



# Greece

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## National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)

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## Strategic Outcome For Goal 1

### Outcomes Statement

National civil protection legislation was recently updated. Since 2012 the Fire Service was placed under the General Secretariat for Civil Protection and become its main operational branch, while with Law 4249/2014 the core role of GSCP was enhanced. Law 4249/2014 describes the core role of GSCP in coordination and facilitation of cooperation between research-academic institutions and public agencies to integrate and use applied research products in Disaster Risk Reduction planning as well as to promote and coordinate the cooperation between government departments and entities at central, regional and local level with research-academic institutions for this purpose.

Greece was holding the Presidency of the Council of EU during the first semester of 2014. The Greek Presidency took special interest in the negotiations leading to the post-2015 Framework for Action. On the basis of a draft submitted by the Presidency at the competent working group for further elaboration, Council Conclusions on the post-2015 Framework For Action “Building resilience against disasters” was adopted in June 2014.

Flood Risk Management Plans adopt an integral approach incorporating environmental protection policies and plans, sustainable land use practices, social development policies and plans, flood prevention and protection measures. Current regulations on Environmental Impact Assessments require that disaster risks created by major development projects be analyzed during both Preliminary and Final Environmental Impact Assessments and appropriate action be taken to reduce the risk below acceptable levels.

The Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction functions as an open network and a forum of governmental agencies and other stakeholders, with a focus on reducing the risk of natural and/ or manmade hazards occurring frequently and having a big social and economic impact on the country. The HNP is coordinated by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection which is the national focal point for the HFA.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

### Outcomes Statement

During the past two years development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels was accomplished to a certain level with recognized limitations in capacities and resources mainly due to the prolonged economic crisis.

The existing institutional mechanisms for the rapid mobilization of resources in a disaster have been effective in utilizing civil society and the private sector during response and recovery phases of a disaster.

Based on new legislation a "National Early Warning System" will be established and operating under GSCP, in order to ensure interoperability of all early warning systems operating at central and regional level and their inclusion in the National Early Warning Planning, drawn up each year by GSCP and implemented under the Annual National Civil Protection Planning.

The Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing has progressed in the design and implementation of emergency preparedness and prevention programmes. Efforts are now systematic and operational and new processing chains have been established for monitoring natural disasters from space. A lot of this progress can be attributed to the Capacity Building programme "BEYOND" – "Building a Centre of Excellence for Earth Observation based monitoring of Natural Disasters", FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1, that started in June 2013. New funding has been secured for the period 2015-2016 regarding heat wave risk in cities.

Disaster risk reduction activities are adequately financed. Besides that, decentralized, regional and local authorities often participate in development programs that provide funds for disaster risk reduction and preventive measures.

## **Strategic Outcome For Goal 3**

### **Outcomes Statement**

Risk reduction concepts are incorporated into emergency planning at all administrative levels.

Greece has carried out hazard mapping for major hazards, such as earthquakes, forest fires, floods, industrial hazards, contaminated land and volcanoes.

Furthermore institutions have participated in scientific projects aiming to produce hazard, vulnerability and risk maps for natural hazards.

Disaster risk reduction and vulnerability aspects are taken into account during the recovery and rehabilitation phases.

For example after major forest fires measures of erosion control and flood prevention are taken by the Forest Services, or during the recovery process of floods, local civil protection authorities (regions, municipalities) take measures for risk reduction of future similar events like reinforcement of river embankments, restoring the normal flow of rivers etc.

GSCP organizes training drills and exercises at national/ sub-national level where the procedures described in the National Plans are tested in order to assess, analyze and improve them and has issued national guidelines concerning the preparation, organization and evaluation of these exercises. The Civil Protection Exercises "EU PROMETHEUS 2014" and "EU EVITA 2014 F.S.E" were held in Attica region in 2013-2014 and were the first exercises of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism with a combined forest fire – industrial accident scenario.

# Strategic goals

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## Strategic Goal Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

### Strategic Goal Statement 2013-2015

In Greece, large development programs, especially those concerning public works, take into account safety and environmental issues. Legislation is also in force for the safety of power plants, power distribution networks, SEVESO sites and critical infrastructure. Circulars with guidelines on prevention, preparedness and response actions in case of disasters for most of them have been issued by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection for information or use by all competent authorities and the private sector.

The Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing has received a large Capacity Building programme, namely BEYOND, Building a Centre of Excellence for Earth Observation based monitoring of Natural Disasters. The programme started in June 2013 and will last for 3 years. New services have been developed during its first half under the three domains (i) Meteorological and/or human induced hazards, (ii) Geophysical hazards and (iii) Atmospheric composition perturbations and air quality degradation. It also increased the total estimated value of its infrastructure by 409,000 euro in the reporting period to attain ground based infrastructure for the acquisition of data relevant to natural disasters in the above areas. In addition, an agreement was signed between the European Space Agency and National Observatory of Athens for the latter to host the Greek mirror site for the acquisition of Sentinel data (Copernicus).

A number of projects undertaken by the Hellenic Red Cross Nursing Section and Social Welfare Section aim at supporting vulnerable population groups, for example the elderly, some alien minorities and the poor. Although these projects are focused on the daily life of vulnerable populations and are not directly related to disaster risk reduction, they do increase the general welfare of vulnerable population groups and therefore increase resilience.

## Strategic Goal Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

### Strategic Goal Statement 2013-2015

At central level, General Secretariat for Civil Protection is, inter alia, responsible to issue emergency and contingency Plans for all kinds of natural and/ or manmade (incl. CBRN) disasters and hazards aiming to build resilience to hazards and to take appropriate preparedness measures and to undertake prevention, preparedness, response and recovery actions. These Plans and Programs are elaborated with all the competent authorities in national, regional and local level.

