



LIFE-IP CEI-Greece
Circular Economy
Implementation in Greece
LIFE18IPE/GR/000013



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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
BTP	Biowaste Treatment Plant
CEI	Circular Economy Implementation
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
EGCs	Enhanced Green Centres
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
FOI	Field of Intervention
FP	Financial Plan
FOI	Field of Intervention



GA	Grant Agreement
GR	Greece
GRFU	Green Fund
HSCS	Holistic Separate Collection System
ID	Identification
IPE	Integrated Project - Environment
LWMP	Local Waste Management Plans
MATH	Development Authority of Greater Urban Thessaloniki SA
MEEN	Ministry of Environment and Energy
MIS	Management Information System
MoA	Municipality of Athens
MoT	Municipality of Tinos
MoVVV	Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
NWMP	National Waste Management Plan
OP	Operational Programme
OPECC	Operational Programme “Environment and Climate Change”
PIP	Public Investment Programme
PPP	Public Private Partnership
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
RRR	Reduce Reuse Recycle
RRU	Recovery and Recycling Unit
RTS	Recyclable Transfer Station
RWMP	Regional Waste Management Plans
SMA_OP	Special Managing Authority of Operational Programme
TIESD	Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development
WMA	Waste Management Authority(ies)
WTP	Waste Treatment Plant(s)
WTS	Waste Transfer Station(s)



2. Document Information

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3. Summary

This Executive Summary covers the key findings and progress detailed in the 3rd Detailed Report on Complementary Funding (Deliverable F2.D4) for the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project (LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013). The report, dated November 2025, addresses the coordination, monitoring, and mobilization of complementary funding necessary to support the implementation of the Circular Economy in Greece. The project itself is co-funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union and the Green Fund and is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment & Energy.

Policy and Strategic Framework

The report highlights that the waste management system in Greece is undergoing a significant reform to improve performance, comply with EU funding regulations, and ensure the necessary infrastructure is financed.

- **Holistic Separate Collection System (HSCS):** A key result of this reform is the development of the Holistic Separate Collection System (HSCS) across Greece's 14 regions. The HSCS is now established as the main operational axis for implementing the targets outlined in the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) and Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP).
- **Funding Prerequisite:** The preparation of the HSCS is mandatory for Solid Waste Management Authorities (WMA) and serves as a key prerequisite for projects (Recovery and Recycling Units, Biowaste Treatment Plants and Green Centres) to be eligible for funding under the "Environment and Climate Change" Operational Programme (OPECC) 2021–2027.
- **WMA Role:** Recent guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (February 2025) place particular emphasis on the role of WMAs in supporting smaller municipalities (below 30,000 inhabitants) by centralizing the collection and transport of specific streams, such as biowaste, green waste, and bulky items, to achieve economies of scale.

Complementary Funding Mobilization

Monitoring indicates that complementary funding mobilization has reached 42.4% of the initially set target of €800,309,080.83.

- **NSRF 2014-2020 Absorption:** This achievement is mainly driven by funds available from the NSRF 2014-2020 period. The Operational Programme "Environment and Climate Change" (OPECC) showed a 64.3% absorption rate of its foreseen amount (€373,728,163.00), while ROP 'Central Macedonia' exceeded its target at 114.5% and ROP 'Epirus' neared completion at 98.3%.
- **Remaining Funds:** Despite this progress, large sums totalling €461,055,608.03 remain to be mobilized.



- Specialization in 2021-2027 Period: The transition to the NSRF 2021-2027 programming period is active. The OPECC 2021-27, under Action 4.6.67.68.183.OA1, has specialized €480,000,000.00 for integrated municipal waste management. This action is intended to finance critical infrastructure—such as RRUs, independent BTPs, and separate collection systems—to achieve 2030 recycling and landfill diversion targets.
- Total Specialized Funds: As of the October 2025 update, the total amount of funds specialized for the implementation of the NWMP and RWMPs is €499,000,000.00.

