

Iceland
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Norway grants

EEA FM 2014-2021 ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Thursday, 18 November 2021
Hybrid event



Strategic report

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Special Service EEA FM - National Focal Point
General Secretariat for Public Investments & NSRF

Strategic Report

November 2020 – October 2021

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Political, economic and social context

- **Stable and continuous administration** without elections, extended reshuffles or other major changes
- **Strong pressure to economy by pandemic** - Recession and low incomes for the state budget
- **Optimism by positive trends**, i.e. tourism sector recovered significantly, measures for the economic recovery, recession halted, consumer's index improved
- **Further acceleration** of digital transformation and public e-services
- **Asylum and migration:** significant de-escalation of arrivals and of related challenges

Political, economic and social context

Development planning

A constructive year for financial mechanisms and tools' setup

- European Union cohesion policy and the National Strategic Reference Framework-NSRF – Programming period 2021-2027
- "Next Generation EU" and other EU financial tools for the Covid19 crisis recovery
- National Development Program (EPA)

Political, economic and social context

EU cohesion policy and the National Strategic Reference Framework-NSRF – Programming period 2021-2027

Total budget: approx. 26bn Euros (national contribution included)

- “A **smarter Europe** through the promotion of innovative and smart economic transformation”
- “A **greener low carbon and resilient Europe** through the promotion of clean and equitable energy transitions, green and blue investments, the circular economy, climate change adaptation and the prevention and management of policy crisis”
- “A **more social Europe** through the implementation of the European pillar of social rights”
- “A **Europe closer to its citizens**, through the promotion of sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas, as well as through the support of local initiatives”
- **Specific Objective for the Just Transition Fund**

Political, economic and social context

"Next Generation EU" and the Recovery and Resilience Facility - RRF

A major recovery package for the period 2021-2027

Total budget of € 31 billion (of which € 12 billion in grants)

4 policy objectives:

- **Promoting** the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Union
- **Strengthening** economic and social resilience
- **Reducing** the social and economic effects of the crisis
- **Supporting** green and digital transformation

Political, economic and social context

National Development Program (EPA)

Total budget of € 10 billion

5 policy pillars:

- *Smart* Growth
- *Green* Growth
- *Social* Growth
- *Infrastructure* Development
- *Extroversion*

EEA FM 2014-2021 implementation

Major Milestones at the National Level

- Annual Meeting 2020, 26 November
- Mid Term Review, Reserve allocation & MoU modification
- For the Bilateral Fund - 4 new strategic initiatives selected & an open call published
- Project contracts for projects in Technical Assistance of NFP, CA, SS MIS, MOU SA
- Communication strategy unfolded with highlight the participation to Thessaloniki International Fair
- Strategic Report – September 2021
- Annual Meeting 2021, 18 November

EEA FM 2014-2021 implementation

Mid Term Review & Reserve allocation

Greece **submitted** to FMO its midterm review of the programmes & reserve allocation proposal on 30 December 2020. The proposal was based on criteria, such as:

- **Programmes' implementation progress**
- **Policy priorities**
- **Readiness & Feasibility for the implementation of the additional activities**

Donors/FMO **accepted** the Greek proposal on 26 April 2021 and suggested a minor reallocation in-between the FMO operated programmes.

As a result, the **total amount** of EUR 7.479.448 (€ 6.146.115 EEA FM and € 1.333.333 national contribution for the Greek operated programmes) , was allocated to the following programmes:

GR Roma inclusion: EUR 700.000

GR Water management: EUR 1.800.000

GR Energy: EUR 3.333.333

GR Active Citizens Fund-ACF (FMO managed): EUR 1.446.115

GR Local development (FMO managed): EUR 500. 000

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Status of Greek managed Programmes

Programmes	Budget	Modalities	State of play	Outstanding issues Lessons learned
B - Roma Inclusion and Empowerment	7,7 ME (5,5ME + 2,2ME)	2 predefined projects, 3 small grant schemes and bilateral activities	2 predefined projects contracts - issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consecutive public procurement in pdp2 presupposes effective time management Update of costs and budgeting of pdp2 through market search
D - Water Management	6,5 ME (5,2ME + 1,3ME)	2 open calls, 1 small grant scheme and bilateral activities	Approx. 7-8 projects selected by open call – project contracts pending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registry of external experts didn't fit fluently in the evaluation procedure Part of assessment/evaluation procedure should be executed by PO Long elaborations of open calls with FMO – Repetition of issues set in MCS
E - Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency	13,3 ME (10ME + 3,3ME)	1 open call, and bilateral activities	13 projects selected by open call- project contracts issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects have started implementation according to planning Next risk to mitigate possible delays in public procurement
F - Good Governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency	8,2ME (7ME + 1,2ME)	3 predefined projects and bilateral activities	3 predefined projects contracts - issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA condition of signed partnership agreements led to delays of projects contracts Good pre-project contract preparation will contribute to acceleration during implementation Complex public procurement scheme in pdp1 presupposes efficient time & resources management
G -Asylum and Migration (Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems)	19,4 ME (16,5ME + 2,9 ME)	8 predefined projects, 1 small grant scheme and bilateral activities	4 out of 8 predefined projects contracts - issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays due to fine tuning of PA with modifications The programme accelerated with the projects' contracts The Ministry of Migration must be supported for more than 15 public procurement procedures in total for 5 projects

