MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM

2021-2028

between

ICELAND,

THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN,

THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY,

hereinafter referred to as the “Donor States”

and

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC,

hereinafter referred to as the “Beneficiary State”

together hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”,

WHEREAS Protocol 38d to the EEA Agreement, incorporated into the EEA Agreement by the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028, establishes a financial mechanism (hereinafter referred to as the "EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028") through which the Donor States will contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area;

WHEREAS the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 aims to strengthen relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State to the mutual benefit of their peoples;

WHEREAS by decision of the Standing Committee of the EFTA States No. 4/2024/SC of 24 October 2024 the Donor States have given the Financial Mechanism Committee, established by a decision of the Standing Committee of the EFTA States No. 4/2004/SC of 3 June 2004, a mandate to manage the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028;

WHEREAS the enhanced co-operation between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State will contribute to securing a stable, peaceful and prosperous Europe, based on good governance, democratic institutions, the rule of law, respect for human rights and sustainable development;

WHEREAS the Parties agree to establish a framework for cooperation in order to ensure the effective implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028;

HAVE AGREED on the following:

Article 1
Objectives

1. The overall objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 are to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States through financial contributions to promote the thematic priorities listed in paragraph 2. Accordingly, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding shall select programmes for funding that aim to contribute to the achievement of these objectives.

2. The financial contributions shall be available to promote the following thematic priorities:

(a) European green transition;

(b) Democracy, rule of law and human rights;

(c) Social inclusion and resilience.

Article 2
Legal framework

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be read in conjunction with the following documents which, together with this Memorandum of Understanding, constitute the legal framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028:

(a) Protocol 38d to the EEA Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028;

(b) the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation") issued by the Donor States in accordance with Article 9.4 of Protocol 38d;

(c) the programme agreements that will be concluded for each programme; and

(d) any guidelines adopted by the Financial Mechanism Committee in accordance with the Regulation.

Article 3
Financial framework

1. In accordance with Article 2 of Protocol 38d, the total amount of the financial contribution is € 1 805 million in annual tranches of € 257.86 million over the period running from 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2028, inclusive.

2. In accordance with Article 6 of Protocol 38d, a total of € 143,063,262 shall be made available to the Beneficiary State over the period referred to in Paragraph 1.

3. In accordance with Article 9.7 of Protocol 38d and Article 1.9 of the Regulation, the management costs of the Donor States shall be covered by the overall amount referred to above. Further provisions to this effect are set out in the Regulation. The net amount of the allocation to be made available to the Beneficiary State is € 133,048,834.

Article 4
Roles and responsibilities

1. The Donor States shall make funds available in support of eligible programmes proposed by the Beneficiary State and agreed on by the Financial Mechanism Committee within the thematic priorities listed in Article 3.1 of Protocol 38d and the programme areas listed in the Annex to Protocol 38d. The Donor States and the Beneficiary State shall cooperate on the preparation of concept notes defining the scope and planned results for each programme.

2. The Beneficiary State shall assure the full co-financing of programmes that benefit from support from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 in accordance with Annex B and the Programme Agreements.

3.The Beneficiary State shall ensure an enabling environment for the unimpeded implementation of the Civil Society Fund in the Beneficiary State and shall refrain from taking any measures that might prevent Fund Operators from independently exercising their role.

4. The Financial Mechanism Committee shall manage the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 and take decisions on the granting of financial assistance in accordance with the Regulation.

5. The Committee shall be assisted by the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as the "FMO"). The FMO shall serve as a contact point for the Beneficiary State for the day-to-day operations of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028.

Article 5
Designation of authorities

The Beneficiary State has authorised a National Focal Point to act on its behalf. The National Focal Point shall have the overall responsibility for reaching the objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 as well as for the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 in the Beneficiary State in accordance with the Regulation. In accordance with Article 5.2 of the Regulation, the National Focal Point, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority are designated in Annex A.

Article 6
Multi-annual programming framework

1. In accordance with Article 2.5 of the Regulation, the Parties have agreed on an implementation framework consisting of the following financial and substantive parameters:

(a) a list of agreed programmes, the financial contribution from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 and from the Beneficiary State;

(b) identification of programmes, their objective(s), the Programme Operators, the grant amount and amount of co-financing by programme, the bilateral ambitions as well as any specific concerns relating to the implementation of the programmes;

(c) conditions and/or specific concerns at Beneficiary State level relating to target groups, geographical areas or other issues;

(d) identification of Donor Programme Partners, as appropriate;

(e) identification of International Partner Organisations, as appropriate; and

(f) identification of pre-defined projects to be included in relevant programmes.

