

Annual Programme Report 2015
EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014
PROGRAMME GR.02 'INTERGRATED MARINE AND INLAND WATER
MANAGEMENT'

Checklist questions before submitting the Annual Programme Report	YES	NO
Does the executive summary serve as a stand-alone document?	X	
Does this report provide analyses on how activities so far have contributed to progress towards targeted results using agreed output and outcome indicators?	X	
Have successful bilateral achievements been highlighted?	X	
Have all the sections in the Annual Programme Report been addressed, including any relevant horizontal concerns?	X	

1. Executive summary

Twelve (12) projects were contracted in September 2015 covering the indicator targets for outcome 1 and implementation was initiated. The predefined project also started implementation in 2015. The Small Grant Scheme II granted 12 scholarships. The Small Grant Scheme I, will not be implemented due to lack of resources, after the decisions taken in the annual meeting of the 4th November 2015.

All projects are at early stage of implementation for achievements towards the objectives of reducing economic and social disparities.

The Programme achieved to contract the projects in due time, to gain one year extension in implementation. The new deadline of implementation of the projects for outcome 1 and 2, was set on the 30 April 2017.

Strong and substantial bilateral relationships are established through the selected projects. These relationships are characterized by cooperation between institutions, academia, civil society and public sector. Although the programme is in the initial phase of implementation the PO estimates that the four distinctive results will contribute more or less equally to the strengthening of the bilateral relations.

2. Programme area specific developments

The overall objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism (FM) are:

- reduction of economic and social disparities in the EEA and EU
- enhance bilateral relations between the Donor States and the beneficiary ones.

The objective of the Programme area is to ensure good environmental status of marine and inland waters in the EU.

The objectives of the Programme area will be implemented by 12 projects, the predefined project and the Small Grant Scheme II. More specifically, three projects constitute of procurement and installation of desalination units for drinking water in Telendos, Pserimos, los islands and Oia in Thira island in order to improve the quality of drinking water and protect the ground water reserves. The project in Leros Island consists of procurement and installation of a system for improvement and control of water quality and distribution. The remaining eight projects constitute of studies which be implemented by universities and other bodies in partnerships and will increase knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems or biodiversity loss and knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas.

The pre-defined project which is entitled : ‘Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme, in compliance with the requirements of the EU marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC’, is implemented by 5 sub-projects. Four of them are procurement and one in house implementation.

The Small Grant Scheme II provides grants for Ph-D students and post-doc researchers, in the field of marine and inland water resources management.

The Small Grant Scheme I which concerns implementation of environmental education programme in schools will not be implemented, due to lack of resources, according to the decisions taken in the EEA Grants annual meeting held on the 4t November 2015.

3. Reporting on outputs

3.1 Summary and analysis of how the selected projects are contributing to each of the Programme outputs

Three calls for submission of proposals – each one is related to each of the 3 outputs of outcome 1 - were published by the Programme Operator in 2014, with deadline for submission of proposals the 6th of February 2015. The selection procedure took place according to the terms described in the calls with no particular problems. The financed projects are expected to contribute to the output targets, in particular they are expected to overcome the output 1 and output 2 targets, by far.

The expected contribution of the projects to the output indicators is provided in the following table:

Outcome : More intergrated management of marine and inland waters			
Output 1. Water quality improved for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands			
Funded projects	Output Indicator	Target Value	Output Value of selected projects
1. SUPPLY OF DESALINATION UNITS OF PSERIMOS AND TELENDOS	Production of quality improved	2.500	200

2. SUPPLY OF A MOBILE SEA WATER DESALINATION UNIT FOR OIA	water for drinking or irrigation purposes (m3/day)		900
3. SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND SET IN OPERATION OF A SYSTEM FOR DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENT AND QUALITY CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION IN LEROS MUNICIPALITY			4.668
4. SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND SET IN OPERATION FOR "UPGRADING AND MODERNIZATION OF A DESALINATION, REFINERY AND DRINKING WATER PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION QUALITY SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IETE"			2.800
TOTAL		2.500	8.568

Output 2. Increased knowledge and awareness on the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems or biodiversity loss

