

***Driv***ing Innovation in Crisis Management for ***E***uropean ***R***esilience

**GREECE**
Policy, Legislation, Organisation, Procedures & Capabilities (PLOPC) in crisis management and disaster response

*Responsible Partner: ATOS (Nadia Politou, Adem Yaşar Mülayim, Alejandro Afonso Spinola, Dario Ruiz)*

Scope and limitations

This study serves as supporting information for further work within DRIVER.

Only limited time and budget has been available for this first general survey, which needs to be considered in terms of scope and completeness of the respective studies.

The author/s of this study is/are responsible for its content and quality.

This report was revised at the end of 2015, reviewed internally by FhG-INT and amended according to reviewer's comments and recommendations upon the decision of the author/s.

# Overview

In 2011 Greece’s administrative system was drastically overhauled according to the Kallikratis Plan[[1]](#footnote-1), a major administrative reform in Greece, introducing 7 decentralised administrations, which group from one to three regions under a government-appointed general secretary. Greece is also divided into 13 regions and 325 municipalities.



Figure 2: Greece´s administrative divisions as per Kallikratis plan on 2011[[2]](#footnote-2)

* Decentralized Administration of Attica, with the capital of Athens and the sole region of     Attica.
* Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace, with the capital of Thessaloniki, with the regions of:
* Central Macedonia
* Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
* Decentralized Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia, with the capital of Ioannina, with the regions of:
* Epirus
* Western Macedonia
* Decentralized Administration of Thessaly and Central Greece, with the capital of Larissa, with the regions:
* Central Greece
* Thessaly
* Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece and the Ionian, with the capital of Patras, with the regions of:
* Peloponnese
* Western Greece
* Ionian Islands
* Decentralized Administration of the Aegean, with the capital of Piraeus, with the regions of:
* North Aegean
* South Aegean
* Decentralized Administration of Crete, with the capital of Heraklion and the sole region of      Crete.

The list of municipalities per administrative region is available online at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_municipalities\_of\_Greece\_(2011)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_municipalities_of_Greece_%282011%29). The Autonomous Monastic State of Mount Athos is excluded from the Kallikratis Plan.

Civil protection in Greece aims to protect individuals, groups or communities from natural or manmade fast or slow evolution disasters. Disasters can be technological, biological, chemical or nuclear as well as of other type which may occur during peacetime, causing emergency situations. In More specifically in Greece the most typical types of disasters can be earthquakes, landslides/mudslides, forest fires, severe weather phenomena, floods, volcanic eruptions, technological hazards, C.B.R.N. accidents and anthrax incidents. The national civil protection authorities are responsible for the overall coordination of emergencies.

Civil protection in Greece is organised as a co-ordinated resource system whereby national, regional, provincial and local authorities work together with local and public institutions and services. Each of these authorities and institutions has developed its own part of the national civil protection plan (Xenokrates) and makes its own contribution towards achieving the aims of civil protection.

The Greek bodies responsible for the implementation of civil protection measures are:

* The General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP)
* The Inter-Ministerial Committee for National Planning (ICNP)
* The Central Coordination Body for Civil Protection (CCB)
* Several authorities, organisations and institutions working together as an integral part in planning and rescue operations (e.g. the ministries, the fire brigade, the police, the defence forces, health and welfare institutions and aviation and radiation authorities)
* The General Secretariat of the region
* The prefectures
* The municipalities

A number of services are involved in providing disaster relief in Greece:

* The fire corps
* The coast guard
* The police
* The health services
* The armed forces
* The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation (EPPO)
* The competent agencies at regional and local levels
* Voluntary organisations with civil protection expertise

# Table of Contents

[GREECE Policy, Legislation, Organisation, Procedures & Capabilities (PLOPC) in crisis management and disaster response 803](#_Toc444180264)

[Overview 804](#_Toc444180265)

[Table of Contents 806](#_Toc444180266)

[List of Figures 808](#_Toc444180267)

[List of Tables 808](#_Toc444180268)

[List of Abbreviations 809](#_Toc444180269)

[1 Policy 810](#_Toc444180270)

[1.1 Risk Assessment 810](#_Toc444180271)

[1.2 Policy and Governance 812](#_Toc444180272)

[1.2.1 Strategy scope and focus 813](#_Toc444180273)

[1.2.2 Monitoring and analytical support to policy making; R&D 814](#_Toc444180274)

[1.2.3 Policy for Prevention 815](#_Toc444180275)

[1.2.4 Policy for Preparedness 815](#_Toc444180276)

[1.2.5 Policy for Response 816](#_Toc444180277)

[1.2.6 Policy for Relief and Recovery 817](#_Toc444180278)

[1.3 Financing 817](#_Toc444180279)

[1.3.1 Investing in preparedness 818](#_Toc444180280)

[1.3.2 Investing in consequence management 818](#_Toc444180281)

[1.4 Policy review, Evaluation & Organisational Learning 818](#_Toc444180282)

[1.4.1 Post-Disaster Assessment 818](#_Toc444180283)

[1.4.2 Departmental Lessons Learned systems 818](#_Toc444180284)

[1.4.3 Centralised (national) Lessons Learned system 818](#_Toc444180285)

[1.4.4 International exchange for Lessons Learned 819](#_Toc444180286)

[1.4.5 Regular policy reviews 819](#_Toc444180287)

[1.5 Resilience 819](#_Toc444180288)

[1.6 Information sharing and data protection 820](#_Toc444180289)

[2 Legislation 821](#_Toc444180290)

[2.1 Crisis (emergency, disaster) management concept 821](#_Toc444180291)

[2.2 General crisis (emergency, disaster) management law 821](#_Toc444180292)

[2.3 Emergency rule 822](#_Toc444180293)

[2.4 Specific, department/agency-level legal arrangements and regulations on emergency and disaster management 822](#_Toc444180294)

[2.5 Specific to the regional and local authorities legal arrangements and regulations on emergency and disaster management 822](#_Toc444180295)

[2.6 Legal regulations on the involvement of volunteers and specialised NGOs 823](#_Toc444180296)

[2.7 Legal regulations for international engagements of first responders and crisis managers 823](#_Toc444180297)

[3 Organisation 824](#_Toc444180298)

[3.1 Organisational chart 824](#_Toc444180299)

