



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SPECIAL SERVICE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2009-2014**

PROGRAMME AREA

Integrated Marine & Inland Water Management



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed Programme aims at contributing to the reduction of economic and social disparities within the European Economic Area (EEA) by improving and securing the sustainable management and protection of Greece's inland and marine waters. The achievement of this objective will result in securing increased amounts of good quality drinking water and the adoption of practices that achieve sustainable use and management of the economically and ecologically valuable water and marine resources.

The Programme will finance projects regarding the management, the protection and the improved monitoring of inland and marine waters at regional or national level (with emphasis in coastal areas and islands) as well as environmental education school activities and scholarships, thus contributing to the reinforcement of the sustainable development principles. Furthermore, the projects will reinforce social cohesion and entrepreneurship in areas, which face severe environmental problems and / or financial hardship.

The protection of water resources and especially marine ecosystems in threatened coastal areas will be of high priority.

The expansion of networking and exchange of experience will contribute to the improvement of the bilateral relations between Greece and the Donor States and enable the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices between public entities.

The primary target groups will be public entities. Other participants may be Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), pupils, educators, graduates of higher education and researchers. A predefined project about a marine water monitoring programme, to ensure the ongoing assessment of their environmental status, is also included.

2. BASIC INFORMATION

Programme Area: Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management

Name of the Programme: GR02 - Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management

Objective: Good environmental status in European marine and inland waters

Name of the Programme Operator: (as named in the MoU) Special Service for the Co-ordination of Environmental Activities (Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change)

Predefined project: Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme

3. RELEVANCE OF THE PROGRAMME

The overall objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism (FM) are the reduction of economic and social disparities in the EEA and EU and the strengthening of bilateral relations between the Donor States and the beneficiary ones.

The objective of the Programme area is to ensure a good environmental status of marine and inland waters in the EU.

The proposed Programme will fulfill the above objectives by implementing projects promoting: integrated marine and inland water resources' management with emphasis on coastal areas and islands, drinking water supply in islands, drinking water saving and quality improvement, improved monitoring of marine waters, environmental rehabilitation and protection at local level, environmental education programmes and scholarships in the field of marine and inland water resources management.

The Programme will contribute to the sustainable management of marine and inland water resources by the implementation of specific measures or projects in environmentally sensitive areas, to protect and rehabilitate burdened ecosystems and to help the economic development of coastal zones and islands. Furthermore, the Programme aims at contributing to the good environmental status of the marine and inland water resources by the development of monitoring programmes.

4. PROGRAMME MOTIVATION AND JUSTIFICATION

4.1 Challenges and needs analysis

The hydrologic regime in Greece, as far as the amount of total precipitation is concerned, corresponds to the other Mediterranean countries of the European Union. However, a certain hydrologic particularity considerably differentiates the Eastern regions of the country from the islands of Aegean and Crete, which are particularly problematic regions, as far as their natural enrichment is concerned.

According to studies, there is a peculiar hydrologic pattern that takes place in Greece: Western Greece accepts the majority of rainfalls, more than 1500mm/ year, while Eastern Greece, along with the islands of Aegean and Crete, have considerably smaller rainfalls e.g Attica's mean interannual precipitation is approximately 400 mm/year. On the other hand, the evapotranspiration is an important hydrological loss that takes place both from the surface and the upper territorial layers. The value of evapotranspiration is quite high, especially in the dry Eastern regions of the country. Its maximum is called potential evapotranspiration. A widely used indicator for the climatic characterization of a region is the UNESCO' s indicator of dryness, defined as the ratio of the mean annual precipitation to the corresponding potential evapotranspiration. The distribution of this indicator in Greece, indicates the previously mentioned hydrological particularity, along with the severity of drought that affects South-eastern Greece and the islands of Aegean.

Furthermore, water imbalance is often experienced along the coastal zone of Greece. It is important here to mention that Greece has a coastline of more than 16,500 kilometres (almost equal to that of the African continent), the longest of any other Mediterranean or European country. Almost half of this coastline corresponds to the continental part of the country and a little more than half to the archipelagic complexes of the Aegean and Ionian Seas. It is also significant that the country is characterised by its high coastal concentration of the population.

The water quantity and quality demands in the coastal and island regions exceed supply capacity. The peak demands occur mainly in the summer period. During the same period, drinking water consumption is significantly increased due to tourist activity, especially in the islands where there are no water bodies of significant size. Meanwhile, saltwater intrusion from overexploitation of coastal aquifers is a major problem in many of these Greek regions. The damage to the aquifer normally results in a permanent reduction in available water resources.

Consequently, available water quantities are presently declining and large areas have or soon will become deficient in water. Water demands in many cases are met by transporting water over long distances, thus resulting in increased both capital, operational and maintenance costs.

These regions experience an "endemic" shortage of water that appears to be critical. This fact, in combination with the very high water consumption and the water losses in these regions establishes almost permanent conditions of water scarcity, namely permanent insufficiency and shortages of water.

Although Greece transposed the Water Framework Directive (WFD) into national legislation in 2003, the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) are still expected to be finalised and approved. To cope with the WFD requirements, Regional Water Directorates and Councils were established within each River Basin District or Water Region RBDs, with the responsibility of organising and coordinating water policy activities including water pricing and specific Water Programmes and Action Plans with specific measures for each RBD.

Greece has 14 Water Basin Districts. The RBMPs for the 10 RBDs are in the procedure of final approval. The consultation for the RBMPs for the RBDs of Western Macedonia (GR09, Central Macedonia (GR10), Crete (GR13) and the Aegean Islands (GR14) is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

The implementation of the above mentioned Specific Water Programmes and Action Plans with specific measures is critical for the coastal and island regions.

Concerning the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), which aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2020, Greece transposed it into national legislation in 2011 (Law No. 3983/2011). The Marine Strategy Framework Directive states that for each marine subregion concerned, a marine strategy for its marine waters shall be developed, in accordance with the action plan that includes the following stages:

a) Preparation

a.1) Initial assessment of the current environmental status of the waters concerned and the environmental impact of human activities thereon, to be completed by 15 July 2012.

a.2) A determination, to be established by 15 July 2012 of good environmental status for the waters concerned.

a.3) Establishment, by 15 July 2012, of a series of environmental targets and associated indicators.

a.4) Establishment and implementation, by 15 July 2014, of a monitoring programme for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets.

b) Programme of measures

b.1) Development, by 2015 at the latest, of a programme of measures.

b.2) Entry into operation of the programme of measures, by 2016 at the latest

The Special Secretariat for Water of the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change has already completed and submitted to the European Commission, on time, the stages a.1, a.2, a.3 and is preparing the implementation of stage a.4, namely the establishment and implementation of Monitoring Programs.

The establishment and implementation of Monitoring Programs for the Marine Regions is a critical matter for Greece in order to achieve the target of good environmental status of its marine waters by 2020.

Other critical factors for the promotion of the environmental protection in the field of waters (inland, marine, coastal), is the rise of the environmental awareness and the increase of the special knowledge acquired by the professionals in the field. To this purpose the Programme supports environmental education projects in schools and scholarships for graduates of higher education and researchers.

4. 2 Public and private structures relevant to the Programme area

The main public authority, relevant to the Programme area, at national level is the Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change (MEECC). Within the MEECC there are:

- The **SSCEA** who is the Programme Operator
- The **Special Secretariat for Water (SSW)** which is responsible for the development and implementation of all programmes related to the protection and management of the country's water resources and the coordination of all competent authorities dealing with the aquatic environment. The implementation of the Water Framework and the Marine Strategy Directives as well as the implementation of the related descendant Directives fall within the scope of the activities of SSW. The SSW comprises four Directorates and is headed by a Special Secretary, appointed by the Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

Other relevant authorities at national level are:

- the **National Water Commission** which is the high-level inter-ministerial body responsible for policy formulation for the management and protection of the country's water resources.
- the **National Council for Water** which is the social consultation body.

Specific institutions carry out scientific and technological research in the Programme area. Among them the most important are:

- the **Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR – HELKETHE)**
- the Institute of geology and mineral exploration

At regional level the **Regional Water Directorates** (belonging to the Regional Authorities) have mainly the responsibility of deploying water protection strategy and management as well as the implementation of strategic planning for waters.

At local level, **Local Authorities** and their Water Supply and Sewerage Companies have responsibilities mainly for water supply. Especially for Athens and Thessaloniki Greater Areas there are two major companies EYDAP S.A and EYATH S.A, who have the water supply responsibilities.

In the country there are also **28 Management Bodies of protected areas** relevant to the Programme area.

Finally, there is **the Ministry of Education**, in charge of the Environmental Education programmes in schools (operated in its 52 Environmental Education Centres and its supervised body) and **the State Scholarships Foundation (SSF)**, in charge of the implementation of all scholarships and students mobility schemes.

A number of NGO's is also activated in Programme area.

4. 3 Legislation relevant to the Programme

The applied legislation is based on the European Directives and the National Legislation as listed below:

European Legislation

Directive 2008/56/EC (Marine Strategy Framework Directive – MSFD) establishes a framework within which the necessary actions will be taken to achieve or maintain good environmental status in Europe's marine environment by the year 2020.

For the protection and preservation of the marine environment from deterioration or, where possible, for the restoration of marine ecosystems in areas which have been adversely affected, for the prevention and reduction of burdening inputs in the marine environment, with the aim to decrease pollution, so as to ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks for the marine biodiversity, the marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea.

Directive 2000/60 (Water Framework Directive – WFD) establishes a framework for the sustainable management of water resources and the protection of their relevant eco-systems.

The primary objective of the Directive is the achievement of acceptable water quality through the implementation of rational water resources' management plans. The implementation of the Directive will be of great significance to the protected areas, the water quality and the human health.

Directive 98/83/EEC on the quality of water intended for human consumption

The objective of this Directive is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.

Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water

Its objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors.

Directive 2006/7/EC concerning the quality of bathing waters

The main objective of the Bathing Water Directive is the protection of the public health and the environment from faecal pollution at bathing waters. Member States are required to identify popular bathing areas and to monitor their water quality throughout the bathing season.

Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

It aims to the protection of some 220 habitats and approximately 1.000 species listed in the directive's Annexes and which are considered to be of European interest.

Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

The Directive is about the conservation of all wild bird species naturally occurring in the territory of the member states, their protection and the management of their exploitation.

Directive 78/659/EEC of 18 July 1978 on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life as amended by Council Directive 91/692/EEC (further amended by Council Regulation 1882/2003/EC) and Council Regulation 807/2003/EC

The aim of this Directive is the protection or improvement of the quality of those running or standing fresh waters, in which fishes belonging to:

- indigenous species or
- desired species for water management purposes

live or could live, if pollution was reduced or eliminated.

Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979, as amended by Council Directive 91/692/EEC (further amended by Council Regulation 1882/2003/EC) on the required shellfish waters quality

The aim of the Shellfish Waters Directive is the protection or improvement of shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth. It is designed to protect the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs, which include oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams. The Directive demands the designation of waters needing protection.

Council Decision 2009/89/EC: on the signing, on behalf of the European Community, of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

National Legislation

Law 3983/2011 “National Strategy for the protection and management of the marine environment”

The law embodies the requirements and objectives of Directive 2008/56/EC regarding marine waters into National Law.

Law 3199/03 “Protection and management of water”

The Law embodies the requirements and objectives of Directive 2000/60/EC into National Law.

Presidential Decree 51/2007

It defines measures and procedures for the integrated protection and management of water in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC.

Law 1650/86 on the protection of the environment

Article 10 defines general rules for the protection of water. Article 28 determines the penalties imposed to those, who cause water pollution and to companies that operate without operating permits.

The Programme, via the predefined project, will contribute to the fulfilment of the requirements of the MSFD in Greece. Furthermore, one of the criteria for the selection of the projects will be the compliance with the requirements of the relevant EU and national legislation.

4.4 State aid & public procurement

State aid is an economic assistance provided by public entities to legal entities engaged in economic activities. It can consist of public support measures in numerous forms, such as tax exemptions, loans on preferential terms, state guarantees and investments in share capital made by public authorities, in terms that would be acceptable for a private investor.

This programme does not include financial support to private bodies (enterprises) but in any case conformity of the State aid legislation will be checked by the legal experts of the P.O and the competent authority in the Ministry of Development.

For the implementation of projects financed by the current Programme, the regulations and the legislation regarding public procurement of goods and services, as well as the legislation for public works will be applied. All relevant controls and information will be provided by the Programme Operator (PO).

