MEMORANDUM

submitted by the Greek Authorities to the Development Assistance Committee/DAC of the OECD

in view of the
4th Peer Review of Greece
scheduled for November 28, 2018

ATHENS, GREECE
APRIL 2018
Source of the map on the cover:
Ministry of National Defence, Hellenic Military Geographical Service (HMGS)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Being a Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member since 1999, Greece values the peer review exercise as an important input to its internal learning process. This Memorandum has been drafted in view of the 4th Peer Review of Greece’s international development cooperation policy and systems (scheduled for November 2018), using a whole-of-government approach, i.e. involving a significant number of Ministries and other public sector entities, according to their specific areas of competence and comparative advantages. The Memorandum covers the entire period since the 3rd Peer Review of Greece in 2011.

During the period 2011-2017, the economic crisis that had begun in Greece earlier reached its peak, whilst fiscal consolidation had an adverse impact on Official Development Assistance (ODA). In a world characterized by an increasing interdependence between countries, Greece pursues a transparent, affordable and effective aid program, which focuses primarily on multilateral interventions and on in-donor refugee costs, taking into account budgetary constraints. Total Greek ODA increased as a percentage of GNI between 2015 (0.13%) and 2016 (0.19%), thus reaching the pre-crisis level (of 2009). Greece intends to pursue further increases of its total ODA expenditure in the future to the extent that economic conditions allow.

As a member of the EU and the UN, Greece concentrates its diplomatic and development efforts inter alia in contributing to the reduction of poverty and inequality in the world, consolidating peace and stability, fostering respect for and preservation of cultural heritage and promoting a better management of migration flows. In synergy with humanitarian assistance, it provides targeted support for stabilization of countries affected by conflicts and disasters, with a direct link to recovery and development. The allocation of Greek bilateral and multilateral aid is driven mainly by Greece’s international commitments on the one hand and by the need to respond to the basic needs (temporary sustenance) of refugees in Greece and promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the other. Hence, Greece contributes to global development efforts mainly through multilateral contributions to partner international organizations. Greece makes these contributions bearing in mind the need to maximize the positive impact of multilateral aid on the achievement of the SDGs. Furthermore, Greece remains committed to assisting its partner countries through capacity-building, by means of transfer of know-how and expertise.

Greece’s external (development and humanitarian) aid responds to calls from international organizations and/or countries concerned, making use of the valuable input received from Greek Authorities abroad, i.e. from an extensive global network of Hellenic Embassies and Permanent Representations/Missions.

As the main competent national authority, which shapes and coordinates Greek development policy, the Directorate-General of International Development Cooperation (HELLENIC AID) is an autonomous but integral part of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. HELLENIC AID stands ready to continue playing its salient and leading role as regards the delivery of the Greek aid program, based on its clear mandate and vision, which are to be reflected also in the future legal framework (currently under preparation) for its operations. Other line Ministries or agencies are also involved in the undertaking.

Overall, the program of Greece’s development aid (including humanitarian assistance) faces a number of important challenges, which are highlighted throughout the text (in italics). With a forward-looking perspective, the main stakes involved in the Greek aid program refer to the possibility of: maintaining a positive momentum of total ODA flows in the future (Chapter 1);
supporting EU’s activities with additional extra-budgetary contributions (besides Greece’s annual contributions to the EDF) (Chapter 1); dealing with the low percentage (32%) of the public opinion that believes that tackling poverty in developing countries should be a main priority (Chapter 1); overcoming HELLENIC AID’s human resource challenges in order to respond to pressing needs (Chapter 4); ensuring that engagement with international organizations and other partners always takes place on an effective and transparent basis (Chapter 6); and providing predictable and adequate humanitarian funding in times of austerity (Chapter 7).
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1. Global efforts for sustainable development

1.1. Efforts to support global sustainable development

1.1.1. An increased focus on multilateral aid

Greece has gone through a severe economic crisis for a number of years. During the period 2011-2017, the economic crisis that had begun in Greece earlier reached its peak (see Annex D). This difficult economic context has affected the size and composition of Greek multilateral and bilateral ODA flows and has also warranted a smaller size of the Directorate-General of International Development Cooperation (HELLENIC AID). In this regard, total Greek Official Development Assistance (ODA) was lower as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2013 (0.10%) compared to 2012 (0.13%) but then resumed a positive trajectory since 2014 (0.11%) and reached the pre-crisis (2009) level (0.19%) in 2016 (see Chapter 3). Although keeping up this positive momentum for Greek ODA may constitute a challenge for Greece in years to come, Greek ODA volumes are expected to benefit from the improving economic prospects. Greece remains committed to global development efforts and will try to increase its ODA further, once economic conditions allow, with a view to ultimately reaching the target of 0.7% of GNI.

As a result of the economic crisis during the period 2011-2017 and the cuts in the national budget, Greece has gradually adopted a more pragmatic strategic approach as regards its development aid program, which now focuses primarily on multilateral contributions. These contributions are expected to have a positive development impact as regards the achievement of one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, it was a strategic choice to concentrate on multilateral assistance, in the context of Greece’s strategic priorities. Greece is committed to multilateralism and supports multilateral approaches to global problems. Development cooperation priorities are consistent with Greece’s overall foreign policy objectives and help partner countries address their economic, social and environmental problems. Greece has entered into partnerships with international organizations that operate in line with national priorities.

As regards bilateral aid, the relevant ODA flows focused primarily on in-donor refugee costs, taking into account the steadfast national commitment towards assisting refugees in Greece in order to meet their pressing humanitarian and development needs.

At the global level:

Greece has participated actively in the deliberations for and has endorsed “Agenda 2030”. Adopted in September 2015 at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 70/1 (“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”) calls for the achievement, by 2030, of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. An integral part of “Agenda 2030” is the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which were also adopted in 2015. These are meant to guide the development activities of all countries towards eradicating poverty, protecting the planet and guaranteeing prosperity for all. In addition, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was adopted in December 2015 by COP21 of UNFCCC (Paris, 30.11.2015-11.12.2015). It is the first global agreement for climate change, aiming at limiting global
warming below 2°C. On 6.10.2016, the Hellenic Parliament formally endorsed the Paris Agreement which thus became Greek legislation (see Official Gazette 187A’/6.10.2016). Greece has been among the first European countries to ratify the Paris Agreement, on 14.10.2016, by depositing the relevant ratification instrument to the UN.

The National Development Strategy of Greece, currently going through the final stages of elaboration, has been made “SDG aware” by including references and operational linkages to the SDGs. Moreover, there is an effort and intention to make all programs and strategies “SDG aware” through the role of the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG)\(^1\) as regards both the support of the legislative work of the government and the implementation of the SDGs.

Greece advances its national priorities especially through the European Union and selected international organizations. The Government engages comprehensively with multilateral partners. Greece honors its commitment to provide regular contributions to a significant number of multilateral organizations. In 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, Greek multilateral ODA constituted approximately 64%, 67%, 82%, 81%, 70% and 57% of total ODA, respectively. Rather than adopt a specific multilateral development policy, the Government engages with multilateral organizations when they present the most effective option in order to achieve Greece’s overarching development cooperation policy objectives. Therefore, Greece provides substantial annual contributions to a number of multilateral organizations, including UNESCO, WTO, IOM, WHO, WMO, BSEC, OSCE etc. The activities of these organizations are in turn closely linked with or contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, in the framework of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Annex B contains an indicative list of multilateral organizations that receive some funding from Greece and that contribute, in turn, to the achievement of the SDGs. For example, Greece’s contributions to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are expected to have a positive impact, inter alia, on the achievement of SDGs 2 (notably Targets 3-5) and 14. Moreover, the activities and initiatives of “Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie” (OIF) address also development issues of French-speaking countries in Africa.

Besides its yearly contribution to the UN Secretariat, Greece contributes annually to 16 ongoing UN peace missions (SDG 16). Taking into account the proximity to Greece and the general geostrategic importance of the Eastern Mediterranean, Greece actively participates in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon/UNIFIL, with one navy vessel.

Greece contributes approximately 200,000 Euros annually to the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which finances actions and programs aiming to promote, inter alia, tourist statistics and marketing strategies, innovation and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in tourism, technical cooperation for sustainable tourist growth etc.. The UNWTO’s work program focuses, inter alia, on the promotion of a Global Code of Tourist Ethics and the reinforcement of the contribution of tourism in the implementation of the SDGs.

Part of the annual contribution to the “International Telecommunications Union” and the “Universal Postal Union” is also used for development purposes. These organizations address the SDGs though the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

As far as the environment and climate change are concerned, throughout the period 2011-2016, Greece has been providing, each year, contributions to UNEP and UNFCCC. With

\(^1\) See section 1.2.
respect to the energy sector, Greece makes contributions to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The mandates and activities of the multilateral organizations that are financially supported by Greece reflect the country’s interest in and commitment to a sustainable and prosperous future for the world, in terms of progress in a number of thematic areas of development cooperation, such as international peace and security, climate and the environment, health, education, culture and migration. While Greece’s development assistance budget is confirmed on an annual basis, the Government enters into a range of long-term commitments for funding multilateral organizations. Funding to multilateral partners is based on multi-year funding commitments, which increase predictability, as well as on core funding support.

In addition, throughout the period 2012-2016 Greece provided yearly voluntary contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), whose mission is based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their Additional Protocols, its Statutes - and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law.\(^2\) The ICRC tries to incorporate social, environmental and economic sustainability into its activities so as to maximize the positive impact of humanitarian aid and enhance accountability.\(^3\)

**At the EU level:**

There are close linkages between Greece’s and the EU’s development cooperation policies. Article 208 from Chapter 1 (Development Cooperation) of Title III (Cooperation with Third Countries and Humanitarian Aid) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) states that “…The Union's development cooperation policy and that of the Member States complement and reinforce each other. Union development cooperation policy shall have as its primary objective the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty…”. Taking into account the significant amount of money Greece contributes to the EU, providing further support to the EU’s activities with extra contributions (e.g. for the EU Trust Funds/EUTFs) may pose a challenge for Greece. The same Article stipulates that “…The Union and the Member States shall comply with the commitments and take account of the objectives they have approved in the context of the United Nations and other competent international organizations”.

Greece strives for European development assistance to be delivered efficiently, with clear results and in line with the EU’s foreign policy interests. Greece participates in meetings of the Committees of the EU’s key development-related external financing instruments\(^4\) under the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) (covering the period 2014-2020), namely the Committees of: (i) the 11th European Development Fund (EDF 11 - with a total budget of 30.5 billion Euros), which is financed by EU Members States’ obligatory extra-budgetary contributions (according to the “Internal Agreement” of 2013) and supports projects and

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programs in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions, (ii) the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI - 19.662 billion Euros), which funds geographical and thematic programs in 47 other developing countries (beyond the ACP framework), (iii) the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI - 15.433 billion Euros), which funds programs in the EU’s Southern and Eastern Neighborhood countries and (iv) the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA - 11.699 billion Euros), which aims at supporting beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey with regard to transition/institutional capacity building, cross-border cooperation, regional development, human resource and agricultural development. These Committees are responsible for the examination and approval of the final aid allocation to numerous programs.

Through its obligatory contributions to EDF11, which amount to approximately 460 million Euros in total for the period 2014-2020, Greece indirectly supports a wide range of development-oriented actions in the ACP countries and regions. For example, the EDF finances initiatives such as the African Peace Facility (APF) - in line with SDG 16- or the EUTF for tackling root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa - in line with SDG 10.7. Greece has contributed also substantial amounts to the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT), namely 7.42 million Euros in 2016 (of which 97% ODA eligible) and 11.02 million Euros in 2017 (of which 97% ODA eligible), thus promoting SDG 10.7.

**1.1.2. Provision of scholarships**

Greece places importance on the contribution of education to sustainable development, hence part of its development aid is focused on achieving SDG 4. Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) includes substantial amounts that are disbursed as scholarships on a yearly basis. Greece’s investments in scholarships support partner country governments in making progress as far as their development goals are concerned by targeting critical skills gaps. For example:

(i) The Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs finances a number of scholarships every year, which are provided to foreigners for higher education courses in Greece.

(ii) The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides scholarships to citizens of ODA-eligible countries through E1 Directorate for Educational and Cultural Affairs. The allocation of scholarships is made according to socio-economic and cultural criteria, based on the recommendations from Greek Authorities abroad. These scholarships aim at creating scientists who will undertake important positions in key sectors of their countries and will be engrafted with education and Greek culture. They usually keep in touch with our Embassies abroad, which maintain a registry of past graduates from Greek universities.

(iii) The Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) has financed a great number of scholarships for foreigners (both for undergraduate and for postgraduate studies) throughout the period 2013-2017.

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5 Greece’s contribution to the predecessor of EDF11, i.e. EDF10, had amounted to 333.4 million Euros (covering the period 2008-2013).

6 Taking into account also its geographical location (i.e. its proximity to Africa and the Middle East), Greece acknowledges the need for achieving well-managed migration.

(iv) The Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food (YPAAT) supports the Mediterranean Agronomical Institute of Chania (MAICH), one of the constituent institutes of the “International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies” (ICAMAS/CIHEAM8). MAICH provides scholarships to foreign students and these scholarships contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 (notably Target 3).

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Master (1 year) &amp; Master of Science (2 years) programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>69 scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>74 scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>71 scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>71 scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>60 scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries:</td>
<td>Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Egypt, FYROM, Jordan,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Syria,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine</td>
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</table>

Additionally, the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food makes significant annual contributions to ICAMAS/CIHEAM. The activities and initiatives of ICAMAS/CIHEAM focus on the fields of education and training, research, networks and open knowledge platforms, projects and technical assistance, political dialogue and partnerships in the Mediterranean Basin.

(v) In the framework of Greek international development cooperation and in the context of the program “Placement of foreign doctors in Greek medical entities, with a view to their specialization”, for 2017 the Greek Ministry of Health has promoted the subsidization of the hospitals “Evangelismos” and “Onasseio Kardiocheirourgiko Kentro Athinon”, where two scholarship beneficiaries are employed.

(vi) Greece provides vocational training to foreign students in the Academies of Merchant Marine (AEN). The cost of foreign students is borne exclusively by the Marine Education Capital (KNE) and does not include scholarships. Foreign students are admitted on the basis of an existing international agreement or educational protocol with their country of origin and/or a relevant recommendation by the corresponding Greek diplomatic Authority abroad.

1.1.3. In-donor refugee costs

As a consequence of the refugee crisis in Greece’s immediate neighborhood in the last years and of the large influx of displaced persons, a substantial part of Greece’s bilateral aid was channeled to national activities and initiatives in support of refugees, with a view to alleviating human suffering.

In the area of education, the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs created Zones of Educational Priority (ZEPs), classes of reception and tutorial classes at the ZEPs and Structures of Reception for the Education of refugees at primary and secondary educational levels, focusing also on gender equality and the integration of women. The reasoning behind these initiatives lies in the idea of cross-cultural education with a view to integrating, equally and harmoniously, refugee children into the Greek educational system and, simultaneously, to contributing to the attainment of the three following SDGs: (i) provide quality education (SDG

8 “Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes”.
4), through the content and methodology of the analytical program specifically designed for the aforementioned Structures; (ii) minimize inequalities (SDG 10) based on the fact that the provision of quality education constitutes a national priority with regard to all children in Greece, including refugees; and (iii) create conditions of peace and social justice (SDG 16) by promoting peaceful coexistence, social coherence and democratic conscience through the Structures and the classes of reception, which strengthen the identity of the individual and further promote cultural capacity.

It is worth mentioning that in cases of immediate need, education should focus on transmitting basic knowledge concerning numeracy, grammar and communication and this objective lies at the heart of the Analytical Program created for the Structures of Reception for the Education of refugees. The operation of the Structures is regulated by the law provisions and the statutory decisions that regulate the operation of public primary and secondary education. Nursery schools follow the mandatory program of standard all-day Nursery schools in Greece.

In response to the dramatic influx of refugees, Greece introduced a new legal framework (Law 4332/2015 - Official Gazette 76Α’/9.7.2015) to modify relevant provisions contained in the previous Law (Law 4018/2011 - Official Gazette 215Α’/30.9.2011), in order to meet the urgent needs of reception (as regards hospitality, shelter, subsistence, medical care etc.) of immigrants and refugees.

In the area of transportation, new bus connections have been set up on an exceptional basis by OASA SA for the relevant road transportation company OSY SA, which is under the control of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, with a view to accommodating the specific transportation needs (for free) of immigrants residing in the wider region of Athens.

1.2. Policy coherence for sustainable development

Greece recognizes the importance of policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) for attaining the provision of a truly beneficial aid. Greece follows relevant discussions in international fora and has endorsed the OECD Ministerial Declaration on Policy Coherence for Development⁹, which aims at fostering synergies across policy areas. As a member of the EU, Greece has also endorsed the new European Consensus for Development¹⁰, which includes extensive references to Policy Coherence for Development and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (in paragraphs 108-112). Alongside its EU partners, Greece has adopted specific Council Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development¹¹ and various subsequent sets of Council Conclusions containing relevant references¹².

Domestic implementation of the “2030 Agenda” offers an opportunity for Greece to examine the impact of its policies on developing countries. It presents an opportunity to

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⁹ See [https://www1.oecd.org/development/pcd/oecedministersreaffirmtheircommitmenttopolicycoherencefordevelopment.htm](https://www1.oecd.org/development/pcd/oecedministersreaffirmtheircommitmenttopolicycoherencefordevelopment.htm).


¹² For example, see Council conclusions on “a stronger role of the private sector in development cooperation: an action-oriented perspective” (12.12.2014), Council Conclusions on “the EU and Responsible Global Value Chains” (12.5.2016) etc.
identify, monitor and report cases of incoherence. Efforts for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level are being coordinated and monitored by one of the main entities belonging to the center of the government, namely the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG). The GSG is well positioned as it stands close to the political leadership of the country, ensuring a whole-of-government approach and the commitment, at the highest political level, to planning and implementing the SDGs with a long-term perspective and to mainstreaming SDGs into thematic legislation and sectoral policies.

