renewable Energy Programme
GR04	Funds for NGO
GR05	Address urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns Programme
GR06	Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems Programme
GR07	Research Programme
GR08	Solidarity and Social Inclusion in Greece Programme

Table of Contents

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
2	ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE GRANTS	5
2.1	Cohesion	5
2.1.1	Public finances.....	5
2.1.2	Asylum and migration context	6
2.1.3	Energy regulatory updates (EU)	7
2.1.4	Research and innovation context.....	8
2.2	Bilateral relations	10
3	REPORTING ON PROGRAMMES	13
3.1	Overview of Programme status.....	13
3.2	Individual Programme summaries	14
4	MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	29
4.1	Management and control systems.....	29
4.2	Compliance with EU legislation, national legislation and the MoU	29
4.3	Irregularities	29
4.4	Audit, monitoring and review	30
4.5	Evaluation	30
4.6	On-the-spot verifications	31
4.7	Information and publicity.....	32
4.7.1	Programme – specific information and publicity	34
4.8	Work plan for next year	36
5	SUMMARY LIST OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	37
6	ATTACHMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC REPORT - Annexes	38
7	Annual report 2016 - Technical Assistance, EEA Grants 2009-2014	54
7.1	Overview of main activities	54
7.2	Budget overview.....	54
7.3	Staffing	55
7.4	The coming year in Technical Assistance	58

Strategic Report

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impact to the main objectives of the Grants, namely Cohesion and Bilateral Relations, became more visible in the course of 2016, as programmes of the 2009-2014 period entered a mature phase of implementation, with several projects gradually completed.

All projects and programmes of the 2009-2014 programming period of EEA grants were granted an extension of implementation until 30 April 2017 and are in progress.

Subsequent redesign of the programmes, including exceptional budget transfers between them, took place in 2016 and responded to developments since initial programme design. Further to agreement with the FMC during the Annual Meeting of 2015, an exceptional budget transfer of 3,985 mil € from programmes GR01, GR02 and GR06 to programme GR05 (FMO-managed) took place in early 2016.

In regard to GR 02, the small grant scheme II of the GR02 Programme completed in September 2016, as did e.g. the project of supplying Oia in Santorini island with clean water through a new desalination unit. Furthermore in the context of GR 02, a programme agreement modification was approved by FMO and implemented in late 2016, with the cooperation of the NFP.

In regard to social impact, the contribution of the grants was notable, through improving the social conditions of vulnerable groups (Solidarity centre in the Athens Ffourarcheio, coupons, shelters) or by reinforcing the Asylum and the First Reception Services. In particular the asylum and migration programme GR 06, building on the assistance and technical expertise provided by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration UDI, implemented twice a budget reallocation within 2016 (and subsequent change of the programme agreement) further to approval by the FMC/FMO.

In regard to GR 07, eight projects (out of 18) were completed in 2016.

The Programmes managed by the FMO are almost complete, except GR05 that was also granted an extension until April 2017.

The new national Management Information System for EEA Grants was delivered in 2016 (OPS-EOX), bringing the EEA grants in line with the extensive monitoring and payment tools used for all public expenditure, including EU funding (OPS-ESPA). A technical Seminar for all POs and PPs took place in October 2016 and continuous instructions are given. The MIS will be in full functionality by the end of 2017. The existence of this MIS is in addition (and does not affect) the EEA Grants MIS - DoRIS.

Payment flows (from the Public Investments Budget) were normalised and the majority of the disbursed funds were transferred to programme operators/project promoters. Payments from the FMO to Greece resumed in 2016.

Nevertheless, risk of under-spending remains mainly in Programme GR06 and in lesser extent in Programmes GR02 and GR03. This called for exceptional effort on the part of POs and the NFP, as despite the improved intake of payments on behalf of the country within 2016, the NFP noted concern in view of the upcoming closure deadline and absorption rate correlation. Margin for mitigation

measures was limited at this stage, as budget transfers between programmes are no longer possible, nor is there available time for back-up project implementation. However specifically for GR 06 a final budget reallocation and eligibility of expenditure scenario was initiated at the end of 2016.

Lastly, the NFP assisted POs with various instructions to the PPs for the closure of the Programmes. The upcoming first four months of 2017 are critical for the completion of projects and programmes to ensure the maximum possible absorption of the available funding via the EEA 2009-2014 financial envelope for Greece and its positive impact to subsequent sectors.

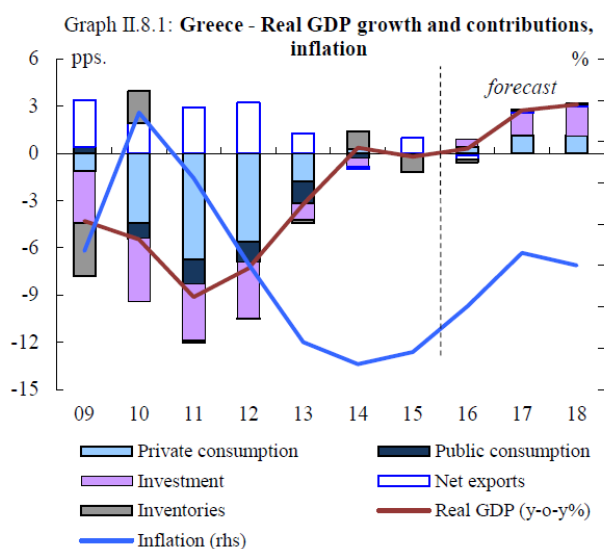
2 ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE GRANTS

2.1 Cohesion

2.1.1 Public finances

The **European Commission** published in February 2017, Winter 2017 report¹, its **macroeconomic forecasts**, in which it was noted Greece shows signs of recovery linked to (ESM) programme implementation.

More specifically, it is noted that the Greek economy has been gradually growing since the conclusion of the first review of the ESM programme. Brighter economic sentiment is supporting recovery in domestic demand, reflected also in labour market developments. Public finances are performing better than expected and the overall macro outlook remains positive, though subject to downside risks.



Strong revenue performance and ambitious reforms to improve fiscal outcomes

financial conditions amid a gradual relaxation of capital controls. Private consumption and investment are projected to accelerate and the contribution of net exports to become positive. Real GDP is

Real GDP growth is projected to have reached 0.3% in 2016, reflecting the improvement in business and consumer confidence since the conclusion of the first review of the ESM programme and the good progress that has been made in clearing public sector arrears, which has led to higher liquidity in the corporate sector. Contingent upon the timely completion of the second review of the ESM programme, Greece's economic recovery is expected to gather pace in 2017 with growth of 2.7%, on the back of improving

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/ecfin_forecast_winter_1317_el_en_0.pdf

expected to continue recovering at a robust pace in 2018, with a growth rate of 3.1%. The labour market has been improving for the last two years. Employment grew by 2.4% on average in the first 10 months of 2016, and is projected to grow at a stable average rate of 2.2% until 2018.

Unemployment is projected to have fallen to a still alarming 23.4% in 2016, down from an annual average of 24.9% in 2015 and with a continuing decrease for 2017, expected to ease to 22 &.

The improved fiscal position and stronger GDP growth are expected to put the debt- to-GDP ratio on a declining path starting in 2017. Interest expenditure is projected to decrease over the forecast years because old loans are replaced with new financial assistance loans with lower interest rates. The implementation of short-term debt measures in 2017 and 2018 will increase interest expenditure in the short run but will lower it in the long term and smooth the debt repayment schedule.

Within this context, EEA Grants continued to contribute significantly to the Greek economy and social framework, with both funding and the provision of know-how, knowledge sharing and cooperation in leading sectors. The National Focal Point for EEA grants, the Ministry of Economy and Development (as named in the cabinet re-shuffling -November 2016), continues to provide sectoral Ministries and policies with all available information and assistance to ensure the efficient and effective use of EEA Grants 2009-2014.

2.1.2 Asylum and migration context

In 2016 Greece continued to face a serious situation in the asylum and migration context. Major international developments were noted, aside from the continuing war situation in Syria. These were the closure of the Balkan route and the EU-Turkey Statement on March 2016 that assisted in the decrease of migration flows through the Eastern Mediterranean during the second quarter of 2016, yet due to the escalated political situation in Turkey (July 2016, coup attempt) more TCNs arrived to the Greek islands bringing the total number of stranded migrants and refugees in Greece to over ~60,000.

These events had an overall dramatic impact on refugee movements, affecting the overall planning and impacting projects, as revealed in the context of the GR 06 programme. GR 05 programme (FMO-managed, minors, IOM turns) was also affected, but GR 06 had to be revised several times, as it was providing critical financing to front-line migrant centres and actual hot spot support services. Similar impact was noted to EU funded asylum and migration support programmes.

The EU-Turkey statement consists of three key elements:

1. The return of all irregular migrants crossing from Turkey to the Greek islands (-no movement of migrants landed on the islands)
2. Resettlement of Syrians from Turkey to the EU (the 'one-for-one' deal)
3. The prevention of departure from Turkey

The EU-Turkey statement aimed to substitute irregular and dangerous migrant crossings from Turkey to the Greek islands with a legal channel of resettlement from Turkey to the EU. Furthermore it changed in effect the purpose of the hotspots in Greece by transforming them to closed facilities. Under this

agreement, persons arriving in Greece from Turkey irregularly after 20 March 2016 are to be returned to Turkey. For every Syrian returned in this manner, another Syrian should be resettled from Turkey to the EU. Thus, the initial scope of the hotspots to provide for swift registration and screening before transfer to the mainland was replaced by the objective of implementing the EU-Turkey statement, despite the fact that the maximum official reception capacity on the five main islands receiving asylum seekers and migrants did not exceed 8,375 places in late 2016.

Since the EU-TR statement, a 97% drop in arrivals was noted and a 93% drop in deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean. 15,531 Asylum process applications were submitted and 12,254 first instance decisions issued. Approximately 1,500 migrants were returned to Turkey and over 10,000 asylum seekers have been relocated from Greece to other European Union (EU) and Associated States (including Norway) since the start of the programme, source: European Commission². The Commission further notes 7,436 assisted voluntary returns from Greece to country of origin since Jan 2016, with an increasing trend of applying for IOM's programme before being returned to Turkey. In the aftermath of the EU-TR statement, Greece adopted legislation that transposed into national law the provisions of the Asylum Procedures Directive (2013/32/EU), thus introducing the concepts of first country of asylum and safe third country, as well as procedures for fast-track examination of applications for international protection at the border. Furthermore, according to Law 4375/2016, the name of First Reception Service changed to **Reception and Identification Service (RIS)** while its mandate was also enhanced.

EEA Grants continued to contribute significantly, with funding and know-how, to the establishment of a well-functioning asylum and migration system in Greece and, both in funds and in know-how through the Donor Programme Partner UDI, to the mitigation of the migration crisis and its effects on people, as well as on the Greek social, financial and administrative framework.

2.1.3 Energy regulatory updates (EU)

In 2016 the European Commission released important new energy legislation updates, gathered in the previously-called Winter Package, and renamed '**Clean Energy for All Europeans**'³. The package will shape the European Union's climate and energy legislation beyond 2020. The Commission intends that the EU leads the clean energy transition, not only adapts to it. The new proposals have three main goals: putting energy efficiency first, achieving global leadership in renewable energies and providing a fair deal for consumers. The most important features of the proposed new legislation are as follows:

Proposal for a revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, including (COM (2016)765 final):

- The requirement for Member States to establish long-term national renovation strategies with clear milestones for 2030 (previously under the *Energy Efficiency Directive*)
- The introduction of a smartness indicator rating the readiness of a building to adapt to the needs of the occupant and the grid and to improve its performance
- Requirements for electro-mobility infrastructure
- Requirements for building automation and energy monitoring systems as an alternative to inspections.

Proposal for a revised Energy Efficiency Directive, including (COM (2016) 761 final):

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/migration_management_greece_1.pdf

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/news/commission-proposes-new-rules-consumer-centred-clean-energy-transition>

- A binding 30% energy efficiency target for 2030
- The extension of annual energy savings obligations for Member States beyond 2020
- Access for consumers to consumption information
- A communication on accelerating clean energy in buildings, including (COM(2016) 860 final)
- Smart financing for smart buildings which sets out the European Commission's intentions
- Addressing skills in the construction sector.