4.5 Justification for the Programme Strategy

As outlined above, there are a number of fields where action needs to be taken so that the Programme can contribute to the objectives of “More integrated management of marine and inland water resources”, “Improved monitoring of marine waters” and “Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management”.

Activities funded by the Programme may be:

- Projects for environmental protections and rehabilitation, to deal with marine and inland waters
- Monitoring of marine water quality, to ensure compliance with the Greek and European legislation in force
- Awareness/educational activities etc.

The budget is initially allocated as following:

- Approximately **58%** of the budget is allocated to projects, aiming at an integrated management of marine and inland waters
- Approximately **22%** of the budget is allocated to the establishment and implementation of a monitoring programme in marine areas (predefined project) that will fulfill the obligations of the country according the MSFD.

The predefined project titled “Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme” will be implemented by **the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR – HELKETHE)**. The objective of this project is an ongoing assessment of the environmental status and the regular updating of environmental targets in the Ionian, the Central Mediterranean, the Aegean and the Adriatic Sea in terms of Directive 2008/56/EC, aiming to achieve good environmental status in European marine and inland waters. The project will be completed by April 2016 and will cost about 2.500.000 €.

- Approximately **13%** of the approved budget will be allocated to projects for promoting awareness and educational activities in water resources management as well as scholarships in the field of marine and inland water resources management. These projects will target pupils, educators, graduates of higher education and researchers.

With the exception of the predefined project, all other projects will be selected on a competitive basis through open calls for proposals. The potential Project Promoters will be offered informational seminars. The submitted applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee, as described in Chapter 6 of the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA FM 2009-2014, in accordance to a list of certain criteria. Furthermore they will have to meet the requirements according to the Regulation.

The selection of the projects will be on the basis of:

- Project’s contribution to the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the Programme.
- Compliance with National and European Legislation.
- Project maturity.
- The ability of Project Promoter to plan and implement properly the project.
- Project Feasibility, Quality, Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability.

- Project cost-benefit analysis.

5. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

5.1 Objective of Programme (expected impact)

Programme area: Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management

Objective: Good environmental status in European marine and inland waters

5.2 Programme expected outcome

A / A	Outcome	Indicator	Description	Indicator value		Source of verification
				Baseline	Target	
1	More Integrated management of marine and inland water resources	Population of the areas where actions for the improvement of the management of water resources have been implemented.	Actions (projects or studies) will be implemented in specific areas and will, directly or indirectly, influence the quality of life of their population (reducing economic or social disparities).	0	xxx	Project Progress Reports submitted by Project Promoters

A / A	Outcome	Indicator	Description	Indicator value		Source of verification
				Baseline	Target	
2	Improved monitoring of marine waters	Number of environmental programmes implemented	A monitoring programme is a programme to measure, collect, compute and present data from the environment.	Baseline	Target	Project Progress Reports submitted by Project Promoters
				0	1	
3	Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management	Number of educational programmes in primary and secondary education, in the field of water resources	An educational programme could concern lessons, projects and/or visits to specific marine areas or inland water bodies. Schools in all country will be the target group of those programmes	Baseline	Target	Monitoring report submitted by SGS Operator
				0	120	
		Number of graduates, fellows/scholars granted for studies/research in the field of marine and inland water resources management in donor states' institutions or universities	Graduates, fellows/scholars, will get grants for studies/research in donor states' institutions / universities in the field of marine and inland water resources management	Baseline	Target	Monitoring report submitted by SGS Operator
				0	22	

Indicators have been chosen to be strongly related to the expected deliverables of outcomes and as specific and measurable as possible. The target of each indicator has been chosen to be achievable within the programme under the specified budget of each outcome.

5.3 Programme Outputs

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	Indicator value		Description
			Baseline	Target	
More Integrated management of marine and inland water resources	Water quality improved for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands	Production of quality improved water for drinking or irrigation purposes (m ³ / day)	0	2,500	Projects could be the construction of desalination units or water refineries, in islands, or any other construction aiming to the improvement of water quality.
	Increased knowledge and awareness on the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems or biodiversity loss	Number of studies leading to increased knowledge and awareness on the protection and management of water bodies	0	2	Studies will lead to: 1. Management and protection plans (programme of measures) of sensitive water bodies such as wetlands, lagoons, river deltas, etc. 2. Design of infrastructure projects that will help in the protection of surface or underground water resources.
	Increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas	Number of studies and/or interventions leading to increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas	0	4	Studies and/or interventions will lead to integrated marine and islands policy plans, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plans, or plans / models for reversing corrosion phenomena in bathing coasts.
Improved monitoring of marine waters	Upgrades of existing systems to an integrated marine monitoring programme and coverage of increased area of marine waters	Number of integrated marine monitoring programmes implemented, cf. MSFD Article 5 (2iv)	0	1	A monitoring programme is defined in article 5 of MSFD.
		Number of marine subregions [cf	Baseline	Target	A marine subregion is

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	Indicator value		Description
		MSFD, Article 4(2)] where a monitoring programme has been implemented	0	3	defined in article 4 of MSFD. A part of a subregion under Greek jurisdiction could also be calculated to the indicator.
Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management	Increased knowledge and awareness among students in primary and secondary public schools on the importance of protecting water resources	Number of participants in environmental educational programmes in primary and secondary education, in the field of water resources	Baseline 0	Target 4,000	An educational programme could concern lectures, projects and/or visits to specific marine areas or inland water bodies. All participants in such programmes should be counted to the indicator (including teachers or parents)
	Graduates, fellows/scholars, of higher education in the field of marine and inland water resources management spend time in/exposed to/ learn from donor states' institutions or universities	Number of graduates, fellows/scholars grants for studies/research in in the field of marine and inland water resources management in institutions or universities of donor states	Baseline 0	Target 22	Grants will be given to graduates, fellows/scholars higher education institutions for studies/research in institutions or universities of donor states countries in the field of marine and inland water resources management

Outputs have been chosen to be strongly related to the respective outcome and to cover as much as possible the field of the outcome in a manner that contributes to the more significant challenges and needs of the country in the present moment.

Indicators have been chosen to be strongly related to the expected deliverables of outcomes and as specific and measurable as possible. The target of each indicator has been chosen to be achievable within the programme under the specified budget of each outcome.

5.4 Bilateral indicators

Bilateral indicator	Indicator value	
	Base	Target
Number of project partnership agreements in the public sector	0	3
Number of participators involved in exchange visits between beneficiary and donor states	0	60
Number of joint articles published, written by persons from both an institutions in a beneficiary and donor state, published in national or international publications, originated from a project financed by the programme	0	2

Bilateral indicator	Indicator value		
	stimulating	enriching	enabling
Level of satisfaction with the partnership			

Three out of four bilateral indicators have been chosen from standard quantitative and qualitative indicators suggested in the Guideline for strengthened bilateral relations. The indicators are relevant to the bilateral relations plan, specific and measurable. The target of each indicator has been chosen to be achievable within the bilateral relations plan under the specified budget.

6. TARGET GROUPS OF THE PROGRAMME

A) More integrated management of marine and inland water resources

Primary Target Group affected by this Programme could be: Public authorities, regional and local authorities, the Water Supply and Sewerage Companies, research and scientific institutes, universities, management bodies of protected areas and other relevant to the programme area management or collective bodies, NGOs and local communities.

Secondary Target Group benefiting from this Programme in the longer run could be: Central regional and local government officials, small local enterprises, general public.

B) Improved monitoring of marine waters

Primary Target Group affected by this Programme could be: the SSW, public authorities, research and scientific institutes.

Secondary Target Group benefiting from this Programme in the longer run could be: Central regional and local government officials, agencies, NGOs, researchers and the general public.

C) Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management

Primary Target Group affected by this Programme could be: the Ministry of Education, schools, universities, pupils, educators, graduates of higher education and researchers.

Secondary Target Group benefiting from this Programme in the longer run could be: general public, educational and scientific community, environmental education entities.

The preparation of the Programme Proposal was conducted after cooperation with the SSW, which is the responsible political agency and in charge for the waters' issues in the Ministry for the Environment. External experts have not been consulted. After the completion of the first Programme Proposal, the P.O. conducted a wide public consultation. On 29.05.2012 the draft Programme Proposal was sent in Greek language to more than 80 entities in all over Greece, such as ministries, regional and local authorities, Water Supply and Sewerage Companies, environmental NGOs, relevant research institutions, universities, professional unions. The Draft Programme has also been uploaded to the Ministry's Web page (www.ypeka.gr). The addresses were called upon to participate in the consultation procedure in written. Phone calls were held, when clarifications were needed. About 30 of the addresses responded (about 10 by e-mails and calls, and 20 in written). Except for some general remarks (i.e. criticism on the lack of an open call for the pre-defined project etc.) most of them proposed concrete projects (monitoring and survey projects), which was helpful in rethinking the aspect of possible projects under the programme and the definition of the indicators. The Programme Proposal submitted to the NFP on 31.07.2012 had incorporated the inputs from the consultation procedure.

The P.O. had previously performed an environmental assessment procedure on the draft Programme, which was submitted to the competent Licensing Authority (Licensing Directorate – Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change) on 11.07.2012. The answer from 25.09.12 clarified, that a SEA was not necessary.

During the implementation of the Programme, the P.O. intends to organise information days with all the involved parties, including the representatives of the target groups, aiming at encouraging and facilitating the communication among the above mentioned parties for an effective implementation of the Programme.

7. RISK AND UNCERTAINTY

A/A	Outcome	Risk description	Assessment		Risk mitigation plan
			Likelihood [low/medium /high]	Impact [low/medi um/high]	
1	More Integrated management of marine and inland water resources	Insufficient participation of applicants in open calls	low	high	Public consultation during the planning period Long period in which the call will stay open Efficient publicity a) for the Programme by implementing the communication plan b) for each call for proposal c) for wide public consultation during the planning period
		Poor quality of applications submitted to open calls	low	medium	Informational meetings with potential PP Long period in which the call will stay open Intensive publicity-public consultation in the planning and in the implementation period. Well organized calls and good quality of call's documents.
		Public procurement processes may cause delays in project implementation period	medium	high	Establishment of procedure in the management system for the approval of the Tender documents from the Project Operator. Timely detection of problems based on the project monitoring procedures and implementation of corrective actions Cancellation of projects
		Possible Ministries' Restructuring	High	medium	P.O. quick response and adaptation to the new structural reforms
		Poor quality of deliverables or incompleteness of a project due to deficiencies of the PPs	low	medium	Sound evaluation process Tight management and monitoring procedures Cancellation of projects
		Insufficient response of Project Promoters in Management System's requirements (e.g delays in submission of reports)	low	medium	Tight management and monitoring procedures

A/A	Outcome	Risk description	Assessment		Risk mitigation plan
			Likelihood [low/medium /high]	Impact [low/medi um/high]	
		Insufficient capacity of PO due to reduction of personnel or due to workload	low	medium	Hire of external experts for supporting in PO's work.
2	Improved monitoring of marine waters	Deficiencies in national legislation that may affect the project implementation	low	medium	Timely detection of problems based on the monitoring procedures and implementation of corrective actions
		Delays in prerequisite stages for the implementation of the predefined project	low	medium	Timely detection of problems based on the monitoring procedures and implementation of corrective actions
		Insufficient response of Project Promoters in Management System's requirements (e.g delays in submission of reports)	low	medium	Tight management and monitoring procedures
		Insufficient capacity of PO due to reduction of personnel or due to workload	low	medium	Hire of external experts for supporting in PO's work.
3	Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management	Poor interest from target groups to participate in educational programmes or grants	low	medium	Good publicity Determination of relevant criteria in the calls for proposals Timely detection of problems and implementation of corrective actions
		Insufficient participation of applicants in open calls	low	medium	Good publicity a) for the Programme by implementing the communication plan b) for each call for proposal
		Poor quality of deliverables or incompleteness of a project due to deficiencies of the	low	medium	Sound evaluation process Tight management and monitoring procedures

A/A	Outcome	Risk description	Assessment		Risk mitigation plan
			Likelihood [low/medium /high]	Impact [low/medi um/high]	
		PP or inability of the PP			
		Insufficient management of projects by Small Grant Schemes' Operators	low	medium	Tight management and monitoring procedures
		Insufficient response of Small Grant Schemes' Operators in Management System's requirements (e.g delays in submission of reports)	medium	medium	Tight management and monitoring procedures
		Insufficient capacity of PO due to reduction of personnel or due to workload	low	medium	Hire of external experts for supporting in PO's work.