[3.2 Organisational cooperation 826](#_Toc444180300)

[4 Procedures 829](#_Toc444180301)

[4.1 Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines 829](#_Toc444180302)

[4.2 Operations planning 829](#_Toc444180303)

[4.3 Logistics support in crises 831](#_Toc444180304)

[4.4 Crisis communication to general public; Alert system; Public Information and Warnings 831](#_Toc444180305)

[5 Capabilities 833](#_Toc444180306)

[5.1 Human resources 833](#_Toc444180307)

[5.2 Materiel (non-financial) resources 835](#_Toc444180308)

[5.3 Training 835](#_Toc444180309)

[5.4 Procurement 836](#_Toc444180310)

[5.4.1 Procurement regulation 836](#_Toc444180311)

[5.4.2 Procurement procedures 836](#_Toc444180312)

[5.5 Niche capabilities 837](#_Toc444180313)

[Resources 838](#_Toc444180314)

[Legislative acts 838](#_Toc444180315)

[Other normative acts 838](#_Toc444180316)

[Official documents (white papers, strategies, etc.) 838](#_Toc444180317)

[Online resources (e.g. websites of key CM organizations) 839](#_Toc444180318)

[Publications 839](#_Toc444180319)

[Expert interviews 839](#_Toc444180320)

## List of Figures

[Figure 1: Greece´s administrative divisions as per Kallikratis plan on 2011 804](#_Toc444098116)

[Figure 2: Civil Protection Structure in Greece 825](#_Toc444098117)

## List of Tables

[Table 1: Major disasters in Greece 811](#_Toc444098118)

[Table 2: Responsibility Matrix per disaster in Greece according to "Xenokrates" 834](#_Toc444098119)

## List of Abbreviations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| GSCP | General Secretariat for Civil Protection |
| ICNP | Inter-Ministerial Committee for National Planning |
| CCB | Central Coordination Body for Civil Protection |
| EPPO | Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization |
| OCCP | Operational Centre for Civil Protection |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| HNP-DRR | Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| UNISDR | The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| ECHO | EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department |
| EADRCC | Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre |
| MIC | Monitoring and Information Centre |
| CECIS | Common Emergency Communication and Information System |
| BSEC | Black Sea Economic Cooperation |
| AII | Adriatic and Ionian Initiative |
| HE-FRA /J1 | Hellenic-French Joint Working Group for Civil Protection |
| NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| IG | Institute of Geodynamics |

# Policy

## Risk Assessment

In Greece key risks areas of concern are: earthquakes, landslides/mudslides, forest fires, severe weather phenomena, floods, volcanic eruptions, technological hazards, C.B.R.N. accidents and anthrax incidents.

The General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP) is responsible for directing and coordinating all actions related to prevention, control and management of crises. Decision-making responsibilities lie with the General Secretariats of the competent ministries.

Earthquakes are a very common phenomenon in Greece. Greece ranks first in Europe in terms of seismicity and the sixth worldwide. Its geographical position coincides with the area of the planet where big geotectonic phenomena occur such as convergence with the African Euro-Asian lithospheric plate resulting in high seismicity observed in the region.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The first most common disaster in Greece is the forest fires. Forest fire can be caused either by a natural cause, such as thunderbolts, or by human activity (such as burning of garbage, crop residues, etc.). In Greece, the forest fire risk from human activities has been found to be large.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Floods are positioned as the second most common natural disaster in Greece. The floods out of natural causes either present a slow evolution or belong to the category of sudden flooding, which is the most common phenomenon in Greece. In the Greek area floods are mostly caused by torrential rains followed by transitions of recessions.

As reported by GSCP in their national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[5]](#footnote-5), 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. micro zonation 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.

There are also many finalised and ongoing research and other projects, such as:

* The Hellenic Unified Seismic Network with the Institute of Geodynamics (IG) as coordinator and three University Seismic Networks makes available at IG in near real time waveform data exchange with more than 150 stations.
* IG 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.

The following table includes major disasters occurred in Greece in the last 40 years.

Table 7: Major disasters in Greece

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Disasters** |
| 2014 | Earthquakes, Limnos, Aegean Sea, 1 dead |
| 2012 | Forest fires, Chios |
| 2009 | Forest fires, Attica, lasted 4 days, 21000ha of forests burnt |
| 2008 | Earthquakes, Dodecanese, 1 dead |
| 2008 | Earthquakes, Peloponnese, 2 dead |
| 2007 | Forest fires, mainly affected western and southern Peloponnese as well as southern Euboea, 84 dead, 1500 houses burnt |
| 2006 | Flooding, Evros |
| 2003 | Floodings, Cyclades |
| 2003 | Crack in Nysiros |
| 2002 | Floodings, Athens |
| 2002 | Tornado in Athens airport |
| 2002 | Heavy snow and very low temperatures |
| 2000 | Extreme temperature, 2 dead |
| 1999 | Oil tanker explosion, Kammena Vourla, 5 dead |
| 1999 | Earthquakes, Athens, 143 dead, 700 injured |
| 1997 | Forest fires, Seih Sou forest, Thessaloniki, 55% of the forest was burnt |
| 1992 | Explosion in oil refining unit, Petrola, 14 dead |
| 1989 | Fire in oil refinery, Aspropyrgos |
| 1986 | Fire in oil tanks, Kalochori, Thessaloniki |
| 1981 | Earthquakes, Gulf of Corinth, 22 dead |
| 1978 | Earthquakes, Thessaloniki, 47 dead |

## Policy and Governance

The Master Plan with the code name "Xenokrates” has been designed in order to develop an effective system for the protection of life, health and property of citizens and the natural environment against the different disaster phenomena. The "Xenokrates" was compiled by the GSCP with Act 1299/2003 (Government Gazette 423 B / 10.04.2003) and revised by additional Act 3384/2006 (Government Gazette 776 / 28.6.06) approving the Special Plan "Managing human losses."

The “Xenokrates” plan:

* Defines the types of disasters and corresponding protection policy terms.
* Defines roles and provides design guidelines to Ministries, Regions, Prefectures and municipalities.
* Clarifies that all plans should be approved by the GSCP.

The plan also specifies all stakeholders involved and the responsible bodies for the direction and coordination the operational forces at all levels.