The General Secretariat of the Government is the competent authority to: (i) monitor the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Cabinet, as well as by other Collective Governmental Bodies and Inter-ministerial Committees; (ii) follow the preparatory legislative work and the decisions of the institutional bodies of the European Union and other international organizations in a number of thematic areas; and (iii) monitor the process of transposing the secondary EU law into Greek law and provide relevant support to the competent ministries, upon request. Updated guidelines are being developed by the General Secretariat of the Government to ensure that Regulatory Impact Assessment Reports which accompany the draft laws, as well as the ex-post evaluation of existing legislation, systematically take into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, as reflected in the “2030 Agenda” and the SDGs. Policy coherence, integrated planning and coordination are recognized as critical means of implementation of the SDGs.

Under the coordination of the GSG, an “Inter-ministerial coordination network” is operational with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assuming responsibility for the external dimension of the SDGs and the Ministry of Environment and Energy as thematically responsible for the implementation of seven SDGs, i.e. SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, (partly) 14 and 15. In 2018, Greece will participate in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development and present a Voluntary National Report (VNR).

The following box illustrates a few examples of policy coherence pursued by Greece.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combating human trafficking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greece is a transit and destination country for victims of human trafficking, which is a crime that diminishes human dignity and undermines human security and development prospects in many parts of the developing world. As one of the main entry points for mixed refugees and migrants flows reaching Europe, Greece stepped up efforts to address challenges and opportunities related to the nexus between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece has intensified efforts against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) through the introduction of three pivotal legal instruments: 1) the ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol/the “Palermo Protocol” (2010), 2) the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human</td>
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13 The General Secretariat of the Government is a Public entity, under the auspices of the Prime Minister, which supports the Prime Minister and the Government in the performance of their duties. The main competences of the Office of Coordination, Institutional, International and European Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Government are as follows: (i) monitoring the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Cabinet, other Collective Governmental Bodies and Inter-ministerial Committees, (ii) following the preparatory legislative work and the decisions of the institutional bodies of the European Union and other international organizations in a number of thematic areas, and (iii) monitoring the process of transposing the secondary EU law into Greek law and supports the competent ministries, upon request.
Beings (2013) and 3) the transposition of the anti-trafficking EU Directive 2011/36/EC (2013) and the establishment of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013).

National policy is active in all four pillars of the strategy to combat trafficking (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships with civil society and the private sector). Some of the most important deliverables concerning the fight against THB are the following:

- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM), a formal national identification and referral system for inter-agency cooperation on issues of first level identification and support of victims (and potential victims) of trafficking in Greece.
- Fostering a victim-centered and more inclusive identification regime that protects the human rights and the provision of comprehensive assistance to victims. Namely various new measures have been introduced such as the right to apply for a compensation, witness protection, granting residence permit to victims and special provisions for the protection of unaccompanied minors.
- Setting up specialized anti-trafficking units within the police.
- Setting up of a parliamentary committee against human trafficking. The Committee is responsible for monitoring developments, legislative updates, as well as following the implementation of counter-THB policies and measures. Furthermore, a special committee of experts was formed to review the existing legal framework on prostitution and advocate against the demand for sexual exploitation.
- Training of professionals: Greece has intensified efforts to facilitate capacity-building activities. State agencies in cooperation with international organizations and civil society have carried out a considerable number of specialized trainings for law enforcement and front-line professionals (including asylum services personnel, First Reception and Identification Centers Personnel, Labor Inspectors, etc.).
- Raising general awareness to reduce ‘demand’ for services or products extracted from THB victims. This concerns primarily Human Rights’ Education in schools; partnerships with the private sector for slavery-free supply chains, zero tolerance consumer ethics; and synergies with the cultural sector.
- A significant number of shelters specifically for victims of gender-based violence and victims of human trafficking have been secured.
- Promotion of strong transnational collaborations with other EU Member States and third countries.

Currently, an updated National Action Plan is being drafted covering the period 2018-2023. The National Action Plan priorities include joint actions with the Labour Inspectorate, Judges and Prosecutors and Health professionals, through specialized trainings promoting systematic involvement of the above-mentioned sectors to the National Referral Mechanism. Last but not least synergy with the private sector is a major priority and aims to create slavery-free supply chains and integrity of employment, recruitment methods.

**Trade**

The EU’s Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) is being applied through Regulation 978/2012. Based on the GSP, the EU concedes preferential commercial treatment to developing countries by reducing or eliminating tariffs. The provision of GSP aims at promoting sustainable (economically, socially and environmentally) development and good governance in developing countries, as well as at eradicating poverty.
GSP can take the following forms: (i) Standard GSP for low and lower-middle income countries; (ii) GSP+ for vulnerable low and lower-middle income countries and (iii) Everything But Arms (EBA) for least developed countries.\textsuperscript{14}

Within its capacity as an EU Member State, Greece participates actively in meetings of the Council of the EU and the Commission with regard to GSP. These meetings may deal with drafting the GSP Regulation and the relevant Implementing Regulations, as well as with the examination or evaluation of GSP.

1.3. Awareness and accountability

The websites of both HELLENIC AID and the Greek MFA have been very useful tools as regards communication, accountability and development awareness and have contributed to raising the public’s interest in the SDGs. Results achieved are communicated to the public through the Annual Report of the Greek Bilateral and Multilateral Official Development Cooperation and Assistance, which is submitted to the Standing Committee on Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Parliament in the context of effectiveness, transparency and accountability\textsuperscript{15} of aid funds. In addition, the Annual Report is published on the official website of HELLENIC AID (www.hellenicaid.gr), thus achieving transparency in its work. In this way, every citizen can access the data concerning amounts of ODA disbursed by sector, type, country and region, as these are made public. By being made available to both citizens and the Parliament, the Report of HELLENIC AID feeds into the public dialogue on development policy and increases awareness and accountability.

As regards the public opinion in Greece on the country’s international development cooperation, the picture is still challenging. According to Eurobarometer (2017), a mere 32% of Greek respondents appears to be in favor of the statement that tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the Greek government. At the same time, a significantly higher percentage of Greek respondents (70%) agree that tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU.

The latest developments as far as the EU, the UN and the OECD/DAC frameworks are concerned are published on DG HELLENIC AID’s website, so as to sensitize the public opinion and keep citizens informed and updated on the Greek engagement to an effective and transparent international development cooperation policy. For example, HELLENIC AID has published news on the Financial Tracking System (FTS) of the EU as a mechanism of transparency for EU funds, as well as news concerning the “EU Aid Volunteers” and the “European Solidarity Corps (ESC)” initiatives. HELLENIC AID has also published on its website a list of bilateral programs’ cases in which procedures were not appropriately followed or in which breaches of the relevant contracts have been ascertained, in order to ask for refunds.

In the context of HELLENIC AID’s work for the promotion of the SDGs and under a spirit of “cultural diplomacy”, the first page of HELLENIC AID’s website in 2017 contained a spot on HELLENIC AID’s activities and another one on “Attica Authentic Marathon” (the route of the 2017 Marathon was divided into 17 sections, each one corresponding to one SDG),


respectively. Moreover, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published on its website news on the outcome of Greece’s efforts to recollect unutilized funds from Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with international development organizations.

With a view to facilitating the involvement of the Greek private sector in the EU’s development cooperation programs, relevant news (e.g. on the EU’s sector seminars for the EU’s development cooperation program) is published on the Greek MFA’s specific website for international economic relations (www.agora.mfa.gr).

Regarding the implementation of the actions of the National Action Plan for the European Year of Development (EYD 2015), YDAS-4 organized the inaugural event (Amphitheater of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 6/3/2015) and participated in two activities of the Ministry of Education that were included in the relevant National Program, namely a Conference on "The Role of the School in Education of the Active Global Citizen" (27/4/2015) and an essay writing Competition (May 2015), both organized by the Ministry of Education on the subject "The World-Us-The Future".

The Hellenic Parliament is strengthening and widening its annual aid and sponsorship program by paying contributions to international and European organizations and by supporting bodies and actions in the field of humanitarian and development aid.

In recent years, a stricter legal status has been established in the Statutes of the Parliament, regarding the certified control procedures of the subsidized bodies (legal entities governed by private law and NGOs) in order to ensure transparency and legitimacy and to establish the usefulness of the allocated funds.

In particular, the subsidized bodies have the obligation to submit all the necessary legal documents (statutes, excerpt of minutes of Boards of Directors), financial documents (annual report - budget, tax and social security clearance certificate) and supporting documents (e.g. invoices) that prove the amount and the proper allocation of the funds based on the relevant decision of the President of the Parliament.

On the internet portal of the Parliament (Parliamentary Transparency) every subsidy is published regardless of amount, within five days of having been approved. Furthermore, a relevant database (Register of Subsidized Bodies) is established at the competent Financial Services Department of the Parliament which includes and systematically monitors all bodies subsidized through the regular budget in order to publish the Register on the Parliamentary Transparency page in a dynamic environment.

**Key reference documents:**


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“Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies” (OJ L 210/6.8.2013) and “Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the financing of Community aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2008 to 2013 in accordance with the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies” (OJ L 247/9.9.2006)

OECD (2008), OECD Ministerial Declaration on Policy Coherence for Development:  [https://www1.oecd.org/development/pcd/oecdmnistersreaffirmtheircmtttopolicycoherencefordevelopment.htm](https://www1.oecd.org/development/pcd/oecdmnistersreaffirmtheircmtttopolicycoherencefordevelopment.htm)


2. Policy vision and framework

2.1. Framework

The international institutional and conventional framework has shaped Greece’s development cooperation policy. Greek development cooperation is guided, inter alia, by the development-related work of international organizations like the EU and the UN, which largely determines the relevant Greek development policy framework and is complemented by national initiatives.

In 2015, Greece has followed closely and participated very actively in the international processes that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by UNGA70 on 25.9.2015, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, 13-16.7.2015) adopted by UNGA69 on 27.7.2015 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In particular, Greece has tried to reshape its development cooperation policy, taking into account also its commitment to pursuing the SDGs in coordination with partner countries and other donors.

Being located in the Mediterranean Sea, i.e. at the crossroad of three continents and at the confluence of Mediterranean cultures, Greece has been focusing on –inter alia– contributing towards the eradication of poverty, preserving and consolidating peace and stability in the world, safeguarding the ecological equilibrium at sea and land and promoting education, culture and the respect for cultural diversity (see also Chapter 1). Greek development cooperation efforts address other thematic areas as well, such as human development (education and health) and climate change. In addition, Greece has endorsed and is committed to promoting and implementing the Busan principles for effective development cooperation. At the EU, UN and OECD/DAC level, Greece places an increased emphasis on effectiveness\(^\text{18}\), shared responsibility and the sustainability of results of international development cooperation (for which ownership of development aid intervention by aid recipients is crucial), as well as on transparency and mutual accountability (see Chapter 6).

As an EU member, in 2017 Greece endorsed the new European Consensus on Development (“Our world, our dignity, our future”). Moreover, every semester Greece participates in the formulation of a number of sets of Council Conclusions, which are subsequently endorsed by the Council of the EU and provide a possible policy framework for the orientation of the EU Member States’ development cooperation. As regards humanitarian aid, Greece has adopted the “Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship” (2003) and the “European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid” (2007). Thus, humanitarian and food aid is provided on the basis of the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. In the UN framework, HELLenic AID (YDAS-3 Directorate) actively participates in the work of the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the UN General Assembly, where development cooperation issues are expertly addressed. In addition, it follows very closely the implementation of the UNGA Resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy

\(^{18}\) Aid effectiveness is expressed via five pillars set by the “Paris Declaration”, namely “ownership”, “alignment”, “harmonization”, “managing for development results” and “mutual accountability”.

Being a DAC member since 1999, Greece follows closely the work of DAC’s Networks, Working Parties, High and Senior Level Meetings and participates with great interest in DAC’s Peer Review processes, with a view to learning from other DAC members’ experience, keeping an eye on main challenges and fostering a positive momentum as regards the improvement of its own system of development cooperation.

Greece intends to introduce a new legal framework for a more effective, efficient, coherent and transparent mechanism of development aid, once additional parameters referring to the SDGs and Agenda 2030 and to lessons learned in recent years (since the last Peer Review) have been properly incorporated into the legal text.

2.2. Principles and guidance

According to the current legal framework\(^\text{19}\), the Greek international development cooperation policy appears to be geared towards assisting partner countries’ efforts to achieve sustainable development, fighting poverty and promoting their integration into international trade. The new European Consensus on Development (“Our world, our dignity, our future”) states that: “The EU and its Member States are committed to a life of dignity for all that reconciles economic prosperity and efficiency, peaceful societies, social inclusion and environmental responsibility. In doing so, efforts will be targeted towards eradicating poverty, reducing vulnerabilities and addressing inequalities to ensure that no-one is left behind”. In addition: “The purpose of this Consensus is to provide the framework for a common approach to development policy that will be applied by the EU institutions and the Member States while fully respecting each other’s distinct roles and competences. It will guide the action of EU institutions and Member States in their cooperation with all developing countries. Actions by the EU and its Member States will be mutually reinforcing and coordinated to ensure complementarity and impact.” These phrases in the new Consensus indicate and summarize Greece’s commitment to promote sustainable development, leaving no one behind. Therefore, they provide international guidance for the present and the future of Greece’s development cooperation policy. The new Consensus highlights, inter alia, the importance of promoting democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and gender equality, of tackling climate change impact and of addressing root causes of irregular migration. The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid also provides a common vision that guides the action of the EU, both at its Member States and Community levels, as regards humanitarian aid in third countries.

As regards managing risks and fragility, Greece has followed closely developments on Sendai Framework for DRR. In addition, Greece provides contributions to a significant number of UN Peace Missions with a view to assisting the international community’s efforts to promote and consolidate peace throughout the world.

2.3. Basis for decision-making

The fundamental principles governing Greece’s international development cooperation are: (i) Transparency as regards financing and accountability towards citizens. (ii) Aid effectiveness, which is expressed through five pillars (ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability). (iii) Sustainability of programs and actions

\(^{19}\) See Presidential Decree No. 224/2000, Articles 11 and 15.
and compatibility with Greece’s national priorities and international obligations and commitments. (iv) Visibility and publicity of ODA-funded programs and actions.

Greece acknowledges the need to ensure the relevance and guarantee the impact of its ODA. On the one hand, taking into account the relatively small size (in terms of personnel and capacities) of HELLENIC AID, in recent years Greece has been focusing its aid on selected multilateral interventions. As illustrated in Chapter 1, Greece’s determination to honor its commitments towards multilateral organizations is coupled with its willingness to contribute, as much as possible, to the SDGs. In addition, Greece covers the needs of a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers and their children within its territory (seeking protection in Europe notably as a result of the Syrian crisis), by providing substantial bilateral (in-donor) funding for their initial accommodation, food, healthcare etc. as a matter of urgency.

As regards decision-making on the allocation of Greek bilateral aid, factors such as geographical proximity, funding gaps or collective efforts enter into the equation, alongside the existence of real and verifiable needs and/or relevant analyses.

A certain degree of flexibility still characterizes the Greek humanitarian aid response, which takes place on an ad-hoc basis, usually following a relevant needs assessment carried out by the competent Greek Authority abroad and a request by the country concerned or a call for funding by an international organization, e.g. in the context of a pledging conference. For instance, Greece has made small bilateral aid contributions to the Central African Republic/CAR (in 2014), Mali (in 2014), Jordan (in 2014) and Lebanon (in 2013). In addition, following the pledge and statement by the Prime Minister of Greece during the London International Donors’ Conference (4.2.2016) “Supporting Syria and the region” (which focused on the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan 2016), the amount of 300,000 Euros has been disbursed to UN OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) in Geneva in early 2018, so as to support humanitarian response activities within Syria.

In terms of geography, in previous years (prior to 2011), Greek bilateral development aid had focused mainly on the Balkan region. As the European perspectives of the Balkans have evolved and the Greek economic landscape has changed, new development cooperation prospects have emerged. Greek humanitarian aid has been focusing recently on countries in our geographical proximity, e.g. on African countries and on countries affected by the Syrian crisis and the relevant massive displacements of populations. Geographical proximity remains an important parameter policy-wise. For example, also for reasons of geographical proximity, Greece consistently advocates for an increased emphasis on Africa in the new conventional framework for the EU’s relations with ACP countries, following the upcoming expiry, in 2020, of the current Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA)20. Moreover, Greece is a shareholder of the European Investment Bank (EIB)21 and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)22, as well as one of the largest shareholders of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB).

In addition, HELLENIC AID encourages and welcomes the adoption of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices by the Greek private sector. A dedicated relevant session was organized by HELLENIC AID during the Informal Meeting of CODEV WP that took place in

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Athens on 12.6.2014, in the framework of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU, with invitees from the Hellenic Network of Corporate Social Responsibility.

The rationale for Greece’s engagement with the multilateral system stems from a combination of budgetary constraints and the need to honor relevant funding commitments, in the framework of effective, transparent and sustainable long-term partnerships.

Key reference documents:

3. Financing for development

3.1. Overall ODA volume

In the 2000s Greece undertook its international commitments as regards Official Development Assistance (ODA) targets in order to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs on the basic assumption that fiscal circumstances would be favorable and would allow for the anticipated significant increase in ODA flows. However, despite Greece’s sincere efforts, the expected increase of ODA during the following years proved not to be feasible due to fiscal restraints that brought about a direct negative impact on the Greek budget.