During the last two years, the Institute of Geodynamics has expanded its monitoring capabilities. It leads the Hellenic Unified Seismological Network (operational 24/7). Immediately after an earthquake it informs the GSCP and the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (<http://www.gein.noa.gr/el/diktua/seismologiko-diktuo>). It runs a GPS Network for monitoring the crustal deformation in real time (data are available to the public/ scientific community at [http://www.gein.noa.gr/services/GPS/noa\\_gps.html](http://www.gein.noa.gr/services/GPS/noa_gps.html)) and an extensive Strong Motion Network, with many stations operating in real time (<http://www.gein.noa.gr/Greek/new-accelnet-gr/net.jpg>).

The Hellenic Red Cross (HRC), in its auxiliary role to the state on disaster relief, contributes to disaster resilience at the community level by focusing on building a culture of safety and resilience and strengthening preparedness. It provides training programs to the public, including first aid, psychosocial support, and citizen disaster awareness/self-protection. In terms of strengthening disaster preparedness, the HRC establishes volunteer-based disaster response teams in first aid and emergency care; search and rescue; mass care and shelter; and psychosocial care. It works closely with government agencies and public institutions (e.g. GSCP) to reduce vulnerability.

Following the adoption of the EU Regulation establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EU Aid Volunteers) Greece supports and participates in all activities regarding its implementation and particularly, in the sector of addressing humanitarian needs related to natural disasters where Greece organized in cooperation with ECHO "The EUAV Needs Assessment Event, in Brussels, 30.6.2014.

## Strategic Goal Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

### Strategic Goal Statement 2013-2015

Risk reduction concepts are incorporated into the designing of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs according to the "Guidelines for the composition and harmonization of special plans for each disaster at ministerial or central level" as well as according to the "Guidelines for the composition and harmonization of emergency plans by the Regions and Prefectures for each disaster", both issued by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection.

For the reconstruction of communities after an earthquake there are building codes and standards in place that take into account the seismic risk such as the Greek Seismic Design Code which was reconciled to Eurocodes EC7 and EC8 and includes

modifications and completions that arise in practice in a country which experiences continual seismic activity.

Disaster response is carried out by the competent authorities supported by volunteers and private institutions. All levels of administration and private institutions cooperate to respond, reduce damages and protect citizens' life and property. The interoperability, competences and actions of these authorities are set up in the National Civil Protection Plan "Xenokrates" (Ministerial decision 1299/2003) and further specialized in the National Plans drawn up by GCSP.

These National Plans ensure among other that the roles and responsibilities of the involved authorities are well defined in order to reduce the risk at all stages of the disaster management cycle.

Disaster recovery is carried out in cooperation of the central level authorities (Ministries) with the regional and local authorities. During the reconstruction progress risk reduction and vulnerability aspects are taken into account.

In the disaster recovery phase, the Hellenic Red Cross works with various institutions and donors to implement recovery projects to support the population of affected areas by providing psychosocial support and health care, as well as by addressing other disaster vulnerability issues, in an effort to mitigate future disasters.

# Priority for Action 1

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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## Core indicator 1

*National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is disaster risk taken into account in public investment and planning decisions? Yes

National development plan	Yes
Sector strategies and plans	Yes
Climate change policy and strategy	Yes
Poverty reduction strategy papers	Yes
CCA/ UNDAF (Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework)	No
Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning	Yes

Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk?  
Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Disaster Risk Reduction has been given a more important role after the adoption of the Civil Protection Law 3013/2002 and especially by the introduction of National plans for every disaster and hazard issued by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection. These National Plans are adopted after extensive and sophisticated cooperation of all competent authorities involved in disaster reduction and disaster management and upon adoption become binding for all stakeholders involved. Law 3013/2002 and the National Civil Protection Plan “Xenokrates” followed by the National Plans for every hazard and disaster form a substantial legal framework of operation in disaster management including disaster reduction aspects. Each administrative level (Decentralized Administrations, Regions and Municipalities), is tasked to draw its own regional and local plans to ensure resistance against hazards. So, the Greek civil protection system can be described as highly decentralized.

The importance of Disaster Risk Reduction was emphasized with Law 4249/2014 which is a major modification of Law 3013/2002. Law 4249/2014 describes the core role of GSCP in coordination and facilitation of cooperation between research-academic institutions of the country and public agencies to integrate and use applied research products in the Disaster Risk Reduction planning as well as to promote and coordinate the cooperation between government departments and entities at central, regional and local level with research-academic institutions for this purpose. Furthermore the EU Directive 2007/60/EC on the "Assessment and Management of Flood Risks" was fully incorporated into the national legal framework.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## **Core indicator 2**

*Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

What is the ratio of the budget allocation to risk reduction versus disaster relief and reconstruction?



	<b>Risk reduction / prevention (%)</b>	<b>Relief and reconstruction (%)</b>
<b>National budget</b>		
<b>Decentralised / sub-national budget</b>		
<b>USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)</b>		

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

In Greece there is a special budget allocation controlled by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, as part of the annual national budget. This allocation is dedicated to emergency response and immediate disaster relief actions for all natural and man-made disasters and is provided upon request from the competent local civil protection authorities who are in charge of responding to these emergencies (e.g. Regions, Municipalities etc). These allocations have been used, for example, for the affected population (temporary housing and sheltering, medical aid, transportation) following an earthquake or a large forest fire.

Moreover, disaster risk reduction activities are also financed on a project base. For instance, the Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME), under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, is financed either by research projects (European etc), or by the local authorities and relative bodies. In the second case only the preliminary stages of the study are usually financed.

All initiatives undertaken by the Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction are financed by the participating parties according to policy field. Civil protection exercises are financed (national and regional). GSCP participated as lead partner or partner in various EU projects. Through some of these projects civil protection exercises were carried out (e.g. European Civil Protection Mechanism Exercise "EU PROMETHEUS 2014" and "EU EVITA 2014 F.S.E").