The Eco-design working plan 2016-2019 (COM (2016) 773 final):

- Setting out the European Commission's priorities, including reviews of existing measures and studies for new measures for other products (including Building Automation and Control Systems)
- Proposals for a Governance of the Energy Union Regulation, including (COM(2016) 759 final)
- Requirements for Member States' Integrated National Energy and Climate plans for 2021 to 2030, including planning and reporting on measures under the EED and EPBD (including national renovation strategies).

Proposal for a revised Renewable Energy Directive, including (COM (2016) 767 final):

- The renewable energy target for 2030
- Obligations for renewable energy use in heating and cooling
- Communication on accelerating clean energy innovation, which highlights the need for (COM(2016) 763 final)
- More energy storage solutions
- Faster adoption of existing energy efficiency technologies in building
- Smart buildings and the empowerment of consumers.

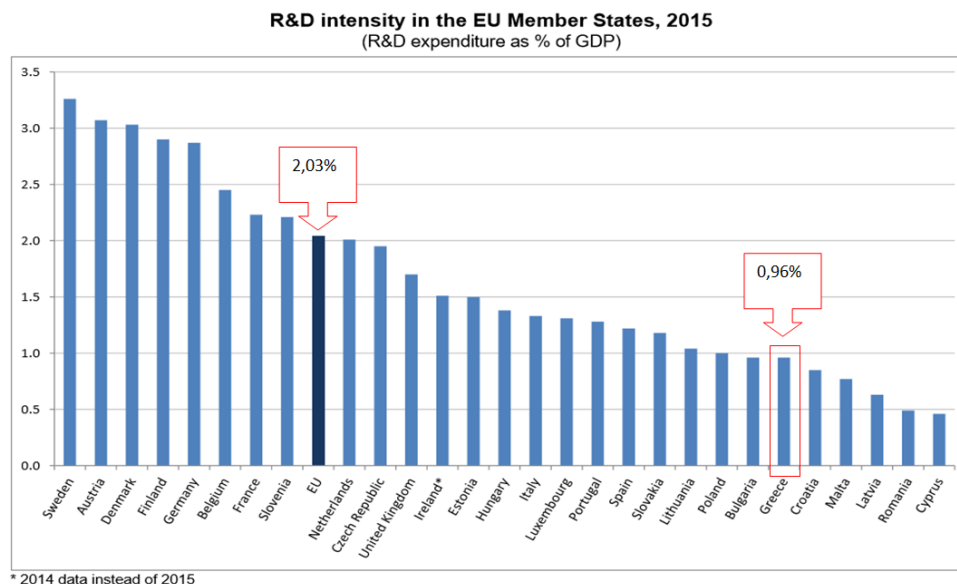
2.1.4 Research and innovation context

Regulation (EU) 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council is the legal base that defines EU's '**smart specialisation strategy**'⁴. 'Smart specialisation strategy' means the national or regional innovation strategies which set priorities in order to build competitive advantage by developing and matching research and innovation own strengths to business needs in order to address emerging opportunities and market developments in a coherent manner, while avoiding duplication and fragmentation of efforts. A smart specialisation strategy may take the form of, or be included in a national or regional research and innovation (R&I) strategic policy framework. Smart specialisation strategies shall be developed through involving national or regional managing authorities and stakeholders such as universities and other higher education institutions, industry and social partners in an entrepreneurial discovery process. The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well-performing national or regional R&I systems is a prerequisite for the effective and efficient achievement of a specific objective for all investment priorities under thematic objective no 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation. In respect to research policy, the EEA Grants were focused on completing RIS³ (research, innovation, smart specialization strategy) and addressing the insufficient level of funding for R&D

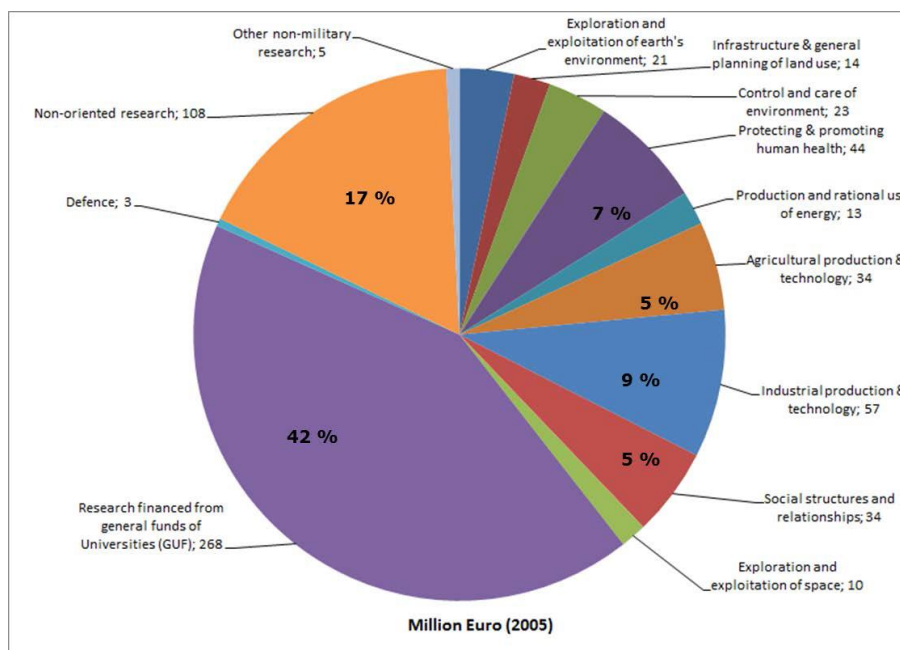
⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/smart_specialisation_en.pdf

activities in particular in social sciences research. Based on the latest available data, gross expenditures on all R&D represented only 0,96% of GDP in 2015 (the latest year for which relevant data is available) which is significantly lower than the average EU R&D intensity for the same year (2,03% of GDP) but significantly higher than the period of programme proposal (0,58%).

See Figure 1 below:



Within the total R&D activity, the level of national/state financing for social research in Greece as portrayed in the figure below, for research on “social structures and Humanities” was 5% in 2005 and rose to 7,9% in 2013 (the latest year for which relevant data is available). Figure 2 - Government Budget Appropriations for R&D (GBAORD) by socio-economic objectives 2005:



2.2 Bilateral relations

All programmes have established intensive bilateral relations in collaboration with entities from the Donor Countries. These activities are either ongoing or to be implemented in the year 2017.

Bilateral cooperation was fruitful in many aspects and we note particularly the bilateral dimension of all Projects in GR06 implemented in 2016 and the bilateral aspect in the Research projects that are implemented under GR07. Bilateral actions under Programmes Gr02 and GR03 will be fully implemented within 2017.

Part of Technical Assistance programme of Greece also includes a Fund for Bilateral Relations at national level (BFNL), with end of eligibility in 30 April 2018, whose allocation provides support for wider bilateral initiatives, relations and contact between entities from Greece and the donor countries.

Significant developments took place on the part of all the Programme Operators at programme level. For instance it is worth mentioning the following:

GR01 (BFNL): In October 2016, there was an agreement reached in the Bilateral Fund Committee concerning the final list of projects (PP and Donor Partners) that will be implemented until April of 2018.

Following the efforts of NFP GREECE and close coordination of potential Project Promoters in order to establish agreed cooperation with DPP's, the amendment agreed with the Donors concludes that the projects "Cooperation in Harbour Management" and "Engaging Youth in politics" are not going to be implemented, due to no response by DPP and other delays. Instead three (3) new projects, namely "Safety of the offshore oil and gas sector" (Ministry of Energy and Environment), "Academic cooperation" between the Universities of Adger and Crete and "Geothermal Development" with a

Norwegian DPP instead of the initial Icelandic one, are ready to start implementation.

Furthermore, the FMC proposed that a new project is implemented between the Municipalities of Athens and Oslo and this was agreed. If decided, more cities may be invited to participate in the actions foreseen for years 2017 and early 2018.

The bilateral action "Identification of best practices within the Norwegian Social Inclusion Model" is now completed and two seminars (one



in Greece and one in Norway) have successfully taken place, with dissemination and publicity activities.

GR02: In 2016, under measure 'b' of the bilateral funds the PO issued a call to the Project Promoters for the strengthening of bilateral relationships. The call was published in November 2016, eight applications were submitted and evaluated in accordance to a list of criteria and the requirements of Regulation and will receive funding.

In addition, the PO organized a 3-day event, under complementary actions, in June 2016 in Athens, with the aim to exchange experiences and best practices related to the implementation of Programmes within the Program Area "Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management".

The PO believes that the outcomes and the indicators of bilateral relations will get higher value than the targeted. Taking into account that 6 projects have partnership with donor states (measure a) and pending the completion of measure b, the objective of Bilateral relations will be fulfilled at maximum.

GR03: The Accession Decision for the GR03 projects was modified on June 6th 2016 to include the bilateral relations subprojects to be implemented by Project Promoters in cooperation with entities from Donor countries. Indicative actions are:

- Study trips to entities from Donor countries for the transfer of good practices in the field of RES;
- Visits by experts from entities from Donor countries for the transfer of technical expertise;
- Feasibility studies on installing RES technologies to meet energy demand requirements;
- Participation/organization of conferences/workshops on RES.

Considering that important entities from the Donor countries, such as SINTEF Energy Research, Reykjavik University, the University of Stavanger, OREEC (Oslo Renewable Energy and Environment Cluster), ISOR (Consulting and research institute – Geothermal energy), Reykjavik Geothermal and Aventa AS (Solar thermal energy company), have committed to participate in the bilateral relations subprojects, it is very beneficial that the eligibility period has been extended after the completion of the infrastructure projects, to the end of 2017, in order to allow for the establishment of substantial bilateral relationships between the Partners.

GR04: In 2016, the fund for bilateral relations opened up to all Greek NGOs, instead of only project promoters under our Programme, with a view to widening cooperation, achieving shared results and increasing knowledge and mutual understanding with the Donor states. A total of 26 Greek NGOs benefitted from the Fund, with 18 NGOs carrying out individual bilateral initiatives and another 8 NGOs being involved in 2 group thematic trips.

Out of the individual bilateral initiatives, 13 initiatives engaged Norwegian entities and experts, and 5 initiatives entities and experts from Iceland. One of the thematic trips took place in Iceland, and the other one in Norway. Overall, the bilateral initiatives and thematic trips supported building the capacity of those involved in many areas ranging from democratic values, transparency and fundamental rights, LGBTQ+ issues, gender equality and gender-based violence, mental health issues and issues affecting people with disabilities, and children and youth. Solutions provided by modern technologies were actively discussed in a number of these bilateral exchanges, which the Greek NGOs involved consider particularly useful.

GR06: The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration UDI in its capacity as Donor Program Partner is cooperating closely with EDPD, sharing its experience and expertise on the implementation and follow-up of various projects.

Within the reporting period the fruitful cooperation resulted in the successful organization of a two-day high-level international Conference which constituted the core bilateral action under Program GR06 for 2016. «MiGR2016 - Migration flows in Greece: the Way Ahead» aimed to present all aspects of migration in Greece. Several stakeholders were invited and participated such as the Hellenic Police, Frontex, Reception & Identification Service, Asylum Service, the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR, the National Centre for Social Solidarity and many institutions of civil society.

Norwegian participation was also active with presentations by the Director General of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which supports Greek authorities by deploying staff in hosting structures for migrants, and a representative of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO). Other representatives were from the European Commission, academic institutions such as ECRE, as well as several NGOs which are active in many regions of Greece. During the conference, the audience had the opportunity to attend audiovisual cultural events and exhibitions held in collaboration with the Norwegian Embassy and the Reception & Identification Service.

Other bilateral actions included participation to the “Justice and Home Affairs Workshop” organized by the FMO on 15-16 March 2016 in Bucharest, which was attended by three (3) members of the PO and

served to identify best practices in terms of communicating the EEA Grants Programmes. Furthermore, a visit in Norway on 20-21 November 2016 attended by seven (7) members of the PO, RIS and the Ministry of Migration Policy took place, whereby participants had the chance to visit Norwegian accommodation facilities for refugees and attend the international conference “European Migration and Asylum Policies for the Future – Nordic Perspectives” organized by FAFO.

GR07: From the total of the 18 approved projects, under the budget heading “Strengthened research capacity in the BS”, eight (8) included bilateral actions with a total budget of 47.587,20 €. All involve actions for networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practices between Project Promoters and entities in the Donor States.