As a result of the severe fiscal crisis Greece is submitted to an economic and financial assistance program that restricts budget policy in the process of making a significant effort to consolidate its public accounts. The adjustment program made it necessary to implement a set of austerity measures aimed at reducing the public deficit and bringing sovereign debt under control, which among others translated into significant budget cuts in the public sector, thus affecting ODA levels. Greece remains committed to increasing its ODA further, once economic conditions allow, with a view to ultimately reaching the target of 0.7% of GNI.

Due to these severe fiscal constraints Greece is facing, the country’s development program has diminished in recent years at all levels and implementation bodies. Consequently, Greece’s development assistance at present mainly concerns flows that do not pass its borders (in donor costs i.e. provision of higher education scholarships, imputed costs of foreign students, cost of refugees in the donor country et.al). In addition, multilateral aid is limited to selected annual contributions to International Organizations. At the same time, HELLENIC AID is trying to achieve the recovery of funds as regards a great number of past NGO programs, which is still pending.

However, Greece remains committed to supporting growth and prosperity in developing partner countries and to targeting its aid for sustainable development effectively in accordance with international agreements. In this respect, and to the extent of Greece’s budgetary capacity, it intends to make progress in tailoring its ODA expenditures to the 2015 Agenda on Sustainable Development, in concentrating its aid where it is needed most and in using its ODA budget to leverage other domestic and international development relevant financial flows. All these intentions are in line with the financing for development principles set out in “Agenda 2030” and the “Addis Ababa Action Agenda” in order to allow Greece to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Table [1] presents Greece’s ODA flows during the last five years (2012-2016).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of Aid</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral (ODA)</td>
<td>107.31</td>
<td>0.04% GNI</td>
<td>43.61</td>
<td>0.02% GNI</td>
<td>46.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral (ODA)</td>
<td>220.10</td>
<td>0.09% GNI</td>
<td>195.45</td>
<td>0.08% GNI</td>
<td>201.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23 The statistical data throughout this Chapter follow the numerical format of the statistical system of OECD/DAC.
In 2016 total ODA flows of Greece (bilateral and multilateral, 100% in the form of grants) amounted to 368,53 million USD, i.e. 0.19% of Gross National Income (GNI 2016 = 194,833,57 million USD according to data of the Ministry of Finance). Multilateral ODA amounted to 209,38 million USD (0,11% of GNI) while bilateral ODA reached 159,15 million USD (0,08% of GNI). Graph [A] presents fluctuations of total ODA (bilateral & multilateral) granted by Greece during the years (1997-2016).

To the extent of Greece’s budgetary capacity, the country will strive to further enhance its development cooperation efforts to support the “2030 Agenda” and reach the target of the “Third International Conference on Financing for Development” (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) by the year 2030.

Greece is reporting detailed development cooperation data of its yearly aid flows to the OECD/DAC “Creditor Reporting System” (CRS) since the year 2002. In recent years this is done in accordance with the converged statistical reporting directives, following a DAC invitation after quality tests were performed as regards Greece’s statistical reporting. In 2017 the DAC recognized Greece’s consistency in providing development aid statistics with regard to timing, completeness/relevance and accuracy by ranking Greece 8th among 29 DAC members (doc. DCD/DAC/STAT(2017)15).

Statistical information is posted on the site of the DAC/OECD and is freely available to all interested stakeholders. Moreover, Greece's development cooperation data is made available to the public via the "Annual Report of the Greek Bilateral and Multilateral Official Development Cooperation and Assistance" that is annually posted on the site of HELLENIC AID. Furthermore, in the framework of Greece’s eagerness to contribute to aid effectiveness and indeed to the transparency agenda, our country shares since 2011 its development aid data with the EU through the Transparent Aid tool (TR-AID). Other available instruments for enhancing
transparency in Greece are, on the one hand, the “Clarity” program\textsuperscript{24}, according to which all Ministries, Public Legal Bodies and Authorities as well as Local Government are obliged to upload their decisions on the internet and, on the other, “Open Government”\textsuperscript{25}, a platform in which every piece of draft legislation or policy initiative is posted prior to its submission to Parliament.

Greece supports the necessary adaptation and strengthening of the OECD/DAC statistical reporting system and is in favour of using OECD/DAC standards for all ODA-related databases at global and at partner country level in order to ensure comparability and reliability of statistics. Greece is not a signatory of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

The international development community of donors was committed through the Busan Partnership Agreement to improve the medium-term predictability of aid to all developing countries by 2013. This renewed momentum brought about by the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness came at a very critical and challenging time for Greece due to the severe fiscal constraints the country faces. Owing to the relative fiscal adjustment program, at present Greece cannot achieve its quantitative commitments as regards ODA grants. Furthermore, due to the fiscal crisis, Greece has not as yet adopted a new multiannual development assistance program, while at present draws up and implements annual state budgets, thus making it difficult to determine the amount of development assistance that will be provided in the next few years to recipient countries. In this regard Greece does not participate, for the time being, at the DAC Surveys on Aid Allocations and Indicative Forward Spending Plans.

\textbf{3.2. Bilateral ODA allocations}

Greece’s bilateral assistance program has diminished in recent years at all levels and implementation bodies due to the fiscal crisis. Thus, at present, Greece’s development assistance is restricted to mostly in-donor costs, namely provision of higher education scholarships, imputed costs of foreign students studying in Greek Universities and costs of refugees in the donor country.

Total bilateral ODA of Greece in 2016 was in the form of grants and reached 159.15 million USD (0.08\% of GNI), which is an increase from the previous year 2015 (71.88 million USD or 0.04\% of GNI) that was mainly due to in-donor refugee costs. Graph [B] presents bilateral ODA granted by Greece during the years (1997-2016).

\textsuperscript{24} See \url{https://diavgeia.gov.gr/}.
\textsuperscript{25} See \url{http://www.opengov.gr/home/}.
Greece’s bilateral ODA followed a downward trend since 2009 due to the fiscal crisis but has regained momentum since 2014 mainly due to increased refugee flows and consequent donor refugee costs. The country is faced with an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with the arrival of close to one million people between January 2015 and February 2016.

Table [2] presents Greece’s total bilateral ODA allocated by geographical regions in the last five years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>48,97</td>
<td>6,87</td>
<td>7,32</td>
<td>6,12</td>
<td>9,36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>9,31</td>
<td>2,26</td>
<td>3,28</td>
<td>2,24</td>
<td>0,81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>1,26</td>
<td>0,35</td>
<td>0,46</td>
<td>0,26</td>
<td>0,15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>17,03</td>
<td>4,36</td>
<td>5,43</td>
<td>3,45</td>
<td>0,57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,01</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dev.Count.Unspec.</td>
<td>30,74</td>
<td>29,78</td>
<td>29,58</td>
<td>59,81</td>
<td>148,25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>107,31</td>
<td>43,61</td>
<td>46,10</td>
<td>71,88</td>
<td>159,15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, Graph [C] presents Greece’s principal recipients of bilateral ODA in 2016.
Greece attributes high importance to the division of labor principle with other donors (both states and International Organizations). Greece’s contribution to the “EU facility for refugees in Turkey” is a good example of donor harmonization. Table [3] presents the distribution of Greece’s bilateral ODA by income group of recipient countries in 2016.

### Table [3]

**BILATERAL ODA OF GREECE BY INCOME GROUP (YEAR 2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income group</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Least Developed Countries (LDCs):</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Low Income Countries (OLICs):</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs):</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs):</td>
<td>9.75</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unallocated (UNAL.):</td>
<td>148.46</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>159.15</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allocation by sector of Greece’s bilateral ODA in 2016 is presented in Graph [D].

Greece’s development policy has focused over the years on partner countries’ priorities and on a limited number of far-reaching priority sectors in which Greece enjoys a comparative advantage, namely education, health and other social infrastructures. Yet, recently, Greece faced unprecedented and escalating inflows of refugees and migrants. In 2015-2016 more than one million people crossed the Mediterranean Sea to look for international protection in Europe. As a consequence ODA played a major part in supporting the costs of the immediate response to this crisis.
An overview of the bilateral ODA of Greece in 2016 by type of aid is presented in Graph [E].

3.3. Multilateral ODA allocations

Multilateral cooperation is an essential part of Greece’s development policy since it accounts for more than half of total ODA flows.

Greece supports International Organizations through core contributions and secondarily by financing specific programs, as well as through financial contributions to joint projects (trust funds). Multilateral ODA is provided by line Ministries which, depending on their subject and competences, provide funds for international development purposes via International Organizations.

In 2016, 57% of total ODA granted by Greece was channeled through International Organizations such as the UN and the EU. These Organizations provide support to developing countries in order to tackle poverty, support human rights and provide assistance in emergency situations. Greece coordinates with them in partner countries, while monitoring their performance through the European Commission and the Council. Graph [F] presents multilateral ODA granted by Greece during the years (1997-2016).
Table [4] presents the distribution of Greece’s multilateral ODA by International Organization in the last five years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UN Agencies</td>
<td>10.15</td>
<td>13.38</td>
<td>14.43</td>
<td>7.64</td>
<td>12.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Institutions</td>
<td>204.05</td>
<td>179.82</td>
<td>181.23</td>
<td>157.90</td>
<td>191.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank Gr.*</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reg.Dev.Banks*</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Agencies</td>
<td>5.22</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>5.68</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>4.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>220.10</td>
<td>195.45</td>
<td>201.34</td>
<td>166.82</td>
<td>209.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The amounts contributed per year in the form of annual installments are not indicated in this table, since the contribution pledges to WBG/IDA and BSTDB (through the relevant instruments of commitment) took place in 2008.

Total multilateral ODA contributions of Greece to International Organizations in the year 2016 amounted to 209,38 million USD (0.11% of GNI) that is a significant increase from the previous year 2015 (166,82 million USD or 0.08% of GNI). Percentage allocation by International Organization in 2016 is presented in Graph [G].

![Graph](image)

The most important share of multilateral ODA represents the contribution to the European Institutions for the regular EU development budget and for the European Development Fund (EDF) that reaches approximately 90% of total multilateral assistance. Greece respects the EU collective goal to channel ODA to the world’s Least Developed Countries (LDCs) including those in Sub-Saharan Africa, mostly in the form of multilateral assistance.

Total flows granted by Greece in 2016 to EU institutions for foreign development assistance amounted to 191,45 million USD, of which 130,03 million USD accounted for Greece’s share to the EU budget for development cooperation, while 61,42 million USD was the country’s contribution to the EDF. Moreover, ODA amounting to 12,98 million USD was granted through the United Nations system mainly to UNDPKO (4,52 million USD), WHO (2,21 million USD), FAO (1,59 million USD), UNESCO (0,87 million USD), UNFCCC (0,14 million USD) and UNECE (0,07 million USD), while the amount of 4,94 million USD was granted to other International Organizations.

Greece will continue to support developing countries in the process of implementing the SDGs, in partnership with International Organizations, in the form of assessed or voluntary contributions or subscriptions. With regard to budget allocations to UN agencies and other International Organizations, Greece will conduct whole-of-government discussions by taking into account its multilateral aid strategy.
3.4. Financing for development

2015 was a watershed year for the international community, as the new universal Post-2015 development agenda paved the way for addressing, in a holistic approach, the interrelated challenges of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental. Greece welcomed the works of the 3rd Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Agenda for Action), aiming at renewing momentum and consolidating in particular a comprehensive set of Means of Implementation for the new era, including financing for development of countries “most in need”.

Considering the difficult macro-economic environment for most donors, financing means must mobilize all available sources, public, private, domestic and international, while they should primarily be realistic and achievable. To this end, Greece supports EU’s collective commitment within the time frame of the next fifteen years. At the same time donors should further focus on the non-financial qualitative elements of the development process, such as technology transfer, science and innovation.

Furthermore, Greece supports the view that private sector active involvement should seek to address poverty reduction, job creation and sustainable development. This should be based on the principles of complementarity with the public sector, added value to development goals and Corporate Social Responsibility, while taking into account the social and environmental impact, transparency and mutual accountability, as well as differentiation according to local conditions. In this regard an internationally accepted regulatory framework is needed. Furthermore, present means of financing together with blending and other innovative instruments can raise effectiveness and contribute to channel more private capital to crucial sectors for sustainable development such as agriculture, infrastructure, energy, SMEs, et.al.

Public sector experience of working with the private sector has been gained in Greece through the implementation of the “Hellenic Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans” (HiPERB). The renewed momentum that the SDGs bring about comes at a very critical and challenging time for Greece due to the severe fiscal constraints the country faces. In this regard, Greece has recently reinitiated the procedure to contemplate the possibility of working with or through the private sector in order to promote sustainable development.

In this process, a seminar organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held in March 2015 on the subject of “Business opportunities for Greek Enterprises in the framework of EU funding mechanisms”. The seminar, to which high-ranking European Commission officials were invited as speakers, was addressed to Greek entrepreneurs and agencies, in order to inform them with regard to “traditional” and “innovative” EU funding mechanisms in third countries. The relevant information concerned EU-funded programs mainly in the sectors of energy, transport, information and communication technologies, and agricultural development in the regions of Southeast Europe, the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, and developing regions of Asia and Latin America.

At present, there are no specific ODA-funded programs or instruments for leveraging additional private finance and for harnessing private sector expertise. However, Greece believes that Governments must work together with the private sector to achieve a common vision of sustainable and inclusive growth, with the former setting the regulatory environment, ensuring its enforcement and establishing incentives and the latter making more sustainable investments.
Greece supports the view that all financing sources, that is public, private, domestic and international, need to be mobilized. Transparent domestic resource mobilization needs to be enhanced, while international finance processes need to support synergies at national level and be focused on those countries most in need, taking into consideration the existing different internal conditions. Countries should enhance domestic resource mobilization and increase innovative sources of financing such as private investment, “North-South”, “South-South” and “Triangular” cooperation, as well as “Public-Private Partnerships”. To do so, the process of developing a new framework has to be open and include a wide range of development actors, such as new donors, NGOs, academia and the private sector. Within this framework Greece is well aware, on the one hand, of the importance of tracking beyond ODA the totality of various resources in support of sustainable development and, on the other, of the importance of expanding such resources in order to maximize the development impact in partner countries. The international community refers to this concept as “Total Official Support for Sustainable Development” (TOSSD) and works to develop a measurement framework. Greece welcomes and strongly supports the current work of the DAC/OECD to develop this new statistical measurement in order to capture the full range of resources tailored to the SDGs.

**Key reference documents:**

- **Annual Reports of the Greek Bilateral-Multilateral Official Development Cooperation and Assistance (years 2012-2016):** [http://hellenicaid.mfa.gr/etesies-ektheseis/udas/annual-reports.html](http://hellenicaid.mfa.gr/etesies-ektheseis/udas/annual-reports.html)
4. Structure and systems

4.1. Authority, mandate and coordination

Headquarters’ Organization

The Directorate-General of International Development Cooperation (YDAS/HELLENIC AID) is managed by the Director-General and supervised directly by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (see the organizational chart of DG HELLENIC AID in Annex C). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs consists of seven (7) Directorates-General at headquarters, one of which is HELLENIC AID.

The Greek MFA (HELLENIC AID) is responsible for implementing part of Greece’s development cooperation Program. Other Ministries involved in aid delivery are the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, the Ministry for Migration Policy, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the Ministry of Tourism etc. ODA expenditure by other Ministries includes multilateral contributions to the EU development cooperation budget and to UN Agencies, as well as other international institutions or agencies.

The Directorate-General of International Development Cooperation (HELLENIC AID) of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the competent national authority, which shapes and coordinates Greek development policy. It is responsible for monitoring, coordinating, supervising and promoting emergency humanitarian and development aid activities. The framework legislation governing the Greek development cooperation policy comprises, by chronological order of adoption: (i) Law 2731/1999 on the “Regulation of Matters of Bilateral Development Cooperation and Assistance, Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Provisions” (Official Gazette 138A’/5.7.1999), which established (through Article 18, paragraph 1) the Directorate-General for International Development Cooperation (YDAS/HELLENIC AID); (ii) Presidential Decree No. 224/2000 on the “Organization, Staffing and Operation of the international development cooperation agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs” (Official Gazette 193A’/6.9.2000); and (iii) Presidential Decree 159/2002 on the “transfer of competences, services and personnel from the Ministry of Economy and Finance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and establishment of a General Secretariat for Foreign Economic Relations and Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs” (Official Gazette 140A’/17.6.2002).

Greek Embassies/Missions abroad participate in various coordination meetings of the EU Member States’ diplomatic missions in third countries that are organized by EU Delegations. Greece has been a proponent of joint programming in the framework of the relevant work of the Council of the EU (CODEV WP).
4.2. Systems

HELLENIC AID is a Directorate-General composed of six (6) Directorates, as follows:

- **YDAS-1 Directorate for Emergency Humanitarian and Food Aid**
  - Department for Immediate Intervention and Forwarding of Humanitarian Aid
  - Department for the Coordination of Ministries, Public and Private Agencies

It is competent for all activities and programs (coordination, collection, forwarding, distribution) of emergency humanitarian or food aid, implemented to respond to crises arising from natural or human causes. The Directorate evaluates ex ante emergency assistance programs submitted to HELLENIC AID by NGOs for potential financing and follows closely the work of the European Commission’s DG ECHO and of the “Committee for Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid” (COHFA) Working Party (WP) of the Council of the EU, as well as of other international organizations engaged in issues pertaining to humanitarian and food aid.

- **YDAS-2 Directorate for Aid, Restructuring, Rehabilitation and Development**
  - Department for Environmental, Agricultural and Forest Development
  - Department for Small-Medium Size Enterprises and Tourism
  - Department for Vocational Training, Education and Cultural Development
  - Department for Small Projects and Infrastructures

It is competent for all stages, from ex ante evaluation to implementation, of all international development and reconstruction programs, submitted to HELLENIC AID by public Agencies, NGOs or Universities for evaluation and potential financing. It supports, coordinates and assists NGOs in order to implement development cooperation projects.