Essential elements are provided for risk assessment, labelling vulnerable areas and development of specific plans for each risk. Guidelines are provided for the development of strategies and tactics, good organization and equipment of services and organizational culture configuration. Also guidelines are delivered for early mobilization, motivation, direction and coordination of manpower and resources as well as creating logistical capabilities for troubleshooting both operational forces, and the affected citizens.

The plan foresees the creation of communication and flow of information between all the services involved and factors in crisis management. The plan is a basic design framework, under which the training of specialists at risk projects entrusted to substantive ministries. Already ongoing process of setting up working groups in ministries, on the initiative of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection in order to upgrade their special projects at risk.

The responsible bodies for the implementation of the Master Plan "Xenokrates” for Civil Protection are:

* The Inter-Ministerial Committee for National Civil Protection Planning, composed by the Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization as President and also the ministers of Finance, Defence, Development, Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Health and Welfare, Agriculture, Culture, Transport and Communications, Public Order, Mercantile Marine and the Press and Mass Media.
* The Central Coordinating Body for Civil Protection that is composed by the General Secretary for Civil Protection as President and the General Secretaries of the Ministries of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, Economy and Finance, Development, Environment, Planning and Public Works, Health and welfare, Agriculture, Transport and Communication, Public Order, Mercantile Marine, Press and Media, the competent Deputy Hellenic National Defence General Staff and the Presidents of the Hellenic Shipyards and of the Central Unit of Municipalities and Communities of Greece.
* The County Coordinating Body for Civil Protection that is composed by the Prefect as President, and also the President of the Local Union of Municipalities-Communities, the Head of Management of Policy Planning of the Region and the Prefecture, the Military Commander, the Police director, the Director of the Fire Service, the Harbour Master, the Head of Management of Forests, the Head of Management of Health, the Regional Health System representative, representatives of Voluntary Organizations for Civil protection and where appropriate representatives of the affected regions.
* The Local Coordinating Body for Civil Protection, which is composed by the Mayor as Chairman, two Councillors, Civil Protection Executives of Regions and Prefectures, a Representative of the Military Commander, the Commander of the Police Department, the Head of the Municipal Police, the Commander of the Fire Department, the Head of Technical Services of the Municipalities and local communities of Greece, the Head of Forestry, representatives of Voluntary Organisations for Civil protection and Social Organizations representatives.
* The General Secretariat for Civil Protection which is responsible for the preparation and approval of plans drawn up by the relevant central and regional bodies and utilities, planning, organization and coordination of action on the prevention, preparedness, information and response to natural, technological, and other disasters or emergencies, preparation of resources and instruments for Civil Protection of the country to address the destructive phenomena in the context of the projects per category, the utilization of research plans and information, the coordinating all phases of the project and disaster restoration and editing, designing and monitoring the implementation of civil protection within the government´s guidelines.

Within the above mentioned responsible bodies for the implementation of the national plan for Civil Protection are also included all state agencies, departments of local governments and utilities, which are responsible at the operational level for the individual civil protection actions, in particular for preparedness and response to disasters (such as Fire, Coast Guard, Greek Police, National Centre for Emergency Assistance, Armed Forces, Earthquake Planning & Protection services of the Regions, the Prefecture and primary Municipalities and Local Communities of Greece, the Public Power Corporation, the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation, the Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company, the Public Natural Gas Supply Corporation and the Hellenic National Meteorological Service).

### Strategy scope and focus

Crisis management and disaster response has been given a more important role in Greece 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 GSCP. The Greek civil protection system is highly decentralized since each administrative level (Decentralized Administrations, Regions and Municipalities), is tasked to draw its own regional and local plans to ensure resistance against hazards. They include emergency and contingency plans for all kinds of natural and/ or manmade disasters and hazards aiming to build resilience, take appropriate preparedness measures and undertake prevention, preparedness, response and recovery actions. These plans and programs 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. They are available publicly online on the web portal of GSCP.

### Monitoring and analytical support to policy making; R&D

In Greece there is a lot of activity in the research and scientific sector as well as R&D programmes that contribute to the support of risk assessment in policy making as well as disaster risk reduction planning. GSCP holds also the role of coordination and facilitation of cooperation between research academic institutions of the country and public agencies to integrate and use applied research products 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.

As GSCP states in the national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[6]](#footnote-6) there are various institutions and authorities involved in projects, such as:

* The CivPro “Regional Strategies for Disaster Prevention” project, co-financed by INTERREG IV C and led by the GSCP, 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 ΙΙ), 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.
* 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).

Universities and research institutes in Greece 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.

### Policy for Prevention

According to the principal national legislation for civil protection (Law 3013/2002, Ministerial Decree 1299/2003) the basic goals of the civil protection system (protection of life, health and property of citizens from natural and manmade disasters) are met through working out prevention plans and programmes for all kinds of risks (natural and manmade), taking appropriate measures of preparedness and undertaking prevention, preparedness, response and recovery actions. These plans and programmes are elaborated with all the component authorities in national, regional and local level. GSCP collaborates with the competent Ministries and relevant institutions for drafting regulations and specifications to prevent natural, manmade and other disasters, while being responsible for approving all regional and local plans of civil protection, per category of risk. [[7]](#footnote-7)

GSCP also issues guidelines for self-protection on its website, which are available, in Greek, English, Spanish, French, Albanian and Arabic. Since 2013, GSCP makes use of social media on a pilot basis including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Furthermore, actions are being pursued at decentralized, regional and local level by competent authorities, such as the Fire Service, the Hellenic Police, the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization and the Hellenic Coast Guard that make use of social media to communicate information on disasters, in addition to information provided on their websites.[[8]](#footnote-8)

In an international perspective, Greece, as a member state of the European Union, takes actively part on a wider policy and strategy planning within the EU for disaster risk reduction, such as the European Civil Protection Mechanism, the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) and the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS).

### Policy for Preparedness

Emergency preparedness programs are designed with risk reduction concepts that are incorporated into 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 GSCP.

As reported by GSCP in the national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[9]](#footnote-9), early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities. 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.
* 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.
* The Institute of Geodynamics has developed an almost real time seismicity monitoring tool, available to the community. Crustal deformation data are available every day to the scientific community and to the public.

