

# **STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEMOCRACY**

**Greece**

**Situation in 2024**

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This report has been initiated, prepared and elaborated by the Independent Department of International and European Relations with the contribution of the competent Directorates of the Ministry of the Interior of the Hellenic Republic.

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**Foreword of the Minister of the Interior**

In today's interconnected landscape, addressing significant challenges like climate change necessitates a multi-tiered approach in public administration. This entails effective coordination across various levels of governance, with local governments, being the closest to citizens, playing a crucial role in direct and efficient responsiveness.



Establishing a State structured on interconnected administrative levels requires collective action, shared responsibility, and optimal collaboration among democratic governance entities such as municipalities, regions, decentralized administrations, and central government. This collaboration is essential for the planning, execution, management, and oversight of public policies.

Recognizing this imperative, the Ministry of the Interior has introduced recent legislative measures aimed at integrating a multilevel governance framework into the administrative machinery. This framework aims to enhance and rationalize the operations of local authorities, both at primary and secondary level. By addressing fragmentation and overlapping responsibilities in local matters, the goal is to improve citizen services.

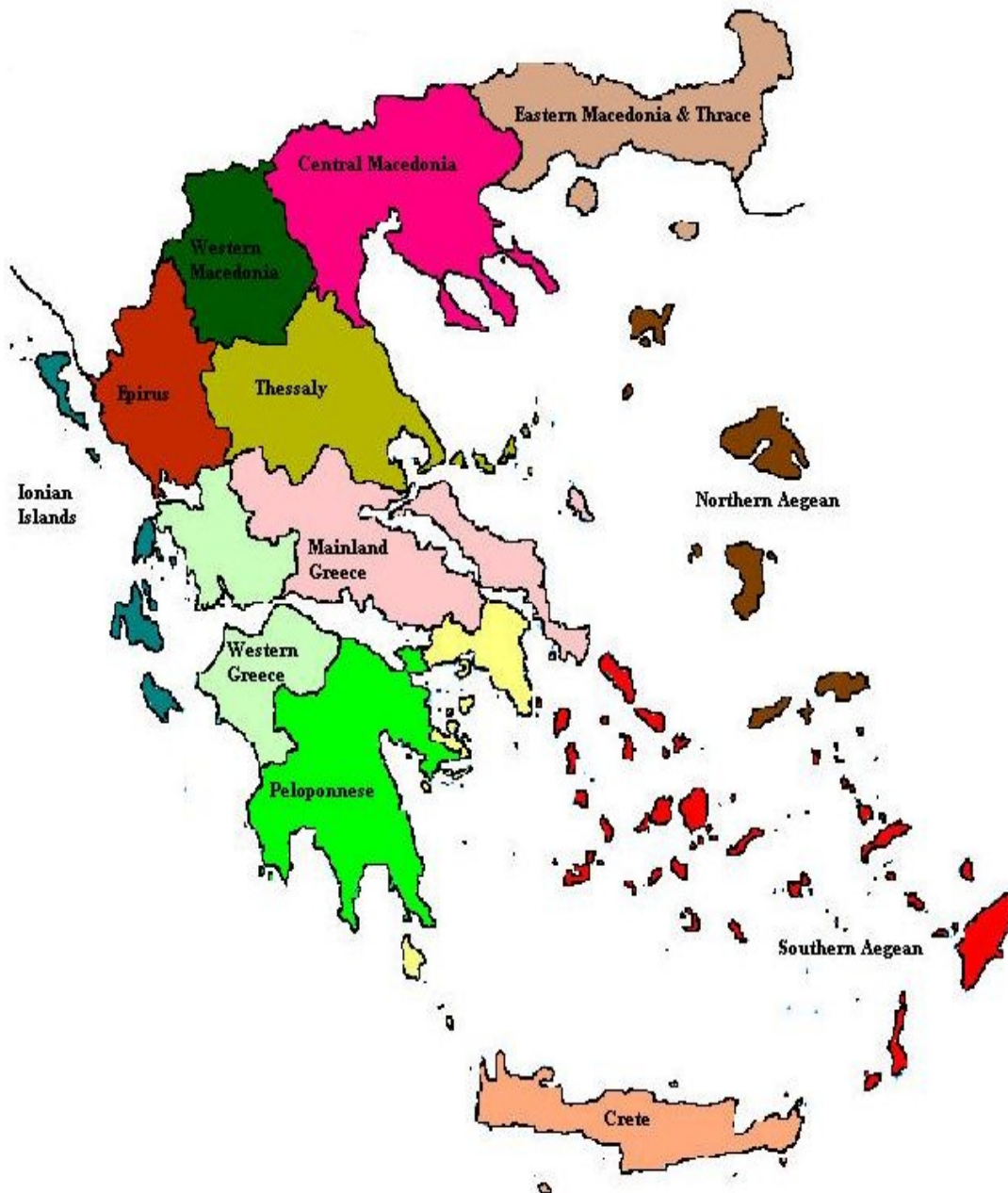
The present report outlines the country's administrative structure and the institutional framework for local governance, emphasizing recent legislative updates. It highlights key aspects including policy formulation, enhancement of primary and secondary local authorities, support for economic growth and competitiveness, simplification of structures and processes, and the overall reorganization of the local government system. These policies are geared towards enhancing citizens' quality of life and daily experiences, while promoting increased transparency, accountability, and recognition within a sustainable and high-quality environment, aligning with the benchmarks expected of a modern European state.

At the Ministry of the Interior, citizens are the focal point of our initiatives, with legislation, programs, and endeavors crafted and executed to facilitate more amiable interactions with public administration, streamline daily affairs, and elevate overall well-being.

Our dedication remains unwavering in bolstering Local Government, acknowledging its central role in democracy and its substantial impact as a driver of progress.

Niki Kerameus,  
Minister of the Interior of the Hellenic Republic

**TERRITORIAL SET-UP: 13 REGIONS OF GREECE**



Source: Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organisation

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## 1. LEGAL BASIS

### 1.1. Constitutional Provisions

The Constitution of the Hellenic Republic of 1975, as revised in 2001 and in 2008<sup>1</sup> (mainly its articles 101 and 102), sets out the institutional basis for local government:

#### **Article 101 – Administrative Decentralisation**

1. The administration of the State shall be organized according to the principle of decentralisation.
2. The administrative division of the Country is based on geo-economic, social and transportation conditions.
3. Regional administrations of the State have general decisive authority on matters of their district. The central administrations of the State, in addition to special powers, have the general guidance, coordination and review of the legality of the acts of regional administrations, as specified by law
4. The legislator and the Public Administration, when acting in their regulatory capacity, take into consideration the special circumstances of the insular and mountainous areas caring for their development

#### **Article 102 – Local Authorities**

1. The administration of local affairs is exercised by Local Authorities of first and second level. For the administration of local affairs, there is a presumption of competence in favour of Local Authorities. The range and categories of local affairs, as well as their allocation to each level, are specified by law. Law may assign to Local Authorities the exercise of competences constituting mission of the State.
2. Local Authorities enjoy administrative and financial independence. Their political personnel is elected by universal and secret ballot, as specified by law.
3. Law may provide for compulsory or voluntary associations of Local Authorities to execute works or render services or exercise competences belonging to Local Authorities; these shall be governed by elected bodies.
4. The State exercises the supervision of Local Authorities, which consists exclusively in the review of the legality and is not allowed to impede their initiative and freedom of action. The review of legality is exercised as specified by law. With the exception of cases involving ipso jure forfeiture of office or suspension, disciplinary sanctions to elected administrations of Local Authorities are imposed only with the concurrent opinion of a council composed in its majority of judges, as specified by law.
5. The State adopts the legislative, regulatory and fiscal measures required for ensuring the financial independence and the funds necessary to the fulfilment of the mission and exercise of the competences of local authorities, ensuring at the same time the transparency in the management of such funds. Matters pertaining to the attribution and allocation, among Local Authorities, of the taxes or duties provided in their favour and collected by the State are specified by law. Every transfer of competences from central or regional administrations of the State to local government also entails the transfer of the corresponding funds. Matters pertaining to the determination and collection of local revenues directly from Local Authorities are specified by law.

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<sup>1</sup> There is no reference to the 1986, 2001 and 2019 Constitution revisions since local government is not affected.

## 1.2 Basic Legal Texts<sup>2</sup>

**Law 1850/1989** (OG A 114), with reservations made to articles 5, 7 (§2), 8 (§2) and 10 (§2) during ratification of the “*European Charter of Local Self-Government*” is one of the key legislative texts on Local Government.

Other relevant legislative texts:

- **Presidential Decree 30/1996** (OG A 21) “*Prefectural Administration Code*” applicable for the new Regions of the State, set up by law 3852/2010.
- **Law 3463/2006** (OG 114 A) –“*Ratification of the municipal and Communal Code*” which encodes in a single text the current legislation on the functioning of municipalities and communities.
- **Law 3852/2010** (OG 87 A) “*New architecture of Decentralised Administration and Self-government — the Kallikratis Programme*” restructuring the administrative organisation of the country for first and second level Local Government (municipalities and regions) and establishing seven Decentralised Administration Authorities as single decentralised state administration units, which automatically and without any further formality enjoy all the rights and responsibilities /obligations of the abolished regions.
- **Law 4325/2015** (OG 47 A') “*Democratization of Administration – Bureaucracy fighting and E-Government. Restitution of injustices and other provisions*”, with article 28 which provided for the position of the Coordinator of Decentralised Administration, who heads the Decentralized Administration and comes from the civil service hierarchy. The position of the Coordinator is equivalent to that of the head of the General Directorate of a Ministry. The Decentralised Administration Coordinator is appointed and terminated by decision of the Minister of the Interior.
- **Law 4555/2018** (OG 133 A') “*Reform of the institutional framework of Local Government - Deepening Democracy - Strengthening Participation - Improving the economic and development function of Local Government. [“Kleisthenis” Programme] - Arrangements for the modernisation of the framework of the organisation and operation of the Regional Associations of Solid Waste Management Agencies (FODSA) - Arrangements for more efficient, faster and uniform exercise of the powers related to the granting of citizenship and naturalization - Other provisions of the competence of the Ministry of the Interior and other provisions.*” This law provided for changes in the electoral system of local government (introduction of the proportional representation of the largest remainder method), the responsibilities of elected officials and bodies, the institutions of consultation and citizens’ participation in local affairs, the responsibilities of committees, the institutions of local and regional mediators and the context of organisation and operation of the Solid Waste Management Agencies.
- **Law 4623/2019** (OG 124 A') “*Provisions of the Ministry of the Interior, for Digital Government, Pensions and other urgent issues*”. This law introduces the possibility of forming coalitions between factions in municipal and regional councils.
- **Law 4674/2020** (OG 53 A') “*Strategic development perspective of Local Government Organisations, provisions of Ministry of Interior over own competence issues and other provisions*”, by which changes are introduced in development planning at local and regional levels, through the development organizations that were introduced.
- **Law 4804/2021** (OG 90 A') “*Election of Municipal and Regional Authorities and other provisions*”, which changed the electoral system of local and regional government, in view of the October 2023 elections.
- **Law 4954/2022** (OG 136 A') “*Supplementary measures for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Citizens’ Initiative and the Implementing Regulation (EU) of the Commission laying down technical specifications for individual online aggregation systems - Provisions related to electoral process and the audit of income and expenses of parties, coalitions and candidates for parliament and elected representatives - Other urgent provisions.*” Articles 63 to 67 include provisions for

<sup>2</sup> The relevant Laws and the Presidential Decrees are listed in the Annexes.

Decentralised Administrations. Article 63 introduces the position of the Secretary of Decentralised Administration, as a seconded employee, who heads the Decentralized Administration, and article 64 outlines his powers. Article 65 establishes the "Coordinator of Decentralised Administration" and provides for the new selection procedure. Article 66 outlines the new responsibilities of the Decentralised Administration Coordinator.

- **Law 5056/2023** (OG 163 A'), *"Reform of the governance system of first and second level Local Government Organizations, abolition of municipal legal entities of public law, monitoring of local government performance, financial and administrative management of local government organizations, pet welfare construction and upgrading of operating land border stations and other provisions of the Ministry of the Interior"*, by provisions of which critical changes concerning the governance system of municipalities have taken place by means of interventions in the way of constitution and functioning of elected bodies of municipalities and the exercise of their competences.

## 2. STRUCTURE OF FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIONS

The Local Government in Greece is organized over time in two levels. The Municipalities and Regions constitute the first and second level of Local Government respectively and as an expression of popular sovereignty they are a fundamental institution of the public life of the Greeks, as guaranteed by the provisions of article 102 of the Constitution and the European Charter of Local Self-Government ratified by Law 1850/1989 (OG 144 A). The structure of its organization has been reformed in recent years, with the aim of making Local Government more efficient, effective, functional, responsible and more transparent in terms of both its operation and its services to citizens.

Valid since January 1, 2011, **the current administrative division<sup>3</sup>** of Greece has been formed on the basis of the Kallikratis programme. First and second level Local Authorities have been regrouped into larger geographical units through the compulsory mergers of Municipalities, communities and prefectural administrations respectively, resulting in the division of the country into **seven (7) Decentralised Administrations, thirteen (13) Regions (second level Local Authorities) and 332 Municipalities (first level Local Authorities)**.

FORMER STRUCTURE		CURRENT STRUCTURE	
<b>1034</b> <b>914</b> <b>120</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITIES - COMMUNITIES</b> <b>Local Authorities of first level</b> Municipalities Communities	→ <b>332</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITIES</b> <b>Local Authorities of first level</b>
<b>54</b>   <b>47</b> <b>3(7PA)</b>  <b>19</b>	<b>PREFECTURAL ADMINISTRATIONS -</b> <b>Local Authorities of second level</b> Simple Prefectural self-administrations Expanded prefectural self-administrations Eparchies	→ <b>13</b>	<b>REGIONS</b> <b>Local Authorities of second level</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>(State) REGIONS</b>	→ <b>7</b>	<b>DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIONS</b>

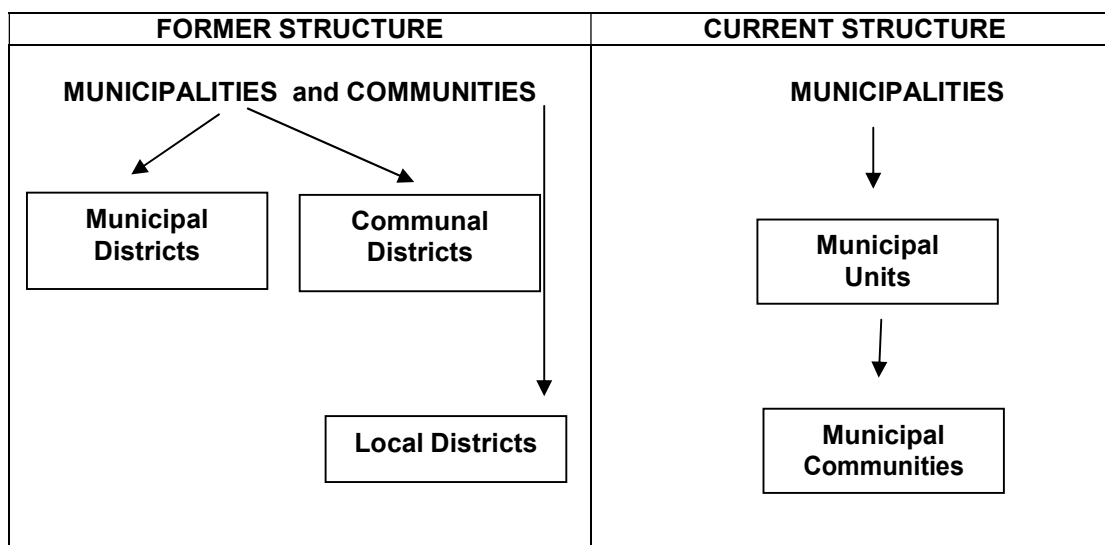
### 2.1 Municipalities

Municipalities are self-governing territorial entities which form the first level of Local Authorities. Municipalities are responsible for the administration<sup>3</sup> of local affairs<sup>4</sup>.