Funded projects	Output Indicator	Target Value	Output Value of selected projects
1. IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE DETERMINATION OF THE MINIMALLY REQUIRED LEVEL	Number of studies leading to increased knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies.	2	5
2. INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND MAPPING STUDY TO IMPROVE SPERCHIOS RIVER CATCHMENT AREA AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLANS			2
3. INNOVATIVE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGIES FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF THE REGION OF CRETE-AQUAMAN			1
4. ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ON ATTICA WETLANDS RECOMPOSITION AND REHABILITATION			5
TOTAL		2	13

Output 3. Increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas

Funded projects	Output Indicator	Target Value	Output Value of selected projects
1. STUDIES AND RECORDING OF EROSION PHENOMENA REVERSION ON AEGEAN ISLANDS TOURIST BEACHES	Number of studies and/or interventions leading to increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and inland policy or the protection/management of coastal areas.	4	1
2. MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING ON THE AEGEAN FOR BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION			1
3. SMART SYSTEM DESIGN FOR WATER NETWORKS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT: APPLICATION IN CRETE			1
4. THE ANOXIC ZONE OF AMVRAKIKOS BAY: DEPICTION, IMPACT, MANAGEMENT /UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS			1
TOTAL		4	4

The 12 projects related to outputs 1, 2, 3, were contracted by the Programme Operator on the 2nd of September 2015. The implementation of the projects started in the last quarter of 2015. Progress in 2015 includes pre-approval of some tender documents by the Programme Operator, beginning of the

procurement period for some projects, and signature of the in-house implementation Decisions. The output indicators of the selected projects are expected to be met, when the projects are completed.

3.2 Summary of the pre-defined project implementation .

There is one predefined project in the Programme entitled:

“Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme, in compliance with the requirements of the EU marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC’. Project Promoter: The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research.

The expected contribution of the projects to the output indicators is provided in the following table:

Output	Output Indicator	Target Value	Predefined project Output value
Upgrades of existing systems for an integrated marine monitoring programme.	Number of intergrated marine monitoring programmes implemented, cf MSFD Article 5(2iv)	1	1
Increased area coverage of marine waters’ monitoring programmes	Number of marine sub-regions (cf MSFD, article 4(2) where a monitoring programme has been implemented.	3	3

The predefined project application was submitted and positively evaluated in 2014 and the project contract was signed in January 2015. The project is implemented by five (5) sub-contracts: four (4) procurements and one (1) in house implementation. The in-house implementation contract was pre-approved by the PO in April 2015 and signed in May 2015. An advanced payment, of 238.225 euros was given in December 2015 for sub-project 5. The tender documents for the procurement of the sub-projects 2 and 3 were pre-approved by the PO middle June of 2015 and deadline for the procurement was set in January 2016.

3.3 Summary of the Small Grant Schemes I and II implementation

- *SGS I*: “Environmental Educational programmes in primary and secondary education in the field of Water resources.”

Output for SGS I: Increased knowledge and awareness among students in primary and secondary public schools on the importance of protecting water resources

SGS I will not be implemented, according to the decisions taken in the Annual meeting of the 4th of November 2015, which lead to the amendment of the MoU and the Programme Agreement.

- *SGS II*: “Grants to graduates of higher education in the fields of marine and inland water resources management in Donor State’s institutions or universities.”

Output for SGS II: Graduates, fellows, / scholars, of higher education in the field of marine and inland water resources management spend time in and/or exposed to and/or learn from donor states' institutions or universities

This includes grants for PhD students or postdoctoral researchers to carry out part of the doctoral (PhD) studies or postdoctoral research in one of the European Economic Area (EEA) donor countries' institutions or universities – Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein- in fields of knowledge relevant to the sector of “Marine and Inland Management of Water Resources”.

The expected contribution of work undertaken to the output indicators is provided in the following table:

Output for SGS II:	SGS II Output indicator	Target value	Output value
Graduates, fellows, / scholars, grants for studies/research in the field of marine and inland water resources management spend time in and/or exposed to and/or learn from donor states' institutions or universities	Number of graduates, fellows, /scholars, grants for studies/research in the field of marine and inland water resources management in institutions or universities of donor states	22	12

One (1) invitation for applications was published in January 2015 which resulted in four (4) scholarships. A supplementary invitation for applications was published in June 2015 which resulted in eight (8) scholarships. In total 12 scholarships derived from SGS II during 2015. The implementation started, the grant-holders were accommodated in the donor states and the amounts related to 2015 have already been granted.