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

### Core indicator 3

*Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for DRR? Yes

<b>Legislation (Is there a specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR?)</b>	Yes
<b>Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government</b>	Yes
<b>Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR</b>	

#### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

As already stated, all administrative levels, besides central level authorities (Decentralized Administrations, Regions and Municipalities), are responsible, under the supervision of the GSCP, to draw their own regional and local plans to ensure resistance against hazards. Each of these levels includes a special civil protection unit, either Directorate or Department/ Office, with responsibility for all non-central civil protection matters of its geographical competence. There is a fund specifically allocated by the Ministry of Interior and Administrative

Reconstruction (Directorate of Local Government Economic and Development Policy) to the Municipalities for taking up prevention measures against forest fires that also cover risk reduction aspects. This competence of the Ministry is based on a Common Ministerial Decision issued each year which usually also includes criteria and procedures for the allocations. This funding is an institutionalized asset of the Local Government. The allocations are based upon a relevant GSCP proposal, factoring in data, such as fire risk, forest coverage, demographical data, NATURA sites etc. The funding takes the form of grant.

Furthermore, according to Law 3013/2002 the General Secretary of Civil Protection can propose to the Minister of Interior the allocation of additional funds for prevention and risk reduction measures.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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### Core indicator 4

*A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.*

#### Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations represented in the national platform? Yes

<b>civil society members (specify absolute number)</b>	1
<b>national finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)</b>	16

private sector (specify absolute number)

science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)

2

women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

other (please specify)

Where is the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction located?

In the Prime Minister's/President's Office No

In a central planning and/or coordinating unit Yes

In a civil protection department No

In an environmental planning ministry No

In the Ministry of Finance No

Other (Please specify)

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (HNP) was established in 2012. It functions as an open network and a forum of governmental agencies and other stakeholders, with a focus on reducing the risk of natural and/ or manmade hazards occurring frequently and having a big social and economic impact on the country. The HNP is coordinated by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection which is the national focal point for the Hyogo Framework of Action.

Within the structure of the HNP several governmental, scientific and civil society institutions are present, in total 18 institutions.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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# Priority for Action 2

*Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

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## Core indicator 1

*National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment with a common methodology available to inform planning and development decisions? Yes

<b>Multi-hazard risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>% of schools and hospitals assessed</b>	
<b>schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments</b>	No
<b>Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments</b>	No
<b>Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)</b>	Yes
<b>Common format for risk assessment</b>	No
<b>Risk assessment format customised by user</b>	No
<b>Is future/probable risk assessed?</b>	No

**Please list the sectors that have already used disaster risk assessment as a precondition for sectoral development planning and programming.**

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Greece has carried out hazard mapping for major hazards, such as earthquakes, forest fires, floods, industrial hazards, contaminated land and volcanoes. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment has been completed for all River Basin Districts based on historical records and on potential future floods. Areas with Potential Significant Flood Risks have been identified. Since December 2013 Flood Hazard Maps are completed and by December 2015 Flood Risk Maps will be completed. The Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration carries out physical and environmental vulnerability assessment concerning strong ground motion (e.g. microzonation studies), landslide susceptibility as well as land and water contamination.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization provides valid and timely notification to the authorities regarding seismic risk, enabling planning and confrontation. It provides the production/ update of the Greek Seismic Hazard Map. The Hellenic Unified Seismic Network with the Institute of Geodynamics as coordinator and three University Seismic Networks makes available at IG in near real time waveform data exchange with more than 150 stations.

On a project basis, the Institute of Geodynamics has led or participated in coordinated efforts to produce hazard, vulnerability and risk maps for natural hazards (mainly seismic events) and tsunami generation scenarios. So has the Institute of Environmental Research and Sustainable Development concerning weather-related hazards and adequate monitoring and forecasting.

The Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing has led or participated in coordinated efforts to produce hazard, vulnerability and risk maps for certain natural hazards, mainly forest fires, heat waves, atmospheric episodes and seismic events. Although all very successful, the level of maturity and operational capabilities vary. With the new infrastructure and capacity building attained within the framework of BEYOND programme (described above) IAASARS has signed Memoranda of Understanding with key organizations in Greece for service provision.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## Core indicator 2

*Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed?

Yes

**Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated**

Yes

**Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)**

No

**Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries**

Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

After each disaster all involved authorities are obliged to forward all necessary data and reports to the GSCP which then gathers all the information, evaluates it, analyzes it and conducts a thorough report of the disaster.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization provide valid and timely notification to the State authorities regarding seismic risk.

The Institute of Geodynamics issues everyday an earthquake (seismicity) catalogue. The seismicity of Greece is systematically reported the last 70 years (Monthly Bulletins of IG). The existing seismicity catalogues concern both instrumental and historical seismicity of Greece and surrounding area.

The Institute of Environmental Research and Sustainable Development has recently completed a systematic database of weather-related hazards over Greece from 2000. In 2006 it started to operate a weather stations network across the country (205 stations in 2012). It operates devices for continuous monitoring of lightning



activity over Europe and the Mediterranean.

The Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing supports several services related to disaster losses and hazards. The services are not all in the same level of maturity, however, significant progress has been made with respect to the previous reporting period. The following are operational: (i) FireHub including real time fire monitoring, burn scar mapping (1984-2013) and smoke dispersion, (ii) urban thermal temperatures operational at sharpened resolution (1km/15 min) since April 2014, (iii) crustal deformation after an earthquake, (iv) dust service including the modeling of dust transportation from Sahara and Middle East deserts to Europe, (v) total column ozone and tropospheric nitrogen dioxide concentrations for satellite observations over Athens and Thessaloniki, (vi) Solar Ultraviolet Index for Athens, Greece using OMI observations and meteorological model outputs.