- **YDAS-3 Directorate for Geographical Policy and Strategic Planning**
  - Balkan Countries Department
  - Eastern Europe and NIS of the former Soviet Union Department
  - Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Countries Department
  - African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries Department
  - Latin America and Asia Department
  - Strategic Planning Department

It is competent for studying and proposing the country’s development cooperation strategy. It represents HELLENIC AID at the relevant WPs (for Development Cooperation/CODEV and for Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific/ACP) of the Council of the EU and at the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the UN General Assembly, as well as at all formal and informal meetings of EU Development Ministers. Furthermore, it is competent for issues pertaining to relations between Greece and OECD/DAC and it participates in DAC’s Working Groups and Networks, as well as in Senior- and High-Level Meetings. This Directorate drafts the annual call for proposals and reports to DAC analytical statistical data. It provides secretarial support to the Inter-ministerial Committee for Coordination of International Development Policy (EOSDOS) and drafts the Annual Report of the Greek Bilateral and Multilateral Official Development Cooperation and Assistance.

- **YDAS-4 Directorate for NGOs and Development Education**
  - Special Register of NGOs Department
  - NGO Support Department
  - Development Education and Volunteerism Enhancement Department

It is competent for civil society matters. It provides information and promotes public awareness in Greece on issues related to international development cooperation policy. It evaluates ex ante
development education programs submitted to HELLENIC AID by NGOs for potential financing. It supervises development education activities and promotes volunteerism.

- **YDAS-5 Technical Services Directorate**
  - Competitions and Contracts Department
  - Projects and Infrastructures Construction Department
  It is the technical advisor to the Directorate-General. It is competent for launching calls of proposals and it drafts the terms of contracts. It also monitors progress of ongoing infrastructure projects.

- **YDAS-6 Directorate for Administrative and Financing Services**
  - Human Resources Department
  - Accounting and NGOs Financing Department
  It is competent for administrative and financial issues of HELLENIC AID’s operations. The main task of YDAS-6 Directorate is to ensure that the supporting documents are collected and forwarded to the competent Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the clearance and payment of the expenses as well as for financing NGOs’ feasible projects.

*Decentralization*

Greek development assistance “field offices” in developing countries are part of Greek diplomatic missions. Greek Embassies’ staff members have assumed the posts of “Development Officers” and are specifically engaged with development cooperation issues. “Field Offices” have limited authorization for decision-making, since the system is not as yet decentralized and important decisions are taken centrally by HELLENIC AID.

Field Offices:
- participate in local meetings of donors and in respective meetings of International Organizations, for arranging local coordination of development assistance granted
- communicate to HELLENIC AID proposals as regards specific projects to be implemented in their countries of responsibility
- contact local State Agencies and NGOs that implement projects
- monitor the implementation process of development cooperation activities
- report to HELLENIC AID on probable problems or delays, that may clash with the terms of projects’ Contracts, in order to ensure their smooth completion.

The formulation of Greece’s development cooperation policy and strategy is based on a whole-of-government approach. Almost every Greek Ministry is involved in the delivery of the aid program. According to the current legal and regulatory framework for Greece’s development cooperation, an Inter-ministerial Committee for Coordination of International Development Policy (EOSDOS) is responsible for the planning of the national policy and strategy in development cooperation. EOSDOS has not been convened in the last five years. Furthermore, according to Articles 11 and 15 of Presidential Decree 224/2000, Greek Authorities abroad (i.e. Greek Embassies and Permanent Missions or Representations) cooperate closely with HELLENIC AID and have a crucial role to play as regards the implementation of the Greek development cooperation policy.
4.3. Capabilities throughout the system

An issue of high significance for Greece is that the Directorate-General responsible for development assistance provision, namely HELLENIC AID, must employ experienced and trained personnel in development cooperation principles and practices, and that this staff should be further trained on a regular basis.

As an indirect consequence of the drop of the Official Development Assistance (ODA), HELLENIC AID employs a limited number of development experts. Today, a number of executives work for HELLENIC AID and are responsible for Greece’s development cooperation policy. HELLENIC AID’s staff members comprise:

- Diplomats, who rotate into the Ministry both in Athens and abroad;
- Experts, who specialize on development cooperation issues and remain at HELLENIC AID;
- Economic and Commercial Affairs staff who rotate; and
- Administrative staff who rotate

*It is worth mentioning that a new specialized statistician has been hired by MFA in 2018 so as to address the relevant needs of HELLENIC AID.*

HELLENIC AID’s staff members have been selected taking into account the need to cover effectively a multiplicity of tasks. Many have undertaken graduate and postgraduate studies in Greek and foreign Universities and some are graduates of the National School of Public Administration (NSPA) of Greece. Most can speak fluently one or two foreign languages and have valuable international experience. Their skills include economics (including development economics), international relations, politics, diplomacy, law, etc. As of April 2018, twenty-two (22) civil servants were employed at HELLENIC AID. In February 2015, Ambassador a.h. Mr. Nikolaos Vamvounakis was appointed as Director-General of HELLENIC AID.

HELLENIC AID staff members make use of a number of IT systems on a daily basis to ensure a real-time flow and exchange of information on development aid and humanitarian assistance both within HELLENIC AID and between HELLENIC AID and other government bodies and entities. Such systems include, for example, the “OECD Network Environment - ONE” (YDAS-3) and the EU’s “Delegates’ Portal”26 (YDAS-1 and YDAS-327) and “CIRCA BC”28 (YDAS-3) information systems, as well as the EU’s EDRIS database29 (YDAS-1).

4.4. Key developments since the 3rd Peer Review in 2011

An important finding of the 3rd Peer Review concerns the need to review and reform the legal framework of the Greek international development cooperation, in order to build a sound basis for an effective aid system. At the time the 3rd Peer Review was being conducted, a new draft law and a draft presidential decree were being drafted with a view to replace the existing legal framework (see above). The new law was initially expected to be voted in spring 2011.30

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27 “Delegates’ Portal” is also used by competent staff members of line Ministries, as appropriate.
However, the refinement and approval of the new legislation were postponed, in order to allow the completion of the audit of previous HELLENIC AID projects.

In 2013 and 2014, amendments were made to the Law regulating international development cooperation in general, and HELLENIC AID in particular (Law 2731/1999), with a view to tackling specific issues pertaining to the audit and control of financial data of Contracts signed between HELLENIC AID and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), which had already been pending for years at the time the above mentioned amendments were passed (contracts signed between 2002 and 2009).

The amendment made with Law 4110/2013 (Official Gazette 17Α’/23.1.2013) foresaw the formation of a Joint Committee by members of both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/HELLENIC AID and the Ministry of Finance/General Inspectorate of Finance, with a mandate to inspect the outstanding HELLENIC AID Contracts. Thus, Law 4110/2013 introduced an additional tier of control, further to the existing ones (HELLENIC AID/Unit of Financial Control, Ministry of Finances/Supreme Court of Auditors). The Law introduced changes with regard to the duration/expiry of the Contracts themselves as well as the invoices submitted by the “contractors” (NGOs) for the settlement of those Contracts. It should also be noted that the “rationale” of the Law (as described in the report submitted to the Parliament) makes explicit reference to the auditing of the outstanding HELLENIC AID Contracts by external auditors (from the private sector).

The amendment passed with Law 4254/2014 (Official Gazette 85Α’/17.4.2014) reversed the provisions of Law 4110/2013, as far as the formation of the Joint Committee was concerned, leaving the decisions about the pending contracts of years 2002-2009 to the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as foreseen in the original Law 2731/1999.

In autumn 2015, HELLENIC AID started drafting an amendment to the Law 2731/1999 aiming at setting a clearer framework of financial rules, so as to allow an auditing of the programs (e.g. NGOs’ expenses needed to be documented by banking transactions). The draft also put an emphasis on the issue of re-examining the NGOs’ own financial contribution, which in most cases amounted to 25% of a project’s budget, with HELLENIC AID providing the remaining 75%. The issue of the NGOs’ own financial contribution was considered important, as it proved to be an “Achilles’ heel” during the auditing of the projects, raising problems in discerning fictitious own contribution from true one. The draft amendment was submitted to the Central Law Preparatory Committee (ΚΕΝΕ), Prime Minister’s Office, and was rejected in October 2016, on the grounds that external auditing of the almost 200 HELLENIC AID projects might prove costly.

What follows next is a brief outline of the scope of operations, during the period 2011-2017, of each one of HELLENIC AID’s Directorates, namely:

- **YDAS-1 Directorate for Emergency Humanitarian and Food Aid.**
  For an analytical description of YDAS-1 Directorate’s activities from 2011 until 2017, see Chapter 7.

- **YDAS-2 for Aid, Restructuring, Rehabilitation and Development:**
  (i) undertook the evaluation of the implementation of development cooperation programs and dispatched relevant data and information to the competent judicial and other investigative authorities, in the context of ongoing investigations (notably on programs for which contracts had been signed in the years 2002-2009);
(ii) contributed to parliamentary control activities, by providing data and information on past programs; and
(iii) facilitated the provision of scholarships.

In the framework of a prior multiannual commitment, during the period 2011-2017, annual credits were transferred, from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the budget of the Ministry of Health, with a view to providing scholarships to doctors originating in developing countries and practicing in Greek hospitals, as illustrated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>AMOUNT (in Euros)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>10,565.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>33,705.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>90,462.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>131,680.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>233,501.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>283,009.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>368,210.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **YDAS-3 for Geographical Policy and Strategic Planning:**
  (i) organized a number of meetings and Special Events for the promotion of SDGs, in which a number of important development partners were actively involved (see Chapter 5);
  (ii) was actively engaged in the preparation of meetings of the CODEV and ACP WPs during the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU (2014);
  (iii) participated in Development Cooperation Ministerial Councils, ACP-EU Council, OECD/DAC High Level Meetings and other UN and international fora;
  (iv) prepared national positions for meetings of the Working Parties of the Council of the European Union on Development Cooperation (CODEV) and on Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) and for the joint sessions of the three Working Parties in charge of the SDGs, namely CODEV, CONUN and WPIEI (Global) and the newly established Working Party on Agenda 2030, as well as for meetings of the UN Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) and of the Development Cooperation Committee (DAC)/OECD;
  (v) took part in deliberations (2013-2015) at the UN regarding the process of reviewing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and played a very active role as regards the formulation of Greek positions on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in cooperation with line Ministries and the Permanent Representations/Missions to the EU and the UN, with a view to elaborating a single development agenda covering the period from 2015 up to 2030; YDAS-3 is responsible for the external dimension of our national efforts for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  (vi) evaluated and monitored Memoranda of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various international organizations (see Chapter 6); and
  (vii) prepared Annual Reports.

An important challenge for YDAS-3 may stem from its numerous obligations combined with limitations in staff capacity and concerns the extent to which it can adequately address (in terms of both quantity and quality), also in the future, the needs generated by the increasing total number of international development-related meetings and events per year.

- **YDAS-4 for NGOs, Development Education and Evaluation:**
(i) Constantly updated the Special NGO Registry maintained by YDAS-4 Directorate. In the period 2013-2018, YDAS-4 dispatched requests to registered NGOs in order to update their YDAS Registry information. Since 2016, approximately 450 requests for updates have been dispatched to NGOs registered in HELLENIC AID’s Registry. Currently, there are 539 NGOs registered. Continuous efforts for updating the Registry have been partially successful. It is worth noting that when the HELLENIC AID’s Special Registry of NGOs was set up in 2000, this was the only Registry of that kind. Presently, however, a number of similar Registries have been created to meet the needs of various government departments and agencies. The registration of new NGOs in the Special Registry has been suspended since 2011, since funding for new NGO programs had ceased.

(ii) Undertook the evaluation and investigations regarding implementation of development programs (notably programs for which contracts had been signed in the years 2002-2009). The Directorate dispatched relevant data and information to the competent judicial and other investigative authorities, in the context of ongoing investigations.

(iii) Promoted cooperation with NGOs through participation in meetings organized by DG HELLENIC AID in 2012, 2014 and 2016 with the Hellenic Platform for Development, which is the coordinating body for 13 Greek NGOs, as well as with the European NGO Confederation for development and relief (“CONCORD”).

(iv) Handled requests by civil servants and military personnel for leave of absence on account of their participation in NGOs. The YDAS-4 Directorate, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 14 and 16 of Law 2731/1999, has forwarded its recommendations to pertinent branches of the Public Sector and the Armed Forces, in relation to leave of absence requests submitted by civil servants or members of the Military, on account of their participation in NGOs.

(v) Contributed to parliamentary control activities, by providing data and information on the Special NGO Registry.

(vi) Transferred through a Ministerial Decision (since January 2013) all competences related to scholarships to the E1 Directorate of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the MFA.

(vii) Contributed to the Report prepared in 2016 on Education for Global Citizenship within the Global Education Network Europe by the Directorate of European and International Affairs/EU Department (Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs) on the activities developed in our country.

- YDAS-5 Technical Services Directorate:
  Keeps records of contracts signed with NGOs for (bilateral) aid programs, as well as of a number of project evaluations. It is inactive since 2011.

- YDAS-6 Directorate for Administrative and Financing Services:

  (i) Participated in evaluations, research and auditing of bilateral development and humanitarian assistance programs/projects of the 2002-2010 period. In this regard, 14 imputation Ministerial Decisions were issued concerning the return of funds by specific NGOs, following relevant decisions of the Court of Auditors. The judicial and the tax Authorities involved have undertaken the continuation of the aforementioned proceedings.

(ii) Provided relevant information to competent inspection and judicial Authorities for cases of registered NGOs, in the framework of investigations on past programs.

In the years 2013 and 2014, two contracts were signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and two Audit Firms (NEXIA EUROSTATUS SA and Grant Thornton SA) responsible with carrying out financial controls and auditing concerning 198 programs/projects undertaken by NGOs.
Key reference documents:

5. Delivery modalities and partnerships

5.1. Promoting sustainable and effective partnerships

The Greek aid program is oriented towards multilateral aid, with a view to contributing to the SDGs in an efficient, transparent and pragmatic way.

Greek funding is transparent, since data on Greece’s aid flows are consistently published on the relevant websites of OECD/DAC and HELLENIC AID. Furthermore, HELLENIC AID has published on its website information on a number of past bilateral programs through NGOs that did not produce the expected outcome and therefore warrant refunds. In addition, in the context of accountability and in line with the provisions of its legal framework, every year HELLENIC AID submits to the Parliament an Annual Report on its activities.

Throughout the period 2011-2017, Greece has made considerable efforts to tap into the development expertise of the relevant partners and stakeholders in Greece, as well as abroad (i.e. multilateral organizations - see Chapter 1), through the organization of various meetings, with a view to learning from good practices and boosting its internal know-how on development issues. In this regard, HELLENIC AID has organized events on specific development topics (for example Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, the role of the private sector in development, public-private dialogue, peer-learning meetings, monitoring the implementation of the SDGs etc.).

In particular, YDAS-3 Directorate organized the following meetings and Special Events\(^{31}\) for the promotion of SDGs, in which a number of important development partners were actively involved:

(i) “The implementation of SDGs in Greece”, a dialogue between public and private sector with the participation of all Ministries, other public sector entities and the private sector (May 2016).

(ii) A meeting on “mapping SDGs” with the participation of all Ministries, Independent Authorities and the Parliament (September 2016).

(iii) A multi-stakeholder Event (municipalities, labor and employer organizations, public sector institutions, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Hellas and Global Compact Network), addressing the theme “How to achieve Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) to achieve the SDGs”, organized in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Government (March 2017). Representatives from YDAS-3, the GSG Coordination Office and the Ministry of the Environment and Energy presented their work and institutional roles with regard to different aspects of PCSD. In addition, best practices of other OECD members were showcased.

(iv) A Special Event on “Peer Learning in Achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs” (October 2017). In view of Greece’s participation with a Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development, which will be convened

\(^{31}\) See the relevant news published at http://hellenicaid.mfa.gr/epikairotita/ekdeloseis/ (in Greek only).
under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in July 2018, the aim of this Event was to promote an exchange of best practices and lessons learned regarding the preparation process of VNRs. Representatives from Diplomatic Missions of EU member states and countries of the Mediterranean region (Kingdom of Belgium, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Kingdom of Denmark, Republic of Estonia, Republic of Finland, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kingdom of Morocco, Kingdom of Netherlands, Portuguese Republic and Republic of Turkey) that participated with VNRs in the UN’s HLPFs in 2016 and in 2017, presented their relevant experiences. This peer learning exercise has provided Greece with valuable insights regarding the approach, concept and experiences of countries which already participated in the UN HLPFs.

(v) A dedicated session on “Promoting Responsible Business Practices” during the Informal Meeting of CODEV WP that took place in Athens in the framework of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU (June 2014), with invitees from the Network of Corporate Social Responsibility.

During the same period, YDAS-4 Directorate has participated in the organization of:

- A seminar on issues of statistical monitoring of international development aid by HELLENIC AID (Athens, 19-20.6.2013). On 19-20.6.2013, a training seminar was organized by the HELLENIC AID for the statistical monitoring of international development aid. This seminar aimed at enhancing the understanding of the methods and further processing of the statistics used by the OECD and the members of the DAC in working papers. Part of the seminar was dedicated to individuals who participate as experts through the “National Platform for Development” in the European NGO confederation on Relief and Development (CONCORD).

- An International Conference on “Synergies between state and civil society organizations on international development cooperation issues” (Athens, 13.6.2014). The international conference was organized by the “Hellenic Platform for Development” and its member “PRAKSIS” in the framework of the program “Development & Democracy” co-financed by the European Commission (DG Development and Cooperation/DEVCO) under the auspices of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU and the support of the HELLENIC AID-Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of Greece.

