



HELLENIC REPUBLIC


NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME 2023

ANNEX TABLE 5

Reporting on SDGs


April 2023

TABLE 5: REPORTING ON SDGs: DESCRIPTION OF MAIN FORWARD-LOOKING MEASURES AND THEIR ESTIMATED IMPACT


SDG	List of main contributing measures	Estimated impact of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment by the Greek banks of an additional support scheme for vulnerable debtors, that aims to subsidize a part of the increase in the interest rate of the loans to vulnerable borrowers who are not in default, to make it easier for them to pay their loans and thus protect their main residence. ▪ The Interim Scheme for the State support of the main residence loans of vulnerable households is a program that aims to provide financial assistance to vulnerable households in Greece who are struggling to make mortgage payments on their primary residence. The program provides a state subsidy for the mortgage installment of vulnerable debtors until the launching of the Sale and Lease Back Organization (SLBO). This can help to alleviate some of the financial burden for these households and prevent them from defaulting on their mortgages. The establishment of the SLBO will protect vulnerable debtors' primary residence from enforcement actions, by enabling them to set up an arrangement with the SLBO that includes the option to transfer their primary residence to the SLBO and lease it back for a period of up to 12 years, after which they could buy it back. ▪ The National Strategy for Financial Literacy for Greece aims to increase the financial literacy of the whole population in Greece. The National Strategy for Financial Literacy can help to promote financial education and awareness among people of all ages and backgrounds, and it can support financial stability and reduce the risk of over-indebtedness. ▪ Establishment of i) of the Independent Credit rating Authority and the Public Credit 	<p>Greece has set the priority of reducing at least by half the proportion of people living in poverty and to achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. The main challenge is to address the high poverty rates created between 2008 and 2013, as a result of an economic crisis which brought an increase in unemployment rates together with a pre-existing inadequate social safety net. Special measures are also in place for the significant numbers of asylum seekers in order to reduce poverty risk and to ensure adequate living conditions.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2021, the rate of individuals at risk of poverty or social exclusion continued to decrease, reaching 28.3%, which is 0.5% lower than in 2020, despite the pandemic outbreak. However, the rate of individuals at risk

	<p>Bureau (Law 4972/2022), which will provide a valid and objective credit rating of natural persons and legal entities, based on their data and payment profile towards the public sector (tax authorities and social security institutions), in order to fill the information gap and information asymmetry between creditors and debtors and (ii) the development of a monitoring Registry for private debt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operation of a debtor guidance mechanism in the early stages of financial distress. By providing training services for professional advisors and employees of the Special Secretariat of Private Debt, these individuals will be better equipped to provide effective guidance and support to those in financial distress. The provision of Mentoring Services by advisors to entrepreneurs and legal entities via a voucher is another component of this mechanism. This can help to ensure that those who are struggling financially have access to expert advice and guidance to help them make informed decisions about their finances and manage their debts more effectively. ▪ Law for “State support to businesses and nonprofit entities for damages from natural disasters”. ▪ Adoption of the “Help at Home” as a national programme implemented by the municipalities of the country for the elderly, the persons with disabilities, living alone or having a low income. ▪ Provision of housing, healthcare, food and clothing provided in kind or in vouchers and monthly financial allowances to asylum seekers ensuring that their needs are met without exposure to financial hardship, in full compliance with international and European obligations. ▪ National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction and the Action Plan for its implementation: includes the goals, political priorities, implemented and planned programs/ actions of the Greek Government for the new programming period 2021-2027. The actions aim at the social integration and reintegration of the special and 	<p>of poverty after social transfers in 2021 increased to 19.6%, which is higher than the 2020 rate of 17.7%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Material and social deprivation, by gender and age groups: 2020– 2021 (ELSTAT) The material and social deprivation in 2021 (“Europe 2030”) shows a decrease by 1 percentage point as compared to 2020 (13.9% and 14.9%, respectively), in the total population. ● A significant decrease of people living in poor housing conditions has been observed as the rate has dropped, despite the financial crisis, from 17,1% (2010) to 12,5% (2020). ● Keeping houses warm is a challenge for Greek people, as 17.5% (2021) of the population still cannot adequately meet this need despite the significant decrease in the high rates of the financial crisis. ● The adjusted disposable income of households per capita increased by 9%
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	<p>vulnerable groups of the population and at the reduction of poverty. The process of monitoring and evaluation has begun by the national and local level bodies of the National Mechanism for Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of social inclusion and social cohesion policies, and the five thematic working groups of the Secretary General for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty that are supporting bodies for consultation and monitoring of the National Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Reintegration of the Most Vulnerable Groups: The aim of this program is to help Guaranteed Minimum Income beneficiaries and homeless people reintegrate into the labour market through a comprehensive upskilling and employment program. It will be implemented through a call for applications from April 2023 to March 2024. ▪ The National Plan for the Child Guarantee has been developed with the objective to address child poverty and social exclusion, in order to successfully implement the EU Child Guarantee framework and to monitor and evaluate its progress and outcomes. ▪ National Roma Integration Strategy and Action Plan, 2021-2030: promotes actions in the areas of fighting poverty and social exclusion, as well as equal and non-discriminatory access of Roma to housing, healthcare, education and skills development, social care and employment. A Government Committee has been set up to coordinate and prioritize actions. Additionally, an Advisory Committee was established, with the participation of competent administration bodies and representatives of Roma organizations, to submit proposals to the Governmental Committee. ▪ The HELIOS integration programme is being implemented since June 2019 and aims at promoting integration of beneficiaries of international and temporary protection currently residing in temporary accommodation schemes into the Greek society, through accommodation and employability support, integration monitoring and sensitization of the host community. In total 43,937 refugees enrolled since the 	<p>in 2021 compared to 2020 and is gradually approaching the levels seen before the financial crisis, specifically those from the period of 2009-2010</p>
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	<p>beginning of the project, 22,070 refugees used HELIOS rental subsidiaries and 19 Integration Learning Centers were established throughout Greece. Recent developments regard the inclusion of Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war as well as the enhancement of the employability support component.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The competent Ministry of Migration and Asylum is leading the planning, monitoring and implementation of the National Strategy for Integration of legally residing third country nationals, in collaboration with other Ministries, local authorities, international organizations and the civil society organizations, by implementing a variety of measures and actions which promote equal access to education, healthcare, culture, justice, civil life, goods and services in general. 	
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food and meals distribution system through the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) ▪ The National Programme for the Promotion of Physical Activity and Healthy Diet was established to control and manage the risk factors associated with poor diet and lack of physical activity. ▪ The national School Meals Programme, for primary schools in underprivileged areas. The program is gradually expanded each school year. In the current school year 2022-2023, 1,629 schools with 207,514 pupils have been included in the programme, while the programme will continue in 2023-2024. ▪ A key milestone for tackling obesity is the roll-out of the National Action Plan for Public Health 2021-25 that encompasses a comprehensive program to address the risk of obesity in Greece, with a focus on combating childhood obesity. ▪ The "Economic Transformation of the Agri-Food Sector" reform for food safety and adequacy, prioritizes actions such as strengthening innovation and transition to "green" processing of agricultural products, "green" agritourism, restructuring of crops and genetic improvement of animals. 	<p>The Government is ensuring that not only food but quality nutrition is accessible by all, particularly underprivileged children. The efforts include humanitarian assistance and safety nets for individuals facing the threat of starvation during the increased migration flows that arrived in Greece, while securing long-term food and nutrition security to asylum seekers. The high rates of obesity are another crucial target, with efforts focusing on improving the overall lifestyle of citizens, introducing more physical activity and health education.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Overweight (pre-obese and obese) adults in Greece remain a relatively stable proportion of the population at 57,6% with a tendency to increase. This ranks the country above the EU-members average, although not in the highest cluster. There is currently an effort to bring out obesity as a serious risk factor for health problems and diseases.● The index of real income for agricultural factors per annual unit of work showed fluctuations during the period 2010-2018. Since 2019, it has demonstrated an increase, with the index reaching 145.9 units in 2022, which is 1.9 units higher than the euro zone average. This increase is mainly due to the implementation of policies in the agricultural sector, which place emphasis on technological and organizational modernization, human resources development, close cooperation with research agencies, and the repositioning of Greek agri-food products to the domestic and
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		<p>international markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government financial support to agricultural R&D which had been relatively low at up to 3.1 euros per inhabitant, shows an increasing trend especially after 2019 and onwards, reaching 5.3 euros per inhabitant (2019). Areas under organic farming increase slowly, marking 1% more in a decade. During the period 2011-2018, the government's financial support for agricultural R&D was relatively low, at an average of 2.65 euros per inhabitant. However, in the following period from 2019-2021, this support showed an increasing trend, reaching around 4.7 euros per inhabitant. The areas under organic farming have slowly increased, marking a 1% increase over the course of a decade.
<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yearly National Vaccination Programme, targeting specific and vulnerable groups of the population, children, minors and adults, mobile populations and populations at risk. ▪ The "Spyros Doxiadis" programme for public health, is focused on the early detection of common Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the general population. The 	<p>Reforms promoted in the healthcare sector emphasize on improving accessibility for all to healthcare services, regardless their socioeconomic status, health status or residence. Moreover, a core pursuit is to</p>

	<p>program addresses the unmet needs for early identification and effective secondary prevention of diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer that are mainly responsible for the majority of premature deaths in Greece. It also includes prenatal and perinatal screening for 270,000 pregnant women and perinatal screening for 270,000 newborns over the next 3 years, a National Program for the Promotion of Physical Exercise and Healthy Nutrition and an Alcohol prevention programme (estimated to benefit 291,000 young people in the 14-24 age group); it includes educational programmes, intensifying controls against illegal supply to minors, strengthening of rehabilitation centers and the establishment of an Inpatient Centre for Alcohol Addicts. The “Fofi Gennimata” programme for population breast cancer is under way. Until now more than 120,000 mammograms have been performed and approximately 7,500 women have been identified early and referred for further clinical evaluation and investigation of the findings. Two more programs are to be launched, the "Dental Pass" program that provides access to free dental care for all children aged 6-12 and the cervical cancer prevention program, which involves 2.5 million women aged 21 - 65 years old. Actions are also being planned to destigmatize menstruation in young girls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National screening program for vulnerable groups in remote areas. ▪ Psychosocial Support Helpline 10306: Established during the pandemic it is now expanded providing tele-counseling and support by qualified professionals for the general population, free of charge and on a 24-hour basis. The range of services include psychiatric care to patients with mental illness, psychological support to children and families, psychological support to health personnel and social support to the general public of age for any mental health issue. The line’s scope was also extended to support children, adolescents and their families and wildfire- or earthquake-stricken citizens. 	<p>achieve a shift of model from care to prevention, in order to eliminate preventable and treatable causes of mortality whilst tackling behavioral and environmental factors that are linked to mortality rates, such as tobacco and alcohol use or dietary habits. Reforms in the PHC as well as rationalization of health expenditure is also expected to result in reduction of the out-of-pocket health spending which is one of the highest in the EU. The Ministry of Defense aims to support and improve health services provided by the State to both civilians and military personnel.</p> <p>In the field of mental health, all planned interventions are aiming to promote, prevent & reduce stigmatization and increase support to vulnerable groups of the population providing integrated and responsive services in community-based facilities.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Healthy life years for both sexes from
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tele-psychiatry platform for children and adolescents and a Tele-psychiatry Network, in the form of an integrated digital outpatient clinic (prescribing, diagnosis, issuing certificates). The operation of services in Kastelorizo and Symi has already begun, while similar units will be developed in border islands and mountainous areas. ▪ The National Action Plan for Mental Health (2021-2030), which includes policies and interventions to promote, protect and strengthen mental health for all and especially for vulnerable groups, has already been adopted. ▪ 56 mental health units have already been rendered operational in 2022 and they are expected to reach 106 by the end of 2023. ▪ A range of specialized mental health services and programmes will be available for: 1) patients with dementia and Alzheimer's disease 2) patients with autism 3) children, adolescents and young adults 4) employed and unemployed people, migrants and refugees 5) training of health personnel 6) Psycho-education and support of the general population and patients with chronic diseases 7) timely intervention in psychosis in health care units New short-stay facilities for patients with autism throughout Greece and creation of distance learning psychoeducation and support programs for their family or caregivers ▪ The implementation of the Greek DRG System is being accelerated by strengthening the digital infrastructure of the Greek DRG institute-KETEKNY (Q2/2025), training adequate number of clinical coders and ensuring that all Greek hospitals will have the appropriate Clinical Information Systems in order to capture the patient journey within the Digital Patient Record ▪ Regarding healthcare quality and patient safety, ODIPY will develop a Common Assessment Framework and the digital infrastructure to collect and analyze the appropriate quality metrics and propose the appropriate changes to the National Health Map in close collaboration with the WHO and their Regional Office for Patient 	<p>2015 to 2020 is around 65 years, showing a slight decrease in the pandemic years. However, the number of remaining years that a person of specific age is expected to live without any severe or moderate health problems, has not yet returned to the levels of the period before the financial crisis (67 years).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Despite the multi-year economic crisis and the outbreak of the pandemic, the percentage of people with self-perceived health as “good” or “very good” has risen slightly over a decade, from 75.6% to 78.3%. [2011-2021] ● Smoking prevalence remains significant as a problem, with the percentage of the population aged 15 years and over who report tobacco smoking every day, showing a marginal rise between 2012 and 2020 (40% and 42% respectively). ● Apart from a minor setback regarding HIV, the standardized death rate due to tuberculosis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and hepatitis by type of disease remained
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	<p>Safety and Quality based in Athens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In order to support the inhabitants of mountainous and remote/inaccessible regions, a new preventive medicine programme, “Prevention at Home” makes possible medical examinations at home for the inhabitants of the above regions who belong to vulnerable groups of population as well as an automated dispatch of the results to contracted practitioners through the use of information and communication technologies. ▪ Authorities legislated the institution of personal doctor into the public health system. The reform includes changes to ensure equal access to healthcare for all citizens through a personal doctor, effective gatekeeping via a referral system that will relieve hospitals from unnecessary patient visits and provides incentives for doctors to enroll citizens in the new PHC system as well as disincentive is the charging of 50% (or more) os for self-referrals. At the same time, a comprehensive plan covering infrastructure, equipment and organisational restructuring is being implemented. ▪ Restoration and modernisation of 80 hospitals all over Greece is underway. ▪ The establishment of the "Midwives at Home" program (L. 4999/2022) which promotes natural childbirth and midwifery care at home. The newly established framework aims to promote the physical and psychological health of the mother during pregnancy and childbirth, the specialized care of each woman and newborn, as well as the support and empowerment of the woman and her partner as a parent. ▪ The establishment of the National Registry of Palliative Care Patients and, for the first time, of a palliative care service provision system (L 5007/2022). ▪ The establishment of 8 reference sites and of a national registry for patients treated through home care is being promoted. The program is expected to start with oncology patients. ▪ Program accessibility and support infrastructure for people with mobility and sensory 	<p>very low, and even decreased slightly from 2012 (1.6) to to 2020 (1.18).[lower than eu average]</p>
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	<p>impairments aims to finance small and large scale adaptations in public and private buildings in order to make them accessible for persons with disabilities. The interventions will be made in residences, private and public workplaces and in the branches of the Social Welfare Centers of the Regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Greek Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) has requested and is currently receiving technical support from DG REFORM to adequately design and implement a framework for quality Alternative Long-Term Care (ALTC) services on a pilot basis, which is under development. ▪ Greece is implementing a legislative initiative, the Temporary Social Security Number specifically aimed at asylum seekers (PAAYPA) in order to ensure full and free access both to healthcare and social insurance ▪ Greece has adopted free health care policies with the aim to reduce the financial barriers. In this respect, the right to free access to primary, secondary and tertiary health care is also guaranteed for refugees and legally residing migrants, even if they are unemployed. ▪ In September 2022, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Migration & Asylum, the Ministry of Health, and the International Organization of “SOS Children's Villages” for the promotion and enhancement of unaccompanied minors’ mental health and psychosocial support. ▪ Air medical evacuation flights across the country and abroad are carried out by the Ministry of Defense supplementary to the Ministry of Health, in response to requests from the National Emergency Aid Centre. ▪ The Ministry of Defense aims to support and improve health services provided by the State to both civilians and military personnel. Periodic visits by health personnel to remote and inaccessible areas are carried out as part of preventive healthcare. 	
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4 QUALITY EDUCATION



- Based on the provisions of the new legal framework, 15 Experimental and Thematic Public Institutes of Vocational Training (DIEK), 25 Model Vocational High Schools (PEPAL), as well as 3 Vocational Training Schools (ESK) have been established. The implementation of the law that introduced the above-mentioned new VET&LLL system will be further accelerated by an RRP reform (Upgrading Vocational Education and Training) and relevant RRP investment for the renewal and modernisation of VET infrastructure.
- The Government has put forward a number of specific measures aimed at promoting inclusive and equitable education, with a focus on the most vulnerable students, including the employment of 6,000 special education teachers as permanent staff, the completion of inclusive Education Guide for schools and the development of curricula for special education schools. Furthermore, from 1.600 to 3.200 in the current school year, the number of psychologists and social workers employed in schools has doubled since 2019.
- A new system for dealing with school violence and bullying was legislated in 2023. It introduced specialized support, counseling, and monitoring structures at all levels, as well as an online reporting tool for students to report bullying incidents in an anonymous manner. The goal is to create safe and welcoming school communities where all students feel supported.
- Significant reforms are currently being implemented with regard to the evaluation of education at all levels (teachers, schools, the education system). Among these, the “Greek PISA”, a new national assessment system addressed to a representative sample of schools for the purpose of collecting data on the performance of students in the Greek language and mathematics, will be conducted for the 2nd time in the current school year.
- In order to improve the quality and inclusiveness of education and to substantially

During the last four years, Greece has been making considerable efforts to modernize and upgrade education and training across all levels. Substantial reforms have been put forward, aiming to ensure a high-quality education that is inclusive and fair, as well as encourage lifelong learning opportunities for all.