It is worthy to highlight that there have been scholarships for all of the 3 donor countries. Scholarships were awarded for Iceland and Lichtenstein which are rare destinations for Greek scholar-holders. Also an equal number of scholarships for Ph-D and post-Doc positions have been awarded.

The following table describes the level of studies and the country for which the scholarships of SGS II is given:

SGS II N° of Scholarships	Country	Level of Studies
5	Norway	PhD
4	Norway	Post-Doc
1	Iceland	PhD
1	Iceland	Post-Doc

1	Liechtenstein	Post-Doc
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4. Reporting on Programme outcome(s)

Expected Outcome: *more integrated management of marine and inland water resources*

The projects' outcome indicator to the outcome 'more integrated management of marine and inland water resources', is expected to overcome the target of the outcome indicator, as demonstrated below:

Outcome Indicator	Baseline (people)	Target (people)	Expected projects' outcome indicator value (people)
Population of the areas where actions for the improvement of the management of water resources have been implemented.	0	4000	21.900

A project example which contributes by far to the outcome indicator is the project "Procurement, installation and start-up of a quality control, quality improvement and distribution system, for drinking water, of Leros municipality". This project will provide complete installation and start-up of an automatic, telemetry and control system, of boreholes, water tanks, pumping stations, desalination plants, water refinery and water drills and water wells, in Leros municipality. It will protect the ground deposits from over-pumping phenomena, optimise operations and diminish the overall cost of distributing the water, provide good quality of water and conserve the island water resources. The project will serve 15.000 people on the island.

Expected Outcome: *Improved monitoring of marine waters*

The predefine project "Implementation of an integrated marine monitoring programme, in compliance with the requirements of the EU marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC" is the only project contributing to this outcome.

The main objective of the project is to facilitate the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive concerning the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the environmental status in the marine areas under the jurisdiction of the Hellenic Republic. The project will deliver the following: • Upgrade and expand the existing monitoring platforms with new sensors and technologies, • Data-sets and quality assessed time-series that estimate qualitative descriptors such as eutrophication, alternations of hydrography, noise and distribution and abundance of small pelagic fish. This will result in an increase in the area covered by marine waters' monitoring programs. The project will deliver data through web tools and applications deriving from operational marine observations and forecasting. It will also improve the fisheries data collected within the current monitoring programs and harmonize the estimation of the small pelagic fish stocks with the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

The outcome indicator and the predefined project contribution is demonstrated below:

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Target	Expected projects' outcome indicator value
Number of environmental monitoring programmes implemented	0	1	1

Expected Outcome: Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management

Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Target	Expected projects' outcome indicator value
Number of educational programmes in primary and secondary education, in the field of water resources	0	120	0
Number of graduates, fellows/scholars granted for studies/research in the field of marine and inland water resources management in donor states' institutions or universities	0	22	12

The outcome indicator 'number of educational programmes in primary and secondary education, in the field of water resources' will not be achieved, because the Small Grant Scheme I will not be implemented, as described in sections 2 and 3.3.

The second outcome indicator 'number of graduates, fellows / scholars granted for studies/research in the field of marine and inland water resources management in donor states' institutions or universities' will be achieved only in part, as only 12 applicants have been selected for the scholarships.

The measure A match-making event which was held in January 2015 in Athens, was fruitful for bilateral relations, judging from the amount of proposals that incorporated donor state institutes.

The main risk identified during 2015 was the tight time-schedule for implementation of the projects, which was due to end in April 2016. The mitigation action put in place was the extension of the selected projects' time schedule for implementation by April 2017, which was provided by the FMO.

The existence of a descriptive Management and Control System which sets out in detail the procedures to be followed during the implementation of the Programme, reduces significantly the risks of failure during the implementation of the projects.

The Programme is neutral in terms of horizontal concerns, such as Roma inclusion, promoting tolerance, multicultural understanding and respects for rights of minorities.

5. Project selection

In total, four (4) calls and a supplementary one have been issued in the Programme area GR.02: i.e. three (3) calls were issued for outcome 1. One (1) call and a supplementary were issued for outcome 3. These are analysed as follows:

Three calls of outcome 1 were published on the 02/12/2014 with deadline for submissions the 06/02/2015. These calls were revised on the 23/01/2015 mainly for incorporating the indirect costs in the eligible expenses.