At international level, the competent Greek agencies monitor the flow of information of international co-ordination centres.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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### **Core indicator 3**

*Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.*

Level of Progress achieved? 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events? Yes

<b>Early warnings acted on effectively</b>	Yes
<b>Local level preparedness</b>	Yes
<b>Communication systems and protocols used and applied</b>	Yes

**Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination** Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

There are early warning systems in Greece and the main authorities involved are:

- The Forest Fire Risk Map Working Team under GSCP. In cases of impending forest fires and according to the Daily Fire Risk Map issued by the GSCP, the whole civil protection mechanism is put in the status of increased preparedness and a series of additional measures are adopted according to the National Plan for Forest Fires (GSCP).
- Permanent Scientific Assessment Board for Short Term Seismicity Evolution
- National Hellenic Meteorological Service. In cases of increased danger from extreme weather conditions the National Hellenic Meteorological Service and GSCP issue immediate warnings to all competent authorities of civil protection, including communities
- Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment and Energy (air pollution)
- Greek Atomic Energy Commission (nuclear accidents)
- Public Power Corporation (dam failures)
- National Centre for tsunami warnings
- Special Scientific Committee for Santorini Volcano Monitoring under EPPO (Volcanic eruptions)

"FireHub" is a service platform developed by the Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing that consolidates a real time fire detection and monitoring application, a large scale burnt scar mapping during and after wildfires, and a fire smoke dispersion forecasting tool. The service has been qualified in the framework of several EC, Copernicus/ GMES & ESA projects. The platform is online and addresses real decision-makers' needs and has been deployed on an operational basis to several stakeholders.

"FireHub" is integrated into the Global Fire Monitoring Center belonging to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It was elected as winner of the Best Service Challenge of Copernicus Masters 2014.

The Institute of Geodynamics has developed an almost real time seismicity monitoring tool, available to the community ([bbnet.gein.noa.gr](http://bbnet.gein.noa.gr)). Crustal deformation data are available every day to the scientific community and to the public ([http://www.gein.noa.gr/services/GPS/noa\\_gps.html](http://www.gein.noa.gr/services/GPS/noa_gps.html)).

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be

overcome in the future.

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### Core indicator 4

*National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk? Yes

<b>Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring</b>	Yes
<b>Regional or sub-regional risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Regional or sub-regional early warning</b>	Yes
<b>Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing</b>	Yes
<b>Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks</b>	Yes

#### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

There is increased cooperation with neighboring and other countries in several fields of risk reduction and disaster management. For example, Greece works closely together with the competent Bulgarian authorities in the field of risk reduction and prevention from river floods in the Bulgarian-Greek borders. As further examples, Greece has ratified the Convention on the transboundary effects of National Progress Report 2011-2013 15/43 industrial accidents with the

Law 25446/1997 and EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC, already incorporated into Greek legislation, establishes transboundary cooperation on a national and international level for floods disaster risk reduction.

Several bilateral and multilateral agreements have been signed. Bilateral agreements have been signed and are in force with Cyprus, Turkey, Malta, Russia, Ukraine and USA, or pending ratification (with France, Hungary, Montenegro and Azerbaijan).

Others are under preparation. Multilateral agreements include, among others, the Common Declaration on the Operational cooperation within the European Civil Protection Mechanism known now as FIRE 5 (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus and Belgium), the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, the EUR-OPA Agreement.

The European Center on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes operates within the Framework of EUR-OPA. It belongs to the Network of the Specialized Centers of the Agreement and it is based in Athens.

The European Center for Forest Fires, also based in Greece, operates within EUR-OPA belonging to the same Network of the Agreement and is tasked with the research on forest fires issues.

The Institute of Geodynamics has a close cooperation with other European Organizations. Since 2010 it has been appointed as the National Tsunami Warning Center. It has strong relations and co-operation with other EU countries and Organizations (North East Atlantic Mediterranean TWS) and recently became Tsunami Watch Provider.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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# Priority for Action 3

*Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*

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## Core indicator 1

*Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? No

<b>Information is proactively disseminated</b>	Yes
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· [Self protection instructions](#)

<b>Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV, )</b>	Yes
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<b>Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk</b>	Yes
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### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Information on all kinds of natural and man-made disasters including guidelines for self-protection is available, in Greek, English, Spanish, French, Albanian and Arabic, on the site of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection ([www.civilprotection.gr](http://www.civilprotection.gr)). Since 2013, GSCP makes use of social media on a pilot basis (twitter, facebook, youtube) to communicate information, in addition to information provided on its website.

The GSCP is also responsible for the dissemination of this information to the public.

This has taken the form of:

- Campaigns, such as TV and radio spots for natural disasters prevention
- Publication of leaflets, brochures and posters with guidelines for self-protection from all natural and man-made disasters
- Information days and organization of seminars and workshops
- Publication of electronic material, such as CD-ROMs

Actions are being pursued at decentralized, regional and local level by competent authorities. Other competent authorities, such as the Fire Service, the Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Coast Guard make use of social media (twitter, facebook, youtube) to communicate information on disasters, in addition to information provided on their website.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization uses the following information material:

- Websites ([www.oasp.gr](http://www.oasp.gr), <http://ecpfe.oasp.gr/en>)
- An electronic unit called "For kids and adults"
- An e-Learning Platform (Earthquake and Protection Measures - Guidelines for People with Disabilities)
- CD-ROMs

According to the EU Floods Directive 2007/60, implemented under the primary responsibility of Special Secretariat for Waters, Flood Risk Management plans shall include measures for public information and awareness increase on flood hazards and vulnerabilities and for stakeholder engagement and participation.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## **Core indicator 2**

