

GREECE

Greece has received funding since the EEA Agreement came into force in 1994. For the period 2009-2014, Greece has been allocated €63.4 million; up from €34.3 million over the previous five-year period. Norway provides 95% of the funding, with Iceland and Liechtenstein providing the rest.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Safeguarding the right to seek asylum
- › Reception and screening, particularly of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- › Capacity building of Greek NGOs in policy and decision-making processes

BILATERAL COOPERATION

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

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

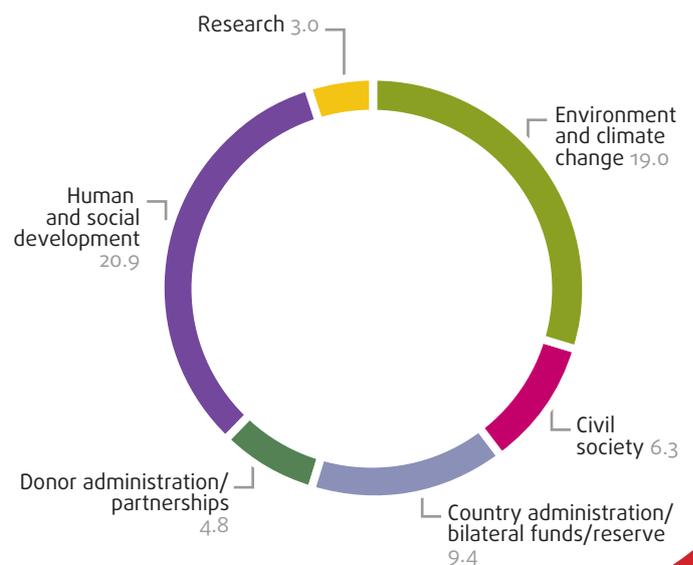


EEA GRANTS €63.4 M

	Greece	EU-27
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	82	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-6.9	1.5
Unemployment rate	17.7	9.7
Youth unemployment	44.4	21.4
Public debt (% of GDP)	165.3	82.5
Human development index	16 (EU-27 ranking)	
Corruption perception index	26 (EU-27 ranking)	
Inequality of income distribution*	5.6	5

Sources: Eurostat, UNDP, Transparency International
All data is from 2011 except where * indicates 2010

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



IN FOCUS

SUPPORTING ASYLUM REFORM

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

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

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

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

For the first time the Grants will establish a fund to support the development of civil society in Greece. This shows a commitment from both the Greek authorities and the donor countries to strengthen the capacity of NGOs. The support enables national and local NGOs to contribute to the protection of human rights and provide services to vulnerable groups, including migrants and Roma. NGOs will also promote social inclusion and anti-discrimination and addressing good governance and transparency.

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management		9.5
Renewable energy		9.5
NGO Fund		6.3
Asylum and migration	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	20.9
Research		3.0



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