Progress of Synergistic Projects

Projects directly related to LIFE-IP CEI-Greece actions are moving forward, often supported by bridge funding mechanisms to cover the gap before new NSRF calls open.

- Enhanced Green Centres (EGCs): The Green Fund (GRFU) has secured bridge funding of €3,000,000 for the construction of the EGCs in the Greater Athens area (Athens, Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni) and Thessaloniki, which will be subsequently transferred to the NSRF 2021-2027 when relevant calls are issued.
- Pilot Regions: Infrastructure development is progressing in pilot regions. Land acquisition for the Biowaste Treatment Plant (BTP) in Alonissos has been completed using a Green Fund loan. The Municipality of Thira is in the tendering process (Phase A completed) for a Recovery and Recycling Unit (RRU) and landfill for residues.

The structural reform, including the establishment of the HSCS, and the specialization of funding under the NSRF 2021-2027 are maturing, pointing toward an accelerated pace of complementary funds absorption. However, delays associated with this transition mean that certain synergistic infrastructure has not yet begun construction.

The report concludes that based on the assumption that infrastructure completion will extend beyond the current project end date of October 2027, an extension of the project's duration is recommended. Such an extension would maximize the benefits and ensure the successful operationalization of all synergistic infrastructure financed under the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece framework.



4. The project LIFE-IP CEI-Greece “Circular Economy Implementation in Greece”

The integrated project LIFE-IP CEI-Greece, LIFE/18-IPE/GR/000013 is co-funded by the LIFE programme of the EU and the Green Fund and is one of the most important projects for the implementation of Circular Economy in Greece. The project is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment & Energy, in collaboration with 19 strategic partners: the Hellenic Recycling Agency, Green Fund, Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, National Quality Infrastructure System – Hellenic Organization for Standardization, Municipalities of: Athens – Thessaloniki – Alonissos – Paros – Antiparos - Tinos - Thira (Santorini) - Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni - Nafpaktia, DAFNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands, DIADYMA S.A. (Waste Management of Western Macedonia), Harokopian University of Athens, Ecological Recycling Society, Terra Nova and Central Market of Thessaloniki.

With a total duration of 8 years and a timeline expanding until October 2027, the project aims to contribute towards the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan, the National Waste Prevention Plan and the National Strategy for Circular Economy. A new concept for waste management emerges within this project; based on circular economy principles, promoting behavioral changes and supporting actions to increase product life cycle, convert waste into valuable resources and implement successfully the legislative framework for waste.

Actions of LIFE-IP CEI-Greece

The synopsis of the project actions to be implemented until October 2027 follows:

- Construction and Operation of three (3) Enhanced Green Centres, one (1) in the Municipality of Athens, one (1) in the Municipality of Vari, Voula, Vouliagmeni and one (1) in the Municipality of Thessaloniki. The ultimate goal of this action is to enhance the Green Centres, so that they are dedicated not only to waste collection, but also to re-direction of objects and items, such as furniture, waste, clothes and textiles, books, toys etc. for reuse or the preparation for reuse. A Recycle, Repair and Reuse Experiential Park will also operate in the Municipality of Thessaloniki.
- Development of an integrated waste management system in four (4) islands and one (1) in a mountainous region (Alonissos, Paros-Antiparos, Thira, Tinos and Municipality of Nafpaktia) applying in practice the waste hierarchy and the new legislative framework for waste, based on the principles of Circular Economy.



- Full development of hazardous household waste management and collection networks in the region of Western Macedonia and the Municipality of Athens.
- Full scale implementation of the PAYT “Pay as you throw” financial tool, in the Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni.
- Actions on food waste prevention focusing in the establishment of an effective system for monitoring and preventing waste throughout the food supply chain, from production to consumption, as well as demonstration actions for best practices on food waste prevention and the development of a specialized platform to operate as a hub for monitoring and managing food waste production prevention.
- Development of local/regional alliances for agrofood waste management.
- Development of national Circular Economy indicators and establishment of a Circular Economy Observatory to monitor on a continuous basis, through national indicators, the progress of the implementation of policies in Greece related to the transition from the dominant linear model of production and consumption to Circular Economy.
- Development of new standards for secondary raw materias to support the implementation of Circular Economy.
- Development of a web-based national Circular Economy Repository.
- Capacity building actions to transfer knowledge and skills such as seminars on specific topics, adapted to the needs of all stakeholders, a food waste prevention forum and distance training.
- Communication actions to raise awareness and disseminate the project results such as regional info days and conferences.