8. BILATERAL RELATIONS

“To strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States” is one of the two major objectives of the EEA FM 2009 - 2014. To serve this objective the P.O. encourages partnership projects. The activities funded through the bilateral funds in this Programme comprise the search of partners and the development of partnerships (measure a) as well as the networking, transfer of knowledge, and best practices etc. (measure b). The amount allocated for bilateral relations is 200.000 € (1.79% of the total budget). Furthermore, complementary actions are scheduled to facilitate the exchange of experience with regard to the implementation of the Programme and to strengthen cooperation with similar entities.

Actions planned for measure “a” of the bilateral funds:

In the starting phase of the Programme, the P.O. will organize a **match-making event** for potential Project Promoters and potential Project Partners from the Donor Project States to facilitate them in exploring the possibility of cooperation in joint projects. The potential Donor Partners invited will be public entities with experience and know-how in water/ environmental engineering projects and in environmental education (universities and research centers). The bilateral fund will finance the event as well as travel and accommodation costs of eligible applicants

A pre-call information on the Programme will be published on the Programme’s and the P.O’s website prior to the event with detailed information on the scheduled calls. Eligible applicants will be public entities from Greece and the Donor States. Applicants will be required to submit a project concept note and the description of their motivation for their participation to the event. A committee will evaluate the applications submitted to this fund.

Due to the necessity to proceed to the publication of the calls for proposals immediately after the conclusion of the Programme Implementation Agreement no other “seed money facility” is scheduled.

The amount allocated for actions under measure “a” will be 50.000 Euro. The grant rate for participators will be up to 100 % while the grant size will not exceed 2.000 Euro per person per travel.

Actions planned for measure “b” of the bilateral funds:

The PO encourages and facilitates the networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge between Project Promoters and their Donor Project Partners or other relevant entities in the Donor States. For this purpose, the above mentioned entities have the possibility of applying for extra funding during the projects’ implementation phase. The PO will highlight the possibility of being funded for activities supporting the bilateral relations by providing detailed information.

Study tours to relevant entities/projects, which can be supportive to the projects’ implementation, are eligible, as well as travel and salary costs for visits by experts, who can significantly contribute to the implementation of a project.

The PO will use the fund also for promotional activities concerning the established partnerships and the common projects, i.e. printed material for distribution.

Eligible activities will be the categories of expenditures, according to Art. 7.7. of the Regulation.

The opening of a fund for measure “b” actions will be published on the Programmes’ website. The applications will be evaluated directly until the fund is depleted.

Applicants will have to submit a detailed justification of the reason for applying for extra funding and deliver the approval documents to the PO.

The amount allocated for actions under measure “b” will be 150.000 Euro. The maximum amount for travel costs is 2.000 Euro per person per travel. The grant rate is 100%.

Complementary funds

Complementary funding will be used for activities such as joint conferences, workshops, study tours and information activities. Funds for Complementary Actions will be available to facilitate the cooperation between the P.O. and similar entities:

- a) in beneficiaries countries, which have Programmes in the same Programme Area (Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Portugal)
- b) in the Donor States
- c) within Greece

The amount allocated for complementary actions is 78.235 Euro.

8.1 Donor Programme Partner (s)

A partnership at Programme level was not scheduled.

8.2 Donor partnership projects

The PO encourages partnership projects. For finding and contacting the appropriate, interested in joint projects, partners from the Donor States, the P.O. will seek the close cooperation with the Donor States' entities (especially their representations/embassies in Greece) and the FMO. The potential partners invited will be public entities with experience and know-how in water/ environmental engineering projects and in environmental education (universities and research centers).

The applicable rules on state aid and public procurement will be complied with.

8.3 Donor State Applicants

The participation of Donor State Applicants at project level is not scheduled.

9. PREDEFINED PROJECT

The title of the predefined project is: “Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme”. This project is going to meet the requirements of the Directive 2008/56/EC. It will be carried out according to Article 11 of this Directive for the ongoing assessment of the environmental status and the regular updating of environmental objectives in the Ionian Sea, the Aegean and the Central Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea (only parts of regions and subregions of the Greek territory).

Name of the project	PP	Estimated Budget (€)	Implementation period
Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme	HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH (HCMR)	2.500.000	2013-2016

The implementation of this project will contribute to the outcome “improved monitoring of marine waters”. This will be achieved by the provision of information about the environmental status of waters in the above – mentioned regions or subregions, based on the indicative lists of elements set out in Annexes III and V of Directive 2008/56/EC. The establishment of the monitoring system is crucial for understanding, assessing and forecasting future pressures, as well as for improving the marine environment’s management. Annex II is attached.

10. SMALL GRANT SCHEMES

The **1st output** “Environmental Educational programmes in primary and secondary education in the field of Water Resources” of the 3rd outcome will assist pupils and educators from primary and secondary education to participate in the specific programmes which are being implemented in schools every academic year. Those grants will be small grant schemes.

More specifically, the Environmental Education in Greek schools was established in 1990 (Law 1892/90, Article 111), as optional, and are applied in the form of School Activities. The activities are planned by a group of teachers working with pupils and are being run by pupils of Primary and Secondary Education as programmes. By implementing such programmes pupil gain knowledge regarding the environment, cultivation of positive attitudes and awareness about the protection and sustainable development of the environment. For the support and implementation of School Activities, the Ministry of Education has established a specific procedure regarding the planning, approval and selection of the environmental education programmes. Most of these programmes are connected with the Environmental Education Centres (EECs). At the end of each programme, the pupils attend the educational programmes provided by the EECs and prepare a work in order to complete the programme. The pupils bear the costs for travel, accommodation and feeding.

In the frame of the above established structure, educational programmes are being implemented concerning the Water Resources. The expenses of the participants (pupils and educators) in those programmes will be granted on the basis of the small grant scheme. The amount of **900.000 €** will be dedicated for grants of **5.000 € to 10.000 €**, which will be sufficient to support about 120 programmes, implemented within **two academic** years. The small grant scheme will be managed by the Ministry of Education and the department responsible for the approval of the educational programmes and the coordination and support of the EECs. According to the existing established procedure, in the **beginning of the academic year**, the Ministry of Education publishes a circular **call** informing all schools in the country about the procedure of the planning and the implementation of the School Activities. The circular will include a separate paragraph in which the co-financing opportunity given from the EEA grants to Environmental Education programmes in the field of Water Resources as well as the procedure that should be followed, will be clearly described. The call will cover at least two academic years in continuation. Eligible applicants will be schools (pupils of Primary and Secondary Education and their educators) which will plan programmes related to the field of Water Resources.

The evaluation of submitted programme proposals will be carried out by a selection committee. The Ministry of Education will establish the committee which will consist of three (3) members. One member of the Selection Committee will be independent of the SGS Operator, the PO and project applicants.

The evaluation will be based on criteria such as:

- An approved by the responsible Educational Director (procedure described in the Ministry of Education circular) programme connected with the visit to an EEC.
- The subject of programme should be within the field of Water Resources and the connected EEC should provide education relevant to the water environmental.
- Priority will be given to programmes which end to a three day visit to EECs.
- Priority will be given to those programmes submitted from schools quite distant from the relevant EEC.
- The budget limitation set by the PO

The costs of the management of the small grant scheme are included in the management costs of the Programme Operator.

The **2nd output** “Grants to graduates of higher education in the field of marine and inland water resources management in donor states’ institutions or universities” of the 3rd outcome will encourage the mobility of graduates/scholars of higher education institutions by providing financial support for studies/research in the field of “Marine and Inland Water Resources Management”. Those grants will be small grant schemes.

The project gives graduates the opportunity to carry out postgraduate studies (MSc.) in a University or an Institution of a Donor State for a period up to 24 months and fellows/scholars to spend a period up to 12 months in a University or an Institution of a Donor State in order to carry out a mentored postdoctoral research. The amount of **600.000 €** will be dedicated for grants of **5.000 € to 30.000 €**, which will support about **22** projects, implemented within **24 months**. Only **degree mobility** will be funded.

The small grant scheme will be managed by the State Scholarships Foundation (SSF). Scholarships are awarded to individuals selected by SSF (call for proposals – October 2013). The SSF is going to publish an open call to potential applicants which will include detailed description of the project including the objectives, the target groups, the application, selection and grant award procedure as well as the rules for each type of grant (max grant amount by type of grant, eligibility period, eligible expenditures, payment modalities, monitoring, follow up, progress and final reports etc.) Grant applications will be submitted on-line. The eligibility check by SSF and the evaluation of eligible applications will be implemented on line as well. The decision for the budget allocation as well as the Grant Award Decision will be taken by the Administrative Board of SSF based on ranked lists (one for each type of grant). Selected applicants will sign a grant agreement with the SSF.

The following selection criteria will be taken into account:

Eligibility criteria:

- Unconditional offer from the host institution in the Donor State.
- The graduate/scholar applicant has not previously carried out a postgraduate studies or postdoctoral research.
- The applicant has not received by SSF a previous scholarship for studies at the same level (MSC/Postdoctoral)

Evaluation criteria:

- Relevance of bachelor’s/master’s/doctoral diploma and relevant courses
- Grades
- Knowledge of English
- Knowledge of the language of the host country
- Motivation – Rationale

The project will be prepared and implemented in close co-operation between SSF and relevant educational/research institutions in the donor states. Thus a network formed of public agencies/organizations located in both Beneficiary and Donor state will be set up.

The costs of the management of the small grant scheme are included in the management costs of the Programme Operator.

11. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

There are three relevant cross-cutting issues applicable to the financial mechanism: **good governance, sustainable development and gender equality** (ref. Protocol 38 B and Article 1.6 of the Regulations).

This section describes how these issues are going to be evaluated and which practices and measures will be used to ensure, that on the one hand the principle of good governance is going to be integrated into the planning and the implementation of the Programme, and on the other hand, the principles of sustainability and gender equality are being integrated into the funded projects, in order to meet the overall objectives of the financial mechanism.

11. 1 Good governance

Good governance is based on the following main principles: it is participatory, accountable, transparent, effective and efficient, and follows the principle of the rule of law. Furthermore it is characterised by zero tolerance towards corruption, and it takes the views and the needs of vulnerable parts of the population into consideration.

Compliance with these principles leads to:

- Participation and inclusiveness: participation of all relevant stakeholders, which includes both men and women
- Accountability: organisations and institutions in general should be held accountable towards those affected by the projects' implementation
- Transparency: decisions and their implementation are following rules and regulations; information is free, available and directly accessible to everyone
- Effectiveness and efficiency: institutions and procedures produce results that meet society's needs, while making the best use of available resources.
- Rule of law: a just legal framework that is enforced impartially, is based on the respect of human rights, and is incorrupt.

Programme level:

A link to the Programme will be created into the SSCEA web page. This web page will be the main information channel to the general public as well as to general and specific groups of stakeholders and social partners.

The web page will include information such as:

- General information about the Programme, the Project Operator the Financial Mechanism and the Focal Point
- Progress of the Programme as well as of the projects
- Legislation and management tools
- Documents such as calls for proposals, selected projects, public consultation etc.

The public consultation has been conducted by sending the Draft Programme Proposal to more than 80 entities in all over Greece, as well as through the internet before the Programme's final submission, so that all involved and especially the stakeholders had the opportunity to express their point of view . Public consultation is also taking place for the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment). There will also be additional actions taken as described in the Communication Plan in Annex IV, for strengthening participation, inclusiveness, accountability and transparency.

Project level: The Programme Operator will ensure, that the above mentioned actions are adopted at project level (where applicable). Specifically, every project promoter will have to publish any information relevant to its project on the internet.

Furthermore, in order to ensure that the principles of good governance are followed, and for preventing possible mistakes, the Programme Operator will audit every tender and contract in advance. In addition, the Project Operator will conduct audits to every project (at least one during the implementation and one on its completion), aiming to ensure that all projects are implemented according to the legislation in force.

11.2 Environmental considerations

The P.O. conducted a screening / scoping survey according to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Legislation as implemented in Greece. The final documentation was transferred in July 2012 to the competent Licensing Authority (Licensing Directorate – Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change) for approval according to the legislative procedures in force. The main conclusions of the SEA are:

- The expected effect of the programme's implementation will be positive in all of the examined environmental components.
- The positive impacts are primarily in natural and man-made environment and focus on quality and quantity of available water resources, maintaining biodiversity - fauna - flora, protection / restoration of soil and landscape and protect the human population against environmental risk.
- Negative impacts are not generally exist, while the low intensity, scale and duration charges related to greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption of machinery will be employed in local rehabilitation interventions and water sampling, but none of them shows strong correlation with the proposed programme.