1. OPEN CALL No GR02.01 FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS TO PROGRAMME OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA FINANCIAL MECHANISM (EEA FM) 2009-2014 Programme: GR02 - Integrated Marine & Inland Water Management

Eligible projects are construction/procurement of desalination units or water refineries (or replacement, extension, upgrading of existing facilities), in islands, or any other construction aiming to the improvement of water quality.

	Budget (€) (85% EEA 15% PIP)	Minimum grant amount (€)	Maximum grant amount (€)
Outcome 1 / Output 1: "Water quality improvement projects for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands"	3,500,000	500,000	3,500,000

Programme Output: Water quality improved for drinking or irrigation purposes in islands

Output Indicator - Production of quality improved water for drinking or irrigation purposes

Baseline 0, Target 2,500 m3 / day

2. OPEN CALL No GR02.02 FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS TO PROGRAMME OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA FINANCIAL MECHANISM (EEA FM) 2009-2014 Programme: GR02 Integrated Marine & Inland Water Management

Eligible projects are studies, surveys, inventories, support and development of museum collections, implemented models, etc. that increase knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems, biodiversity loss or that will be affected by the climate change.

All projects that increase knowledge and awareness and are necessary in order to fulfill a specific measure that is included in a Program of Measures of a River Basin Management Plan – RBMP, (for the implementation of Water Framework Directive) of one of the fourteenth Water Basin Districts of the country, are also eligible.

Also eligible are studies that lead to Management and protection plans (programme of measures) of sensitive water bodies such as wetlands, lagoons, river deltas, etc. as well as studies for recording the biodiversity in (mainland and mainly island) wetlands and their threats.

	Budget (€) (85% EEA 15% PIP)	Minimum grant amount (€)	Maximum grant amount (€)
Outcome 1 / Output 2 : “Increased knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems or biodiversity loss”	1,500,000	200,000	1,200,000

Programme Output: Increased knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems or biodiversity loss

Output Indicator – Number of studies leading to increased knowledge and awareness of the protection and management of water bodies

Baseline 0, Target 2

**3. OPEN CALL No GR02.03 FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS TO PROGRAMME OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA FINANCIAL MECHANISM (EEA FM) 2009-2014
Programme: GR02 - Integrated Marine & Inland Water Management**

Eligible are projects studies, surveys, inventories, development and implementation of models, etc. that increase knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas. Also, small-scale relevant interventions are eligible.

Indicative eligible for evaluation projects are:

- *Studies on the conservation and protection of the marine environment and biodiversity,*
- *Studies for the impact of fisheries to the biodiversity and ecosystems,*
- *Studies of protection, management and restoration of coastal ecosystems and biodiversity,*
- *Studies for integrated water management in synergy with waste management, energy autonomy, biodiversity protection and emergence of small scale agricultural cultivation in island areas of the country,*
- *Studies for recording and / or reversing erosion phenomena in coasts,*
- *“Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)” plans.*

	Budget (€) (85% EEA 15% PIP)	Minimum grant amount (€)	Maximum grant amount (€)
Outcome 1 / Output 3 : “Increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas.”	1,500,000	200,000	900,000

Programme Output: Increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas.

Output Indicator – Number of studies and/or interventions leading to increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas.

Baseline 0, Target 4

High level of interest for the calls was indicated. Specifically:

For call GR.02.01, nineteen (19) proposals were submitted. Four (4) of them were financed.

For call GR.02.02, twenty-nine (29) proposals were submitted. Four (4) of them were financed.

For call GR.02.03, forty-three (43) proposals were submitted. Four (4) of them were financed.

Overall 91 project proposals were submitted under outcome 1. The proposed projects were in line with the expected outcomes. The selection was concluded after covering the available budget for each of the three open calls.

Open call / output	No of submitted proposals	No of proposals with donor partnership	No of selected projects	No of selected projects with donor partnership
GR.02.01/output 1	19	0	4	0
GR.02.02/output 2	29	11	4	4
GR.02.03/output 3	43	12	4	2
TOTAL	91	23	12	6

The aforementioned calls are in line with the calls listed in the Programme Proposal.

Six (6) projects out of the twelve (12), have donor project partners.