The territorial area of each Municipality is consisted of the territorial areas of merged Local Authorities. These territorial areas constitute the municipal units of the newly established Municipality and bear the name of the former municipality or community. Furthermore, all communities regardless of their population now constitute the municipal communities of each Municipality

<sup>3</sup> Annex

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with paragraph 1 of article 102 of the Constitution, as above mentioned, and the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government ratified by Law 1850/1989.

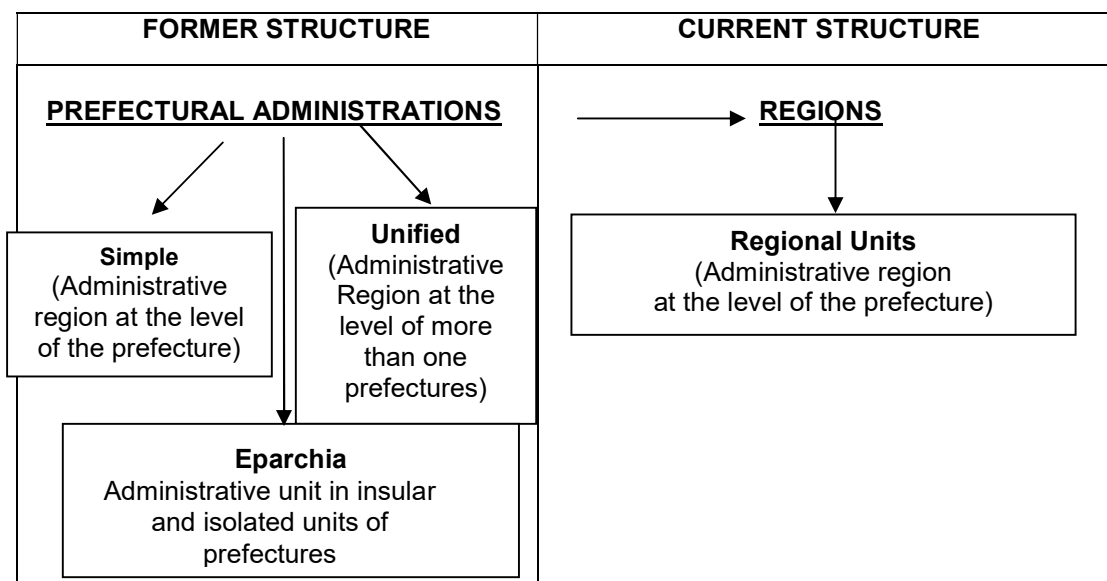


## 2.2 Regions

Regions are self-governing territorial legal entities which form the second level of Local Government. More than one prefecture may be included within the regional geographical boundaries. In each Region, regional units are created, within the boundaries of the prefectures and the former insular eparchia; they play an important intra-regional decentralisation role, being the seat of the former prefectural administrations' services and contributing to the unhindered service provision to citizens.

The Regions are responsible for planning and implementing regional policies with regard to their responsibilities according to the principles of sustainable development and social cohesion, and in consideration of both national and european policies.

In the context of the second level Local Government, additional metropolitan functions are undertaken associated with addressing supralocal problems and development needs with a view to better serving the two big urban centres of the country. In particular, the Region of Attica is an entire Metropolitan Region, while in the Region of Central Macedonia metropolitan functions are exercised only in the Metropolitan Unit of Thessaloniki, namely within the boundaries of the urban complex.



There is no hierarchical relationship and control between the two levels of Local Government. Collaboration is developed in accordance with the law, joint agreements and coordinated common action.

### 2.3. Decentralised Administration

The decentralised state administration, in addition to the regional directorates of the ministries, is structured into seven (7) Decentralised Administrations, which are extended within the boundaries of one (Attiki, Kriti) or more regions. The Decentralised Administrations which enjoy both administrative and financial autonomy, exercise devolved state powers.

### 2.4. Main Statistical Data (population, size, etc.)

The size and population of Greece are set out in the following tables:

#### Size and population per Decentralised Administration

<b><u>Decentralised Administration Authority – (seat)</u></b>	<b>Size (sq.km)</b>	<b>Population</b>
Attica (Athens)	3.808	3.814.064
Thessalia-Mainland Greece (Larissa)	29.586	1.196. 509
Ipeiros- Western Macedonia (Ioannina)	18.654	574.586
Peloponnese-Western Greece and Ionian Sea (Patras)	28.847	1.392.987
Aegean (Piraeus)	9.122	522.763
Crete (Heraklion)	8.336	624.408
Macedonia -Thrace (Thessaloniki)	32.968	2.357.870

Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority, Official 2021 census

**Size and Population per Region**

Region	Size (sq.km)	Average size (sq.km)	Population (number of inhabitants)	Average population (number of inhabitants)	Number of Municipalities
Eastern Macedonia--Thrace	14.157	643,53	562.201	25.554,59	22
Central Macedonia	18.811	495,01	1.795.669	47.254,44	38
Western Macedonia	9.451	787,63	254.595	19.584,23	13
Ipeiros	9.203	511,29	319.991	17.777,27	18
Thessalia	14.037	561,47	688.255	27.539,20	25
Islands of Ionian Sea	2.307	329,57	204.532	18.593,81	11
Western Greece	11.350	597,38	648.220	34.116,84	19
Mainland Greece	15.549	621,97	508.254	20.330,16	25
Attica	3.808	57,70	3.814.064	57.788,84	66
Peloponnese	15.490	595,77	539.535	20.751,34	26
Northern Aegean Sea	3.836	426,20	194.943	17.722,09	11
Southern Aegean Sea	5.286	155,56	327.820	9.641,76	34
Crete	8.336	347,33	624.408	26.017,00	24
Mount Athos	336		1746 <sup>5</sup>		Self-governed
<b>Total</b>	<b>131.957</b>	<b>405,00</b>	<b>10.482.487</b>	<b>31.573,75</b>	<b>332</b>

Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority, Official 2021 census

**Population of first and second level local authorities**

<u>Population</u>	<u>Regions</u>	<u>Municipalities</u>
Maximum	3.814.064 (Attica)	643.452 (Athens)
Minimum	194.943 (Northern Aegean Sea)	142 (Gavdos)
Average	806.345	31.566

**Number of Municipalities**

<u>Population</u>	<u>Number of Municipalities</u>
Up to 2.000 inhabitants	25
2.001-5.000	25
5.001-10.000	49
10.001-30.000	123
30.001-50.000	45
50.001-100.000	49
100.001-150.000	10
Over 150.001	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>332</b>

<sup>5</sup> The permanent population of Mount Athos is included in the overall permanent population of the Region of Central Macedonia.



## **2.5 Specific Regulations for Particular Areas - the Legal Status of Aghion Oros (Mount Athos)**

Article 105 of the Constitution provides that the Athos Peninsula extending beyond Megali Vigla constitutes the region of **Aghion Oros**. In accordance with its ancient privileged status, this region is a self-governed part of the Greek State. Its unique legal regime lies in a network of provisions of the Constitution, international treaties, European Union law and the rest of domestic law, with the most basic regulatory text being the Charter of Mount Athos, which organizes the region administratively.

As for administrative issues, it falls under the supervision of the State while spiritually under the supreme supervision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The powers of the State are exercised through a governor, whose duties and rights are determined by law. The political administration of Mount Athos belongs to the competence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is exercised through the Administration of Mount Athos, which is an independent public authority and is organized upon a presidential decree.

The Common Declaration on Mount Athos attached to the Act of Accession of the Hellenic Republic to the EEC (signed on 28 May 1979 and entered into force on 1 January 1981), as revised and made applicable, recognises the special status of Mount Athos as defined in Article 105 of the Greek Constitution. Consequently, this special status as well as the customs and taxation privileges and the dwelling provisions are taken into consideration by the community law.

### **3. BODIES OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL SELF - GOVERNMENT AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIONS**

The Local Authority governance system has been redesigned on the basis of Local Government bodies' collective functioning, the strengthening of intra-municipal decentralisation and the institutionalised participation of local communities in the decision-making process. It aims at the widest possible consensus in decision making, in the context of enlarged mergers, with a view to ensuring transparency and effective implementation of the wider municipal and regional competences.

#### **3.1. Municipalities**

The Mayor, the Municipal Council and the Municipal Committee form the governing bodies of the Municipality.

The President of the Municipal Community, with a population less than or equal to two hundred (200) inhabitants, is the relevant administrative body. The President of the Municipal Community and the Council of the Municipal Community are the administrative bodies for Municipal Communities with a population greater than or equal to two hundred and one (201) inhabitants.

##### **3.1.1 Municipal Bodies**

###### **3.1.1.1 Mayor**

The Mayor is responsible for defending local interests, heading local development actions, ensuring local society unity and performs his/her duties based on the principles of transparency and efficiency.

In particular, the main role of the Mayor consists of the following:

- a) Represents the municipality in the courts and in every public authority.
- b) Executes the decisions of the municipal council and the municipal committee.
- c) Appoints the Deputy Mayors.
- d) He is the head of the Municipality's services

The Deputy Mayors, who are appointed by the Mayor, are councilors from the majority party and assist the Mayor in the exercise of sectorial and territorial (within the boundaries of a specific municipal unit) competencies defined and allocated to them at his decision. The number of Deputy Mayors depends on the municipal population; their term of office may not be shorter than one (1) year. During their term of office, Deputy Mayors cannot be elected or be members of the municipal council's bureau.

Deputy Mayors of municipal communities within the territorial boundaries of an island have far-reaching competencies.

###### **3.1.1.2 Municipal Council**

The Municipal Council is responsible for all municipal affairs with the exception of those under the responsibility of the Mayor or any other municipal body. The Municipal Council can, by its decision, transfer to the municipal committee its powers related to its competence.

The Municipal Council may decide that it will exercise the responsibilities of the municipal committee, for particularly serious issues, providing special justification and securing an absolute majority of all its members.

<b>Municipal Population</b>	<b>Number of Municipal Council members</b>
up to 2 000 inhabitants	13
2 001 - 5 000	15
5 001 - 10 000	19
10 001 - 30 000	25
30 001 - 50 000	29
50 001 - 100 000	35
100 001 - 150 000	39
over 150 001	43

If the number of municipal units with a population from ten thousand one to thirty thousand (10,001 - 30,000) inhabitants, from thirty thousand one to fifty thousand (30,001 - 50,000) inhabitants and from fifty thousand one to one hundred and fifty thousand (50,001 - 150,000) inhabitants exceed six (6), the number of the members of their Municipal Council corresponds to the next population scale.

### **3.1.1.3 Municipal Committee**

The Municipal Committee consists of the Mayor (or the Deputy Mayor appointed by the Mayor) as the president and four (4) members, if the municipal council has up to nineteen (19) members, of six (6) members if the council has up to twenty-nine (29) members or of eight (8) members, if the council has over twenty-nine (29) members. Two (2) members in the five-member and seven-member municipal committees and three (3) members in the nine-member municipal committees are elected by the minority municipal parties.

The Municipal Committee is elected for a term of thirty (30) months.

It is responsible, among others, for

- monitoring and implementing municipal decisions;
- the financial control and the regular monitoring of the implementation of the municipality's budget and the recommendation of issues related to the imposition of fees, entitlements and contributions to the municipal council;
- the fields of urban planning, spatial planning, environment, licensing of shops and businesses, determination of public market areas and outdoor trade, etc. It also undertakes special care and actions aimed at improving the quality of life of the Municipality's residents.

The Municipal Committee, with a special decision taken by an absolute majority of its members, may send a specific matter of its competence to the municipal council for a decision, if it deems that this is required by its particular seriousness.

The presidents of the councils of communities with more than three hundred (300) inhabitants or the presidents of communities with up to three hundred (300) inhabitants, when the issues that specifically concern their community are discussed, are compulsorily invited to the meetings.

Moreover, Municipalities have the following advisory and mediation bodies:

- The Council on Immigrant Integration
- The Municipal Ombudsman for Citizens and Businesses
- The Municipal Committee for Gender Equality

### **3.1.2. Other Bodies of Municipalities**

#### **3.1.2.1 Municipal Communities**

The Municipal Communities with a population of over or equal to two hundred and one (201) inhabitants are governed by the President of the Council of the Municipal Community and the Council of the Municipal Community. Based on the population of each municipality, the councils are composed of:

- 5 members, for municipal communities with a population from 210 up to 2.000 inhabitants
- 5 members, for municipal communities with a population of 2.001 up to 10.000 inhabitants
- 11 members for municipal communities with a population of 10.001 up to 50.000 inhabitants.
- 15 members, for municipal communities with a population of over 50.001 inhabitants.

Elected from among the members of the council, the President of the Municipal Community Council represents the council and cooperates with the Mayor and other competent municipal bodies in order to address municipal community issues.

The municipal communities with a population of up to two hundred (200) inhabitants are governed by the president of the municipal community

The President of the Council of the Municipal Community and the President of the Municipal Community also exercises any responsibility assigned to him by the Mayor and participates in the meetings of the municipal council, in which he is compulsorily invited with the right to vote, when the agenda includes an issue that specifically concerns the respective community.

### **3.1.3 Unions of First Level Local Self- Governments**

With a view to promoting an organised cooperation, common aims and enhancing municipal representation the following bodies have been established:

A) the **Regional Unions of Municipalities**, in which participation through their representatives, as members is mandatory for all Municipalities which fall under the territorial competencies of the Regions. Regional Unions of Municipalities have their head offices at the regional seats.

B) the **Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE)**, in which participation through their representatives as members is mandatory for all Regional Unions of Municipalities.

The above-mentioned unions constitute legal entities of private law. The Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE) is supervised by the Minister of the Interior, while the Regional Unions of Municipalities are supervised by the Secretary of the Decentralised Administration.

### **3.1.4 Categorization of Municipalities**

#### **3.1.4.1 The Categories of the Municipalities**

Municipalities, based on their population, their special geomorphological characteristics, the basic characteristics of the economic activity within their boundaries, their degree of urbanization, their inclusion or not in wider urban complexes of metropolitan nature and their position in the administrative division of the country, are divided into the following categories:

- a) Municipalities of Metropolitan Centers.
- b) Large Mainland Municipalities and Capital Prefecture Municipalities.
- c) Middle Mainland Municipalities.
- d) Small Continental and Small Mountain Municipalities.

- e) Large and Medium Island Municipalities.
- f) Small Island Municipalities.

The above categories are taken into account especially for defining the responsibilities of the Municipalities, the drafting of the Statutes of Internal Service of the Municipalities, as well as the allocation and utilization of all kinds of financing programmes from national or european resources.

#### **3.1.4.2 Mountain Municipalities**

"Mountainous" are the Municipalities which are classified as mountainous by law, as well as Municipalities whose at least fifty percent (50%) of the communities are classified as mountainous in the Register of the Municipalities, Communities and Settlements of the Hellenic Statistical Authority, as well as those Municipalities of which at least forty percent (40%) of the communities are classified as mountainous in the Register of the Municipalities, Communities and Settlements of the Hellenic Statistical Authority and which have a population of up to fifteen thousand (15,000) permanent residents according to the last census (2021).

### **3.2 Regions**

The Head of the Region, the Regional Council, the Regional Committee as well as the decision-making Committees of the Regional Council form the governing bodies of the Region.

#### **3.2.1 Regional Bodies**

##### **3.2.1.1 Head of the Region**

The Head of the Region is responsible for defending the public interest, monitoring the implementation of the regional development plan and performing regional duties based on the principles of transparency and efficiency.