### Policy for Response

During a disaster in Greece, there is a central body responsible for all 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. This body is the Operational Centre for Civil Protection (OCCP) and functions under the GSCP. Furthermore, the OCCP is the national contact point for the European Civil Protection Mechanism and is responsible to post demands for aid on the MIC / CECIS.

In case of a major national disaster the OCCP is gathered under the presidency of the GSCP with presence of all involved General Secretaries to exchange information and decide on further proceedings in order to respond to the emergency and manage the disaster consequences.

At regional level, 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. More specifically, 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.

### Policy for Relief and Recovery

Disaster recovery is carried out in cooperation of the central level authorities (Ministries) with the regional and local authorities. In principle GSCP, except from the approval of the national planning for the civil protection in Greece, is also responsible for the reporting of the application of the governmental recovery measures after different types of disasters.

GSCP lists in the national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[10]](#footnote-10) the actions that take place for the post-disaster (seismic, flood, fire, landslides) recovery and reconstruction phase:

* 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. Construction and seismic regulations for new buildings are improved and rehabilitation and strengthening regulations of existing buildings are developed.

In the disaster recovery phase, the Hellenic Red Cross also works with various institutions and donors to implement recovery projects to support the population of the affected areas by providing psycho-social support and health assistance. After major forest fires measures of erosion control and flood prevention are taken by the Forest Services while 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.

## Financing

In the Greek national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[11]](#footnote-11), GSCP states that all administrative levels in Greece, besides central level authorities (Decentralized Administrations, Regions and Municipalities), include 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 GSCP can propose to the Minister of Interior the allocation of additional funds for prevention and risk reduction measures.

### Investing in preparedness

As reported by GSCP in the national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)[[12]](#footnote-12)[[13]](#footnote-13), disaster risk reduction activities are financed on a project base either by research projects (e.g. European), or by the local authorities and relative bodies. In the second case only the preliminary stages of the study are usually financed.

Moreover, in 2012 the Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was established. All common initiatives undertaken by the Platform are co-financed by the participating parties and individual activities are financed by the members of the Platform according to policy field. The members of the National Platform will seek additional and differentiated financial resources, giving priority to absorbing funds within the framework of the National Strategic Reference Framework (2007-2013) and the Sectoral Operational Programs that constitute it.

### Investing in consequence management

According to the same report, the budget allocated to GSCP from the annual national budget 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 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.

## Policy review, Evaluation & Organisational Learning

### Post-Disaster Assessment

Part of the responsibilities of GCSP is the review and follow-up of the national policies of civil protection and more specifically prepare review reports on the actions of the responsible bodies as well as provide suggestions for the improvement of those actions.

### Departmental Lessons Learned systems

Information on this subject could not be found.

### Centralised (national) Lessons Learned system

Information on this subject could not be found.

### International exchange for Lessons Learned

Greece, as a member of the European Union and ECHO, is participating to the European Experts training and exchange programme. The Civil Protection Mechanism's experts exchange system allows for the secondment of civil protection experts to participating states. This exchange of experts provides participants with knowledge and experience on all aspects of emergency intervention and the different approaches of national systems. In Greece, GSCP has the coordinating role of the experts exchange programme.

### Regular policy reviews

GSCP has the responsibility of performing regular policy reviews and ensuring the proper execution of the national civil protection policies. GSCP is responsible in ensuring that the connections between the different bodies as well as the cooperating bodies are able and up to which level to accomplish their mission.

## Resilience

As reported by GSCP in the national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[14]](#footnote-14), GSCP 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.

## Information sharing and data protection

Information on this subject could not be found.

# Legislation

GSCP reported in the National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[15]](#footnote-15) that the national civil protection legislation was recently updated. According to the report:

*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.*

## Crisis (emergency, disaster) management concept

National Plans for every disaster and hazard are issued by the GSCP. 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.

## General crisis (emergency, disaster) management law

The following laws apply in Greece for crisis management:

1. Ministerial Decision 770/1999, Regulation of Organisation Operations Centre for Civil Protection
2. Law 3013/2002 , Upgrade of Civil Protection
3. Presidential Decree 338/2003, Establishment of Scientific and Research Centre for Civil Protection
4. Ministerial Decision 1299/2003, General Plan on Civil Protection “Xenokrates”
5. Presidential Decree 151/2004, Organisation General Secretariat for Civil Protection
6. Ministerial Decision 3384/2006, Completion of “Xenokrates”
7. Ministerial Decision 7270/2006 on Establishment of Supportive Team for CBRN Management
8. Law 3448/2006, establishment of Teams for the Identification of Victims of Disasters
9. Law 3491/2006, Supportive Team for CBRN Management
10. Law 3516/2007, Issue settings for Civil Protection
11. Law 3613/2007, Issue settings for GSCP
12. Decision 2007 from the EU Council for the Mechanism of Civil Protection (recast)
13. Decision 2007, from the EU Council, Financial Instrument

## Emergency rule

The competent body for the declaration of emergency rule for natural or manmade disasters is the General Secretary of GSCP. Emergency rule for civil protection is defined when a specific disaster is involved and for its confrontation is necessary for:

* the GSCP to coordinate all involved stakeholders that take action at a central, decentralised or local level and
* Increased mobilisation of resources and bodies more than the usual under normal conditions.

Emergency rule may be declared by the General Secretary of GSCP or the authorised General Secretaries only in the following cases:

* The suggested proposal needs to be referred to a disaster that derives from one of the categories of disasters that are mentioned in detail in the national civil protection plan "Xenokrates".
* The suggested proposal should list in detail the direct consequences of the disaster together with the reasons for which is deemed necessary the declaration of emergency rule.
* The suggested proposal should state the location according to its administrative name, so that it is easy to identify the correct bodies that should be activated.

## Specific, department/agency-level legal arrangements and regulations on emergency and disaster management

The decision of the declaration of emergency rule of an area is associated with the coordination of all stakeholders who are responsible for the immediate confrontation of natural, technological and other disasters as listed in detail in the national civil protection plan "Xenokrates", as well as with the magnitude of mobilisation. In the occasion of low intensity disasters the General Secretary of GSCP can authorise the General Secretary of the decentralised administration, municipality or region for the decisions to be adopted. The declaration of emergency rule of a decentralised administration, municipality or region by its General Secretary can only be done after authorisation by the General Secretary of GSCP.