Furthermore, in March 2015 Directorate-General HELLENIC AID and Directorate-General B for International Economic Relations of the Greek MFA co-organized a seminar on opportunities for the private sector that may arise from the EU’s financial mechanisms with regard to the provision of consulting services and construction of infrastructure, with a geographical focus, inter alia, on the Neighborhood and Enlargement countries (Western Balkans, Middle East, North African countries, Eastern Partnership Countries) and on sub-Saharan Africa. The main purpose of this seminar was to familiarize entrepreneurs with “traditional” and innovative financial instruments of the EU (such as “blending” EU grants with loans from European and International Financing Institutions) and inform them on how they could best promote their engagement with EU-funded projects and programs, notably in the energy, ICT, and transport sectors. The relevant policy framework, best practices, success stories and common difficulties encountered by the private sector were highlighted.32

5.2. Country level engagement

Due to the fact that the Greek aid program did not include any call for proposals since 2009, Greece has not funded any development or humanitarian aid program implemented by NGOs in partner countries since 2011 but has rather focused heavily on providing multilateral aid and sharing its know-how and expertise on a number of topics with developing countries.

Going beyond ODA, as far as the transfer of know-how from Greece to developing countries is concerned, a number of bilateral agreements have been concluded with partner countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Black Sea region, including, inter alia: (i) a cooperation declaration with Kazakhstan (signed on 29.8.2017) in the area of sports, concerning, in particular, the need to build on the know-how gained from the Athens Olympics in 2004 as regards security aspects; (ii) a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Serbia (signed on 13.7.2017) on cooperation in the field of diplomatic training; (iii) a Memorandum of Cooperation with Georgia (3.12.2013) and a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova (8.4.2014) for the transfer of know-how leading these three countries closer to the EU, (iv) a Memorandum of Cooperation with Montenegro (29.6.2011) for the acceleration of the integration process of Montenegro into the EU etc..

Concerning countries in Latin America, there have not been Joint Ministerial Committees to facilitate the transfer of know-how. Nonetheless, steps were made for the transfer of know-how from Greece to Colombia, in the context of an exchange of official visits. The Colombian side has expressed its interest in cooperation in the agricultural sector and in the aquaculture sector in particular, as well as in the area of e-governance. Competent Colombian Authorities have already contacted the Greek Agricultural Organization “ELGO-Dimitra”, the Benaki Phytopathological Institute and the Institute for Research on Fisheries. The latter has started cooperating with the Colombian National Authority for Aquaculture and Fisheries (AUNAP).

As far as Asia is concerned, Greece and China have been cooperating on issues of mutual research interest, such as the environment, climate change, agriculture, energy and culture. For example, the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) is cooperating with Universities and Research Centers in China, in the framework of research programs, scientific exchanges or Protocols for Cooperation. The AUA has cooperated with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Furthermore, the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)33, which is responsible for training programs addressed to civil servants, has signed Memoranda of Understanding for the transfer of know-how with a number of organizations from developing countries: the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (5.7.2011), the Regional Administration Academy of Kazakhstan (30.6.2015), the Regional Administration Institute Jiangxi of the People’s Republic of China (12.10.2015) and the National Administration School of Lebanon (23.9.2016). In addition, representatives from People’s Republic of Bangladesh (September and October 2013) and from Ukraine (October 2016) have visited EKDDA for training purposes.

In addition, Greece has participated in: (i) a NATO-led ODA-eligible initiative to support Ukraine’s efforts in promoting nuclear safety (Disposal of Radioactive Waste Trust Fund); and (ii) a NATO-led ODA-eligible initiative of the Hellenic Air Force to contribute to the

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sustainment of the aviation sector in Afghanistan by deploying four Maintenance Advisors at the Kabul Airport.34

Greece attaches great importance to assisting its partner countries, upon their request, in order to help them improve their knowledge and know-how on specific issues. An example of this type of in-kind assistance refers to the enrichment, in 2017, of the library of the Georgian Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Natural Resources in Tbilisi with a number of specialized books and reports on forest management, climate change and desertification.

Based on a bilateral agreement between the Greek Ministry of Public Order and the Albanian Ministry of Interior for cooperation between the Fire Brigades of the two countries, which was ratified by Law 3573/2007 (Official Gazette 126A’/8.6.2007), on 6.2.2014, Greece offered to Albania a fire-combating vehicle, as well as relevant equipment (i.e. 20 fire-fighter’s water tubes, 6 uniforms and 640 liters of highly condensed foam). In August 2016, following an activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism for floods, Greece offered to FYROM power generators and water-pumping equipment. Greece also offered, in a joint mission of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection and the Region of Western Macedonia, in-kind assistance consisting of chainsaws, shovels, rakes, gloves masks, trolleys and boots.

As regards the important sector of culture, during the period 2011-2017 Greece has signed several cultural agreements, such as for example a bilateral Memorandum of Cooperation with China (in 2016) on underwater cultural heritage, as well as cooperation programs with Armenia (in 2016, for the period 2016-2020), Jordan35 (in 2014, for the period 2014-2016), the Republic of Moldova36 (in 2014, for the period 2014-2016) and Turkey37 (renewed in 2013, for the period 2013-2015), each one containing explicit references to the exchange of know-how. In addition, in 2016 Chinese officials have visited Greece to discuss primarily issues related to the protection of cultural heritage and the return of stolen cultural assets.

In the area of environmental protection, Greece has developed a trilateral technical cooperation scheme with Egypt and Cyprus38 for the exchange of expertise and best practices with respect to preventing and responding to sea pollution incidents due to oil spills, the management of liquid waste, notably from olive oil manufacturing, climate change adaptation through common monitoring systems and indicators and the management of solid waste etc.. The Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy has undertaken a coordinating role as regards the thematic area of climate change adaptation.

Moreover, besides a bilateral MoU with Egypt as regards cooperation in the tourist sector39, Greece has entered into a trilateral technical cooperation scheme (MoU) with Egypt and Cyprus40 with a view to pursuing an exchange of know-how on tourist issues41.

34 See OECD (2017), “ODA Casebook on conflict, peace and security activities”.
38 Cyprus is an EU Member State. This reference concerns Egypt.
40 See footnote 38.
The following examples of actions carried out in 2015 illustrate the comprehensive efforts of the Hellenic Police towards effectively assisting a number of Greece’s partner countries through a bilateral transfer of expertise on a wide array of police issues: (i) Training of twenty (20) Albanian Officers on traffic police matters. (ii) Training of Ukrainian police officers on drug trafficking at the School of Further Education and Training of the Hellenic Police. (iii) Four (4) parallel training sessions with the participation of sixteen (16) Sudanese Police officers at the School of Further Education and Training of the Hellenic Police on management of evidence linked with criminal offenses, combating human trafficking and illegal drug trafficking, border protection and combating money laundering.

Sources:
- Directorate of International Police Cooperation, Hellenic Police HQ
- Independent Department of International and European Relations, Greek Ministry of Interior

Key reference documents:
6. Results management, evaluation and learning

6.1. Management for development results

Greece closely monitors the results of its bilateral and (mostly) multilateral development cooperation activities and funding. Greece seeks information both on the final outcome and on all categories of expenditure incurred by its implementing partners, based on their relevant reporting frameworks. At the EU level, Greece has participated in the elaboration of Council Conclusions of 19.5.2014 (under the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU) and 26.5.2015, which paved the way towards the EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework. In practical terms, Greece consistently advocates for a focus of the EU’s development cooperation programs on results, as well as on sustainability of results, notably with regard to the maintenance of big infrastructure projects (e.g. schools, roads e.t.c.) funded through the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) or the European Development Fund (EDF).

In view of ensuring effectiveness, transparency and accountability, Greece requests its implementing partners, notably UN agencies and other international organizations, to provide precise information, reports and figures concerning the activities supported. In particular, cases of mismanagement or abuse of public funding by Greek Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that may have been hazardous or detrimental to the Greek taxpayer are presently under investigation by Judicial Authorities. Unused amounts disbursed by HELLENIC AID for its bilateral development cooperation program through NGOs have been reclaimed, to the benefit of public finances.

In the context of a meticulous monitoring and evaluation effort of HELLENIC AID concerning a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed with a handful of international agencies and organizations, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs has asked for reimbursement of unused contributions due to the termination of the MoUs.

The EU’s mid-term review exercise that took place in 2017 offered Greece an opportunity to obtain more information on the functioning of the EU’s external financing instruments during the first half of the period covered by the current MFF (2014-2020), evaluate the results achieved so far and consider alternatives.

6.2. Monitoring and evaluation

6.2.1. Auditing of HELLENIC AID Contracts by external auditors

In 2011, it was decided to involve external auditors in order to cross-check the financial reports and data submitted by NGOs. The auditing lasted for three-and-a-half years (mid 2011-January 2015). The 198 outstanding HELLENIC AID Contracts for development cooperation projects were divided into two sets: of 80 and of 118 Contracts. The former were audited by the
company Grant Thornton SA (November 2012 - February 2013) and the latter by NEXIA Eurostatus SA (February 2014 - January 2015).

It is important to stress that the auditors’ mandate was limited to the control of financial data and did not extend to the implementation of the projects themselves. Another limitation referred to the targeting of their work, which did not comprise the verification of invoices’ and other submitted documents’ authenticity, considered bona fide to be authentic.

Following the reports submitted by the external auditors:
1. In June 2014, HELLENIC AID suggested to the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs the official completion of some 80 projects, adopting partially or entirely (on a case by case basis) the audit’s results. However, the relevant Drafts were never signed by the Deputy Minister who resigned in January 2015.
2. A year later, NGOs were informed by written communication, about the amount of money they should return to HELLENIC AID, because of their failure to implement projects and/or to submit the necessary documentation (August 2015).

Furthermore, in autumn 2011, HELLENIC AID contracted an external auditor to draw up a comprehensive list of all HELLENIC AID disbursements to NGOs in the decade 2000-2010, as inaccurate statistics submitted to the Greek Parliament in previous years had harmed its reputation and consequently that of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The list of HELLENIC AID disbursements to NGOs has been submitted to the Parliament and has been uploaded on the website of HELLENIC AID, so that anyone interested could consult it, be it an individual, or fiscal authorities.

6.2.2. Case-law

In 2011, the Supreme Administrative Court (Conseil d’ Etat) issued Ruling 987/2011, according to which Contracts between HELLENIC AID and NGOs were deemed to be governed by private -and not public- law. As a result, in case of a breach (e.g. misuse of funds, non execution of the project), HELLENIC AID would be obliged to file a lawsuit against the NGO before the civil courts in order to ensure the recovery of the funds it had disbursed, since the Ruling implied it had no authority to charge the NGO. As a consequence, a number of cases were brought to a standstill, since the administrative cost of filing civil lawsuits against NGOs was high for HELLENIC AID.

In October 2015, the Supreme Administrative Court (Conseil d’ Etat) issued Ruling 3705/05.10.2015, which effectively reversed the previous one, stating that HELLENIC AID contracts were governed by public law. Following this Ruling, HELLENIC AID has begun charging NGOs, a procedure that involves several steps and is time consuming.

6.2.3. Recovery of funds: NGO contracts

The recovery of funds in cases of breach of contract by NGOs has been a priority for HELLENIC AID in the years 2015-2017. Once the Ruling 3705/5.10.2015 was published, HELLENIC AID promptly started the bureaucratic procedure of charging NGOs, whose contracts had been denounced or terminated in previous years. To date, the amount of money that HELLENIC AID is claiming, exceeds one million Euros (excluding interests), in more
than ten cases. Moreover, HELLENIC AID denounced or terminated a few more contracts, on the grounds of incomplete/faulty documentation submission.

It should be added that NGOs involved have appealed the above charges. Therefore, the actual recovery of funds has not yet taken place, while it is difficult, to foresee, at this stage, the end of the judicial course.

Recovery of funds has already taken place in cases where a letter of bank guarantee had been made available to HELLENIC AID by its contracting partners. Out of three such cases, HELLENIC AID ensured the return of 0.7 million Euros to the Treasury of the Greek State.

6.2.4. Judicial issues

2011 was also the year when the -then newly established- Finance Police, by order of the Public Prosecutor Office, started to investigate HELLENIC AID cases. Reports in the national Press, prompted by the investigations, have had a negative effect on the reputation of NGOs in Greek public opinion, thus creating adverse circumstances for the development of the so-called “civil society movement”, in the country.

In the years 2015-2017, investigations were intensified, leading to the criminal prosecution of some NGOs managers, as well as several officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other institutions, related to the control of HELLENIC AID contracts. In the course of the investigations, HELLENIC AID has in many cases been requested to provide documentation, as well as explanatory notes; an arduous task given the volume of each contract file, the complexity of the issues examined and the time elapsed (in some cases more than ten years).

Despite the bureaucratic burden, HELLENIC AID has put great efforts in fulfilling this task, given that accountability and transparency in the management of public funds had been set as a top priority.

To this date, the only criminal procedure under way concerns the NGO “International Mine Initiative”, which received the amount of almost 9 million Euros from HELLENIC AID in the years 2000-2003, in order to demine fields in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lebanon and Iraq. This case has received much publicity, not only in the national press, but also in the international one (e.g. article published in the Economist Journal on 20.02.2014). The trial started in 2016 and is due to end within 2018. The court ruling is expected to shed light on several aspects of the HELLENIC AID’s modus operandi and to influence the ongoing investigations of other HELLENIC AID - NGOs contracts.

Furthermore, in August 2017, the Supreme Court of Auditors informed HELLENIC AID of its initiative to form a “task force” in order to perform an additional control of several HELLENIC AID projects (period 2000-2004) during a five months period (September 2017-January 2018). To this date, HELLENIC AID has not been informed on the results of the initiative.

6.2.5. Recovery of funds: MoUs

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Unspent Greek contributions in the framework of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and other agreements signed between 2008 and 2010 with international organizations and other partners

In the last three years (2015-2017), the Greek MFA carried out, through HELLENIC AID, a comprehensive and thorough evaluation for many months as regards the outcome of projects and programs funded by Greece in the framework of MoUs or other Agreements that had been signed with international organizations and other partners. The main findings from this review were that the counterparts of these agreements did not always fulfill fully the provisions and obligations depicted in the MoUs and that the final outcome of the agreed interventions, following their implementation, was not the optimal. The whole process for ascertaining the exact unused contributions for each case and securing their return involved a long and cumbersome negotiation period. In some instances, with international organizations, the return of the Greek contribution was refused, despite the unilateral change of the geographical coverage intervention components of the project, without prior consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or without implementing the programs in accordance with the provisions of the MoUs in question.

To begin with, Greece thoroughly evaluated the MoUs and other agreements that had been signed in the period 2008 and 2009 with the following organizations:

(i) African Union Commission

The Hellenic Republic signed on 22.9.2008, in New York, a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Union Commission, pertaining to the financing of programs and projects presented by the African Union, which aim at combating climate change impact in African countries, in the framework of Greece’s development cooperation policy. With this MoU, Greece agreed to contribute to the Commission of the African Union the total amount of 12 million Euros, within a time period of four years (starting from 2008), by contributing the sum of 3 million Euros per year. Greece made a first contribution of 3 million Euros for 2008 (disbursed on 3.4.2009) and provided also an additional sum of 1 million Euros in the same year, as a donation, over and above its financial commitments. It specifically mentioned that if the total amount Greek contribution has not been absorbed in one of the years covered by the MoU, Greece would not have to pay its contribution for the following year.

With the aforementioned MoU, the Commission of the African Union had assumed the following obligations as regards the contributions of the Hellenic Republic:

a. Provision of Proposals and Financial Estimates in relation to any project (art. 2.1).
b. Submission of Annual Financial Information and Project Progress Report, a report on the results of each completed project, an Annual Certified Financial Statement as of 31st December every year, as well as a Certified Financial Statement for each completed project (art. 5.2 and 5.4). In the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements of the African Union Commission for the year ended on 31.12.2014, posted on the official website of the African Union, the sum of 4.88 million USD deriving from the contributions of Greece was presented as unexpended.

Due to the termination of the MoU, in early 2017 (February 2008) Greece made it clear that was not in a position to approve the financing of new project proposals. In the light of the above and taking into account that the contributions of the Hellenic Republic to the Commission of the African Union had not been utilized to finance projects and programs related to the adaptation of climate change, as stipulated in the aforementioned MoU, Greece
requested the reimbursement of the unspent amount of 4.88 million USD. In November 2017, the amount of **3.59 million Euros** was reimbursed by the African Union.

(ii) *Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)*.

The Hellenic Republic signed on 23.9.2008, in New York, a five-year MoU with CCCCC. The MoU stipulated a total Greek contribution of 4 million Euros in 4 annual installments, of 1 million Euros each. In accordance with the provisions of the MoU, Greece contributed 4 million Euros (5.63 million USD) to CCCCC for climate change adaptation-related programs. The CCCCC submitted a status implementation Report, 12.12.2017, on the implementation of eleven projects, amounting to 3.13 million USD. These projects included: (i) establishing and operating the Centre’s clearing house; (ii) the Bequia Salt Water Reserve Osmosis (SWRO) water system pilot project; (iii) enhancing the regional observing network; (iv) hurricane shelter project in Castries, Saint Lucia; (v) providing institutional support to the Centre; (vi) a low carbon study in the tourism sector; (vii) a pilot irrigation project in Milton, Dominica; (viii) enhancing Guyana’s hydrometerological warning system; (ix) assessing vulnerability of Caribbean fisheries to climate change; (x) capacity building for economic impact and climate adaptation studies; and (xi) support for participation of the Centre at COP 16. The unspent balance after financing the eleven projects, amounted to **2.5 million USD**. Due to the termination of the MoU, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not in a position to approve the financing of new project proposals and requested the unspent balance of the contribution. In March 2017, this amount was reimbursed in total.

(iii) **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic signed on 18.9.2009, in New York, a five-year MoU with the IOC Secretariat, pertaining to the financing of programs and projects in the field of climate change vulnerability, risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation. Greece had agreed to contribute to the Indian Ocean Commission Secretariat the total amount of 4 million Euros, within a time period of four years, by contributing the sum of 1 million Euros per year. In 2010, Greece made a contribution of 1 million Euros.