In addition to the eight (8) financed by the Fund for bilateral relations, five (5) more projects have partnerships with the Donor States, four (4) projects with Norwegian partners and one (1) with an Icelandic Partner. These partnerships also contribute to the promotion of networking, sharing and transfer of knowledge, between Project Promoters and entities in the Donor States.

Regarding the progress of the 8 bilateral actions during 2016, four (4) projects have already concluded and the rest of them will conclude until March of 2017 as the PO reports. Final project reports and payment claims have not been finalized yet. According to Project Promoter’s feedback, all completed actions lead to sustainable research collaboration beyond the aims and scopes of the projects.

3 REPORTING ON PROGRAMMES

3.1 Overview of Programme status

Further to the calls of 2014-2015 and initial implementation stages, the past year 2016 was a year of full implementation for EEA Grants 2009-2014 implementation and was characterized by increased activity in all programmes.

All the projects of the programmes monitored by the NFP have an extension of implementation until April 2017 and all of them are in progress (only the small grant scheme II of the GR02 Programme will be completed by the end of September 2016). Payment flows (from the Programme of Public Investments) were normalized and the majority of the disbursed funds have been transferred to the projects/programme operators. The payments from the FMO resumed in 2016.

Programme No.	Total budget	EEA Grants budget contribution	Funds disbursed by FMO (Euros, 31.12.16)	% disbursed by FMO	Expenditures incurred by the PO/FO (Euros, 31.12.16)	% absorption rate
		EEA/Norway	EEA/Norway			
GR01	771.220	771.220	473.650	61	157.432	20%
GR02	7.641.176	6.495.000	6.223.225	96	3.196.060	42%
GR03	11.188.235	9.510.000	9.224.102	97	5.412.775	48%
GR04*	7.340.000	7.340.000	7.340.000	100	7.064.240	96%
GR05*	9.941.738	9.941.738	9.941.738	100	7.636.897	77%
GR50*	2.391.637	2.391.637	2.391.637	100	665.311	28%
GR06	13.947.108	11.855.042	8.322.710	70	6.055.046	43%
GR07	3.525.072	2.996.311	2.695.987	90	2.194.327	62%
GR08*	4.265.217	4.265.217	4.265.217	100	2.801.209	66%
TOTAL	61.011.403	55.566.165	50.878.266	90.5 (average)		54% (average)

Source: data from DoRIS "programme overview" reports and IFR declared expenditures including all quarters of 2016.

*: FMO directly-managed programmes, information not available to NFP may provide updated figures.

Every effort is being made to speed up implementation, however risks remain due to relatively slow deployment of programmes, legislative amendments and implementation issues. The projects of the

Programmes managed by the FMO are almost completed, except GR05 that has an extension till April 2017. Further to agreement with the FMC during the Annual Meeting of 2015, an exceptional budget transfer of 3.99 mil € from the programmes GR01, GR02 and GR06 to programme GR05 took place in early 2016, amending the respective programmes budgets.

3.2 Individual Programme summaries

GR02 “Integrated marine and inland water management”

All twelve (12) projects of the programme (related to outputs 1, 2, 3) were contracted by September 2015. The implementation of the projects started in the last quarter of 2015. Within 2016, one (1)



project, the installation of a desalination unit in Oia of Santorini Island, which lead to production of 900 m³/day of quality improved water for drinking or irrigation purposes has been completed, while all other projects are under implementation.

In view of the deadline of implementation is the 30th of April 2017, all the output indicators of the selected projects are expected to be met, when the projects are completed.

During 2016, there were 3 amendments of the Programme Agreement. The first refers to the extension of the eligibility (December 10, 2015), the second to the decrease of the programme budget (March 8, 2016) from 11,188,235 (€) to 7, 641,176 (€) estimated total cost and the third is about the form of payments (December 19, 2016).

The predefined project application which was submitted and positively evaluated in 2014 and the contract was signed in January 2015, is expected to finish in April 2017. The project is implemented by five (5) sub-contracts: four (4) procurements and one (1) in house implementation. During 2016, all the contracts for the procurements have been signed. Two of them have already been finalised and the rest are in progress.

Regarding the Small Grant Schemes I and II:

- SGS I: “Environmental Educational programmes in primary and secondary education in the field of Water resources” will not be implemented, according to the decisions taken in the Annual meeting of the 4th of November 2015, which lead to the amendment of the MoU and the Programme Agreement. In 15 December 2016, the Programme Agreement Annexes were modified accordingly.

- SGS II: “Grants to graduates of higher education in the fields of marine and inland water resources management in Donor State’s institutions or universities” which granted scholarships for post-doc and PhD studies in the Donor countries, was implemented and finalised by the end of September 2016.

The timeline of SGS II was: One (1) invitation for applications was published in January 2015 which resulted in four (4) scholarships. A supplementary invitation for applications was published in June 2015 which resulted in eight (8) scholarships. In total 12 scholarships derived from SGS II during 2015. All the grant-holders completed their studies in the donor countries by the end of September 2016. The output indicator is provided in the following table:

Output for SGS II:	SGS II Output indicator	Target value	Achieved Output value
Graduates, fellows, / scholars, grants for studies/research in the field of marine and inland water resources management spend time in and/or exposed to and/or learn from donor states’ institutions or universities	Number of graduates, fellows, /scholars, grants for studies/research in the field of marine and inland water resources management in institutions or universities of donor states	22	12

The new deadline of implementation of the projects for outcome 1 and 2 was set on the 30 April 2017, and so the Project Operator is confident the programme will run with no major risks.

Strong and substantial bilateral relationships are established through the selected projects. These relationships are characterized by cooperation between institutions, academia, civil society and public sector. The PO assumes that the outcomes and the indicators of bilateral relations will get higher value than the targeted. Taking into account that 6 projects have partnership with donor states (measure a) and pending the completion of measure b, the objective of Bilateral relations will be fulfilled at maximum.

In June 2016, the PO organized a three-day event under “Complementary Actions” in Athens. The aim of the event was to exchange experiences and good practices related to the implementation of Programmes within Programme Area Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management (02), from Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Portugal and Greece.

Also, the PO participated in the Complementary actions of Programmes BG02/BG03, which took place in Sofia, October 2016, where the GR02 Programme progress and good practices in its implementation were presented.

During 2016, 8 projects in the area of water management constitute of studies which are implemented by universities and other bodies in partnerships and will increase knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems or biodiversity loss and knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas. The preliminary results achieved during this past year of implementation, were presented via communications and reporting to the scientific and technical community in Greece and present the development of useful results and tools mainly in the area of sustainable water management as well as water bodies protection and coastal protection in pilot cases located in highly touristic areas of the country.

The pre-defined project which is entitled: ‘Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme, in compliance with the requirements of the EU marine Strategy Framework Directive

2008/56/EC”, is implemented by 5 sub-projects. Four of them are procurement and one in house implementation.

Lastly, there is synergy with the intervention field 021 “Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)” of the European Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020.

GR03 “Renewable Energy”

To date (Feb 2017), the contracted subprojects amount to ~90% of all subprojects. As far as absorption is concerned, until today a total of €5.772.320 has been paid to Project Promoters. The remaining funds of the budget heading “A less-carbon dependent economy” will be transferred within the following month. The realization of the GR03 Programme is progressing smoothly and in accordance with the implementation schedule.

The tender pre-approval process was completed for Projects 1-7. Projects 8 and 9 were given tender pre-approval due to savings achieved in the tendering procedures of Projects 1-7. The contract pre-approval process was completed for the majority of subprojects. Several construction subprojects entered the final implementation stage.

The first on-site verification visits took place in October - November 2016. Implementation progress was assessed and important guidelines on project implementation were given to Project Promoters.

No.	Project Promoter	Project title*	Implementation progress
1.	Region of Western Macedonia	RES Integrated interventions for developing the Local Community of Grevena	Six (6) of the seven (7) subprojects (1,2,4,5,6,7) have been contracted. Subproject 3 will be contracted by the end of February 2017. Project completion is expected by the end of April 2017.
2.	Democritus University of Thrace	The contribution of Renewable Energy Sources in the sustainable development and operation of the Democritus University of Thrace – Creation of a sustainable Community	All the subprojects have been contracted. The subprojects have entered the final construction stage. For instance, the installation of the autonomous Photovoltaic station has been completed. Project completion is expected by the end of April 2017.
3.	Municipality of Andros	Demonstrative interventions for Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the Island of Andros”	All the subprojects have been contracted with the exception of Subproject 2. Subproject 2 will be contracted by the end of February 2017. The subprojects have entered the final construction stage. Project completion is expected by the end of April 2017.
4.	Centre for Social Protection and Solidarity, Education and Environment – Polykoinoniko (Alexandroupolis)	Implementation of RES projects to support socially vulnerable groups and experiential environmental education in the Municipality of Alexandroupolis	All the subprojects have been contracted. The subprojects have entered the final construction stage. Project completion is expected by the end of April 2017.
5.	Agricultural University of Athens	Integration of RES Technologies in the Community of Agricultural University of Athens”	All the subprojects have been contracted. The subprojects are in the final construction stage. The installation of a PV system of 5 kWp on a special cover and 12 pillars with LED lamps of 200W at the University sports facilities has been

			completed. In addition, the installation of electric vehicles, as well as a solar charging system for the electric vehicles, has also been completed. Project completion is expected by the end of April 2017.
6.	Municipality of Nea Ionia	Geothermal System of district air conditioning and other RES applications	All the subprojects have been contracted. The subprojects are in the final construction stage. The installation of the geothermal energy distribution pipeline network has been completed. LED lamps have been installed in the Municipal building, heat pumps are being installed and central control and automation cable have been placed. PV installation works have started. Smooth project completion is expected by the end of April 2017.

Bilateral relations projects were assigned to all Project Promoters with the modification of the Accession Decision. PPs will implement actions, such as study trips to entities from Donor countries for the transfer of good practices in the field of RES, visits by experts from entities from Donor countries for the transfer of technical expertise and feasibility studies on installing RES technologies, with important entities from the Donor countries.

As far as Complementary Actions are concerned, during the previous year PO CRES finalized the planning of Complementary Actions to be implemented, which will include activities of technical expertise exchange between the actors of the GR03 Programme and similar RES and EE programmes applied in the current programming period (2009-2014) in six other (6) Beneficiary countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Latvia and Portugal), aiming at strengthening cooperation and the exchange of experience.

The NFP notes here that PO is optimistic about overall final absorption, as the contracts have an adequate chance of implementation, being mostly small supply contracts with delivery date on or before April 2017. However, payment procedures need in any case a certain administrative process before being paid, therefore all parties were urged to make extraordinary efforts to incur and declare expenditures within the eligibility period.



Image 1: Solar collectors in Mamatseio Hospital



Image 2: Solar charging system for the electric vehicles at the Agricultural University of Athens



Image 3: Electric vehicles at the Agricultural University of Athens

GR04 “Funds for NGOs”

All 76 projects funded under the NGO Programme “We are all Citizens⁵” were concluded by April 30, 2016. An additional call to support ongoing project activities was launched in December 2015, in order to absorb remaining funds of already completed projects (approximately 60,000 euros). 38 applications were submitted and 8 projects were contracted in the beginning of 2016. All additional activities were concluded by April 30, 2016.

In the beginning of 2016, the organizational capacity levels of the project promoters were individually assessed following the completion of the Capacity Building programme in December 2015. In total, 62 of the 65 organizations (95%) demonstrated improved capacity. In their final evaluation of the CB program, 95% of organizations rated the programme as ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’ and 87% stated that they had made new contacts as a result of their participation in the program. As a legacy of the program, all of the learning resources are freely available online through the e-learning platform (www.ngodynamo.org).

In order to promote exchange of experience in the area of capacity building, the Bodossaki Foundation, in collaboration with the FMO, organized a 2 day workshop in Athens on 9-10 June 2016, which was attended by representatives of 13 of the NGO Programme Fund Operators. The Bodossaki Foundation also produced a report of this workshop, in order to document the good practices and lessons learned in the field of capacity building across the EEA NGO programmes. The Bodossaki Foundation is committed to continuing the strong legacy of organizational capacity building developed through the ‘We Are All Citizens’ EEA Grants NGO Programme. In 2016, the Foundation launched ‘Social Dynamo’ (www.socialdynamo.gr) as a new civil society capacity building hub, in partnership with the Municipality of Athens. Social Dynamo supports NGOs to become more effective and more sustainable, through offering learning opportunities, professional support (consultancy mentoring and coaching) and networking. Among other things, the Social Dynamo website offers free access to the e-learning platform containing all of the training materials developed during the EEA Grants NGO Programme.