5. Existing status in waste management in Greece

The waste management system in Greece is currently under a reform that is expected from one side to improve waste management and support the achievement of the country's targets and on the other side comply with EU funding regulations and ensure the availability of funds for the development or completion of all necessary waste management infrastructure. This reform was necessary but was also time consuming, since it involved the involvement of all levels of governance (local, regional and national) in a new process development. The result of this reform is the development of 14 regional Holistic Separated Collection Systems (HSCS) or Plans. The following sub-chapters explain in detail the whole reform process that is still under implementation, while 7 HSCS are completed. The following information is directly relevant to the delays that have been arising in the development of infrastructure that is acting synergistically with the project actions.

5.1 Holistic Separate Collection System (HSCS)

5.1.1 Framework for the implementation of the HSCS

The Holistic Separate Collection System (HSCS) is part of the broader framework of waste management planning at the regional level. It constitutes a mandatory tool for the Solid Waste Management Authorities (WMA). Its preparation is directly linked to the Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP), which must comply with the provisions of Law 4819/2021 and the general guidelines of 2020 for their revision. Following the approval of the "Environment and Climate Change" Operational Programme (OPECC) 2021–2027 by the European Union, the need emerged to specify the regulatory framework further so that the projects proposed in the RWMPs can be financed.

Within this context, the obligation was established to prepare an investment plan for each RWMP, in which the WMAs must provide in-depth justification for the choices of equipment and infrastructure, the quantities to be managed and the corresponding costs. At the same time, a circular of the Ministry of Environment and Energy set specific, detailed specifications for the adaptation of the RWMPs, so that the projects they include are eligible under OPECC. In this investment plan, the inclusion of a comprehensive HSCS for the entire Region is now considered a key prerequisite and is no longer treated as a supplementary element.

5.1.2 Regional HSCS

The preparation of the RWMPs falls under the responsibility of the competent WMA, who are called upon to design, at the regional level, a coherent waste management system, of which the HSCS is an integral part. The HSCS is not a fragmented action plan, but a single, holistic framework that covers all Municipalities of a Region, taking into account their specific characteristics (demographic, geographical, touristic, etc.).



With the legislative amendment that imposed the preparation of an investment plan per RWMP, the HSCS acquires an even more central role: it must substantiate which collection options, which equipment and which infrastructures are deemed necessary, what costs they entail and how these are linked to the Region's targets for separate collection, recycling and reduction of mixed residual waste. The circular of the General Secretary for Waste Coordination serves here as an "implementation guide", as it includes detailed sections into which the design of the HSCS must be integrated, with clear criteria, assumptions and required tables.

5.1.3 Purpose of the HSCS

The main purpose of the HSCS is to draw up a preliminary, yet at the same time mature, design of a separate collection system for each WMA, which can technically and economically support the choices to be made at the Regional level. The design must be realistic and based on the current Status of the Municipalities, on actual waste quantities, on the available equipment, and on the needs arising in order to meet the targets of the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) and the RWMP.

The time horizon up to 2035 allows for the scaling-up of actions, with a gradual increase in the quantities collected separately and a corresponding reduction in residual mixed waste. Within the framework of the HSCS, specific waste streams are mandatorily examined, such as biowaste (food scraps and green waste), recyclable materials, and bulky waste, with the possibility to add additional streams where this is deemed appropriate. For each stream, collection scenarios must be presented, the necessary equipment must be recorded, the investment and operating costs per Municipality must be quantified, and the funding sources that will cover these costs (OPECC, landfill tax, own resources, etc.) must be clearly set out.