##### **3.2.1.2 Deputy Heads of the Region**

The Deputy Heads of the Region assist the Head of the Region. They are regional councilors and are appointed and recalled by a decision of the Head of the Region, which is published on the official website of the Region as well as on the official website of "Diavgeia". A councilor who belongs to a different regional faction from that of the Head of the Region cannot be appointed as Deputy Head of the Region, if the appointment is not approved by the majority of the councilors of the faction to which that councilor belongs. The Deputy Heads of the Region are divided into territorial and thematic ones, ie.:

- The Territorial Deputy Heads of the Region are numerically equal to the regional units of the relevant Region, with the exception of the Regions of North Aegean, South Aegean, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Thessaly and the Ionian Islands, where the territorial Deputy Heads of the Region are numerically equal to the prefectures of the relevant Region. They exercise powers within a specific regional unit or prefecture, respectively.
- The Thematic Deputy Heads of the Region can be up to eight (8) in each Region and are also appointed by the Head of the Region with powers provided by law (art. 160, par. 3 and 4 of L. 3852/2010)
- The Deputy Heads of Region are elected for a term of one (1) year at the least.

##### **3.2.1.3 Regional Council**

The Regional Council is responsible for all regional issues, with the exception of those assigned by law to other regional bodies.

<b>Regional Population</b>	<b>Number of Regional Council members</b>
up to 300 000	35
300 001 -800 000	45
over 800 001	61
Attica	85

#### **3.2.1.4 Regional Committee**

The Regional Committee is a collective and coordinating body responsible for carrying out the audit and monitoring implementation of the regional budget, monitoring the implementation of the regional policy at all fields of region's competence as well as the implementation of the regional development plan. In addition, it is responsible for deciding the submission of requests for staff recruitment, the amendment of contracts, the conclusion of contracts as well as the conclusion of leasing contracts.

It is composed of the Head of the Region, or the Deputy Head of the Region appointed by the Head of the Region as president, and regional councillors elected by the regional council in order to participate in the Committee. The number of the Committee members depend on the population of the Region and is six (6) for a population of up to 300,000 inhabitants, eight (8) for a population of 300,001 to 800,000 inhabitants and ten (10) for a population of more than 800,000 inhabitants. The Committee's term of office is of thirty (30) months.

#### **3.2.1.5 Decision-Making and Advisory Committees of the Regional Council**

The Regional Council may set up:

##### **A. Decision-making Committees**

By decision of the regional council, which is taken by an absolute majority of all its members, up to two (2) committees may be set up to which the council transfers its responsibilities for specific areas of regional policy defined by it according to the characteristics and the particularities of the region concerned. Regional councilors are designated as members of these committees based on the proportional representation of the regional factions.

The chairman of each committee is the competent Deputy Head of the Region. One of the members of the committee is elected vice president at the first meeting.

##### **B. Advisory committees**

The Regional Council, following a proposal from its president, can set up advisory committees to process and submit suggestions concerning issues of the Region's competence.

The Committees are chaired by a regional councilor. Its members may include councilors nominated by all the parties of the regional council, employees of the relevant directorate of the Region, as well as experts on the committee's issues and representatives of social organizations of the Region

Other regional advisory and mediation bodies are:

- The Regional Ombudsman for Citizens and Businesses
- The Regional Committee for Gender Equality

### **3.2.2 Governing Bodies of Regions with Metropolitan Powers**

In exercising the metropolitan powers in the Region of Attica, the Regional Council is assisted by up to four (4) Metropolitan Committees, which deal with relevant local government issues and submit suggestions to the Regional Council. Each Committee is headed by a Deputy Head of the Region.

Composed of the Regional Council members, a Metropolitan Committee is set up to exercise the metropolitan powers of the metropolitan unit of Thessaloniki. The Metropolitan Committee assigned with the Regional Council responsibilities while the Deputy Head of the Region in Thessaloniki is responsible to coordinate its work.

### **3.2.3 Union of Second Level Local Self- Governments**

With a view to promoting an organised cooperation, common aims and enhancing regional representation, the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE) is being set up with the compulsory participation of all the Regions through their representatives as members.

The Association of Greek Regions (ENPE) is a legal entity governed by private law, with its headquarters in Athens, supervised by the Minister of the Interior and responsible for formulating views on draft laws relating to the Regions.

## **3.3 Decentralised Administrations**

The Secretary of the Decentralised Administration and the Coordinator of the Decentralised Administration form the governing bodies of the Decentralised Administration.

### **3.3.1 Secretary of the Decentralised Administration**

Law 4954/2022 (OGG 136 A) established the institution of the Secretary of the Decentralised Administration as a non-permanent employee, grade 2 of the category of special positions, head of all services and staff of the Decentralized Administration, who exercises his duties alongside the Coordinator of the relevant Decentralised Administration. The Secretaries of the Decentralised Administrations are appointed and terminated by a decision of the Minister of the Interior published in the Government Gazette. The Secretary of the Decentralised Administration is a political choice and can be either an individual or a civil servant, with advanced formal qualifications and a holder of either a master's or a doctoral degree.

The Secretary of the Decentralised Administration is responsible for conducting the government policy on issues concerning the Decentralised Administration and exercises responsibilities in policy fields such as public assets, immigration policy, environmental policy, spatial policy, rural policy, border stations, local government and legal entities, the control of legality of the actions of the local authorities. In particular, the Secretary

- Represents the Decentralised Administration and is in charge of all its services and employees.
- Directs, coordinates, supervises and exercises control over the activities of all decentralised departments and employees for the implementation of the government policies, or further specialization of their strategic objectives and the management of potential crises or risks.
- Ensures the orderly operation of the Decentralised Administration services and to this end cooperates with the Decentralised Administration Coordinator over any issue within the latter's competence.
- He is the disciplinary head of the employees of the Decentralised Administration and can impose the penalty of a fine of up to two (2) months' wages, in accordance with article 109 of the Code of Status of Public Political Administrative Officers and Employees of the legal entities of public sector [L. 3528/2007 (OGG 26 A)].
- Exercises the responsibilities regarding the land border stations.

### **3.3.2 Coordinator of the Decentralised Administration**

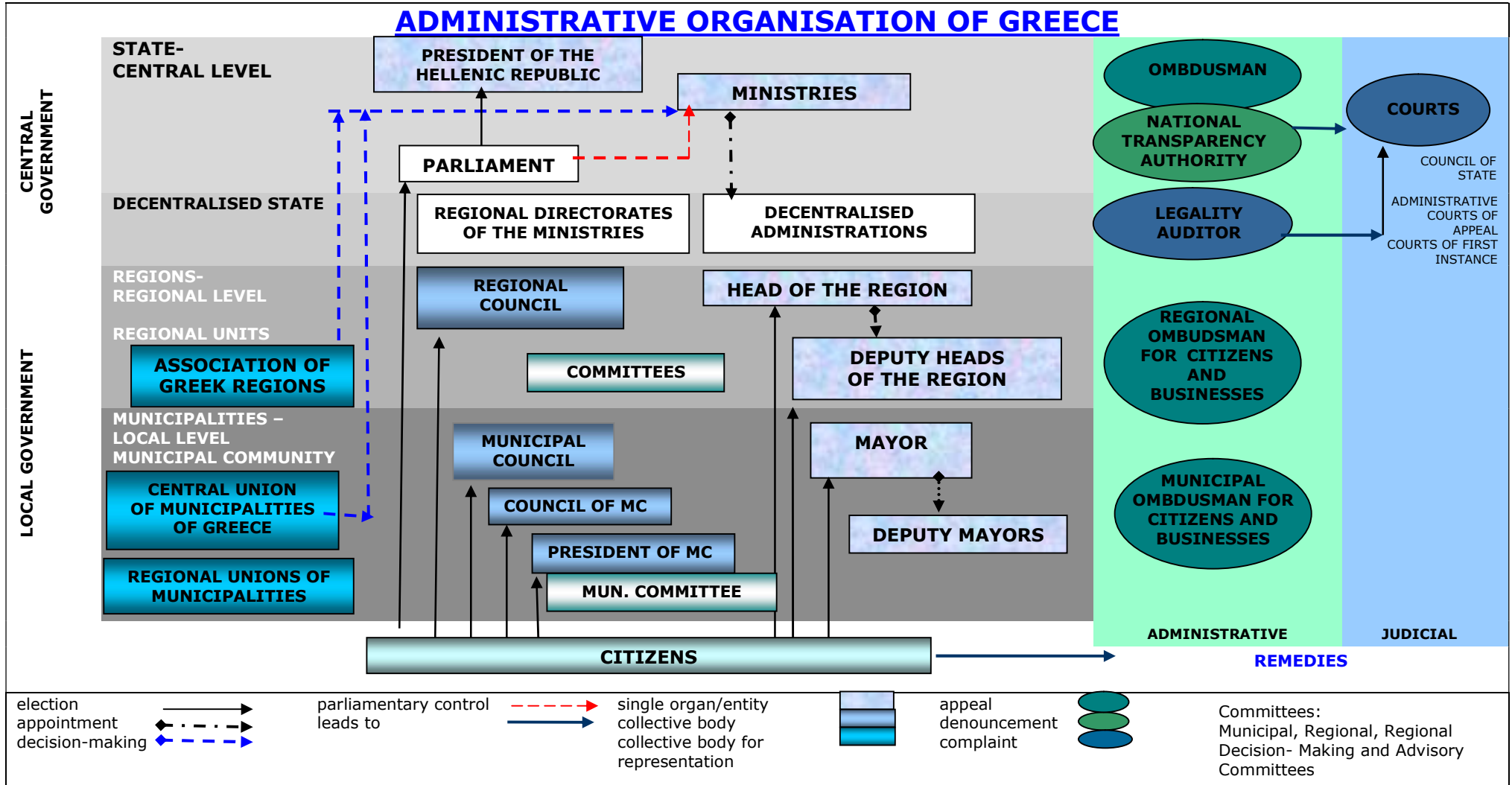
The Coordinator of the Decentralised Administration is a permanent civil servant or an employee with a private law employment relationship of indefinite duration, with increased formal qualifications and a multi-year tenure in positions of responsibility, while selected through a demanding process under the auspices of the Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection (ASEP).

The Coordinators of the Decentralised Administrations

- Ensure the smooth and efficient administrative and financial operation of the Decentralised Administration.
- Draw up the Action Plan of the Decentralized Administration in cooperation with the Secretary of the Decentralised Administration and monitor its implementation.
- Are in charge of all the horizontal support services of the Decentralised Administration, such as human resources, administrative support, financial and budget services, IT, procurement, organization and care, simplification of procedures, quality and efficiency (par. 1, article 28A L. 4325/2015).
- Are disciplinary auditors for the staff of the organic units under their jurisdiction and may impose the disciplinary penalty of a fine, equal to the wages of up to two (2) months.

Despite the fact that the Decentralised Administrations are part of the same organizational model, they have differences according to the special local characteristics of each Region. Thus, the Decentralised Administration of the Aegean exhibits a strong decentralisation character, as, apart from the staff services of the headquarters, it has separate structures in the Northern and Southern Aegean with a balanced division of their services, according to the available staff and local conditions.





## **4. DIRECT CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING**

### **4.1. Citizen Participation and Transparency**

#### **4.1.1 Municipal Community Residents Meeting**

In Municipal Communities, the President or the Community Council may convene a meeting of the residents and its bodies at least once a year with a view to discuss any issue concerning the local community and propose similar actions to the relevant bodies of the Municipality.

#### **4.1.2 Council on Immigrant Integration**

By decision of the Municipal Council, a Council on Immigrant Integration is established within every municipality as an advisory municipal body aimed at strengthening the integration of immigrants into the local society. Municipal councilors, representatives of migrant associations, or representatives appointed by the immigrant community who are legally resident in the local Municipality as well as social actors are allowed to participate.

#### **4.1.3 Report on Municipal Activities**

Municipal activities in terms of administration, implementation of the annual action plan and the Municipality's financial situation are assessed in an annual special public meeting held by the Municipal Council. Participating bodies, inhabitants, taxpayers are entitled to give their views.

#### **4.1.4 Report on the Head of the Region Activities**

The Regional Council meets every year in a special public meeting, to which the residents, the Mayors of the Municipalities of the Region and representatives of political parties are invited. At the meeting, which is called by 31<sup>st</sup> January of the following year, the actions of the regional authority in terms of the implementation of the annual action plan, the financial situation and the administration of the region are assessed.

#### **4.1.5 Publicity for Meetings of Collective Bodies for Reports, Proposals and Citizens' Information**

All collective bodies' meetings are public. Local actors and citizens are allowed to take part in the meetings.

Municipal inhabitants and unregistered municipal residents may, either individually or collectively, present reports or submit questions on municipal decisions. The Municipal Council must respond to questions raised within thirty (30) days.

Municipal inhabitants and unregistered municipal residents may also submit proposals, in order to resolve issues under the Municipal Council jurisdiction. Meeting participants are obliged to discuss these proposals if they are submitted by at least twenty-five people. The Mayor informs all interested parties on the decision made.

The Municipal Council informs all municipal inhabitants on local problems, as well as on the actions taken to address such problems.

Publicity and transparency are further ensured through the mandatory posting of all municipal and regional decisions and actions on the internet, as established by the "DIAVGEIA" programme'.

## 5. STATUS OF LOCAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

### 5.1. Election of Local Government Representatives

First and second level local authorities are elected by direct universal suffrage in a secret ballot every five (5) years. The election takes place on the second Sunday of the month of October of the fifth year of each municipal term. The authorities are installed on January 1st of the year following the election and their term of office expires on December 31st of the fifth year.

Regional and Municipal Council members are elected in Electoral Constituencies. Electoral Constituencies in the municipal elections are, as a rule, the municipal units, while in the regional ones, respectively, the regional units.

Regarding the distribution of seats in the Municipal Council:

- A) If the percentage of the winning electoral formation during the first-round ranges from 43% to 60%, or if the formation is declared winning during the second round, it elects 3/5 of the number of Municipal Council seats
- B) If the percentage of the winning formation during the first round is greater than 60% (60%+ 1) of all valid ballots, the seats of each formation are distributed proportionally.

The head of the winning electoral formation is elected as Mayor. Runners-up are the formations that received at least 1 seat in the Municipal Council, while it is noted that the right to elect a municipal councilor is granted to a formation that during the first round gathered at least three percent (3%) of all valid ballots.

Regarding the distribution of seats in the Regional Council it is worth noting the following:

1. Measure for the calculation of the seats of the regional councilors of each electoral district is the whole quotient of the division of the population of the Region by the number of members of the regional council of each district.
2. The seats of the regional councilors come as the result of the quotient of the division of the population of each electoral district by the electoral measure
3. The seats of regional councilors on the Regional Council that remain unfilled are added one (1) at a time in the constituencies with the largest, in order, remainders, until the number of members of the Regional Council is filled,
4. If the procedure of pars. 1, 2 and 3 result in electoral districts with a number of seats less than or equal to two (2), the missing ones are completed by subtracting one (1) from each electoral district with the largest number of seats and by descending order. This process is repeated until the minimum number of seats is filled. In the case of constituencies with the same number of seats, including those already removed according to the above-mentioned, the seat is removed from the one with the smallest population. Especially, for the Regions of North and South Aegean, Ionian Islands, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Thessaly and Attica, the present procedure is applied if there are electoral Regions with a number of seats less than one (1).

### 5.2. Eligibility and Term of Office

Candidates for the office of Mayor must be Greek citizens registered as municipal inhabitants or EU citizens, must be eligible to vote and have reached the age of 21 on the election day. Candidates for the office of the Municipal Councillor must be Greek citizens or EU citizens, have the ability to vote and have reached the age of 18 on the election day.

Candidates for the office of the Head of the Region and the Deputy Head of the Region must be registered on the electoral roll of the Region, have the ability to vote and have reached 21 years of age by the election day. Candidates for the office of the Regional

Councillor must have the ability to vote and have reached 18 years of age by the election day. Any Regional Councillor under 21 years of age may not be appointed as Deputy Head of the Region.