Sustainable development is a framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection are interconnected, aims to cover the needs of the present generation without undermining the relevant rights of future generations, by ensuring the eco-systems' ability to keep life in all its diversity.

All projects must as a priori take the environmental issues into consideration. Irrespective of their kind (infrastructure projects, studies, economic activities in different fields) the main issue is, to assess their environmental impact systematically and to integrate measures for the elimination of possible environmental impacts.

According to the Programme's environmental orientation it is estimated that:

- There is no production of hazardous waste
- The location of projects will not negatively affect any environmentally sensitive areas such as National Parks and other protected areas, important archaeological and cultural sites, vulnerable ecosystems that provide important ecosystem services or species threatened by extinction
- The result of decisions, which may affect the environment, such as changes in fishing/agricultural activities, water and energy use etc., will be positive only
- There is no risk of accidents with potential environmental impacts (oil spills, chemical spills etc) or occupational health and safety risks.

It is also important to point out, that there will be no negative impacts on the environment, not only after the projects' completion, but also during the implementation phase.

Conclusively, the Programme aims to contribute to the environmental protection, through the sustainable use of inland and marine water. The main objectives are: good water quality status, public health protection, biodiversity protection, pollution and natural disasters prevention.

Project level: The Programme Operator will determine the procedures for ensuring environmental sustainability at project level according to the legislation in force.

11.3 Economic considerations

The Programme aims at a sustainable economic development that primarily creates temporary jobs during the implementation of projects at national/local/regional level. Furthermore, after the projects' completion, the results may positively affect entrepreneurship in sectors such as fishery, agriculture, tourism etc;

The outputs will be cost efficient, including an assessment of costs in relation to alternative funds allocations. The public administration should be planning to continue the financing of the completed structures/programmes after the support from the EEA FM has ended.

Project level: The Programme Operator will ensure that the above commitments are kept at project level.

11.4 Society

Sustainability can also be achieved through social cohesion. The Programme's implementation will lead to improved social cohesion, by restraining the immigration, especially the immigration of the economic active population. This can be achieved by strengthening economy sectors with locally high added value such as fishery, agriculture and tourism as well as by reinforcing the training/occupation and by improving the living conditions in local level (environment quality).

The Programme will be neutral to priorities and needs of various groups, in terms of gender, disability, religion, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and it will facilitate access to environmental education at any vulnerable group of the general public.

Project level: The Programme Operator will define procedures to ensure that the principles of sustainable development, as mentioned above, are applied at project level

11.5 Gender equality

The Programme is gender neutral in its' content. However, in practice there may be a very differential impact on women and men, in jobs created or even in the awareness of the Programme's benefits. The rules of law and the sufficient publicity will have at least to ensure that there will be no exclusion or discrimination in terms of adequate information and, consequently, participation.

Moreover, the Programme has an educational orientation and it is designed to ensure that gender stereotypes are avoided (i.e that mothers are solely responsible for the (environmental) education of children). For the application of this Programme, a co-operation with the General Secretariat of Equality is already established.

The P.O. has already made the allocation of responsibilities to its personnel in charge, without sex discrimination, in Programme management level.

In project level, the P.O. will accordingly inform the project promoters to allocate responsibilities equally to men and women.

12. PROJECT MONITORING

The Programme Operator will establish and implement a monitoring system for the monitoring of all projects funded by the programme.

The monitoring system will include the following basic tools:

- Submission of reports
- On-site monitoring visits
- Meetings
- Verification
- Day-to-day monitoring

Submission of reports

Project Promoters will submit Project Progress Reports (PPR) three times a year (every four months) to the Programme Operator with all the necessary information on the progress of each project.

Programme Operator will design a template of the PPR for use by all Project Promoters.

The PPR will include the following minimum information:

- ✓ Technical description for the progress of the project (physical object)
- ✓ Provision of the project's progress for the next reporting period
- ✓ Timetable analysis (Progress of the project in relation with the provisional timetable, changes, delays, etc)
- ✓ Financial progress of the project (expenditures)
- ✓ Measurement of indicators
- ✓ Publicity activities
- ✓ Bilateral relations' activities
- ✓ Remarks of the Project Promoter (problems, proposals for improvement, need for modifications, etc.)

On-site monitoring visits

For the monitoring of projects, the Programme Operator will perform on-site visits to all implemented projects.

In the beginning of each year, the PO will draw up a plan for project site visits. The selection of the projects to be visited and the time of the visit, will be determined according to the project's progress, its importance, its complexity and the risk analysis.

In case of occurring problems during the implementation of the project, unscheduled on-site visits will be conducted by the PO.

The purpose of on-site monitoring visits is basically:

- ✓ To confirm the progress of the project (physical object).
- ✓ To check the progress according to the approved time table.
- ✓ To confirm the measurement of indicators.
- ✓ To confirm activities related to publicity.
- ✓ To identify problems and/or modifications.
- ✓ To confirm the eligibility of expenditures.

On-site visit reports will be filled in following each visit.

Meetings

Meetings between the Programme Operator's representatives and the Project Promoter's management team will take place during the on-site visits. Any other relevant parties (project partners, contractors, etc) will also participate in these meetings.

Meetings will be held, whenever considered necessary, at PO's or PP's premises.

During the meetings at least the followings will be discussed:

- ✓ The progress of the project
- ✓ The compatibility with the approved timetable
- ✓ Progress of publicity and bilateral relations' activities
- ✓ Problems, delays, etc.
- ✓ Project's modifications

Project Reviews

Project Reviews will be carried out by Programme Operator for all the projects of the Programme.

In the beginning of each year PO will draw up a plan for projects' reviews. The selection of the projects to be reviewed and the time of the review will be determined according to the progress of the project, problems raised, as well as the importance and the complexity of the project and the risk analysis.

In case of occurring problems during the implementation of the project, out of schedule reviews will be organized by PO.

During the reviews will be taken into account information presented in Project Progress Reports, any meeting's minutes as well as the results of on-site visits (reports).

Reviews will be scheduled after on-site visits, in order to maximize their effectiveness.

Reviews shall:

- ✓ Examine whether the project is proceeding according to plan (progress, results, timetable, etc.).

- ✓ Identify problems.
- ✓ Examine the compliance with rules of information and publicity
- ✓ Provide potential areas of improvements.
- ✓ Identify irregularities.
- ✓ Deal with the project's modifications.

Day-to-day monitoring

Further to the above mentioned tools there will be a tight communication during the implementation of projects, between projects monitoring team assigned by PO and Project Promoters.

Constant information exchange through e-mails, telephone calls and faxes will be provided.

That up-to-date information will help PO for better and more efficient management of projects.

All information included in all the above mentioned monitoring tools is subject of day-to-day monitoring.

Projects' contracts (including the predefined project) will be signed in the end of the first year of the implementation of the Programme (see timeline in annex VII). Therefore there will not be any monitoring actions during the first year of the implementation of the Programme consequently there is not a Monitoring Plan in Annex III.

13. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

Information and Publicity about the EEA Grants and the financed projects is an important aspect deriving from the Regulations. Article 4.7.2 and 4.7.3 set the activities' framework the Programme Operator shall comply with.

According to the Information and Publicity Requirements as determined in Annex 4 of the Regulation the Programme Operator has to develop a Communication Plan, which provides information on the existence, the objectives, and the implementation of the Programme as well as on the co-operation with Donor State entities.

The information and publicity measures described in the Communication Plan will focus on the wide dissemination of the EEA Grants in order to attract specific interest groups (key stakeholders) as well as the general public. Emphasis will be given to the importance of the EEA Grants and its supporting role in the protection of the water resources in Greece.

The information and publicity material used will be in line with the Communication and Design Manual.

The Communication Plan is an Annex to this Programme and it gives detailed information about the aims, the activities and the timeframe of the communication activities.

14. MANAGEMENT

14.1 Management Structure

The Management structure of the Programme Operator is presented in Annex V. The chart is presenting the departments of P.O. and their responsibilities regarding the Programme Management.

The ‘Special Service for the co-ordination of environmental activities’ (P.O.) comprises three Units.

Unit A is responsible for Programme level Management. It has the responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the Programme and ensures that the Programme contributes to the overall objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism. It is also responsible for preparing the annual and the final Programme reports, reviewing the Programme, as well as handling programme’s modifications and irregularities. It will prepare financial reports and is responsible for the financial management of the Programme. Unit A will also prepare the calls for proposals, the selection of Projects and the signing of contracts with Project Promoters. Unit A has also the responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the Communication Plan and the Bilateral Relations Plan.

Unit B is responsible for Project level Management. It has the responsibility for projects’ monitoring. It verifies projects’ outputs and projects’ progress and quality, as well as the compliance of expenditures with EEA Regulation, the Programme agreement and the national and EU law. It organizes and applies on-site visits and reviews of projects. It also has the responsibility of the project’s financial management. Finally, it maintains a system for data collection verification and storage.

Unit C is supporting the Management of the Programme. It will support Unit A for the implementation of communication plan organizing all informational activities as well as developing and maintaining the dedicated web site of the Programme. It will also support Unit A for the implementation of the bilateral relations plan, organizing all necessary activities, (conferences, journeys, etc). Unit C, has also the responsibility for the financial management of PO’s expenditures (management and bilateral costs)

The Structure of P.O. ensures independence and functional separation between divisions according to their responsibilities. There is a clear separation between the division responsible for the verification of payment claims and the division responsible for the implementation of the Programme.

P.O., has the responsibility to monitor the planning and implementation of environmental policy in Greece and to co-ordinate all environmental projects that are implemented in the country and especially all those that are co-financed by other countries. For that purpose P.O. monitors all Programmes under NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework) and it is in close co-operation with all operators of those Programmes and especially with the operator of the Programme for the environment. In addition, P.O. is a member of the Monitoring Committee in most of those Programmes. Therefore P.O., has the necessary information for environmental activities that are planned and implemented in the country and can coordinate efforts and synergies.

Furthermore, a Greek Environmental Network (GEN) has been established recently (April 2012) that will be operated and organized by P.O. The main scope of GEN is the collaboration between all administrative authorities that are involved in the planning and implementation of the environmental policy. Members of GEN are about 65 authorities and among them all the operators of regional and sectoral Programmes of NSRF. Within the Network a separate Working Group will be established for “Water Management” where

relevant issues will be discussed. In addition a forum will be run by P.O. in the web, for members of GEN, in order to exchange information and experiences for better results in the planning and implementation of environmental policy in general and especially in water management.

14.2 Timeline

Annex VII gives the indicative timeline for the Programme's implementation. The timeline is based on the condition that the approval and the signing of the Programme Implementation Agreement will take place in the first trimester of 2013.

The detailed Management and Control System of the Programme operator will be submitted to the FMC within six months from the submission of the first interim financial report.

In 2013 the contract for the pre-defined project will be signed and the project will be implemented according to the timeline presented in Annex II.

During 2013 and until the first trimester of 2014 the calls for proposals will have been published, the competing procedures will have been completed and the project contracts will have been signed. A more analytical timeframe about this procedure is presented in paragraph 14.3.

The implementation of the projects will have been completed at the end of the eligibility period (April 2016).

The annual Programme report to the FMC as well as the application for interim payments will be conducted according to the FM Regulations' requirements.

The information and publicity measures will be implemented according to the Communication Plan (Annex IV).

The activities for the development of the bilateral relations will be implemented according to the plan, as presented in paragraph 8 of the current Programme proposal.

14.3 Calls

The Project Operator is going to publish three (3) open calls to potential Project Promoters for the submission of project proposals for the 1st Outcome of the Programme.

The preparation of the calls will begin after the Programme's approval and the signing of the Programme Agreement, in parallel to the beginning of information and publicity activities for the widest possible information of potential Project Promoters on the launching and the objectives of the Programme.