2. The implementation framework is outlined in Annex B.

Article 7
Funds for bilateral relations

In accordance with Article 4.6.1 of the Regulation the Beneficiary State shall set aside funds to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State. The agreed amount is reflected in Annex B and is allocated to the funds for bilateral relations at national and programme level. The National Focal Point shall manage the use of the fund for bilateral relations at national level and shall establish a Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund in accordance with Article 4.9.1 of the Regulation. The Programme Operators shall manage the use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to their programmes. For Donor partnership programmes, decisions on the use of the funds for bilateral relations in the programme shall be taken by consensus between the Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner(s).

Article 8
Country Report

In accordance with Article 2.6 of the Regulation, the National Focal Point shall submit to the FMC an annual Country Report on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 in the Beneficiary State. The Country Report shall be submitted to the FMC not later than 10 March each year.

Article 9
Annual meetings

In accordance with Article 2.7 of the Regulation an annual meeting shall be held between the FMC and the National Focal Point. The annual meeting shall allow the FMC and the National Focal Point to examine progress achieved over the previous reporting periods, discuss risks and agree on any necessary measures to be taken. The annual meeting shall provide a forum for discussion of issues of bilateral interest.

Article 10
Modification of the annexes

1. Annex A and B may be amended through an exchange of letters between the FMC and the National Focal Point.
2. Cumulative transfers up to 10% of the total eligible expenditure of a programme may be made between programmes without a modification of the Annexes to this Memorandum of Understanding, provided that the change has been agreed by the FMC through modifications of the relevant Programme Agreements.

3. In addition, cost savings and amounts not committed to projects may be transferred to the funds for bilateral relations without a modification of the Annexes to this Memorandum of Understanding or the approval of the FMC, provided that the transfer has been the subject of prior consultation with the Cooperation Committee of the concerned programme. Any such transfer of funds from a programme shall not affect the objectives or outcomes of the Programme. The National Focal Point shall notify the FMC of such transfers without delay and the FMC shall update the concerned Programme Agreements and the Bilateral Funds Agreement, as relevant.
4. All transfers made in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not affect any specific concerns, conditions, objectives or other priorities referred to in this Memorandum of Understanding and shall be in accordance with the provisions of the legal framework.

Article 11
Control and access to information

The Financial Mechanism Committee, the EFTA Board of Auditors and their representatives have the right to carry out any technical or financial mission or review they consider necessary to follow the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects as well as the use of funds. The Beneficiary State shall provide all necessary assistance, information and documentation.

Article 12
Governing principles

1. The implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall in all aspects be governed by the Regulation and subsequent amendments thereof.

2. The objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 shall be pursued in a framework of close co-operation between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State, respecting the common values and principles of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The Parties agree to apply the highest degree of transparency, accountability and cost efficiency as well as the principles of good governance, partnership and multi-level governance, sustainable development, gender equality and non-discrimination in all implementation phases of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028.

3. All programmes and activities funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 shall be consistent with respect for these values and principles and abstain from supporting operations that may fail to do so. Their implementation shall comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards.

4. The Beneficiary State shall take proactive steps in order to ensure adherence to these values and principles at all levels involved in the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028.

Article 13
Entry into force

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the day after the date of its last signature.

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This Memorandum of Understanding is signed in four originals in the English Language.

Signed in Brussels on 09/03/2026
For Iceland

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Iceland

Signed in Brussels on 09/03/2026
For the Principality of Liechtenstein

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Principality of Liechtenstein

Signed in Athens on 20/03/2026
For the Kingdom of Norway

.....
Kingdom of Norway

Signed in Athens on 20/03/2026
For the Hellenic Republic

.....
Hellenic Republic

ANNEX A

National management and control structures

1. National Focal Point

The ‘Special Service of Planning, Coordination and Monitoring of the Implementation of Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area’ shall act as the National Focal Point. The Head of the National Focal Point shall be the Head of the aforementioned Special Service.
The Special Service of Planning, Coordination & Monitoring of the Implementation of Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area is a Directorate level entity dedicated exclusively to the EEA Grants within the General Secretariat of Partnership Agreement (ESPA), within the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
The Head of the National Focal Point reports to the Secretary General of Partnership Agreement (ESPA) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
The roles and responsibilities of the National Focal Point are stipulated in the Regulation, in particular Article 5.3 thereof.