5.1.4 Responsible body for implementation

Responsibility for the preparation of the HSCS lies primarily with the competent WMA, who must ensure the collection of the necessary data, cooperation with the Municipalities and that the study meets the requirements of the relevant circular. The WMA may use internal resources or assign the preparation of parts of the plan to external consultants, always retaining responsibility for coordination and final approval.

In cases where a WMA is found to be unable to adequately or timely meet the requirements, there is the possibility for the Ministry of Environment and Energy, through consultants, to assist in the preparation of the HSCS. For this to be feasible, the WMA must send in good time the data corresponding to Section A1 (current status), so that central planning is based on actual data and not on theoretical assumptions.

Section A.1 – Current Status - Existing Collection Programmes



Section A.1 deals exclusively with the recording, description, and evaluation of the existing separate collection systems in the Municipalities of the Region. The objective is to capture accurately “where we stand today”, both in terms of infrastructure and equipment and in terms of collection performance.

In this section, the separate collection systems applied for the various waste streams (paper/cardboard, metals, glass, plastic, biowaste, etc.) are described in detail, with a distinction between household and commercial waste and between packaging and non-packaging waste. For each Municipality, the geographical coverage of the programmes is recorded, any gaps are highlighted, and the collection methods are described (bins, recycling centres, recycling corners, door-to-door collection, etc.), as well as the density of collection points in relation to the population and the collection frequency.

At the same time, the existing infrastructures (Waste Transfer Stations (WTS), Material Recovery Facilities, green waste collection sites, etc.) and the available equipment (type and number of bins, collection vehicles, refuse trucks, etc.) are presented. Existing contracts with external partners, their terms, performance indicators, and any penalties foreseen in case of failure to meet specific targets are also examined. Finally, the section concludes with the quantitative depiction of the collected quantities per stream, the separate collection rates (capture rate), and the estimation of the gap in relation to the targets. All these are summarised in a flow diagram illustrating the waste flows from source to treatment.

Section A.2 – New Programmes & Alternatives

Section A.2 is the “bridge” between the current Status and the desired future system. Building on the data of Section A.1 and on the targets set by the National and the Regional Waste Management Plans, a well-documented proposal is shaped for the new organisation of separate collection.

In this framework, waste flows are quantified per Municipality and per stream (biowaste, recyclables, bulky items, etc.), the targets to be achieved per year are identified and the options regarding the collection method are analysed. For each stream, the WMA must examine at least two alternative scenarios for the organisation of separate collection, which may differ in terms of the number of streams (e.g. collection of all recyclables in one stream or in several) or the type of system (communal bins, door-to-door, hybrid schemes, etc.).

For each alternative solution, the investment cost (equipment, infrastructure, reinvestments), the operating cost (collection, transport, treatment), the cleanliness/purity of the collected stream, the technical reliability, and the ease of citizen participation are analysed and compared. It is essential to substantiate the feasibility of achieving the regional targets, something which is also reflected in target tables per Municipality and per type of area.

Step 1 – Categorisation of Municipalities in the Region



At the first design step, the Municipalities of the Region are grouped into categories with common characteristics, so that it becomes possible to develop tailored yet comparable solutions. The main criteria taken into account are permanent population and population density (based on census data), the intensity of tourism, and the predominantly rural or mountainous character of the Municipality. This categorisation is not fixed but allows flexibility so that the specificities of each Region can be reflected. The aim is to develop feasible collection models for different types of areas (e.g. urban, semi-urban, rural, island, and mountainous Municipalities).

Step 2 – Quantification of targets

In the second step, the quantities of waste that must be collected separately per stream, per Municipality and for the Region as a whole are determined, so that the RWMP targets can be met. This quantification is based on data collected from questionnaires to Municipalities, from previous or ongoing funded projects, from data provided by Alternative Management Systems and from the internal data of the WMA.

For each stream, the following are examined:

- current collected quantities,
- the required quantities that must be achieved and,
- the available equipment.