*School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

<b>primary school curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>secondary school curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>university curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>professional DRR education programmes</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Disaster management is included in some graduate university curricula, while there are also some postgraduate degrees on disaster management. However, they are more focused on disaster prevention and less on preparedness and response. The General Secretariat for Civil Protection, following an official permission by the Ministry of Education, has started a programme of secondary school training by experts on self protection guidelines against natural and technological disasters. Fire and earthquake drills are a regulatory requirement for primary and secondary schools nationwide. In this occasion, instructors both from public institutions and volunteer organizations are often invited to talk to students about disaster prevention and preparedness at the citizen and household level.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization has begun cooperation with the Ministry of Education for informing systematically the educational community on issues related to management of earthquake risk in the schools. Actions concerning to this cooperation are:

- A "Draft Memorandum of Action for the Management of Earthquake Risk in the schools" has been forwarded by the Ministry of Education/ SEPED to all schools in the country (EPPO document Ref 1610/6-9 -2012).
- A report for "Managing Earthquake Risk in the schools", (EPPO document Ref 824/11-4-2012).
- An open permission to all School Directors and all the designated teachers for the School Emergency Plan to participate in any conference or training seminar organized by EPPO.
- The educational material EPPO has been approved as pedagogically correct by the educational community.

The Hellenic Red Cross provides nationwide classes in primary and secondary schools on disaster prevention and preparedness at the citizen and household level.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be

overcome in the future.

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### **Core indicator 3**

*Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? Yes

<b>Research programmes and projects</b>	Yes
<b>Research outputs, products or studies are applied / used by public and private institutions</b>	Yes
<b>Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR</b>	No

#### **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Various institutions and authorities are involved in projects.

Examples:

The CivPro "Regional Strategies for Disaster Prevention" project, co-financed by INTERREG IV C and led by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, is focused on exchanging and sharing know-how on the development of Regional Policies and on a Strategic Approach and Model to prevent and reduce any disaster effects. It was successfully completed in 2012 and established a Model Local/ Regional Disaster Prevention Policy Plan, which considerably reduces disaster risk through long-term planned actions.

The "Greco-Risks" Hellenic Natural-Hazards Risk-Mitigation System of Systems,



approved under the Operational Program «Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship» (OPCE II), will deliver a Multi-Risk Geo-intelligent web-Platform integrating Risk Modules for 9 specific hazards: earthquake, volcano, landslide, ground movement, forest fires, flash-floods, extreme weather, tsunami and industrial accidents. GSCP is Lead Partner.

The Rapid Analysis and Specialization Of Risk (RASOR) project, approved under FP7, will develop a platform to perform multi-hazard risk analysis to support the full cycle of disaster management, including targeted support to critical infrastructure monitoring and climate change impact assessment. GSCP is end user.

On January 2015 the Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing started the programme “TREASURE: Thermal Risk rEduction Actions and tools for SecURE cities”, financed by the EU Call for proposals 2014 for prevention and preparedness projects in civil protection. It is related to the appraisal and quantification of spatially distributed heat wave risk. It integrates the expertise of epidemiologists, climatologists, Earth Observation scientists and IT developers into intelligent heat wave risk assessments for authorities and personalized tools for citizens in accordance to Hyogo and UNISDR initiatives.

Universities and research institutes focus their research efforts on hazards and some aspects of disaster preparedness and response. They also regularly receive grants under various programs for research related to natural and technological risks.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## **Core indicator 4**

*Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do public education campaigns for risk-prone communities and local authorities include disaster risk? Yes

<b>Public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk.</b>	Yes
<b>Training of local government</b>	Yes
<b>Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)</b>	Yes
<b>Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)</b>	Yes
<b>Guidance for risk reduction</b>	Yes
<b>Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The General Secretariat for Civil Protection has launched a number of campaigns on disaster prevention and preparedness at the citizen and household level. Following an official permission by the Ministry of Education, it has also started a programme of secondary school training by experts on self protection guidelines against natural and technological disasters.

The National Center for Public Administration and Local Government has been conducting courses on Civil Protection for government employees, also at local/ regional level.

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with Municipalities runs the course project "Protecting Myself and Others (P.R.O.T.E.K.T.A.)" aiming at providing disaster prevention and preparedness public education and training community emergency response teams. The training includes a cycle of separate but coordinated seminars by different authorities/ organizations.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, provide information systematically to the educational community on management of earthquake risk.

EPPO has made a great effort towards education of different groups on seismic protection issues, such as the public, officials, the school community, volunteers, people with disabilities and tourists. The education procedure includes, depending on the target group, lectures, development of emergency plans and implementation of earthquake drills at schools, seminars, publication of books, handbooks, brochures, leaflets and CD-ROMs.

EPPO is carrying out a national project covering all Regions of Greece concerning workshops with staff members of the Local Civil Protection Authorities. The topic is related to the design and prevention - preparedness for emergency management in

case of an earthquake.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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# Priority for Action 4

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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## Core indicator 1

*Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) No

<b>Protected areas legislation</b>	Yes
<b>Payment for ecosystem services (PES)</b>	No
<b>Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)</b>	Yes
<b>Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)</b>	Yes
<b>Climate change adaptation projects and programmes</b>	Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The Natura 2000 network of protected areas in the EU established by Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (a.k.a. the Habitats Directive) and Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (a.k.a. the Birds Directive). Greece has readily adopted both these Directives and transposed into national law. The Natura 2000 network is perhaps the most important initiative of the EU in terms of the conservation of the

natural environment.

In addition, Greece has ratified the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (entry into force in 1975).

As provided in EU Floods Directive 2007/60 Flood Risk Management Plans adopt an integral approach incorporating environmental protection policies and plans, sustainable land use practices, social development policies and plans, flood prevention and protection measures.