- Reforms in School Education aim at improving the effectiveness of the system, enhancing student performance in terms of basic and digital skills, as well as ensuring the inclusion of people with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations. Overall, it is estimated that the reforms will benefit 1,3 million students in pre-school, primary, and secondary education by providing them with better quality education that focuses on cultivating soft and digital skills and includes updated educational content and pedagogies.
- VET and lifelong learning reforms seek to contribute to the development

	<p>upgrade the skills of the students, the Government decided to introduce in the educational system new School Curricula, which attribute particular importance to the cultivation of soft and digital skills across all ages and disciplines through the use of innovative digital tools and materials, and educational methods that foster the creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, communication and curiosity. 166 new general education curricula are currently in the second year of pilot implementation, in an expanded network of model and experimental schools across the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new legal framework was introduced in 2022 with significant provisions for enhancing the autonomy of HEIs, upgrading quality, streamlining institutional governance, as well as promoting extroversion, innovation and research within Greek HEIs. It also provided for the modernisation of the Greek NARIC (DOATAP), offering a more flexible framework for the academic recognition of degrees from foreign HEIs. Transformation in the landscape of Higher Education is currently being supported by the RRP reform “Strategy for Excellence in Universities & Innovation”, with a view to enhancing performance of Greek HEIs and strengthening their relevance to the job market. ▪ Education and awareness-raising on sustainable development, climate change and the SDGs is being pursued not only in the primary, secondary and tertiary school curricula but also in the Military Academies, where officers are taught relevant courses. ▪ The “Child Protection” reform is included in the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). The measure consists of a reform of the curriculum and educational program of infants aged from 3 months to 4 years, aimed to promote their cognitive development, including early diagnosis of cognitive impairment. The reform is accompanied by investments in educational material and cognitive development assessment tools for 3,000 childcare centers. ▪ Interventions aimed to upskill the low-skilled/low-qualified adults including 	<p>prospects of the Greek economy, remove negative social stereotypes, increase adults’ engagement in learning and provide skills relevant to labour market demands. More options are expected to be available for almost 200.000 students and trainees in Vocational Education and Training, providing training opportunities on the needs of the economy, at both the national and local levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The expected impact of the reform in Higher Education includes improvement in the quality of education offered, elimination of skills mismatch, reduction of (recent) graduates’ unemployment and underemployment rates and brain drain reversal into brain circulation. ● Emphasis is put on access to quality education, without discrimination and exclusions for Applicants and Beneficiaries of International Protection, particularly by fostering their participation in formal education and non-formal education that will be
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	<p>adolescents and youth at risk, with a migrant, refugee or minority background, children and young people with disabilities, unaccompanied children, and children with complex needs, with the aim of providing opportunities for basic, soft, and vocational skills development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roll-out of the globally acclaimed «Skills Labs» innovative initiative for the promotion of education for sustainable development through the development and improvement of a wide variety of pupils’ skills (i.e. soft skills, life skills and technology & science skills). The «Skills Labs» - which are focused on four thematic areas (well-being, the environment, social empathy, and innovation) – aim to equip students with the appropriate skills, values, and attitudes to make them successful life-long learners, as well as global citizens of the world. The Skills Labs is in its second year of national implementation. ▪ To support development of digital skills in school education, a relevant RRP investment for the Digital Transformation of Education is underway, among which the delivery of 177.000 robotics kits, as well as the installation of more than 36.000 interactive whiteboards in all Greek schools are standing out. ▪ Education for integration: 10 distinct sub-projects among which Linguistic and Intercultural training, Active Vocational Guidance, Vocational Training on basic, digital and technical skills, as well as Skills Certification for refugees ▪ Digital skills, training programs and certification for conscripts during their military service will be provided by the Ministry of National Defense, in coordination with the Ministry of Digital Governance. Moreover, vocational training programs regarding army’s most required Professional specialization valuable for conscripts’ future access to the labor market, will be carried out from the newly established Lifelong Learning Centers of the Armed Forces. ▪ The project “Maritime Education Reform” aims to upgrade maritime education by 	<p>provided during the “pre-integration” stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The purpose of reform regarding Digital skills, training programs and certification for conscripts during their military service, is to re-evaluate the military service as a whole, so that conscripts can acquire certified skills during their military training in order to improve their access to the labor market, following the completion of military service. <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Over the last decade, the proportion of the population aged 18 - 24 who are early leavers from education and training continues to fall from 12.9% in 2011 to 3.2% in 2021, a year when Greece ranked second best among European Union (EU) Member states. ● In 2021, the percentage of people aged 25 - 34 who have successfully completed tertiary studies (e.g.
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	<p>enhancing the quality of study programs in both public and private schools. In this light, the reform seeks to establish a comprehensive maritime education system that includes clear standards, structure, organisation, and certification processes, as well as effective oversight of the financial, administrative, and educational functions of training and education institutions. The proposed legislation is slated for a vote in February 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the context of increasing the number of young people and adults who have the right skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship in the tourism sector, the Ministry of Tourism designs an “upskilling and reskilling program” implementing 4 training cycles for at least 18,000 trainees, while applications from the potential beneficiaries will be submitted on an electronic platform, the creation of which is expected until 30/06/2023. ▪ As regards the integration of recently arrived migrants into the educational system the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, launched the project ‘All Children in Education’ (ACE). It is a non-formal education programme, which aims at enabling migrant and refugee children (4-17 years old) who arrive in Greece to continue their education, by smoothly integrating to the Greek school system, while providing also special training and resources to teachers, as well as psychosocial support to children where needed. To date 16.000 children coming from 70 countries have registered and participated (including 200 disabled children) and as a result 70% of the total participants enrolled in the formal educational system. ▪ For the purpose of facilitating the access of unaccompanied minors to education, the Government has adopted a series of actions, such as supplementary tutorial courses for children that live in hostels for unaccompanied minors, constant information to the institutions that operate hostels and have in their responsibility or teach 	<p>University, Higher Technical Institution, etc.) has risen to 44.2%%, being well above the EU average. It has been an encouraging increase, compared to 2011 (32.3%), yet recent graduates seem to still face particular employability challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The percentage of adults aged 25-64 who participate in learning (formal or non-formal, both general and vocational, after leaving initial education and training) has increased from 2.8% in 2011 to 3.5% in 2021 though still remaining far below the EU average. In 2021, the share of individuals having at least basic digital skills was 52.48%, close to the EU average. ● There is still a high proportion of NEETs, despite showing a tendency to decrease, from 29.1% in 2012 to 20.5% in 2021, linked to many concurrent structural and employability issues and
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	<p>unaccompanied minors, activities for the empowerment of hostels' staff that support the unaccompanied minors in the accommodation structures etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greece is implementing an innovative project through RRF funding, which aims at facilitating Third Country Nationals' access to the Greek labor market through the mapping of the educational and professional profile of the beneficiaries, language and intercultural training, job counseling, professional training, internship, certification of professional skills and information awareness campaigns. ▪ Greece is modernising and upgrading the upskilling and reskilling system. This set of reforms and investments aims to develop an innovative labour market diagnosis mechanism, design and deliver informed policies to upgrade human capital and improve labour market outcomes, and contribute to higher and more inclusive long-term growth. A new legal framework for implementing upskilling and reskilling policies is in place, including a system for subsidised vocational training, and the establishment of a National Skills Council which is responsible for the drafting and the annual update of the National Skills Strategy. The first National Skills Strategy was introduced in June 2022 and two major training programs have been designed and are being implemented for 150,000 employed and 120,000 unemployed beneficiaries with a strong emphasis on digital and green skills. ▪ Upgrading of the capacity and extension of the operation of the national Mechanism of Labor Market Diagnosis for the period of 2021-2023: The project has already brought the first deliverables of the Work Packages on econometric skills, training of ministerial staff on BI software for labour market intelligence, and coordination of the Regional Mechanisms of Labor Market Diagnosis. ▪ The forthcoming Individual Skills Account is an innovative tool with a dual function. Firstly, it acts as a "resume" of its owner, containing all of their obtained certifications. Secondly, it provides a record of all subsidised training they have received, as well as 	<p>a persisting low youth employment.</p>
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	<p>their rights to further training. Authorities can use the account to determine whether and when the account holder is eligible for continuing vocational training, or to support them in their efforts to be integrated or re-integrated into the labour market. The account is interconnected with and managed through the digital skills platform, which is accessible to trainees, their employers in cases of intra-corporate training, and to employment counselors of DYPA.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of the National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, including: (i) the national SOS 15900 24-hour helpline, (ii) 43 Counseling Centres throughout the country providing social, psychological, legal and employment support using a gender perspective and legal aid, in cooperation with bar associations, and (iii) 19 Women’s Shelters that provide accommodation and food to women victims of gender-based violence and their children. ▪ Extension of maternity leave from 6 to 9 months (law 4997/2022) and inclusion of adoptive mothers. ▪ “Nannies of the Neighborhood” programme (see SDG8) ▪ “Creation of Childcare units within large companies” RRP project (see SDG8) ▪ In 2021, the Government ratified by law the ILO Convention concerning the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. The adoption of this landmark instrument recognizes the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, thus making Greece one of the first countries to have ratified it. Since 2021, according to the Labour Inspectorate, 248 complaints were filed and the majority of them came from women ▪ An important step towards addressing the gender employment gap is the Gender mainstreaming in public policy and budget processes initiative, which includes Gender Budgeting (GB) and aims to strengthen the capacity for gender-sensitive recovery by 	<p>During the Covid-19 pandemic the risk of domestic violence rose while the negative socio-economic consequences on the economy tend to affect women more than men. Key priority Interventions planned that are related to SDG5 focus on combating domestic violence which has risen due to the pandemic. The government also aims to address trafficking of vulnerable groups by adopting both preventive and operational measures. A set of measures have been adopted to eliminate violence and harassment in the workplace. Low women's participation in the labour market is also being addressed, not only through active labour market policies (upskilling, reskilling, integration measures) but also through measures that seek to support working parents to balance family and work life (i.e. measures for childcare). Women's participation in decision making processes is also reinforced, as</p>

	<p>introducing technical proposals for Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) in central public policies and budgets. This initiative is expected to be concluded by June 2024, resulting in a concrete technical proposal for GB and GIA that targets the specific policies set by the action plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SHARE program aims to establish an "Equality Label" award for companies that implement gender equality policies. The project ended in May 2022 with the SHARE Gender Equality Label award ceremony, and the next important step is the forthcoming Ministerial Decision concerning its implementation methodology and structure, followed by the launch of the Gender Equality Label annual cycle by the end of 2023. ▪ Greek National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2021-2025. ▪ Women victims of gender based or domestic violence are eligible for the job subsidy programme of DYPA for vulnerable groups. ▪ A digital application for cellphones to support women facing violence at home, called "Panic Button," was introduced, initially in Athens and Thessaloniki on March 23. The free app is downloaded on a smartphone and activates the service by pressing on a button which sends a text message (sms) to the operational center of the police which can immediately locate the user. ▪ Training of medical staff, social workers, staff of the structures of the General Directorate of Social Welfare and the police on methods of dealing with violence against women with disabilities ▪ Awareness campaign for women and girls with disabilities, their families and caregivers on prevention, identification and reporting of gender-based violence and existing support services ▪ Strategy on Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), setting out a number of targeted objectives and priorities aimed at effectively addressing organized human 	<p>a gender quota on listed company boards.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As regards to the gender pay gap, the difference between the average gross hourly earnings of male and female employees has declined significantly between 2010-2018 dropping from 15% to 10.4%. ● The gender employment gap has remained stable at 20% in the last decade (2012-2022), which is 10% higher than the EU average. ● Participation of women in senior management positions was traditionally extremely low, marking around 6% until 2011. An impressive change has been observed since, with a recent decisive support of legislation (2020), which elevated the rate to 24% in 2022 for both board members and executives of listed companies.
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	<p>trafficking networks, developing preventive measures, with particular focus on the most vulnerable groups, and strengthening inter-agency and cross-border cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiatives of the Ministry of Citizen Protection aiming to the prevention of domestic violence incidents and support provision to the victims. Such initiatives include the establishment of 12 new Bureaus –added to the initial 6 created in 2021- combating domestic violence at police departments nationwide, appropriate educational and training programs for police personnel, as well as the implementation of “panic button” application for domestic violence victims. ▪ The Consortium Agreement titled "Breaking Silos and Promoting Access to Vocational Training and Job Opportunities for Young Third Country National (TCN) Women through Social Economy" was launched at the beginning of 2022 and will continue until the end of 2023. This project adopts a gender-sensitive and multi-stakeholder approach to address the structural and cultural obstacles faced by TCN women in obtaining vocational training and employment. The goal of the project is to reduce the barriers encountered by TCN women when accessing vocational training and employment opportunities by leveraging social economy. ▪ The emergency accommodation mechanism (NERM) established for homeless unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in Greece, provides protection against gender-based violence and trafficking. ▪ Nomination of the Fundamental Rights Protection Officer in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, whose duties include the collection and preliminary assessment of complaints about alleged violations of fundamental rights during reception phase as well as in the course of the procedure of granting international protection status to Third Country Nationals (TCNs). 	
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6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION




- Second update of the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), of the country's 14 River Basin Districts, covering surface freshwaters such as lakes and rivers, groundwater, transitional and coastal waters up to one nautical mile, is expected to be finalized by Q4 2023. It will provide the necessary information, the objectives and operational instructions for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) within a River Basin, in accordance with the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC), including at the transboundary level.
- The National Water Monitoring Network was recently revised to monitor the qualitative and quantitative status of surface water and groundwater bodies.
- With regard to water savings, Greece, as a vulnerable country to the effects of climate change and droughts, places particular emphasis on efforts to complete the related legislative framework to allow for the reuse of reclaimed water from adequately treated urban wastewater in the context of a circular economy, aiming at saving water resources.
- Operationalization and further implementation of the 2010 Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area between Greece, Albania, North Macedonia and the EU, which entered into force in May 2019 and promotes the cross-border cooperation on integrated water resources management.
- The investment "Drinking Water Supply and Saving Infrastructure", under the RRP, aims at improving the quality of drinking water, increasing efficiency in water usage and upgrading the existing water supply network. The investment consists of four sub-projects: (a) construction of new water supply infrastructures in seven areas and three desalination plants, (b) establishment of telemetry - remote control systems for the detection of leaks in water supply networks, (c) procurement of digital hydrometers and (d) other water saving actions.
- The investment "Water Supply Projects" is related to water supply works in areas of

Greece, as a country vulnerable to the effects of climate change and draughts aims at improving the quality of drinking water, increasing efficiency in water usage by reducing leakages, supporting islands desalination projects, as well as improving legislative and institutional framework related to the rationalization of water tariff policy in line with the 'polluter pays' principle and ensuring the sustainability of water services in the country.

Progress on SDG-related indicators:

- The proportion of the population connected to at least secondary wastewater treatment presents a mild but steady increase, approaching a percentage of around 94.2% in 2019
- The number of bathing areas with excellent water quality per area has reached 1680 in 2021 compared to 1595 in 2018, with Greece ranking 4th among EU countries in this indicator.