## Specific to the regional and local authorities legal arrangements and regulations on emergency and disaster management

In the Greek Civil Protection system, every administrative level (decentralised administrations, regions and municipalities) needs to have in place their own regional and local plans for preparedness against hazards. These plans are prepared under the supervision of GSCP.

This fact is a clear evidence that even though local and regional level have some sort of autonomy, the main responsibility lies with the GSCP.

## Legal regulations on the involvement of volunteers and specialised NGOs

In addition to what has been described in Section 2.2, the general direction of local initiatives is influenced by international policies and programmes[[16]](#footnote-16), especially from the European Union. There is no specific legal framework for volunteers in Greece[[17]](#footnote-17). Therefore, volunteering activities are not legally protected. As a consequence, any legal conflict that arise regarding volunteers or the organisations to which they are related to are generally dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Similarly, NGO’s activities respond to the codes of conduct established by the National Agency for Volunteering even though there is no coherent legal framework regulating the status of NGOs. As a result of the code of conduct, 6 principles have been put forward by the Charter of Social Responsibility of the Organisations of Civil Society:

1. The principle of freedom
2. The principle of transparency and accountability
3. The principle of democratic operation
4. The principle of social solidarity
5. The principle of social responsibility and trust
6. The principle of social dialogue and participation

In conclusion, it can be argued that there have been a few steps taken by Greece towards a better regulation in regards to volunteering and NGOs activities. Needless to say, there is still significant room for improvement until a local legal framework can be established.

## Legal regulations for international engagements of first responders and crisis managers

GSCP has the sole responsibility of submitting international assistance requests for Greece according to Article 27, paragraph 2 of Law 3536/2007.

The policy of GSCP in the management or requests either from the Greek Authorities or other states for assistance, with means and human resources, for the confrontation of natural and technological disasters of major scale, concerns the immediate response and coordination between the different stakeholders. The objective is the effective management of international assistance.

The GSCP, through a specialised information system and based on the procedures of the "European Mechanism Activation Policy" (Decision N.121, GSCP), coordinates the process of offering and receiving assistance through international organizations (EU, NATO, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), etc.) and enabling government agreements.

# Organisation

## Organisational chart[[18]](#footnote-18)

The mission of GSCP is to protect the citizen's life, health and property from natural, technological and other major hazards. In addition, it comprises the protection of cultural heritage, historic buildings and monuments, resources and infrastructure. The GSCP studies, plans, organises and coordinates the country's policy concerning issues of public awareness, prevention and confrontation of natural or man-made disasters. It coordinates the actions of the public services and the civil volunteers while ensuring the country's alertness to confront these disasters.

All ministries, regions and prefectures should draw up special plans for the confrontation of disasters based on the national civil protection plan "Xenokrates". The GSCP is the general coordinator of the planning. The Inter-Ministerial Committee for National Planning (ICNP), composed of the heads of the competent ministries, approves the annual national plan for civil protection, including each ministry’s civil protection budget. It also reports on the implementation of governmental measures for rehabilitation after major catastrophes.

The Central Coordination Body for Civil Protection (CCB), comprised by the secretaries general of the competent ministries and chaired by the GSCP, presents the civil protection annual national plan and budget for approval by the ICNP. The CCB is responsible for following up and evaluating the annual national planning and for coordinating the response to and recovery and rehabilitation of major catastrophes.

The GSCP and the general secretaries of the regions and the prefects are in charge of coordinating all operational forces depending on whether the disaster is general, regional or local. The National Operational Centre for Civil Protection provides all kinds of assistance to the civil protection forces.



Figure 3: Civil Protection Structure in Greece

Supportive Group for the Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats and Incidents

According to law 3491/2006, Article 15, there was established an inter-ministerial group within the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, which reports directly to the Civil Protection Secretary and is the Executive Advisory Board, which supports at tactical, operational, and political level the competent forces and organs for civil protection, by providing scientific information and specialized expertise for the management of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and incidents.

The support team is staffed by higher education officials of appropriate industries, for the confrontation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and incidents, from the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, the Ministry for the Environment Physical Planning and Public Works, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the General Chemical State Laboratory of Greece, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission, the National Meteorological Service and from scientific or suitable trained personnel of the Coast Guard, the Greek Police, the Fire Brigade and the National Defence General Staff. From each operator there are defined four representatives. (Ministerial Decision 7270/2006).

The support group is convened by the Secretary-General for Civil Protection in ordinary and extraordinary meetings. Regular meetings take place within working hours and are for better organization and preparation of the team. The extraordinary meetings relate to the convening of the group for the management of incidents or threatened incidents in which are involved chemical, biological and / or radiological agents. Extraordinary meetings may take place outside working hours and days that are exempt and can be continuous meetings depending on the intensity and extent of the incident that is asked to manage. In case of continuity of the meeting, representatives of organizations involved in the group can be rotated in shifts. The closing of the group is made by the Secretary-General of Civil Protection.

The support group may meet in quorum with the participation of representatives of all agencies or partially depending on the type of threat or incident.

Teams for the Identification of Victims of Disasters

According to article 23 of law 3448/2006, there were created within the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, Teams for the Identification of Victims of Disasters which have the task of recognition and identification of victims of accidents, disasters and criminal and terrorist activities. These teams consist of qualified medical staff, experts and officers of the Greek Police and can be sent to other countries on request and by decision of the Minister of Interior.

## Organisational cooperation

As reported by GSCP in the Greek national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[19]](#footnote-19):

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 See 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 EUROPA 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.

In more detail:

Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

The BSEC was launched in 1992 as an informal intergovernmental Black Sea Economic Cooperation and transformed into an international financial institution on 1/5/1999, the date on which entered into force the Charter of the Organization, which was signed in June 1998 (4-5 / 6 / 1998) in Yalta. The Greece participates as a founding member of the BSEC since 1992.

In BSEC, whose headquarters are in Istanbul, participate twelve countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine) whereas nine countries are acting as observers (France, Germany, USA, Israel, Italy, Croatia, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Tunisia).

The Intergovernmental cooperation within the BSEC focuses principally on the areas of organized crime, natural disasters, energy, product transport facilitation and customs formalities, the promotion of SMEs and finally the protection of the marine environment of the Black Sea.