In order to safeguard the public interest, restrictions are foreseen for specific categories of candidates, particularly judicial and religious officers, armed forces and security forces officers as well as any person having any relation with the Regional or Municipal Authorities, or any debtor owing money to the Municipality/Region may not stand for the offices of Mayor, Head of the Region, Deputy Mayor, Deputy Head of the Region or member of the Municipal or Regional Council.

Also, candidate representatives of Municipalities and Regions must not exercise or assume specific duties that constitute an impediment to electability with the status of the elected representative. The legal reason that imposes the establishment of an impediment to eligibility is the protection of the public interest from the influence that may be exerted on the electorate by persons who hold a public office and the avoidance of the preparation, in this way, of their careers as representatives of the Municipalities and Regions

Standing for elections at both levels of Local Government is prohibited. Any election of the same person as an elected representative of the first and second level Local Government is precluded.

### **5.3. Duties and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives**

The Mayor implements the programme of the Municipal Authority. He is responsible for the judicial and extrajudicial representation of the Municipality and orders expenditure to be incurred. He guides the actions of the municipal services, heads, signs the cash payment orders, issues all licenses and certificates under his jurisdiction and signs all contracts concluded by the Municipality. He executes the decisions made by the Municipal Council and the Municipal Committee. He appoints the Deputy Mayors, chairs the Municipal Committee and sets up working groups and working parties within the Municipality, defining their organisation and operation.

The Head of the Region is responsible for the implementation of the regional development plan, the issuance of all non-regulatory instruments, for the judicial and extrajudicial representation of the Region. He is the head of the regional services and regional staff. He orders the revenue collection, decides on the allocation of budget and signs the contracts concluded by the region. He executes the decisions made by the Regional Council and the Regional Committee. He sets up working groups and working parties within the region, defining their organisation and operation. He establishes collective bodies and he is responsible for the transfer of powers to the members of the Regional Council.

Mayors, Heads of the Region or their relatives whose private interests come into conflict with municipal or regional interests are required to abstain; in this case their powers are exercised by the Deputy Mayor or the Deputy Head of the Region, respectively.

Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Heads of the Region, Deputy Heads of the Region and the Presidents of the Municipal and Regional Councils who are employed as civil servants, public entities employees or state private legal entities or business employees are entitled to unpaid mandatory special leave throughout their term of office.

Mayors, Heads of Regions, Deputy Mayors, Deputy Heads of Regions and all members of the Municipal and Regional Committee are required to submit an annual statement of their assets and post it on the municipal website.

### **5.4. Remuneration – Monetary Compensation**

All Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Heads of Regions, Deputy Heads of Regions and the Presidents of the Municipal and Regional Councils receive remuneration which is paid by the Municipality or the Region, respectively.

A monetary compensation is provided for participants in the Regional or Municipal Councils meetings, or the Municipal and Regional Committees meetings, except for the Mayors, the Heads of the Region, the Deputy Mayors and Deputy Heads of the Region, the Presidents of the Municipal and Regional Councils who receive remuneration.

## **6. DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT of FIRST and SECOND LEVEL AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIONS**

Within the framework of the constitutional mandate for the administration of all local affairs by Local Government Organisations, Municipalities and Regions exercise their powers taking into account:

- The relevant national, regional and european policies,
- The need for cooperation and coordination with other local or regional authorities and organisations,
- The available resources to meet their responsibilities, and the need to ensure their beneficial, efficient use and equitable distribution,
- The need for organising services to ensure their adequacy, quality and effectiveness,
- The need for sustainable development and protection of the cultural heritage.

### **6.1. Municipalities**

Municipal Authorities manage and regulate all local affairs according to the principles of subsidiarity and proximity, aiming at protecting, developing and improving the quality of life as well as promoting local interests.

Municipal Authorities exercise their powers according to the relevant legislation, regulations and management regulations adopted by them (local regulatory decisions).

Municipal responsibilities include (8) eight specific areas mainly comprising the fields of:

- A. Development
- B. Environment
- C. Quality of Life and proper functioning of cities and settlements
- D. Employment
- E. Social Protection and Solidarity
- F. Education, Culture and Sports
- G. Civil Protection
- H. Rural development- Livestock – Fisheries

In order to provide their services, Municipalities may set up legal entities<sup>6</sup> of public or private law.

With a view to providing better services, Municipalities may also exercise state responsibilities at local level which have been assigned to them by law.

#### **6.1.1 Areas with Special Features**

##### **6.1.1.1 Insular Municipalities<sup>7</sup>**

As provided by the constitution, insular Municipalities may undertake additional responsibilities otherwise exercised by the regions, to better serve the populations of insular municipalities by providing services which are close to the place of residence. Special regulations are provided to support such responsibilities.

In particular, insular Municipalities exercise additional powers in the areas of:

- Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery

<sup>6</sup> See Chapter 7, where there is an analytic presentation of such legal entities (pp. 36-37).

<sup>7</sup> It concerns the regions of the Northern and Southern Aegean and of the Ionian Sea.

- Natural resources, Energy and Industry
- Employment, Trade and Tourism
- Transports and Communications
- Works, Urban and Spatial Planning and Environment

### **6.1.1.2 Mountain Municipalities**

The Constitution provides for the different treatment of mountain Municipalities; their prevailing specific conditions necessitate a treatment similar to the one provided for insular Municipalities. Therefore, a special administrative support mechanism provided by the non-mountain Municipalities nearby is set up, structured in a way similar to the one provided for the insular Municipalities.

The mountain Municipalities exercise powers in the fields of:

- Energy.
- Waters.
- Forestry.
- Agriculture and livestock.
- Support of Local Community and Economy.

## **6.2 Regions**

Regions design, plan and implement regional policies within the context of their competencies, according to the principles of transparency, effectiveness and efficiency.

Regions exercise their competences within the framework of the relevant laws and administrative regulations, in the fields of:

- A. Planning, Development
- B. Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery
- C. Natural Resources, Energy-Industry (water management, mineral wealth, energy, industry and manufacturing)
- D. Employment, Trade, Tourism
- E. Transports, Communications
- F. Works, Spatial planning, Environment
- G. Health
- H. Education, Culture, Sports

Within the framework of the above-mentioned competences and in order to provide their services, regions may set up legal entities<sup>8</sup> of public or private law.

### **6.2.1 Metropolitan Regions**

Metropolitan functions in Attica and Thessaloniki are organised and conducted in a context of second level Local Government, by the Regions. Thus, supra-local problems are addressed in a uniform way aiming at a uniform planning and development in the wider area.

In particular, the Metropolitan Region of Attica and the Metropolitan unit of Thessaloniki (Region of Central Macedonia), in addition to their regional responsibilities, may exercise metropolitan responsibilities in the following areas:

- Environment and Quality of Life,
- Spatial Planning and Urban Regeneration,
- Transport and Communication,
- Civil protection and Security beyond the municipal administrative boundaries.

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<sup>8</sup> See Chapter 7, where there is an analytic presentation of such legal entities (pp. 37-38).

Moreover, a special association located in Athens has been set up with the participation of the Metropolitan Region of Attica and the compulsory participation of all Municipalities of the prefecture of Attica to manage solid waste in the Metropolitan Region of Attica.

## **6.2.2 Areas with Special Features**

### **6.2.2.1 Insular Regions<sup>9</sup>**

Because of their geographic specificity, Insular Regions, in addition to their regional responsibilities, exercise responsibilities related to the planning, the approval and monitoring of intra- regional transport plans.

## **6.3 Decentralised Administration**

The seven (7) Decentralised Administrations exercise devolved state powers, in town and urban planning, environmental policy, migration policy, and energy policy.

Executive powers in each Decentralised Administration Authority are exercised by relevant services located in the city where the Authority is seated. Services located at the regional unit level exercise executive powers for specific issues. In parallel, one- stop shops are provided to deal with residence permits, and social integration issues for non- nationals, thereby catering for citizens needs in one location.

## **6.4 Division of Powers among Administration Levels**

Responsibilities among the central government (Decentralised Administrations) and the two levels of local self-government are distributed as follows:

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<sup>9</sup> It concerns the regions of the Northern and Southern Aegean and of the Ionian Sea.



COMPETENCIES OF LOCAL, REGIONAL AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITIES					
FUNCTION - RESPONSIBILITIES	COMPETENT AUTHORITY			TYPE OF COMPETENCE <sup>10</sup>	
	STATE	REGIONS	MUNICIPALITIES	EXCLUSIVE	SHARED
<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Security, Police	•		• <sup>11</sup>		•
Fire service	•	•	•		•
Civil defense	•	•	•		•
Justice	•			•	
Population register - Male registry <sup>12</sup>	•		•		•
Registry Office	•		•		•
Statistical Service	•			•	
Electoral lists	•		•		•
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Preschool education	•	• <sup>13</sup>	•		•
Primary and Secondary Education	•	•	•		•
Vocational and technical education	•	•	•		•
Higher education	•			•	
Adult education	•	•	•		•
Other					
<b>Health</b>					
Hospitals	•		•		•

<sup>10</sup> It should be stressed that dividing competencies into mandatory and optional competencies is not possible. This is because, while most of them are mandatory, there are a number of fields (social care, arts, and athletics) which comprise both mandatory and optional activities undertaken under the same competence

<sup>11</sup> Municipal police.

<sup>12</sup> Men's military service registry

<sup>13</sup> School closure, due to extraordinary circumstances or an epidemic disease.

**MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

Individual institutions	•	•	•		•
<b>Social Sector</b>					
Care services for children			•	•	
Care services for families and youth	•	•	•		•
Nursing homes, elderly centers	•	•	•		•
Social security	•			•	
Other					
<b>Urban planning, Street planning</b>					
Urban planning	•	•	•		•
Street planning	•	•	•		•
Regional/ urban planning	•	•	•		•
<b>Environment &amp; Public Health</b>					
Water supply	•	•	•		•
Waste collection		•	•		•
Cemeteries			•	•	
Slaughterhouses			•	•	
Protection of the environment	•	•	•		•
Consumer protection	•	•	•		•
<b>Arts, entertainment, sport</b>					
Theaters, music	•	•	•		•
Museums, art galleries, libraries	•	•	•		•
Parks, recreation areas	•	•	•		•
Sports, entertainment	•	•	•		•
Worship places, events	•			•	

**MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

<b>Transports</b>					
Highways	•	•			•
Urban roads	•	•	•		•
Urban transport	•	•	• <sup>14</sup>		•
Trains					
Ports	•		•		•
Airports	•			•	
Other					
<b>Financial services</b>					
Natural gas	•		•		•
Independent heating			•	•	
Irrigation		•	•		•
Crops, fishery	•	•	•		•
Energy	•	•	• <sup>15</sup>		•
Trade	•	•	•		•
Tourism	•	•	•		•
Forests	•		• <sup>16</sup>		•
<b>Other services</b>					
Licenses to operate businesses, sanitary facilities, theaters, cinemas, playgrounds recreation activities etc		•	•		•

<sup>14</sup> License for road transport of passengers and goods

<sup>15</sup> Protection and utilization of mild or renewable energy, electrification, expansion of electronic network capacity etc.

<sup>16</sup> Use of municipal forests.

## 7. LEGAL ENTITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Municipalities and Regions may set up legal entities of public or private law.

These legal entities are set up either in the context of exercising the responsibilities deriving from the self-government law or for the provision of services, the support of the development policy of the self-government, the provision of technical and scientific support and the management and utilization of financial tools. These legal entities, whose missions have a strong spatial impact and a direct reaction to the development prospects of the local government organizations within the boundaries of which they operate, may function on the basis of either the self-government law or the legislation of the relevant Ministry.

### 7.1 Legal Entities of Municipalities

Within the framework of their responsibilities and in order to organize and function certain municipal services with a view to better serve the needs of their residents, Municipalities may set up legal entities of public or private law.

From the municipal period starting on January 1st, 2024, each Municipality is entitled to have the following **Legal Entities of Public Law**:

- a) Municipal Establishments such as nurseries, orphanages, retirement homes, museums or other scientific institutions,
- b) One Public Entity for the administration and management of the port area,
- c) Associations of Municipalities: One or more municipalities may, by decision of the relevant municipal councils, establish an association, as a legal entity of public law, with the specific purpose of carrying out projects or providing specific services or exercising their powers, as well as for the planning and drawing up programs and methods for the development of their wider area. Participation in an association can be made mandatory for a municipality, if the conditions laid down by the law are met, by decision of the relevant Decentralised Administration.

From the municipal period starting on January 1st, 2024, each Municipality is entitled to have the following **Legal Entities of Private Law**:

- a) One Municipal Enterprise of Water Supply and Drainage,
- b) One Special Purpose Company to operate a radio or TV station,
- c) One Municipal Limited Company to make use of the municipal immovable property or exploit public spaces, in case it was established before January, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011,
- d) Municipal Limited Company established by a small island Municipality with the sole purpose of operating a gas station, as long as no corresponding private company operates within its boundaries,
- e) Municipalities can also establish or participate in Multi-shareholding Limited Companies, mainly development ones, in which they participate with other Municipalities, Regions, local self-government bodies, or even third parties and upon the condition that the Organizations of Self-Government and other bodies of the Local Municipalities own the majority of the company's capital. The exclusive object of the Development limited Companies is the scientific and technical support of Local Self-Government Authorities and their associations or the Decentralized State Administration, the promotion of business as well as the economic and generally sustainable development of the Municipality, the development of environmental protection activities, their participation in corresponding programs or the implementation of relevant policies in an inter-

- municipal or wider geographic area,
- f) Municipalities can set up or participate in Development Limited Companies with the purpose of providing public utility services or the utilization of public goods linked to the sectors of transport, tourism, or the utilization of local natural resources or with the purpose of management and development activities of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) aimed at energy sustainability,
- g) Municipal Non-Profit Companies,
- h) Addiction Prevention and Psychosocial Health Promotion Centers, established and operating as non-profit civil corporations.

## 7.2 Legal Entities of Regions

Kallikratis programme (L. 3852/2010) provided that the institutions of the former prefectural self-governments would function as regional institutions of the Regions.

In the Regions of Attica and Central Macedonia, the "Organization of the Public Markets of the Attica Region" and the "Organization of the Operation of the Public Markets of the Regional Unity of Thessaloniki" operate as Legal Entities of Public Law, respectively.

Regions are entitled to have the following **Legal Entities of Private Law**:

- a) One company in the form of a Development Limited Company, responsible for providing scientific and technical support to the Regions, the Union of Regions and other local government entities, promoting business, economic and sustainable development in the region, as well as, developing activities to protect the environment, participating in relevant programmes or in the implementation of relevant policies at the interregional level or in the wider geographic area,
- b) Limited companies,
- c) Urban non-profit companies,
- d) Regional Development Funds, in the headquarters of every region, ie13, as legal entities of private law aiming at managing, upon regional council decisions, the credits from the public investment programme, the funding of public sector institutions and other legal entities, the funding from the EU and other international organisations' programmes, related to regional and special development programmes within the Region.

## 7.3 Inter-level Legal Entities of Local Government

### 7.3.1 Associations

One or more Municipalities and the Region in which these Municipalities have their seat, may, by decisions of their Municipal Councils and the Regional Council, set up an association with specific purpose of carrying out projects or providing specific services or exercising their powers, as well as for the planning and preparation of programmes and methods for the development of their wider area. This association is a Legal Entity of Public Law and is called inter-level.

### 7.3.2. Solid Waste Management Agency (SWMA)

A. The Municipalities establish Solid Waste Management Agencies (SWMA) either as Legal Entities of Public Law in the form of an association or as local government companies. in the form of an anonymous company of Local Self-Government Organisation. These legal entities have a public benefit and non-profit character and are of special purpose public legal entities. In each Region one to three SWMA may function.

B. Especially for the island regions of the Southern Aegean and the Ionian Islands, a Special Regional Inter-level SWMA was established and functions, as a Local Government Corporation, in which the relevant Region and all the Municipalities of this Region are shareholders.