	<p>Western Greece and the islands of Lesbos and Corfu. The aim of the investment is to meet the high-water supply needs during the summer months and address leakage problems. The award procedure for works and equipment for areas of Western Greece, the island of Lesbos and the island of Corfu will be completed by Q4 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Establishment of new water and wastewater regulatory authority”, a most important reform, aims at improving the decisions taken for an improved operation of the water infrastructure and promotion of new initiatives for water saving. In this field, the independent regulatory authority for energy has been extended, to include water, wastewater, and waste to address performance shortcomings of the water supply services, particularly regarding distribution leakages. This authority, in its new format, since March 2023 is, inter alia, legally responsible for implementing the policies for the proper management of water resources. 	
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law for the promotion of e-mobility, targeting the charging services market and enabling the provision of tax-based incentives for purchasing electric vehicles and the installation of charging infrastructure. New programmes on e-mobility, including three subsidy sub-programmes, funded by the RRF, planning to (i) procure and install around 8,000 publicly accessible charging points for electric cars in urban and suburban locations within cities and in other points of interest such as highways, ports, railway stations etc, will be launched in Q2 2023 and are expected to be completed by end of 2025 (ii) subsidize the replacement of 2,000 old, conventional taxis with zero-emission electric “Green Taxis” which will receive applications throughout 2023 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 (iii) accelerate efforts in introducing e-buses to the public fleet, starting from Athens and Thessaloniki. The investment is accompanied by the transposition of the Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 for urban and interurban bus public transportation, which has been concluded in September 2022 via Law 4974. Law ensures that passengers can 	<p>Transition to a new, low carbon energy model is a high priority for Greece. The country has embarked on an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase the share of renewable energy sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption, improve energy efficiency by renovating private and public buildings, promote e-mobility, accelerate electricity interconnections between the islands and the mainland, streamline the efficient operation of the new electricity market model, simultaneously with alleviating energy poverty.</p>

	<p>access safe, efficient, attractive and high-quality public passenger transport services. All relevant secondary legislation will have been issued and entered into force by the end of Q4 2023. Additionally, the feasibility study, including options for establishment of an e-Mobility Agency in Greece, was submitted to the European Commission. A Joint Decision of the Minister of Infrastructure & Transport and Minister of Environment & Energy adopting the Feasibility Study for an eMobility Agency entered into force on 30.03.2023 .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E-mobility will be promoted by the new National Climate Law (see also SDG 13), which foresees, <i>inter alia</i>, the sales only of zero-emission passenger cars from the beginning of 2030. ▪ Regarding the energy poor households, the proposed reform corresponds to a specific subsidy program for Energy Communities of Municipalities in developing and installing a PV station so as to cover the annual energy needs of these energy poor households. The energy efficiency upgrade investment, especially for the residential buildings, is strongly interrelated to the reform of the “Energy poverty action plan”. This reform aims at improving energy efficiency of energy poor & vulnerable households by establishing affordable access to energy. The reform is linked to the climate neutrality target and aligned with the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). It includes the establishment of a framework that will define energy-poor households (in accordance with the relevant EU directives) and will introduce mechanisms for monitoring and reducing energy poverty. The goal is the reduction of the footprint of energy-poor households by 50% by 2025 and by 75% by 2030. The Joint Ministerial Decision establishing the energy poverty action plan has been issued on Q3 2021 and the implementation of specific measures for 2022 and 2023 are on track. ▪ Within the continuing programme for energy renovation of residential buildings, a special sub-programme is being implemented aiming to help people from the lower 	<p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During the last decade (2011-2021), final energy consumption has remained relatively stable at around 16.2 million tonnes of oil equivalent. Furthermore, the total energy consumption of the EU member states has also remained at similar levels ● The more than doubling of the share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption after 2010 is considered to be a result of combined measures of regulatory and technical nature. Similar distributions and even more steep trends are presented by the share of RES in specific sectors like transport or electricity. In 2021, the share of renewable energy sources was 22%, which is slightly higher than the EU average.
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	<p>economic strata adapt their compromised dwellings to climate conditions and change through a range of improvements including -inter alia- replacement of household windows/doors, installation/upgrading of thermal insulation and heating/cooling system upgrade. The second round of renovations was conducted in Q4 2022, that attracted more than 87.500 households. The third round “Exoikonomo – Anakainizogianeous” has two parts: “Exoikonomo” and “Anakainizo”. Under the “Exoikonomo” frame, incentives are being provided for energy saving interventions in the domestic building sector, in order to reduce energy needs and the consumption of conventional fuels, in the context of the transition to an "Energy Efficient Home". A prenotification of the Guide has been launched in Q1 2023, while the finalised Guide is expected to be issued in Q2 2023. The total number of “ Exoikonomo” renovations (at least 50.000 and with a goal of 105.000 households) will be gradually implemented by Q4 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The energy efficiency upgrading of residential building investment programme (Photovoltaika sti stegi) comprises direct grants to households and it is fully compliant with the goals of the REPower EU plan. It aims to promote innovation in the domestic construction and manufacturing industry, to enhance the production of clean energy, to save energy at the level of households and specifically buildings at the level of the power system by boosting energy efficiency, to fast forward the green transition and to achieve a more resilient energy system. The program is expected to be launched by the end of 2023 with the next target being the assessment of all applications and the electrification of PVs by the end of 2025. ▪ The energy efficiency measures for the private companies include also a program for the installation of PVs and storage systems for auto-consumption. The program is going to be launched by the end of 2023. The energy efficiency measures are further expanded supporting the private companies for energy-efficient renovations of their buildings and processes with a relevant Program (“Exoikonomo Epixeiro”). 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The program “Energy upgrade of public sector buildings”, aims at encouraging the development of an Energy Saving Companies (ESCOs) market for the energy renovation of existing buildings and infrastructure of the (wider) public sector and for the upgrade of street lighting infrastructures. The application guide for the energy efficiency of public sector buildings is live, the process and the legal framework for the Energy Performance Contracts has been completed, while the Information System (Electra Project) is also completed. The approval by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of applications for 210 public sector buildings, ensuring that the GHG emissions of these respective buildings is reduced by, on average, at least 30% compared to their existing situation (as indicated through the energy audits performed prior to the interventions) is expected to be completed by Q2 2023. The implementation of the investment shall be completed by Q4 2025. ▪ Continuation of the Just Development Transition Master Plan, ensuring a fair development transition of the affected lignite producing areas, with necessary alterations in the timeline of lignite power plants decommissioning, mandated by energy security issues deriving from the war in Ukraine. The JTP Greece (2021-2027) has been activated and new calls for proposals under priority 2 -Energy Transition - Climate Neutrality 5-Small-scale Integrated Interventions are expected to be launched by the end of Q4 2023, leading to the selection of at least twenty (20) new projects. ▪ The interconnection of the islands to the mainland's power grid is under way, which is part of the 2019 National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), as well as of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and concerns relatively bigger islands aiming to deploy their vast renewable energy potential, promote their energy security and downsize CO₂ emissions and energy costs. ▪ “GR-Eco islands” is a strategic initiative of 100 million euros budget through which the Greek Government is aiming at transforming Greek islands into models of green 	
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	<p>economy, energy autonomy, digital innovation and eco mobility. Key pillars of the initiative that builds on the high renewables potential of Greek islands and takes into account their sensitive natural ecosystem, include: the promotion of renewables and energy efficiency practices, sustainable waste and water management, zero pollution schemes, electrification of transport, the green transformation of agriculture and tourism, and the development of port and other infrastructure through targeted subsidies and custom-made programmes by the Ministry of Environment and Energy and other competent Ministries, under the “umbrella” of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A significant investment is the “Support of the installation of storage systems to enhance RES penetration”. The project intends to support the installation of up to 1.380 MW capacity of Energy Storage in the electricity system, ca. 50% of which will come as long duration storage from the Amfilochia PHS. These investments will allow the system integration of new RES capacity which is required for the achievement of NECP targets. In addition, this action will also alleviate network congestion, increase the flexibility of the electricity system and liquidity of the balancing market, enhance system adequacy, enable energy efficiency and promote electricity price transparent formation. The storage systems that will be selected in the competitive bidding process will have to be in operation until the end of 2025. ▪ The “Installed capacity increase in Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO) HV/MV substations for new RES connection” investment aims at the expansion of the distribution network in order to allow for the optimal and timely realization of new “medium and large scale” RES projects, avoiding long delays due to congested networks. In Q1 2023, have been completed: a) the award of the contracts regarding Oinofyta Substation, b) the submission of tenders for Pylos Substation, and c) the evaluation of the tenders that have been submitted for KYT Fillipon. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The investment “Produc-E Green” aims at establishing production capacity in products and services that promote green economy and innovation and at promoting storage of CO2 emissions; and is composed of two sub projects. (1) The funding in the form of grants, of industrial production units to make products in the green economy sector and (2) The development of the first CO2 Storage facility in Greece. The first initiative of the investment aims at strengthening the industrial production capacity of the country in green economy related products. The second focuses on the application of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies, which have long been considered as valid alternatives in the portfolio of mitigation actions for stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. It is assumed that out of total the budget of 550 million 510 million shall regard large scale units while 40 million will be targeted to small scale industrial units. In Q2 2023, the programme will be launched for selection of industrial units. ▪ A reform closely related with Produc-E Green is the one associated with the development of the first CO2 Storage facility in Greece. The proposed site at Prinos, Kavala is an extensively mapped and surveyed location, where oil drilling operations have been taking place for decades. Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies have long been considered as valid alternatives in the portfolio of mitigation actions for stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. The development of the CO2 storage facility has significant synergies with various on-site and off-site activities that are responsible for a significant percentage of Greece’s carbon footprint; by developing this facility significant emissions reduction will be achieved, CO2 capture will be introduced for heavy emitters and hard to abate sectors. The project’s milestones include the issuance of a CO2 Storage License by Q2 2024 and the operation of the site by Q4 2025. Preparation of the file for notification of the investment aid to DG COMP began in early 2023. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the field of electricity market operation and in the frame of the reform “Streamline the efficient operation of the new electricity market model and the development of new RES plants”, a further simplification of the RES licensing process has been enacted via law 4951/2022. ▪ The reform “Restructuring and enhancement of the RES & Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Account revenues” (2022) aims at ensuring the financial sustainability of the RES CHP Account both for existing and upcoming RES units, by measures that reduce legal risk, ensure the bankability of new projects, establish a new mechanism for new RES remunerations that will work automatically, ensure the viability of old RES FIT contracts and facilitate investments so as to reach NECP targets and raise investors’ confidence, along with the Guarantees of Origin trading system that includes accreditation for the green retail products and the green business standards. ▪ Development of the offshore wind sector: subsequent to the voting of the offshore wind framework into law in July 2022 (L. 4964/2022), the next step includes the development of a National Program for the Development of Offshore Wind Farms. The draft Program and its accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment are being prepared by “Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company S.A”, based on preparatory work already performed by the MoEE in 2022, and will be finalized by Joint Ministerial Decision in Q2 2023. Following that, the first Offshore Wind Farms Organized Development Areas (OWF-ODA) that will cover the national offshore wind capacity target for 2030 (2.6GW) will be selected by Q4 2023 and designated as such by Presidential Decree in 2024. ▪ Introduction of biomethane in the energy system: formulation of the legislative and regulatory framework including support mechanisms, is under preparation and scheduled for completion within 2023. This will enable implementation of projects for production of biomethane (either upgrade of existing biogas units or installation of 	
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	<p>new biomethane units) and its injection in the existing gas grid, with the aim to replace equivalent amounts of natural gas, especially in sectors where electrification and gas replacement is not an easy option.</p>	
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Open Program of 100,000 new supported jobs (expanded by 50,000 jobs since January 2022) subsidized all social security contributions (for both employers and employees) for six months. The total entries to the program as of March 2023 were 153,818, out of which 2,016 were simultaneously enrolled in PROTO ENSIMO (a program facilitating the first entry of persons aged 18-29 into the labour market by providing six months of subsidies to both employers and employees). Between April 1st, 2022, and December 31st, 2022, 25,779 individuals were hired through the program, and as of March 1st, 2023, 3,781 persons were still employed in companies that hired them through the program. The number of young persons aged 18-29 who were hired by Proto Ensimo from 01.01.2022 until 31.12.2022, count to 7,482 young persons. On 01.03.2023 there were 1,472 young persons (out of the 7,482 entries) who were still employed in the companies that hired them through the programme. ▪ Law 4997/2022 provided incentives to private sector companies for converting part-time contracts to full-time. Companies with a number of part-time employees that exceed 50% of the personnel get a 40% subsidy on social security contributions for each part-time contract turned to full-time, provided that they retain at least the same number of employees. The programme was launched early March 2023 and will run until the end of 2023. ▪ The “Reconciliation of family and professional life”, which aims to provide male and female beneficiaries with hosting and accommodation services to the infants, toddlers and children and persons with disabilities. The programme intends to assist the beneficiaries who come from low-income families to keep their jobs on equal terms or enter the workforce, providing at the same time quality care and accommodation to 	<p>To tackle the persisting high unemployment and low employment the Government implements a coherent strategy for the job market. Key policies are considered the reforms of both passive and active labour market policies. To address the gap between market needs and workforce skills a new strategy for skilling is in place. Measures in the field of labour policies are also taken to combat undeclared and under-declared work as well as measures to assist parents and especially women to integrate and retain their position in the labour market through access to quality social services and reliable solutions regarding childcare.</p> <p>The new scheme in auxiliary pensions is expected to bring future retirees a supplementary pension significantly higher than the benefit they would have received under the current NDC scheme. The reserves of the new fund are estimated to have an escalating positive effect on new domestic investment and consequently on employment</p>