The analysis of the available calls' budget, the submitted proposals' and the financed projects' budget is provided below:

Open call / output	Budget (€)	Budget of submitted proposals (€)	Budget of financed projects (€)
GR.02.01/output 1	3.500.000	20.303.300	3.481.250
GR.02.02/output 2	1.500.000	10.651.620	1.555.270
GR.02.03/ output 3	1.500.000	16.475.420	1.487.330
TOTAL	6.500.000	47.430.340	6.523.850

The selection procedure was implemented smoothly.

4. OPEN CALL for the Small Grant Scheme II and a supplementary: SCHOLARSHIPS IKY –EEA FOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH OR PART OF THE DOCTORAL (Ph.D) STUDIES IN NORWAY, ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN (EEA) IN THE FIELD OF “INTEGRATED MARINE AND INLAND MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES”

Related output “Graduates, fellows/scholars, of higher education in the field of marine and inland water resources management spend time in and /or exposed to and/or learn from donor states' institutions or universities.

Scholarships were for the academic year 2014-2015, involving at least 22 participants. Scholarship component of the programme GR02 supports PhD students or postdoctoral researchers to carry out part of the doctoral (PhD) studies or postdoctoral research in one of the European Economic Area (EEA) donor countries – Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein- in fields of knowledge relevant to the sector of “Marine and Inland Management of Water Resources such as: “Water Resources Technology - Management”, “Environmental Technology”, “Marine Land Planning - Coastal Areas Management”, “Environmental Management”, “Marine Ecology/Biology – Hydrobiology”, “Science of Water Resources, Protection and Management”, “Aquacultures”, “Marine Environment”, “Marine Technology”, “Drilling for Hydrocarbons”, “Renewable Energy Sources in Marine Environment – Hydro energy Production”, “Environmental Sciences”.

The amount of 600.000 € is dedicated for grants of 5.000 € (min) to 30.000 € (max), intended for about 22 scholars, to be implemented within 18 months.

I.K.Y. which is the Programme Operator for the Scholarships, published the 1st call on the 5th of November 2015 with deadline for submission of applications the 9th January 2015 and a supplementary one on the 1st of April 2015 with deadline for submission of applications the 5th June 2015.

The 1st call resulted in the submission of five (5) applications and finally the award of four (4) scholarships. The supplementary call resulted in eight (8) applications all eligible /and finally the award of eight (8) scholarships. This is indicated in the following table:

Small Grant Scheme II calls	Applications received	Scholarships
Call (9-1-2015)	5	4
Supplementary call(5-6-2015)	8	8
Total	13	12

Nevertheless the efforts to broad the scientific area for grants as possible and have a wide publicity campaign, the scheme concluded to 12 scholarships –out of the 22- covering the amount of 266.250€ - out of 600.000€

6. Progress of bilateral relations

The match making event took place on the 13 January 2015 in Athens, with the aim to facilitate bilateral relations and possible partnerships among interested parties. The actions planned for measure a, of the bilateral funds and it was addressed to potential Promoters and potential Partners from the Donor States.

The invited potential Donor Partners were public entities with experience and know how in water/environment engineering projects and environmental education. There were 108 Greek participants (potential Promoters) and five potential Partners from the Donor States.

During the event organisations from the donor states such as the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, Grid Arendal Norway, Samorka, Icelandic Energy & Utilities presented their organisations, activities and work, aiming for possible cooperation with interested parties from Greece. A list of interested

organisations from the donor states had been published on the SACEP GR.02 EEA Grants website.

The event was successful, because in 91 submitted proposals, 16 involved partnerships from the donor states. In the end, 6 from the 12 selected projects have partners from the donor states. That means that the half of them took advantage of the match making event on 13th of January. In this way the first bilateral indicator is formed:

Bilateral indicator	Indicator value		
	Base	Target	Achieved
Number of project partnership agreements in the public sector	0	3	6

As the projects are in the first stages of implementation the rest bilateral indicators and outcomes have not got value yet, but the Project Operator assesses that they would be fulfilled this year (2016) and further achievements in networking, exchange of knowledge would be reported.

7. Monitoring

The monitoring procedures of projects are defined in detail in the management and control system of the Programme Operator p.n. 12104/EYD&PLAP 275 28/3/2014 issued by the Minister of Finance, Development and Competiveness and the regulation for EEA Grants.

The Programme Operator issued the circular of May p.n. 140496/11-5-5015 entitled "Specification of Operation and Procedures for the Programme Area Integrated Marine & Inland water management" with specific guidelines, clarifications and other details.