C. Also, the Region of Attica has a Regional Association titled "Special Regional Association of the Prefecture of Attica (ESDNA)" which functions in the Metropolitan Region of Attica and in which the Metropolitan Region of Attica and the Municipalities of the Regional Unity of Attica participate with a view to the integrated solid waste management.

## **7.4. Other Legal Entities of Local Government**

### **7.4.1 Development Organisations**

The Local Government Development Organizations are Legal Entities of Private Law with special purpose, which function in the public interest, in the form of a limited liability company. More than one Municipality or Region and/or Regional Unions of Municipalities, or at least one Municipality or Region or a Regional Union of Municipalities and at least one of the following bodies participate in the share capital of the development organisations: Regional Development Funds, Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, Union of Regions of Greece, Hellenic Society for Local Development and Self-Government, networks and associations of Municipalities, provided that the Municipalities, the Regions and the Regional Unions of Municipalities own the majority of the share capital, excluding in any case individuals. Organisations of the wider public sector, scientific bodies, chambers, bodies of collective, social, environmental, cultural and economic interests, cooperatives and their associations may also participate in the share capital, provided that they represent a cumulative percentage of less than three percent (3%). Exceptionally, the Regions and the Municipalities with a population of more than fifty thousand (50,000) inhabitants may set up a single-shareholder Development Organization, contributing the entire share capital.

The Development Organizations contribute to the implementation of self-governing competences and their purpose, in particular, is the scientific, advisory and technical support of Local Authorities and their associations (Associations of Municipalities and Regional Associations of Municipalities, KEDE and ENPE), the support and implementation of the development policy of the Municipalities and Regions, the maturation of infrastructure projects and the implementation of social cohesion, digital convergence and sustainable development policies.

### **7.4.2 Energy Communities - Renewable Energy Communities - Citizen Energy Communities**

The above Legal Entities operate as urban cooperatives, whose institutional framework is mainly determined by the Ministries of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection and Development, provided that the majority of their cooperative shares may be owned by the Municipalities, the Regions or their enterprises.

Their purpose is to carry out activities related to the production, consumption, storage and sale of energy from renewable sources, the promotion of innovation in the energy sector, the address energy poverty and the promotion of energy sustainability. Their primary purpose is not financial gain, but the provision of environmental, economic and social benefit to their members and their localities.

## 8. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE REGIONS

### 8. 1 National Networks

Municipalities and Regions wishing to advance their common purposes may set up and participate in national networks of Municipal and Regional Authorities, aiming at the coordinated and targeted promotion of their objectives, the active participation in respective foreign networks or programmes and initiatives undertaken by international and european organisations in order to enhance their economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The networks are established by relevant municipal and regional decisions and operate pursuant to a declaration and a statute. Universities, research institutes and relevant social actors may also participate in order to serve the purpose of the network better.

### 8.2 International Partnerships

The Municipalities and the Regions implement international and european collaborations with Local/Regional Authorities and other foreign bodies in accordance with international, EU and national law, the scope of their competences and subject to the country's international obligations, as such:

#### (a) Programmes and Initiatives of International and European Organisations

The Municipalities and the Regions may participate in Initiatives (eg., Covenant of Mayors, Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) and programmes of EU (eg., EU grants such as LIFE, ERASMUS+, CERV, Creative Europe, co-funded programmes, such as URBACT, INTERREG, as well as EEA grants), of the Council of Europe (eg., Intercultural Cities), and other international organisations (eg., UNESCO Learning Cities network).

#### (b) Town-Twinning

Municipalities may enter into town-twinning protocols with other cities with a view to promoting economic, cultural, educational and social relations and building and developing close and friendly relations.

According to common experience and international practice, town-twinning is the culmination of long-term, targeted, nationally beneficial partnerships.

Therefore, organizing and promoting town-twinning processes requires a supportive structure. This may be part of the Local Authority or an independent organisation, known as Town-Twinning Committee.

#### (c) International and European Networks

Municipalities and Regions, with common goals, can participate and set up international and european networks of Local and Regional Authorities, with a view of a coordinated and targeted promotion of their aims, dynamic participation and representation in programmes and initiatives of international and european organizations for the strengthening of their economic, social and territorial cohesion. International and European networks that have their registered office in Greece are established as Non-Profit Civil Companies and may be staffed by employees of their members

#### (d) International and European Platforms

Municipalities may participate in multi-stakeholder platforms characterized by the diversity of their members (public and private bodies), their special funding status from charitable foundations and private organizations with the aim of producing specialized knowledge and practices (e.g. C40, 100 Resilient Cities, Cities Alliance).

(e) European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

Municipalities, Regions and Greek Public Sector Bodies, including the Decentralised Administrations, may participate in a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) in order to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and/or interregional cooperation with the exclusive aim of strengthening economic and social cohesion.

A European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with its headquarters in Greece is an Civil Non-Profit Company.

(f) Mission exchanges and events

Municipalities and Regions can also organize cultural, artistic and sporting events and take part in mission exchanges to address issues of common interest.

(g) Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding

Municipalities may sign Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding on matters of mutual interest, as well as participate in international solidarity actions, in particular, in cases of natural disasters, by providing goods or services to the affected areas and local population.

In accordance with the provisions of par. 2b, art. 4 of L. 3345/2005 there is a provision for an **Inter-ministerial Tripartite Committee**, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as representatives of the representative bodies of self-government (i.e. KEDE and ENPE), which is the competent body of the central administration for approving the above-mentioned international collaborations of the Municipalities and the Regions. When issues of EGTCs are discussed, a representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance also participates in the Committee. The procedure for submitting the requests of the Municipalities and the Regions to the competent Committee must meet at least the following conditions:

i. Every proposal of a Municipality or Region for their participation in one of the above forms of partnerships, is deemed appropriate to be accompanied by a decision of the relevant council or collective body (if it concerns a Legal Entity of the relevant Local Authority).

ii. The council's decision must be adequately substantiated. The decision must include in detail the added value and the areas of cooperation with the foreign organization or body, the issues of common interest, the projected costs and should be accompanied by information about the counterpart organisation or body with which there is a willingness to cooperate or the network in which the Local Authority intends to participate. In particular, in the case of town- twinings, it should be underlined that twinning is not the beginning of a cooperation between two local authorities, but the culmination of long-term exchanges and joint initiatives.

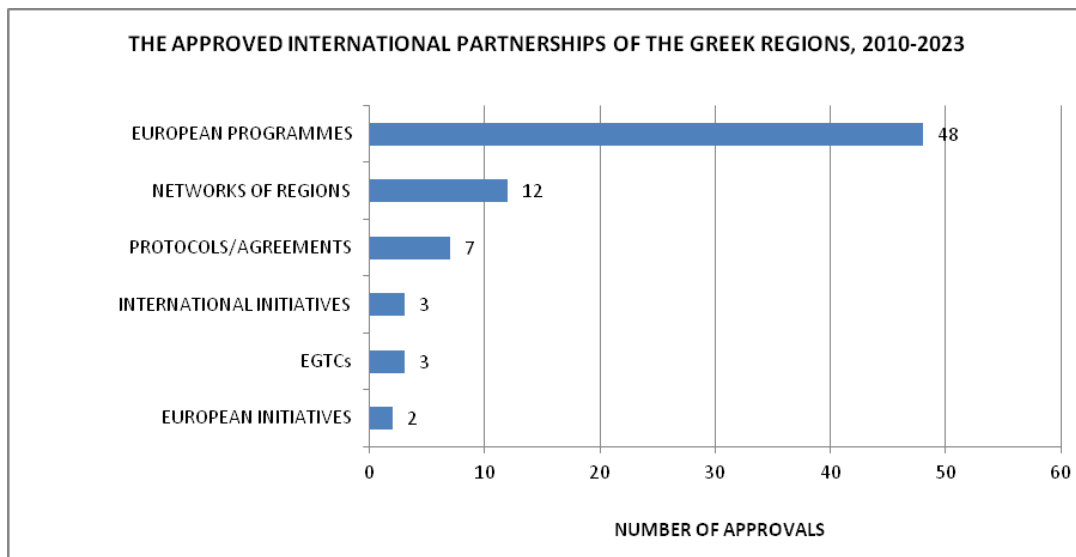
iii. The decision of the relevant Councils, with all the accompanying documents, must be sent, in paper or electronic form, directly and timely to the Secretariat of the Committee at the Ministry of the Interior (Independent Department of International and European Relations), always before the planned international events or the signing of the relevant protocols. This is necessary in order, prior to the granting of the requested consent, to enable possible communication and consultation with the members of the Committee for potentially further clarifications and instructions. Late or incomplete requests will not be considered by the Committee.

iv. In case the Committee reasonably considers that the participation of a Local Authority in international collaborations is not in accordance with the international, EU or national laws, or that this initiative is not justified for reasons of public interest or general policy of the country, it may reject the relevant request.

v. After receiving the approval and implementing the proposed cooperation, the Municipalities and Regions involved, as part of the regular updating of the Committee's relevant register with the approved initiatives, must ensure that the relevant documents are



sent to the Committee's Secretariat (e.g. final texts of town-twinning agreements or protocols)



## 8.3 Agreements

### 8.3.1 Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreements

Municipalities within the same Region or adjacent Municipalities, their Legal entities governed by Private Law and Associations of Municipalities may conclude inter-municipal cooperation agreements with each other in order to exercise or support exercise of powers on behalf of their members.

### 8.3.2 Inter-level Cooperation Agreements

Municipalities within the same Region and the Local Region, Legal Entities and Associations in which any of the contacting parties may participate, can conclude, among them, inter-level cooperation agreements in order to perform or support the exercise of powers on behalf of one or more contracting parties.

### 8.3.3 Contracts

Municipalities, Regions, Associations of Municipalities, Networks of Municipalities and Regions, Regional Associations of Municipalities, KEDE and ENPE, the Legal entities governed by Public Law (N.P.D.D.), which constitute or in which the above-mentioned bodies participate, as well as Legal Entities governed by Private Law (N.P.I.D.), in which KEDE and ENPE participate or constitute, the municipal water supply and sewerage companies, the Association of Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Enterprises (E.D.E.Y.A.), the Local Government Companies that belong to the Public Sector, Municipal and Regional Institutions, as well as Charitable Institutions and Endowments and Higher Education Institutions may conclude contracts with the public or with Egnatia Odos S.A. or with the Management Organisation Unit of Development Programmes (MOD) S.A. or with the Public Real Estate Company S.A. (ETAD S.A.) or with the company titled "GAIAO-SE - Anonymous Company of Urban Real Estate, Real Estate, Construction, Tourism and Related Enterprises" (GAIAOSE S.A.), following a partnership of the company titled "Organization Railways of Greece...Anonymous Company" (O.S.E. S.A.), where required according to Law 3891/2010 (A' 188), or with the Deposit and Loan Fund or with the EL.G.O. - DIMITRA or between them or with N.P.D.D. or with the bodies of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of article 12 of Law 4412/2016 (A' 147), individually or jointly

In addition, contracts may be concluded between the above bodies and public benefit institutions, as well as endowments that pursue public benefit purposes.

Finally, Municipalities and Regions may conclude contracts with the Local Government Development Organizations for the implementation of self-governing responsibilities and the provision of services to citizens.

The main subject of the contracts may be the study and execution of development projects and programmes, the provision of services, the implementation of supplies of any kind, environmental protection and civil protection actions, as well as cultural projects and programmes.

Contracts for the design and implementation of projects and development plans as well as the provision of services are subject to a pre-contractual control of legality conducted by the Court of Auditors.

In particular, pre-contractual controls of legality are conducted in respect of:

1. Contracts, with cost estimates of over one million (1.000.000) €, not including value added tax.
2. Contracts with a cost estimates of more than three hundred thousand (300,000.00) euros and up to one million (1,000,000.00) euros, not including value added tax
3. Co- funded contracts with a cost estimated of more than five million (5,000,000.00) euros.

It is pointed out that for contracts with a budgeted expenditure of more than one million (1,000,000.00) euros as well as for co-financed program contracts with a budgeted expenditure of more than five million (5,000,000.00) euros, a legality check is carried out by the Court of Auditors and for programmatic contracts with a budgeted expenditure of more than three hundred thousand (300,000.00) euros and up to the limit of one million (1,000,000.00) euros, a legality check is carried out by the Commissioner of the Court of Auditors who is responsible for the repressive control of accounts of these services or entities.

## 9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The operational objectives of the Ministry of the Interior include, among other things, the rational distribution of central autonomous funds and other revenues and grants to the Local Government and to all its legal entities, as well as the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes

### 9.1 Municipal and Regional Revenues

Municipal and regional revenues are divided into ordinary and extraordinary revenues

The ordinary revenues derive from:

- Resources allocated to them, i.e. Central Autonomous Funds (CAF),
- Income from movable and immovable property,
- Compensatory fees and entitlements,
- Taxes, fees, entitlements and contributions,
- Local potential fees, entitlements and contributions.

The extraordinary revenues derive from:

- Loans, donations, bequests and legacies,
- Disposal, sale and use of assets,
- Participation in business activities,
- Administrative fines and penalties ,
- Any other source.

#### 9.1.1 Central Autonomous Funds (CAF)

##### 9.1.1.1 Municipalities

The Central Autonomous Funds (CAF) are sources annually granted by the State Government to Municipalities. They come from the following state budget resources:

- a) Income Tax for Individuals and Legal Entities at a rate of 19,5% of the total tax receipts,
- b) Value Added Tax 1 at a rate of 2% of the total tax receipts,
- c) The Single Property Ownership Tax (ENFIA) at a rate of 11.3% of the total tax receipts.

A percentage of up to 1/3 of the above revenues is allocated to the Municipalities to meet their investment costs and the remaining revenues are allocated to the Municipalities to cover their operational and other general costs

Central Autonomous Funds are allocated, according to the suggestion of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, based on the demographic, geomorphological, administrative, financial, social, environmental and cultural characteristics of the Municipalities. The administrative support provided by a Municipality in order to assist other Municipalities in meeting their operational needs and the permanent service provision to insular and mountain Municipalities is taken into serious consideration.

##### 9.1.1.2 Regions

The Central Autonomous Funds are sources annually granted by the state government to the Regions. They come from the following state budget resources:

- a) Income Tax for Individuals and Legal Entities at a rate of 4,2% of the total tax receipts,
- b) Value Added Tax at a rate of 4% of the total tax receipts.

The percentage required for meeting the regional operational and investment expenses is determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of the Interior and of Economy and Finance, following the opinion of the Union of Regions.

Central Autonomous Funds are allocated, following the suggestion of the Central Union of Regions of Greece, based on the demographic, geo - morphological, administrative, financial, social, environmental and cultural characteristics of the regions with a view to alleviating disparities.

## **9.1.2 Local Government Properties**

### **9.1.2.1 Municipal Real Estate (Immovable Property)**

Real estate is the set of properties owned by a Municipality.

Real estate is divided into:

1. Public (municipal) Property,
2. Private property,
3. Pastures available to municipalities for exploitation and used solely for meeting livestock needs.

#### **9.1.2.1.1 Public (municipal) Property**

The public real estate of Municipalities includes the properties which directly serve the municipal interests; the property is divided into the property for public use and the property intended to serve municipal purposes.

##### **9.1.2.1.1.1 Property for Public Use**

Public (municipal) properties for public use include, among others, roads, squares, parks, gardens, playgrounds and recreation areas to serve public needs adequately. Public (municipal) properties for public use belong to municipalities, unless otherwise provided by law.

##### **9.1.2.1.1.2 Real Estate (movable or immovable property) Serving Municipal Purposes**

This category includes, among others, municipal stores, water supply and sewerage networks, waste management facilities, biological wastewater treatment facilities, buildings for cultural or artistic use, sports facilities, schools, cemeteries, cremation centres, municipal markets, slaughterhouses, social service buildings and facilities, seashore, beaches, shoreline and riparian zones of large lakes and navigable waters (their use has been allocated by the state government to Municipalities),etc.