	<p>their children, and ensuring equal access of the vulnerable groups (children and persons with disability) to quality social services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of childcare units within 120 large companies is to expand the vital access to child care as part of a workplace, while increasing access to reliable child care could give mothers the flexibility to pursue opportunities that can safeguard their employability. The first round of the program, which includes funding for childcare units for 70 companies, is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, with a second call for invitations for 50 additional beneficiary companies scheduled to be issued in Q3 2023. ▪ “Neighborhood Nannies” programme aims on the one hand, to support and facilitate parents and especially mothers, so that after having a child, they can achieve their full reintegration into the labour market and the continuation of their professional career, and on the other hand, reduce undeclared work by encouraging unemployed women, to work as childcarers. The pilot project is under way in 61 municipalities, and is about to expand to 10 large municipalities. To reach a larger number of childcarers, free e-training sessions and evaluations are available through the existing platform ntantades.gov.gr. The project's pilot implementation period ends in July 2023 and the evaluation of the programme will follow. ▪ A nationwide pilot program for the all-day school program’s extension from 16:00 to 17:30 has been put into effect as of 2022, in order to better align school schedules with those of working parents. ▪ New law (2021) on the protection of work and the establishment of an independent Labour Inspection Authority, which ratified two ILO Conventions, transposed the EU Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers, and included: (i) the regulation for the first time of teleworking and (ii) the establishment of the electronic labour card as the main working time calculator and working hour’s compliance monitoring 	<p>by creating, through growth, new jobs. Moreover, by Framework Law (2021) on strategic investments, the Government intends to create a more attractive investment environment, necessary - among others - for the green and digital transition of the country.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2021, GDP per capita (at market prices) slowly rose to the 2011 levels (18,830 euros per capita) after the economic crisis and the pandemic. However, this level still remains far below the EU average ● In 2022, long-term unemployment decreased to 7.7% compared to previous years, but it remains the highest among EU countries and a persisting issue connected to unregistered precarious work, the informal economy and significant strains on social security and public revenue. ● In 2020, the incidence rate of fatal accidents at work was 0.88, which is lower than
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	<p>means for workers and enterprises respectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The minimum salary and wage for full-time employment, for white and blue-collar workers throughout the country without any age discrimination, has gradually increased since 2019 from €650 to €780. ▪ A new long-term Tourism Strategy aiming to create a new model of sustainable, quality tourism, through the diversification of the tourism product and source markets. In this context, the Greek National Tourism Organisation, has defined the general guidelines and the communication strategy for the years 2023-2024 in order to promote the Greek tourist product. The basic framework of the promotion is based on the following axes: a) Promotion of the country throughout the year with advertising and publicity activities, b) Promotion of lesser known destinations, thematic products and experiences throughout the year, c) Emphasis on producing content for visitgreece, as well as producing articles that serve the above objectives, d) Focus on digital platforms and further development of the Agency's digital assets as vehicles for communicating messages and content about Greece as a tourist destination. ▪ Destination Management and Promotion Organizations (DMMOs) were established. The project promotes the funding of studies for the establishment and operation of DMMOs and the activation of the respective (local) Sustainable Tourism Development Observatories. At the same time, the project includes the development of the electronic platform and the website of the National Sustainable Tourism Observatory and its operation, with a time horizon of 2025. ▪ Reform of Active Labour Market Policies: Several sub-projects are already in the phase of implementation. These include a targeted employment program in critical long-term unemployment (LTU) areas (10,000 new jobs for workers of ages 45 and above), another one for special populations with high barriers to labour market (10,000 new 	<p>the EU average of 1.77.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The share of GDP that is used for gross investment by institutional sectors reached 13.27 percent in 2021 compared to 10.69 percent in 2019.
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	<p>jobs - including victims of domestic abuse, unemployed mothers returning to work after raising children, LTU over 24 months, unemployed workers over the age of 55, formerly incarcerated individuals, completers of drug rehabilitation programs, persons with disabilities, persons with very low education levels, etc), and a short-term work experience program for 10,000 younger unemployed workers (ages 18-30). Furthermore, DYPA proceeded with the hiring of short-term staff as employment counselors for a transient period of 4 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Reform of Passive Labour Market Policies, established by Law 4921/2022 consists of a new framework of mutual obligations between jobseekers and DYPA that will serve as a basis to modernise and rationalise the current unemployment benefit and allowance system, remove legal disincentives for upskilling/reskilling, and introduce tools such as the Digital Action Plan for the unemployed to make the system more effective in supporting those actively seeking employment. The law also specified the income criteria for DYPA benefits, allowances, and other services connected to the unemployment status, and provided the legal basis for the implementation of UB pilots in order to test the expansion of the social protection net for jobseekers and promote a fairer distribution of unemployment benefits. There are currently two pilot projects being planned to test the reforms being made to the unemployment benefit (UB) system ▪ Digital Transformation of Labour Market Support Systems is a broad IT project that aims in the digitization of the existing infrastructure, in terms of the service offered to the employee and the employer, implemented through the simplification of processes and the rationalisation of obligations, with the main goal of reducing excessive red tape, and administrative burden, achieving more intensive labour market controls, reducing undeclared work, better data extraction, immediate information and faster serving citizens. The award to a temporary contractor has taken place for all sub- 	
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	<p>projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In order to strengthen legal certainty and transparency for investors and business operations and promote economic growth, Greek authorities are implementing a reform for the enhancement of the state aid institutional and digital capacity, by which DSAUs will acquire the necessary capacity to analyze and evaluate draft measures and state aid issues. ▪ A number of initiatives aiming to strengthen social integration and provide training and employment opportunities to migrants and refugees have been approved and will be implemented in the coming period, as provided for by (i) the 2021 National Strategy for the Social Integration of Applicants for and Beneficiaries of International Protection (“Development of intensive programmes for the facilitation of direct access to the labour market”), (ii) the HELIOS programme (“Pillar Employability”), (iii) the RRF funded action “Promote integration of the refugee population into the labor market”, and (iv) the project “Promotion of employment and entrepreneurship through training and internship of refugee women in productive sectors of the economy”, as integrated in the framework of the operational program "Human Resources and Social Cohesion 2021-2027". ▪ Framework Law 4864/2021 on strategic investments for the simplification and acceleration of the licensing and implementation procedures related to private and strategic investments and the creation of a framework for spin-offs. It introduces <i>inter alia</i>, “Emblematic Investments of Extraordinary Importance”, which promote green economy, innovation, research and technology, sustainable infrastructure (hydrogen production systems, wind energy parks, floating photovoltaic parks), competitiveness, low-energy and environmental impact economy. During 2022, six (6) new strategic investments of 2,45 billion euros total budget have been approved under the legal provisions of Law 4864/2021. The selection of ‘Emblematic Investments’ eligible to be 	
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	<p>financed by the RRF, is estimated to be completed by the 4th quarter of 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Improvement of the business environment” consists of both legislative and implementation measures, such as: (i) simplification of licensing procedures for economic activities; (ii) new institutional framework for the inspection of economic activities and products; and (iii) legislative initiative for the simplification of licensing procedures for starting new businesses. Regarding Quality Infrastructure, the request for technical support (through a public tender) was published in early February 2023 and it is expected that the contractor will be selected in April 2023. The regulatory framework will be ready until Q4 2023. Moreover, the cooperation between GSI and OECD has already begun regarding licensing, inspections, market surveillance and manufacturing activities in Attica and the development of the relevant deliverables is on track. Regarding consumer protection, the inspections reform has been completed. These projects refer to actions for the simplification of the business environment and its upgrading in quality and safety which aims to simplify the procedures faced by enterprises and to promote a sustainable and digitized business environment, together with the Ease of Doing Business reform whose impact is to ensure: a) reduced procedures, time and cost in 5 sub-areas: enforcing contracts, getting credit, getting electricity, registering property, paying taxes, and getting a construction permit and b) a stable and predictable legislative framework for businesses. Within 2023, an initial version of the electronic application for the transfer of properties was launched. The completion of the project is expected by Q2 2024. ▪ Reform projects (RRF), which aim, among other things (i) to simplify and update the legislation for the major tax codes, the customs code and all relevant secondary legal provisions in line with EU best practices, (ii) to support the fight against smuggling, in particular for those products subject to excise duties (tobacco, alcohol, energy) through the modernisation of the Customs’ tracking systems, audit processes, and 	
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	<p>equipment in order to increase the effectiveness of cargo audits, (iii) to ease the administrative burden for businesses and improve tax compliance by promoting and increasing electronic transactions and (iv) to combat tax evasion by interconnecting cash registers and points of sale (POS) terminals with the tax authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The reform on the amendment of the legal framework for the attraction of strategic investments intends to promote Greece as an attractive destination to potential investors by making the legal framework clearer and including new fields of economic activity and potential Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). Participation in IPCEI for Enhancing EU industrial strategic value chains, in critical sectors of the European market, such as batteries, Hydrogen Technologies and Systems and Microelectronics aims at developing synergies in the European area for reinforcing the European market in this area. The project includes ongoing procedures and actions, in cooperation with DG COMP and co-responsible ministries, for the participation and implementation of Greek projects and investments in each sector. ▪ The Information System of Strategic Investments, which aims at the overall monitoring of Strategic Investments at all stages and the acceleration of investments, the contract was signed in December 2022 and the project is expected to be completed in Q2 2023. ▪ An IT system for monitoring PPPs end to end has been developed, with the cooperation of EBRD, regarding the enhancement of maturity of PPPs projects and the standardisation of PPP procedures and documents. The testing and training period of the PPP Information System is expected to be completed in Q2 2023 and the standardisation of PPP procedures and documents is expected to be completed in Q4 2023. ▪ A crucial reform was launched, regarding the establishment of a new regulatory framework for the domestic part of PIP, the National Development Program (NDP). 	
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	<p>The NDP will contribute to the medium-term development planning and better utilisation of the domestic resources of the PIB. Next steps include the full operation and support of the Management and Control System of NDP 2021-2025, as well as the transfer of ongoing projects under the NDP by the end of 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The national framework to ensure the efficient management of NSRF funds was established through Law 4914/2022, as well as secondary legislation setting out the basic rules for the management, control and implementation of the Programmes. Next steps include the completion of the 2nd edition of the “MCS Procedure Manual 2021-2027” and the preparation of the “Description of the MCS 2021-2027”, by Q2 2023. ▪ The development of Integrated State Aid Information State System (OPSKE) for the NSRF 2021-2027 will modernise and simplify the aid granting process, will reduce the administrative and management burden, will increase the data security as well as prevent fraud. The objective of the OPSKE is to provide full Support to the Management and Control System (MCS) procedures for the NSRF 2021-2027. By March 2023, the Implementation Study of the IT system has been completed, several functionalities have been developed and the pilot operation of the system has been performed. Next milestones include the development of functionality of Monitoring of State Aid Operations (Q3 2023) and the training of key users (Q3 2023). ▪ Regarding access of SMEs to finance, the Hellenic Development Bank (HDB) has launched several projects. In particular, “Equifund” (EUR 250 m) is operated by Hellenic Development Bank (HDB) and co-financed by national funds, European Investment Fund (EIF) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) through the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in order to strengthen the greek venture capital ecosystem for SMEs so as to thrive. HDB is also planning to launch «Business Growth Fund» (EUR 300 m) to support and develop "SMEs" through Green Co-financing Loans, 	
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	<p>Digitalization Co-Financing Loans and Liquidity Co-Financing Loans in Q2 2023. Moreover, "Green Fund for Sustainable Development" (EUR 200 m) will be activated under the Program "Competitiveness 2021-2027" in Q2 2023. The "Innovation Guarantee Fund" (EUR 140 m) has been launched by HDB as the first financial instrument which provides liquidity and support to innovative start-ups and existing SMEs. Finally, the "Development Law Financial Instrument Guarantee Fund (DeLFI GF)" (EUR 100 m) is another financial tool being launched by HDB in Q2 2023 in order to provide guarantees in favor of (SMEs) that have joined the aid regime of the new Development Law 4887/2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The reform of Export Credit Greece (ECG) aims to form a modern, reliable and innovative organisation that offers the security that Greek export companies need in order to be competitive at an international level. The reform is gradually implemented, starting with the adoption of the Law 4918/2022, the relocation of the company to new offices (Q1 2023) and the completion of recruitments (Q1 2023). Next steps include the expansion of the portfolio of offered products (Q2 2023-Q4 2024), the adoption of new Corporate Organization and Governance (Q4 2023), the development of a new IT Infrastructure (Q2 2023-Q4 2024), the development of a Sales/Marketing Mechanism (Q2 2023), the implementation of the Company's Policies according to the OECD Council's Proposal on Bribery in the context of Medium to Long-Term Export Credits that receive Public Support (Q2 2023-Q1 2024), as well as the implementation of the Company's Policies according to the Proposal of the OECD Council for Common Approaches to Officially Supported Export Credits, in the context of Environmental and Society Protection (Q1 2024). ▪ The Credit Expansion Observatory is an important initiative that can help to collect detailed data on the liquidity provided by banks to individuals and legal entities. This data can be used to design and implement targeted public policies that aim to 	
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	<p>increase access to finance for viable businesses from various sectors and different geographical locations. This can promote investments that will enhance productivity and job creation, as well as social cohesion and inclusiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The recent codification and modernization of the regulatory and legislative framework as well as the digitalization of the organization & processes of the Capital Markets supervisor (HCMC) will result in a more efficient and competitive functioning capital market and a real time surveillance. ▪ An innovative RRF project is at an early stage of implementation including labour integration and professional development to refugees and legally residing migrants in eight (8) different sectors: the agricultural, construction and tourism sector, female employment, protection services for vulnerable groups, empowering third country nationals to prevent and adequately respond to human trafficking and, finally, in the field of environmental and civil protection. 	
 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Green Pool” support scheme will support the decarbonisation of the electricity consumed by electro-intensive industries (which represents the primary decarbonisation challenge -but also the primary decarbonisation potential- in these industries) and potentially other categories of large scale electro-intensive consumers. This is an important reform related to the dual target of increasing RES deployment and reducing emissions from hard to abate sectors. The measure was pre-notified to DG COMP in 2022 and discussions are proceeding, with approval by the Commission expected within 2023. ▪ The Digital Transformation Book (2020-2025), which introduces the new National Digital Strategy, outlines the main guidelines, procedures, principal governance model, basic implementing means and key strategic pillars on which the whole digital transformation of the economy, society and public administration is based. 	<p>Continuation of a wide range of innovative and sustainable aviation infrastructure, motorway and railway projects across Greece, increases the connectivity and security of the whole transport system, contributing to the citizens’ quality of life, environmental protection and the national economy. Investments in public infrastructure will contribute to mobility and improve the competitiveness of the tourism sector, in terms of sustainability and digitalization, creating a sustainable and competitive framework for development.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Digital Transformation of the Tax and Customs Administration aims to strengthen the capacity of the tax authority and enhance its overall performance and the digital transformation of tax audits which will improve public revenue collection, increase the effectiveness of tax audits, and fight smuggling by introducing techniques and tools of artificial intelligence in tax audits. ▪ The Action Plan for Logistics, which is currently under revision, includes the following actions: (i) assessment of the environmental impact and publication of the output, promoting in this way the monitoring and reporting of the environmental performance of logistics operations, logistics providers and commercial companies; (ii) development of city logistics services, which aims at promoting environmentally friendly practices and sustainable City Logistics in the field of Urban Transportation and Distribution; and (iii) renewal of the road haulers' truck fleet, aiming at the exploration of alternative funding options by the Greek State for the purchase of new technology trucks. ▪ Completion of a wide range of innovative and sustainable aviation infrastructure, motorway and railway projects across Greece, which increases the connectivity and security of the whole transport system, contributing to the citizens' quality of life, environmental protection and the national economy. Investments in public infrastructure will contribute to mobility and improve the competitiveness of the tourism sector, in terms of sustainability and digitalization, creating a sustainable and competitive framework for development. ▪ The investment "Interventions for the upgrade and redeployment of the Greek rail network system and infrastructure" includes actions for upgrading of the Greek rail network system and infrastructure. It includes works for the upgrade of the existing railway infrastructure, electromechanical systems, signaling, telecommunications, electrification and other facilities required for the network operation. The PPP tender 	<p>The measures concerning Research and Innovation such as the measure Research - Create – Innovate, both as an RRP measure and a state aid action as well, and the Cooperative Innovation Formations (Clusters), the Competence Centers and the Technology Transfer Offices will help strengthen the links between academia and the productive sector by increasing the competitiveness of Greek industry, increase the exploitation of intellectual property rights, reverse the "brain drain", strengthen the Greek start-up innovation ecosystem, and mobilize business R&D expenditure.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In an upward trend in recent years, despite a decade of economic crisis, gross domestic expenditure on Research & Development (R&D) by sector in Greece reached 1.45 % of GDP in 2021, with the best performing sectors being the business enterprise sector and the higher education sector. ● Between 2011 and 2021, R&D
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	<p>(prequalification phase) will be launched by the end of Q2 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The investment for “Upgrading suburban railway of West Attica” aims at the construction of a new branch in the Suburban Railway from Ano Liosia to Megara, within the existing railway corridor of the old railway line towards the Peloponnese. The total length of the new Suburban Railway branch will be 36 km. The investment commenced in Q2 2021 and is expected to be completed by Q4 2025. ▪ The “Digital Transformation of the Hellenic Railways Organization” constitutes a significant investment related to the upgrade of the Hellenic Railways Organization's (OSE) telecommunication infrastructure by installing special infrastructure technology and antennas for signal transmission and continuity throughout the network, enabling open telecommunication access, meeting the operational needs of trains as well as passengers. In addition, infrastructure for high speed internet access, as well as telematic services and smart ticketing will be installed in the train stations. ▪ The construction of the Cretan Northern Road Axis ("BOAK") is an investment that improves the main road axis of Crete. The Cretan Northern Road Axis will connect the four (4) major cities of Crete (Chania, Rethymno, Heraklion and Agios Nikolaos). The Project is divided into three (3) Subprojects: “Chania – Heraklion” Section (Concession Project), “Hersonissos – Neapoli” Section (PPP Project) and “Neapoli – Agios Nikolaos” Section (Public Works Project), with total estimated cost of EUR 2.226 billion, out of which EUR 476 million will be covered by RRF grants. ▪ In the field of sustainable public transport, the effective completion of the following projects will contribute to the improvement of public transport, making it more attractive, especially in the metropolitan areas of Athens and Thessaloniki: The project “Line 4, Section A of Athens Metro” which has been designed with the purpose to serve a number of densely populated areas of the city and important buildings and facilities, such as hospitals, educational institutions, court houses, Ministries. The 	<p>personnel in all sectors increased from 0.76% to 1.35%. The main actor carrying out research in Greece is the public higher education sector, whereas the share of the business sector is growing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During 2012-2022, the number of Patent applications to the European Patent Office by applicants increased by 134% in Greece, while EU27 increased by 12% in the same period.
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	<p>investment started in June 2021 and is expected to be completed by 2030. Additionally, the “Athens Metro - Line 3 Extension to Piraeus” relates to the construction of a 7.6 km long tunnel and 6 new modern stations. This is an investment of EUR 730 million in the area of Piraeus and other adjacent Municipalities, all of which currently face serious traffic issues and low accessibility to the public transport modes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Metro of Thessaloniki, which consists of the “Thessaloniki Metro - Basic line” and the “Thessaloniki Metro - Extension to Kalamaria” with a total cost of EUR 2.5 billion. “Thessaloniki Metro - Basic line” is related to the construction of the Metro in the city of Thessaloniki and consists of a 9.6 km long line, 13 modern stations and a 55,000m² Depot in the area of Pylea, with 24 fully automatic driverless, air-conditioned trains of the latest technology, as well as automatic platform screen doors in each station for improved passenger service and safety. The investment is expected to be concluded by the end of 2023. The investment of “Thessaloniki Metro - Extension to Kalamaria” includes 5 Stations located along an underground line 4.78 km long and 9 fully automatic driverless, air-conditioned trains of the latest technology. This project will upgrade transport services and the environment, while it shall also substantially improve the quality of the citizens’ daily lives. The investment is already in an advanced construction phase and expected to be commissioned within 2024. ▪ The investment “Upgrade Interventions for Regional Ports” focuses on the remediation of the climate change impact on regional ports and the upgrading of aging and degraded port infrastructures especially in small and medium sized ports. The proposed investments are anticipated to have a significant impact primarily on the insular areas, but also on the overall Greek economy and population. The interventions shall be made in twelve ports throughout the country and consist of infrastructure improvements. The implementation of the investment shall be 	
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	<p>completed by 31 December 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Programme for the exploitation of selected ports” constitutes a reform with high added value, which is underway for the Port Authorities of Igoumenitsa, Heraklion, Kavala and Volos. Through this specific process, each port will become a pole of local development, with multiple benefits in terms of investment, job creation and increased commercial traffic at regional level. The general benefits for Greece are also expected to be highly significant, both at the economic level, with the growth in public revenues. ▪ The project "Reform of the Regional Ports Governance System in Greece" aims to modernize the national port administration system by reforming the governance model of the system's secondary ports. This reform aims to enhance their competitiveness, performance, and efficiency, while also promoting the contribution of ports to the local and regional economies, greening sea transport, improving multimodality, and raising the quality of services. ▪ The support for the acceleration of investments in smart manufacturing, by providing financial support to very small, small and medium enterprises of the Greek industrial ecosystem, for improving their technological infrastructure and upgrading their productivity equipment through the use of modern smart technologies. The relevant call is aimed at very small, small, and medium businesses, and the budget is allocated according to the needs of the Greek manufacturing industry. The final ministerial decision that lists the chosen investment proposals qualifying for aid will be issued by early Q3/2023. ▪ Encourage the creation and development of new, green and innovative business parks by providing financial support for: (i) the establishment of new facilities; (ii) the expansion of existing industrial parks to meet the needs of adapting to the strategy of Industry 4.0; and (iii) the conversion of informal industrial complexes into 	
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	<p>technologically smart, environmentally sustainable and innovative industrial parks. For this purpose, new legislation has been completed (L. 4982/2022). The project of industrial parks has a budget of EUR 100m. The final ministerial decision that lists the chosen investment proposals qualifying for aid will be issued by early Q3/2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The small-satellites investment is a major step towards the implementation of Greece’s strategy for utilising space technologies and applications for the provision of advanced telecommunications services and their incorporation to the Greek economy. The development of the small satellites (space and terrestrial part) is expected to increase the capabilities of the Greek high-tech industry in order to develop advanced digital services. Three out of four ITTs have already been published, while the last one is expected to be published in Q2 2023. ▪ Utilizing the huge public sector data source can make a decisive contribution to the strengthening of the national economy in the context of its transformation into a knowledge economy. Especially for domestic entrepreneurship, the availability of public data will enhance the creation of a climate conducive to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. In order to address these challenges, an RRP Reform supports the implementation of a Data Governance Strategy & policies for the Public Sector, through the execution of four subprojects, concerning the design and implementation of data governance frameworks for the individual Government Clouds (G-Cloud, Re-Cloud, H-Cloud). ▪ The Digital Transformation of SMEs investment aims to fill up the gap and strengthen the position of SMEs in the global market. It includes a range of simple digital solutions related to Business Software and Applications, as well as Cloud Platforms and Tools. Greek SMEs were able to submit applications for vouchers while the project supported Greek ICT companies to develop cloud services and products to strengthen their position in the Greek market. A legislative provision is being prepared 	
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	<p>according to which companies that have been digitally transformed using digital solutions will have tax incentives. The project is designed around 3 distinct programs (Digital Tools for SMEs, Development of Digital Products and Services, and Digital Transactions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under the NSRF 2021 -2027, the new Programme "Competitiveness 2021-2027" (with a total budget of 3.8 bn public expenditure) was approved in Q2 2022 in order to implement digital business transformation in traditional, vulnerable and low-innovation business sectors. The first 3 proposal calls for the Digital Transition of SMEs (basic digital transformation, advanced digital transformation and cutting edge digital transformation), with a total budget of 300 m euros were issued in February 2023. ▪ The Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFBB) project is a large-scale infrastructure deployment initiative that aims to increase the availability of next-generation broadband services throughout Greece. The primary objective of the project is to provide ultra-high-speed broadband connectivity to approximately 2,400,000 citizens in Greece, covering almost 18% of the population, especially in regions where there is not sufficient market interest. The project is the most important intervention of the "National Plan for Next Generation Broadband Access 2014-2020" and will contribute significantly to bridging the digital divide and enabling social and economic development in the intervention areas. ▪ The "Smart Readiness" voucher scheme aims to upgrade existing buildings into smart ones and connect them to utility networks using new smart meters. The vouchers cover part of the cost of civil engineering works and structured optical cabling, as well as the cost of smart meters. The program guide and online portal was published in March 2023, and citizens will be able to view the national register of installers and select one to apply for fiber optic and structured cabling installation by June 2023. ▪ In the context of upgrading the digital infrastructure in the tourism sector, the 	
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	<p>Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has planned a project in order to transfer the data and functions of the current Registry of Tourism Enterprises (MHTE) to the new “MyDigitalTourism” platform (also known as “e-MHTE” platform) and to ensure interoperability with public registries & systems. The project also includes digitization procedures between the MoT and its Regional Services, database interconnection, a system for recording arrivals and departures and other statistical data at tourist accommodation and digitization of files. The project is to be contracted in June 2023 and to be completed by Q2 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The IT system "e-PDE", for the management of the Public Investment Programme (PIP) has introduced a significant simplification of the whole PIP process, while at the same time has strengthened the data reliability. Recently, a project has been launched for e-PDE's modernization and upgrade. The next steps include the finalisation of the procurement and its documentation, in order to keep up with the tender procedure by Q3 2023. ▪ The National Strategy for Research, Technological Development, and Innovation (NSRTDI -ESETAK) paying particular attention to ecological, social, economic and sustainability criteria and factors to be considered in the relevant funding formats and selection procedures. One major component of NSRTDI is the National Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3), which matured through a bottom-up procedure and was finally approved in June 2022. For the formulation of the NSRTDI 2021-2027, a study has been forwarded to the National Council for Research, Technology and Innovation for opinion. Next steps include an Open Consultation on the draft NSRTDI, an Assessment of the results of the Consultation and finally the Submission of the final draft to the Parliament for Ratification. ▪ The ELEVATE GREECE platform, a digital portal for accredited start-ups with features of innovation and scalability has been developed. In 2022, Elevate Greece S.A was 	
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	<p>established by law (4914/2022), a state-owned company that operates, further develops the startup ecosystem and also promotes: i) networking between innovative start-ups and enterprises, ii) the extroversion of the registered startups, iii) the attraction of investment funds from VCs and business angels. By Q3 2023, the notification of the contract award for the upgrading of the "Elevate Greece" platform is expected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within the framework of Basic & Applied Research RRP measure, there is a project aimed at establishing new and technologically advanced institutes /networks: a) a Molecular Oncology Network, b) a Robotics and Unmanned Systems R&D institute, c) an applied R&I Institute on AI, as well as the develop data processing and algorithms, d) Deliver market translatable sustainable materials technologies in collaboration with MIT. Until the end of Q4 2024 the projects will deliver their first achievements and deliverables. ▪ The project which aims to support major flagship collaborative research projects of an interdisciplinary nature, of high scientific and technological quality. The implementation of the project will contribute to the integration of research and innovation in the productive fabric of the country and to the arrest of the "brain drain". The decision to approve this project and the relevant funds in the RRF has been issued, as well as the decision to call for research proposals, in the context of which 20 research project proposals have been submitted. The process of evaluating the proposals by 5 thematic evaluation committees is ongoing. For the period 1/4/2023 – 30/6/2024 it is planned: a) the completion of the process of evaluation of proposals and evaluation of objections, as well as the issuance of the decision to approve the funding of 12 collaborative research projects by the end of Q2 of 2023 and b) the payment to the beneficiaries of the public funding corresponding to the 1st installment. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A project aimed at enhancing the international networking of the Greek R&I ecosystem through participation in the 2 European Partnerships/Joint Undertakings for a) High Performance Computing (HPC-JU) and b) Key Digital Technologies (KDT-JU). This project contributes to the increase of R&I spending as the national funds will be topped up (by 30-50%) by EU funds. ▪ Creation - Expansion – Upgrade of Infrastructures of Research Centers aims to upgrade/expand the infrastructure of 14 Research and Technological Centers, to enhance their research capacity and capabilities in important areas of science and technology. The call for proposals for the 14 Research and Technological Centres has been launched, the projects have been evaluated by experts and 5 have been incorporated for funding in the RRF and they have received the first funding (40% of the total budget). Until 30/6/2024 the invitations to contractors will have been completed. ▪ The investment Research - Create – Innovate supports applied research as it is planned to fund 36 excellent proposals whose main objective is to link academia and the productive sector with a view to transitioning to quality, innovative entrepreneurship and increasing domestic added value. Launching of the call, submission of proposals, selection and announcement by GSRI of the eligible applicants for funding was completed by Q4/2022. All projects are in the implementation phase. It is expected that around 60% of eligible interventions will be completed till Q2/2024. ▪ Under the new programme “Competitiveness 2021-2027” at least 800 m euros of public expenditure shall be directed to support research and innovation investments, effectively addressing the challenges related to low investment in R&D. The project “Research - Innovate” has been activated. In particular, the call for proposal has already been pre- published in February 2023, with a total budget of 300 m euros, 	
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	<p>spanning in 4 different interventions. According to the programming of the calls for proposals, this call is expected to be issued in the Q2 and Q3 of 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TH 2 ORAX: Trellis Holistic & Hybrid Operational Ruggedized Autonomous eXemplary system, funded by RRF, is about the creation of a «next generation" integrated information system for the country, based on AI & Machine-to-Machine Learning technologies which "composes" different types and forms of collaborative infrastructure with direct impact on the way institutions make real-time decisions on security, defense and civil protection. By the end of Q2 2023 the design & preparation of the public contract and the award procedure will have been completed. 	
<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recently launched digital Disability Card will integrate all benefits for the disabled from all institutions. Beneficiaries will be able to enjoy these rights and benefits upon presentation of the Card, without having to gather certifying documents repeatedly or demonstrate their disability certification each time. The Single Digital Access Portal to Social Protection and Digital Transformation of the Social Solidarity Welfare Benefits Organization (OPEKA), will contribute to increasing the efficiency of the benefit system, combating fraud, and saving resources by maintaining different information systems. Currently, the technical specifications are being finalised. Concerning the Placement of Minors with Severe Disability (over 67%) and/or Severe Mental Disorders, in the Care of Professional Foster Carers, the institutional framework for implementation has been set, and all children with certified disabilities are registered in the Information System of Foster Care and Adoption (ANYNET). The next steps for 2023 include a public awareness-raising campaign, issuing an invitation/call for professional foster carers by the Social Solidarity Welfare Benefits Organization (OPEKA), and creating a Digital Registry for the Professional Foster 	<p>With a view to reducing inequality, Greece adopts policies and measures to enhance the capacity of its social state to promote social inclusion. As regards disability, policies on independent living, employability and early childhood intervention are prioritized to avoid institutionalization, delays in service delivery, bureaucracy and complex procedures, to shape attitudes, to overcome stereotypes and barriers towards inclusiveness and to advance independent living. Child protection policies are fundamentally revised and modernized in order to protect children’s rights and prospects. There are also significant policies for tackling the Roma’s multi-level social exclusion and discrimination and promote diversity and</p>

