



GREECE

Central Water Agency
Hellenic Ministry of the Environment Physical
Planning and Public Works
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<http://www.emwis-gr.org>

The National Focal Point team is composed of :

- **Mr. Pantelis PANTELOPOULOS**,
coordinator.
- **Mr. Spyros TASOGLOU**,
data manager.
- **Mr. Apostolos TERZOGLU**,
IT manager.

The Water Director is :

- **Mr. Ioannis SIBETHEROS**,
General Secretary of the Central Water Agency

www.emwis-gr.org

Greece has an EMWIS website, managed by its National Focal Point –NFP-, the Central Water Agency. Greece, leader of the Med component of the EU Water Initiative, has been particularly active in sharing knowledge with other countries within the “groundwater” working group of the Mediterranean Joint Process between the EU Water Initiative and the Water Framework Directive. Its experience has been particularly beneficial for involving EMWIS and Med water authorities in the Joint Process working groups.

DATA

- **Area** : 131 957 km²
- **Population** (mill) : 11,125 ***
- **GDP per capita** : 17 600 € ***
- **Water per capita** :
6 867 m³/inhab./year *

Sources :

* EMWIS NFP – Central Water Agency

- **Water withdrawal** :
irrigation : 84% *
Domestic, energy,
industry, etc. : 16% *

** Population of settlements served by sewerage systems, Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, 2007

- **Access to sanitation** :
TOTAL : 90% **

*** Eurostat-MEDSTAT 2007

The Hellenic Republic (Greece)

⇒ Legal Framework

Since December 2003, a new legislative and institutional framework has been put into force in Greece. It consists of Law 3199/9-12-2003 (OJG 280A/2003) on the "protection and the sustainable management of the water resources" and Presidential Decree 51/8-3-2007 (OJG 54A/2007), with which the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) is transposed into the national legislation.

⇒ Right to Water

Greece has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights where it is stated in Art. 11 that: "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions."

⇒ Main institution

The main national competent authority for water protection and management is the Central Water Agency of the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works. The National Water Committee determines the overall national policy for water protection and management. The Regional Water Directorates have the competence for the protection and management of all river basins within the Region's boundaries.

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
National Water Committee	✓			
Central Water Agency	✓			
Regional Water Directorate	✓			✓
Municipalities		✓	✓	

The territorial water management : Management Plans for the 14 Greek river basin districts are defined according to the EU WFD.

Inter-ministerial coordination is assured by the National Water Committee presided by the Environment Minister while **Public participation** is assured by the National and Regional Water Councils.

⇒ Main issues of Water Resource Management

Water scarcity is the main challenge for Greece. This situation is even exacerbated by timely uneven distributions of water availability with main rainfalls in winter and drought periods in summer, when the water demand is at its peak. Furthermore, the major users of water in Greece are mainly located in the Eastern and Southern regions of the country, which are rather disadvantageous as compared to the natural enrichment.

The agricultural sector is the main water users with about 84% of total water consumption for irrigation. Irrigation threatens water quantity also due to outdated infrastructures and unauthorised abstraction of groundwater resources that lead to over-exploitation.

⇒ Water pricing and cost recovery

The mean cost recovery level (for all water uses) for the whole country is estimated at 59.18% but the levels vary according to the river basin districts.

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	Proposals (for each river basin district) by Central Water Agency & Final Decision by National Water Committee	33.66% – 108.14%
Industry		
Agriculture : Irrigation		6.38% – 56.25%

⇒ Water master plan

A Master Plan, in accordance to the EU WFD, has been prepared in February 2008.

<http://www.semide.org>

<http://www.emwis.org>