2. Certifying Authority

The 'Special Service Certifying and Verifying Authority ' shall act as the Certifying Authority. The Head of the Certifying Authority shall be the Head of the aforementioned Special Service.
The Special Service Certifying and Verifying Authority is a Directorate level entity within the General Secretariat of Partnership Agreement (ESPA), within the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
The Head of the Certifying Authority reports to the Secretary General of Partnership Agreement (ESPA) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
The roles and responsibilities of the Certifying Authority are stipulated in the Regulation, in particular Article 5.4 thereof. The Certifying Authority shall be responsible for the preparation and submission of irregularities reports, in accordance with Article 12.3 of the Regulation.
The Certifying Authority shall be functionally independent of the National Focal Point, the Audit Authority and the Programme Operators

3. Audit Authority

The Financial Audit Committee (hereafter EDEL) shall act as the Audit Authority. EDEL is a collective body supported by two directorates: the Audit of Co-financed Programmes Directorate and the Audit Planning and Evaluation Directorate. Both directorates operate under the General Directorate of Audits in Co-financed Programmes, within the General Secretariat of Fiscal Policy of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The Audit Authority is fully independent in the conduct of its audit work and the Head of the Audit Authority reports to the Secretary General of Fiscal Policy of the Ministry of Economy and Finance on administrative matters.
The roles and responsibilities of the Audit Authority are stipulated in the Regulation, in particular Article 5.5 thereof.
The Audit Authority shall be functionally independent of the National Focal Point and the Certifying Authority.

4. Organigram


Ministry of Economy and Finance
Subsector of Economy
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Subsector of Finance
General Secretariat
of Partnership Agreement (ESPA)
General Secretariat
of Fiscal Policy
Certifying Authority
Special Service Certifying and Verifying Authority
National Focal Point
Special Service of Planning, Coordination and Monitoring of the Implementation of EEA FM
Audit Authority
Financial Audit Committee (EDEL)

ANNEX B

Implementation framework

In accordance with Article 2.5 of the Regulation, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding have agreed on an implementation framework outlined in this annex.

1. Financial parameters of the implementation framework

	Greece	EEA Grants contribution	National contribution
	Programmes		
1	Green Transition	€ 26,000,000	€ 4,588,235
2	Protection and Justice for Vulnerable Groups	€ 51,000,000	€ 9,000,000
3	Green Business and Innovation	€ 24,800,000	N/A
4	Local Development	€ 26,100,000	€ 4,605,882
	Other allocations		
	Technical assistance to the Beneficiary states (Art. 1.10)	€ 2,145,949	N/A
	Funds for bilateral relations at national level (Art. 4.7)	€ 2,202,884	N/A
	Reserve for completing projects under FM 2014-2021	N/A	N/A
	Funds for bilateral relations at programme level (Art. 4.10)	€ 800,000	N/A
	Net allocation to Greece	**€ 133,048,833**	**€ 18,194,117**

2. Conditions
N/A

3. Specific concerns
The amount of funds for bilateral relations allocated to each programme shall be included in the respective programme agreements.

The agreed allocations to the programme and bilateral funds include the EEA Financial Mechanism contribution to Greece related to the challenges experienced as a result of the invasion of Ukraine, which amounts to € 7,925,943. The funding shall primarily be made available to support projects under the programmes "Protection and Justice for Vulnerable Groups" and "Local Development" and the planned use of these funds shall be described in the Concept Notes.

Gender equality and digitalisation will be mainstreamed in the programmes. The Concept Notes shall describe how this shall be achieved.

4. Substantive parameters of the implementation framework
The programmes described below are to be implemented subject to the approval of the FMC, in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Regulation.

A. Programme Green Transition

Programme objective(s): Acceleration of the green transition towards a more sustainable society.
Programme grant: € 26,000,000
Programme co-financing: € 4,588,235
Programme Operator: Ministry of Environment and Energy, Executive Authority of the Partnership Agreement

Donor Programme Partners(s): Norwegian Environment Agency

International Partner Organisation(s):	OECD
Programme area(s):	Green Transition
Programme specific concerns:	Measures to support nature restoration in line with EU regulations shall be developed in the Concept Note. Measures to support nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation shall be developed in the Concept Note. Measures that support the food-water-energy nexus shall be explored in the Concept Note. Approximately 25% of the total eligible expenditure shall be allocated to measures that enhance energy security and resilience. Cooperation with partners from the Donor States shall be explored in the Concept Note. A pre-defined project with the OECD with a grant from the programme of at least €1,600,000 that contributes to the area of support "green governance" shall be developed in the Concept Note. The programme shall, where relevant, have particular focus on vulnerable groups and communities.