The two calls for measure (b) remained open until February 2016. The first call provided extra funding to project promoters selected under the first round of calls, while the second call for measure (b) provided funding to project promoters selected under the second round of calls. In May 2016, a third call for proposals under measure (b) was announced providing the opportunity to all Greek NGOs (not just project promoters) to partner with Donor State entities. This call will remain open until 15 February 2017 and activities can be completed until 15 March 2017.

Through the Programme’s Complementary Actions, a series of activities on combating hate speech were organized. In March 2016, the approval of the Ministry of Education for the use of “Bookmarks” in primary and secondary schools was secured. Subsequently, a print copy of “Bookmarks” was shared with most of the 100 schools of all levels from all over the country. On 8-9 April 2016, “BlogMarks”, a training seminar on combating hate speech online through human rights education attended by 25 NGO staff members, educators in non-formal education and bloggers was organized. In addition, the series of discussion “Say No to Hate, Yes to Dialogue” took place in March, April, June and September 2016. A workshop on “Microfinance and Social Enterprises” was organized in March 2016 in collaboration with the EIB Group while in December 2016 a workshop on “Measuring Social Impact” was organized together with EIB Institute. Also the production of a gender-mainstreaming manual was initiated and it is now almost concluded; a Roma photography project as part of the Programme closing event was completed; the manual “Mirrors” on combating anti-gypsyism was produced in Greek; and contributed in this year’s organization of the “Break the Chain” anti-trafficking festival.

The Programme’s systems audit was conducted in May / June 2016. A financial audit of four project promoters that have received multiple project grants from the NGO fund was also concluded without any serious findings in June 2016. A major irregularity (a case of double funding and fraud) was

⁵ <http://www.weareallcitizens.gr/>

committed within 2016, at project level and was reported to the FMO without delay. No irregularities were committed at Programme level.

An evaluation of the Programme was conducted in June 2016, where the opinion of all project promoters was requested through an online survey addressed to project coordinators. The response rate was 87%. In total, 57 project promoters replied to the survey, with the following results: 96,5% expressed their absolute or high satisfaction with the Programme and the FO, 89,5% responded that the Programme gave them the opportunity to greatly develop and strengthen their organizational capacity, 91,5% responded that the Programme provided them the opportunity to promote their work in new audiences, while 96,5% responded that they would participate again in a next EEA Grants NGO Programme.

The **closing event** of the GR04 programme took place in Athens between 18 and 19 November 2016. Bodossaki Foundation took the strategic decision open the closing festivities to the public, in order to showcase the achievements of a dynamic civil society, empowered by the EEA Grants. Therefore, the official presentation of the programme's results in front of the programme's stakeholders, donor representatives, project promoters and representatives of the civil society in Greece (which took place on Friday, 18 November 2016) was combined with an all-day event open to the public, on Saturday, November 19, 2016. During this open-day event, project promoters funded by the EEA Grants were invited to present to the public the results of their own work, while special activities, screenings, interactive workshops and exhibitions were designed for all target audiences and age groups.

All activities, themed around the concept of "the great celebration of civil society", were hosted in Technopolis, a landmark venue of the City of Athens, and attracted 334 pupils, teachers and participants in activities especially designed for schools; 250 guests at the official presentation of the programme's results; more than 3,500 visitors; 150 volunteers and NGO participants in the open public festivities.

Ahead of the closing festivities, a **public communications campaign**, inspired by the name of the programme "**We are all Citizens**", was launched. The campaign's aim was to inform and attract the public to the closing events of the programme and recognize the programme's donors. The campaign involved: posters and outdoor promotional material, radio spots, indoor advertising in the Athens metro subway trains, as well as a dedicated microsite with all the information around the closing event's activities, interactive workshops, viewings, exhibitions and many more. In addition, eight (8) mainstream media (print, radio and online portals) contributed as media partners of the events, securing a total of 35,000 euros in direct advertising value for the programme, while extra 91 pieces of media coverage, 4 radio interviews and one TV live interview earned during the campaign.

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

For 2016 the SOAM Program continued running through the operation of 4 reception centers, 3 in Athens and one in Patras. As a result 501 UAMs benefited by the Program and more than 224 vulnerable asylum seekers in 2016. Among other things, the beneficiaries were provided with psychosocial support, medical care and legal assistance and they have been participating in educational activities and have been enrolled in public schools.

**** the total number for the whole Program period is 2.107 UAMs and 879 vulnerable groups members, that is 2.986 beneficiaries. More specific for the first period of SOAM (end of April 2016) the number is 1.944 UAMs and 687 VN and for the rest period (Apr2016-Dec2016) 163UAMs and 192 VN more.**

SOAM PM Unit has established and worked in close cooperation with EKKA, consortiums and UDI. The operation of the receptions centres in full capacity has been among the priorities of the SOAM PM Unit for this year also.

As the full capacity of the centres and the provision of high standard services remain the two main objectives of all concerned parts, SOAM PM Unit, in close cooperation with UDI, conducted Quality Controls at the 4 Reception Centres; also, 46 onsite monitoring visits both in the reception centres and in the headquarters of the leaders in order to check on the spot the services provided to the beneficiaries and the management files of the selected projects.

The financial files are submitted and checked on a monthly basis with the direct communication between the consortiums' leaders and the SOAM PM Unit. All the difficulties that some consortiums were experiencing with the financial documentation gradually have been overcome and the payments are made almost on a monthly basis too.

More specifically and according to the information gathered by the 3 funded consortiums, we have the following data:

- Reception Center for Vulnerable Asylum Seekers at the Center of Athens with Capacity of 70 Places. The Center is operated by Medecins du Monde in cooperation with the Greek Council for Refugees; all the beneficiaries are asylum seekers and more specific the group consists of single-parent families, women and men, who had experienced torture, had been victims of trafficking, still suffer by chronic diseases etc. In general, during 2016 and according to the reported data MdM received 256 referrals for placement but only 109 were actually hosted at the centre; the rest 147 cases cancel their request for accommodation.
- STEGI PLUS (+). The consortium (PRAKSIS and Hellenic Red Cross) runs 2 reception centres, one in Patras and one Athens. Both RCs continued operating throughout the year facing the same challenges that all RCs have been facing in Greece due to the open northern borders. The occupancy rate was followed closely by the partner organizations and by SOAM PM Unit. For the families in Patras, through 2016, the status of the beneficiaries hosted there are more stable and this helps a lot the daily routine and procedures at the RC. The fact that the RC is located in Patras was discouraging the beneficiaries to accept to move there as they did not want to lose track of the smuggling networks that have been functioning mainly in Athens. But when they accept to be hosted there they travel and stay for a long time until the next phase of their trip. According to the data coming from the consortium 341 UAMs benefitted from the Programme at 2016; this figure includes both centre, Patras and Athens. For the families in Patras, the reported data gives 90 beneficiaries and also 251 UAMs hosted both in Athens and Patras Reception Center.
- MELLON (FUTURE) The capacity of the RC is 60 UAMs and 42 mothers with children and it is located at Moschato, Attica region. In general the centre received from EKKKA 250 new intakes of UAMs and 25 single mothers with children for the year 2016.

GR06 "Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems"

During 2016 Greece continued to face a crisis situation following the sharpest increase of migrant and refugee arrivals to Europe in 2015. The introduction of ad hoc border controls by a number of European countries and the eventual closure of the Western Balkan route in effect transformed Greece from a *transit* to a *destination* country. The EU-Turkey Statement on March 18 2016, reached migration flows through the Eastern Mediterranean to a relative standstill from the second quarter of 2016 onwards, yet 173,450 new arrivals during 2016 led to the total number of around 62,000 stranded migrants and refugees in Greece by the end of the year.

These developments put a severe strain on local structures, including the hotspots, which were not envisaged to provide long-term accommodation to tens of thousands of people. Program GR06 had to adapt to the aforementioned rapidly evolving situation, as well as the introduction of a new law (4375/2016) highlighting the creation of the Reception and Identification Service (successor of First Reception Service), restructuring of the Asylum Service and the Appeals' Authority, the creation of new Regional Asylum Offices and the establishment of a Ministry of Migration Policy, along with its new



Finance Directorate in early November 2016 following a cabinet reshuffle. Building on the assistance and technical expertise provided by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration UDI, the PO reallocated the program budget and a program modification was approved by the FMO in November 2016 with a view to adjusting to the above-mentioned developments and efforts.

In the wake of the new framework of action that emerged after the EU-Turkey statement, the two Project Promoters of Programme GR06, namely Reception & Identification Service and Asylum Service, were called upon to swiftly enhance their capacity and develop appropriate tools and practices to effectively respond to the situation at hand, which in practice

by the end of 2016 required the management of around 62.000 stranded migrants and refugees in Greece; thousands of them were living in overcrowded hotspots in the Greek islands as the latter continued to receive people fleeing from conflict zones such as Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. While asylum claims were being processed, thousands of asylum seekers who arrived after March had been restricted to the islands, often living there for months before a decision was reached on their asylum application.

During this challenging period, RIS was in immediate need of a new Director, recently appointed in October 2016. Hence during spring and summer of 2016, delays were identified in the modus operandi of RIS. Furthermore, in an attempt to better address the challenges, a new Ministry of Migration Policy was established in November 2016, along with its financial services. As of 1/1/2017 the new Finance Directorate will be responsible for all public tenders of AS and RIS, as both Project Promoters operate under the auspices of the Ministry of Migration Policy.



Image: Evros, Fylakio RIC

Progress towards meeting program indicators and outcomes was noted thanks to the efforts of all services involved, yet consistency, coherence and stability in the provision of services was challenged by the already over-stretched national asylum and migration system, catering for an unprecedented number of stranded migrants and refugees throughout the Greek territory. Program GR06, supporting the European and national strategy in this sector, as well as the objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism, namely the reduction of economic and social disparities in the EEA and more particularly in the area of human and social development, contributes to the remedy of the remaining systemic deficiencies in the Greek asylum system, in terms of capacity shortfalls and the need for effective functioning of the asylum system and the support of selected hotspot or facilities. On the basis of further progress achieved, future resumption of transfers to Greece under the Dublin Regulation, currently suspended by EU Member States since 2011, may gradually take place on a case by case basis.

PDPs #1, #4 and #5 of Programme GR06 were formed with a view to strengthening the institutional framework to ensure legal protection and care for the most vulnerable group of migrants, namely unaccompanied children. The RIC in Evros (PDP#1) processes the majority of all new arrivals at the Greek-Turkish land border. In particular, the number of third country nationals accommodated at the RIC in Evros and informed about international protection and AVR throughout 2016 reached 4,191 bringing the total number since the beginning of the Programme to 12,065. Regarding the number of unaccompanied children, there were 266 children accommodated at the FRC throughout 2016, bringing the total number since the beginning of the Programme to 679. Given the capacity limitations that occurred during 2016, one could argue that numbers could have been even higher. Despite this, the targets set out in the Programme Agreement have been surpassed (9,210 and 410 respectively).

Output: Operation at the Reception and Identification Center (RIC), Evros enabled:

Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Achievement	Source of verification
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Number of third country nationals accommodated at the RIC, Evros, in conformity with international obligations and the national legal framework	0	4,191	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service
Number of unaccompanied children accommodated at the RIC	0	266	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service

Output: Residents of RIC, Evros provided with Information on rights and obligations:

Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Achievement	Source of verification
Number of third country nationals informed about international protection and AVR	0	4,191	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service

As regards PDP#4, 796 third country nationals were accommodated at RIC, Lesvos, in conformity with international obligations and the national legal framework. The number of unaccompanied children that were accommodated at the RIC reached 726, while a total number of 9,230 TCNs were provided with information on rights and obligations.

Output: Operation at the Reception and Identification Center (RIC), Lesvos enabled:

Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Achievement	Source of verification
Number of third country nationals accommodated at RIC, Lesvos, in conformity with international obligations and the national legal framework	0	796	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service
Number of unaccompanied children accommodated at RIC, Lesvos	0	726	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service

Output: Residents of RIC, Lesvos provided with information on rights and obligations:

Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Achievement	Source of verification
Number of third country nationals informed at RIC, Lesvos	0	9,230	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service

PDP#5 was adversely affected by administrative delays and change in scope following Law 4375/2016 and it was only during the last two months of 2016 that it actually began its implementation. 41 TCNs were registered at Mobile Unit A (Samos) while 147 TCNs were registered at Mobile Unit B (Lesvos).