	<p>Carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Housing for the most Vulnerable Groups Action focuses on providing housing support to the most vulnerable groups threatened by or facing homelessness. A working group has been established to develop the main pillars for implementing this program. Private and public housing stock will be recorded in 2023. Furthermore, Housing and Work for the Homeless Programme aims to provide rent subsidies for 24 months to 600 households or 800 beneficiaries by December 2023, along with other support services. ▪ ▪ The "Diversity awareness" (RRP) aims at developing a concrete mechanism that can monitor the progress and assess on an annual basis the data related to equality and discriminations, enhancing the role of the Equality Observatory, creating a working group that will review best practices and standardised methodologies, raising employees' awareness of discriminated groups and avoiding discrimination in the way they approach and communicate with these groups, integrating a culture of openness and adaptability to diversity, and encouraging organizations to recruit and utilize executives belonging to discriminated groups. By the end of December 2023, education of 680,000 trainees is scheduled to have taken place. ▪ The new National Roma Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2030 comprises 4 pillars (i)- Prevention and fight against Roma poverty and social exclusion; (ii)-Enhancing equal access of Roma to basic services and goods [education, employment, health, social care and housing]; (iii)- Preventing and combating stereotypes and discrimination against Roma; (iv)- Promoting the active participation of Roma in social, economic and political life) and a total of 27 Thematic Measures. ▪ The "Personal Assistant" reform (Law 4837/2021, Min. Decision 28458/23-3-2022) is complemented by a comprehensive pilot program (5817/30-3-2022 call) aiming to 	<p>eliminate gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation inequalities, especially in the job market. Social housing policies aim to reduce homelessness in large urban areas, by building up networks between private homeowners and local social services.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2021, the ratio of total income received by the 20% of the population with the highest income to that received by the 20% of the population with the lowest income reached 5.79, which is slightly higher than the ratio in 2010. ● After an increase in the minimum wage, growth in the Greek economy, and a series of tax and fiscal interventions that decreased taxes, the purchasing power-adjusted GDP per capita reached 23,900 euros in 2022. This is an increase of 4,500 euros compared to the average of the last decade
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	<p>provide personal assistance to people with disabilities. The pilot was launched in April 2022. This programme aims to enhance and promote independent living for persons with disabilities as well as their inclusion in the community. Moreover, it will attempt to regulate a so far unregulated market by creating a new profession, while at the same time it will help the disabled persons' family members reintegrate into the labor market. The pilot will be implemented in two phases, each one concerning 1.000 beneficiaries. (Pilot program in the Region of Attica is underway - Call for interested Personal Assistants remains open - 300 beneficiaries of Personal Assistants up to date). The programme is planned to roll out in 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transfer of adolescents from Child Protection Units (CPUs) to Supported Independent Living apartments (SILs) aims to deinstitutionalize the adolescents of Child Care Units and support them to develop self-sustainability capacity and gradual autonomy to ensure a smooth transition to adulthood and integration into society. It also aims to support the skills development that can enhance the employability of minors aged between 15 to 18 years of age living in Welfare Child Care Units. In the context of the SIL pilot project, two apartments are currently operational, and an application for a third one has been submitted. The transfer of minors to Supported Independent Living apartments (SILs), located in urban areas, with a capacity of up to 4 people, will be completed by December 2023. ▪ Deinstitutionalisation is mainly pursued through the creation and operation of Supported Living Homes (SYD). SYD are the spaces available for the permanent living/accommodation of people with disabilities, i.e. people with any kind of motor, mental or sensory disability, congenital or acquired, followed or not by secondary diseases and disorders, who cannot live independently. In four years, a total number of 117 SYD began operation within the Greek territory. ▪ Creation of Social Cooperative Enterprises (SCEs) for the employment and integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The income share of the bottom 40% of the population slightly decreased from 20.5% in the period 2018-2020 to 19.9% in 2021. ● Positive first-instance decisions to asylum applications have, lately, been significantly accelerated in order to handle the backlog and rose from 876 in the first 5 years (2011-16) to 9.771 between 2017-2020. There are still pending cases, which tend to be gradually covered unless there is significant increase in incoming applications. The total number of positive first instance decisions on asylum applications in Greece for the year 2021 was 16,575 and for the year 2022 it reached 19,245 (Eurostat). Greece ranks 5th in the EU in terms of positive first instance decisions.
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	<p>of people with disabilities in the labour market by the end of 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supported employment for up to 200 people with autism spectrum disorders and to cover the cost of the professional guidance and counseling required for this target population (2022-2023) ▪ Funding accessibility infrastructure for people with mobility and sensory disabilities (2022-2025) ▪ Subsidy for certified agencies to provide supported employment for people with autism spectrum disorders ▪ Migrant Integration Centers are operating in 11 different municipalities countrywide, provide a large range of services to third-country nationals who reside legally in Greece (information, counseling regarding social integration and social networking issues, courses on Greek language, history and culture, intercultural activities, activities that facilitate third-country nationals' access to labour market etc). As regards the new programming period 2021-2027, the aim is to increase the number of Migrant Integration Centers to 32, in various municipalities, while enhancing the services provided. ▪ A pioneering mentorship project has been designed and implemented to support unaccompanied children. The project recruits former unaccompanied children (now young adults) as mentors who act as role models for the children, providing personalized guidance at every stage of their journey. This includes support with reception, accommodation, education, and ensuring a smooth transition to adulthood, as well as integration into the labor market. ▪ 14 recruitment calls for 2.000 positions in the public sector were issued in 2021 for the integration of persons from special categories in the labour market, i.e. persons with disabilities, relatives of persons (child, sibling, or spouse) with disabilities. The results for 11 calls were issued between January 2023 and March 2023, and the 	
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	<p>processes are expected to be completed within 2023, to cover a total of 434 positions with eligible candidates. The results of 3 more calls which amount to 1.120 positions are expected within 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Greek authorities have adopted a variety of measures to increase the disposable income of specific categories of taxpayers and extenuate the tax burden on the self-employed. The permanent abolition of the special solidarity contribution, starting from 2023, will also achieve a redistributive impact. Also, greater tax fairness and economic efficiency has been achieved through the completion of the ENFIA property tax reform in 2022, which caused an additional 13% average tax reduction.▪ Investing in Just Transition Territories in Greece is a positive step towards reducing inequalities and addressing the environmental and economic impacts of the transition away from carbon. By providing grants for land rehabilitation and supporting economic regeneration and social transition in coal-dependent areas, the initiative aims to facilitate a shift towards a more sustainable and diversified economy. The five development pillars of the development plan for lignite areas, which include clean energy, industry and trade, smart agricultural production, sustainable tourism, technology, and education, provide a comprehensive framework for promoting sustainable development and attracting high-value investments to the region. Additionally, the use of the EU's Just Transition Mechanism to address the wider social, economic, and environmental impacts of the transition is a positive step towards ensuring that the transition is just and equitable. The activation of the Just Transition Program Greece (2021-2027) and the launch of calls for proposals for funding and project selection are important milestones in the implementation of the initiative. The acquisition of a technical support project to identify the best methodology and procedure for using the financial possibilities of the European Just Transition Mechanism is also a positive step towards ensuring effective	
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	<p>implementation. Greece acquired a technical support project named “Support to the implementation of the Just Transition in Greece” in order to identify the best methodology and procedure for the use of the financial possibilities of Pillars II and III of the European Just Transition Mechanism (JTM). The project was activated at the end of 2022 and is going to be completed by Q2 2024.</p>	
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social housing is being re-established in Greece through a number of new programs, with the aim of supporting, among others, young couples and individuals aged between 25 to 39 years old. Three sub-projects have been designed, either launched or about to be launched within Q2 2023: a) The ‘Spiti mou’ (My Home) program, which offers low interest or interest-free loans for the acquisition of a first house for residence; b) The Social Housing Compensation Scheme stipulates that private contractors erect, at their own expense, buildings on undeveloped public property that they can exploit for a certain period of time with the obligation to rent part of it to beneficiaries for a predetermined rent; c) The ‘Kalipsi’ (Coverage) program aims to utilise previously used apartments by beneficiaries of international protection in the context of former programs ESTIA II and ESTIA 2021 for housing persons belonging to vulnerable social groups. Obligatory implementation of the Urban Accessibility Plans for all large and medium-sized municipalities by the end of 2023 will provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for older persons and persons with disabilities. ▪ The investment of “Interventions in residential areas and in the building stock” aims at enhancing the urban environment by improving the quality of urban space and attract new functions of economic activities while making a positive impact on the natural environment of urban centers, creating new jobs and achieving significant energy savings that will lead to a low carbon economy. The investment comprises of 4 	<p>Cities` and communities` sustainability is promoted via the elaboration of the special spatial plans and local urban plans, interventions in the urban environment for improving the quality of urban space and attract new functions of economic activities, while making a positive impact on the natural environment of urban centers, renewal of the urban public transport and upgrade of the road safety.</p> <p>Greece aims to participate actively in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism under the rescEU programme, as the risk of wildland fires is growing. By updating “Xenokrates”, the National Comprehensive Emergency Plan, the State expanded the country’s response and short-term recovery capabilities. The country’s disaster risk management capabilities are expected to be enhanced significantly through the Adoption of the “AEGIS” National Program</p>

