GREECE

Overview

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| Population *(specify date)* and territory | 9.716.889 legal (Dec 2022) 10.482.487(permanent)(as of 17 March 2023)- 131.957 km² |
| Administrative structure *(unitary/federal)* | Unitary |
| Regional or state-level governments *(number)* | 13 regions |
| Intermediate-level governments *(number)* | 7 Decentralized State Administrations (Ministry of Interior) |
| Municipal-level governments *(number)* | 332 Municipalities |
| Share of subnational government in total expenditure/revenues | 23,84% of public expenditure (Programme for Public Investment for year 2022) |
| Key regional development challenges | Twin (green and digital) transition; social inclusion; demographic change; economic disparities; territorial development and insularity |
| Objectives of regional policy | Reducing the regional disparities, economic growth, social inclusion |
| Legal/institutional framework for regional policy | Greek Constitution, Kallikratis law, Klisthenis Law |
| Budget allocated to regional development (i.e., amount) and fiscal equalisation mechanisms between jurisdictions (if any) | Partnership Agreement 2021-2027 approved by EU on 29th July 2021 consists of  26,2 billion (20,9 EU funds ERDF, ESF+, JTF, CF, EMFAF) and  5,3 national co financing  The total amount of PA 2021-2027 26,2 billion euro of Public Expenditure (20,9 billion euro EU Contribution and 5,3 billion euro National Contribution) breaks down as follows:  13,6 billion European Regional Development Fund - ERDF  7 billion European Social Fund Plus - ESF +  3,5 billion Cohesion Fund - CF  0,47 billion European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund - EMFAF and 1,6 billion Just Transition Fund – JTF  Out of the 26,2 billion euro, 8,07 billion euro of Public Expenditure are allocated to Regional Programs (6,01 billion co financed by ERDF and 2,06 billion co financed by ΕSF+) |
| National regional development policy framework | The Partnership Agreement for Greece covers 13 regional and 9 national Sectoral programmes. The document is entirely in line with the National Growth Strategy, is complementary to the goals and targets of the Recovery and Resilience Programme and is consistent with the European Regulations and the National Sectoral Strategies with its development goal as follows: «Contribution to the regeneration of the Greek economy by restructuring and upgrading the productive and social fabric of the country and by creating and maintaining sustainable jobs through the outward-looking, innovative and competitive entrepreneurship and the support of the social cohesion and the principles of sustainable development». |
| Urban policy framework | Greece has not urban policy framework. The development planning is based on national and regional spatial planning.  Specific objective 5.i of Policy Objective 5 of PA 2021-2027 “Fostering the Integrated and Inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban areas.  European smart cities initiative. |
| Rural policy framework | CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (Ministry for Rural Development).  European smart villages initiative. |
| Major regional policy tools (e.g., funds, plans, policy initiatives, institutional agreements, etc.) | European Funds and co-financing  European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF)  Cohesion Fund (CF)  European Social Fund plus (ESF+)  Just Transition Fund (JTF)  European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)  Regional State Aid  General Directorate for Private Investment  Spatial Regional/ Local Plans  National Strategies for RIS, Active Labour, Social inclusion and poverty reduction, Digitalization, environment, energy, civil protection, tourism, etc. |
| Policy co-ordination tools at national level | Council for Monitoring and Coordination of PA  National Coordination Authority – General directorate for Strategy, planning and Implementation – General Directorate for Legal and Operational Support  Integrated Information System for PA 2021-2027  Integrated Information System for Programme of public Investment (e-pde)  Integrated Information System for State Aid  Integrated Information System for De Minimis Aid |
| Multi-level governance mechanisms between national and subnational levels (e.g., institutional agreements, Committees, etc.) | Council for Monitoring and Coordination of PA  Institutional Agreements and framework assignments |
| Policy co-ordination tools at regional level | National Coordination Authority (NCA) – Special Service for the Coordination of Regional Programmes |
| Evaluation and monitoring tools | The implementation of the projects financed by the PA is monitored through a system of indicators, which includes output and result indicators  Τhe output and result indicators are monitored through the  Monitoring Ιnformation System (MIS)  For the monitoring of the indicators, identified procedures are followed, which are included in the Management and Control System of the PA  The indicator targets of the selected projects and their achievements are transmitted to the E.C. per semester (June and December of each year).  For each indicator, an Indicator Fiche is formed which includes the definition and information that helps the targeting and measurement of the indicator, the name, the unit of measurement, the time of measurement in relation to the completion of the project, etc. |
| Future orientations of regional policy | The PA 2021-2027 priorities for the strengthening of the production potential of the economy, the infrastructure, the human skills and the increasing of social protection are:  Increase of investments and exports as a percentage of GDP  Promotion of sustainable employment  Invest in education and knowledge  Increase of the size of the Greek enterprises  Promotion of the state-of-the-art technology, innovation and digitalisation  Achievement of ambitious environmental objectives  Support to the vulnerable households  Pursuing and intensifying digital reform in the public sector  Modernisation of all levels of education  Restructure of the health system  Energy upgrading of the buildings  Shift to renewable energy sources with mitigation of the transition cost  Promotion of the Sustainable Blue Economy  Support of local communities during the transition from lignite-based energy and economy  Promotion of the place-based, sustainable, and integrated development of urban areas and communities  Support to territories with specific characteristics (mountainous and insular areas). |

Recent policy developments

For Greece, the main financial Instruments are the Partnership Agreement 2021-2027 (PA) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

The Partnership Agreement between the EU Commission and Greece, adopted in June 2021, sets out the investment priorities for the period 2021-2027 in order to contribute to the regeneration of the Greek economy by restructuring and upgrading the productive and social fabric of the country and by creating and maintaining sustainable jobs through the outward-looking, innovative and competitive entrepreneurship and the support of the social cohesion and the principles of sustainable development. Over €26billion of EU funds and national co financing sustain the green and digital transition, while supporting the most fragile and vulnerable groups.

The Partnership Agreement is entirely in line with the National Growth Strategy, is complementary to the goals and targets of the Recovery and Resilience Programme and is consistent with the European Regulations and the National Sectoral Strategies. For the finalisation of the text, there was a broad consultation with stakeholders of all levels of governance and social partners, and subsequently it was submitted to EU.

With regard to the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), 4 are its directions:

* Increase of domestic productive base of the country
* Decrease of social disparities,
* Integrated public policies and
* Empower of the multilevel governance.

Greece’s RRF counts to an amount of 30,5 billion euros and consists of two strands the first being grants for an amount of 17,8 billion and the rest for loans and guarantees. A percentage of 38% of the loan strand addresses to the industrial sector.