Within the framework of cooperation between the Member States in Civil Protection, the following have been signed:

* Agreement on cooperation in emergency assistance and rapid response to natural and technological disasters among the BSEC countries (15/04/1999, Sochi Russia)
* Additional Protocol to the Agreement on cooperation in emergency assistance and rapid response to natural and technological disasters (20/10/2005, Kyiv Ukraine)

Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII)

The AII was presented by Italy at the European Council in Tampere, during the Finnish Presidency in October 1999 and was endorsed by the EU and Greece. The purpose and areas of cooperation were established in Ancona in 2000 with the participation of coastal Adriatic and Ionian countries.

The Declaration of Ancona identified by two pillars:

* safety and the prevention of crime in the area, and
* the gradual but systematic planned development of the area.

In AII participate all Adriatic – Ionian countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia) who signed the Declaration of Ancona for the "Development and Security in the Adriatic and Ionian" (March 2000).

The meetings of the countries are determined by the presiding country. So far they are roundtable meetings, where all issues are raised for discussion in the order, in the presence of all representatives and country experts.

Hellenic - France Joint Working Group for Civil Protection (HE-FRA /J1)

HE-FRA aims for the time being at enhancing the bilateral cooperation in forest firefighting. The two countries face every summer disastrous forest fires with common characteristics. The recognition of this common threat and the significant experience that has been accumulated in the past years through joint trainings but, mainly, through joint operations in the context of mutual assistance offered, has led the political leaders of the countries to the enhancement of this cooperation.

The results of these official meetings are the following:

On 27/11/2007 a special Memorandum of Mutual Assistance in aerial means (CL – 415) was signed between the two countries to combat forest fires. The two countries have significant experience in matters of mutual assistance in aerial means. The Common Decision, which was taken by the two national authorities on 30/10/2007 and ratified on 27/11/2007 established the Hellenic – France Joint Working Group for Civil Protection; the well-known “HE-FRA/J1”. Its mission, composition as well as further operational details are defined in this Decision.

The Common Decision of the two national authorities is the unique to be signed so far in the history of this institution by Greece and France; thus underlining the importance given by the two governments in this cooperation. HE-FRA/J1 is held under the presidency of a senior official at the GSCP while other officials from Air Force and Fire Service of Greece are also participating.

The common proceeding of HE-FRA/J1 was signed on 13/06/2008 at the GSCP in Athens and SGDSN in Paris. It was accepted as a whole by the Greek and French Civil Protection national authorities as well as of the two national Air Forces and Fire Services.

HE-FRA/J1 also includes exchanges of experts of the Civil Protection Operational Centers of the two countries, joint trainings, exercises with ground and aerial means in Greece and France, as well as the implementation of a special training programme for high – ranking officials of the Fire Service.

# Procedures

## Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines

The GSCP issues each year circulars about the most common disasters in Greece to all stakeholders indicating the appropriate action that has to be taken and coordinates all involved authorities in order to ensure that all resources are in place in case of a major disaster.

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, analyse and improve them. It also has issued national guidelines concerning the preparation, organization and evaluation of these exercises. For example, the EU POSEIDON 2012 Simulation Exercise project was held in Crete in 2009-2011 and this was the first exercise of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism with a tsunami scenario. Tsunami early warning procedures were tested and lessons learned were identified.

There are search and rescue teams, well trained, for some categories of disasters according to the body they belong, that can be employed by the competent authorities. The Greek State has also stocks of relief supplies stored in depositories in several areas of the country.

Voluntary organizations, registered in the GSCP, are included in planning guidelines and integrated into action plans at local and regional levels. The extensive list of the voluntary organisations can be found on the website of GSCP.[[20]](#footnote-20)

From a regional perspective, the efforts for the operational setup of a Joint Hellenic-Turkish Standby Disaster Response Unit, consisting of Greek and Turkish experts, should be mentioned. In this context, some disaster preparedness training exercises have already taken place.

## Operations planning

The General Civil Protection Plan “Xenokrates” calls for the development of hazard-specific plans at the local, regional and national levels nationwide. GSCP issues National Plans for every disaster 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 and send them to the GSCP for approval.

According to the general guidelines provided by GSCP, each responsible body involved in the design of plans, designs the plans solely based on the mission and the ones defined in the institutional framework governing each body´s operation. All generated plans should involve the four phases for mobilising the civil protection system:

* **Phase 1 - Alertness:** are included all preparatory actions and activities that ensure the conditions for implementation of the approved plans and the operational readiness of the response mechanism, such as maintenance, sourcing (materials, personnel, etc.)
* **Phase 2 - Increased alertness:**  all necessary bodies are placed on and alert for the execution of their duties and take, where appropriate any additional precautions. These precautions are associated with the appearance and treatment of the phenomenon and are aimed at reducing the probability of the occurrence of the phenomenon that will cause destruction and / or reduce its consequences (e.g. increased surveillance in forests to ensure timely notification and timely interference.
* **Phase 3 - Addressing (mobilisation – intervention):**  during this phase is the actual development of all the necessary resources of the civil protection system for the control and repression (if possible) of the catastrophic phenomenon and particularly the tackling and moderation of the immediate consequences. Where appropriate, citizens are informed about measures for self-protection and also the assistance and facilitation of the work of the forced of the corresponding bodies.
* **Phase 4 – Recovery:** the first damage assessment is made as well as the assessment of the situation and any immediate assistance is provided to those affected (food, shelter, etc.). All actions are implemented for the restoration of the daily operations in the affected area (e.g. traffic restoration, ensuring electricity and water supply, etc.)

And the three levels of government, control and coordination are:

* political – strategic
* operational
* tactical

Except from all the above, plans also include the necessary actions for the safeguard of the operation of the corresponding body in emergency situations as well as the actions for the support of the plan (training, exercises, review)

More importantly, every plan:

* has institutional base;
* is based on sound scientific information and knowledge;
* clearly defines the hierarchical levels of government, control and coordination and the corresponding responsibilities;
* has a system for the collection, evaluation and transfer of information and evaluation of the staff;
* has, if possible, recorded the critical parameters for the implementation of actions and their scalability levels;
* anticipates and clearly describes the actions and the estimated resources necessary in all phases of the mobilization system for the civil protection;
* provides opportunities for making decisions and implementing actions that will be decided during the course of the emergency;
* has a modular structure and gives, if possible, clear guidelines on existing hierarchical levels and regional and local services;
* has been prepared based on interdepartmental cooperation and interoperability

## Logistics support in crises

GSCP issues every year, and according to the period, summer or winter, detailed plans and circulars per subject. With these circulars, all related bodies responsible for each disaster are informed for all actions that should be taken in order to avoid and tackle any types of disasters.