Output: Operation at the Mobile Units A and B enabled:

Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Achievement	Source of verification
Number of third country nationals registered at Mobile Unit A (Samos) for 12 months	0	41	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service
Number of third country nationals registered at Mobile Unit B (Lesvos) for 12 months	0	147	Reports from the Reception& Identification Service

Parallel to the strengthening of the country's institutional framework in terms of reception capacity and protection of UAMs, Programme GR06 provided throughout 2016 vital support towards the establishment of a well-functioning asylum system, which enables 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.

As all migrants and refugees who entered Greek territory applied for asylum, the asylum system was overburdened. In addition, the fact that the number of arrivals in the islands was consistently higher than the number of returns, resulted in a significant backlog of asylum cases. In 2016, the Asylum Service registered 51,091 applications for international protection. This number does not include the approximately 15,000 applications the full registration of which will be completed in 2017. The four (4) main countries of origin of asylum seekers are Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

To respond to this, 2016 saw the tripling of the Service's human resources; by the end of 2016, the Asylum Service was staffed with 650 individuals. A further positive development was the establishment of six (6) new Appeals Committees to deal with second instance decisions. Member States' experts were also deployed via the European Asylum Support Office, EASO, to the Greek Asylum Service for a fixed period, yet their number failed to correspond to the situation at hand.

Output: Asylum Service in operation

Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Achievement	Source of verification
Number of decisions on international protection claims taken at first instance	0	8,552	Reports from the Asylum Service

Output: Regional Asylum Office in Orestiada, Evros operational

Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Achievement	Source of verification
Number of asylum requests received and processed within the RIC	0	448	Reports from the Asylum Service

In view of the dramatic changes that took place both in the external and the internal environment of the Programme with closing deadline April 2017, the PO worked closely with the 2 PPs in order to reallocate unspent funding by the new closing date and maximize funds absorption towards programme goals. The restraints imposed by the latest changes of the legal framework which prohibited the provision of security services in the FRCs in Fylakio and Lesvos from private companies and the postponement and/or failure of tender procedures in a number of subprojects under PDP#1 and PPD#4, had led to an underspending of more than € 2,400,000.

Parallel to this, due to the high number of stranded migrants and refugees in the Greek islands, pressure grew on RIS and AS to expand their capacity. As regards RIS, there was no doubt that the issue of staff shortages had limited its capacity to implement a variety of tasks assigned to it. Now called upon to cater for an additional number of Temporary Accommodation Structures, RIS was faced with the urgent need to recruit and train extra personnel. Meanwhile, as the asylum system entered into a more mature phase, the Asylum Service was expected to implement a number of mechanisms that would allow it to respond quickly and flexibly to evolving needs for registration and processing of the increased number of asylum claims. These mechanisms range from data management and forecasting to risk management, capacity building and development of information technology systems to underpin effective implementation.

To this end, a proposal for the modification of the Programme, which was put forward by the PO included the internal reallocation of funds within PDP#1 & PDP#4, a new pre-defined Project (PDP#6) entitled "Covering the costs for staff recruitment for the Reception and Identification Service" and a

reallocation of €2,600,000 from PDP#1 & PDP#4 to PDP#2 in order for AS to implement the following sub-projects:

- a) Strengthening of the interpretation services provided at the Asylum Service with self-owned teleconferencing system, interpreters' ID badging system and upgraded network infrastructure
- b) Establishment of digital e-library and enrichment of the physical library of the Asylum Service
- c) Transcription of interviews conducted during the examination of asylum applications

The exercise resulted in the approval of a new Programme Agreement on the 11th of November 2016, by the FMO. However, the establishment of the Ministry of Migration Policy along with a new Finance Directorate in early November following a cabinet reshuffle, created a new framework of action for both Project Promoters, as they are now under the auspices of the new Ministry. In effect, both Project Promoters were heavily engaged in preparations for the new institutional framework, which provided among others that the Ministry's Finance Directorate would take over responsibility for all public tenders and payments of the Ministry. Thus, no public tenders were published in the last couple of months for 2016 leading to further underspending of programmed subprojects. In light of these developments, the PO consulted with the NFP and the FMO in an attempt to find the best EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 Annual Programme Report 15

Lastly, Programme GR06 has been active in promoting bilateral relations as an integral part of EEA Grants, capitalizing on the valuable assistance of UDI, and aiming at fostering collaboration amongst all stakeholders. This fruitful cooperation resulted in the successful organization of a two-day high-level international conference entitled «MiGR2016 - Migration flows in Greece: the Way Ahead» which constituted the core bilateral action under Programme GR06 for 2016 and aimed to present all aspects of migration in Greece.

GR07 "Academic research"

The Programme GR07, entitled "Research" addresses the Programme area "Research within Priority Sectors" of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. The main objective is to enhance research based knowledge development in Greece addressing, from a research /scientific perspective, the rising social and income inequalities in Greece, as a result of the ongoing economic crisis. It is implemented by 18 projects under the budget heading "Strengthened research capacity in the BS", eight (8) of which are financed by the Fund for bilateral relations.

The selection of projects was completed under all three outputs "Local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion", "Mainstream gender equality and promoting work-life balance" and "Promotion of diversity in culture and arts within European cultural heritage" by 13/7/2015.

During 2016 a second extension on eligibility period was granted to all projects. According to that, completion dates of projects are scattered between 31/10/16 and 31/03/2017. The implementation of the projects has been carried out with no problems reported so far. In fact, eight (8) projects, four (4) of them including bilateral actions, have been concluded by the end of 2016, while the rest will conclude until end of March 2017. Final project reports and payment claims not been finalized yet.

Concerning the principles of good governance in the planning and implementation of the Programme the GSRT took every measure to assure the integrity of the implementation procedure. Targets of the Programme outputs set out in the Programme proposal were met with a minor deviation from the original plan. The contribution of projects to each one of the Program outputs set out in the Program proposal as well as the projects that have concluded within 2016 by output indicator are as follows:

Output indicators	Target	Actual	Projects concluded implementation
No of approved projects focusing on the	7	7	3

thematic area “National inequalities and social exclusion”			
No of approved projects focusing on the thematic area “Gender equality and work-life balance”	6	5	2
No of approved projects focusing on the thematic area “Cultural diversity”	4	6	3

Concerning the principles of good governance in the planning and implementation of the Program the GSRT took every measure to assure the integrity of the implementation procedure. Targets of the Program outputs set out in the Program proposal were met with a minor deviation from the original plan.

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

GR 08 “Solidarity and Social Inclusion in Greece”

[Information stands as at previous report]

The Greek Ombudsman (Synigoros tou politis) implemented an action on the protection of human rights and discrimination and organised a series of events on the issue (two conference type events). Six GO annual reports on discrimination and gender equality were translated in English. Additional information leaflets were produced and made available in Greek, English, Arabic, and Albanian. The GO also carried out four interventions in Roma settlements, and organised an experts workshop for an imminent publication on the Ombudsman’s intervention on hate speech cases.

On 9-2-2016 a press conference and publicity event on the work of the GO regarding the legal and social guide on rights and benefits for the vulnerable groups was organized. The guide was distributed to the participants. The new site was also presented to the attendees (www.synigoros-solidarity.gr).

Field research was carried out in 3 hot-spots of multiple deprivation, 5 neighbourhoods in total, in the wider Athens region, namely central Athens (Ano Patisia, Kispeli/Agios Panteleimonas), municipality of Agios Ioannis-Renti, municipality of Perama. A conference was organized to present the field research and the findings, with active participation of the respective Mayors, 3 European Ombudsman offices, central and local Urban planning offices, social policy departments of local authorities, NGOs active around housing and social policy issues, (approximately 80 participants). Two radio spots for vulnerable groups were created practices.

Project “Tackling Poverty and Social Marginalization”

In respect to voucher distribution, during the two final distributions (February and March/April 2016), 13.129 vouchers were delivered to an average of 3793 beneficiaries. In total the initial target of 43.844 was surpassed (105%) and reached the 99% of all vouchers available (46.368). In respect to street-work, during 2016 the team approached 72 homeless people (including 10 follow ups). Up until 30/4/2016 they had approached overall 578 homeless people and drug users (including 82 follow up). A comprehensive survival guide for the homeless was produced and a unique report on the homeless in Athens was prepared. The PC has participated in an academic conference organized by the National Centre for Social Research and the Technological Institute of Athens on 24/02/2016 in Athens, presenting the project and the Streetwork results.

For the projects final event that took place on 30/05/2016 a press kit has been prepared including a report with the projects results, a CD with the Streetwork survey, a Video presenting the project's impact and testimonies by the beneficiaries and a brochure presenting KYADAs work and scope.

The project "Supporting Solidarity now" was completed in 2016 with startling results.

Health services: All 8 specialized medical services offered. 15164 Individuals served (Initial **Target:** 15500 Beneficiaries), 59972 visits (Initial Target: 15500 Beneficiaries) etc. **Employability:** 1996 Individuals served (Initial Target: 1500 Beneficiaries); 10352 Sessions completed (Initial Target: 4500 Sessions/Services;) 310 beneficiaries (27,6% . Success stories available at: <http://www.praksisemployability.gr/index.php/GR/>

Legal: Services were offered as planned (coverage of targets up to 354%) -2658 Beneficiaries Served - 1567 Cases (Initial Target: 720); 3294 Visits carried out (Initial Target: 3000) and strong advocacy component present throughout implementation

Day Care Centre for Children was a successful project: 2906 Individuals were served (Initial Target: 2400 Beneficiaries

Helpline Services: 15836 (Initial Target: 12000 Beneficiaries). 200 parents.

4 MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Management and control systems

The central MCS was elaborated by the NFP - Ministry of Economy & Development with the assistance of FMO, further to several exchanges and mainly transposes the EEA Regulation in the national legal order and enforces the respective rules for the NFP, PO and PP responsibilities. The current MCS is published via Ministerial Decision 781/B/2014.

Significant improvements in the procedures and legal framework were made in 2016 following the submission to the FMC of the detailed descriptions on Management and Control Systems for all Programme Operators in 2015 and the relevant comments and discussions.

They mainly concerned the fulfillment of regulatory obligations and the adaptation to the financial restrictions by providing responses to new needs while securing effectiveness and absorption. Clarifications were provided at request of the EEA Financial Mechanism Office (FMO).

The MCS of the 4 GR-managed programmes were submitted to and acknowledged by the FMO, as below:

Programme	Date of submission MCS	MCS formally acknowledged by FMO
GR02	14/5/2015	06/06/2016
GR03	6/3/2015	26/01/2016
GR06	14/1/2015	08/06/2016
GR07	8/4/2015	12/12/2016

During the period January - August 2016, the Contractor of the EEA Grants MIS system, in close cooperation with the Special Service for MIS (EYD OPS), has delivered the initial MIS version, giving access for data entry to the POs and PPs. Data entry is ongoing.

Finally, an extension of one year was granted to all projects (within the programmes) that were registered by 15 September, Europe-wide, as well as to the asylum and migration programmes (GR05 and GR06).

4.2 Compliance with EU legislation, national legislation and the MoU

The NFP is closely monitoring all programmes and collaborates with other administrative services in order to verify that the national and EU legislation are followed in all circumstances. Meetings with the PO are held on a regular basis, on occasions also attended by a representative of the Norwegian Embassy or a member of the FMO staff or a monitoring agent.

The public procurement legal framework was updated with the introduction of Law 4412/2016 (transposition of new EU procurement directives) in August 2016 and this caused some delays in projects in particular under GR03 and GR06 who were in the process of procuring and signing new contracts. The adaptation to the new framework is now complete.

4.3 Irregularities

One complaint has been received in the complaint mechanism (for the appointment of a researcher in one project of the GR07 programme). After the examination of the complaint by the PO (Secretariat

General of Research and Technology, Ministry of Education), the PP repeated the procedure for this specific appointment (no payments were involved).

The Q1, Q2 and Q3 Quarterly reports of 2016 included ten (10) cases of irregularities, with 5 of them are already closed. Six (6) of the cases concerned mainly expenditures detected and corrected by the CA before inclusion of the expenditure concerned in the statement of actual expenditure incurred in an IFR.

The FO of the GR04 programme, directly-managed by the FMO, reported to the FMO a major irregularity based on the article 5.13 of the Regulation and the programme agreement (a case of suspected double funding and fraud) that was committed within 2016, at project level. The appropriate processes have initiated, with FMO for the removal of the grant and the relevant authorities for possible legal action.

