

Greek Development Cooperation

Development policies

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece supports humanitarian and food programmes as well as economic and social development programmes materialized by NGOs within the context of the Millennium Development Goals. These development programmes are aimed at the eradication of poverty and the amelioration of living standards in developing countries.

Within the framework of Economic Diplomacy, Greece further devotes special attention to its neighbouring countries in South-East Europe. In 2002, Greece initiated the Hellenic Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans (HiPERB). This programme has been prolonged until 2011 and has a total budget worth €550 million. The general aim of this programme is to contribute to political, economic and social stability in South-East Europe and to support the recipient countries' European perspective.

Being an EU member State and OECD DAC member, Greece committed itself to the annual increase of its international development assistance to ultimately achieve the target of 0.51% of its Gross National Income (GNI).

Priority countries

The strategy planning as formulated in 2008 included priority countries in Africa, South and Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The following UNECE member States were among the priority countries that received funding for programmes: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The following UNECE member States receive bilateral funding within the HiPERB framework: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Priority areas

Hellenic Aid focuses on actions and programmes related to crucial development sectors as well as in specific priority countries. The strategy as formulated in 2008 covers the following topics: food security assistance, immigration, environment and climate change, human trafficking, trade infrastructure and production capacity, good governance, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Examples of development programmes currently supported by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and concerning UNECE member States are the following:

- Establishing a "Network of Young Leaders from the Balkans, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Black Sea"
- Prevention, protection, emergency cases and crises management in Albania
- Partial restoration of the irrigation channel in Albania

The priority areas of the HiPERB programme in the Balkan region are modernization of infrastructure, promotion of production investments, supporting democratic

institutions and the rule of law, the modernization of public administration and local government, strengthening the welfare state, redressing economic inequalities and offering professional training to workers and scientists in the recipient countries. Funding is available for large public investment projects and private production investments as well as small projects.

Coordination and implementation

The General Directorate for International Development Cooperation (Hellenic Aid) of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established in 1999. Hellenic Aid is responsible for the supervision, coordination, monitoring and promotion of emergency humanitarian, food aid and development activities conducted by implementing institutions such as ministries, universities, NGOs or other Greek players in developing countries.

For more information, please see www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/en-US/