Status of Bilateral Fund

- *Strategic initiatives*
 - 4 new selected – 10 in total
 - 4 initiatives completed or will be completed before the end of 2021
 - 2 are on-going in implementation
 - pending due to pandemic restrictions
- *Open call (published)*
 - All eligible entities according to Regulation
 - All sectors with focus to thematic areas of common interest
 - Budget € 400.000
 - Maximum grant per initiative € 80.000

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Technical Assistance

- *New projects with beneficiaries of TA:*

- National Focal Point
- Certifying Authority
- Special Service MIS
- MOU SA

- *NFP activities implemented*

- Website, Annual meeting , publicity and promotion, including participation to Thessaloniki International Fair

- *NFP activities planned*

- Annual meeting, implementation support for the Bilateral Fund, ongoing evaluation of programmes consultancy services for legal and accounting issues, publicity and promotion, travels

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Management of the implementation

a. Monitoring

- *Continuous monitoring, coordination, risk assessment and mitigation actions*
- *Trainings on MCS coordinated by NFP in collaboration with Certifying Authority, MOU sa and Special Service MIS, in March and April 2021, covering Legal framework, Operational Procedures, Management Information System (OPS EOX) >150 participants from POs and PPs.*
- *All involved authorities apply procedures of MCS as relevant, such as calls, project contracts, payments and verification of expenditure, IFRs, forecasts of likely payments, reporting*

EEA FM 2014-2021 implementation

Management of the implementation

b. Irregularities

No irregularities reported in the reference period

c. Complaints

1 complaint reported in the reference period, was forwarded to Greek AFCOS

d. Audit

Audit strategy was adopted by Audit Authority (EDEL) on 8/9/2020, for all programmes and period 2014-2021. As this strategy had been adopted before Programme Agreements, the strategy was updated on 10/6/2021 and sets out methodology, sampling method and planning

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Evaluation plan

In line with the Regulation, Art. 10.1 and the Evaluation plan submitted from NFP to FMO, evaluation will be periodic and will develop in 2 phases:

The **on-going** evaluation phase:

- To be decided 1 year after the commencement of implementation (MD-PIA in effect)
- Only for programmes with delays or other divergence in relation to their PA design
- Formative, to provide feedback for recovery/redesign

The **ex-post** phase:

- By the end of the implementation period
- For all programmes
- Summative, to provide with valuable insight and awareness for future use

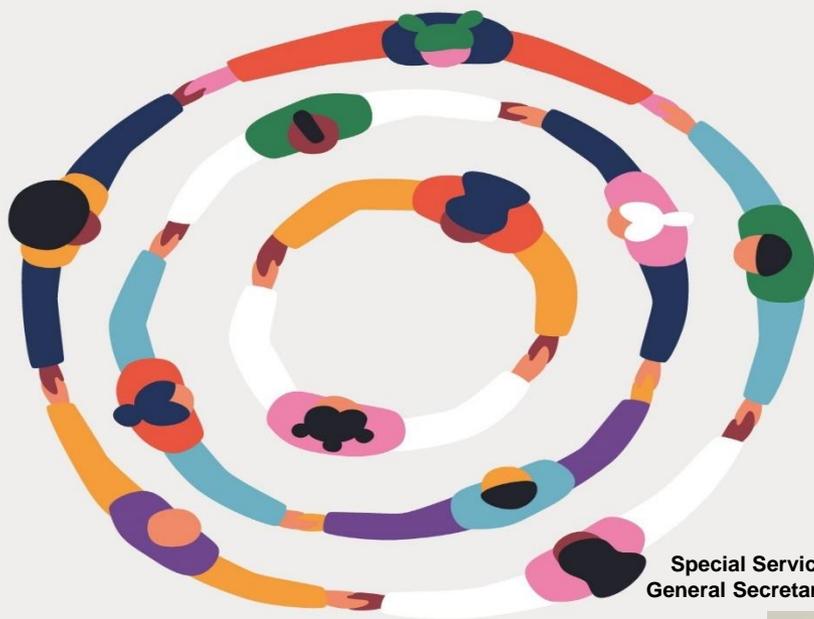
In line with the above criteria, and due to initial delays and PA modifications, an on-going evaluation was decided for **Asylum & Migration programme**. Further assessment for other programmes will follow and on-going evaluation may be initiated for other programmes in the year ahead.

Issues for the Annual meeting 2021

- **Status of Programmes:** Progress and outstanding issues of implementation, timeframe, risks, planning and goals for the year ahead
- **Status of the Bilateral Fund:** Progress, strategic initiatives, open call, timeframe, planning and goals for the year ahead
- **Communication -Publicity:** Strategy and progress, planning, dynamic showcase of complementary programmes and projects, effective and captivating dissemination of the new EEA Grants campaign taking into account both the linguistic and the cultural idiosyncrasies of Greece
- **Organizational issues of NFP – Technical Assistance:** Progress and planning
- **AOB** according to issues raised by Donors and the participants

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Thank you everyone for your attention and for our fruitful cooperation throughout the year !



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