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A new chapter began on 20 March 2026.

## From Signature to Shared Action: The EEA Grants 2021–2028 Take Shape in Greece

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May 5, 2026

A new chapter has officially begun for the EEA Grants in Greece.

Over the past weeks, a series of important milestones marked the launch of the 2021–2028 programming period, bringing together national authorities, representatives from the Norwegian Embassy in Athens, donor state representatives, Programme Operators, Fund Operators, Donor Programme Partners, Project Promoters and key stakeholders who will contribute to the design and implementation of the new programmes in Greece.

From the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to the Kick-off Meeting and the two-day seminar with representatives of the Financial Mechanism Office, these first steps created the framework for a new period of cooperation, preparation and shared responsibility.

The new programming period is guided by the overarching objective of the EEA Grants: **Working together for a green, democratic and resilient Europe.** In Greece, this objective will be translated into programmes, partnerships and projects that respond to key priorities, strengthen cooperation with the donor states — Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway — and

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The recent events did not simply mark the formal start of a new funding cycle. They also opened a space for dialogue, coordination and practical preparation among the actors who will shape the next years of implementation.

### **The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The Memorandum of Understanding for the EEA Grants 2021–2028 in Greece was signed on 20 March, officially setting the framework for the new programming period.

The ceremony brought together representatives of Greece and the donor states, confirming the shared commitment to continue and strengthen cooperation through the EEA Grants. The signing marked an important institutional moment, establishing the basis for the programmes that will be developed and implemented in the coming years.


Moments from the signing ceremony

Beyond its formal significance, the ceremony also reflected the spirit of partnership that lies at the heart of the EEA Grants. The new period builds on previous experience, while opening the way for renewed priorities, new collaborations and a stronger focus on impact.

### **The Kick-off Meeting: Moving from agreement to preparation**

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Kick-off Meeting marked the beginning of a more operational phase.

The meeting brought together representatives from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Athens, the Financial Mechanism Office, Programme Operators and Fund Operators, Donor Programme Partners, Project Promoters and other colleagues involved in the new programming period.

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#### Kick-off meeting highlights

Discussions focused on the main objectives of the EEA Grants 2021–2028 in Greece, the priorities of the new period, and the importance of coordination, timely preparation, and shared understanding among all partners.

A key element of the meeting was the opportunity for open exchange. Through presentations and thematic discussions, participants reflected on the development of the new programmes, the role of partnerships, and the practical steps needed in the period ahead.

The Kick-off Meeting also created an important opportunity for back-to-back meetings with the programmes, allowing for more focused exchanges, practical coordination, and a deeper discussion of priorities and next steps.

#### **A two-day seminar with the Financial Mechanism Office**

The momentum continued with a two-day seminar in Athens, organised with the participation of representatives from the Financial Mechanism Office.

The seminar provided an opportunity for more detailed guidance and exchange on key aspects of the new programming period. It supported Programme Operators and relevant stakeholders in deepening their understanding of the requirements, tools, and approaches that will shape the development and implementation of the new programmes.

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From framework to implementation

Among the issues discussed were programme preparation, results-based management, coordination procedures, financial requirements, and the practical steps needed to ensure that the new period begins on a strong and coherent basis.

The seminar also underlined the importance of shared knowledge. As the EEA Grants are implemented by a broad community of actors, effective communication, coordination, and mutual understanding are essential for turning strategic priorities into concrete results.

### Building the new period together.

Taken together, the signing ceremony, the Kick-off Meeting, and the two-day seminar formed the first sequence of a broader process: the transition from formal agreement to active preparation.

They also highlighted a central feature of the EEA Grants: cooperation is not only an objective, but also a method. The new programming period will be shaped through dialogue, partnership, and coordination among many different actors, each contributing from their own role and field of expertise.

As Greece enters the 2021–2028 period, the focus now turns to programme development, partnership building, and the preparation of actions that can deliver meaningful results in line with the shared priorities of the EEA Grants.


This is the beginning of a new cycle of cooperation — one that builds on previous achievements, responds to today's challenges, and looks ahead to a green, democratic and resilient Europe.

### Useful links





Presentations from the Kick-off Meeting and the two-day seminar are now available [on our website](#). (Additional manuals by the Financial Mechanism Office on Results-Based Management and Financial guidance are also available for reference.)



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2028 in Greece, as the new programmes take shape and the next steps of implementation unfold.


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