	<p>subprojects: (a) interventions aiming to improve urban environment and public space targeting 16 urban areas to complete climate change adaptation works that will also improve the wellbeing of the citizens; (b) urban regeneration of the ex-industrial area of Votanikos / Elaionas that will create a network and road infrastructure, parks / green areas and sustainable athletic facilities for public use together with private mixed-use energy efficient real estate developments; (c) development of an uninterrupted waterfront promenade at the Athenian Riviera, aiming to create the longest unified and accessible seafront in Europe; (d) other strategic interventions, including the adaptive re-use of the former Ladopoulos paper-factory in Patras. Subprojects (b), (c), (d) have been assigned for front load maturation to Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund's special unit of Project Preparation Facility. The award of related contracts is expected to be concluded by Q2 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renewal of the public transport fleet in the two major cities, Athens and Thessaloniki, promoting the gradual transition to electromobility. The project "autonomous cars" will accelerate the development of new mobility concepts for passengers leading to healthier, safer, more accessible, sustainable, cost-effective, and demand-responsive transport within both urban and semi-urban contexts via deployment and integration of autonomous vehicles into the transportation chain, thus contributing also to multi-modality. Therefore, the project aims to set Greece as a pioneer country in the field, following and contributing actively to the European CCAM (Connected Cooperative and Automated Mobility) and 2Zero roadmap for 2050. To this end, the project will help to promote and evaluate the future transformation of the current city traffic environment and ecosystem to a fully sustainable one driven by automation, electrification, cooperativeness, and inclusiveness. The Ministerial decision that introduces the use of autonomous cars in road transport into Greek legislation has been issued at Q4 2022. 	<p>and the upgrade of the Armed Forces disaster response system.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The total percentage of people living in households suffering from noise presents a reduction from 23.2% in 2010 to 20.1% in 2020. ● The decrease in the number of people killed in road accidents has continued over the last decade in Greece, reaching its lowest level in 2020 with 584 fatalities. ● In the last decade, the reduction in use of private vehicles and fuel consumption heating due to the economic crisis in parallel with the use of alternative fuels for vehicles and the waste management, had a significant impact in the reduction of the air pollution by particulates. In this way the annual trend of PM 10 and PM 2,5 concentrations continue at steady state without significant variations, after the sharp increase in 2013.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The action of “bicycle usage” generates many positive impacts, such as cleaner air, healthier and happier citizens, more livable cities and towns, better rural connectivity and more vibrant local economies. The “Guide of Public Policy for Cycling” that establishes the guidelines, pillars and principles for promoting cycling was published in Q1 2023. The aforementioned Guide renders the backbone for the upcoming National Action Plan on Cycling that will determine specific actions and key performance indicators, with estimated time of completion by Q4 2023. ▪ The “Establishment of new special spatial planning for RES, industry, tourism and aquaculture”, involves the establishment of new special spatial framework for RES, industry, tourism and aquaculture to promote climate mitigation and adaptation, protection of biodiversity and development of the national economy, by contributing both to the increase of GDP and the establishment of new job positions. Towards the same goals, Law 4759/2020 is promoting the development of a more efficient spatial planning system which is being implemented through the elaboration and issuance of the Local Urban Plans (LUPs) and the Special Urban Plans (SUPs). The elaboration of the plans is being funded by the RRF in the frame of a project called “Preparation of Urban Plans in implementation of the urban policy reform”. These actions have started in 2022 and will conclude by 2026. ▪ The project “Road Safety Upgrade” aims at restoring the road network and repairing the defects of the pavement at Regions across the country in order to enhance their operation and safety level. The project consists of two parts. The first corresponds to an already partially funded program by the European Investment Bank (EIB), the «Road Safety Improvement Program (PEVOA)”. PEVOA includes interventions on approximately 7,000 dangerous locations, extending over 2,500 km of the road network to 80 roads. The studies have already been completed by Egnatia Odos S.A. By the end of Q2 2023, the contracts for restoration of more than 2,300 dangerous 	
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	<p>spots will be signed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of the Archeological Cadastre, an Integrated Information System (IIS) for the systematic recording, documentation, digitization and management of archeological, administrative and geospatial data related to the country's immoveable monuments and sites, including underwater antiquities. The Cadastre provides the foundation on which a monitoring system for the impact of climate change on cultural heritage is to be built, so as to mitigate the various risks that threaten cultural heritage. Within the year 2023 there will be an Upgrade and Enrichment of the productive operation, as well as an expansion of digital services of the Archeological Cadastre (Phase B), while Interconnection/interoperability with related systems of the Public Sector (management and utilization of public property) and Simplification of procedures will take place. ▪ Update of "Xenokrates", Greece's National Comprehensive Emergency Plan. The Greek Civil Protection agency, which was enhanced through the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection (2021) has developed annexes for more natural or man-made disasters such as Earthquakes, Volcanic Eruptions, Floods, Winter Storms and Hazardous Materials Transportation Accidents, using risk management principles to assign priorities and resources. ▪ The AEGIS National Program for Civil Protection is a € 1.71 billion program, which is radically upgrading the country's disaster risk management capabilities. AEGIS funding is geared: a) to improve the existing infrastructures, facilities, and equipment, b) to provide by procurement new equipment for early warning systems (eg. weather stations and radars, river gages, seismometers), c) to supply the Civil Protection and the Fire Service with new aerial means (aircraft and helicopters, for a multitude of purposes), d) to provide with new Bailey-type bridges, PPE, and field hospitals and upgrade existing vehicles, e) to create a National Database of Disaster Risks, Threats 	
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	<p>and Losses and f) to elaborate a National Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change according to Sendai Framework 2015-2030, and a National Disaster Risk Management Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greece has been one of the first European countries to participate in the European Civil Protection Mechanism and the rescEU programme. RescEU is a European reserve that includes a fleet of firefighting airplanes and helicopters, medical evacuation airplanes, and a stockpile of medical equipment and field hospitals, that can respond to health emergencies, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents. Because of the growing risk of wildland fires and other disasters across Europe, the European Commission created a strategic rescEU medical reserve and distribution mechanism under the umbrella of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, so that it can act/correspond immediately. In addition, Greece has offered to host additional rescEU wildland firefighting capabilities in the future and hold a hub in south-eastern Europe. In this direction, the pre-positioning pilot project firefighters from several European countries has been initiated in the summer of 2022 for the first time. ▪ The Armed Forces contribute personnel, assets, and infrastructure to disaster and emergency relief, both domestically, as well as within the framework of the rescEU programme . ▪ Introduction of a National Air Search and Rescue Mechanism “Theofanis- Ermis Theocharopoulos” by law, in order to support the Fire Service in operations and search-and-rescue incidents. The action plan is going to be implemented fully within a 5-year plan framework with the provision of the necessary infrastructure and equipment, hiring and training personnel, so that emergency services are offered even in the most remote and inaccessible places in the country. 	
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- In 2021, the Government adopted a law (transposing EU Directives), establishing an integrated framework for waste management, and promoting the implementation of the principles of circular economy in Greece. In the context of this legislative initiative, and in line with the approved National Waste Management Plan 2020-2030 and the new National Waste Prevention Programme 2021-2030, waste hierarchy is promoted in practice, while measures for the reduction of landfilling have been adopted.
- New National Circular Economy Action Plan with a corresponding Roadmap, anchored at the 2018 National Circular Economy Strategy. A platform with guidelines for cities to adopt and follow circular economy principles in all their functions and work-cycle will be developed, with the view to assist the implementation of the National Circular Economy Action Plan at the local level. This Guide to Circular Cities will aim to close down material loops in the urban context, minimize waste production and reduce resource extraction, lower emissions, protect and enhance biodiversity and reduce social inequities in line with the SDGs.
- To improve reuse and recycling in line with circular economy principles, and to meet the post-2020 target, the single-use plastics (SUP) law transposing the relevant EU directive, has set the national framework to reduce single-use plastics. As regards secondary legislation stemming from this law, the decision on the establishment of deposit-refund schemes (DRS) was issued in July 2022, while acts relating to (a) tobacco and related products and (b) fishing gears containing plastic, are to be published by Q4 2023.
- In 2021, the Government issued the National Plan for the promotion of Green Public Procurement (GPP), for a three-year period, 2021-2023.
- New measures will be adopted for the reduction of food waste by 30% until 2030, in addition to innovative approaches for the promotion of recycling and re-use at source.
- The “Waste management law for the implementation of sustainable landfilling and

Greece implements reforms and investments in order to reduce food waste and waste generation, promote sustainable public procurement practices, and support sustainable agriculture by reducing intensive use of water. Moreover, it focuses on accelerating the development of organic farming and increasing its share in agricultural production, encouraging RES penetration for reducing energy consumption and dependence on fossil fuels, while in parallel promotes life cycle thinking in production and consumption.

- The resource productivity and domestic material consumption, in euros per kilogram, has generally shown an increasing trend since 2010 to date, mainly due to the introduction and the implementation of a framework of tools and incentives for the adoption of sustainable practices, based on advanced technological capacity, resource efficiency and reduced waste.
- The use of circular material has been increasing in recent years mainly due to the implementation of the National Strategy for the Circular Economy, which is

	<p>recycling and establishment of waste management regulator” reform comprises a revision of the existing waste management legislation with a view to enabling the transition towards increasing recycling and promoting a circular economy. It shall support the achievement of targets of increasing reuse and recycling rates of municipal solid waste to 60% and reducing the landfill rate to 10% by 2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The national waste regulatory authority that recently has been put in place shall, inter alia, be responsible for ensuring the soundness of the pricing policy, supervision of waste management implementation across the country, and supervision of the proper functioning of the regional and local waste management utilities. The next steps include the announcement of at least 11 calls for tender regarding the construction of 4 Recycling-Recovering Treatment Facilities (RRFs) and 7 Bio Waste Treatment Facilities (BTFs) respectively, as well as the upgrade of the existing MBTs facilities into RRFs, by Q2 2024. Furthermore, two programs for Municipalities to acquire the required equipment for the collection of biowaste and some streams of recycling materials are planned. Moreover, a feasibility study for the creation of a network of Waste-to-Energy Plants is in progress and a Ministerial Decision for the construction of Waste-to-Energy Plants is scheduled to enter into force by the end of 2023. ▪ Sustainable public procurement practices are being enacted such as the Group procurement initiative by HCAP, facilitated by the recently adopted law on the governance of State-owned enterprises, as well as the anticipated implementation of the National Centralized Health Procurement Authority (EKAPY) reform. 	<p>in line with the European Strategy and introduces a framework of tools and incentives for the sustainable management of resources, the development of cyclical entrepreneurship and the promotion of cyclical consumption.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators: The gross value added in Greece increased by 36% as share of GDP from 2014 to 2020, while the EU average increased by 17% in the same period.</p>
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- The first National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) of Greece was adopted in 2019. It is a strategic plan comprising a detailed roadmap for achieving concrete Energy and Climate Goals by 2030. The main pillars of the NECP are: (i) the significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and phasing out the lignite power plants by 2028; (ii) the increase of the share of RES in the gross final energy consumption; and (iii) the improvement of energy efficiency in all sectors of economy.
- The National Energy & Climate Plan, following the “Fit for 55” European policy and the enactment of the National Climate Law, the revised NECP is under preparation and expected to be finalized within 2023. Also, the National strategy for the development of hydrogen production and usage is expected to be finalized within 2023. The National Long-term Strategy for 2050 (2020) to meet the Paris Agreement commitments and the Energy Union objectives for the evaluation of alternatives and sustainable transition paths to a climate-neutral economy by 2050.
- The National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) endorsed in 2016 is delivered through 13 Regional Adaptation Action Plans (RAAPs). Each RAAP examines the potential measures/actions included in the NAS based on the particular regional circumstances, priorities and needs and includes specific adaptation actions per sector.
- The Government has implemented tax incentives for super-deduction of expenses incurred in the green economy and digitalization, in order to strengthen investment by small and medium-sized enterprises in equipment related to climate change adaptation, the promotion of circular economy and digitalisation. The full implementation of the tax incentives of the reform shall apply for expenses realized and assets acquired in the tax years 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- Spending reviews are a core instrument for expenditure prioritisation and reallocation and a permanent feature of the Greek budget process. The international energy crisis is taken into account, with new key priorities consisting of 'green' reviews which focus

In order to tackle climate change and in line to EU’s Energy Unions goals, the Greek Government works towards reducing GHG emissions, increasing RES penetration in gross final energy consumption, improving energy efficiency for higher energy savings, and phasing-out of lignite power generation. Also, efforts are concentrated in the consolidation of an effective circular economy, protection of nature, biodiversity, air quality and water resources.