P.O. intends to have a pre-call information posted on the website immediately after the launch of the Programme. Within the first three (3) months after the conclusion of the implementation agreement, an open call will be launched for proposals under the 1st Output of Outcome 1. Open calls for 2nd and 3rd Outputs of Outcome 1 (studies and soft interventions) are planned to be launched within five (5) months from the conclusion of the implementation agreement. The FMC and the National Focal Point will be informed in advance for each call. The tender/competition phase (submission of calls, assessment and selection of the projects, project contracts' signing) is expected to be completed in 5-6 months after each calls' publication. The potential Project Promoters will be given sufficient time (2-3 months beginning from the publication of the call) in order to submit proposals of good quality. The aim is to have all contracts signed within 15 months from the beginning of the Programme. All above stages are presented in the timeline of the Programme (Annex VII).

The available budget as well as minimum and maximum grant amounts for each call of Outcome 1, is presented in the following table.

Call	Budget (€)	Minimum grant amount (€)	Maximum grant amount (€)
Outcome 1 / Output 1 : “Water quality improvement projects for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands”	3,500,000	500,000	3,500,000
Outcome 1 / Output 2: “Studies leading to increased knowledge and awareness on the protection and management of water bodies suffering of environmental problems or biodiversity loss”	1,500,000	200,000	1,200,000
Outcome 1 / Output 1: “Studies or interventions leading to increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas”	1,500,000	200,000	900,000

Eligible applicants for each call may be the following:

- Call 1.1 “Water quality improvement projects for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands”: Water Supply and Sewerage Companies, public authorities, regional and local authorities, research and scientific institutes as well as management bodies of protected areas.
- Call 1.2 “Studies leading to increased knowledge and awareness on the protection and management of water bodies suffering of environmental problems or biodiversity loss”: Water Supply and Sewerage Companies, public authorities, regional and local authorities, research and scientific institutes, management bodies of protected areas, and other relevant to the programme area management or collective bodies and NGO’s.
- Call 1.3 “Studies or interventions leading to increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas”: Public authorities, regional and local authorities, research and scientific institutes, management bodies of protected areas and NGO’s.

Private entities will not be eligible applicants under any call.

There will be a wide publication of the calls in order to inform all the potential Project Promoters and to ensure a large participation with suitable proposals, meeting the objectives of the Programme. The calls’ publication will be conducted through announcements in the daily press, with publications in the Programme’s and the PO’s website, MEECC’s website and through activities according to the communication plan. Each publication period will last 2-3 months.

In case of Project Promoters that fall within the definition of NGOs contained in Article 1.5.1(m) of the Regulation, the maximum grant rate is 90% of total eligible project costs. For all other Project Promoters,

grants from the Programme may be up to 100% of total eligible project costs. The remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the Project Promoter.

The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to the projects, together with the estimated level of any profit likely to be generated by the projects.

14.4 Project selection

Regarding the procedures of the Projects' selection, P.O. will follow Chapter 6 of the Regulation of the European Economic Area 2009-2014.

All projects, except the predefined project, shall be selected after open calls for proposals carried out in accordance with the respective Regulation.

The predefined project "Implementation of an Integrated Marine Monitoring Programme" will be identified without a call for proposal according to the Article 6.1 par. 2 of the above mentioned Regulation.

The Evaluation of submitted proposals, intends to ensure administrative and technical adequacy of each proposal in relation to the objectives and the implementation procedures of the Programme.

P.O. will establish a selection committee. The Selection Committee will consist of five (5) members; two of them will be external (to the PO) experts.

Submitted proposals will be evaluated regardless of the order of their submission to the P.O. The evaluation will begin after the dead line of the call and under the decision of the selection committee. The total evaluation period will be determined in each call and may fluctuate between 30 and 90 days.

The evaluation procedure will be described in detail in the tender documents of each open call. It will consist of two stages based on concrete criteria.

Stage A – Administrative and Eligibility Evaluation

Related to the Administrative and Eligibility Compliance, P.O. shall set the minimum requirements of the relevant call.

The Administrative and Eligibility evaluation (Stage A) will be based on criteria such as:

- Eligibility of the applicants.
- Compliance with National and European Legislation
- Completeness and legitimacy of the submitted proposal. All required documentation and information will be determined in the call for proposals.
- Project's proposal implementation schedule.
- Project's compliance with the scope of the Programme.

Proposals that will not comply with administrative and eligibility criteria will be rejected. Applicants, whose applications will be rejected, will be informed by receiving a rejection letter, documenting fully the reasons for the rejections. They will have also the right to appeal on the results in a given reasonable time.

In addition to the above mentioned criteria, the following eligibility criteria shall apply for the open call (1) “Water quality improvement projects for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands”:

- Projects under this call shall be based on environmental and climate friendly technology, including the use of renewable energy sources.
- Projects under this call shall be implemented in areas where water resources are scarce or over-exploited, and the main aim of the projects shall be to protect the water resources and the environment of these areas.

Stage B – Applications - Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation stage B begins with the completion of stage A and only for the proposals that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria

The Selection of the project will be based on criteria such as:

- Project maturity.
- Project planning.
- Project Feasibility, Quality, Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability.
- Project cost-benefit analysis.

Each application will be reviewed by two experts. The experts separately score the project according to the approved criteria. For the ranking of the project the average of the scores will be used. If the difference between the scores given by the two experts is more than 30% of the higher score a third expert shall score the project independently. In such case the average score of the two closest scores will be used for the ranking of the project.

The experts will be impartial and independent to the project applicants, to the P.O. and to the Selection Committee. For the selection of experts an open call will be launched.

A list of projects ranked according to experts’ scores will be given by the P.O. to Selection Committee and will be notified to the FMC. The Selection Committee will review the ranked list of projects and shall submit the list of recommended projects to the P.O.

The P.O. will verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification P.O. shall decide on the projects that will be funded.

After the completion of the evaluation process, P.O. shall inform the applicants about the results of the evaluation.

14.5 Financial Management

The P.O. is responsible for the economic management of the Programme.

In general, the projects implemented by this Programme are not expected to produce economic benefits (cost reduction or profit increase). During the selection procedures, the possibility of producing benefits will be assessed for each project, and the assessment will be taken into consideration for the determination of the project grant rate. After the completion of a project, the production of economic benefit will be evaluated and the final payment will be tailored accordingly.

All projects will be financed by national Public Investment Programme (PIP) managed by General Secretariat for Investments and Development within Ministry for Development, Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks. Within PIP, one or more accounts dedicated to the Programme, will be established in the specific Financial Decision of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. Upon PO's approval, grant will be transferred to a separate (dedicated to the project) interest-bearing bank account of the Project Promoter. The P.O. will keep an account at the Bank of Greece dedicated to the Programme, in which all grants for management, bilateral and complementary actions funds will be transferred.

In general, money will be transferred to the separate, dedicated to the project, bank account of the Project Promoter after the request of the Project Promoter and the approval of Programme Operator based on already issued invoices from the contractor. P.O. will approve the transfer of money after the confirmation of expenditure's eligibility. In such cases no advance payments and regular interim payments from P.O. to P.P. will be arranged.

In special cases and projects, such as projects of 3rd outcome, will be granted an advance payment of up to 80% of total eligible project costs and regular interim payments. In such projects, payments to Project Promoters will be transferred to the dedicated to the project, bank account of the Project Promoter after approval of Programme Operator and will follow the logic of the payments from the FM to the P.O. More concretely, a deposit, depending of the timeframe and the total implementation period, will be granted. The concrete amount will be determined in the projects' contract. There will be 3 interim payments per year. The funds to Project Promoters will be determined according to previously confirmed eligible expenditures and the forecast for up-coming expenditures for the following payment period (quarter of the year). The Project Promoters will submit relevant reports and the required data and the relevant expenditures' justification. After the financing of 80% of the total budget for each project, the financing will be conducted for confirmed eligible expenditures only, without taking into consideration the estimated future expenditures. A percentage about 5%-10% of the total budget for each project will be financed after the projects' completion and after the submission and the approval of the final report and the confirmation of the total expenditures' eligibility.

To confirm the expenditure's eligibility the Project Promoters will submit to the P.O. all the required supporting documentations. The P.O. will check the documents for the nature and the legality of the expenditures and will decide on their eligibility. In case an expenditure is considered to be ineligible or its' eligibility cannot be justified by the submitted documents, it will not be considered in determining the interim or final payments. The confirmation of the expenditures' eligibility will also be conducted during the on-site visits to the Project Promoter. If considered necessary, unexpected on-site visits for the confirmation of the expenditures' eligibility will take place.

The P. O. will be conducting 100% verification of payment claims under outcomes 1 and 2 (pre-defined project and open calls (1) to (3)). For projects under outcome 3 (small grant schemes) the P. O. will carry out verification on a sample of 30% of invoices. As a general rule, costs incurred by the Project Promoters shall be supported by receipted invoices. Where this cannot be done, costs shall be supported by accounting documents of equivalent probative value.

In case of verification of expenditures incurred by a donor project partner, a report by an independent and certified auditor, certifying that the claimed costs are incurred in accordance with the Regulation, the national law and accounting practices of the donor project partner's country, shall be seen as sufficient proof of costs incurred.

Overhead costs are not eligible at programme level. Indirect costs at project level may be eligible up to a flat rate of 10%. The method of calculating the indirect costs shall be determined in the individual project contracts.

In-kind contributions are not eligible.

By way of exception from Article 7.3.1(c) of the Regulation, the entire purchase price of new equipment may be eligible if the equipment is an integral and necessary component for the implementation or development of a technology that is essential for achieving the outcome of the project. The Programme Operator will check and verify compliance with this condition.

14.6 Modification of projects

Project modifications will be managed according to their importance and the impact they may have on the project according to the following procedures:

Significant modifications are considered to be:

- Significant modification in the projects' physical object
- Modification in the projects' budget
- Modification in the projects' Implementation schedule

Modifications of this kind must get the approval of the P.O. before they can be implemented.

All proposed amendments must be in accordance to the approved project's scopes and objectives. Furthermore significant modifications which alter or exceed basic limits set by the Programme (i.e. time exceeding above the eligibility period, increases of budgets etc.) will not be approved.

Every Project Promoter, who is planning to conduct a modification to his project, will have to submit a relevant justified request to the P.O. for audit and approval. Modifications will not be implemented without the PO's approval.

Modifications of other kinds, which do not cause significant changes to the project, will have to be described in the progress reports submitted by the Project Promoters.

In case the P.O., based on the available data, assesses the need for a modification of a project in one of the above mentioned criteria, it will take all relevant actions necessary in co-operation with the Project Promoter to proceed with the modification and submit a relevant request to the NFP and the FMO for approval.

Modifications to a project can be conducted during the entire period of the Programme's implementation.

15. BUDGET

15.1 Budget headings

					Non-eligible expenditure (d)	Total expenditure (e) = (c) + (d)
	EEA FM (a)	National cofinancing (b)	Total eligible expenditure (c) = (a)+(b)			
	€	€	€	% of total	€	€
Programme management	348,500	61,500	410,000	3.66%	0	410,000
1st outcome: More integrated management of marine and inland water resources	5,525,000	975,000	6,500,000	58.10%	0	6,500,000
2nd outcome: Improved monitoring of marine waters	2,125,000	375,000	2,500,000	22.34%	0	2,500,000
3rd outcome: Increased awareness of and education in the field of water resources	1,275,000	225,000	1,500,000	13.41%	0	1,500,000
Funds for bilateral relations	170,000	30,000	200,000	1.79%	0	200,000
Complementary action	66,500	11,735	78,235	0.70%	0	78,235
Preparation of Programme proposal	-	-	-	0.00%	0	0
Reserve for exchange rate losses	-	-	-	0.00%	0	0
TOTAL	9,510,000	1,678,235	11,188,235	100%	0	11,188,235

Annual breakdown of the EEA Financial Mechanism contribution

Budget heading	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Programme management			100,000	115,000	85,000	48,500		348,500
1st outcome: More integrated management of marine and inland water resources			300,000	1,800,000	3,300,000	125,000		5,525,000
2nd outcome: Improved monitoring of marine waters			600,000	800,000	650,000	75,000		2,125,000
3rd outcome: Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management			240,000	400,000	600,000	35,000		1,275,000
Funds for bilateral relations			45,000	60,000	45,000	20,000		170,000
Complementary action			15,000	25,000	20,000	6,500		66,500
Preparation of Programme proposal								-
Reserve for exchange rate losses								-
TOTAL			1,300,000	3,200,000	4,700,000	310,000	-	9,510,000

The distribution of annual breakdown is based on estimates for the time needed for projects' implementation according to the timetable as well as the financial flow of interim payments according article 8.3 of the Regulation.