Comparing these figures reveals the “gap” in infrastructure, equipment and actions, which must subsequently be addressed through specific investment measures and operational interventions.

Step 3 – Development of separate collection scenarios

The third step concerns the creation of alternative scenarios for the separate collection of waste. For each stream (recyclables, biowaste, bulky waste), different options are examined in terms of the structure of the collection system, the extent of door-to-door service, the use of recycling centres or recycling corners and the interconnection of the various subsystems.

Particularly for biowaste, a distinction is made between collection from large producers (hotels, food service establishments) and collection from households and small producers.

The objective of this step is to highlight a range of realistic options that can function in practice, taking into account the characteristics of each Municipality and of the Region as a whole. These scenarios form the basis for the next phase of the analysis.

Step 4 – Analysis



In the fourth step, a techno-economic analysis of the alternative scenarios is carried out. For each scenario, the investment cost (purchase and installation of bins, vehicles, infrastructures, digital systems, etc.) and the operating cost (staff, fuel, maintenance, energy, operation of digital platforms, waste management in complementary facilities) are systematically assessed. Unit costs are based either on recent procurements or on well-documented offers or accepted market assumptions.

This analysis is not limited to financial figures but also takes into account qualitative aspects such as the purity of collected materials, the ease of implementation, the flexibility of the system in the face of future changes and citizen acceptance. In this way, a clear picture emerges of the advantages and disadvantages of each solution.

Step 5 – Selection of the final scenario

In the fifth and final step, the WMA proceeds to select the final scenario for each waste stream, based on the results of the analysis. This choice must be justified succinctly yet comprehensively: it should explain why the specific solution was preferred, which criteria were weighed (financial, technical, environmental, social) and how the achievement of the targets is ensured within a reasonable timeframe.

From the selection of the final scenarios arises a set of actions for the Region's HSCS. For each action, the expected quantities to be collected separately, the needs for new equipment and infrastructures and the corresponding investment and operating costs are determined. The HSCS is completed with a consolidated table in which, for each action, the total investment budget, the annual operating cost and the corresponding funding sources are presented.

5.2 Additional remarks

In the HSCS, particular waste streams falling under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime are also taken into consideration. Although these actions contribute to the achievement of the overall targets, they are neither dimensioned nor costed within the HSCS, as they are expected to be covered by resources from the obligated producers. Similarly, for certain categories of Municipalities, such as mountainous or small island Municipalities subject to special provisions, waste management costs may not be analysed in the same level of detail.

Special reference is made to the stream of recyclable materials, for which the investment and operating costs borne by the WMA or the Municipalities must be clearly separated, given that reforms are underway concerning extended producer responsibility. This distinct depiction is required so that it is possible in the future to redefine the financial obligations of the stakeholders involved.



5.3 Supplementary guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (February 2025)

With more recent guidelines from the Ministry of Environment and Energy, particular emphasis is placed on supporting smaller Municipalities, especially those with a population below 30,000 inhabitants. For these Municipalities, it is considered that it is often more difficult to organise comprehensive separate collection systems on their own, both due to limited resources and due to lack of technical and administrative capacity.

In this context, it is proposed that WMA, through programme contracts, assume a central role in the collection and transport of biowaste from households, in the collection of green waste and bulky items, as well as in the management of recycling corners. This centralised approach makes it possible to achieve economies of scale, to optimise the use of equipment and human resources and, ultimately, to pursue the NWMP and RWMP targets more effectively.

Furthermore, the HSCS must explicitly state for which Municipalities the WMA undertakes the collection and transport of specific streams (biowaste, green waste, bulky items, streams from recycling corners), so that the role of each body is clear and the planning of funding and implementation of the actions is facilitated.

5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the Holistic Separate Collection System (HSCS) constitutes the main operational axis for the implementation of the NWMP and RWMP targets at Regional level. Through the recording of the current Status, the quantification of needs, the analysis of alternative scenarios and the well-documented selection of actions, the HSCS shapes a coherent and implementable framework for all Municipalities.