In accordance with the aforementioned MOU, Indian Ocean Commission Secretariat assumed the following obligations, as regards the contribution of the Hellenic Republic:

a. Provision of proposals and financial estimates in relation to projects (art. 1.1).

b. Submission of Annual Financial Information and Project Progress Report, a report on the results of each completed project, an Annual Certified Financial Statement as of 31st December every year, as well as a Certified Financial Statement for each completed project (art. 7).

On the official website of IOC Secretariat, there was a reference on the MoU and the 1 million Euros contribution of Greece. On the same website, there was a reference that a project financing proposal was sent to Greece in 2011, which remained unanswered. However, as stipulated in the aforementioned MOU, a Joint Committee had to be established for the implementation of the Memorandum (art. 1, 3, 4), which would decide about project proposals. This Committee was never set up.

In the light of the above and taking into account that the contribution of the Hellenic Republic to the Indian Ocean Commission Secretariat has not been used to finance projects and programs related to combating climate change, as stipulated in the aforementioned MOU, Greece requested the reimbursement of the unused amount of 1 million Euros, which was not refunded by the IOC.

(iv) **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.
The Hellenic Republic signed on 22.9.2009, in New York, a MoU with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), pertaining to the financing of a Program of Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation in East and Central Africa (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Uganda), described in the Project Document annexed to the MoU. With this MoU, Greece agreed to contribute to the Project attached as Annex I of the MOU, the total amount of 2 million Euros, within a time period of two years (2010-2011). Accordingly, the WMO undertook the obligation to utilize the Greek contribution for the said Project, in accordance with the terms provided for in the MoU and its Annex. Greece made a contribution of 1 million Euros. Due to the fiscal crisis, Greece did not make the second contribution in 2011 of 1 million Euros.

Inter alia, it is worth mentioning that:
- There was no exchange of written notifications between the Greek MFA and the WMO on the completion of their respective internal procedures required for its entry into force, (as requested by art. xiv of the MoU). Hence, the MoU never entered into force.
- The Steering Committee provided for in Annex I of the MoU, with participation of representatives of the Greek Government, WMO and project countries, was never established. Therefore, decisions about the activities of all project components, the detailed work plans and budget allocations were taken unilaterally by WMO.
- The WMO never notified the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN that all activities related to the project have been completed, nor if the unutilized payments proved insufficient to meet such commitments and liabilities, in which case the WMO had to notify the donor (art. viii § 1 and 3).
- The Greek Government did not receive any “detailed project work plan and budget” within the first trimester of the Project implementation, as foreseen in par. 7 of Annex I.
- The Greek Government did not receive any progress reports in accordance with the terms of the agreed Project, with the exception of the Report of April 2017 and the Report of Expenditures and Activities submitted on May 11, following a request by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Monitoring of the Program of Cooperation (Annex I) of the MoU was never implemented. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not received Annual work plans, annual monitoring reports and six-month financial and progress reports, which would meet the requirements of the Guidelines of the Government of Greece.
- The MoU was terminated in 2011 and most activities were implemented after that year.
- The WMO unilaterally changed the geographical coverage project intervention components, without consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and securing the latter’s agreement prior to modifying the MoU, as required in Article x of the MoU.
- The Project Report of Expenditures and Activities received from the WMO on 11.5.2017 (ref 17395/2017-DRA/RMDP) was not an integrated structured report but different separate activity reports, mainly in various African countries. The six project intervention components described thoroughly in the Programme of Cooperation (Annex I) of the MoU, do not correspond to those implemented in the Project Report.

In particular, there were six project intervention components in the Program of Cooperation of the MoU:
1. Rehabilitation and upgrading of the observation network;
2. Development of a framework for national climate services;
3. Training and capacity building;
4. Improvement of the telecommunication systems;
5. Upgrading of climate data management systems and implementation of data rescue programs;
6. Demonstrating the positive social and economic impact of improved access to climate information in the agricultural, health and water sectors.

It is worth noting that:
a. While the above six project intervention components, described in the Program of Cooperation (Annex I) of the MoU, were concrete in terms of specific actions (workshops, training, demonstration projects) in three sectors agriculture, water, health, for specific countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Uganda), the various activities of the Project Report, do not correspond accordingly to the above six project intervention components.
b. Many of the various activities took place in countries other than those included in the Program of Cooperation (Annex I) of the MoU (see below part II). The WMO did not consult the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to modifying the MoU.
c. The information provided for the activities of some project intervention components is too general and vague. Some activity reports are in a form of a draft, not a final document.
d. There is no evidence of appropriate visibility of the funding and recognition to the Hellenic Republic for its contribution (art. xii of the Program of Cooperation -Annex I- of the MoU).

Greece took note that the sum of 1 million Euros had not been utilized as stipulated in the aforementioned MoU (according to the provisions) and there were modifications to the MoU in terms of countries, activities and timeframe for which the Greek side had not been consulted (written procedure). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, given the various shortcomings of legal and technical nature as well as the fact that WMO did not implement the MoU as initially agreed to but unilaterally modified it, requested the reimbursement of the amount of one million Euros. The WMO returned part of this sum (0.83 million Euros).

Furthermore, Greece re-examined the following:

(i) Greek contribution of 2 million Euros to UNDP for five programs in the Horn of Africa. In 2008, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed 2 million Euros to a program named “ARTGold2” for human trafficking-related actions that were to take place in Albania and Serbia in 2008 and 2009. The contribution remained unused until 2010 and was ultimately (in 2010) allocated to other programs in least developed countries (LDCs), in particular in the Horn of Africa. In particular, in 2010 Greece signed four technical agreements (Third Party Cost-sharing Agreement between the Hellenic Republic -the Donor- and the United Nations Development Program/UNDP) for four programs: (a) “Poverty Reduction and Environment Protection in Somalia”, (b) “Djibouti Youth Employment Generation Programme”, (c) “Recovery and Livelihoods Post Return Package, Darfur”, (d) “Djibouti-Somalia-Ethiopia Food Security Project”. After a request, UNDP submitted annual reports and audit reports. The visibility and the content of the reports were considered unsatisfactory. In 2017, a reimbursement of 0.33 million USD from UNDP was achieved, concerning two programs in the Horn of Africa, namely “Djibouti Youth Employment Generation Program” and the aforementioned “Djibouti-Somalia-Ethiopia Food Security Program”, which had not been implemented.

(ii) Greek contribution of 1.64 million USD to UNEP for the “Environmental Resource Monitoring Project in Lebanon” (ERML), as stipulated in the relevant bilateral agreement between the Greek MFA, Lebanon and UNEP, that was signed in 2010. The Project was
completed in December 2013. However, a reimbursement of the unspent amount of **0.3 million USD** was achieved in 2017.

(iii) Greek contribution of 2 million Euros (2.9 million USD) to USAID (in 2010) for two development programs in Afghanistan, implemented by USAID, in collaboration with other partners, as donors or delegates (e.g. KfW German Development Bank in the Kabul Urban Water Supply [KUWS] Project). It is to be noted, that no “Agreement on Delegated Cooperation” or “Memorandum of Understanding” was signed between the two sides (HELLENIC AID and USAID).

As regards the KUWS Project, based on the fact that,

(i) the contribution of HELLENIC AID in the implementation of the KUWS Project was not reflected in the “Agreement on Delegated Cooperation” between USAID and its partners,
(ii) the implementation of the project had been postponed for several years, without any notice to the Greek side and
(iii) the bidding prices for the project were lower than the initial cost estimates, rendering the contribution of the Greek side unnecessary,

HELLENIC AID requested USAID in June 2017 to return the contribution of 1.45 million USD. The reimbursement of **1.45 million USD** took place at the end of 2017.

In 2017, HELLENIC AID was also informed that the contribution of 1.45 million USD to the education program LCEP-2 in Afghanistan, was transferred by USAID to two other projects, also in the field of education (ASLE, implemented by the New York University) and CBE (implemented by UNICEF), without previous coordination, or approval of the Greek side. Taking into account that ASLE and CBE projects are ongoing, HELLENIC AID requested that all entities and organizations involved in their implementation be informed of the Greek financial contribution, that the online information regarding the projects be updated in order to include information on the Greek financial contribution, and also that the Greek side be informed on the progress and closure of the projects.

(iv) Following the destruction, in the summer of 2007, of the Palestinian refugee camp Nahr El Bared in Lebanon and the international Pledging Conference in Vienna for the reconstruction of the camp that followed (on 23.6.2008), Greece contributed 0.6 million Euros to the Lebanese public agency CDR (Council for Development and Reconstruction) in the framework of a bilateral agreement (Grant Agreement for the Construction of the Nahr El Bared New Palestinian Refugee Camp and the Reconstruction of the Camp’s Off-site Infrastructure) signed on 8.4.2009. In October 2013, Greece accepted CDR’s proposal to spend the amount for infrastructure projects in the camp. On 27.3.2015, a delegation from Greece visited the camp, which hosted approximately 45,000 Palestinian refugees. The company in charge (“George Yammine for General Contracting”) informed that the infrastructure-related works were due to be completed by late 2015. The “Final Completion Report” received from CDR contains a purely technical description of the relevant works. Greece is still expecting a detailed audit report.

*Taking into account the need for a strengthened accountability and for delivering the expected results with taxpayers’ money, a more efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanism (ex post and ex ante) will have to be set up in the context of the new legal framework.*
6.3. Institutional learning

Two staff members of the Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU attend regularly and produce reports on the meetings of the competent Working Parties/WPs of the Council of the EU for development and humanitarian aid (namely the ACP, CODEV and COHAFA WPs), while staff members of our Embassies and Offices for Economic and Commercial Affairs abroad, as well as of the rest of the Greek Permanent Representations/Missions abroad, also function as “our eyes and ears” on development cooperation issues. Due to the maintenance and daily update of the Greek MFA’s electronic archive, all development cooperation-related documents are easy to retrieve at any time, including those that deal with assessments or evaluations of various Greek development interventions.

Junior diplomats and commercial Attachés have received training at the Diplomatic Academy and the National School of Public Administration (NSPA), respectively, on the nature and scope of Greece’s international development cooperation policy and the relevant institutional framework and “Agenda 2030”.

Greece’s DAC membership and accumulated experience since the past Peer Reviews (2002, 2006 and 2011) have significantly assisted Greece’s efforts to engage in policy formulation and to provide aid in an effective and transparent way.

Key reference documents:

- Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed by the Greek MFA and AU (2008), CCCC (2008), IOC (2009) and WMO (2009).
7. Humanitarian assistance

7.1. Strategic and policy framework

7.1.1. Strategic framework

Inter alia, the strategic context of Greece’s humanitarian operations and policy formulation consists primarily of: (i) the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) principles, adopted in Stockholm in 2003\(^{43}\); (ii) the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, which was signed by the Council, European Parliament and European Commission in 2007\(^{44}\) and reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to the fundamental principles of humanitarian aid - neutrality, humanity, independence, and impartiality - and to the respect of International Humanitarian Law; (iii) the UN Agenda for Humanity\(^{45}\); and (iv) the relevant part of HELLENIC AID’s current legal framework (Presidential Decree 224/2000, notably Articles 1 and 9).

Greece is committed to carrying out bilateral and multilateral humanitarian activities under the international organizations’ coordination, principles and guidelines, in particular under those set by the United Nations, the European Union and OECD/DAC.

From a strategic viewpoint, it is also worth mentioning that Greece supports religious and cultural pluralism in the Middle East, necessary to achieve peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding. The participants in the International Conference on “Religious and Cultural Pluralism and Peaceful Coexistence in the Middle East” (Athens, 18-20/10/2015) highlighted the need to remain vigilant and exchanged ideas on a Greek proposal for the establishment of a follow-up mechanism in Athens. This mechanism in the form of the Centre for Religious Pluralism in the Middle East would examine the situation, in terms of freedom of religion or belief and cultural pluralism, would codify the various problems and would elaborate concrete proposals and viable solutions.\(^{46}\) The 2nd International Conference on “Religious and Cultural Pluralism and Peaceful Coexistence in the Middle East” (Athens, 30-31.10.2017) aspired to move ahead to the strengthening of a dialogue framework that would promote rapprochement, networking, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence among the different religious and cultural communities of the region.\(^{47}\)

Interestingly, through the adoption of Law 3948/2011 (Official Gazette 71Α'/5.4.2011) Greece aligned its national legislation with the international protective framework on women in

\(^{43}\) See [https://www.ghdinitiative.org/ghd/gns/home-page.html](https://www.ghdinitiative.org/ghd/gns/home-page.html).


\(^{45}\) See [https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/](https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/).


armed conflict. Therefore, Greece recognizes sexual violence as an international crime, that is to say a crime against humanity or war crime, depending on the circumstances.

7.1.2. Effective program design

Due to the fact that Greece’s bilateral interventions through NGOs ceased as a result of the financial crisis, there was no need for YDAS-1 neither to evaluate ex ante nor to design any bilateral NGO programs during the period 2011-2017.

As the competent Directorate of the Greek MFA for the provision of emergency humanitarian and food aid, YDAS-1 faces the two-fold challenge of ensuring predictable and adequate humanitarian funding in times of austerity, especially as the world appears to be nowadays confronted with an impressively high number of complex and particularly devastating crises\(^{48}\) (in terms of immense human suffering and adverse development repercussions) that can lead to persistent and considerable needs as regards humanitarian funding. Furthermore, HELLENIC AID has not issued any new call for proposals for projects/programs to be implemented by NGOs, since 2009.

7.1.3. Effective delivery, partnerships and instruments

As regards aid delivery, HELLENIC AID pursued a regional approach to the Syrian crisis, so as to cover needs of refugees or internally displaced persons both in Syria and in its neighboring developing countries (Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq - see below). These efforts may be seen in conjunction with Greece’s significant contribution to the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

YDAS-1 is responsible for updating the EU’s EDRIS database with statistical information on Greece’s efforts for bilateral provision of humanitarian assistance.

7.1.4. Organization fit for purpose

The provision of in-kind humanitarian assistance is carried out with the contribution of the remaining competent Ministries and of other entities, based on Standing Order 5-4/2009 of the Greek Ministry of National Defence.

In 2012, the General Secretariat for Civil Protection submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) a report regarding the entry into force of the Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is represented by YDAS-1 Directorate. The aim of the National Platform is the establishment of state and social mechanisms, in order to take action towards reducing human, social and economic losses following natural and manmade disasters.

7.1.5. Results, learning and accountability

Information on cases of mismanagement of the funds provided by HELLENIC AID for the implementation of humanitarian NGO programs has been published on its website.

During the period observed (2011-2017), obtaining from all humanitarian partners the desired degree of visibility for Greek humanitarian assistance has posed a significant challenge to HELLENIC AID and YDAS-1 in particular.

7.2. Activities of YDAS-1 in the years 2011-2017

In 2011, Greece continued its bilateral and multilateral humanitarian activities under the international organizations’ coordination, principles and guidelines, in particular under those set by the United Nations, the European Union and OECD/DAC. As in the past years, the provision of in-kind humanitarian assistance was carried out with the contribution of the remaining competent Ministries and of other entities, based on Standing Order 5-4/2009 of the Greek Ministry of National Defence. However, the adverse conjuncture regarding public finances obliged Greece to respond to a limited number of appeals for the provision of emergency humanitarian and food aid. Moreover, in 2011 no call for proposals was issued for humanitarian programs and/or programs to combat human trafficking to be implemented by Greek NGOs, with co-financing by HELLENIC AID. The Greek actions in the humanitarian sector were:

(i) Libyan crisis. From the very beginning of the Libyan crisis (February 2011), Greece responded immediately to the humanitarian needs of people stranded in Libya and its neighboring countries, by contributing the amount of 50,000 Euros to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in the context of a relevant regional flash appeal issued by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

At the end of February 2011, Greece sent three C-130 Hercules-type airplanes in order to evacuate hundreds of EU citizens, as well as third country nationals from Libya. At the same time, the entire Greek state apparatus was mobilized so as to facilitate the repatriation of thousands of third country nationals who fled Libya, via Crete, in coordination with the island’s regional authorities. The total cost of these operations reached 1,308,245 Euros.

On 27.5.2011, Greece sent to Libya humanitarian aid consisting of food items, medicines, medical equipment and blankets, of total worth 155,000 Euros, with the cargo ship “St. Raphael”. These materials were gathered by the Greek Ministry of National Defence, with contributions made from all three branches of the Greek armed forces (Hellenic National Defence General Staff/HNDGS).

The Greek humanitarian aid was accompanied by two staff members of HELLENIC AID, who delivered the materials to the UN representatives in Benghazi, in cooperation with a team of staff members of the Greek MFA who were present in the field.

The total cost of the Greek humanitarian mission to Libya (aid items and sea transport) reached the amount of 302,507 Euros.

A medical team of the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO) provided medical services to the affected Libyan population of the wider Benghazi area for 15 days. This team had traveled to Benghazi on 22.5.2011 with a C-130 transport aircraft. On
6.9.2011, two C-130 transport airplanes of the Hellenic Air Force (HAF) landed in Tripoli, Libya, carrying 48,000 bottles (24 tons) of water, offered by the Church of Greece.

The Greek mission to Tripoli consisted of the Deputy Minister and staff members of the Greek MFA. Subsequently, the Greek delegation traveled to Benghazi, where it had meetings with the President and members of the National Transitional Council and visited the Liberty Square as well as the Greek school, where meetings with representatives of the Greek community were held. The cost of this mission amounted to approximately 110,000 Euros.

With a view to meeting the humanitarian needs arising from the Libyan crisis, Greece made available a total amount of 1,770,752 Euros.