This municipal property can be used as an instrument for managing local affairs with a view to promoting development, protecting and improving the quality of life at the local level.

##### **9.1.2.1.2 Private Real Estate**

The municipal private property includes, among others, land, buildings, apartments and other residential real estate, agricultural parcels and buildings, mines, quarries, mineral springs, salt marshes, fish farms, forests and pastures. This private municipal property does not directly serve any public interest and are made available to third parties after following special procedures.

The distinction between public and private property relates respectively to the provisions of public and private law applicable. When making use of their property, local authorities are subject to substantive and procedural requirements mainly set by the Code of

Municipalities and Communities. The substantive requirements concern the purpose, disposal and the utility benefits that are expected to be drawn by Local Authorities, while procedural requirements relate either to the decision making of certain elected representatives (municipal committee) or to the compliance with the auction process.

Subject to usucaption, the municipal private property may be expropriated.

#### **9.1.2.1.3 Management and Use of Municipal Immovable Property**

Municipalities are obliged to maintain, protect and appropriately manage their properties diligently and efficiently.

Special rules on the management and use of the municipal immovable property, which is the origin of revenues, mainly relate to:

- The sale of property, only when the sale results in gains for the Local Authority. The immovable property that can be sold relates to the private immovable property. The sale is done by auction and Body of Certified valuers, registered in the Registry of the Ministry of Economy and Finance is required to estimate the market value
- Sale of property by leasing
- Lease of property
- Lease of municipal farmland for agricultural or tree cultivation
- Direct grant of lease to quarries for production of inert materials and marble quarries
- Free allocation of ownership rights to the Roma population and foreign nationals of Greek origin who joined the state housing rehabilitation programmes.

The provisions on the management and use of the municipal property also apply to the property of legal entities, with the exception of companies which operate as Legal Entities governed by Private Law, under the private sector rules.

Similar arrangements and rules on the protection of their property apply to the Regions. The regional immovable property includes private immovable property (mainly buildings which host the regional services)

#### **9.1.2.2 Local Government Real Estate (Movable Property)**

Apart from immovable property, cash in banks, securities, machinery and equipment are part of the municipal and regional movable property which is registered and managed according to the applicable provisions.

#### **9.1.2.3 Registration of Municipal and Regional Property**

All municipal movable and immovable property has to be registered. Municipalities, as well as Regions, must have a register of real estate.

Upon provisions of "KALLIKRATIS "Programme, all Municipalities are required to maintain a register of fixed assets to record and evaluate their fixed assets. Respectively, the provisions on the implementation of the sectoral accounting plan for Municipalities are applicable in relation to the double entry system of general and analytical accounting of the Regions since January, 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

In the framework of the implementation of the Act "Registration and utilization of the building infrastructure and other real estate of the Municipalities and the Regions, which was included in the Operational Programme titled "Administrative Reform 2007-2013", an information system (database) was set up, through which all the local/Regional Authorities of the country have a mechanism for recording their building infrastructure with census forms, where data are recorded, such as type of property, description, location, area, used spaces, division into privately owned or leased properties.

Furthermore, in order to support Local/Regional Authorities with a view to optimal management and utilization of their real estate by themselves, as well as further strengthening the command planning of policies and actions for Local Government, the maintenance of the Electronic Real Estate Registration Database was provided by the “Kleisthenis Programme I”, in which Municipalities, Regions, and their Legal Entities governed by Public Law must register all the details of their properties and their changes. This database is a continuation of the aforementioned database/information system.

### **9.1.3 Tax Revenues**

The Constitution provides for the Local Government Financial Autonomy. Within this context, the state enacts legislation and provides for sources of revenue (taxes) in favour of Local Authorities. In addition, they are given the possibility of establishing regulatory acts and imposing fees, contributions and entitlements. These revenues according to their legal status<sup>17</sup> may be used by Local Authorities either to balance the costs of the services provided or for general municipal purposes.

For Local Authorities, making use of the sources of revenue through taxes can be either discretionary or mandatory.

#### **9.1.3.1 Compensatory Fees, Local Discretionary Compensatory Fees and Entitlements**

Fees are imposed by First Level Local Authorities to meet the costs of the services provided, such as cleaning services, water consumption, irrigation, are called compensatory fees; Revenues generated by such fees are strictly earmarked for specific purposes.

Special categories of compensatory fees as specifically provided by law include:

- Fees for water supply, irrigation and drainage,
- Cleaning and lighting services fees,
- Fees for the use of public spaces, for the permanent or temporary use of streets, pavements, squares etc
- Parking fees for vehicles in controlled parking zones,
- Entitlements for the use of municipal slaughterhouses,
- Entitlements for the use of pasture,
- Entitlements or fees to cover operating expenses of cemeteries,
- Fees for the value of crude industrial mineral quarrying.

Local Authorities are entitled to impose local discretionary compensatory fees for services or local works which contribute to the improvement of the quality of life, the development of the local area and the provision of better services to citizens.

#### **9.1.3.2 Taxes, Fees, Entitlements and Contributions**

Taxes, fees and entitlements enacted in favour of local authorities are:

- The real estate fee imposed on immovable property within the municipal boundaries, the amount of which is decided by a Municipal Council decision, as specified by law,
- A discretionary tax on electrified sites, the imposition of which depends on the discretion of Local Authorities and is imposed at electrified sites in general,
- Fees for publicity within the municipal boundaries, the amount of which is determined by the Municipalities.

In addition, the following fees are levied on either a mandatory or discretionary basis:

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<sup>17</sup> Taxes, fees, entitlements and contributions.

- Residence fees at hotels levied on all types of hotel accommodation (hotels, motels, campings, etc,
- Fees for the gross income of clubs, restaurants and stores,
- Fees for trading natural medicinal mineral drinking or non-drinking water, which is a tax on transactions,
- Fees for the sale of aggregate and quarry products.

In the public interest, cash contributions are paid to the Municipality by the owners of immovable property. These are earmarked contributions used for the drawing up planning studies and the performance of basic public urban projects.

In recent years, "Compensatory benefits" have been instituted as revenues of the Municipalities, for the functioning of facilities or activities in the area that cause nuisance to the local community.

Such cases for example are the following:

1. Payment of municipal fees to the Municipalities that host immigrant accommodation units,
2. Special fee to Municipalities for areas where renewable energy projects are installed.
3. Compensatory benefit to Municipalities that host or are burdened by the operation of mechanical - biological waste treatment facilities and sanitary landfills,
4. Tax on advertising revenue made on buses and bus shelters,
5. Fee for the collection and burial of dead animals.

Taxes, fees, entitlements and contributions are mainly collected either by the Local Authorities themselves or by other Legal Entities (eg Public Electricity Company) on behalf of Local Government Authorities. However, after being collected by the State, some of them are allocated to the Local Authorities by ministerial decisions.

Such taxes and fees may include:

- Publicity fees for certain categories of publicity items (diaries, presents, printed material, promotion of products at shops, events, etc),
- Fees for carrying out entertainment games ,
- Fees for decommissioned ships,
- Real estate tax (15% of which is collected through electricity bills)
- Fines for violating the Highway Code and fines for building violations.

## **9.2 Financial Management**

### **9.2.1 Municipalities**

In the context of modernising Local Authorities' organisation and operation, the law specifies that five-year Operational Programmes must be drawn up by the Municipalities aimed at introducing permanent planning, monitoring and evaluation procedures of actions undertaken by first level Local Authorities, enhancing transparency and improving municipal human and material resources management.

Each Operational Programme describes the municipal strategic, operational and financial planning for a period of five years. This planning requires an inter-municipal and inter-level cooperation and the active participation of all municipal services and legal entities which entered into consultation with the local society. The planning is structured in Annual Action Plans which include the annual budgets, the actions and projects to be implemented within the year as well as a detailed record of funding resources.

Upon a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance and of the Interior issued in July of each year, following the opinion of KEDE, instructions are provided for the preparation, execution and reform of the municipal budget. A similar decision may also

determine the upper limits for the assessment of the own revenues or individual groups thereof that are registered in the budget and define the same revenues or groups thereof, with the aim of more effectively achieving the preparation of a realistic budget.

The budget, the annual action plan, the report of the Municipal Committee and the Municipal Council decisions concerning the imposition of taxes, fees, duties and levies are submitted for audit to the Legality Auditor.

The summary budget statement, as voted by the Municipal Council, has to be posted on the municipal website and published in at least one local daily or weekly newspaper or in a newspaper published within the boundaries of the Municipality's Regional Unit. Additionally, in the context of enhancing transparency, the budget, to be effective, should also be posted on the "Diavgeia" website. The quarterly report on the results of budget execution, which is submitted to the Municipal Council by the Municipal Committee for the previous quarter is also posted on the municipal website as well as on the "Transparency" website within a period of thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, upon recommendation of the person in charge of the municipal financial services.

A Municipality's treasury function is exercised by a special department which is part of the financial service and set up by the Internal Organisation Service.

### **9.2.2 Regions**

As part of its mid-term planning, the Regions have to prepare a five-year operational programme within the first nine months of their election. The five-year Operational Programme is set out in Annual Action Plans and Annual Budgets.

The Budget, the Annual Action Plan, the Report Prepared by the Regional Committee and the Regional Council Decisions on taxes and fees to be imposed are submitted to the Legality Auditor.

With a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance and of the Interior issued in July of each year, following the opinion of ENPE, instructions are provided for the preparation, execution and reform of the budget of the regions.

A similar decision may also determine the upper limits for the assessment of the own revenues or individual groups thereof that are registered in the budget and define the same revenues or groups thereof, with the aim of more effectively achieving the preparation of a realistic budget

An annex to the budget presents the actions to be taken with regard to the metropolitan functions of the Region of Attica, those of the Metropolitan Unit of Thessaloniki, within the Region of Central Macedonia.

A budget summary as voted by the Regional Council is posted on the regional website and published in at least one regional daily or weekly newspaper. Additionally, in the context of enhancing transparency, the budget, to be effective, should also be posted on the "DIAVGEIA" website.

### **9.3 Transfer of Powers and Resources**

Any transfer of powers from Central or Regional State Entities to the Local Government pre- supposes the transfer of corresponding funds.

The costing process of each power to be transferred to Local Authorities includes:

- a) defining the operating costs, together with the infrastructure and any kind of equipment used during the period of transfer,
- b) defining the overall cost of the power required when exercised by the municipalities or the regions.



## 9.4 Concluding Loans

Municipalities and Regions may enter into loan contracts with the State, accredited institutions, financial institutions in Greece or abroad as well as public entities and organisations, exclusively for the financing of investments and for the financing of their debts, as long as the following conditions are met, cumulatively:

- a) the annual cost of servicing the public debt of each Municipality or Region should not exceed 20% of its annual regular revenues,
- b) the total debt of the Municipality and the Region that borrows does not exceed a percentage of its total revenue.

As an exception, Municipalities are given the possibility to contract loans, without the above conditions, in the following cases:

- 1. Inability to balance the budget,
- 2. Loan granting under special programmes,
- 3. For actions to improve energy efficiency,
- 4. For the preparation of Local Spatial Plans,
- 5. For energy upgrading of public buildings,
- 6. When the sole purpose is the refinancing of already concluded loans.

Also, the possibility of prepayments of Municipalities and Regions from the Central Autonomous Funds (CAP) is foreseen, if specific criteria for this are met.

## 9.5 Financial Support Contract

In order to support the over-indebted entities of the local government sub-sector, a "Financial Support Account" has been set up in the Deposit and Loan Fund.

The bodies of the sub-sector with an inability to balance the budget have access to the Account under the condition of concluding a Programmatic Financial Support Agreement with the Minister of the Interior. The agreement defines the financing conditions of the organization and the interventions it must undertake to improve its financial operation and financial position.

The Financial Autonomy Observatory of Local Governments (9.7.2) is the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the contract.

## 9.6 Local Government's Development Programmes

### 9.6.1 Sectoral Development Programme (SDP) of the Ministry of the Interior

In application of the provisions of L. 4635/2019 (OG A'167), the Sectoral Development Programme (TPA) of the Ministry of the Interior of the first Programming Period 2021-2025 is implemented. The Programme includes the objectives of the medium-term development planning in the Ministry's area of responsibility, based on the corresponding planning of the National Development Programme (EPA) and the distribution of the national resources of the Public Investment Programme (PDE), which belong to it.

In particular, under L.4635/2019 (A'167), EPA was established and defines planning, management and monitoring rules for the projects financed by the national resources of the Public Investment Programme . This includes the Sectoral and Regional Development Programmes (SDP/RDPs).

The planning of the Sectoral Development Programme (SDP) of the Ministry of the Interior for the first programming period 2021-2025 was mainly based on the total budget of the SDP which amounts to €500 million and includes the following five (5) Developmental objectives:

- Smart Development,
- Green Development,

- Social Development,
- Infrastructure Development,
- Extroversion,
- Programme Support.

### **9.6.2 Development and Solidarity Programme for Local Self-Government 'Antonis Tritsis'**

The Ministry of the Interior drafts as well the Special Development Programme of Local Authorities of first and second degree, associations of Municipalities and their legal entities, which is a Development and Solidarity Programme aiming at the provision of goods and services, the preparation of studies and the construction of works especially in the fields of basic infrastructure, digital convergence, sustainable development as well as at the provision of goods and services in the fields of civil protection and at the protection of public health, especially the elimination of the financial impact from the spread of COVID-19. It also aims at the implementation of actions and initiatives of social cohesion and solidarity.

In accordance with the JMD 22766/09-04-2020 (OG 1386 B/14-4-2020) of the Ministers of Interior, Finance and Investment and Development, which further defines the scope and the goals of the new Special Development Programme of Local Authorities of first and second degree, associations of Municipalities and legal entities, this Development and Solidarity Programme for Local Government - "**Antonis Tritsis**" for the period 2020-2023 is expected to implement significant projects aiming at enhancing the situation in the whole country on the following priority axis:

- a) Civil protection (acquisition of equipment and means and strengthening the administrative capacity for an effective performance of the assigned tasks), protection of public health and mainly actions for protecting people against the spread of COVID-19, technical assistance actions to beneficiaries for the implementation of the Programme
- b) Quality of life and proper operation of cities, of the countryside, of settlements (construction of necessary infrastructure projects, protection of stray dogs etc and enhancing administrative ability and responsiveness of local authorities)
- c) Environment (sustainable development with a strong environmental footprint, energy saving actions, actions of renewable energy sources, water resources management, solid waste and water waste management etc.)
- d) Digital convergence (IT technologies and communications, Internet of Things, smart digital technologies with application in local administrative practice and everyday life of citizens having as its main goal the transformation of cities into "smart cities",
- e) Social cohesion and solidarity (social cohesion actions for effective implementation of schemes of social protection and solidarity for all citizens as well as special programmes for vulnerable social groups, aimed mostly at the elimination or mitigation of social exclusion),
- f) Education, culture, tourism and sports (such as school construction, make good use of municipal property, alternative tourism, etc.).

The total budget of the Programme for the entire programme period amounts to two billion five hundred million (2,500,000,000.00) euros, funds stemming from loans from the Consignment Deposits and Loans Fund (CDLF) as well as the European Investment Bank. The funding process takes place by means of development loans granted by the Consignment Deposits and Loans Fund (CDLF) upon loan conventions between the beneficiary and the Fund and are paid back by resources of the National Investment Programme of the Ministry of the Interior, through an account set up in the Consignment Deposits and Loans Fund (CDLF) for this purpose

### **9.6.3 Special Municipal Support Programme "FILODIMOS II"**

On the basis of Article 71 of L.4509/2017, the "FILODIMOS II" Special Development Programme implemented by the Ministry of the Interior was set up. Following this, no. 4748/20.02.2018 Decision of the Minister of the Interior determined the purpose, the

inclusion criteria, the evaluation process as well as any other relevant issue of the Programme.