As far as Greece's international development co-operation policy is concerned, from 2008-2010 Greece has already provided, in total, more than 5 million euros to climate change adaptation projects, within the framework of four relevant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that have been signed with CARICOM, the World Meteorological Organization, the Indian Ocean Commission and the African Union.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## Core indicator 2

*Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? Yes

<b>Crop and property insurance</b>	Yes
<b>Temporary employment guarantee schemes</b>	No
<b>Conditional and unconditional cash transfers</b>	Yes
<b>Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)</b>	Yes
<b>Micro insurance</b>	No

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

In Greece, property and crop insurance is available. Damages on crops occurred from natural disasters can be reimbursed by public funds. In cases of damages to houses, loans with lower interests through State intervention can be given under conditions, either for repairs or for buying new ones. A number of projects undertaken by the Hellenic Red Cross Nursing Section and Social Welfare Section aim at supporting vulnerable population groups, for example the elderly, the poor etc. Although these projects are focused on the daily life of vulnerable populations and are not directly related to disaster risk reduction, they do increase the general welfare of vulnerable population groups and therefore increase resilience.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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**Core indicator 3**

*Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? Yes

<b>National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.</b>	Yes
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**Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets**

**Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals**

Yes

### **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO) was founded in 1983, as the competent authority in Greece to process and design the national policy for earthquake risk reduction. EPPO is a Legal Entity of Public Law under the supervision of the former Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks. EPPO assigns to special scientific committees the monitoring, adaption and supporting modern European construction regulations, as well as processing of special seismic technology issues (Greek Seismic Design Code (EAK. -2000), Greek Design Code of Reinforced Concrete (EKOS - 2000), Regulation of Repair and Strengthening of Buildings, Pre-earthquake Inspection of Public Buildings etc.).

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## **Core indicator 4**

*Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.*

Level of Progress achieved? 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes

<b>Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas</b>	Yes
<b>Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas</b>	Yes
<b>Training of masons on safe construction technology</b>	Yes
<b>Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities</b>	Yes
<b>Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development</b>	Yes
<b>Regulated provision of land titling</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization elaborate contemporary stricter Building and Safety Codes. EPPO assigns to relevant Scientific Committees the realization of especially the following:

1. New Greek Seismic Code
2. New Greek Code of Reinforced Concrete
3. Intervention Code of Reinforced Concrete Buildings
4. Elaboration of Euro codes
  1. The Seismic Code has been revised twice by the relevant Permanent Scientific Committee. The new Code was put into force in 2004.
  2. Scientific Committees were convened by the former Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works, the Technical Chamber of Greece and the EPPO in order to revise both the "Greek Code of Reinforced Concrete Edition 2000" (G.C.R.C. – 2000) as well as the "New Seismic Code". The G.C.R.C. – 2000 was ameliorated with significant Modifications. The revised Code was put into force in January 2004. In order to support the above Codes, EPPO has convened the Permanent Scientific Committee with main task the solution of problems occurred during the implementation and the compatibility of both the Codes and the guidelines during an Aseismic Structural Design.
  3. The Intervention Code of Reinforced Concrete Buildings, after due preparation and public consultation, entered into force early in 2012 by Ministerial Decision. The Code replaced previous Guidelines concerning Pre seismic and Post seismic Interventions in Buildings published in 2001. The Intervention Code in its integrated form is unique globally.
  4. The former Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works has



formed the Euro Code Committee which operates as a National Platform for the realization of the implementation of Euro Codes in Greece. Additionally, as regards floods, Flood Risk Management Plans will be communicated to all relevant organizations in order to take appropriate measures for DRR.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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### Core indicator 5

*Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery? Yes

<b>% of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR</b>	
<b>DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning</b>	Yes
<b>Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery</b>	No

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's

ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

In cases of reconstruction and in the phase of post-disaster recovery, for example after earthquakes or floods (where Flood Risk Management Plans are to incorporate post disaster recovery and rehabilitation measures), disaster risk reduction aspects are taken into account in the process of rehabilitation of the affected communities, areas and infrastructure.

Construction and seismic regulations for new buildings have been improved and rehabilitation and strengthening regulations of existing buildings have been developed.

Science and research programs are financed, in order to reduce the seismic risk on constructions.

After major forest fires measures of erosion control and flood prevention are taken by the Forest Services.

During the recovery process of floods, local civil protection authorities (regions, municipalities) take measures for risk reduction of future similar events like reinforcement of river embankments, restoring the normal flow of rivers etc.

For the post- disaster (seismic, flood, fire, landslides) recovery and reconstruction the following actions take place:

- Trained engineers check and evaluate the buildings using the appropriate check sheets
- Damaged areas are integrated into rehabilitation programs
- Temporary settlements are created to shelter homeless population
- The reconstruction and the repairs of damaged buildings is refunded
- Rent fee may be subsidized according to the rehabilitation program
- Regulations are institutionalized in order not only to repair but also to reinforce the damaged buildings and reduce the seismic risk.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## **Core indicator 6**

*Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed? Yes

Are cost/benefits of disaster risk taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects? Yes

<b>Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	Yes
<b>By national and sub-national authorities and institutions</b>	Yes
<b>By international development actors</b>	No

## Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Geological, meteorological and hydrological researches and measurements are been conducted, the findings of which, in conjunction with the estimated return period of a disaster event, are been taken into consideration during the design of structures. Current regulations on Environmental Impact Assessments in Greece require that disaster risks created by major development projects be analyzed during both Preliminary and Final Environmental Impact Assessments and appropriate action be taken to reduce the risk below acceptable levels. Similar assessments are also part of Flood Risk Management Plans.

Concerning prevention of industrial accidents, the establishments' operators, according to the "Seveso" Directive, prepare the Safety Report, which is submitted for evaluation to the competent authorities. The Competent Authorities check each Safety Report, propose improvements and impose the necessary preventive measures, financed entirely by the operators.

