

GREECE

Despite the difficulties Greece has encountered in the recent financial and economic crisis, the country has the third highest GDP per person among the beneficiary states and the second best score on human development (HDI), where it rates high on health and life expectancy. In the funding period 2009-2014, Greece has been allocated €63.4 million, up from €34.3 million in the previous five-year period.

The EEA Grants have targeted environment and sustainable development, assisting Greece in areas such as water and forest management. In the future, focus will be on marine and inland-water management, as well as renewable energy. The Greek economy has a higher level of energy intensity than the EU average, while the share of renewable energy sources in its energy supply is below average.

Focus has also been on the cultural heritage sector, given the importance of Greece in European history, philosophy and architecture, and the significance this holds for tourism and the Greek economy. In this period, the EEA Grants will turn to contemporary challenges linked to asylum and immigration.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Protection of the **environment** and sustainable development was by far the most significant priority sector in Greece, absorbing half of the project funding. The main focus was the improvement of water supply and distribution in Greek municipalities and the improved management of forest ecosystems. Projects were supported to restore forest areas in the mountain areas of Lakonia and Parnonas, and in the prefectures of Iliia, Messinia and Rodopi. Three out of five partnership projects with Norwegian entities were within the field of the environment.

The Grants also contributed to the conservation of Greece's rich **cultural heritage**, for example through the rehabilitation of the Byzantine Walls of Thessaloniki and the surrounding landscape, and the reconstruction and presentation of the ancient Agora and the medieval fortifications of the town of Kos. An interesting project involved digitisation of the Agora archives. Nowhere is the history of Athens so richly illustrated as in the Agora in Athens, the market place that was the focal point of public life. After 80 years of systematic excavations, hundreds of thousands



Population

11.3 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)
€21 700 per person (-11%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

22 (world)
13 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

23 (world)
17 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€34.3 / 63.4 million

of documents, photos and archeological artefacts have been found in the archive. In total, it is foreseen that 67 000 cultural heritage items will be digitised through three projects in Greece.

In the sector for **health** and **childcare**, projects have focused on improving the quality of life of victims of abuse, neglect, trafficking, abduction or exploitation in Greece. Crisis-intervention hostels for abused children under five years were established in Athens, Thessaloniki and Alexandroupolis. In the town of Drama, the services in a centre for victims of abuse and domestic violence were strengthened, including the establishment of a helpline. Several **human resource development** projects focused on the integration of immigrants and vulnerable groups into society and the labour market.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

In the **human and social development** sector, there will be two programmes to target challenges Greece faces due to the great influx of asylum seekers and immigrants. One programme will address urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups, especially unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). There will be grants to fund the running cost of reception centres run by NGOs. The second programme will aim to strengthen the national migration management system that safeguards the right to seek asylum, in order to ensure legal protection and care for the most vulnerable group of migrants,



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Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support the digitisation of the Agora archives in Athens.

namely unaccompanied children. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will be a partner in the programmes, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) will run a project on voluntary return of asylum seekers, and the UNHCR will be provided grants to continue its support to the Greek authorities in implementing the Action Plan on Migration Management.

In the **environment and climate change** sector, funding will be equally distributed between a programme on strengthening marine and inland water management and a programme to increase the share of renewable energy in Greece.

A new fund to support the development of **civil society** will be established, and there will be funding to **research** on cultural diversity, economic and gender-based inequality and questions related to social inclusion.

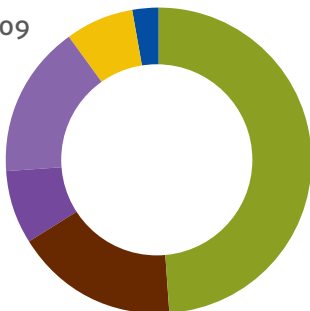
Note: Greece is financing the completion of 16 projects from the EEA Grants 2004-09 from reserve funds under the EEA Grants 2009-14.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNER

Institutional Framework in the Asylum and Migration Sector:
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)

NET ALLOCATIONS

2004-2009



Environment 13
€11.3 million

Cultural heritage 8
€4 million

Health and childcare 4
€1.8 million

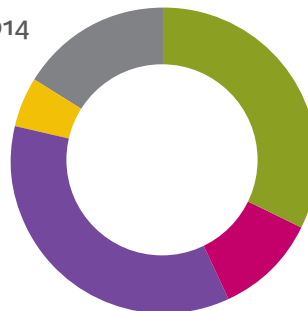
Human resource development 6
€3.7 million

Academic research 6
€1.7 million

Seed money fund 1
€0.6 million

Total: 38 projects - €23.1 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change
€19 million

Civil society
€6.3 million

Human and social development
€20.9 million

Research and scholarship
€3 million

Other
€9.4 million

Total: €58.6 million