Through the 2019 NECP, Greece has set ambitious targets such as: (i) reduce total GHG emissions, excluding those from LULUCF by 56% from 2005 levels (42% from 1990 levels); (ii) reduce non-EU ETS emissions by 36% from 2005 levels, more than twice the reduction required by EU legislation; (iii) raise the share of renewables in gross final energy consumption to at least 35% (61-64% of electricity final consumption to be from renewables); and (iv) achieve 38% improvement of energy efficiency.

Progress on SDG-related indicators:

	<p>on measures to reduce energy consumption and costs, as well as on interventions that have a positive environmental footprint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green Budgeting consists of the assessment and presentation of the environmental footprint of public policies, with the aim to minimise the effects of climate change. The green budgeting system is gradually implemented in collaboration with the OECD. As a result, the 2023 State Budget features explicit green tagging references on the environmental dimension of state budget spending. ▪ National Action Plan for Reducing CO2 Emissions produced by aviation activity ▪ National Risk Assessment and National Disaster Risk Management Plan. ▪ In the field of climate change, following the adoption of a National Climate Law, the necessary arrangements for its implementation include the official designation of a Scientific Committee on Climate Change, the designation of a National Council for Adaptation to Climate Change, the designation of climate representatives of each Ministry, establishment and formation of the Governmental Committee to monitor the Progress towards Climate Neutrality, establishment of a National Observatory for Adaptation to Climate Change, potential decision to specify the specifications and content of municipal climate action plans. The foreseen Scientific Committee on Climate Change has already been established in Q1 2023 and the decision on the content and provisions of the municipal climate action plans is planned for Q4 2023, if required. ▪ The Decarbonisation Fund for the Greek islands, foreseen in article 10a (9) of the ETS Directive, is an important initiative in the course of achieving the 2050 climate neutrality objective, and the 2030 energy and climate targets, and allows Greece to claim up to 25 million allowances under the EU emissions trading system for the co-financing of projects that will contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity supply (see also SDG 7). In Q1 2023 tangible progress has been achieved on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greenhouse gas emissions' trend shows a decrease over the period 2010-2020. This development is mainly due to the economic downturn, but also to the impact of mitigation actions like increasing Renewable Energy Sources (RES) share, energy efficiency and improving public transport. ● Greenhouse gas emission intensity of energy consumption index presents a significant reduction throughout the period 2010-2020, highlighting among others, the achievement of an energy mix of lower emissions and the more efficient use of energy.
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	<p>finalization of the trilateral cooperation agreement between the European Commission (EC), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Hellenic Republic. Finalization and signing of the cooperation agreement, as well as the technical agreement on the content and scope of the foreseen Greek project proposal are expected within Q3 2023. Upon the finalization of the Greek project proposal, it will be submitted with all the relevant supporting documentation for EC approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the context of preventing the effects of the climate crisis on cultural heritage, a national action plan (National Action Plan for Cultural Heritage and Climate Change (NAPCHCC) is being developed and will be fully implemented by 2050, with the setting of interim targets to be achieved every 5 years. Part of this is the RRP project “Tackling the threats of climate change to the long-term viability of cultural sites of tourist and economic significance”. Greece is leading a global corresponding initiative and so far, more than 100 UN member states and many NGOs and organizations have expressed their support. In addition, by the end of 2023, management plans are expected to be implemented for 15 archaeological sites included in the UNESCO list. ▪ In order to promote environmental protection and mainstream sustainability values, in line with the respective national and EU legislation, as well as the NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGs), the Ministry of Defense adopted in 2020 an official Environmental, Energy and Adjustment to Climate Change Policy, where a wide range of fundamental environmental principles and priorities of the SDGs are fully integrated and highlighted. In this context, a broad renovating programme that will improve energy efficiency, while driving the clean energy transition as regards the buildings and infrastructure of the Ministry of National Defense, is being implemented in order to reduce its energy footprint, improve its operational capabilities and create a modern working environment. 	
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14 LIFE
BELOW WATER




- Implementation of the "Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the development of aquaculture in Greece, 2021-2030".
- Under the competencies of the Ministry of Agricultural Development, the investment "Proposals for actions in the aquaculture sector" includes innovative equipment solutions, research, transfer of know-how and training of human resources with a view to modernizing and diversifying aquaculture production. It also creates a genetic material bank for endangered species and commercial species of freshwater fish. The objective of the investment is to support environmentally friendly production processes and resource efficiency leading to increased trade and job creation in the sector. In addition, aquaculture is one of the main pillars of the Blue Growth Strategy (Blue Growth, Green Deal, Farm to Fork). This project has been incorporated to the Recovery and Resilience Fund and in November 2022 a call for applications was issued. The applications are currently submitted and the list of the approved investments will be finalized, no later than Q2 2023.
- The "Establishment of new maritime spatial planning", which deals with the development of the maritime spatial planning for the implementation of maritime and coastal policy and the relevant planning systems. The success of the reform is a crucial parameter for the acceleration of investments and the sustainable growth and wellbeing in local and national levels as its implementation will clarify and regulate the institutional framework (regulations and restrictions, protection areas, areas for the development of productive activities especially on the sectors of energy, shipping, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, mining etc) for the allocation and construction of all types of projects and infrastructures, the protection of environment and the definition of the measures to mitigate or/and adapt to climate change. The implementation of the reform shall be completed by the end of Q4 2025. The framework of the 1st Marine Spatial Planning is expected to be completed by the end

The decoupling of land coastal zone planning from maritime spatial planning is implemented through the "new maritime spatial planning" which promotes the Blue Economy while it is serving the acceleration of investments, the sustainable growth and wellbeing, the protection of environment and adaptation to climate change. Moreover, marine biodiversity protection is being advanced through the mapping of marine habitats, as well as addressing the problem of the importation and spread of invasive alien species and at the same time modernizing and diversifying aquaculture production.

Progress on SDG-related indicators:

- In 2021, the Surface of marine sites designated under Natura 2000 covers 22,746 Km². The total marine area included in the Natura 2000 network covers approximately 19.8% .
- The last decade (2011-2021), the average proportion of coastal sites with excellent water quality was approximately 96%,


	<p>of Q4 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Joint Ministerial Decision was published in 2021 under the title “Measures for the implementation of EU Regulation on the prevention and management of the importation and spread of invasive alien species”, and a co-financed project titled “Compilation of a list of invasive species and organization of a methodology for the assessment of their risk” is being implemented and includes proposals for the management and continuous monitoring of the most dangerous invasive species for marine biodiversity. ▪ The need for investment in marine biodiversity and ecosystem protection is covered by three main actions that are funded under the European Maritime And Fisheries Fund. A. “Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources”, whose purpose is to phase out discards and bycatch, to reduce the impact of fishing on the marine environment and protected predators and to include improved fishing techniques and improved selectivity of fishing gear. Four relevant projects are being implemented and will be completed by the end of 2023. B. “Innovation in Fisheries” aims at development of new or significantly improved fishing products and equipment, new or improved processes and techniques. Eleven (11) relevant projects are implemented, three of which create a direct positive impact on marine biodiversity and will be completed by the end of 2023. C. “Construction of Artificial Reefs” is also an action for the protection and improvement of marine fauna and flora. Two artificial reef construction projects were implemented within the period Q2 2022-Q1 2023 ▪ Project PARALIES, launched in summer 2021, is an initiative aiming at cleaning marine litter and protecting the ecosystem of beaches against waste pollution. It focuses on mobilizing private companies with an increased environmental and social sensitivity to take part in the project by adopting a beach for the entire summer period 	<p>which is 9 percentage points higher than the EU-27 average.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of marine habitats is under way within the framework of the Operational Programme “Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development”. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), responsible for coordinating and supervising the management bodies of the several protected areas of the country, through a multi-stakeholder consultation approach, ensuring a more effective conservation status. This new governance scheme, among others, is expected to strengthen biodiversity protection and conservation. The administrative “transfer” of forest services from the Decentralized Administration to the Ministry of Environment & Energy, completed in May 2022, aims at improving organization and coordination between the competent forest services in order to enhance the preparedness of the forest fighting mechanism. The reform was initiated immediately after the devastating forest fires in the summer of 2021. A new Secretariat for Forests was established in January 2022. Forthcoming Project: “Supervision and evaluation of the conservation status of protected species and habitats in Greece”, to assess the conservation status of the protected terrestrial (and marine) species and habitat types of a national and EU interest, through field work monitoring. Development of a National Reforestation Plan (RRP) to constitute a coordinated framework with localized spatial actions and projects to strengthen the national forest balance with multiple, measurable environmental and social benefits, which will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity protection. In particular, the restoration of 16500 hectares of degraded forest ecosystems all over Greece will be concluded by Q2 2023. The investment “Biodiversity Protection as a driver for sustainable growth” will be a driver for sustainable growth, which aims at the effective conservation of biodiversity in protected areas. The investment consists of projects aiming to protect biodiversity, 	<p>Protection of the natural environment is being pursued through administrative and institutional changes in the governance of forest policy making and implementation, as well as for the coordination and supervision of the management bodies of protected areas. Moreover, biodiversity sustainability will be served through the establishment and operation of systems for monitoring of species and habitat types, as well as for the surveillance of protected areas.</p> <p>Interventions of special importance are considered those related to the upgrading of forest firefighting capabilities and reducing wildfires risk by modernizing electricity distribution networks crossing forest areas.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The surface of terrestrial sites designated under Natura 2000, has increased in the last decade, as a result of the consistent transposition and application of the relevant

	<p>including: (a) the establishment of a national network of paths and hiking trails, (b) the enhancement of environmental protection, through the implementation of a National System for Permanent Monitoring of species and habitat types, (c) a National System for the Surveillance of Protected Areas, (d) the introduction of multimedia applications, bioclimatic and energy upgrade of the building facilities of the Protected Areas Management Units, (e) the modernization of the information centers of the Protected Areas Management Units and (f) the creation of an integrated digital platform which offers information on protected areas such as ecotouristic activities etc. and (e) promotion of local products under the umbrella of a 'Nature Greece' brand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within the framework of the National Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020, Greece has initiated a number of actions and measures, which contribute substantially to: (i) the afforestation and creation of forest areas, (ii) the prevention and rehabilitation of forest damage due to forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events (construction - restoration of fire protection roads, construction of water supply points, forest management actions, mountain anti-corrosion and anti-flood works), and (iii) the conservation and protection of the wild bird fauna, whose habitat is closely connected with the agricultural land. Both the island regions and Attica will be given special focus in terms of the actions related to restoring damages in forests and forest areas. Also in relation to afforestation of agricultural land, a new call has been planned for 2024, based on the Strategic Plan for Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 ▪ In the framework of improving water treatment and water infrastructure, the project "Investments in the national irrigation network through PPP schemes" is implemented. This program not only aims to the upgrade and modernization of the national agri environmental, land improvement and remediation framework, but it 	<p>European Union (EU) law and its constant monitoring and updating at national level. In 2021, the terrestrial protected areas cover 46,062 Km²</p>
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	<p>also requires the reform of the institutional, organizational and operational framework of the collective irrigation networks. As the Greek agriculture sector is known to be the largest consumer of water (80- 85% of the total consumption of water resources), the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices targeting productivity increase, maintaining ecosystems, enhancing adaptation to climate change, and improving soil quality, is deemed as imperative. In Q1 2023 four sub projects (Minagiotiko Dam, Tavropos irrigation system, Lake reservoir Xoclakia, Ag.loannis Dam) have been procured and two more (Nestos irrigation system, Hypereia-Orfana irrigation system) will be procured as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National Plan for the Reconstruction of Agro-Environmental Infrastructure includes actions that are supported by the Rural Development Programme and particularly “Ground improvement infrastructure” whose objective is to achieve a balance between the protection of the environment and the improvement of agricultural competitiveness. Improving the efficiency of water use in agriculture requires a holistic approach to the operation and management of the system: water abstraction-transportation-distribution - application to the plant. So far, 109 projects have been approved for a total budget of 562 mil €, while a new call has been published and the evaluation of the proposals is under way with an expected number of 110 projects to be approved and a respective total budget of 250 m €. ▪ Investment “HEDNO overhead network upgrading in forest areas”, will contribute to the green transition, as it will contribute to the replacement of bare conductors in the overhead electricity distribution network (with covered ones or a twisted cable), installation of insulating covers, and undergrounding or relocation of the electricity distribution network passing through forest areas. The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 December 2025. ▪ Substantial increase of wildland firefighting capabilities by establishing a new unit of 	
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	<p>500 forest firefighting commandos, as well the enhancement of firefighting vehicles, airplanes and helicopters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revision of the Forest Maps nationally to ensure the protection and management of forest areas in a more sustainable and effective way against pressures such as urban sprawl and forest fire. ▪ The forest maps project aims to facilitate the investment environment by delineating the forested constitutional protected areas from any other built up of cultivated land in Greece. More than 95% of the country has been covered and 90% is already finalized. During the last year, lots of rectifications were made to the forest maps, in order to comply with recent adjustments in national forest legislation. By the end of July 2022 citizens were obliged to submit their objections against forest maps and by November 2022 more than 90% of the country's forest maps were ratified. More than 56.500 cases have already been reviewed and by the end of Q2 2023 more than 100,000 (of around 400.000 in total) objections against the forest maps are going to be ruled by committees designated for this scope. ▪ Greece implements its National Forest Strategy, which is a big step towards implementing sustainable forest management and strengthening the multifunctional role of forest ecosystems. The strategy identifies specific objectives as well as the necessary resources, assesses the adaptation of forests to climate change and promotes land use and land use change policies to preserve ecosystem services, maintenance of forest land coverage and connectivity to preserve habitats and biodiversity, afforestation and restoration of degraded forests, assessment and management of Greek forest genetic diversity; use of climate-resilient genetic material. ▪ Materialization of the “Untrodden Mountains” initiative to provide for a special protection status for mountain areas of particular natural and cultural importance, by 	
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	<p>their designation as strictly protected areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete the implementation of measures and actions included in the National Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2020-2024), in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The NAPWPS puts forward a wide spectrum of actions for: (i) prevention of armed conflict and of any form of gender-based, sexual and domestic violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, (ii) gender-equal representation, participation and leadership in decision-making, (iii) protection of women and girls from gender-based, sexual and domestic violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and from other violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, (iv) relief and recovery of the survivors of gender-based, sexual and domestic violence, and (v) promotion of the UN Agenda on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) at bilateral, regional, multilateral level. The plan is currently being revised and extended in order for it to better respond to recent global challenges. ▪ In collaboration with UNHCR and NGOs, a mechanism has been launched which includes a 24/7 telephone hotline for identifying and tracing children in need. This mechanism enables rapid identification of unaccompanied children who are homeless or living in insecure conditions, and provides them with safe and secure accommodation and support. Emergency accommodation facilities have been created to accommodate unaccompanied children, with a total capacity of 220 places. Unaccompanied children receive complete case management services, including psychosocial, legal, and medical support, and are referred to long-term accommodation as needed. They are also provided with assistance with their asylum procedure. ▪ A new policy has been designed and implemented to enhance the capacity of long- 	<p>The objectives of the actions implemented to address SDG16 challenges focus on timely detection and prevention of corruption and mismanagement, promotion of transparency and accountability throughout society, justice optimization by increasing its effectiveness and efficiency, for citizens and the economy, through systematic collection of statistics, enhancement of functioning and improvement of the quality of services offered to citizens, professionals and public entities. Sustainable economic recovery cannot be achieved without the enhancement and safeguarding of the financial system and help it overcome legacy challenges and finance the real economy through the establishment and operation. Moreover, the establishment of multilevel governance aims at ensuring representative decision making at all levels (namely National, Regional and Local) via a detailed and systematic recording and reallocation of competencies.</p>