An example is that of the Hydroelectric Projects Development Department of the Public Power Corporation S. A. (PPC), which is responsible for the design and the supervision of construction of large dams. In this context, it is responsible for the safe design of dams against the possibility of breach/ overtopping which would have disastrous consequences downstream. In the past, design floods against overtopping have been selected at the 1:10000 probability level in principal. For each project, a dam break study is conducted and its results are disseminated to competent authorities as well as to the Hydroelectric Power Plants Operation Department of the PPC. The latter is responsible to support competent State Authorities in drawing

contingency plans. Large PPC reservoirs at the headwaters of a number of relatively large Greek rivers allow the PPC to offer flood management for the benefit of the cultivated and inhabited areas downstream. By all means, 1:100 floods may be considered almost totally manageable. Much more severe floods can only be attenuated.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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# Priority for Action 5

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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## Core indicator 1

*Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response? Yes

<b>DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies</b>	Yes
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<b>The institutional mechanisms exist for the rapid mobilisation of resources in a disaster, utilising civil society and the private sector; in addition to public sector support.</b>	Yes
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Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? Yes

<b>Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety</b>	Yes
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<b>Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness</b>	Yes
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Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning? Yes

<b>Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections</b>	Yes
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<b>Preparedness plans are regularly updated based on future risk scenarios</b>	Yes
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## **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The National Emergency and Contingency Plans for every hazard that are issued by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection are regularly updated, based on updated hazard assessments from actual disaster occurrences, as well as from disaster reduction and other hazard data.

The Institute of Geodynamics leads the Hellenic Unified Seismological Network. It operates at a 24/7 basis and immediately after the occurrence of an earthquake informs the GSCP as well as the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization. Operational services are in place by development of scenarios in case of a tsunami generation.

Furthermore and on a project basis, the Institute of Environment has in place operational services for weather forecasting plus operational services for forest fires prevention, through calculation of fire weather indices. The Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing has also contributed in preparedness planning with:

- Development of advanced models to estimate the spatial distribution of building damages in the case of seismic events (several scenarios can be considered) around Athens area.
- Evaluation of heat wave hazard and risk based on the intensity, duration and time lag between consecutive events as well as the vulnerability of the population (age, density, condition of dwellings).

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## **Core indicator 2**

*Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such

as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? Yes

<b>Plans and programmes are developed with gender sensitivities</b>	No
<b>Risk management/contingency plans for continued basic service delivery</b>	Yes
<b>Operations and communications centre</b>	Yes
<b>Search and rescue teams</b>	Yes
<b>Stockpiles of relief supplies</b>	Yes
<b>Shelters</b>	Yes
<b>Secure medical facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Businesses are a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response</b>	Yes

## Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The General Civil Protection Plan “Xenokrates” calls for the development of hazard-specific plans at the local, regional and national levels nationwide. The General Secretariat for Civil Protection issues National Plans for disasters and guidelines to other competent authorities on the methodology of making emergency and contingency plans.

Decentralized Administrations, Regions and Municipalities prepare their own emergency and contingency plans (approved by GSCP).

The GSCP issues circulars about the most common disasters indicating inter alia risk reduction measures and appropriate action in order to ensure that all resources are in place.

The Hellenic Fire Corps provides, according to its mission, operational coordination

and cooperation in the context of implementation of the National Civil Protection Planning and in case of natural disasters and technological accidents.

The GSCP organizes training drills and exercises at national/ subnational level where the procedures described in the National Plans are tested in order to assess, analyze and improve them and has issued national guidelines concerning the preparation, organization and evaluation of these exercises.

GSCP participated as lead partner or partner in various EU projects. Through some of these projects civil protection exercises were carried out (e.g. European Civil Protection Mechanism Exercise “EU PROMETHEUS 2014” and “EU EVITA 2014 F.S.E” were held in Attica region and were the first exercises of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism with a combined forest fire-industrial accident scenario.)

There are search and rescue teams, well trained, for some categories of disasters that can be employed by the competent authorities.

There are stocks of relief supplies, tents and containers for the accommodation of the people affected.

Voluntary organizations, registered in the GSCP, are included in planning guidelines and integrated into action plans.

The Hellenic Red Cross provides disaster impact assessment, search and rescue, first aid and emergency care, wildland fire suppression and mass care.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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### Core indicator 3

*Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes

<b>National contingency and calamity funds</b>	Yes
<b>The reduction of future risk is considered in</b>	No



## the use of calamity funds

Insurance and reinsurance facilities	Yes
Catastrophe bonds and other capital market mechanisms	No

### **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Quick assessment of damage after earthquakes, forest fires, landslides and floods is done by the Directorate of Natural Disasters Impact Rehabilitation of the former Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks.

Measures for the return of citizens to normal life after a disaster includes financial aid for the repair of household possessions, rent subsidy for temporarily homeless people, and long term loans without interest for the permanent repair of buildings and infrastructure.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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## **Core indicator 4**

*Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.*

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? Yes

<b>Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available</b>	Yes
<b>Post-disaster need assessment methodologies</b>	Yes
<b>Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects</b>	No
<b>Identified and trained human resources</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

During disasters the Unified Coordination Operations Center (UCOC) with its subdivisions is responsible for coordination at national level of the civil protection actions and forces in cases the Civil Protection Mechanism is activated in order to respond to an emergency.

UCOC/Civil Protection Operations Center is the national contact point for the European Civil Protection Mechanism.

In case of a major national disaster the Central Coordinative Body of Civil Protection is gathered under the presidency of the General Secretary for Civil Protection with presence of all involved General Secretaries to exchange information and decide on further proceedings in order to respond to emergency and manage the disaster consequences.

At regional level, in case of a disaster, the competent authorities participate at the Coordinative Body of Civil Protection with similar tasks and at local level the competent authorities participate at the Coordinative Local Body. Each level is activated, according to Law 3013/2002, on the basis of the magnitude of each disaster.