4.4 Audit, monitoring and review

In 2016 the Audit Authority carried out 6 audits on systems and operations/projects, as follows:

1. 'Independent Unit of Planning, Coordination and Monitoring of the Implementation of the Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area (EEA FM)', as the Operator of the Programme 'Technical Assistance and Fund for Bilateral Relations at national level'.
2. Executive Unit of the NSRF (former Special Service for the Coordination of Environmental Actions; Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change), as the Operator of the Programme 'Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management'.
3. Single Authority for the Certification and Control of Co-Funded Programmes, as the Certifying Authority of the EEA FM programmes for the 2009-2014 period,
4. '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 (outcome 2)', the beneficiary being the 'Asylum Service' (amount of audited expenditure: 296,026.53).
5. 'Bilateral Relations', the beneficiary being the 'Independent EEA Unit, National Focal Point, General Secretariat of NSRF Public Investments of the Ministry of Economy and Development' (amount of audited expenditure: 40,665.39).
6. 'Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management (Outcome 3)', the beneficiary being the 'State Scholarships Foundation' (amount of audited expenditure: 6,750.00).

The NFP - for the Fund of Bilateral Relations, the Certifying Authority and the PO of GR02 were subjected to systemic audits. Moreover, in collaboration with the FMO a training seminar on irregularities took place in May 2016, the AA, CA and all POs were invited.

The 2nd Meeting of the **Monitoring Committee** was organized in March 2016. The NFP continues the close monitoring of all POs and organizes technical meetings for various implementations issues.

Lastly, during 2016, a **new national EEA Grants Management Information System** was delivered, with the assistance of the Special Service for MIS (EYD OPS) that is responsible for the central MIS for all EU-funding. The new MIS system brings EEA Grants financial and physical object monitoring in line with the detailed monitoring in place for all EU Structural Funds. Data entry is continuous and the system will reach full functionality in 2017. A **Technical Seminar** on the new MIS (OPS-EOX) was organised for all POs and PPs by the NFP and EYD-OPS in October 2016.

4.5 Evaluation

Concerning the evaluation plan of the NFP, as per Regulation art. 9.1, the NFP is planning to proceed to independent ex-post evaluations of possibly two Programmes in early 2017. The evaluations could also

assist in drawing useful conclusions for the next (2014-2021) EEA Grants mechanism. Contact with the relevant evaluation unit of FMO has been established for consultation during this process. The evaluation study is planned to be financed via technical assistance. Regarding public procurement of technical assistance studies or services, the legislation is also in the process of being updated. New procurement is expected to be possible in early 2017.

4.6 On-the-spot verifications

GR02: The Programme Operator has planned site visits in 2016. The selection of projects to be visited on-site is determined by project progress and performed by PO staff. The monitoring plan for 2016 and 2017 has been approved by the PO legal representative. A detailed monitoring programme for all projects has been developed, including the pre-defined project.

For 9 of the 14 projects, the on the spot verifications have been completed. For the rest 5 projects the on site monitoring visits will be conducted until March 2017, according to the plan.

The most findings were of minor importance and they were about expenditures for traveling costs and delays in the submission of progress and economic reports. Especially for the pre-defined project two on site monitoring visits were carried out, one for the physical object (June 2016) and the other for the financial object (November 2016). The main findings were about the recruitment of the scientific staff.

The verifications programme will be completed in December 2017.

GR03: Project implementation progressed in 2016 with the implementation of the tender and contract pre-approval process. In 2016 the tender pre-approval process was completed for the first seven (7) approved projects. Due to discounts that arose on public tenders published by the Promoters of Projects classified in positions 1-7, there was sufficient funding for Project no. 8 (Municipality of Karpenissi: "Application of RES technologies in municipal buildings of the Municipality of Karpenissi"); therefore, tender pre-approval was given on April 27th 2016 and consequently, tender procedures were completed and the subprojects were contracted. In November 2016 the GR03 Programme had sufficient funds for Project no. 9 (Organization for the Development of Crete S.A.: "Installation of Photovoltaic Systems in water tanks of O.A.K SA and autonomous operation of water pumps"). As a result, tender pre-approval was given on November 3rd and the relevant tenders were launched.

PO CRES is monitoring closely the implementation progress of all projects. In particular, daily project monitoring is implemented with the contribution of the Project Implementation Subteam and the Payment Claims Verification Subteam. PO CRES performed the first on-site verification of all Projects in October-November 2016. Experts from the Project Implementation Subteam implemented the on-site verification using an appropriate questionnaire, which includes checking the technical scope of the project, the financial scope of the contract, the documentation kept by the Project Promoter and whether the publicity requirements of the Programme are met.

After the completion of the on-site verification, recommendations were made to Project Promoters based on the Management and Control System to ensure the smooth implementation of the projects. The next on-site verification is being scheduled to take place in early March 2017, while the final on-site verification is scheduled in May 2017, after project completion.

GR06: Regular monitoring was enabled through on-the-spot verification and monitoring visits conducted by the PO. The operation of the RIC in Evros was put under scrutiny by means of an on-the-spot verification visit conducted in May 2016 whereby some deficiencies were reported in the provision of catering services, storage of clothing and lack of visibility concerning EEA Grants funding. Further monitoring visits took place by the PO in August and October to determine whether the necessary steps were taken to improve the living conditions for the TCNs accommodated at the RIC, taking into account earlier recommendations of the PO and the Programme Partner UDI.

Two monitoring missions took place in July and September in the Lesvos RIC. EDPD members identified challenges in terms of security following the entry into force of Law 4375/2016 and visibility of EEA Grants funding due to delays in the relevant public tender, which was finalized in October. In addition, the scope of action of the Mobile Unit operating within the RIC was an issue of concern, as distinct registration of TCNs by Mobile Units' staff had to be secured. Finally, the need for repair and maintenance of the RIC due to damages resulting from small or larger scale incidents was evident in both missions. As regards PDP#2, an on-the-spot verification took place in May 2016 at the Attica Regional Office, whereby the smooth implementation of the Project was confirmed. In particular, the services of three (3) members of staff recruited through EEA Grants were randomly checked and found to be in accordance with the ones requested on the basis of the public tender and their contracts. Furthermore, the provision of interpretation services and the excellent cooperation between AS staff and interpreters was confirmed.

Further monitoring visits are scheduled for 2017.

GR07: Special verification teams were established in General Secretariat of Research and Technology for conducting on the spot verifications scheduled in the first trimester of 2017.

4.7 Information and publicity

During 2016, the NFP continued to implement the EEA Grants communication plan. Special care has been given to POs and PPs fulfill their communication and publicity obligations. Special provisions for verifications of the information and publicity regulatory requirements were issued to the POs.

In parallel the communication consultant of the NFP delivered a) a list of journalists in the print and electronic press b) drafted press releases c) electronic indexation of the articles regarding EEA Grants in Greece and the activation of social media accounts for EEA Grants (Facebook, Twitter). For the occasion of the 2016 Annual Meeting **a mini-promotional video on EEA GRANTS in Greek** was produced (link on Facebook and website), as well as an **information leaflet in English** with update programme photographs.

The NFP is planning to organise a closing event for EEA Grants 2009-2014 -as per the relevant regulatory requirement- towards the end of 2017.

Lastly, the NFP participated in an FMO-organised seminar in Riga, Latvia in September 2016 about information and communication planning.

Bilateral Relations

A bilateral fund at national level has been set aside to fund activities in key sectors that promote cooperation between Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Greece. The allocated budget for the bilateral fund at national level is €317,000 and is financed 100% from EEA Grants resources. The primary objective is to strengthen bilateral relations in key areas through donor partnership programmes.

Period 2014-2021

For the 2014-2021 period, €116.7 million have been allocated to Greece and negotiations for the new programme areas to be funded are under way.

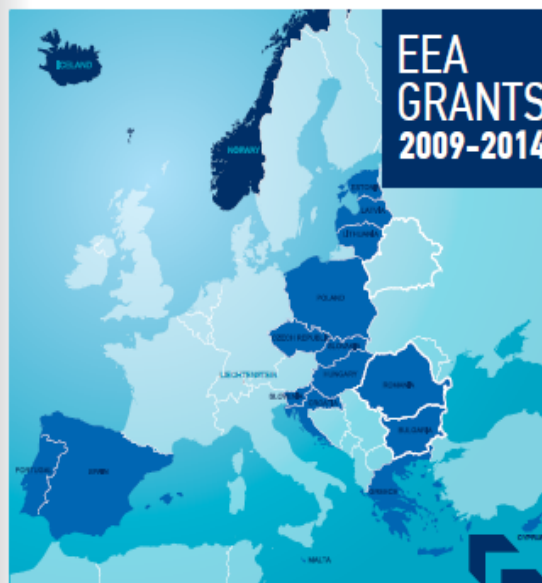
For EEA Grants in Greece:

National Focal Point - European Economic Area Unit
General Secretariat for Public Investments and the NSRF

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
& DEVELOPMENT
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Norwegian Embassy in Greece


NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
www.norway.gr




HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
& DEVELOPMENT

About the EEA Grants

Ever since the establishment of the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement in 1994, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have provided funding to reduce social and economic disparities in the EEA and to strengthening bilateral relations, today with 16 EU beneficiary states. The EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Of the €963 million for the current 2009-2014 period, Norway provides 66.8%, Iceland 3.0% and Liechtenstein 1.2%. In total, for the 2009-2014 period, the EEA Grants provide a funding of €963 million, which together with the Norway Grants (solely funded by Norway), make available a total of €1.768 billion to support 150 programmes in 16 countries in Central and Southern Europe.



Period 2009-2014: Programmes Financed in Greece

The EEA Grants provide Greece with funding that amounts to €63.4 million and is allocated in the following programmes.

Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management



- Water quality improvement projects for drinking or irrigation purposes
- Studies or interventions on the integrated marine and inland policy or the protection and management of coastal areas, on environmental problems in water bodies or biodiversity loss
- Small grants to University students for water management research in the donor countries

Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency



- Integrated RES actions in local communities (geothermal, solar thermal and biomass systems for covering heating and cooling)
- Geothermal heat pumps, solar thermal systems
- Use of RES technologies (photovoltaics, small wind turbines) for electricity generation and use in hospitals, waste water treatment systems, desalination units, water pumping, lighting etc.

Funds for the Civil Society (Non-Governmental Organisations)



- The Programme supports actions and civil society development in areas as:
- reduction of social inequality, poverty and social exclusion
- protection of human rights, including the rights of minorities
- capacity building of NGOs
- promotion of democracy, transparency and good governance

Assistance to the fields of reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups - assistance to voluntary returns



Grants to the UNHCR in support to the Greek authorities for migration management and asylum action plan. Grants for assistance to voluntary returns. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the Fund Operator for the actions implemented by:

- Consortium Mikhelis du Monde Greece/ Greek Council for Refugees
- Consortium NGOTIS/ UNICEF/ ENGAGE/ANTHRA/ Society for the Development and Creative Occupation of Children (SODAC)
- Consortium PRAGSIS (Applicant NGO) / Institute Red Cross, with the STEG (House) PLUG (+) (Athens & Patras)

Capacity building of the national asylum and migration management system



- Support to Reception and Identification Centres (Piraeus, Enns, Lesbos)
- Support to Reception and Identification mobile units
- Assistance to the Asylum Service
- Temporary accommodation and care for unaccompanied minors

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNER:
The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)

Research



- Local and regional initiatives to reduce inequalities and to promote social inclusion
- Promotion of gender equality and work-life balance
- Promotion of diversity in Culture and Arts within the European Cultural Heritage

Solidarity and Social Inclusion in Greece



- An example of the programme funding is the Solidarity Center in Piraeus building in Athens, which will provide the financially deprived people residing in the area with free medical care, legal aid and employment assistance and other measures directed at vulnerable individuals and families, such as assistance to single mothers, day care for their children and an advisory helpline
- Through the work of social organizations and social workers, offering accommodation and basic medical care to the most vulnerable on the islands, to the disabled, to children with learning disabilities, to impoverished families, to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, to the HIV infected or the homeless

4.7.1 Programme – specific information and publicity

GR02: The PO is going to have its second publicity event in January 2017. From November 2016, PO made all the necessary arrangements in order to organize the second conference. The scope of this conference is to offer an update of achievements and good practices to be presented. In this event the PP will exchange their experiences, solve problems and PO will give guidelines and clarifications to accelerate on-going projects.