(ii) Disastrous earthquake in Japan (March 2011). Responding to the international appeals for the provision of urgent relief to those affected in Japan by the earthquake of 11.3.2011, the ensuing tsunami and the radioactivity leakage from the nuclear reactor in Fukushima, Greece offered 100,000 Euros to the Japanese Red Cross, through its Embassy in Tokyo.

(iii) Food aid to Kenya. On 30.9.2011, DG HELLENIC AID asked the World Food Program (WFP) that the unspent balance of previous’ years contributions by Greece to the WFP, namely an amount of 126,671 USD, be used to finance food aid projects in Kenya.

At the multilateral level, Greece contributed the amount of 500,000 USD (370,000 Euros) to the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), as annual voluntary contribution for 2011. With respect to the implementation of humanitarian programs by multilateral partners, YDAS-1 Directorate kept monitoring developments concerning two FAO programs in Armenia, which were being carried out with an up to 2.5 million Euros funding from Greece.

Within the framework of the EU, Greece followed closely and supported all the actions concerning the operational setup of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC), which had been its initial proposal. A staff member of YDAS-1 Directorate participated in the special meeting on EVHAC that was convened by the Hungarian Presidency of the EU on 17.6.2011. Participants included, apart from representatives of EU Member States, the Commissioner of International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Mrs. Kristalina Georgieva, as well as members of European (public and private) entities active in the fields of volunteerism and the provision of humanitarian aid. The results drawn by the works of this meeting have been taken into consideration by the European Commission for the preparation of its legislative initiative, within 2012.

In 2012, as in previous years, Greece provided urgent bilateral and multilateral humanitarian aid abroad for the immediate relief of those affected by natural or man-made disasters. The Greek humanitarian activities were based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, as well as on the international organizations’ guidelines, in particular those set out by the UN and the EU (e.g. the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, agreed upon in 2007). In cases of in-kind humanitarian assistance, there was a close cooperation and coordination of actions between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other competent Ministries and Authorities. Due to the difficult conditions concerning public finances in Greece, in 2012 HELLENIC AID continued to suspend the funding of humanitarian projects implemented by Greek NGOs.

At the bilateral level, the crisis in Syria, which began in early 2011, deteriorated and was gradually transformed into a civil war and a humanitarian tragedy. Its main aspects were, inter
alia, a large number of victims and those trapped between warring parties, unprecedented atrocities against civilians, the cessation of economic activity resulting in food crisis, as well as the destruction of houses, factories and the state infrastructure. The result was the creation of a huge number of internally displaced persons, as well as refugees in neighboring and other countries of the broader region of the Middle East and North Africa.

The Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through DG HELLENIC AID, participated in the international efforts to alleviate the situation of all those affected by the Syrian crisis by providing: (i) financial support to the Syrian Red Crescent, amounting to 50,000 Euros, which was deposited in a bank account of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and (ii) 50,000 Euros to the Office of UNICEF in Jordan, through the Embassy of Greece in Amman, in order to meet the educational needs of children in the Al Za'atari camp of Syrian refugees.

Assistance provided by Greece to Albania and Montenegro. In 2012, Greece also responded immediately to emergencies that neighboring countries were confronted with, as follows:

a) Participation in extinguishing a forest fire in South Albania (Gjirokastra region), through services provided by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection and the Fire Brigade of Greece.
b) Dispatch of a Search and Rescue Helicopter of the Hellenic Air Force to Montenegro, for assisting in the evacuation and for providing emergency relief items to the trapped passengers of an immobilized train in Trebjesnica, due to heavy snowfall. According to the Ministry of National Defence and the Air Force General Staff, the cost of this mission was 86,464 Euros.

At the multilateral level, Greece allocated the amount of 100,000 Euros to WFP in the context of the Food Aid Convention (1999), which expired on 30.6.2012. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through DG HELLENIC AID, allocated 20,000 Euros to the International Development Cooperation Service of the French Foreign Ministry, in support of the implementation of an EU joint program for combating human trafficking. Within the framework of UNGA 67, the former Foreign Minister signed the new Food Assistance Convention (FAC) on 26.9.2012.

In 2013, as in previous years, Greek humanitarian activities regarding the provision of immediate relief to people affected by natural or man-made disasters, in third countries, were based on the principles of humanitarian aid, IHL and human rights.

However, the difficulties encountered in the public finances of Greece did not allow HELLENIC AID to provide funding for the transportation of in-kind humanitarian assistance abroad. For the same reason, HELLENIC AID could not offer any financial support to humanitarian projects implemented by Greek NGOs.

In the framework of bilateral and multilateral humanitarian aid, with regard to Syria, the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through HELLENIC AID, continued to participate in the international efforts for alleviating the situation of the people affected by the Syrian crisis. In particular, it contributed:

1) 50,000 Euros to the Government of Lebanon (Ministry of Education), in order to meet the educational needs of refugee children from Syria and 49

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2)  50,000 Euros to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for financing programs of the Syria Regional Response Plan. This contribution constituted the implementation of the pledge made by Greece at the Kuwait Donors’ Conference for Syria, which took place in January 2013.

Furthermore, Greece provided urgent humanitarian aid of 30,000 Euros to WFP for the purchase and distribution of food items to the benefit of the population affected by typhoon Haiyan, in the Philippines.

The Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs also made a voluntary financial contribution to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), in the amount of 50,000 USD (37,702 Euros).

In 2014, during the first half of the year, within the framework of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU, the priorities promoted within the EU Humanitarian and Food Aid Working Party (COHAFA WP), by YDAS-1 Directorate of HELLENIC AID focused on the achievement of a more strategic and effective humanitarian action within the EU.

An effective reinforcement of the coordination of humanitarian actors in human conflict and natural disasters has been thoroughly examined both during the preparation of the European Action Plan at the center and in particular when applied in the field, in order to improve the efficiency and hence reduce the overall cost of the humanitarian response.

Greece supported the elaboration of COHAFA's “common messages” on humanitarian crises, which are part of the Conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council and strengthen the EU’s advocacy for humanitarian action. The Hellenic Presidency advocated the Agenda for Mutual Agreements, the awareness of Humanitarian Aid, the Disaster Risk Reduction and strengthening Resilience of Vulnerable Regions through a coherent common approach to humanitarian and development aid actions.

In June 2014, the organization of a joint Informal Session of the Humanitarian and Development Aid-related Working Parties (COHAFA and CODEV) of the Council of the EU in Athens helped to intensify their efforts to implement the Commission's Action Program for Resilience of vulnerable countries 2013-2020.

The Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU also focused on the preparation of the consultations ahead of the World Summit on humanitarian assistance that was held in Istanbul in 2016, with particular regard to the introduction/use of innovative products and services in the humanitarian response.

Finally, special attention was paid to the procedures for starting effective implementation of the EU Council Regulation on the creation of a European Volunteer Corps, which had started as a Greek initiative. For this purpose, seminars were held in Brussels and Athens on the assessment of needs for a more effective training of European volunteers.

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<tr>
<th>Priorities of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU (January-July 2014):</th>
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<td>- COHABA’s contribution to Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions. Our main priority in COHABA was the systematic adoption of outcome messages and their forwarding to other Council formations such as geographical working groups, PSC and COREPER II. This</td>
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methodology permits the timely inclusion of the humanitarian perspective in the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions, as appropriate.

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). In view of Hyogo II, COHAFA together with PROCIV contributed to the elaboration of Council Conclusions on DRR.
- Evaluation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. The Greek Presidency ensured effective follow-up discussions in COHAFA regarding the relevant Commission Report.
- COHAFA’s working methods. Recognizing the need for a more outcome-oriented approach of all humanitarian issues by COHAFA, the Greek Presidency worked along with the other member-states towards rendering COHAFA discussions more strategic, in consultation with both DG ECHO and UN OCHA.

In the framework of bilateral and multilateral humanitarian aid, with regard to Syria and in the wake of previous years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to participate in international efforts to alleviate those affected by the prolonged and prolonged crisis in Syria. In particular, it contributed: (i) 50,000 Euros in Syria through the Syria Response Plan; and (ii) 50,000 Euros in Iraq, so as to alleviate refugees’ suffering. A contribution of 500,000 Euros was also made to UNRWA, in order to support Palestinian refugees in the context of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

During the summer months and in response to repeated requests for assistance from Serbia and from Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the consequences of the devastating floods in the region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded with the offer of 200,000 Euros and 100,000 Euros respectively.

Greece joined the global mobilization to fight the Ebola epidemic that hit West Africa. In addition to coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health (HCDCP, EKEPY etc.) for the possible identification and evacuation of affected humanitarian bodies or citizens of Greek descent, the Hellenic Ministry of Health contributed 200,000 Euros to the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as 30,000 Euros to the World Food Program (WFP).

Last but not least, in the framework of the International Donors' Conference to fight violence in the prolonged (level L3) crisis of the Central African Republic (CAR) that was organized in January 2014 in Brussels, Greece made a contribution of 50,000 Euros.

However, the unfavorable financial situation of Greece has not allowed the financing of the dispatch of humanitarian aid abroad.

In 2015, Greece participated in the long global process of UN World Humanitarian Summit preparations. Furthermore, it attended and contributed to the Geneva Global Consultation Conference (in October 2015), proceeding to a national statement for a more effective humanitarian action.

In 2016 and 2017, following the pledge and statement announced by the Greek Prime Minister during the London International Donor’s Conference (4.2.2016) on “Supporting Syria and the Region”, the amount of 300,000 Euros was to be provided with the aim to enhance the humanitarian response activities in the framework of “Syria Humanitarian Response Plan 2016”. This contribution was made in early 2018 to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) branch in Damascus, supporting humanitarian activities inside Syria.

However, the continuing difficulties encountered by Greece as regards public finances did not allow HELLENIC AID to provide funding in cash or/and in kind for humanitarian assistance in
other countries and to offer relief to the population affected by multiple and more complicated recent humanitarian crises.

Greece participated actively in the whole 18 months- global process of the UN leading to the World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, 23-24.5.2016)\textsuperscript{50} and its output “Agenda for Humanity”,\textsuperscript{51} in the context of which Greece undertook a number of commitments on humanitarian aid matters.

**Key reference documents**


\textsuperscript{50} See [http://whsturkey.org/](http://whsturkey.org/).

\textsuperscript{51} See [https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/](https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/).
ANNEX A: Progress since the 2011 DAC Peer Review recommendations

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<th>2011 PEER REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
<th>PROGRESS AGAINST RECOMMENDATIONS (AS OF APRIL 2018)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.1. To build a sound basis for a new, effective aid system and program, Greece should:</strong></td>
<td>• The elaboration and approval of the new legislation were postponed, in order to allow the completion of the audit of previous HELLENIC AID projects (see Chapter 4).</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Secure broad backing and ownership of the reform of Greek development cooperation by consulting across the administration and with government, parliament and civil society. This should help the approval and implementation of the reform.</td>
<td>• Greece shall strive to ensure that lessons learned from and recommendations of the peer review exercise are incorporated in the new legislation, once the process of its adoption begins anew. It will therefore adopt a whole-of-government approach as regards the relevant consultations.</td>
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<td>▪ Include the recommendations of this peer review in the draft legislation and five-year program to ensure a strong and sound basis for the reform and its implementation.</td>
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<td>▪ Ensure that the reform is adopted and effectively implemented.</td>
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<td><strong>1.2. To achieve a unified, coherent and effective development cooperation system and program, Greece should:</strong></td>
<td>• The refinement and approval of the new legislation were postponed, in order to allow the completion of the audit of previous HELLENIC AID projects (see Chapter 4). The draft five-year program has not been adopted for similar reasons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Apply the principles and policy priorities outlined in the new law and draft program to all actors of Greek development cooperation - i.e. activities financed through the MFA development budgets and through the separate budget lines of other Ministries – and make all institutional players accountable.</td>
<td>• HELLENIC AID’s authority to play a salient role as regards policy-making, coordination, planning and monitoring of Greece’s international development cooperation stems from the relevant provisions of the current legal framework, which define its mandate in concrete terms. HELLENIC AID is also leading Greece’s efforts as regards the external dimension of SDGs’ implementation. The domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda offers an opportunity for Greece to examine the impact of its policies on developing countries. It presents an opportunity to identify, monitor and report cases of incoherence. Its statistical capacity has been</td>
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<td>▪ Formalize the proposed inter-ministerial committee for coordinating international development policy; make membership by key line ministries mandatory, and outline rules of procedure and accountability mechanisms.</td>
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<td>▪ Make the five-year program, to be approved by the Council of Ministers, the binding government-wide medium-term strategy for development cooperation planning and implementation.</td>
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**Ensure that all relevant ministries are engaged in the finalization and monitoring of the current draft five-year program through the inter-ministerial committee, under DG HELLENIC AID’s leadership. Engage all relevant ministries and development actors early in the process of designing future five-year programs.**

**Ensure that DG HELLENIC AID has the efficiency and capacity to take the lead in aid policy making, coordination, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.**

*The refinement and approval of the new legislation were postponed, in order to allow the completion of the audit of previous HELLENIC AID projects (see Chapter 4). The draft five-year program has not been adopted for similar reasons.*

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**To ensure that all government policies support, or at least do not undermine development objectives, Greece should:**

- Make a clear commitment in the law and five year program to ensuring that domestic and international policies are coherent with its overall development goals. Outline clear priorities for coherence for development based on the EU program, as well as steps for achieving these priorities.
- Ensure that the new law clearly mandates the inter-ministerial committee to scrutinize domestic, foreign and EU policy proposals for their impact on development and to monitor and report on the impact of incoherence in Greek policies on developing countries.

*The fact that the Greek budget is drafted only once a year and concerns the following year may render any attempt to move to multi-year planning for development aid a very challenging endeavor.*

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**To allocate its aid resources strategically, and to maximize the overall value of these flows, Greece should:**

- Move to programmatic aid budgeting through multi-year planning, with indicative budgets proposed annually by the inter-ministerial committee.
- Identify all ODA expenditures, including those from line ministries’ budgets, in the state budget.
- Ensure that all development aid is planned and disbursed in the framework of the five-year program, and responds to identified expected results.

*The collection by DG HELLENIC AID of data on ODA expenditures from all line Ministries that takes place on a yearly basis (with a view to submitting them to DAC) can assist line Ministries in their budgeting processes.*

*The new five-year program has not been adopted yet (see above).*
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<th>3.2. To focus its aid and make it more effective, Greece should:</th>
<th>With the exception of in-donor refugee costs, Greece’s bilateral aid has been reduced, as the implementation of bilateral NGO programs has been suspended. However, Greece has provided bilateral aid to selected countries (notably the Central African Republic/CAR, Mali and Syria) based on relevant appeals in the context of pledging conferences. Particular attention has been given to the enhancement of the international community’s response to the Syrian crisis, taking into account both the severity of the crisis and the geographical proximity of the Middle East (see Chapter 2).</th>
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<td>* Concentrate its bilateral aid on a limited number of priority countries, based on strategy papers commonly agreed with the partner country. It should also reduce the number of projects it funds in these countries, so it can increase the funding allocated to a few strategic programs. * Evaluate whether and how a scholarships program can contribute to strengthening capacity building in developing countries. * Rationalize the aid channeled through multilateral agencies and NGOs by supporting fewer partners and larger programs. * Limit the range of sectors and subsectors that Greece will support, being clear how they relate to the overall policy priorities and Greece’s comparative advantages in development cooperation.</td>
<td>* Greece recognizes the importance of education and professional training for development. Greek scholarships support partner country governments to make progress as far as their development goals are concerned by targeting critical skills gaps (see Chapter 1).</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1. To make DG HELLENIC AID fit for purpose, Greece should:</td>
<td>* Greece has adopted a pragmatic strategic approach as regards its development aid program, which now focuses primarily on multilateral contributions. These contributions are expected to have a positive development impact as regards the achievement of one or more of the SDGs (see Chapter 1).</td>
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<td>* Restructure DG HELLENIC AID to make it simpler and flatter, with fewer</td>
<td>* Greece has continued to provide multifaceted multilateral aid, in view also of promoting the achievement of the SDGs. Greece has prioritized, inter alia, peace and security, culture, good governance and the environment and climate change (see Chapter 1 and Annex B). Interestingly, line Ministries and other agencies have also shared their know-how and expertise with developing countries upon request, in line with their respective comparative advantages (see Chapter 5).</td>
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<td>* The new legal framework has not been finalized yet (see above).</td>
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<td>* Due to a significant number of NGO</td>
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directorates and larger teams focusing on key functions such as policy, programming and corporate processes.

- Use a new business model for delivering aid and limit calls for proposals to specific, targeted programs. The line ministries that are to be implementing agencies should be identified through the five-year program and in the country strategy papers. The country strategy papers, agreed together with the partner countries, should be the basis for delivering Greece’s bilateral aid.
- Create a culture of results, monitoring and evaluation, by updating and rationalizing DG HELLENIC AID’s procedures and creating an evaluation function following international standards.

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<th>4.2. To improve development cooperation capacity and expertise despite DG HELLENIC AID’s constrained context, Greece should:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Promote development cooperation as a career path and allow staff with an interest and competence in development to have longer-term assignments at DG HELLENIC AID and be posted to embassies in priority countries which are implementing projects and programs.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Invest in regular staff training on key aspects of managing development cooperation, in line with international best practice. Use training already provided by other donors, organize exchanges of staff with line ministries and other donors and use outside expertise (e.g. for civil society) where possible.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Recruit staff to DG HELLENIC AID based on clear development competencies and specific job descriptions.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>5.1. To implement its commitments to deliver aid following the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, Greece should:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Use the five-year program as the basis for proposals for which there have been judicial investigations and the challenging economic environment, Greece has not launched any new calls for proposals since 2009. Greece’s bilateral aid with in-donor refugee costs unaccounted for has followed a downward trend in recent years.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HELLENIC AID has accumulated substantial experience as regards the evaluation of development programs implemented by NGOs (in the context of past calls for proposals) and by international organizations (in the context of relevant MoUs). Through meticulous research on results achieved, HELLENIC AID has achieved refunds of amounts that had not been used.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>As an indirect consequence of the drop in Official Development Assistance, Greece reduced the number of its development cooperation staff.</strong></td>
<td><strong>New specialized statistician has been recently hired by the Greek MFA so as to address the relevant needs of HELLENIC AID.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DG HELLENIC AID’s executive staff members have been assigned with specific and distinct tasks and responsibilities.</strong></td>
<td><strong>The new five-year program has not been adopted yet (see above).</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greece has substantially reduced its bilateral aid, with the exception of in-donor refugee costs (see above).</strong></td>
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for implementing the Paris and Accra principles and collaborate with line ministries in identifying common objectives and for monitoring progress.