Each competent authority has its own specialized personnel that can be deployed according to the type of disaster risk, which falls into its scope.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

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# Drivers of Progress

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## **a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development**

### Levels of Reliance

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?: Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

The Model Local/ Regional Disaster Prevention Policy Plan was submitted by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection to DG ECHO as the Greek National Disaster Risk Assessment Framework. It was added to CIRCABC system on July 2013. A 2d edition submitted on February 2014 included single and multi risk scenarios.

A multi-hazard approach is, at the present, addressed through the Interministerial Committee for National Civil Protection Planning according to Law 3013/2002. It is responsible for approving the annual national civil protection planning. This planning consists of national level projects, plans and measures/ actions and regional level projects, plans etc. It is also responsible for evaluating the implementation of governmental measures for recovery after large scale disasters.

Also it is one of the aims of the recently established Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The national emergency planning framework has relied so far on hazard-specific emergency operations plans at all levels. A multi-hazard approach is also important and steps are taken towards its implementation.

## **b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

### Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Is gender disaggregated data available and being applied to decision-making for risk reduction and recovery activities?: Yes

Do gender concerns inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

In Greece, gender equality is established in the highest - constitutional - level, with several laws further specializing gender equality issues in various sectors of life. Participation of women in the national civil protection system is active.

### **c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the local level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations?: Yes

Are local institutions, village committees, communities, volunteers or urban resident welfare associations properly trained for response?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

Capacity building is a priority for Greece's civil protection system. All contingency plans issued by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection include, among other issues, identification (or instructions for identification) of capacities in a proactive manner, so as every competent authority is informed in advance about the tasks it has to perform to manage risks successfully. On the technical side, according to Greek administrative laws, each competent authority is responsible for the maintenance of all necessary equipment belonging to it. Capacity building is also one of the tasks of the European Civil Protection Mechanism, in which Greece participates and also of the EU Training Mechanism, for which the GSCP is training coordinator for Greece.

### **d) Human security and social equity approaches**

## **integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

### Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do programmes take account of socio-environmental risks to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups?: Yes

Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

Socio-economic aspects are taken into account during disaster risk reduction planning. Especially those activities of the recovery and restoration phase are aiming at ensuring that the most vulnerable socio-economic parts of the population are protected from emerging or existing disaster risks. In this context, the Greek Civil Protection mechanism foresees a series of measures for those especially in need such as better rates and conditions for loans after a disaster, the reimbursement of their damaged crop after extreme weather conditions, special actions for the elderly, handicapped or children during evacuation process of an endangered area, etc.

## **e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

### Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Are there identified means and sources to convey local and community experience or traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction?: Yes

If so, are they being integrated within local, sub-national and national disaster risk reduction plans and activities in a meaningful way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

As already explained in the relevant Priorities and Core Indicators, non-governmental organizations are integrated into the national civil protection system and the National emergency planning framework requires that civil protection voluntary organizations be integrated into local and regional coordinating entities.

Of course public authorities in cooperation with these organizations will continue to take steps to further involve national-level humanitarian organizations, with considerable national level capabilities in emergency planning and response at the national level.

There is also a significant commitment of the private sector through participation in research programs and other types of cooperation.

## Contextual Drivers of Progress

### Levels of Reliance

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

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# Future Outlook

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## Future Outlook Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

### Overall Challenges

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### Future Outlook Statement

Greece will seek to further strengthen its disaster management capability. It will also seek to draw on certain elements of the post 2015 Framework for Action in order to fulfill the goal of creating a culture of prevention.

## Future Outlook Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

### Overall Challenges

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### Future Outlook Statement

A civil protection system is in place at levels. The Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and the General Secretariat for Civil Protection cooperate in order to reshape the institutional framework in the field of civil protection



and protection from emergencies.

## Future Outlook Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

### Overall Challenges

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### Future Outlook Statement

A DRR approach is incorporated in the field of emergency management. Further elaboration will continue.

# Stakeholders

*Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report*

Organization	Organization type	Focal Point
General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP)	Governments	Dr. Olga KAKALIAGOU, Director of International Relations, Volunteerism – Training and Publications
Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction	Governments	Ms Eleni KALLINIKOU, Department of International and European Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Governments	Ms. Eleftheria GIANNAKOY, Director of Emergency Humanitarian Aid (Hellenic Aid 1)
Ministry for Reconstruction of Production, Environment and Energy/ Special Secretariat for Water	Governments	Ms Konstanina NIKA, Mr Theodoros PLIAKAS
Hellenic Fire Corps HQs	Governments	Fire-fighting Operations Directorate/ Department for Civil Protection Operations
Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO)	Governments	Ms Evangelia PELLI
National Meteorological Service	Governments	Mr. Antonios LALOS
Earthquake Rehabilitation Service	Governments	Ms. Maria KLEANTHI, Civil Engineer, Head of Designs Department
National Observatory of Athens - Institute of Geodynamics (NOA – IG)	Academic & Research Institutions	Dr. George DRAKATOS, Seismologist, Research Director, e-mail: g.drakat@noa.gr

National Observatory of Athens, Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing (NOA – IAASARS)	Academic & Research Institutions	Dr. Iphigenia KERAMITSOGLOU, Senior Researcher, email: ik@noa.gr
Hellenic Red Cross (HRC)	Non-Governmental Organizations	Ms. Lina TSITSOU (Nursing Division), email: nsd@redcross.gr, Mr. Panagiotis DRAGATIS (Social Welfare Division), email: swd@redcross.gr, Dr. Georgios Marios KARAGIANNIS (Samaritan, Rescuer and Lifeguard Division), email: gmkar agiannis@gmail.com
National Observatory of Athens, Institute of Environmental Research and Sustainable Development	Academic & Research Institutions	Dr Kostas LAGOUVARDOS, Meteorologist, Research Director