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When a community comes together, the future takes shape — this is where the foundations of the 2021–2028 period begin.

Before the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): The foundation of the new 2021–2028 period

**EEA Grants Greece**

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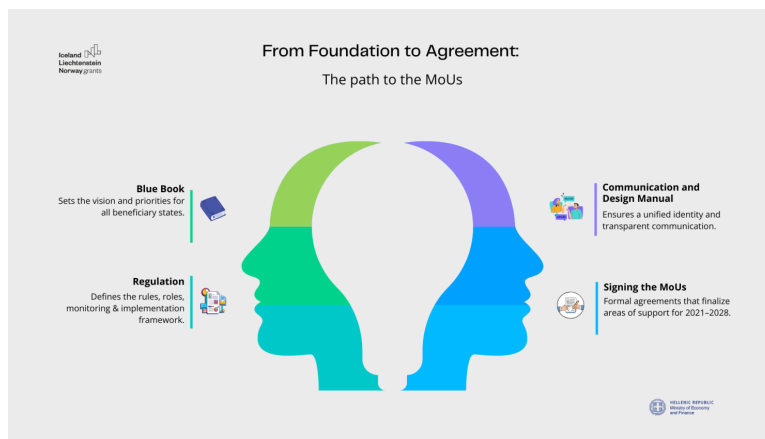


December 4, 2025

A closer look at the key documents that set the strategic direction before programmes are designed.

As we move steadily into the 2021–2028 funding period, we open this space to explore *what happens before programmes take shape*. Before priorities are agreed, partnerships are formed, and actions reach communities, there is always a first step: **the strategic foundation**.

This issue of **Together for Impact** invites you behind the scenes of that preparation — a phase defined by clarity, cooperation, and shared purpose across donor and beneficiary states.



The documents that guide the path to the MoUs.

📘 The Blue Book: Where everything begins

◆ What it is

The **Blue Book 2021–2028** is the cornerstone document of the **EEA and Norway Grants**. It sets the overall objectives, principles, areas of support, and implementation mechanisms for all programmes across beneficiary countries.


◆ Why it matters

- It defines the *vision* and *direction* for the entire funding period.
- It guides negotiations with beneficiary states.
- It ensures a results-oriented approach from the very beginning.

A programme's story starts here.



The strategic foundation of the new EEA and Norway Grants period.

 The [Regulation](#) on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2021-2028: The architecture of implementation

◆ What it is

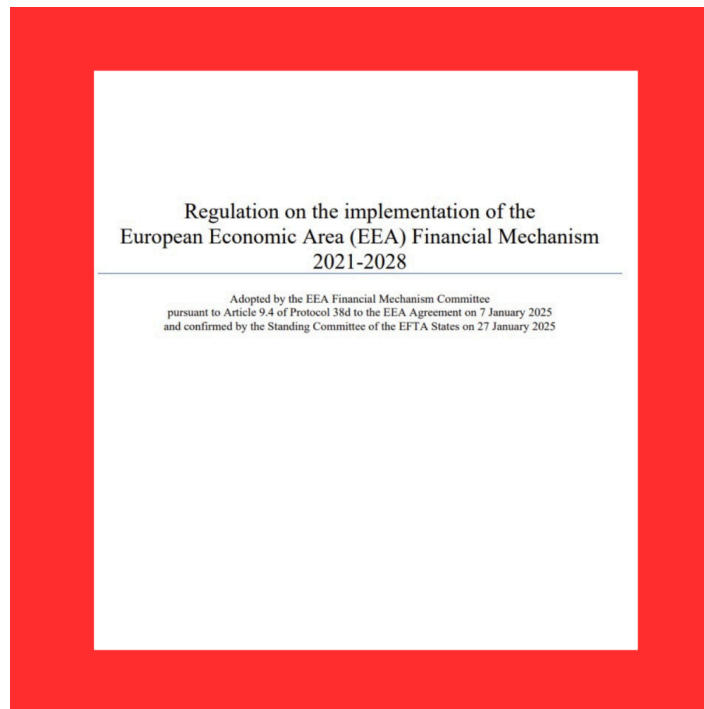
The **Regulation** serves as the legal and operational framework for the EEA and Norway Grants.

◆ Why it matters

It sets out:

- roles and responsibilities of National Focal Points (NFPs), Programme Operators (POs), Project Promoters (PPs), and donor counterparts
- rules for programme development
- financial management standards
- monitoring, reporting, and audits.
- transversal priorities include good governance, transparency, communication, and bilateral cooperation.

The Regulation is the “architecture” that makes cooperation predictable, accountable, and effective.



The operational framework that defines roles, rules, and standards.

🗣️ Communication and Design Manual: How we speak as one mechanism

◆ What it is

A **practical guide** ensuring that all communication across beneficiary states reflects a unified identity for the EEA and Norway Grants.

◆ Why it matters for Greece

- Defines terminology, visual identity, and messaging.
- Ensures consistency and clarity across hundreds of projects and institutions.
- Shapes the way programmes are presented to the public — accessible, transparent, human-centred.

It is the document that translates institutional identity into everyday communication.



Establishes a unified and coherent brand identity for the Grants.

All these lead to one point: The MoUs

The Blue Book, the Regulation, and the Communication & Design Manual all converge in a critical milestone: the **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)**.

The MoUs formalise:

- areas of support specific to each country
- budget allocations
- programme structure
- the commitments made between donor and beneficiary states.

They turn strategic direction into **agreed priorities** — paving the way for programme design, partnership building, and ultimately, impact on the ground.

In this new period, the EEA Grants in Greece will continue to build on a strong foundation of cooperation, institutional know-how, and a shared belief in public value.

As the framework for the 2021–2028 period takes shape, we look forward to sharing the next steps, the stories that follow, and the people who make this cooperation meaningful.

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🤝 Working together for a green, democratic and resilient Europe.

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Together for impact

This newsletter brings forward stories of impact, cooperation, and change across Greece.

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