Detailed budget for the management costs of the Programme Operator

Cost category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Preparation of Programme implementation			-	-	-	-	-	-
Project appraisal and selection			35,000	25,000		-	-	60,000
Payment claim verification, transfer of payments			-	15,000	20,000	15,000		50,000
Monitoring of projects			-	40,000	45,000	20,000		105,000
Audits and on-the-spot verification of projects			-	18,000	30,000	20,000		68,000
Promotion and information			30,000	30,000	12,000	30,000	5,000	107,000
Reporting to donors and national authorities			-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Establishment and operation of bank accounts			-	-	-	-	-	-
Overheads			-	-	-	-	-	-
Total			65,000	148,000	107,000	85,000	5,000	410,000

Costs for project appraisal and selection, payment claim verification, monitoring of projects are basically costs of external consultants' services and costs of development and maintenance of management tools.

Costs for audits and on the spot verification of projects are costs of external consultants' services and travel costs.

Promotion and information costs are analysed in Annex IV.

Reporting to donors and national authorities costs are costs for the supply of printers, photocopiers and their consumables.

There will be not cost of overheads, preparation of programme implementation and operation of bank accounts.

Detailed budget for preparation of Programme proposal

Cost category	Units	Unit cost	Amount (€)
Salaries of staff of the Programme Operator			
Travel and subsistence allowance			
Feasibility studies, including expert fees			
Translation costs			
Preparation for public procurement and state aid			
Public consultation			
Total			

There will be not cost for preparation of Programme proposal.

15.2 Advance payment

Budget heading	Advance requested (€)
Programme management	30,000
1st outcome: More integrated management of marine and inland water resources	
2nd outcome: Improved monitoring of marine waters	
3rd outcome: Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management	
Funds for bilateral relations	30,000
Complementary action	10,000
Preparation of Programme proposal	
Reserve for exchange rate losses	
TOTAL	70,000

16. OVERVIEW OF ANNEXES REQUIRED TO THE PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

- I. List of abbreviations
- II. Information on pre-defined project
- IV. Communication Plan
- V. Chart showing the management structure
- VI. CVs of key personnel
- VII. Maps and figures

17. SIGNATURES

For the Programme Operator

I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this proposal on behalf of the Programme Operator, that I have thoroughly reviewed all statements and information provided in this proposal, and that they are correct and accurate. I confirm that this Programme will be carried out as described in this proposal and that the grant requested reflects correctly what is reasonably needed as a minimum for the Programme to proceed and to be completed.

I accept that the FMO may publish a summary of this Programme proposal on its website and that the proposal may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Acts of the EEA EFTA states.

					Optional second signature		
Name							
Position							
Organisation							
Signature							
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
Date							

For the Programme Partner (repeat as necessary)

I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this proposal on behalf of my organisation, and that this organisation agrees to participate in the implementation of this Programme. I have thoroughly reviewed all statements and information provided in this proposal, and they correctly and accurately describe my organisation's roles and responsibilities towards this Programme.

					Optional second signature		
Name							
Position							
Organisation							
Signature							
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
Date							

For the National Focal Point

I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this Programme proposal on behalf of the National Focal Point, that I have reviewed all statements and information provided in this proposal, and that I confirm that it is in accord with the Memorandum of Understanding.

				Optional second signature		
Name						
Position						
Organisation						
Signature						
	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
Date						

Annex I - List of abbreviations

BRP	Bilateral Relations Plan
CP	Communication Plan
CV	Curriculum Vitae
EEA	European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EECs	Environmental Education Centres
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FMO	Financial Mechanism Office
FMC	Financial Mechanism Committee
GEN	Greek Environmental Network
MEECC	Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
PDP	Predefined Project
PIP	Public Investment Programme
PO	Programme Operator
POM	Programme Operator's Manual
PP	Project Promoter
PPR	Project Progress Reports

SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SSCEA	Special Service for the Coordination of Environmental Activities
SSF	State Scholarships Foundation
SSW	Special Secretariat for Water
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Annex II - Information on pre-defined project

PRE-DEFINED PROJECT DESCRIPTION		
1. General Information		
1.1 Project title	Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme in compliance with the requirement of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC (article 11)	
1.2 Project Implementation period	2013 - 2016	
2. Project Promoter		
2.1 Name	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)	
2.2 Address	Street Address 46,7 km Athens Sounio ave. P.O. Box 712, P.C. 19013 Anavyssos Attiki Greece	
2.3 Contact Person	Name:	
	Position:	
	Contacts (email, phone, fax)	Phone: +302291076462 Fax: +302291076323
3. Indicative Financial Information		
3.1 Foreseen Total expenditure (Euro):	2.500.000	
3.2 Foreseen total eligible expenditure (Euro):	2.500.000	
3.3 EEA FM Contribution (85%) Euro :	2.125.000	
3.4 Beneficiary State Contribution (15%) Euro:	375.000	
4. Background and justification for the project including reference to relevant plans and priorities		
4.1 Background and justification for the project	<p>The Greek marine ecosystems are threatened by the impacts of overfishing, chemical pollution and oil spills. The alteration in the sea's temperature and bio-geochemistry due to the climate change, cause significant problems. Monitoring and management of these threats is critical to sustain benefits for both, the present and the future generations. Observing marine waters is important to assess and deliver data of the environmental status of Greek marine waters and to support decisions for the protection and the sustainable management of marine resources. The pre-defined project is going to meet the commitment of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) 2008/56/EC (Art. 5, par. 2.a.4). It will be carried out according to the article 11 of the Directive for the ongoing assessment of the environmental status and the regular updating of environmental targets in the Ionian Sea, Central Mediterranean Sea, Aegean-Levantine Sea and Adriatic Sea, according to the MSFD (Article 4).</p>	

<p>4.2 Relevant public plans and priorities</p>	<p>Greece has developed a marine strategy for its marine waters, laying down the Law 3983/2011, to achieve the objectives of the MSFD 2008/56/EC. The SSW (responsible for the implementation of MSFD) has until now implemented and submitted to the E.C., the stages a.1, a.2, a.3 and is preparing the implementation of stage a.4 (the establishment and implementation of Monitoring Programs for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets). According to Article 8 (1), the monitoring program shall be implemented on the basis of the indicative lists of elements set out in Annex III (Indicative lists of characteristics, pressures and impacts) and the list set out in Annex V, and by reference to the environmental targets established, pursuant to Article 10 of the MSFD. According to the Article 11, Greece will firstly have to carry out a study, to define the technical specifications and standardised methods at EU level for the implementation of the monitoring program. The study will be carried out by the SSW in the frame of the Operational Programme “Environment and Sustainable Development” and it will be financed from the European Fund for Regional Development 2007-2013. Greece will have to notify the Commission of the monitoring programme within three months of its establishment. Within six months of receiving this notification, the Commission will inform Greece whether, in its opinion, the elements notified are consistent with the MSFD and provide guidance documents for the implementation of the Monitoring Programmes. Due to technical issues in E.C. level, only two Member States (MS) submitted within the deadline (15/10/2012) to the E.C. the data of the three first stages, Greece and Germany. Thus the deadline for the assessment of the above stages, postponed to autumn of 2013. Nevertheless, the establishment and the implementation of the monitoring programme must be done the latest by 15 July 2014 pursuant to the article 5 of the MSFD.</p>
<p>4.3 A short technical description of the pre-defined project</p>	<p>The project will be the implementation of the integrated marine monitoring programme. It will include observations/calculations from both satellite images and in situ real time observations and verification (from buoys, fixed platforms or ship) and by space observation. The project will provide a data managing infrastructure based on common approved standards, analysis and modeling systems. Innovative technology and platforms are going to provide information on environmental processes occurring in coastal areas and in the open sea. The vessel is important in the integrated monitoring system as will be used as a platform carrying high – quality instruments. The platforms can carry a multitude of sensors for high temporal – resolution observations at key sites, capturing important events with fast data transmission. The basic processes in establishing the integrated marine monitoring programme include parameters' measurements, data collection, compilation and management, information dissemination and proposals/political measures for improving the marine environment. All these functions will be based on the Annex III and V of the MSFD following the methodology, criteria and technical specifications, which will be determined by the approved above-mentioned study. Moreover, the monitoring programme will utilise the existing Data Bases from the previous monitoring programmes such as Poseidon. For the supply of equipment, public procurement procedures according to the relevant legislation will be followed.</p>

5. Information on the Project Promoter

The Project Promoter will be the **Hellenic Centre for Marine Research**. The HCMR aims to carry out scientific and technological research, and experimental development, dissemination and implementation of produced results, especially in the fields of study and protection of the hydrosphere, its organisms, its interface with the atmosphere, the coast and the sea bottom, the physical, chemical, biological and geological conditions that prevail and regulate the above mentioned systems with:

- a) the production of products and supply of services
- b) the support of decision-making concerning the general public, the economy and culture
- c) their economical exploitation either by the HCMR and/or by its employees or by third parties.

For the accomplishment of its aims the HCMR :

- a) plans and carries out scientific and technological programs, projects and elaborates relevant research studies
- b) promotes the development of relations and cooperation with international organisations, AEI (Institutes of Higher Education) and relevant national and international Research Institutes as well as legal and physical parties
- c) promotes scientific expertise on the aforementioned
- d) contributes towards educating, informing and general awareness of the public
- e) provides scientific and technological information through the appropriate website
- f) provides products and offers services relevant to its research interests
- g) represents Greece in international organisations with relevant activities.

6. Objective and expected outcome (s) of the project

6.1 The objective of the project is more improved monitoring of the Greek marine waters.

6.2 The expected outcome of the project is the implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme.

7. Project timeline, financial plan

Project objective	Project outcome	Activities	Timeline	Budget
More improved monitoring of the Greek marine waters	The implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme	The implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme based on the Annex III and V of the Directive 2008/56/EC and the suggested methodology and criteria by the above approved study.	From October 2013 to 30-04-2016	2.500.000 €

Annex IV - Communication Plan

Introduction

The current communication plan refers to the Programme “Integrated marine and inland water management” according to the Memorandum of Understanding between Greece and the Donor States on the implementation of the EEA Grants 2009-2014.

The communication plan intends to contribute to the dissemination of the programmes’ objectives and the projects’ outputs in order to act as a tool for attracting the public’s attention to the country’s commitment to protecting and enhancing water resources.

Furthermore, the communication plan aims at highlighting the Donor States’ positive contribution to Greece’s efforts at protecting its distinguished natural landscape. In this way, the significant role of European cooperation will be accentuated.

Objectives

The goals of this communication plan are determined by the overall objectives deriving from the Regulation and the specific objectives deriving from the nature of the Programme:

Overall objectives:

- To make the funding available to potential Project Promoters by providing overall and specific information about the Programme and the available financing opportunities
- To increase the Programme’s visibility to the general public and to highlight the added value of the Donor States’ intervention, thus contributing to the reinforcement of the relations between the Donor States and Greece

Specific Objective

- To increase awareness of a “good environmental status in European marine and inland waters”.

Target groups

The target groups of the communication plan are the following:

1. Potential Project Promoters such as:

- a. Research institutions
- b. Educational institutions
- c. Regional and Local Authorities
- d. Water Supply and Sewerage Companies Management Bodies of protected areas
- e. Ministries (i.e. Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, Environment Energy and Climate Change)
- f. NGO's

2. Project Promoters selected according to the selection procedures as described in Article 6.5

3. Public

- I. Information multipliers such as:
 - a. Economic and social partners
 - b. Professional associations
 - c. Local Press
 - d. Environmental NGOs
 - e. Donor States' entities (embassies, teaching institutions)

- II. People who can benefit from/exploit the results of interventions
 - a. Island and costal population
 - b. Students of primary and secondary education
 - c. Students
 - d. Enterprises engaged in the fisheries sector
 - e. The general public

Communication Strategy

The communication strategy will focus on the following:

- **Achieve accessibility** to the funding by timely communicate the opportunities for applying to the calls for proposals
- **Achieve transparency** by continuously informing the public about how the funding is spent through an updated website
- **Communicate the results** and create a positive image of the Programme

To attain these aims and to address the key stakeholders and the public efficiently, the messages have to be tailored to their level of knowledge.

1. Potential Project Promoters

According to the Annex 4 of the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Grants 2009-2014 the Project Operator is responsible for providing the potential Project Promoters in details with all the relevant information, concerning the funding opportunities provided. In order to meet this requirement the Special Service for the Coordination of Environmental Activities (SSCEA) will involve relevant entities, who will function as information multipliers as described in 3a. of this Communication Plan. Furthermore, the creation of a network between relevant institutions will enhance the dissemination of the Programme.