In the website of the SACEP, the special dedicated area for the publicity of the GR.02.Programme (<http://www.eysped.gr/en/Pages/eea.aspx>) hosts the PP's websites too. For every project a website has developed, according to requirements of the Regulation.

PO is in close cooperation with PP for the development and the update on regular basis of these sites.

GR03: The GR03 Programme website is continuously updated with news, info and clarifications. The website can be found under the url: <http://eeares.cres.gr> (Greek and English).

All Project Promoters have created websites for their Projects, on which a detailed description of their Project can be found (see below). Project Promoters have started the implementation of their dissemination activities. For instance, Project Promoter no. 7 (General Hospital “Mamatseio-Bodosakeio”) organized a Workshop for the presentation of the Project on November 16th.

Project Promoter & Website

1. Region of Western Macedonia: <http://www.pdm.gov.gr/%CF%80%CF%81%CE%AC%CE%BE%CE%B7-%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B7%CF%81%CF%89%CE%BC%CE%AD%CE%BD%CE%B5%CF%82-%CF%80%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B5%CE%BC%CE%B2%CE%AC%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%B1%CF%80/>
2. Democritus University of Thrace: <http://duth.gr/files/DUTH%20WEBSITE.pdf>
3. Municipality of Andros: [http://andros.gr/gr/dimos/ta-nea-mas/396-%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AD%CF%82-%CF%80%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B5%CE%BC%CE%B2%CE%AC%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%B1%CF%80%CE%B5-](http://andros.gr/gr/dimos/ta-nea-mas/396-%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AD%CF%82-%CF%80%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B5%CE%BC%CE%B2%CE%AC%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%B1%CF%80%CE%B5-%)
4. Centre for Social Protection and Solidarity, Education and Environment – Polykoinoniko (Alexandroupolis): <http://www.alexpolis.gr/default.asp?static=101&id=5037>
5. Agricultural University of Athens: <http://www2.aua.gr/el/info/ergo-hm-eoh-gpa-stis-ape>
6. Municipality of Nea Ionia: <http://www.neaionia.gr/Inner.aspx?LangID=1&FolderID=e4e779e0-bf6c-49cb-b494-43b5cea2e166>
7. General Hospital Mamatsio-Bodossakio <http://mpodosakeio.plano2.gr/>
8. Municipality of Karpenissi <http://www.karpenissi.gr/xm-eox/>
9. Organisation for the Development of Crete SA: To be launched.

GR04: 2016 has been the peak year of our communications and publicity activities, mainly thanks to two key facts: (a) April 2016 was the completion date for all remaining projects (and thus project promoters themselves demonstrated great results in their own communications of their projects' results and (b) in November 2016, the GR04 programme closing festivities were held (see previous section). According to the final reports submitted to the FO by all project promoters, a total of 2,584 pieces of media coverage earned throughout the duration of the programme. Thanks to the FOs own activities, an additional 107 pieces of media coverage were earned in 2016 alone, raising the estimated number of pieces of media coverage around the programme to 2,760 in total (2014 – 2016). During 2016, the FO has launched four short films that highlight human stories of direct or indirect beneficiaries through the Grants. The four films, i.e. "We are all citizens of the world", "We are all one family", "We are all creators" and "We are all citizens against depression" are now available via the web and social media. The films have culminated in a documentary movie around the programme, named "We are all Citizens" which was first screened during the official presentation of the programme results on Friday, 18 November 2016. The film is now available via the FOs social media channels in Greek (subtitled for people with hearing impairments) and in English.

Here the links: in Greek (with subtitles for people with hearing impairments)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-4de8MIWUA>

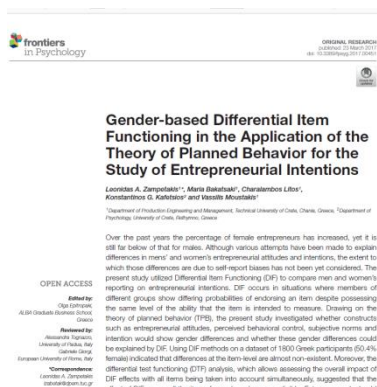
And the documentary with English subtitles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFECJA1RThY&t=473s>

GR05: SOAM PM Unit together with the consortiums update in regular basis the projects' blogs and social accounts by providing information related with the RC's activities and promoting EEA Grants funding. Finally, during 2016 SOAM PM Unit initiated and circulated 2 issues of a newsletter containing information on the Programmes' goals, objectives and activities."

GR06: Information and press releases of events were also provided through the website http://www.mopocp.gov.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=5487&Itemid=533&lang=&lang=EN as well as through the NFP's main website. Information plaques, posters or stickers were attached to all types of equipment/infrastructure purchased or upgraded under the actions of the programme to advertise the EEA Grants by means of the EEA emblem/logo, as stipulated in the Regulation.

Ms. Aspaker, the Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, visited the island of Lesbos on February 2016 to reiterate the commitment of Norway to the alleviation of the current refugee crisis in Greece. On this occasion, a press release was issued covering her visit and meetings in Lesbos.



GR07: The programme dedicated website: <http://www.gsrt.gr/EOX/> was frequently updated in order to inform all interested parties about the current developments on programme (results of evaluation process, annual report, complaints reporting etc). In addition, communication actions were undertaken within the 8 completed projects in order to disseminate their results to the scientific community. Scientific publications were issued, based on EE Grants research.

4.8 Work plan for next year

1. NFP's close monitoring of all POs (at least bimonthly meetings with the POs) to ensure proper monitoring of projects in order to address the outcomes of the EEA Grants in time. Preparation for closure of all Programmes.
2. Ad hoc meetings concerning auditing, payment certifications or other implementation issues. Visits of NFP to specific projects.
3. Audits and on the spot verifications by the Audit Authority on Programmes and Projects.
4. Cooperation Committees of GR06.
5. Intensification of communication activities (a closing event to be organised by the NFP). Expected increased number of events as programmes are closing, seminars or bilateral relations actions.
6. Procuring of independent evaluations of programmes in 2017. The evaluations may also assist in new programme preparation for EE Grants 2014-2021.
7. Input of all technical assistance (GR01) and all Programmes data and payments into the new MIS system for EEA grants (OPS-EOX).
8. Organisation of the 2017 Annual Meeting.
9. Organisation of the 2017 Meeting of the Bilateral Fund Committee.
10. Coordination of the negotiations for the new Memorandum of Understanding between Donor Countries and Greece and programmes of the next programming period, 2014-2021 (new Regulations adopted in Sep 2016).

5 SUMMARY LIST OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The limited time for programme implementation and absorption of grants (slow start, limited margin for implementation, admin changes in Ministries setup, legislative updates etc.) despite the one-year extension granted by FMO, continued to affect EEA Grants implementation in 2016 and will remain a decisive factor persisting issue until the upcoming end of the eligibility period in April 2017. This situation puts a lot of pressure on the NFP, POs and PPs to achieve the results agreed. The NFP is closely monitoring and acts as a facilitator when possible.
- For Programmes where a significant amount of funding remains at high risk of non-absorption, NFP has and will continue to assist the relevant POs with solutions for increasing the eligible expenditure and maximising the country's financial benefit from EEA Grants in cooperation with FMO and FMC.
- NFP will be closely monitoring the achievement of the bilateral objective actions during 2017, assisting the implementation of approved projects.
- In parallel, the NFP is also tasked with the 2014-2021 EEA Grants new MoU negotiations with FMO/FMC and new programme coordination with sectoral Ministries.

6 ATTACHMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC REPORT - Annexes

The Strategic Report includes a number of attachments. DoRIS reports were extracted for attachments below 1-5. (Source: <https://doris.eeagrants.org/MapReports/>).

Strategic report attachment 1 - Applications in Greece (*Reporting year 2016*)

Strategic report attachment 2 & 3 - Projects with donor project partners in Greece

Strategic report attachment 4 - Programme and country irregularities in Greece as initially reported

Strategic report attachment 5 - Project irregularities in Greece as initially reported

Strategic report attachment 6 - Plan setting out the monitoring and audit activities

Strategic report attachment 7 - Risk assessment at the national and programme levels [non-public attachment]

Annual report 2016 GR 02 - Technical Assistance report

ANNEXES

Strategic report attachment 1

Applications in Greece

Reporting year 2016

Calls for Proposals

Applications for GR02 Integrated marine and inland water management

	2014			2015			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU						1			1
Educational programmes in primary and secondary education in marine and inland water management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More integrated management of marine and inland water resources	0	0	0	91	23	12	91	23	12
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	13	0	12	13	0	12
Total	0	0	0	104	23	25	104	23	25

Open call related outcomes:

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

Predefined project measures:

- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Applications for GR03 Renewable energy

	2014			2015			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
RES Systems in Local Communities Call 1 & Pre-Defined Project	67	0	0	0	0	10	67	0	10
RES Systems in Local Communities Call 2 (Only if there is an unallocated amount from call 1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	67	0	0	0	0	10	67	0	10

Open call related outcomes:

- A less carbon-dependent economy

Applications for GR04 Funds for Non-governmental Organisations

	2014			2015			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	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
Advocacy and watchdog role developed				0	0	0	0	0	0
Democratic values, including human rights,				0	0	24	0	0	24

promoted									
Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased				0	0	0	0	0	0
Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted				0	0	12	0	0	12
Total	571	22	40	0	0	36	571	22	76

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 accomodation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns.

	2011			2012			2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	Receiv ed	Partnersh ip	Projects Contract ed	Receiv ed	Partnersh ip	Projects Contract ed	Receiv ed	Partnersh ip	Projects Contract ed	Receiv ed	Partnersh ip	Projects Contract ed
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 voluntarily to their country of origin

Predefined project measures:

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

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

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

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Provision of services

Applications for GR07 Research

	2014			2015			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Open Call for the Programme "Diversity, inequality and social inclusion"	103	17	0	0	0	18	103	17	18
Total	103	17	0	0	0	18	103	17	18

Open call related outcomes:

- Strengthened research capacity in the Beneficiary States

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

	2015			2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Bilateral relations measure B_on-going call (2)	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2
Bilateral relations measure A_Call (2)	0	0	0	11	4	0	11	4	0
Bilateral relations measure B_on-going call (1)	4	4	3	1	0	0	5	4	3
Bilateral relations measure A_Call (1)	0	0	0	22	6	2	22	6	2
Total	6	6	5	34	10	2	40	16	7

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 accommodation of vulnerable groups. Assistance to voluntary returns.

	2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	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
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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
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Capacity-building
- Information and awareness raising
- Provision of services

Strategic report attachments 2 & 3

Prepared on 22-Feb-16

GR02 - Integrated marine and inland water management

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
GR02-0001	Recording of and Technical Responses to Coastal Erosion of Touristic Aegean island beaches	No	Norway	Center for International Climate and Environmental Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
GR02-0006	IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE AND INCREASING AWARENESS FOR WETLAND RESTORATION IN ATTICA REGION	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
GR02-0008	Improving the knowledge in determining the minimum water level and flow of water bodies	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
GR02-0009	Innovative solutions to climate change adaptation and governance in the water management of the Region of Crete - AQUAMAN	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Water Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
GR02-0012	Marine Spatial Planning in the Aegean Sea for the protection and conservation of biodiversity	No	Norway	Institute of Marine Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
GR02-0014	Integrated environmental study and mapping for the improvement of the river basin management plans and the coastal zone of river Sperchios (acronym: SPERCHIOS)	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
Projects with donor project partners 6 out of 14 (42.9%) (Figures include SGS and predefined.)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 1,902,534		

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
GR04-0044	Break the bonds of fear – Say no to hate: Information and awareness raising campaign against hate speech	No	Norway	The European Wergeland Center (EWC)	Other type of NGO
Projects with donor project partners 4 out of 76 (5.3%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 609,261		

GR07 - Research

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
GR07-0007	Gender Equality in the Workforce: Reconciling work, private and family life in Greek Industries	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
GR07-0009	Innovation and Employability for Women	No	Norway	EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGY- ECWT	Umbrella organization / Network of NGOs
GR07-0010	Teacher support confronting social inequalities - TOCSIN	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
GR07-0013	Establishment of a Supporting Mechanism for the Development and Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship in Mountainous Areas	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Wood Technology	Other
GR07-0014	HEALTH INEQUALITIES AMONG MIGRANT POPULATION	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
GR07-0017	Participatory Action Research to Address Un-Under-Employment at the local level	No	Norway	Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
GR07-0018	Work-life balance in the context of changing families and labour market in Greece	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 7 out of 18 (38.9%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 1,136,360		