On 12th of October a technical meeting took place in the amphitheatre of the ministry. The aim of this meeting was to inform the representatives of the 13 project promoters about the management, monitoring, financing and implementation in general, of their projects.

As mentioned before, projects are in the initial stages of implementation. Therefore, a detailed monitoring programme for all projects is developed, including the pre-defined project.

8. Need for adjustments

According to the letter of the Director of the Financial Office, Mr Stine Andersen, on 26 of May 2015, the Donor States decided to grant an extension of the final date of eligibility, until 30 April 2017.

This, in combination with the decisions taken in Annual meeting on 4th of November 2015, about the reallocation of the budgets, leads to the amendment of the MoU and the Programme Agreement.

9. Risk management

The period of implementation was rather short but after the exceptional extension of the final date of the eligibility of selected projects - has been extended to 30 April 2017- it seems there is no risk for delays.

However there is a risk of delays due to procedures of procurements. The P.O. is in close cooperation with the project promoters in order to deal with managerial or administrative obstacles, by giving clarifications and guidelines.

The Complaint Mechanism is active on the website of Project Operator in order the principles of openness, transparency and accountability as the main stepping stones for the EEA Grants policy of good governance, to be ensured.

Regarding the Small Grant Scheme II: “Grants to graduates of higher education in the fields of marine and inland water resources management in Donor State’s institutions or universities.” Although there was wide publicity, there was insufficient participation from applicants to the programme of scholarships. The SGS Operator (IKY) addressed a second call for scholarships. Although there was a limited response to the calls, all the imposed proposals were of a good quality and mature, as the candidates were already students (Postdoc or PhD candidates) of Greek Universities.

10. Information and publicity

A special area in the website of the SACEP has been created (<http://www.eysped.gr/en/Pages/eea.aspx>) dedicated for the publicity of the GR.02.Programme. The site is linked with the relevant NFP and FM EEA grants websites. All published calls and also any relevant information and documents have been uploaded, and therefore made available to interested parties (project promoters, project partners, public and beneficiaries of the Programme). There is already the website of IKY <https://www.iky.gr/upotrofies-gr/didaktoriko/eox> and <https://www.iky.gr/upotrofies-gr/metadidaktoriko> for the Small Grant Scheme II. Project Promoters are working on the development of their websites according to their communication plan, in cooperation with P.O. Some of them have already developed their website for the projects. Indicatively: <http://tya.ios.gr/>, <http://www.aquaman.tuc.gr/>, <http://www.thira.gr/prokhryxeis-diagwnismoi.html>. These websites also hosted on SACEP website.

Regarding the Small Grant Scheme II the IKY website has been uploaded with the open call for scholarships, as soon as it was issued. The call had a broad publication in newspapers, radio, liaison offices for universities (AEI) and technological educational institutions (TEI), faculty secretaries, and research intuitions which are active in the relevant fields. Social networks were used successfully for the dissemination too. It also got publicity in I.K.Y events, as well as in the launching event organized for GR.02 on the 12 January by SACEP.

GR.02. Programme launching event was organized in Athens on the 12 January 2015, which attracted wide interest by Greek and Norwegian representatives. A detailed presentation of the EEA grants scope, the Programme and the relevant calls took place. There were 160 Greek participants (potential Promoters).

In the technical meeting of 12th of October 2015 the communication plan of the Project Operator was presented to the project promoters and clear guidelines and clarifications about projects’ communication plan were given.

11. Cross-cutting issues

Positive performance of the GR.02 Programme can currently reported only regarding the good governance issues. This is because the implementation of projects hasn't started yet. Further details about the three cross-cutting issues for the previous year, can be found below:

i. Good governance

Regarding good governance the web area in the SACEP website, which is mentioned in section 10 of this report has been created. The dedicated website for the GR.02 Programme contains General information for the Programme and the Programme Operator, the relevant legislation, the issued calls and a list of questions and answers about the calls.

Also, all the signed contracts and amendments of them and public procurements have been uploaded, in order to enhance participation, inclusiveness and transparency.

ii. Sustainable development

A special section in the application form accompanying the calls GR.02.01, GR.02.02, GR.02.03 is dedicated to sustainability of the proposed projects. All selected projects describe in detail how environmental social and economic sustainability is achieved.

iii. Gender equality

The Programme is neutral.