2. Project Promoters

According to the Article 4.7 2 of the Regulation the P.O. shall ensure, that the Project Promoters fulfill their information and publicity obligations. To achieve this, the Project Promoters will continuously be supplied and assisted with the required information.

The aim is to use the beneficiaries as “objective-allies” to highlight the results/impacts of the Programme, and to encourage them to communicate (with the P.O., the Public/citizens etc.) in order to generate awareness and to ensure, that the results will lead to the projects’ sustainability in long term.

3. Public

a. Information multipliers

Institutions are closer to the people who can benefit from the funding, so they should be involved in the dissemination of the Programme. They are also likely to re-exploit the results of the Programme. For that reason they will be involved in their own interest. They will be sent targeted information, invited to meetings and will also be involved informally with the choice of projects. Special attention will be given to the local press for the multiplying effect it can have on the inhabitants of the intervention areas.

b. People who can benefit/exploit the results of interventions

To bring the Programme closer to the public and show how it can improve its' life conditions, the messages will be simple, easily understandable and brief.

Messages

The key-message defined in the beginning of the Programme is **“Go Blue”** since it refers to the familiar colour of the Greek sea and it is expected to work effectively in attracting the publics' attention.

The messages needed for attracting the audience's attention in the implementation phase will be defined according to the kind of the projects. Indicatively: for the Public and Local Authorities actions in Outcome 1 some mottos could be:

- Save wetlands!
- Safeguarding water reserves!

For the Outcome 3 target groups some mottos could be:

- Let's experience waters!
- Water is Life!

A list which provides an outline of the objectives, the expected communication results, as well as the relevant communication practices is following.

Potential Project Promoters

Activities	Expected Communication Outcomes	Communication Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad dissemination of the Programme's existence and creation of a positive image of the Programme ▪ Detailed information about the financing opportunities, the eligibility terms and the procedures to be followed ▪ Highlighting of the added value of the Donor States' intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interest and mobilization of potential beneficiaries have increased. ▪ Preparation of potential Project Promoters for participation to the calls of proposals was in time. ▪ Number of project application was large. ▪ Project applications were accurate and delays in the Programme's implementation had been avoided ▪ Visibility of the Programme and of the EEA Grants at all have increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Published detailed information about the Programme in English and Greek on the website according to Annex 4 3.2.c ▪ Published detailed information about the Programme in English and Greek on the website according to Annex 4 3.3. ▪ Published calls for proposals on the website as well as in one national newspaper ▪ Representatives in charge have been identified and sent targeted information ▪ They were invited to information meetings ▪ In the beginning of the Programme a conference has been conducted with the participation of entities from the Donor States, potential project promoters, potential partners and the press

Project Promoters

Objective	Expected Communication Results	Communication Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detailed and continuous information about the project promoters' obligations deriving from the financed project ▪ Detailed and continuous information about the Project Promoters' information and publicity obligations ▪ Highlight the added value of the Donor States' intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irregularities have been prevented ▪ The Project Promoters have complied with the provisions of the legal framework of EEA Grants ▪ The Project Promoters have fulfilled their information and publicity obligations ▪ The Project Promoters have function as "objective allies" to highlight the results and impacts of the projects ▪ Visibility of the Programme and of the EEA Grants at all have increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Published management and control system on the website ▪ A manual with brief information on the project promoters responsibilities has been edited ▪ Project Promoters have been invited to information meetings ▪ The Project Promoters' obligation to develop a publicity plan has been included in the calls for proposals

Public

I. Information multipliers

Objective	Expected Communication Results	Communication Practise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inform them about the opportunities deriving from the Programme ▪ Encourage knowledge and/or experience transfer ▪ Make the Programme better known, project a positive image of the Programme ▪ Highlight the results of the projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The institutions function as “communication channels” for arriving the public ▪ A network between relevant institutions has been created ▪ The media have functioned as opinion leaders in creating the awareness of the water resources problem ▪ The media have had a multiplying effect on the general public ▪ The general public has become aware of the pollution and the lack of water resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A distribution database of various relevant NGOs and other institutions/associations as well as local newspapers has been set up ▪ NGOs and other institutions/associations and the local newspapers have been provided with direct-mails and information about open calls and other relevant issues ▪ The Project Promoters have fulfilled their responsibilities regarding publication/information ▪ The website is maintained and all relevant information is published ▪ Journalists are invited to participate in events

II. People who can benefit from/exploit the results of interventions

Objective	Expected Communication Results	Communication Practise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bring the Programme closer to the citizens by pointing out the positive impact the projects have on their quality of life ▪ Highlight the added value of the Donor States' intervention and make the support of the EEA Grants explicit ▪ Raise awareness of the necessity to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the water resources as a "source of life" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local communities benefit financially from the environments' enhancement ▪ The general public has been encouraged to participate to water resources' protection/reduction of exploitation ▪ The country can utilise the projects' results for the promotion of an enhanced "tourism-product" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A distribution database of various relevant NGOs and other institutions/associations has been set up ▪ The website is maintained and all relevant information as well as "success stories" is published ▪ The Project Promoters fulfil their responsibilities regarding publication/information by implementing the management and control system ▪ The FMC is informed about any open calls so these can be published of the EEA Grants ' website

Tactics

According to Article 4.7.2 subparagraphs (b) and (c)

the Programme Operator of the Programme “Integrated marine and inland water management” shall undertake the following communication activities:

1. Conferences

In the beginning of the Programme a **launch conference** with the participation of Donor States’ Entities and potential Greek Project Promoters and potential partners from the Donor States will be held. The conference’s purpose is to create awareness of the existence of the Programme and to mobilize potential Project Promoters to participate. Furthermore, this conference will serve the objective of “Strengthen the bilateral relations” since it will be followed by a match making event for potential Project Promoters as well as potential donor partners.

When the projects will be in a position to share first results a **second conference** will be organized to give an update on achievements and focus on presenting good practices. Institutions and Project Partners will have the opportunity to exchange experiences, solve problems and accelerate the ongoing projects.

Finally, a **last conference** will be held at the end of the Programme presenting all the good practices and results/impacts.

2. Information on the Website in Greek and English with the following content:

- Information on the Programme “Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management” and the EEA Grants
- Overview of open calls, including documents pertaining to the open calls
- Information on the selection criteria, procedures and deadlines
- Information of all funded projects, including contact information, a description of the projects and their duration, the amount of funding allocated to the projects and information on cooperation with Donor States’ entities
- Information on the impact from the Programme and EEA Grants’ support
- Relevant documents
- A link to the website www.eeagrants.org
- Links to relevant beneficiaries’/stakeholders’ websites
- Contact information
- A contact form

Next up a list with the main tactics and the targeted groups to be addressed is following:

Tactic	Potential Project Promoters	Project Promoters	Public	
			Institutions/ Information multipliers	General Public
Promotional Activities				
Conferences	x	x	x	
Direct Mail/Newsletters	x	x	x	
Calls for Proposals	x			
Brochures/Leaflets	x	x	x	
Information meetings	x	x	x	
Media				
Website	x	x	x	x
Helpdesk	x	x	x	x

Radio or TV publicity will not be in use.

Being on brand

According to the Article 4.7.3 and the Annex 4 of the Regulation, the P.O. shall ensure that the Project Promoters are fulfilling their obligations in terms of publicity and information on the projects.

To communicate the EEA Grants correctly, the Project Promoters will be supported by the person responsible for publicity issues in the Unit A of the P.O. The Communication and Design Manual includes all the relevant information and the tools to support the Project Promoters in fulfilling these responsibilities.

The following table describes the procedures the P.O. will follow to monitor these responsibilities:

Project Promoters Responsibilities	How to follow-up
Submit a Publicity Plan attached to the project application	During the selection procedure and according to the management system
Information activities on progress, achievements and results (3 or 2)	According to the management and control system
Seek solutions to publish projects information on the web	According to the management and control system
Maintain a project web page for projects of € 10.000	According to the management and control system
Maintain a project web page for projects of € 150.000 in English and Greek	According to the management and control system
Put a billboard at the site of each operation when the project exceeds € 50.000 or consists in the financing of a physical object, infrastructure or of construction operations	According to the management and control system
Replace the billboard no later than six months after completion with a permanent commemorative plaque	According to the management and control system

Timeline

During the planning period and before the official submission the P.O. conducted a consultation procedure about the Programme with representatives of potential Project Promoters as well as relevant stakeholders. The P.O. distributed a draft-programme and set a deadline for the participants to give a feedback in the form of suggestions/objections, especially towards the defined outputs.

In the **beginning phase** in the first quarter of 2013 the communication strategy will focus on making the Programme known. The development of the website, the launch conference and a leaflet with general information are key tactics in this phase. A training seminar for potential Project Promoters shall also be planned in this phase.

Budget

The communication and publicity measures will be financed by the funds of the asset “Programme management” .

Tactics	Budget per unit	Budget total	Financing		
			National co-financing €	EEA FM €	Total
Conferences	18.000	54.000	8.100	45.900	54.000
Website		9.000	1.350	7.650	9.000
Other promotional activities (leaflets, brochures, newsletters,	1.800-2.300	41.000	6.150	34.850	41.000
Publication of calls for proposals	600	3.000	450	2.550	3.000

Evaluating success

For the evaluation of the communication practices' contribution to the Programme's dissemination, specific indicators shall be determined. The following table includes the indicators that will assist the P.O. to define, to what degree the aims of transparency and public awareness have been achieved.

Tactic	Output Indicator	Result Indicator
Conferences	Number of conferences held	Number of participants
Calls for Proposal	Number of calls	Number of submitted proposals
Brochures/Leaflets	Number of editions	Circulation
Newsletters	Number of editions	Circulation
Information meetings	Number of meetings	Number of participants
Website	Development and implementation	Number of visitors
Helpdesk	Development and implementation	Number of questions

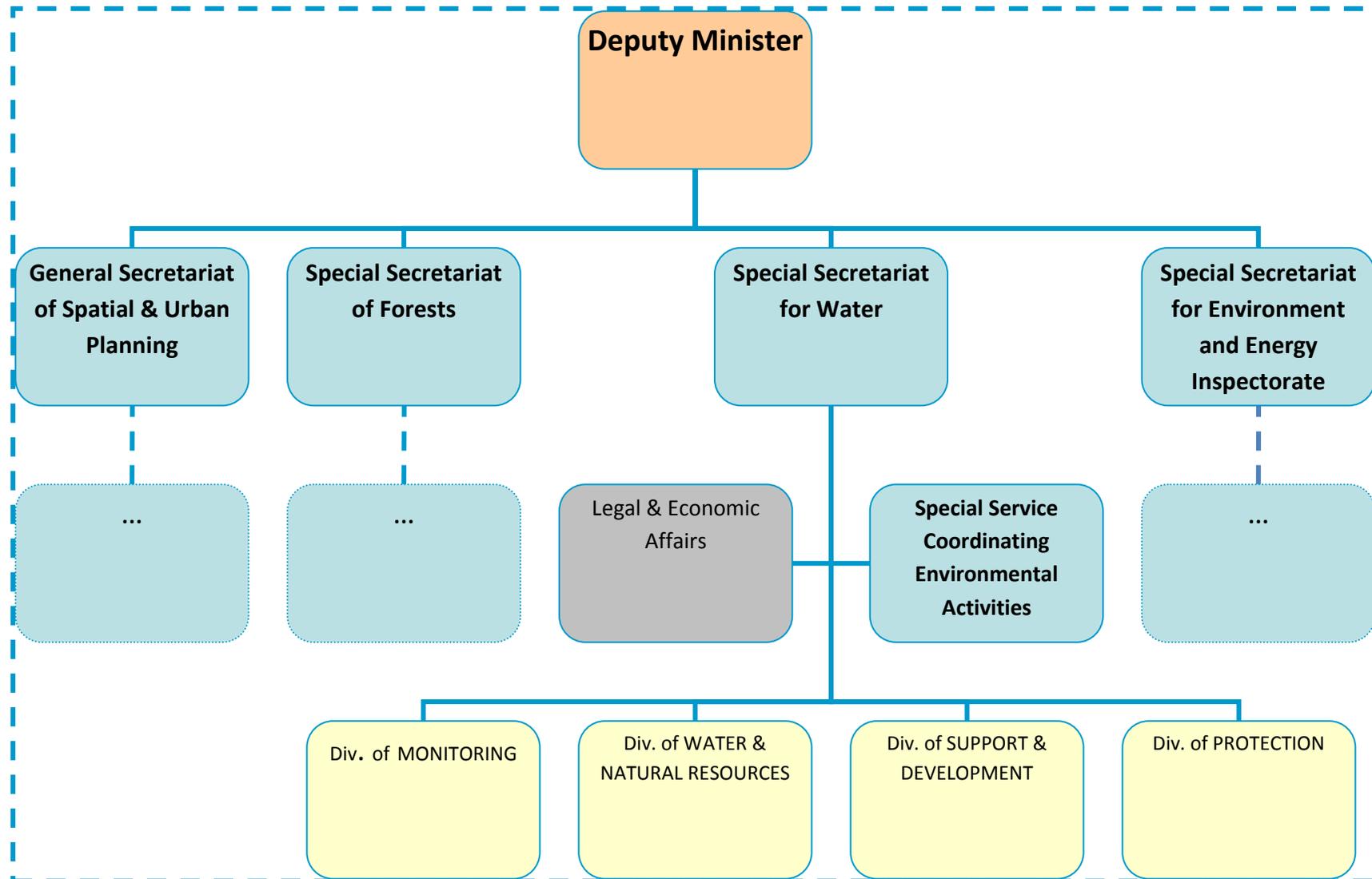
Responsible People

The implementation of the Communication Plan will be supported by the staff of the Unit in charge of each communication practice. The specific responsibilities for each Unit will be determined by the management and control system.

