

Regional Outlook 2019

GREECE

Regional Development Policy in Greece



General policy approach

Greece's regional policy is aligned with the use of EU regional policy funds, as set out in 7 sectoral and 13 regional operational programmes. The overarching focus is to address structural weaknesses in the economy that have been exacerbated by the crisis.

Urban policy is mainly focused on spatial planning considerations, along with sustainable development. Urban policy is also implemented through the European Structural Investment Funds, aiming at the sustainable economic and social development of cities.

Rural policy derives from the EU Rural Development Programme along with other national and EU sources that benefit different types of rural regions, including islands.

Recent policy changes

- Management of regional operational programmes is now the responsibility of regional management authorities.
- Greece has introduced integrated territorial investments on sustainable urban development through regional operational programmes of EU Cohesion Policy.
- The new 2014-20 Rural Development Programme is more focused on targeted sectors that have added value for the national economy, enhanced environmental sustainability, innovation and knowledge for integrated agricultural supply chains, and a greater use of community-led local development/LEADER for more bottom-up approaches. Given employment trends, job creation has also become a priority in rural development policy.
- Several management changes have been put in place for the Regional Development Programme, including administrative simplification efforts, improved monitoring and evaluation, delegation of some of the funds to regions, and greater use of financial instruments.

Institutional arrangements to prepare for global megatrends

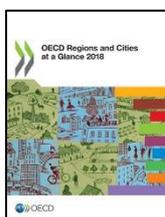
Greece set up a Growth Strategy in 2017 outlining the basic aspects of development policies in the next years, including financial forecasts and regional development.

Regional development policy is reflected in the Partnership Agreement 2014-20 through the 7 sectoral and 13 regional operational programmes that are currently being implemented.

Law 4447/2016 revised the principles of spatial planning and the National Spatial Strategy. In July 2018, the specifications for renewing the regional spatial plans were published, and regional spatial plans will soon be updated with the new specifications. A novelty, moreover, in the National Spatial Plan and regional spatial plans are the forward-looking elements that must be part of such future plans. In this context, the region of Attica is an exception as its spatial plan is approved by law by the Greek parliament (Law 4277/2014).

Looking for statistical information to complement this?

Take a look at our publication Regions and Cities at a Glance:



<https://oe.cd/pub/2n9>

OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas

The 2019 edition of the *OECD Regional Outlook* examines the regional dimensions of global megatrends and their implications for the well-being of people living in different places. It discusses how place-based policies, public investment and multi-level governance reforms can respond to these megatrends to revive productivity growth, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life and increase sustainability.

Consult the full publication and the other country profiles on line: <https://oe.cd/pub/2vq>.