Greece - Summary

Project grant amount total	€ 46,451,611
Number of projects	127
Number of projects with donor project partners	17
Proportion of projects with donor project partners	13.39 %
Number of programmes *	7
EEA and Norway grants committed	€ 54,897,157

* Excluding Technical assistance programmes and PA22

Strategic report attachment 4
Programme and country irregularities in Greece as initially reported
 Reported by designated entities in or before 2016

Prepared 20-Mar-17

Irregularities detected at Beneficiary state level

No irregularities have been reported

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-0332	On going	02/11/15		2015Q4	2016Q4	fraud/corruption		
IR-0416	Closed	21/06/16	10/08/16	2016Q1		error in payment claim		
IR-0417	Closed	21/06/16	24/08/16	2016Q1		error in payment claim		
IR-0418	Closed	21/06/16	24/08/16	2016Q1		error in payment claim		
IR-0419	Closed	21/06/16	24/08/16	2016Q1		error in payment claim		
IR-0420	Closed	22/06/16	16/12/16	2016Q1	2016Q3	deviation from project contract		
IR-0575	In Review	02/12/16		2016Q3	2016Q4	deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0642	In Review	01/03/17		2016Q4		deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0643	In Review	01/03/17		2016Q4		error in payment claim		
Total								

Strategic report attachment 5
Project irregularities in Greece as initially reported
Reported by designated entities in or before 2016 on project level

Prepared 20-Mar-17

Supported export format word and excel

Irregularity case	Irregularity status	Case opened	Case closed	Irregularity period	Followed up	Initial nature of irregularities	Amount of recovered funds	Grant amount reduced
IR-0415	Closed	21/06/16	26/08/16	2016Q1		error in payment claim		
Total								

Strategic report attachment 6

- Plan setting out the monitoring and audit activities

ENTITY	AUDITS PLANNED FOR 2017	On the spot verifications planned - Programme level	Monitoring visits
NFP			Monitoring visits in selected projects of the Bilateral Fund and also GR02, GR03 or GR06 projects, incl. Moria and possibly Fylakio RICs.
AUDIT AUTHORITY			
GR02		5 on the spot verification visits to remaining projects	
GR03		On the spot verifications in all projects (on March 2017 and final on May 2017).	
GR06		On the spot verifications are planned in all projects until May 2017.	
GR08		In all projects (Mars-April 2017 for physical and financial object verification).	

Strategic report attachment 7
Risk assessment at the programme level

Programme	Type of Objective	Description of risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation planned/done
01	Operational/ Bilateral	Delays in implementation and absorption, due to late start, admin procedures, establishment of partnerships etc.	3, Likely	3, Major	Close monitoring by the NFP. Measures to increase staffing of NFP. Measures to ensure NFP managerial role for GR 01, speeding up coordination of bilateral projects and coordination role for all GR-managed programmes.
02	Cohesion/ operational	Delays in project implementation due to late contracts signing, following delayed signing of the PA. Unfinished projects or poor quality.	2, Possible	2, Moderate	Close monitoring of implementation. In situ verifications and financial monitoring of projects will continue until the end dates of projects.
03	Cohesion/ operational	Delays in projects' implementation due to late contracts signing. Unfinished projects or poor quality.	3, Likely	3, Major	National state budget burden poss in selected projects. Close monitoring of implementation. There is a risk of approximately 15% estimated underspending.
06	Operational	Double Funding	1, Unlikely	2, Moderate	Special audits and control.
	Cohesion	Delays in implementation due to overwhelming pressure on administrative capacity –changes in administrative structure.	4, Most probable	4, Severe	Speedup of implementation. Coordination management of many small value contracts. Budget reallocation within existing projects to be exhausted. Inclusion of possible new

					eligible expenditures, already spent by national budget – relevant negotiations with FMO for salaries of asylum staff and police staff already paid in Moria-Lesvos and Fylakio-Evros. Risk level remains high due to limited implementation time in any case. A pronounced risk of 50% underspending remains due to changes in project priorities, delays to new contracts, administrative financial delays (new Ministry setup).
07	Cohesion	Delays in projects' implementation due to late contracts signing. Unfinished projects or poor quality.	2, Likely	1, Minor	Close monitoring of the PO. The risk during 2016 was minimized, as contracts were signed and implementation was streamlined in all projects. However as planned from PO thorough checking of implementation status will ensure that all projects will finish on due date. There is a risk of appx. 150.000 Euros of underspending.
08	Operational	Double Funding	1, Unlikely	2, Moderate	Special audits and control.

Risk assessment at the national level:

The risk assessment at the national level regards risks to the two overall objectives and overall operations of the Grants.

Type of objective ⁶	Description of risk	Likelihood ⁷	Consequence ⁸	Mitigation planned/done
Operational	Risk of unexpected administrative delays	2	3	Better coordination and cooperation between authorities. Good coordination and governance in PO and PP level.
Operational / Bilateral	Delays in implementation, due to late start, lengthy procedures, delay on payments. Non-successful completion in the remaining timeframe.	3	3	Action had been taken during 2016 since all the projects of the programmes monitored by the NFP have an extension of implementation until April 2017 and all of them are in progress (only the small grant scheme II of the GR02 Programme will be completed by the end of September 2016). Close monitoring of implementation is required in order to ensure full absorption and non-return of received funding.

⁶ The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

⁷ Each risk should be described as to whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue, where 4 = Almost certain (75 – 99% likelihood); 3 = Likely (50 – 74%); 2 = Possible (25 – 49%); 1 = Unlikely (1 – 24%)

⁸ Assess the consequence(s) in the event that the outcomes and/or crucial operations are not delivered, where 4 = severe; 3 = major; 2 = moderate; 1 = minor; n/a = not relevant or insignificant.

7 Annual report 2016 - Technical Assistance, EEA Grants 2009-2014

7.1 Overview of main activities

The National Focal Point in 2016 carried out the following activities for the programming period 2009-2014:

- Organising together with POs the implementation of programmes and preparation of system documents for the financial and technical monitoring of programmes or projects (timetable of projects), of audits/on the spot verifications and of appeals.
- Establishing the Monitoring Committee and organising the second meeting, 27/03/2016.
- Organising the 6^h Annual Meeting in Athens on 15/11/2016.
- Organised alongside with the Special Service for Monitoring Information System the launch of MIS EEAGRANTS Greece (OPS-EOX) and provided guidelines and seminars to the users. Data entry is ongoing.
- Providing follow up on audits on systems and operations by the Audit Authority and issuing relevant instructions.
- Intensification of and participation to communication activities as programmes progressed.
- Participated and represented the country in all FMO-organised seminars and activities.

7.2 Budget overview

In T.A. due to accounting issues (and unavailability of responsible staff for payments), the first payments took place in 2015. Implementation has increased with most of the financing already contracted, but more efforts are need to fully implement and absorb available funding.

T.A. final date of eligibility is 31 August 2018, therefore there is a margin in the following years 2017 and 2018 to complete the projects and benefit from this financial envelope.

BFNL final date of eligibility is 30 April 2018.

The total amount disbursed so far by the FMO is 473.650€ (123.650€ within 2016). The incurred expenditure is depicted in the following table:

	IFR3	IFR4	IFR5	IFR6	IFR7	IFR8	IFR9 (*)	TOTAL INCURRED	TOTAL BUDGETED
Incurred expenditures Totals	40.665	0	0	33.713	45.345	29.609	8.100	157.432	771.220
Programme Management - NFP	0	0	0	10.097	45.345	3.161	2.741	58.603	241.720
Programme Management – Certifying Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Management – Audit Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.359	5.359	62.500

Programme Management → Other entities (MIS etc)	0	0	0	23.616	0	0	0	23.616	150.000
Fund for Bilateral Relations (BFNL)	40.665	0	0	0	0	26.448	0	67.113	317.000

(*) IFR9 is under approval.

7.3 Staffing

During 2016 a number of changes have occurred to the staffing of the Greek NFP for EEA Grants. Former Head of Unit Ms. A. Panopoulou resigned her position in May 2016 and Ms. A. Pliaka opted for a new position as expert in the School for Public Administration and therefore left her position in November 2016.

Since July 2016, Ms. N. Dandolou was appointed as acting new Head of NFP, with know-how in management and coordination of EU funding programmes and previous experience in the coordinating Ministry of Economy, as well as sectoral Ministries responsible for energy, shipping, transport and public infrastructure. Urgent staffing calls and interviews are planned for early 2017 from the General Secretariat of Public Investments and the NSRF, where the NFP reports administratively.

Staff involved in EEA Grants during 2016:

National Focal Point: Independent Unit, General Secretariat of Public Investments & the NSRF - Ministry of Economy & Development (new title since Nov 2016)				
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 & Development, for the European Economic Area	All programmes	100% (Until May 2016)	N
Niki Dandolou	Acting Head of Independent Unit of the Ministry of Economy & Development, for the European Economic Area	All programmes	100% (From July 2016)	N
Aleka Pliaka	Desk officer	GR07,GR01, Bilateral	100% (Until November 2016)	N
Mr. H. Alexopoulos	Desk officer	GR03,02, GR01, Bilateral	100%	N
Audit Authority: EDEL				

Name of staff	Official position	Main tasks	Level of effort (% of working time)	Funded through the Grants (Y/N)
Tountopoulou Yiolanda	Head of “Planning & Evaluation of Audits” Directorate (DSAE)	Overall supervision of directorate’s deliverables relating to EEA FM (i.e. Annual Audit Report & Opinion, Audit Strategy, Follow-Up)	2%	N
Margioli Maria	Head of Unit C “Strategy & Methodology” Unit (DSAE)	Day to day supervision of Unit’s deliverables relating to EEA FM (i.e. Update of Audit Manual, Update of Audit Strategy, Sampling of operations to be audited, Subsampling on operations, Analysis of error rates)	2%	N
Liatsopoulou Evgenia	Head of Unit B “Monitoring, Reports and Corrective Actions” (DSAE)	Day to day supervision of Unit’s deliverables relating to EEA FM (i.e. Annual Control Report & Opinion, Follow-up of findings)	6%	N
Katsantoni Sofia	Desk Officer – Unit C (DSAE)	Updating audit Manual, Updating Audit Strategy, Sampling of operations to be audited, Subsampling on operations, Analysis of error rates	10%	N

Triantafyllopoulou Evgenia	Desk Officer – Unit B (DSAE)	Annual Control Report & Opinion	5%	N
Balantina Eirini	Desk Officer – Unit B (DSAE)	Follow up of findings for system and operation audits.	5%	N
Papamihalopoulou Areti	Desk Officer – Unit B (DSAE)	Follow up of findings for system and operation audits.	2%	N
Niarchakou Eleni	Head of Unit E “Planning & Audit” (DEDSP)	Planning and supervision	30%	N
7 Auditors	Unit E (DEDSP)	Unit E performs system and operations audits to verify the effective functioning of the management and control system	30%	N

Certifying 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%	N
Gravias Ioannis	Staff Member of Unit A	Desktop controls, Financial Management of Programme GR06 at the level of C.A.	50%	N
Kastani Vasiliki	Staff Member of Unit A	Desktop controls, Financial	50%	N

		Management of Programme GR07 at the level of C.A.		
Alesta Vasiliki	Head of Unit A, deputy head of CA.	Horizontal issues concerning all EEA 2009-2014 Programmes.	10%	N
Name of national entity (irregularities): Independent Unit of the Ministry of Economy & Development				
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	Report of Irregularities	1% No irregularities were spotted.	N

7.4 The coming year in Technical Assistance

- I. NFP monitoring of all POs. Preparation for closure.
- II. NFP assisting the implementation of the national fund for bilateral relations projects.
- III. Intensification of communication activities (possibly a second communication event organized by the NFP). Expected increasing number of events, workshops and bilateral relations.
- IV. Organizing the Annual Meeting in Athens.
- V. Organizing the regular Meeting of the Bilateral Fund Committee.
- VI. Continuation of visits of NFP to POs and projects.
- VII. Continuation and completion of audits by the Audit Authority.
- VIII. Launch, towards the end of spring of 2017, an open call for the evaluation of selected programmes.
- IX. Coordination of the negotiations for the MoU and programmes for the next EEA grants programming period, 2014-2021.