At this moment, GSCP has published on their website detailed circulars for the following subjects among others:

* Civil Protection design and actions to address risks from snow and frost for the period 2014-2015
* Civil Protection design and actions to address risks from the event of floods for the period 2014-2015
* Publication of daily risk forecasting map for the fire season of 2014
* Circular to address risks from major accidents SEVESO facilities
* Civil Protection design and actions to address risks from forest fires for 2014
* Civil Protection design and actions to address risks from seismic phenomena for 2012
* Waste Management (Non-Dangerous, Hazardous and Hazardous Waste Health Units): Institutional framework roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
* Institutional Framework for Air Pollution
* General plan for addressing technological accidents of big volume (SATAME) in 2009
* Drafting of emergency plans per catastrophe of regions and prefectures
* Institutional framework for the quarrying and mining activities, roles and responsibilities
* Institutional framework for air and marine pollution, roles and responsibilities
* Institutional framework for electricity activities, roles and responsibilities
* Institutional Framework for the Activities of Natural Gas, roles and responsibilities
* Institutional framework for monitoring water quality and drinking water, roles and responsibilities
* Map of Forests and woodland areas susceptible to fires

## Crisis communication to general public; Alert system; Public Information and Warnings

According to the nature of each crisis and phenomenon, different approach is taken. GSCP is the central responsible for the communication to the general public and for the publication of alerts and warning, but according to the nature of the phenomenon, there are more bodies involved.

GSCP reports in the Greek national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[21]](#footnote-21) that after each disaster all involved Authorities are responsible to forward all necessary data and reports to the GSCP which then gathers all the information, evaluates it, analyses it and conducts a thorough report of the disaster. In more detail:

* The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization provides notification to the State Authorities regarding seismic risk.
* The Institute of Geodynamics issues everyday an earthquake (seismicity) catalogue. Greece's seismicity is systematically reported the last 70 years via monthly bulletins. It runs a GPS Network for monitoring the crustal deformation in real time. Data are available to the public and to the scientific community online. IG has developed an almost real time seismicity monitoring tool, available to the communities.
* 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 operationally maps the annual burnt area over Greece since 2007 using state-of-the-art technologies and satellite imagery. It's the only reliable technique ensuring assessment of fires damages to forest ecosystems with a high spatial precision at mapping scales from 1:10.000 to 1:50.000 and at short delays (2 months after end of fire season). It operates the Atmospheric Remote Sensing Station, in order to monitor atmospheric conditions over Athens and recognize atmospheric episodes over Greece like Saharan dust intrusions, forest fire smoke dispersion and volcanic ash advection.
* At international level, the competent Greek agencies monitor the flow of information of two international co-ordination centres, NATO’s Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and the European Commission’s Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC).

# Capabilities

## Human resources

According to the Master Plan “Xenokrates”, and to the nature of each disaster, there are different responsible bodies. The following table shows the responsibilities of each body according to the nature of the disaster.

Each detailed plan contains a specific section with a detailed description of the human resources (teams and working positions) within all levels where the detailed plan is involved. A complete description on the mission, composition, function and all responsibilities each of the involved persons and groups is provided as well as the sectors, specializations and other special qualifications wherever necessary.



Table 8: Responsibility Matrix per disaster in Greece according to "Xenokrates"[[22]](#footnote-22)

## Materiel (non-financial) resources

Each responsible body for the design of a plan for a specific disaster according to “Xenokrates”, provides within these plans a detailed list of categories of material resources, such as facilities, machinery, vehicles, equipment and other materials that are used for the execution of the plan.

## Training

In the Greek national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)[[23]](#footnote-23), GSCP reported the following:

The GSCP has launched a number of campaigns on disaster prevention and preparedness at the citizen and household level. It is also the coordinator for the EU Civil Protection Training Mechanism.

The National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government has been conducting two courses on Civil Protection for local government employees. In addition, two courses in disaster and emergency management are offered by the Inter-Balkan Institute for Public Administration; Hellenic Red Cross Instructors are often called to teach classes within these courses.

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, such as the GSCP, the Hellenic Red Cross, the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization and others. At the end of the project the volunteers receive a certificate of attendance.

The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, provides 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.

The Hellenic Red Cross also provides training programmes to the public, including but not limited to first aid, psychosocial support, and citizen disaster awareness and self-protection.

## Procurement

### Procurement regulation

Greece is currently under huge reforms. One of the actions of the reform program in Greece is to modernize public procurement, known concepts and processes in the country. The development of a national strategy on public procurement is part of a broader national policy of the country and a tool to achieve sustainable development policy, social policy, anti-corruption policy in terms of good governance, given that the resources spent on procurement attribute to 10% of the country´s GDP.

In this context the Greek State is through an, inter alia, in-depth review of the structures of public administration and the general philosophy of the applicable government policy on public procurement, with a view to sound financial management, the rationalization of public expenditure and administrative practices, the emergence of a transparent and competitive public procurement market as a growth lever of the Greek economy and the implementation of the necessary structural changes.

Member States need to implement directive 2014/24/EU before 18 April 2016. Greece has not yet implemented the directive. Given the complexity of many of the new rules of the directives, and the flexibility offered to the Member States on the means of implementing, Greece identified the need for effective integration which extends, as far as possible beyond the simple repetition of the directives, with consultation and proposals from all stakeholders. The updated plan is available under public open deliberation until 19/02/2016 by the Independent Single Public Procurement Authority on their portal <http://www.opengov.gr/>. The Authority published a detail action plan which envisions the adoption of the directive within February 2016.[[24]](#footnote-24)

### Procurement procedures

As stated in the publication from Zepos & Yannopoulos, Public Procurement – Greece (2012) currently in Greece, four types of procurement procedures exist as follows:

* The open procedure, where any interested economic operator may submit a tender.
* The restricted procedures, any economic operator may request to participate and only candidates invited to do so may submit a tender.
* The negotiated procedure, where the contracting authority consults the economic operators of its choice and negotiates the terms of the contract with them. The negotiated procedures are further divided into procedures with prior publication and procedures without prior publication of a tender notice. In the former case, once the contracting authority has received the requests for participation, it invites the selected candidates (a minimum of three) to negotiate.
* The competitive dialogue. This procedure is used for the assignment of complex contracts. The contracting authority invites the selected candidates to conduct a dialogue until the (technical and/or economic and legal) solutions have been defined. At the end of the dialogue the tenders submit their final offers.