The purpose of the "FILODIMOS II" Programme is to finance projects, supplies, services and studies of Municipalities related to local development and environmental protection, i.e. construction, improvement and maintenance of technical infrastructure, improvement of the quality of life, as well as the supply of mechanical equipment and machinery. In addition, the financing of projects to improve social and cultural infrastructures, the construction, improvement and maintenance of administrative, social, sports infrastructures and the financing of studies of the above are foreseen.

The main objectives of this Programme are as such:

- a) the strengthening of balanced, sustainable and fair development,
- b) the improvement of infrastructure,
- c) the increase in employment and
- d) strengthening the competitiveness of the local economy.

#### **9.6.4 Recovery and Resilience Fund - Road Safety Improvement Programme**

The Programme "Improving road safety in the national and provincial road network" implemented by the Ministry of the Interior, is financed by the Recovery and Resilience Fund upon the R.F 82467/14-06-2022 decision of the Deputy Minister of Finance.

The purpose of the Programme is to restore the road network in various areas under the jurisdiction of the Regions and Municipalities of the country, in order to improve its level of operation and safety, covering interventions in dangerous parts of the network.

The Programme aims to:

- improve the operation and safety of the road network, while contributing to the reduction of environmental impacts due to the reduction of exhaust gas emissions,
- create new jobs by stimulating the construction sector and
- integrate smart technology elements in the transport sector and their introduction into the secondary road network.

### **9.7 Financial Monitoring of the Local Government**

#### **9.7.1 Collection of Financial Data of Local Government Organizations through the electronic databases maintained at the Ministry of the Interior**

The bodies of self-government with the exception of school boards, update their financial data in the electronic databases kept at the Ministry of the Interior, i.e.

- a) Budget and report details,
- b) Financial balance sheet data,
- c) Pledge register details,
- d) General ledger balance,
- e) Movements of intra-governmental transactions (receipts and payments),
- f) Information regarding the revenue collection process of the municipalities,
- g) Annual financial statements,
- h) Details of executable projects,
- i) Details of maturity of claims.

#### **9.7.2 Observatory of Financial Autonomy of Local Government Organizations**

The Financial Autonomy Observatory of Local Government is a collective body set up at the Ministry of the Interior. It is operationally supported by the General Directorate of Local Government Finance and Development Policy. The purpose of the Observatory is as such:

- a) *Monitoring the preparation and proper execution of the local government budgets.*

The Observatory has the responsibility of providing an Opinion on the realism and balance of the submitted draft Budgets of the Municipalities, Regions and other Legal Entities of the subsector of Local Government.

*b) Monitoring of the execution of the annual budgets of the entities of the local government sub-sector based on the approved Integrated Action Framework.*

The Observatory monitors the deviation of the execution of the annual budgets of the bodies of the sub-sector of Local Government from the objectives that have been set, in accordance with the written provisions.

### **9.7.3 Mechanism to Prevent the Accumulation of Overdue Liabilities to third parties by Local Government Organizations**

The Financial Autonomy Observatory of Local Government is responsible for the coordination, implementation and execution of the controls of the Mechanism to Prevent the Accumulation of Overdue Liabilities to third parties by the Local Government Organisations.

The Municipalities and Regions are required to submit detailed statements justifying overdue obligations to the Ministry of the Interior and additionally to reserve the corresponding amount in the Special Accounts set up in the Deposits and Loans Fund (DLF).

### **9.7.4 Local Government Performance Monitoring Hub**

In order to draw up effective and targeted policies for Local Self-government, as well as to monitor the performance of Local Governments and their legal entities, an online hub for monitoring the performance of Local Self-Government Organizations is being created at the Ministry of the Interior, which collects data related to their financial and administrative function and activity as well as publishes, after processing, indicators of measurement and evaluation of their performances.

## **9.8 Auditing of first and second level Local Authorities**

### **9.8.1 Preventive control of Revenue Collection**

The competent Commissioner of the Court of Auditors, during the financial year, can monitor the normal collection of the revenues of the Local Government Organizations and their legal entities and conducts the control for the collection of legally certified debts, debts or fines at the expense of third parties.

In the event that she/he finds inaction during their collection by the competent administrative bodies or the financial services, she/he calls on them, sending a document to the Coordinator of the Decentralised Administration and the Legality Auditor to act within a set reasonable deadline for the collection of them

### **9.8.2 Ex post Audits**

The ex post audit is carried out after the production of financial consequences and is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the organization of the Court of Auditors.

The Court of Auditors is responsible for carrying out ex post audits on the accounts of Municipalities, Regions and their Public Entities as well as on accounts of the Public Utilities Enterprises, Water Supply Enterprises and Sewerage and Municipal Limited Companies. Audits conducted are annual random audits, unless cases are identified which require a more generalised audit which is conducted after completion of a financial activity.

Audits performed can be extraordinary, general, special purpose or thematic audits either of legality or regularity of the financial management procedures.

The Commissioner who is responsible for the preventive control is responsible for the ex post audits, as well. The report prepared on the results of the ex post audits performed is submitted to the Ministers of Interior and of Economy and Finance and to Parliament's Institutions and Transparency Committee.

## 10. SUPERVISION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

### 10.1 Principles

The State exercises control over the actions of Municipalities, Regions, their Legal Entities and Single and Collective Bodies. This control is strictly a legality control, rather than an expediency control, over local government actions and a disciplinary control of elected representatives.

### 10.2 Supervisory Bodies

The Local Authorities' Independent Supervision Service, the Legality Auditor, i.e. the Supervisor, the Board of Supervisors of Local Authorities and the Supervisory Coordination and Control Committee of Local Authorities are responsible for carrying out a legality control over municipal actions and a disciplinary control over elected representatives.

The Local Authorities' Independent Supervision Service is established and located in the headquarters of each Decentralised Administration. It exercises legality control over Local Government actions, has disciplinary powers over elected bodies and hears appeals against single or collective local government bodies and legal entities. It is a decentralised service of the Ministry of the Interior, under the Minister of Interior, issuing instructions to ensure the legality of municipal and regional actions. In parallel, it can proceed in on-site controls, where and when necessary.

The head of each Local Authorities' Independent Supervision Service is the Supervisor of Local Government, a highly qualified person who is selected, after an announcement, by a Special Selection Board for a four-year term. The Supervisor prepares a report every year, in which she/he may propose legislative and other measures for the more effective implementation of the legality audit.

Also, a Council of Supervisors of Local Government is set up which consists of the seven Supervisors. The purpose of the collective body is to coordinate their work and jointly deal with important issues of supervision of Local Authorities. The Council may address questions to the Legal Council of the State on matters of major importance that are related to the control exercised by the Autonomous Supervisory Services of the Local Government.

In addition, by decision of the Minister of the Interior, a Supervisory Coordination and Control Committee of Local Government is established, in which participate the Minister of the Interior, as chairman, the President of the Supervisory Board of Local Government, a Vice-President of the Supreme Fiscal Court, the Auditing Court, appointed by its President, the General Commissioner of the State of Regular Administrative Courts, the Ombudsman, a representative of the National Transparency Authority, the President of the Financial Independence Observatory of Local Government, the Sectoral Secretary of Fiscal Policy, the President of KEDE and the President of ENPE.

The Committee's mission is the periodic control of the level of compliance of Local Authorities, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the supervision mechanism, the mutual information of all administrative and judicial bodies on the matters of their competence concerning the Local Government, as well as the monitoring and care for the continuous improvement of the effectiveness of the state supervision over Local Authorities.

Until today, the Local Authorities' Independent Supervision Service have not been established. For the transitional stage and until their establishment, the control of the legality of the acts, of the Local Authorities of the first and second degree is carried out by the Secretary of the relevant Decentralised Administration, a state body appointed by

decision of the Minister of the Interior and the Special Committees of article 152 of Code of Municipalities and Communities (L. 3463/2006, A' 114) for Municipalities (Local Government of the first degree) and the Control Committees of the Acts of article 68 of the Code of Prefectural Self-Government for the Regions (Local Government of the second degree). These committees are set up by decision of the Secretary of the relevant Decentralised Administration. Until the beginning of operation of the Local Authorities' Independent Supervision Service, the disciplinary control of elected officials is carried out by the Secretary of the Decentralised Administration.

### **10.3 Legality control of Actions and Disciplinary Control of Elected Representatives**

Article 102 par. 4 of the Constitution provides that the State conducts supervision over Local Authorities that consists exclusively of legality control. The legality control is carried out as prescribed by law. In line with this constitutional imperative, article 214 of L. 3852/2010 provides that the State supervision of Local Authorities which is specialized in the control of acts (legality control) and in the control of persons (disciplinary control of elected officials).

#### **10.3.1 Control over Local Government Actions-Obligatory and ex officio Control**

Specific local government decisions provided for in the law according to their importance undergo an obligatory control by the Local Authorities' Independent Supervision Service, for legality control within 15 days from the date of issuance. The Supervisor of Local Government decides on the legality of the decision within an exclusive period of thirty (30) days and compulsorily issues a special act (art. 225 of Law 3852/2010).

The Supervisor of Local Government can also ex officio cancel any decision of the collective or single-member bodies of the Local Authorities and of these legal entities, as well as their associations, for reasons of legitimacy, within a period of two (2) months from the publication or issuance of the decision (art. 226 of L. 3852/2010)

In addition, anyone with a legitimate interest can challenge the decisions of the collective or single-member bodies of the Local Authorities and those of these legal entities, as well as their associations, for reasons of legality, before the Supervisor of Local Government, within a period of fifteen (15) days from the publication of the decision or its posting on the internet or from its notification or after having received full knowledge thereof. The Supervisor of Local Government decides on the appeal within an exclusive period of two (2) months from its submission. In case the act proves to be illegal, then it is annulled. If the above deadline passes without a decision being issued, it is considered that the appeal has been implicitly rejected (art. 227 of Law 3852/2010).

In accordance with the provisions of article 238 of Law 3852/2010, until the beginning of operation of the Local Authorities' Independent Supervision Service, the control of the legality of the acts, according to articles 225 to 227, is carried out by the Secretary of the relevant Decentralised Administration and the Special Committees of article 152 of the Code of Municipalities and Communities (n. 3463/2006, A' 114), which are located at the headquarters of the Regions belonging to the respective Decentralised Administration. These committees are set up by decision of the Secretary of the relevant Decentralised Administration. The Local Authorities' Supervisor checks the legality of the decision within an exclusive period of thirty (30) days and compulsorily issues a special act (art. 225 of Law 3852/2010).

The decisions of the Legality Supervisor bind the parties affected by them.

#### **10.3.2 Control over Elected Representatives**

The Supervisor of Local Government may decide to suspend elected representatives for up to a maximum of six months or revoke their term of office, if they have committed a serious breach of their duties or exceeded their jurisdiction by fraud or gross negligence, after the consent of a Disciplinary Council, which is composed mostly of judicial officials

Elected representatives may be dismissed or the Municipal or Regional Council may be dissolved only for serious reasons of public interest by decision of the Minister of Interior, based on the consent of the above-mentioned Disciplinary Board and on a reasoned report from the Legality Auditor

In addition, the law provides for administrative measures, such as the automatic suspension and withdrawal of duties for elected representatives, under specific conditions related to specific offences, prosecution procedures and sentences without appeal.

Municipal or Regional Bodies must pay compensation to Local Bodies and Authorities for any actual damage caused to their property, by fraud or gross negligence. The actual damage is attributed by a three-member Audit Committee with the participation of the Legality auditor.



## **11. REMEDIES FOR INDIVIDUALS AGAINST DECISIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Citizens who have a legitimate interest and /or are affected by Local Government acts or omissions may be protected either administratively or judicially in the following ways:

### **11.1 Administrative Protection**

#### **11.1.1 Appeal before the Supervisor of Local Government**

Appeal is an administrative Local Government control process which takes place at a decentralised state level.

Anyone who has a legitimate interest may bring special administrative proceedings before the Supervisor of Local Government against actions and/or decisions of single or collective Municipal, Regional Bodies or Entities; s/he may also bring proceedings against these bodies or entities for action which should have been taken within fifteen (15) days from the publication or posting on the site of any municipal or regional decision.

The Supervisor of Local Government must decide within two (2) months from the date the complaint is submitted; otherwise the complaint is considered to have been tacitly rejected. The Supervisor may suspend the execution of an action upon request of the interested party, on account of the well-founded character of the appeal or by claiming irreparable damage until the examination process is complete. These are the only times that the immediate implementation of municipal and regional actions may be suspended. However, until the beginning of operation of the Independent Local Authorities' Supervision Service, it is not possible to suspend the execution of the decision of the Local Government

#### **11.1.2 Submitting Complaints to the National Transparency Authority**

This is an administrative local government control process which takes place at the central level.

The National Transparency Authority (NTA) is an Independent Authority competent for a) strengthening transparency, integrity and accountability in the activities of government bodies, administrative authorities, state bodies, and public organizations and b) preventing, deterring, identifying and dealing with the phenomena and acts of fraud and corruption in the activities of public and private entities and organizations.

In this context, the citizen may report instances of maladministration to the NTA, which has the authority to control the acts and omissions of every public servant connected to it by any employment relationship, as well as the elected officials of the Local Government.

#### **11.1.3 Submitting Complaints to the Greek Ombudsman**

This is an administrative Local Government control process which takes place at the central level in an Independent Administrative Authority.

The Ombudsman is an independent administrative authority, not controlled by government institutions, operating under conditions of neutrality and independence from any political power and enjoying high prestige. The Greek Ombudsman handles complaints submitted by citizens, acting as an extra-judicial dispute resolution mechanism between citizens and public and Local Government. The role of the Greek Ombudsman is that of a mediator since he does not have any normative power and he cannot impose any sanctions.

#### **11.1.4 Submitting Complaints to the Municipal Ombudsman for Citizens and Businesses or to the Regional Ombudsman for Citizens and Businesses**

This is an internal administrative local government control process which takes place at the local level aiming at resolving problems based on the principle of subsidiarity.

The Municipal or Regional Ombudsman receives complaints from citizens and businesses affected by Local Government maladministration. The Ombudsman mediates so that the problems can be solved within Local Government services avoiding extra procedures, such as appeals to audit mechanisms or courts.

#### **11.2 Judicial Protection**

All citizens who have a legal interest or are affected by Local Government actions or omissions are entitled to appeal to the courts.

The appeal takes place at the administrative courts, either of first instance or of appeal, or even at the Council of State which is the higher administrative court.

It should be noted that administrative control, mainly the appeal before the Supervisor of Local Government as well as complaints to the NTA, may result in judicial control in cases where a disciplinary penalty is imposed by an administrative court.

In any case, the administrative authorities are required to comply with judicial decisions within a reasonable time, as judicial decisions are binding.

## 12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

The regular staff of Municipalities and Regions are divided into two categories in terms of their employment relationship: permanent staff and staff hired under private law contracts of indefinite duration. Provision is also made for the hiring of fixed-term staff to cover needs that are unforeseeable, urgent or seasonal in nature.

The payroll of the personnel of Local Authorities and their Legal Entities of Public Law is charged to the relevant budgets, with the credits coming either from the Central Autonomous Funds or from remunerative revenues, fees for the provision of services, etc.

Furthermore, it is pointed out that the coverage of the regular staff positions is based on the annual strategic recruitment planning, in harmony with both the budget programme and the forecasts of the multiannual recruitment planning prepared and submitted by the agencies.

In accordance with the institutional framework in force, each year, Local Authorities are invited, among others, to submit to the Ministry of the Interior, a request to fill vacant organizational positions in their Organization, after an assessment of their needs and on the condition that they have secured the necessary appropriations in their budget, at the same time setting an indication of priority for each of them.