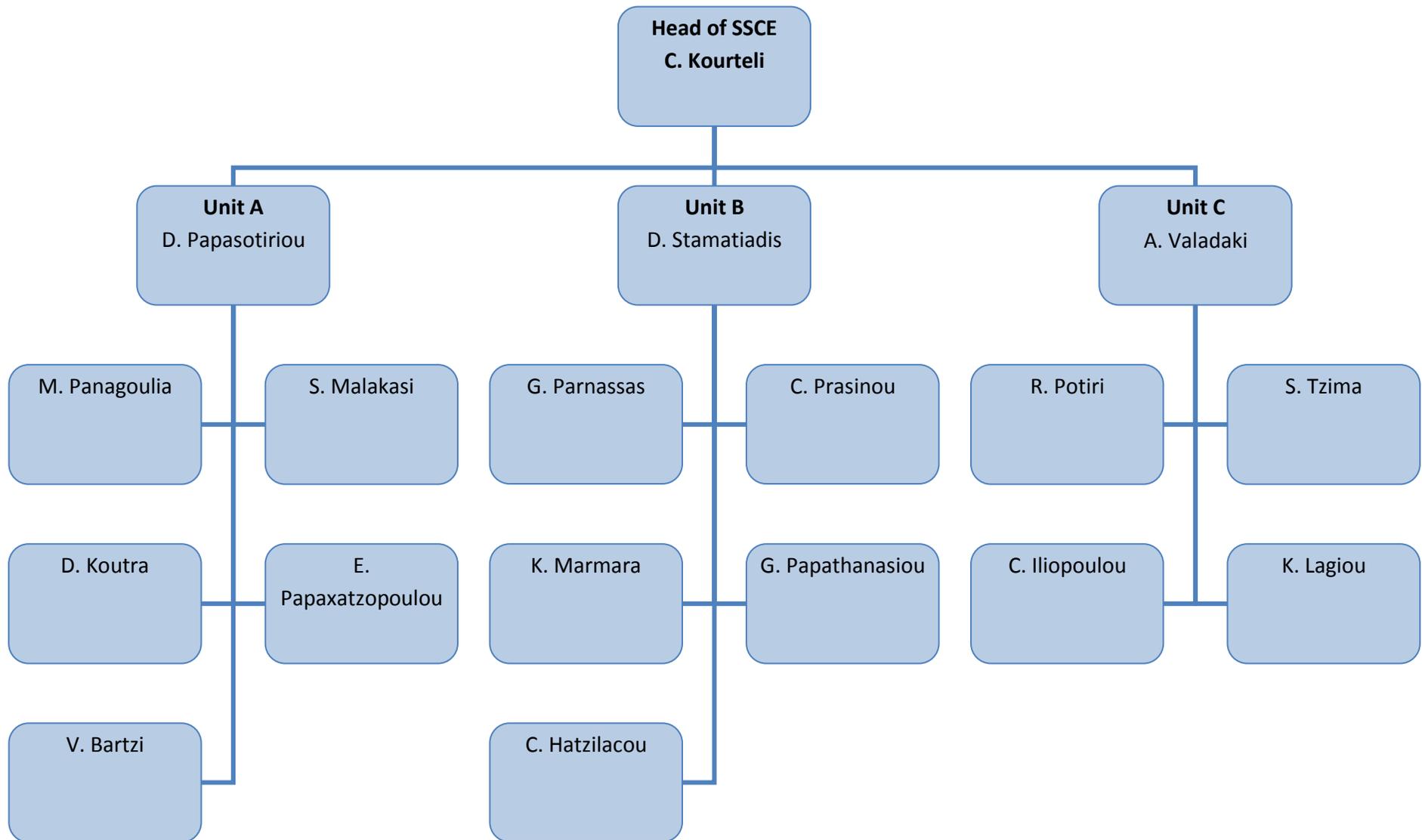
The person responsible for the Programme's Publicity Issues is Mrs Maria Panagoulia, Member of SSCEA personnel.

Annex V - Chart Showing the management structure

Ministry of Environment Energy & Climate Change



Special Service Coordinating Environmental Activities



SSCEA - Allocation of duties

Unit A

Co-Ordination and evaluation of the environmental policies' implementation

- Preparation of the Programme
- Programme's revision
- Preparation of annual programme report
- Handle programme's modifications
- Preparation of final programme report
- Financial Management of the Programme
- Preparation of financial reports
- Preparation of calls
- Project's selection
- Project contracts' signing
- Management of irregularities
- Preparation and implementation of BRP
- Preparation and implementation of CP

Unit B

Programmes Monitoring

- Project Monitoring
- On-site verifications
- Verification of eligibility of payments
- Verification of projects' output
- Projects' review
- Financial Management of projects
- Data collection, verification and storage

Unit C

Organization and Support

- Support of Unit A in the implementation of the information and publicity measures
- Support of Unit A in the implementation of the bilateral relations plan (BRP)
- Financial Management of PO's expenditures (management, bilateral costs and complementary costs)
- Web site management

Annex VII - Maps and figures

Timeline of the Programme

Activity	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																				
Submission of the Programme		■																						
Approval of the Programme					■																			
Programme Agreement conclusion					■																			
Programme implementation agreement conclusion / Launch of the Programme					■																			
Preparation of the Management and control systems						■	■																	
Submission of the Management and control systems								■																
Preparation and Signing the contract of pre-defined project						■	■																	
Launch of predefined project								■																
Implementation of predefined project								■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							
Preparation of 1st call (1st outcome / 1st output)					■																			
Launch of 1st call for proposals (1st outcome / 1st output))						■																		
Selection of projects of 1st outcome						■	■																	
Signing the Project Contracts of 1st outcome / 1st output								■																
Implementation of projects of 1st outcome / 1st output								■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							
Preparation of calls of 1st outcome / 2nd and 3rd outputs					■	■																		

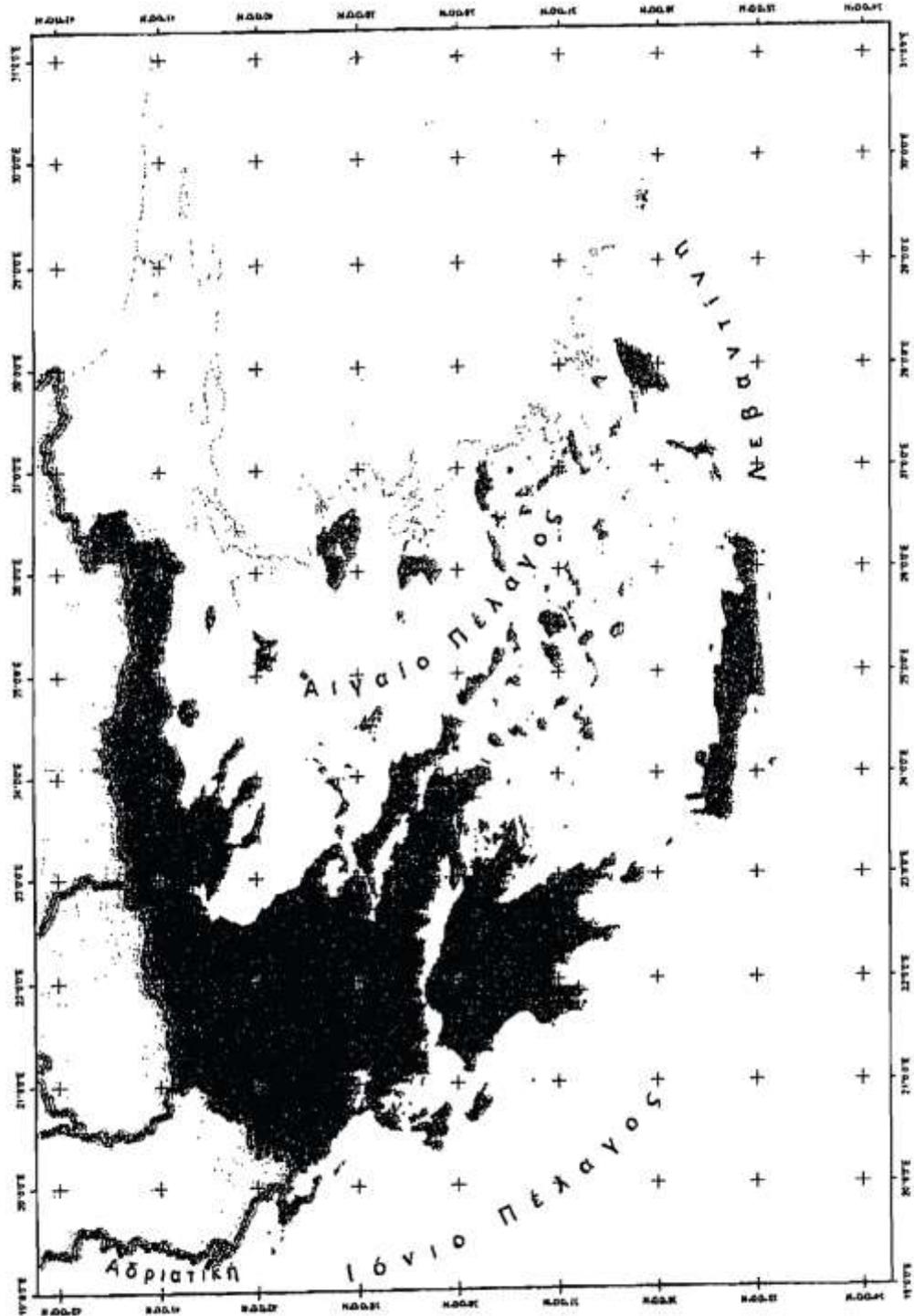
Activity	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																				
Launch of call of 1st outcome / 2nd and 3rd outputs																								
Selection of projects of 1st outcome / 2nd and 3rd outputs																								
Signing the Project Contracts of 1st outcome / 2nd and 3rd outputs																								
Implementation of projects of 1st outcome / 2nd and 3rd outputs																								
Signing of Contracts with Small grant schemes Operators																								
Preparation of calls/circular of 3rd outcome - Small grant schemes																								
Launch of calls/circular of 3rd outcome - Small grant schemes																								
Selection of projects of 3rd outcome - Small grant schemes																								
Signing the Project Contracts of 3rd outcome - Small grant schemes																								
Implementation of projects of 3rd outcome - Small grant schemes																								
Reporting to FMC (Annual Reports, Final Report)																								
Submission of interim financial reports																								
Development of website																								
1st Information and publicity conference																								
Training seminars for potential Project Promoters																								
Training seminars for Project Promoters																								

	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																				
2nd Information and publicity conference																								
3rd Information and publicity conference																								
Match making event																								
Partnership development																								
Launch of call for proposals for bilateral relations - Measure B																								
Bilateral activities - Measure B																								

UNDERGROUND WATER QUALITY MAP



MARINE SUBREGION (EEC 2008/56)



UNDERGROUND WATER SALINIZATION DANGER DUE TO MARINE WATER INTRUSION