B. Programme Protection and Justice for Vulnerable Groups

Programme objective(s):	Well-functioning national systems for asylum, migration, and integration in line with international and European human rights standards Preventing and combating serious and organized crime in line with international and European human rights standards Increased access to an independent, accountable, and efficient justice system of high quality in line with international and European human rights standards
Programme grant:	€ 51,000,000
Programme co-financing:	€ 9,000,000
Programme Operator:	Ministry of Citizen Protection, European and Development Programmes Management Agency (EDPMA)
Donor Programme Partners(s):	Norwegian Directorate for Immigration Norwegian National Police Directorate
Programme area(s):	Asylum, Migration and Integration Serious and Organised Crime Access to Justice
Programme specific concerns:	Indicative allocation to programme areas is in line with the following guiding principles: approximately 60% to the programme area "Asylum, migration and integration", approximately 25% to the programme area "Serious and organized crime"; and approximately 15% to the programme area "Access to justice". The final allocations shall be agreed and set in the Programme Agreement. The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) shall be approximately 60% of the total

eligible expenditure of the programme. The final level shall be set in the Programme Agreement.

Within the programme area "Asylum, migration and integration" measures addressing protection and support for asylum seekers and refugees in vulnerable situations, with a focus on unaccompanied minors, shall be developed in the Concept Note. Cooperation with partners from the Donor States shall be explored.

A pre-defined project by the Ministry of Interior, improving the naturalisation process through strengthened training systems for candidates, with an approximate grant from the programme of € 3,000,000, shall be explored in the Concept Note.

Within the programme area "Serious and Organised Crime", measures supporting methods and tools for investigation of serious and organised crime, the prevention and combatting of domestic and gender-based violence and hate crimes shall be developed in the Concept Note. Measures on child friendly justice may be explored. Cooperation with partners from the Donor States shall be explored.

Within the programme area "Access to justice" measures supporting equal access to justice, focusing on a child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice system, shall be developed in the Concept Note. Cooperation on project level with partners from the Donor States and/or with International Partner Organisations shall be explored.

Participation in the SYNERGY Network against gender based and domestic violence shall be supported.

The relevant services of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Ministry of Justice shall act as Programme Partners for the programme areas "Asylum, migration and integration" and "Access to justice", respectively, and shall be actively involved in the preparation and implementation of the programme. Further details on their role shall be agreed in the Programme Agreement.

C. Programme Green Business and Innovation

Programme objective(s):	Green value creation and competitiveness.
Programme grant:	€ 24,800,000
Programme co-financing:	Not-applicable
Programme Operator:	The Financial Mechanism Office in accordance with Article 6.9 of the Regulation. Innovation Norway is appointed Fund Operator in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 6.9 of the Regulation.
Programme area(s):	Green Business and Innovation
Programme specific concerns:	The programme shall increase value creation and sustainable growth by supporting green and blue innovation. The promotion of start-ups and female entrepreneurs shall be included in the programme. Measures supporting the transition to a more circular economy shall be explored when developing the Concept Note. Projects with partnerships from the Donor States shall be given priority.

D. Programme Local Development

Programme objective(s):	More resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities.
Programme grant:	€ 26,100,000
Programme co-financing:	€ 4,605,882
Programme Operator:	National Focal Point
Donor Programme Partners(s):	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
Programme area(s):	Local Development, Good Governance and Inclusion
Programme specific concerns:	The programme shall support good governance, inter-municipal cooperation and capacity building at the local level, including through supporting models for community-led development and social inclusion focusing on persons in vulnerable situations and/or disadvantaged areas, in particular children and youth. Measures in small and medium-sized municipalities shall be prioritized. The programme shall be implemented through calls for proposals and pre-defined projects. The maturity of infrastructure components shall be assured and assessed in advance of any decision to award support to a project, to ensure that only projects that can be implemented within the eligibility period are supported. The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) shall be approximately 50% of the total eligible expenditure of the programme. The final level shall be set in the Programme Agreement. When drafting the Concept Note, the following projects shall be explored, with a total allocation of a maximum of €12,000,000 from the programme: A project with the Regional Office of the Greek Ombudsman in Crete and the Service Hub in Lesvos. A project to support activities on youth empowerment, learning and sustainable development with the Association of Active Youths of Florina. The involvement of Donor project partners shall be explored. A project to promote inclusive environmental education in Greece with the Goulandris Natural History Museum. The involvement of Donor project partners and/or the European Wergeland Centre shall be explored. A project to strengthen the Museum of Cycladic Art's inclusion, sustainability and global connectivity as a cultural hub. The involvement of Donor project partners and/or the European Wergeland Centre shall be explored. A project to transform a historic building in Ermoupolis into a community hub for arts and creative collaboration as part of the Animasyros festival. A project building on the Council of Europe's principles of good governance in cooperation with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities shall be explored during the Concept Note.

A project supporting the implementation of the OECD's recommendations to Greece on information integrity. The involvement of Donor project partners shall be explored.