After the approval of the positions to be filled by the Ministerial Council, regular staff are hired based on a notice and then a competition conducted by the ASEP, which is responsible for filling the organic positions of all public servants (L.4765/2021)

Local Government regular staff, within the framework of employee mobility (L. 4440/2016), may move from one Local Government Organization to another or from Local Government Bodies to Central Government Agencies and vice versa, subject to certain conditions and terms, which relate in particular to ensuring the adequacy of staffing of the agencies.

As for staff hired for urgent needs, it is hired upon annual programming and approval either by means of a Common Ministerial Decision of the Ministers of the Interior and of Economy and Finance or a Decision of the Minister of the Interior, depending on the case.

The staff of all categories currently<sup>18</sup> working in both Municipalities and Regions as a whole arises to 83.977 people, according to data obtained from the Human Resources Register of the Hellenic State.

It should be noted that the Municipalities will be further strengthened with staff, as a result of the abolition of Local Self-Government Entities (municipal legal entities of public law and public benefit enterprises) and of the transfer of their responsibilities and staff to the relevant Municipality, which entered into force from January 1, 2024.

The development of a system of systematic recording of personnel data contributed to the formation of a reliable database in contrast to previous years.

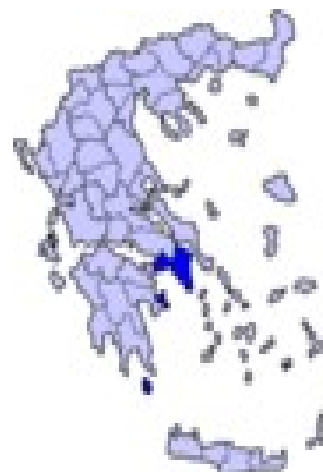
<sup>18</sup> The date of extraction of the mentioned data is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

ANNEX


DETAILED TABLES OF DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIONS


Decentralised Administration of Attica -Seat: Athens - 1 region

<b><u>Administrative Division of the Region of Attica</u></b>	
<u>Size:</u> 3.808 km <sup>2</sup> · <u>Population:</u> 3.814.064 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat:</u> Athens	
<b>Regional Unit of Central Sector of Athens</b>	Municipalities of Athens, Vyronas, Galatsi, Dafni-Ymittos, Zografou, Ilioupoli, Kaisariani, Filadelfeia - Chalkidona
<b>Regional Unit of Northern Sector of Athens</b>	Municipalities of Agia Paraskevi, Amarousio, Vrilissia, Irakleio, Kifisia, Lykovrysi-Pefki, Metamorfosi, Nea Ionia, Papagos-Cholargos, Penteli, Filothei – Psychiko, Chalandri
<b>Regional Unit of Western Sector of Athens</b>	Municipalities of Agia Varvara, Agioi Anargyroi-Kamatero, Aigaleo, Ilio, Peristeri, Petroupoli, Chaidari
<b>Regional Unit of Southern Sector of Athens</b>	Municipalities of Agios Dimitrios, Alimos, Glyfada, Kallithea, Moschato-Tavros, Nea Smyrni, Palaio Faliro
<b>Regional Unit of Piraeus</b>	Municipalities of Keratsini-Drapetsona, Korydallos, Nikaia - Agios Ioannis Rentis, Piraeus, Perama
<b>Regional Unit of Eastern Attica</b>	Municipalities of Acharnes, Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni, Dionysos, Kropia, Lavreotiki, Marathona, Markopoulo, Paiania, Pallini, Rafina - Pikermi, Saronikos, Spata-Artemida, Oropos
<b>Regional Unit of West Attica</b>	Municipalities of Aspropyrgos, Elefsina, Mandra-Eidyllia, Megara, Fyli
<b>Regional Unit of Islands</b>	Municipalities of Agkistri, Aigina, Kythira, Poros, Salamina, Spetses, Troizinia, Ydra
<b><u>Website:</u> <a href="http://www.attiki.gov.gr">www.attiki.gov.gr</a></b>	





Decentralised Administration of Macedonia - Thrace - Seat: Thessaloniki- 2 regions


Administrative Division of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace		
<u>Size</u> : 14.157 km <sup>2</sup> · <u>Population</u> : 562.201 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat</u> : Komotini		
<b>Regional Unit of Drama</b>	Municipalities of Doxato, Drama, Kato Nevrokopi, Paranesti, Prosotsani	
<b>Regional Unit of Evros</b>	Municipalities of Alexandroupoli, Didymoteicho, Orestiada, Samothraki, Soufli	
<b>Regional Unit of Thasos</b>	Municipality of Thasos	
<b>Regional Unit of Kavala</b>	Municipalities of Kavala, Nestos, Pangaio	
<b>Regional Unit of Xanthi</b>	Municipalities of Avdira, Mykis, Xanthi, Topeiros	
<b>Regional Unit of Rodopi</b>	Municipalities of Arriana, Iasmos, Komotini, Maroneia-Sapes	
<b>Website</b> :: <a href="http://www.remth.gr">www.remth.gr</a>		

Administrative Division of the Region of Central Macedonia		
<u>Size:</u> 18.811 km² · <u>Population:</u> 1.795.669 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat:</u> Thessaloniki		
<b>Regional Unit of Imathia</b>	Municipalities of   Alexandreia, Veria, Iroiki Poli Naousas	
<b>Regional Unit of Thessaloniki</b>	Municipalities of Ampelokipi-Menemeni, Volvi, Delta, Thermaikos, Thermi, Thessaloniki, Kalamaria, Kordelio-Evosmos, Lagkadas, Neapoli-Sykies, Pavlos Melas, Pylea-Chortiatis, Chalkidona, Oreokastro	
<b>Regional Unit of Kilkis</b>	Municipalities of Kilkis, Paionia	
<b>Regional Unit of Pella</b>	Municipalities of   Almopia, Edessa, Pella, Skydra	
<b>Regional Unit of Pieria</b>	Municipalities of Dia-Olympos, Katerini, Pydna-Kolindros	
<b>Regional Unit of Serres</b>	Municipalities of Amfipoli, Visaltia, Emmanouil Pappas, Irakleia, Nea Zichni, Serres, Sintiki	
<b>Regional Unit Of Chalkidiki</b>	Municipalities of Aristotelis, Kassandra, Nea Propontida, Polygyros, Sithonia	
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.rmc.gr">www.rmc.gr</a>		


**Decentralised Administration of Peloponnesus, Western Greece, Ionian Sea –  
Seat: Patras - 3 Regions**


Administrative Division of the <u>Region</u> of Peloponnesos		
<u>Size</u> : 15.490 km <sup>2</sup> · <u>Population</u> : 539.535 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat</u> : Tripoli		
<b>Regional Unit of Argolida</b>	Municipalities of Argos-Mykines, Epidavros, Ermioni, Nafplion	
<b>Regional Unit of Arkadia</b>	Municipalities of Voria Kynouria, Gortynia, Megalopoli, Notia Kynouria, Tripoli	
<b>Regional Unit of Korinthia</b>	Municipalities of Velo-Vocha, Xylokastro-Evrostini, Korinthos, Loutraki - Agioi Theodoroi, Nemea, Sikyonies	
<b>Regional Unit of Lakonia</b>	Municipalities of Anatoliki Mani, Monemvasia, Sparti, Elafonisos, Evrotas	
<b>Regional Unit of Messinia</b>	Municipalities of Dytiki Mani, Kalamata, Messini, Oichalia, Pylos-Nestor, Trifylia	
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.peloponnisos.gov.gr">www.peloponnisos.gov.gr</a>		

Administrative Division of the <u>Region</u> of Western Greece		
<u>Size</u> : 11.350 km <sup>2</sup> · <u>Population</u> : 648.220 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat</u> : Patras		
<b>Regional Unit of Aitolia-karnani a</b>	Municipalities of Agrinio, Aktio-Vonitsa, · Amfilochia, Thermo, Ieri Poli Mesolongiou, Xiromero, Nafpaktia	
<b>Regional Unit of Achaia</b>	Municipalities of Aigialeia, Dytiki Achaia, Erymanthos, Kalavryta, Patras	
<b>Regional Unit of Ilia</b>	Municipalities of Andravida-Kyllini, Andritsaina-Krestena, Archaia Olympia, Zacharo, Ilida, Pineios, Pyrgos	
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.pde.gov.gr">www.pde.gov.gr</a>		

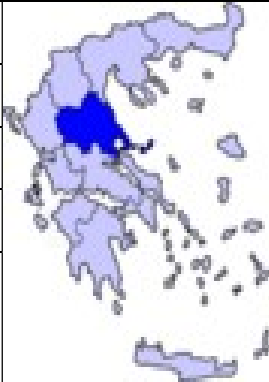
Administrative Division of the Region of Islands of Ionian Sea		
<u>Size:</u> 2.307 km <sup>2</sup> · <u>Population</u> : 204.532 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat:</u> Corfu		
<b>Regional Unit of Zakynthos</b>	Municipality of Zakynthos	
<b>Regional Unit of Corfu</b>	Municipalities of North Corfu, Central Corfu & Diapontion Islands, South Corfu, Paxoi	
<b>Regional Unit of Kefallinia</b>	Municipalities of Argostoli, Lixouri, Sami	
<b>Regional Unit of Ithaki</b>	Municipality of Ithaki	
<b>Regional Unit of Lefkada</b>	Municipalities of Lefkada, Meganisi	
<b><u>Website:</u> <a href="http://www.ionianisia.gov.gr">www.ionianisia.gov.gr</a></b>		


**Decentralised Administration of Ipiros-Western Macedonia, Seat: Ioannina -2 Regions**

Administrative Division of the Region of Ipiros		
Size: 9.203 km <sup>2</sup> · Population : 319.991 (official census 2021) · Seat: Ioannina		
Regional Unit of Arta	Municipalities of Arta, Georgios Karaiskakis, Kentrika Tzoumerka, Nikolaos Skoufas	
Regional Unit of Thesprotia	Municipalities of Igoumenitsa, Souli, Filiates	
Regional Unit of Ioannina	Municipalities of Voreia Tzoumerka, Dodoni, Zagori, Zitsa, Ioannina, Konitsa, Metsovo, Pogoni	
Regional Unit of Preveza	Municipalities of Ziros, Parga, Preveza	
Website: <a href="http://www.php.gov.gr">www.php.gov.gr</a>		


Administrative Division of the Region of Western Macedonia		
<u>Size</u> : 9.451 km <sup>22</sup> · <u>Population</u> : 254.595 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat</u> : Kozani		
<b>Regional Unit of Grevena</b>	Municipalities of Grevena, Deskati	
<b>Regional Unit of Kastoria</b>	Municipalities of Kastoria, Nestorio, Orestida	
<b>Regional Unit of Kozani</b>	Municipalities of Voio, Eordaia, Kozani, Servia, Velventos	
<b>Regional Unit of Florina</b>	Municipalities of Amynteo, Prespes, Florina	
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.westernmacedonia.gr">www.westernmacedonia.gr</a>		

**Decentralised Administration Authority of Thessalia- Sterea Ellada - Seat: Larisa – 2 Regions**

Administrative Division of the Region of Thessalia		
Size: 14.037 km <sup>2</sup> · Population : 688.255 (official census. 2021) · Seat: Larisa		
Regional Unit of Karditsa	Municipalities of Argithea, Karditsa, Limni Plastira, Mouzaki, Palamas, Sofades	
Regional Unit of Larisa	Municipalities of Agia, Elassona, Kileler, Larisa, Tempi, Tyrnavos, Farsala	
Regional Unit of Magnisia	Municipalities of Almyros, Volos, Zagoras – Mouresis, Notis Pilio, Rigas Feraios	
Regional Unit of Sporades	Municipality of Alonnisos · Municipality of Skiathos · Municipality of Skopelos	
Regional Unit of Trikala	Municipalities of Kalampaka, Pyli, Trikala, Farkadona	
Website: <a href="http://www.thessalia.gov.gr">www.thessalia.gov.gr</a>		


Administrative Division of the <u>Region of Mainland Greece</u>		
<u>Size</u> : 15.549 km² · <u>Population</u> : 508.254 (official census 2021) · <u>Seat</u> : Lamia		
<b>Regional Unit of Viotia</b>	Municipalities of Aliartos-Thespieon, Distomos-Arachovas-Antikyras, Thivas, Levadias, Orchomenos, Tanagra	
<b>Regional Unit of Evia</b>	Municipalities of Dirfys-Messapia, Eretria, Istiaia-Aidipsos, Karystos, Kymis-Aliveris, Mantoudi-Limni-Ag. Anna, Skyros, Chalkida	
<b>Regional Unit of Evrytania</b>	Municipalities of Agrafa, Karpenisi	
<b>Regional Unit of Fthiotida</b>	Municipalities of Amfiklia-Elatia, Domokos, Lamia, Lokri, Makrakomi, Stylida, Kamena Vourla	
<b>Regional Unit of Fokida</b>	Municipality of Delfi, Dorida	
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stereaellada.gov.gr">www.stereaellada.gov.gr</a>		


**Decentralised Administration of Crete-Seat: Heraklion-1 Region**

Administrative Division of the Region of Crete		
Size: 8.336 km <sup>2</sup> · Population : 624.408 (official census 2021) · Seat: Heraklion		
Regional Unit of Heraklion	Municipalities of Archanes-Asterousion, Viannos, Gortyna, Heraklio, Malevizi, Minoa Pediada, Faistos, Chersonisos	
Regional Unit of Lasithi	Municipalities of Agios Nikolaos, Ierapetra, Oropedi, Sitia	
Regional Unit of Rethymnon	Municipalities of Agios Vasileios, Amari, Anogia, Mylopotamos, Rethymnon	
Regional Unit of Chania	Municipalities of Apokoronos, Gavdos, Kantanos-Selinos, Kissamos,Platanias, Sfakia, Chania	
Website: <a href="http://www.crete-region.gr">www.crete-region.gr</a>		



Decentralised Administration of Aegean Sea – Seat: Piraeus – 2 Regions

Administrative Division of the Region of North Aegean Sea		
Size: 3.836 km <sup>2</sup> · Population : 194.943 (official census 2021) · Seat: Mytilini		
Regional Unit of Ikaria	Municipalities of Ikaria, Fourni - Korseon	
Regional Unit of Lesvos	Municipalities of Western Lesvos, Mytilini	
Regional Unit of Limnos	Municipalities of Agios Efstratios, Limnos	
Regional Unit of Samos	Municipalities of Eastern Samos, Western Samos	
Regional Unit of Chios	Municipalities of Oinousses, Chios, Heroic Island of Psara.	
Website: <a href="http://www.northaegean.gr">www.northaegean.gr</a>		

Administrative Division of the Region of South Aegean Sea		
Size: 5.286 km² · Population : 327.820 (official census 2021) · Seat: Ermoupoli		
Regional Unit of Andros	Municipality of Andros	
Regional Unit of Thira	Municipalities of Anafi, Thira, Ios, Sikinos, Folegandros	
Regional Unit of Kalymnos	Municipalities of Agathonisi, Astypalea, Kalymnos, Lipsi, Leros, Patmos	
Regional Unit of Karpathos-Heroic Island of Kasos	Municipalities of Karpathos, Heroic Island of Kasos	
Regional Unit of Kea -Kythnos	Municipalities of Kea, Kythnos	
Regional Unit of Kos	Municipalities of Kos, Nisyros	
Regional Unit of Milos	Municipalities of Kimolos, Milos, Serifos, Sifnos	
Regional Unit of Mykonos	Municipality of Mykonos	
Regional Unit of Naxos	Municipalities of Amorgos, Naxos & Mikron Cyclades	
Regional Unit of Paros	Municipalities of Antiparos, Paros	
Regional Unit of Rhodes	Municipalities of Megisti, Rhodes, Symi, Tilos, Chalki	
Regional Unit of Syros	Municipality of Syros-Ermoupoli	
Regional Unit of Tinos	Municipality of Tinos	
Website: <a href="http://www.notioaigaio.gr">www.notioaigaio.gr</a>		