* Employ a range of different ways to implement activities, including program-based approaches and coordinated arrangements with other donors.
* Promote a culture of results orientation by planning, implementing and monitoring for results.
* Formulate priority country strategies in consultation with partner countries and other donors to foster ownership and alignment.

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<tr>
<th>6.1. To promote more coherent and strategic programming, Greece should finalize its legal framework and cross-government strategic plan for humanitarian assistance. This will also require:</th>
<th>Greece intends to follow these recommendations in full when the relevant conditions become more favorable.</th>
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<td>* Stronger links with overall Greek development priorities and a better reflection of Greece’s comparative advantage.</td>
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<td>* Continued formal legal recognition of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Principles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Coherence with Greek development programs, country strategies and operations.</td>
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<th>6.2. To support its new humanitarian framework and deliver coherent programming, Greece should:</th>
<th>Greece has stopped funding the portion of its bilateral aid that is allocated to NGOs for the implementation of humanitarian programs. Important strategic partners include the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN OCHA.</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Streamline procedures for working with NGOs and other donors, develop strategic partnerships with key operational actors, and deliver more flexible and predictable funding.</td>
<td>* The new legal framework has not been finalized yet (see above).</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Develop a coherent and transparent system for monitoring program results and learning lessons.</td>
<td>* In general, Greece intends to reflect further on the best way to implement the recommendation on in-kind aid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Outline clear criteria and guidelines for Greek in-kind aid.</td>
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What follows is a brief description of the SDG-related tasks and mandates of various multilateral organizations that receive Greek funding, indicating in an indirect yet clear way Greece’s commitment and efforts to deliver an effective, affordable, transparent and sustainable aid program.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).** From ending poverty and hunger to responding to climate change and sustaining our natural resources, food and agriculture lie at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. FAO possesses experience and expertise in supporting policy making, partnership-building, and projects and programs built on 3-dimensional sustainability. Both the SDGs and FAO’s strategic framework are geared towards tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind.\(^{52}\)

- **World Trade Organization (WTO).** The SDGs put significant emphasis on the role that trade can play in promoting sustainable development. There are direct references to WTO activities in SDGs 2, 3, 8, 10, 14 and 17. SDG 17 on strengthening the global partnership for sustainable development contains a separate section on trade, including a commitment to promoting a “universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system” under the WTO.\(^{53}\)

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).** UNESCO contributes to the implementation of SDGs 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16, against the backdrop of SDGs 1, 10 and 17.\(^{54}\) The safeguarding and promotion of culture is an end in itself, and at the same time, culture contributes to many of the SDGs. For example, culture has a crucial role to play in SDG 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), as target 11.4 calls for strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.\(^{55}\)

- **World Bank Group (WBG).** WBG consists of a closely associated group of five (5) development institutions (International Bank of Reconstruction and Development/IBRD, International Development Association/IDA, International Financial Council/IFC, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes/ICSID, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency/MIGA). WBG aims to contribute to the implementation of the following SDGs: (i) End extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than 1.90 USD a day to no more than 3%. (ii) Promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country.\(^{56}\)

- **World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).** UNWTO is working with governments, public and private partners, development banks, international and regional finance institutions, the UN

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\(^{53}\) See [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/sdgs_e/sdgs_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/sdgs_e/sdgs_e.htm).

\(^{54}\) “UNESCO and the SDGs”, The UNESCO Courier (April-June 2017), p. 7.


agencies and international organizations to help achieve the SDGs, placing an emphasis on Goals 8, 12 and 14, in which tourism is featured. In particular, SDG 8 calls for policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products, while SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns highlights the importance of developing and implementing tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism. Furthermore, SDG 14 seeks to increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

- **International Organization for Migration (IOM).** The new global development framework introduced with Agenda 2030 includes many references to migration, recognizing safe, regular and well-managed migration’s contribution to sustainable development. Migration is incorporated in the goal and target framework through a dedicated target (10.7), as well as through specific references in other targets (SDGs 4.b, 5.2, 8.7, 8.8, 10.2, 10.c, 16.2, 16.16, 17.17 and 17.18) or other entry points (SDGs 3.8, 4.1, 4.3, 1.5, 16.7, 13.1-3 and 11.b). IOM is developing, in partnership with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the initiative “Migration Governance Indicators” (MGI) as an evaluation tool that could help in strengthening migration governance and in making progress as regards migration-related aspects of the SDGs.

- **World Health Organization (WHO).** Health has a central place in SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), underpinned by 13 targets that cover a wide spectrum of WHO’s work. Almost all of the other 16 goals are directly or indirectly related to health.

- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO).** WMO can contribute to the implementation of most SDGs (e.g. SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17). WMO is the co-custodian of SDG 13 on Climate Action.

- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU).** ITU takes an active role in promoting and addressing notably SDGs 7, 12 and 13, through the use of ICTs. Through the “United for Smart Sustainable Cities” (U4SSC) initiative, ITU also commits to attaining SDG 11 (on sustainable cities and communities).

- **Universal Postal Union (UPU).** In a special message sent to UPU on 9 October 2018 on the occasion of an event to celebrate the annual awareness day, UN Secretary-General António Guterres pointed out that Posts play an important role in the everyday lives of people and businesses and are making “welcome contributions” to global efforts to achieve the SDGs.

- **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).** OIF’s goals are indicated in its Charter and refer to: (i) democratization; (ii) conflict prevention, management and settlement, as well as support to the rule of law and human rights; (iii) intensification of intercultural dialogue; (iv) peoples’ approach to one another through their mutual acquaintance; (v)

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57 See [http://icr.unwto.org/content/tourism-and-sdgs](http://icr.unwto.org/content/tourism-and-sdgs).
58 See [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/sdgs_e/sdgs_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/sdgs_e/sdgs_e.htm).
59 See [https://unofficeny.iom.int/2030-agenda-sustainable-development](https://unofficeny.iom.int/2030-agenda-sustainable-development).
strengthening of peoples’ solidarity through multilateral cooperation actions with a view to promoting economic growth; (v) promotion of education and vocational training. OIF’s mission includes references to: (i) promoting the French language, as well as cultural and linguistic diversity; (ii) promoting peace, democracy and human rights; (iii) supporting education, vocational training and research; and (iv) strengthening cooperation aimed at sustainable development. Particular attention is placed on women and youth, as well as on access to ICTs.64

- International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). IRENA supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy. IRENA promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy in the pursuit of sustainable development, as well as energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity. In his keynote speech at the G7 Bologna Environment Ministers’ Meeting on 11 June 2017 (“SDGs and Climate Change: focus on Africa”), the Director-General of IRENA, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin mentioned that “renewable energy will be the clear solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13) and to achieving sustainable cities (SDG 11) in heating, cooling, cooking and home appliances, as well as transport”, adding that “modern renewable energy sources will be essential in halting deforestation for immediate energy needs (SDG 15), in addition to requiring less water use for the production of electricity (SDG 6) and increasing overall water supply through desalination and pumping”.65

64 See https://www.francophonie.org/Qu-est-ce-que-la-Francophonie-44281.html.
65 See http://www.irena.org/aboutirena.
ANNEX C: Organizational chart of DG HELLENIC AID

ANNEX D: Economic environment

The following box illustrates the challenging and volatile economic environment in Greece during the period 2011-2017, as illustrated by the competent Directorate of the Ministry of Finance:

During the period 2011-2017, the economic crisis that had begun in Greece earlier reached its peak, with strong signs of recovery being currently evident. The massive fiscal consolidation that had started in 2010 resulted in lowering deficits that eventually turned into surpluses. On the other hand, its initial effects on the whole of the economy, combined with delays in adopting structural reforms, included accelerating recession, unemployment, deflation and poverty, most of which peaked in the middle of the period in question or shortly after. Political changes also played a role in the evolvement of the crisis, while on the fiscal front there were structural reforms that significantly improved fiscal reporting and budget execution monitoring.

On the macro-economic front, real GDP continued plummeting with an annual rate of -9.1% in 2011. However, the negative rates of change were getting lower and while 2013 was also a negative year (-3.2%), confidence and economic climate indicators were already showing an improvement and 2014 was the first year of an increased RGDP (+0.7%). In 2015, as a result of a new political planning, a new support program was agreed upon, adding an emphasis on social support. However, the long negotiations cycle that preceded the agreement contributed to a temporary halt in the recovery, but the -0.3% of the RGDP change exceeded many expectations and after a flat 2016, 9-month data of 2017 supported the forecast of +1.6% for 2017, included in the 2018 budget. Moreover, 2014 was the last of 7 years with negative growth of Gross Fixed Capital Formation: after a flat 2015, the 2016 figure was +1.6% and the latest forecast for 2017 at 5.1%. Prices as measured by the Harmonized Indicator of Consumer Prices (HICP) initially (2011 and 2012) increased, being also affected by tax increases; however, 2013-2015 was a period of deflation, with the HICP in 2016 remaining unchanged. In 2017 the HICP was expected to rise by 1.2%.

Unemployment initially kept soaring and from 12.7% in 2010 reached the peak of 27.5% in 2013, with the rates for younger people being much higher. Since 2014 it has been constantly, although slowly, declining: in 2016 it reached 23.5% and in August 2017 21.7%. It should also be noted however that the percentage of part-time employment compared to the total is increased and that long-time unemployment is declining more slowly.

During the period of negotiations that preceded the 2015 agreement, there was an increase in uncertainty accompanied by a deterioration in Banks’ liquidity and a withdrawal of bank deposits. As a result, capital control measures were imposed in July 2015. Later in 2015, the third round (since 2013) of Banks re-capitalization was finalized and new restructuring plans were approved, taking into account the need to tackle non-performing loans (NPLs). Until the end of 2017, some aspects of the capital control measures have been relaxed and this process is expected to gradually roll out with a view to securing financial and macro-economic stability, as bank deposits have recently shown signs of recovery.
On the fiscal front, balance figures continued their improvement throughout the period with only minor disturbances, when not taking bank re-capitalization costs into account: The ESA overall balance started from -10.3% in 2011 (slightly improved compared to 2010) and 2016 was the first year with a surplus (+0.5%) since ESA 2010 data is available (since 1995). The program-definition primary balance (which among other things does not take bank support costs into account) has an even smoother trajectory, starting from -6% of GDP in 2010, turning slightly positive in the period 2013-2015, reaching +3.77% in 2016 and expected to have reached +2.44% in 2017, an estimation included in the 2018 budget. The cyclically adjusted primary balance was already positive in 2012 and continued to improve.

The General Government Debt was increasing in the beginning of the 2011-2017 period. In 2012, the debt reducing measures (private sector haircut and buy-back program) reduced the General Government Debt by 51 billion Euros and the interest paid each year by roughly 6 billion Euros. After this “artificial” decrease, the debt decreased again in 2015 temporarily both in nominal terms and as a percentage of the GDP; however it increased again in 2016, which is essentially the peak of its dynamic, as in 2017 it is expected to have been reduced as a share of GDP and the projected increase in 2018 is due mainly to the creation of a cash buffer, ahead of the conclusion of the current program of support by the institutions. Furthermore, in 2017 3 billion Euros were borrowed from the markets, signaling a return of trust and repeating a similar 2014 experiment.

Source:
Directorate of Programming and Fiscal Data, Ministry of Finance

66 European Systems Account (ESA).
ANNEX E: Glossary of acronyms

AAAA Addis Ababa Action Agenda
ACP (WP) (Working Party on) Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
ADBAfrican Development Bank
AEN Academies of Merchant Marine
APFAfrican Peace Facility
ASLEAssociation for the Study of Literature and Environment
AUA Agricultural University of Athens
AUC African Union Commission
AUNAPColombian National Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries
BSECBlack Sea Economic Cooperation
BSTDBBlack Sea Trade and Development Bank
CAASChinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
CARCentral African Republic
CBECommunity-Based Education
CCECCCCaribbean Community Climate Change Center
CDRCouncil for Development and Reconstruction
CERFCentral Emergency Response Fund
CHFSwiss Franc
CIHEAMCentre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
CIRCA BCCommunication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations, Businesses and Citizens
CODEV (WP) (Working Party) on Development Cooperation
COHAFAP (Working Party) on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
CONCORDEuropean NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
COP2121st Conference of Parties
COREPERCommittee of Permanent Representatives
CPACotonou Partnership Agreement
CRSCreditor Reporting System
CSOCivil Society Organizations
CSRCorporate Social Responsibility
DACDevelopment Assistance Committee
DCIDevelopment Cooperation Instrument
DRRDisaster Risk Reduction
DEVCOInternational Cooperation and Development
DGDirectororate General
ECAEducational and Cultural Affairs
ECHOEuropean Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDF</td>
<td>European Development Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDRIS</td>
<td>Electronic Data Research and Innovation Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIU</td>
<td>Economist Intelligence Unit</td>
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<td>EKDDA</td>
<td>“Ethniko Kentro Demosias Dioikeses kai Aftodioikeses” Greek National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EKEPY</td>
<td>“Ethniko Kentro Epiheireseon Ygeias” (National Center of Health Operations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELGO</td>
<td>Greek Agricultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELSTAT</td>
<td>Hellenic Statistical Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENI</td>
<td>European Neighborhood Instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENPE</td>
<td>“Enose Perifereion Ellados” (Association of Greek Regions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOSDOS</td>
<td>Committee for the Organization and Coordination of International Economic Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERML</td>
<td>Environmental Resource Monitoring Project in Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>European Systems Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESC</td>
<td>European Solidarity Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESDDDA</td>
<td>National School of Public Administration and Local Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUTFs</td>
<td>EU Trust Funds</td>
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<td>EVHAC</td>
<td>European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>EYD</td>
<td>European Year of Development</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<td>FRIT</td>
<td>Facility for Refugees in Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTS</td>
<td>Financial Tracking System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYROM</td>
<td>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCET</td>
<td>Global Code of Ethics for Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENE</td>
<td>Global Education Network - Europe Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFCC</td>
<td>Gross fixed capital formation</td>
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<td>GGD</td>
<td>General Government Debt</td>
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<tr>
<td>GHD</td>
<td>Good Humanitarian Donorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross National Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSG</td>
<td>General Secretariat of the Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSP</td>
<td>Generalized Scheme of Preferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAF</td>
<td>Hellenic Air Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBA</td>
<td>Hellenic Bank Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>HICP</td>
<td>Harmonized Indicator of Consumer Prices</td>
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<td>HiPERB</td>
<td>Hellenic Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLPF</td>
<td>High-Level Political Forum</td>
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<td>HNDGS</td>
<td>Hellenic National Defence General Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>IATI</td>
<td>International Aid Transparency Initiative</td>
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ICAMAS  International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
ICRC  International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT  Information and Communication Technology
IEA  International Energy Agency
IHL  International Humanitarian Law
IKY  Greek State Scholarships Foundation
IOC  Indian Ocean Commission
IOM  International Organization for Migration
IPA  Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IRENA  International Renewable Energy Agency
ITU  International Telecommunication Union
KEDE  “Kentriki Enose Demon Elladas” (Central Union of Municipalities of Greece)
KEELPNO  Kentro Eleghou kai Prolepses Nosematon” (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)
KENE  Central Law Preparatory Committee
KNE  Marine Education Capital
KUWS  Kabul Urban Water Supply
LCEP-2  Learning for Community Empowerment Program
LDCs  Least Developed Countries
LMICs  Lower Middle Income Countries
MAICH  Mediterranean Agronomical Institute of Chania
MDGs  Millennium Development Goals
MEM  Meeting of Environment Ministers
MFA  Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MGI  Migration Governance Indicators
MoU  Memorandum of Understanding
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGOs  Non-Governmental Organizations
NMIOTC  NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center
NRM  National Referral Mechanism
NSPA  NATO Support and Procurement Agency
ODA  Official Development Assistance
OECD  Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIF  Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
OLICs  Other Low Income Countries
PCD  Policy Coherence for Development
PCSD  Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
PROCIV (WP)  (Working Party on) Civil Protection
PSC  Political Security Committee
RGDP  Real Gross Domestic Product
SDGs  Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS  Small Island Developing States
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>Small and medium-sized enterprises</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWRO</td>
<td>Salt Water Reserve Osmosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>TFEU</td>
<td>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THB</td>
<td>Trafficking in Human Beings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOSSD</td>
<td>Total Official Support for Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TR-AID</td>
<td>Transparent Aid tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMICs</td>
<td>Upper Middle-Income Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDPKO</td>
<td>United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEKE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNGA</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIFIL</td>
<td>United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISDR</td>
<td>United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN OCHA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine in the Near East</td>
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<td>UNWTO</td>
<td>United Nations World Tourism Organization</td>
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<td>UPU</td>
<td>Universal Postal Union</td>
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<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollar</td>
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<td>United for Smart Sustainable Cities</td>
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<td>VNR</td>
<td>Voluntary National Review</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Program</td>
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<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>“Yperesia Diethnous Anaptyksiakes Synergasias” (Directorate-General of International Development Cooperation)</td>
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<td>YPAAT</td>
<td>Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food</td>
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