## Niche capabilities

Earthquakes in Greece are a common phenomenon, making it one of the world´s most seismically active areas. During the last two years, the Institute of Geodynamics has expanded its monitoring capabilities leading the Hellenic Unified Seismological Network which is operational 24/7. Immediately after an earthquake it informs the GSCP and the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization. It runs a GPS Network for monitoring the crustal deformation in real time and an extensive Strong Motion Network, with many stations operating in real time.

On the other hand, forest fires are the first most common disaster in Greece. The Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing developed a service platform called "FireHub" that consolidates 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.

# Resources

## Legislative acts

1. Act 1299/2003 (Government Gazette 423 B / 10.04.2003) , General Plan on Civil Protection “Xenokrates”[[25]](#footnote-25)
2. Additional Act 3384/2006 (Government Gazette 776 / 28.6.06) , Completion of “Xenokrates”[[26]](#footnote-26)
3. Law 3013/2002, Ministerial Decree 1299/2003, Upgrade of Civil Protection[[27]](#footnote-27)
4. Ministerial Decision 770/1999, Regulation of Organisation Operations Centre for Civil Protection[[28]](#footnote-28)
5. Presidential Decree 338/2003, Establishment of Scientific and Research Centre for Civil Protection[[29]](#footnote-29)
6. Presidential Decree 151/2004, Organisation General Secretariat for Civil Protection[[30]](#footnote-30)
7. Ministerial Decision 7270/2006 on Establishment of Supportive Team for CBRN Management[[31]](#footnote-31)
8. Law 3448/2006, establishment of Teams for the Identification of Victims of Disasters[[32]](#footnote-32)
9. Law 3491/2006, Supportive Team for CBRN Management[[33]](#footnote-33)

## Other normative acts

N/A

## Official documents (white papers, strategies, etc.)

1. The National Plan for Civil Protection “Xenokrates”. Presidency of the Government, Athens, Greece, April 2013
2. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, January 2013
3. Manual for drafting and harmonisation of special plans per disaster at ministry or other central agency level, Hellenic Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation, General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2009

## Online resources (e.g. websites of key CM organizations)

* General Secretariat for Civil Protection - <http://civilprotection.gr/>
* Hellenic National Meteorological Service - [http://www.hnms.gr/](http://www.hnms.gr/hnms/greek/index_html)
* National Center of Emergency - <http://www.ekab.gr/>
* Hellenic Police - <http://www.hellenicpolice.gr/>
* Hellenic Fire Department - <http://www.fireservice.gr/>
* Hellenic Coast Guard - <http://www.hcg.gr/>
* Institute of Geodynamics - <http://www.gein.noa.gr/>
* Hellenic Red Cross - <http://www.redcross.gr/>
* Volunteers Samaritans - <http://www.samarites.gr/>
* Diavgeia - <https://et.diavgeia.gov.gr/>
* Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation - <http://www.oasp.gr/>
* European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes - <http://ecpfe.oasp.gr/en>
* EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department - <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en>
* Exchange of Experts in Civil Protection - <http://www.exchangeofexperts.eu/>
* Black Sea Economic Cooperation - <http://www.bsec-organization.org/>
* Adriatic & Ionian Initiative - <http://www.aii-ps.org/>
* Independent Single Public Procurement Authority - <http://www.opengov.gr/>
* Hellenic Seismic Network - <http://bbnet.gein.noa.gr/HL/>
* Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization - <http://www.gein.noa.gr/el/diktua/seismologiko-diktuo>
* Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing - <http://www.astro.noa.gr/>

## Publications

* GSCP. Greece - National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)
* Papazachos & Papazachou. 1999. Earthquakes in Greece
* Zepos & Yannopoulos. Public Procurement – Greece (2012)

## Expert interviews

N/A

1. “Kallikratis Plan”, last modified on 20 December 2015, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kallikratis_Plan> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Kallikratis Plan”, last modified on 20 December 2015, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kallikratis_Plan> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source: Papazachos & Papazachou. 1999. Earthquakes in Greece [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Source: GSCP, civilprotection.gr [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (HNP-DRR), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Accessed February 2, 2016, <https://www.unisdr.org/partners/countries/grc>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, January 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), accessed January 12, 2016, <http://www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/hyogo/> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. National Report – Greece. Study on Volunteering in the European Union. Council of Europe. 2011 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO) and the European Volunteer Centre (CEV), Legal

Status of Volunteers: Country Report Greece, Brussels, 2003 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Source: <http://extranet.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/countries/MembersNLP/Greece/Policy-Areas-Non-Obligatory/Pages/Civil-Protection.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Registry of Volunteering Bodies, GSCP, Accessed February 2, 2016, <http://civilprotection.gr/el/%CE%BC%CE%B7%CF%84%CF%81%CF%8E%CE%BF-%CE%B5%CE%B8%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%BD%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%8E%CE%BD-%CE%BF%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%B1%CE%BD%CF%8E%CF%83%CE%B5%CF%89%CE%BD> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Emergency Plans – Planning Philosophy and Objectives, Direction of Civil Protection, Decentralised Administration of Macedonia – Thrace, Athanasia Douma [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015), General Secretariat for Civil Protection, March 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Independent Single Public Procurement Authority, Accessed February 4, 2016, <http://www.opengov.gr/aads/?p=5406> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/ypapofasi12992003xenokrati_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/ypapofasi33842006simplxenokrati_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/nomos30132002anavathmisi_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/YA770_1999OrganosiKEPP_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/pd3382003sistasiepistikentrou_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/pd1512004organismosggpp_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/ipapofasi72702006sistasiyodxbrp_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/nomos34482006sistasiomadonanagnorisisthimaton_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. <http://civilprotection.gr/sites/default/gscp_uploads/nomos34912006yodxbrp_el_GR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)