	<p>term accommodation for unaccompanied minors. In 2022, 450 new hosting positions were created for unaccompanied children, bringing the total number of accommodation places in hostels and semi-autonomous living apartments to 2,275.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In July 2022, Parliament adopted Law 4960/2022 on the establishment of a national guardianship system for unaccompanied minors, and their comprehensive accommodation, adopting an approach based on the rights of the child and focused on ensuring the best interests of the minors. ▪ The new National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) 2022-2025, in consultation with major stakeholders, sets clear strategic objectives, incorporates international best practices and builds synergies across public administration, prioritizing targeted interventions in high-risk areas prone to fraud and corruption. The plan was adopted by the Council of Ministers and is revised yearly. ▪ A National System of Internal Audit in the public sector and the independent Office of the Advisor of Integrity in the Ministries has been established. The primary objective of the newly introduced initiative is to educate and direct employees on a range of ethical issues and matters related to workplace integrity, such as ethical dilemmas, violation reports, conflicts of interest and codes of ethics. For 2023, 4 training programmes for internal auditors will be carried out with 107 public servants participating, along with three programmes for Integrity Advisors with 77 participants. Currently, the Ministry of Interior is elaborating the MDs for the competences and selection criteria of Integrity Advisors. ▪ The Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the National Transparency Authority established the framework for the risk management of mismanagement and corruption in the public sector. Risk management is a structural element of the Internal Control System. The establishment of an integrated risk management system will not only help countries to be more resilient against corruption risks, but also 	<p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General government total expenditure on law courts reveals that spending on law courts has remained relatively stable over the last ten years (from 656 million euro in 2011 - corresponding to 59.1 euro per inhabitant - to 648 million euro in 2021 - corresponding to 60.9 euro per inhabitant). ● The government aims to effectively address serious and organized crime at national, regional and local level, while at the same time focusing on crime prevention. While the standardized death rate due to homicide per 100,000 persons in 2010 rose to 1.40 (total), in 2020 it decreased to 0.74 (total).
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	<p>facilitate the development of actions aimed at strengthening public integrity. In line with this, the relevant MD is currently incorporating the Risk Manager Certification Program, which will be developed in accordance with the standards set for Internal Auditor's and Integrity Advisor's Certifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The new Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of Public Servants follows a structured and composed approach, in order to define in a positive way, the proper official behaviour of civil servants. It includes the fundamental values of the Public Administration, the actions that make up the professional behaviour of the Public Sector employees, issues of supervision of the implementation of the Code and issues of information - awareness. Currently, a ministerial decision regarding issues related to the Code of Ethics is estimated to be issued by the end of April, while the relevant Code will be published by the end of 2023. ▪ An electronic platform to monitor the progress on cases of the disciplinary boards (preliminary examination procedures, sworn administrative examination procedures and disciplinary procedures) has been developed by the National Transparency Authority. More specifically, a joint decision by the Ministry of Digital Governance and the Governor of NTA has been issued to define all operational details and deadlines for uploading relevant data for disciplinary cases. Additionally, a circular, a user manual and a help desk in NTA have already been released to provide explicit details on the new monitoring procedure. Until now, 1,018 entities have uploaded the necessary data, and by April 2023, five entities will register disciplinary cases that will serve as a pilot for the entire process. ▪ The Ministry of Interior in cooperation with NTA has determined a regulatory framework for the communication of the State institutions with representatives of interests in Greece, with the intention of enhancing transparency and integrity in the exercise of their duties. Furthermore, a robust framework has been established to 	
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	<p>regulate gifts and other benefits offered to the President of the Republic, members of the Government, and Deputy Ministers. All relevant ministerial decisions have already been issued, including those that establish the terms, conditions, and registration details in the Transparency Register for unions, professional associations, etc., define the procedure for submitting, examining reports and imposing sanctions, specify the details for the preparation of a Code of Conduct for Interest Representatives, establish the institutional bodies and the sanctions to be imposed in case of obligations breach and address issues related to the operation of the Transparency Register. A series of provisions regarding political appointees are included under the new law “Goal-setting, Evaluation and Reward System for enhancing the efficiency of the Public Administration” (L.4940/2022), to further safeguard transparency and accountability in their regime and access of citizens to information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law 4990/2022 transposed Directive 2019/1937 into Greek legislation. The National Transparency Authority's online platform and the secondary legislation currently being developed provide private and public sector employees with the opportunity to safely and anonymously report any illegal conduct or practices within their organisations that damage corporate reputation and cause direct or indirect financial losses, without fear of reprisals. ▪ The Real Beneficiaries Register is an important tool for combating financial and economic crime by increasing transparency and accountability. The register can help to prevent money laundering, tax evasion, and other illicit activities, by requiring companies and other legal entities to disclose their beneficial owners. Putting the Real Beneficiaries Register under the competence of the Special Secretariat for Financial and Economic Crime Unit (SDOE), that has expertise in investigating financial crimes, is a positive step towards improving the effectiveness of this tool. By putting the Real Beneficiaries Register into full operation, the government can ensure that the register 	
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	<p>is being used to its full potential to combat financial crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Anti-crime Policy Program (2020-2024), with targeted and measurable objectives, seeks to enhance crime prevention and effectively address serious and organized crime at national, regional and local levels. It is complemented and supported by the Strategic and Operational Program of the Anti-Crime Policy of the Hellenic Police (2021-2025). ▪ A reform of the existing Penal Code by law (4985/2022) was adopted. Its main goal was to improve prison conditions ensuring that they meet international human rights and provide equal treatment irrespective of race, religion, or sex. Furthermore, educational and health care programmes, along with rationalizing penalties, were set as main priorities. ▪ Re-establishment of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance in an effort to tackle racism and discrimination ▪ The independent Office for the Collection and Processing of Judicial Statistics (JustStat) with a view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of justice through systematic collection of statistics concerning both traditional and alternative dispute resolution procedures is now operational. The Presidential Decree on the operation and staffing of the Office has been adopted (PD 47/2022) and its Supervising Committee has been formed. Finally, the Business Intelligence System supporting the Office is expected to be functional by the end of 2023. ▪ The first Independent Office for Minor Victims (Houses of the Child), located in Athens, in order to facilitate the judicial examination of children who were victims of abuse and sexual violence is fully operational, while a second House in Thessaloniki is being prepared to operate within 2023. ▪ Interdisciplinary seminars for judges on child-friendly justice and the rights of children that are victims of criminal acts, based on the respective guidelines issued by the 	
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	<p>Council of Europe and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights took place on 5th and 6th May 2022 and respectively on 20.10.2022 and 21.10.2022 under the initiative of the National School for Judges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the framework of reception and protection of displaced persons from Ukraine, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum extended the operation of the Help Desk telephone center and the operation of structures for exclusive hosting displaced Ukrainians, as well as the collection of humanitarian aid items for displaced persons from Ukraine. Furthermore access to education (including “All-Ukrainian online schedule” that contains links to material from various resources for school classes and “All-Ukrainian online school” a platform for remote and hybrid learning of students in grades 5-11 and methodological support for teachers) as well as health and temporary protection is also provided. ▪ Establishment of new fundamental rights safeguarding mechanisms in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum that are currently operational and will be further elaborated, such as the nomination of a Fundamental Rights Officer and the establishment of Special Committee for Compliance with Fundamental rights. Two new Joint Ministerial Decisions that will further determine the responsibilities of the above mentioned mechanisms will be published in May 2023. ▪ Ministry of Migration and Asylum has regulated the procedure of vulnerability assessment to verify the vulnerability of Third Country Nationals who come from war zones and have suffered torture. ▪ Roll-out of three important NAPs: (i) the National Action Plan for Children’s Rights (2021-2023) is under monitoring on a regular basis by the National Mechanism for the Elaboration, Monitoring and Evaluation attached to the General Secretariat for Justice and Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, composed of representatives of several Ministries and Agencies. An intermediate evaluation of the current Action Plan has 	
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	<p>already began and the mapping of the New Action Plan (2024-2027) is to be concluded by October 2023 (ii) the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance (2020-2023) has almost all its projects concluded with raise awareness activities being concluded on April 2022 (iii) the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Abuse of Children (2020-2025) has passed through public consultation and now its comprising projects in favour of juvenile victims which are being implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening multilevel governance includes vertical redistribution of responsibilities among the three tiers of government through the creation of a mechanism for the organization and monitoring of multi-level governance policies along with the adoption of relevant legislation. ▪ Key structural reforms, tackling various issues, will be introduced shortly. In particular, the projected revision of the judicial map across the country will result in a more efficient organization of judicial districts. The establishment, abolition, or redistribution of judicial structures is based on objective criteria, leading to a faster administration of justice. Already adopted, law 5028/2023, regarding administrative courts, aims to fully rationalise the organisation of Administrative Courts. ▪ A Judicial Clerks Performance Tool will be adopted to enhance judicial clerks' productivity, by providing bonuses based on objective performance indicators and strategic goals (especially reducing backlog). An agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Justice and the World Bank, regarding a report, note and technical input. Primary legislation has been adopted, while a joint ministerial decision between the Ministries of Justice and Finance is to be signed within 2023. ▪ Judicial police is a reform with the scope to support the work of judges and prosecutors by the exercise of responsibilities by the Judicial Police personnel, and, in particular, by the conduct of preliminary examination, preliminary inquiry and 	
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	<p>investigative acts by specialized personnel, directly linked to the prosecutorial and investigative authorities, with high legal training and experience in drafting technical reports. Law 4963/2022 provides for the establishment, operation and organisation of the Judicial Police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation and expansion of a central Information System to support the operational functions of administrative, civil and criminal courts of the country. Key features of the project include actions to strengthen the information system of the National Criminal Registry and further extend its services. In parallel a new project for the digitalization of court documents and the upgrading of the Court Records Management System of the civil and criminal courts is on track. The system also includes various projects such as the Uniform System of Wills and the E-filing for civil, criminal and administrative justice, which represent a significant advancement in the digitisation of judicial processes. This development is particularly beneficial to citizens, lawyers and officials as it aims to streamline and improve the efficiency of the judiciary. Moreover, with the aim to address the issue of the inadequate digitisation of court proceedings, records and decisions, an integrated case management system for administrative courts called 'OSDDY-DD' is being upgraded.. The project, funded by the NSRF, is expected to be completed in 2025. At the same time, the call for tenders for the digitisation of court documents was published on November 24, 2022. The next steps include awarding the tender and signing the contract by Q2 2023. Moreover, the contract for the upgrading of the Court Records Management System of the civil and criminal courts was awarded in March 2023. ▪ To optimise the judiciary's efficiency and avoid unnecessary expenses and efforts, the RRF will partially finance the following projects: acquisition of buildings to accommodate courts and prosecutor's offices, court relocation, renovation and energy-efficient upgrades, and construction of new court buildings. The renovation 	
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	<p>plan concerns the Athens Court of Appeal, the National School of Judges, the Court of Audit, the Council of State and the Administrative Courts of Athens. The inclusion decision in the RRF Project for the Administrative Courts of Athens has already been published, along with the relevant call for tenders. For the rest of the Administrative Justice buildings, the inclusion decision is to be published by Q2 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National School of Judges is enhancing its curriculum to improve the skills and digital competences of judges. Continuous training for judges will be provided to enhance their knowledge and proficiency in the application of new technologies, specifically information technology, artificial intelligence, and electronic systems, to the advancement of law, the management of justice, and the tasks performed by the judiciary. Law 5001/2022 includes amendments to facilitate the participation of a greater number of judges in ongoing training programs. The National School of Judges has been assigned with the selection, education and training of the judicial clerks based on the judiciary's needs. The future judicial clerks will have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their duties effectively. The operation of the new department in the National School of Judicial Judges is expected by Q4 2023. ▪ The national anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) reform aims at increasing integrity and fighting financial crime through the digitization of transparency rules and strengthening the existing measures. ▪ An initiative that serves the particular development goal is a project that makes an effort to combat illicit trade and protect intellectual property rights through the reinforcement of the Interagency Unit for Market Control and through targeted information and dissemination programmes. The tender procedure regarding the introduction of new, modern and interoperable, electronic control tools has already been completed. The development of subsystems, digital services and the installation of the information system to the GCloud are currently in development by the 	
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	<p>authorized corporation and are being expected for delivery to the allocated Committee. Moreover, the project regarding the setting up of an Operation Center for DIMEA is progressing according to schedule. Specifically, as long as the ISOBOXES in different parts of the country are concerned, the treaty has been signed and a Committee has been assigned to supervise the final delivery process. The hiring process for thirty (30) new staff members, who will strengthen the overall capacity of DI.M.E.A. is expected to take place after the announcement of the official contest. Meanwhile, regarding the equipment of DI.M.E.A., thirteen (13) plug-in hybrids and electrical powered vehicles, along with seven (7) chargers for the aforementioned, are to be delivered by the Committee. Last but not least, the introduction of information and educational material for both businesses and consumers is still under way.</p>	
<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) at local and regional level, based on the basic principles of sustainable urban mobility. A key element of a SUMP is, apart from the citizen’s participation, the cooperation and engagement of local authorities and stakeholders, such as decentralized administrations, transport providers, representatives of traffic policing services, chambers, commercial and professional associations, representatives of the educational community and, importantly, bodies with the statutory purpose of promoting issues of persons with disabilities, The engagement takes the form of a participation agreement signed by the interested parties. ▪ To combat crimes of common interest and all forms of trafficking of drugs, food and pesticides, the Financial Police Division has developed strategic partnerships, with a number of authorities, institutions and services, at international and national levels, including: prosecution and investigation authorities (i.e. Anti-Corruption Prosecutor, Economic Crime Prosecutor), the National Transparency Authority, the General Secretariat of Tax Policy & Public Property, the Independent Authority for Public 	<p>In order to incorporate the “whole-of-society” dimension in SDG-related initiatives the Government cooperates with all levels of governance, the Parliament, institutions, social partners and civil society actors. At the international level, promoting SDG-respecting coalitions through multilateral agreements is a priority. At the same time, both globally and especially for Europe which is facing a growing humanitarian and refugee crisis on its own territory as a result of the war in Ukraine, Greece has to respond to the new refugee crisis so as not to divert much-needed resources oriented to other humanitarian crises.</p>

	<p>Revenue and Tax Offices, social security institutions, the Labour Inspection Body, the National Organization for Medicines, the Ministry of Development and Investments, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Anti-Money Laundering Authority, the Greek Ombudsman, foreign embassies in Greece, and European and International Organizations, such as EUROPOL, INTERPOL, EUIPO, OLAF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Government has established a specific Working Group on the protection of victims of human trafficking. It brings together a wide range of stakeholders including representatives of the police services, the Court of First Instance, judges, the Office of National Referee for the fight against Human Trafficking, and the National Center of Social Solidarity that supports the function of the National Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking. ▪ National Multi-stakeholder Initiative for the implementation of the new UNESCO 'Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs' It is based on the cooperation of the educational community and the local authorities on the right to a healthy environment, and on the linkages between recycling and circular economy in order to steer behavioral and cultural changes with regard to municipal waste production based on the waste hierarchy (e.g. reuse before recycling). The Initiative will run up to 2026 and its partners will include several Local Authorities, Universities, NGOs, Youth Organisations, the Centers of Environmental Education supervised by the Ministry of Education and the Hellenic Recycling Agency (EOAN) supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. ▪ Trade facilitation is an action that is expected to finance measures on boosting exports by streamlining procedures and facilitating cross – border trade for companies operating in Greece. On June 28th, 2022 the Governmental Trade Facilitation Committee unanimously approved the Trade Facilitation Roadmap for the period 	<p>Combining all levels, in order to combat crime in all of its forms, the Government and the Hellenic Police in particular, have developed strategic partnerships with a number of authorities, institutions and services, at international and local level.</p> <p>Progress on SDG-related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2020, during the peak of the pandemic crisis, the general government gross debt exceeded 200% of GDP. However, this ratio dropped to 171.3% in 2022, which is lower than the corresponding ratio in 2019 ● The EU, its 27 member countries and major financial institutions (Team Europe) are global leader donors yet the official development assistance from Greece is at the lower side of the spectrum as a result of the country's 12-year economic downturn.
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	<p>2022-2026, which is structured around four main axes: (a) institutional governance of trade facilitation, (b) simplification and digitization of pre-customs procedures, (c) implementation of the digital single window for external trade and (d) enhancing Greece's connectivity with neighbouring countries. Within the framework of this project, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pursuing the objective of digitizing its services, whereas special effort is given to the digitization of the Dual-Use Goods & Arms/Ammunition Export Licenses. This project is included in the Recovery & Resilience Plan for Greece and its implementation is expected to be completed by 31 December 2023.</p>	
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