This approach strengthens the role of WMAs as central planning bodies and ensures that investments in equipment, infrastructures and services can be financed, operated effectively and deliver measurable results. The HSCS, therefore, is not a theoretical exercise but a practical tool for the transition to a modern, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable waste management system.



6. Specialisations

According to article 35 of Law 4914/2022 on "Management, control and implementation of development interventions for the 2021-2027 Programming Period", the specialisation of the Programme constitutes the supporting tool for the planning and issuance of calls, the integration of operations and the overall monitoring of the implementation of the Programme, and contributes to the effective management of the Programmes.

6.1 Specialisation of the "Environment and Climate Change" Programme 2021-27

The Special Service for the Management of Programmes "Environment and Climate Change" and "Civil Protection" (OPECC), with the [specialisation](#) of 6/11/2025, during the 18th specialisation process of the "ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE" Programme 2021-2027, proceeded to the specialisation of the new action belonging to priority 04 "Integrated Waste Management - Transition to a Circular Economy" and financed by the Cohesion Fund, as follows:

Action 4.6.67.68.183.OA1 : Integrated municipal waste management to achieve long-term recycling and circular economy goals in the Regions of the country.

6.1.1 Action description

This specialisation, which belongs to the specific objective RSO 2.6, concerns the financing of actions belonging to the following categories of actions of the NSRF 21-27 as reflected in the MIS:

- Source sorting, collection and transport equipment for biowaste and local scale composting units
- Strengthening networks for the separate collection of recyclable materials and upgrading their processing units with innovative technologies
- Upgrading/modernization of Mechanical and Biological Waste Treatment Units to achieve long-term recycling and circular economy goals
- Construction of Sanitary Landfills for Waste (segmented projects).

This specialisation aims to finance a network of facilities, equipment networks and actions that will contribute to achieving the objectives of the circular economy and compliance with the *acquis communautaire*, in particular with regard to municipal waste recycling rates (60%



in 2030 and 65% in 2035) and diversion from landfill (minimization of landfill to 10% of MSW produced by 2030).

This concerns the implementation of actions that include separate collection networks for distinct municipal waste streams, the corresponding Recycling Recovery Units (RRU) and any other supporting infrastructure (e.g. Waste Transfer Stations (WTS), pre-sorted biowaste composting units (BTP)) that are required and combined will allow the achievement of long-term recycling goals in each Region of the country, individually or per management unit, in accordance with the current National Urban Waste Management Plan (NWMP) and the corresponding National Urban Waste Management Plans (RWMP).

These objectives will be achieved through the creation of:

- i. Recovery and Recycling Units (RRUs) that receive and process primarily separately collected municipal waste streams and secondarily residual mixed waste, with the aim of recovering high-quality materials for recycling, including the production of high-quality compost, and subsequently recovering materials for other recovery operations and energy production, as well as minimizing processing residues for landfilling.

The design of the RRUs aims at gradually increasing the inflow of discrete streams (pre-sorted recyclable waste and bio-waste) into the units while reducing the amount of residual waste sent to landfill. The quantities of the above waste are determined in advance based on a needs analysis of the service area and are consistent with the relevant RWMP.

- ii. Independent pre-selected biowaste processing units (BTP), with the aim of producing high-quality compost, which operate as an auxiliary to the RRU, provided that this is provided for in the relevant RWMP.
- iii. Systems and equipment for sorting at source, separate collection and transportation of waste into distinct streams, as well as other supporting facilities (e.g. Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)).

It is noted that the OPECC 2021-2027 Programme states that the financing of investments in infrastructure (WTP¹ and BTP) under the current rules must be accompanied by the development and implementation of a parallel and complementary programme for sorting at source distinct streams of municipal waste, i.e. the proposals of the Waste Management Authorities for the management of solid waste in their service area (Region or Administrative Unit) will be accompanied by a " Holistic Separate Collection System" (HSCS).

The specialised actions also include:

¹ Waste Treatment Plant



- the completion of segmented Waste Treatment Plants (WTPs) operations from the 2014-2020 Programmemeing Period with their conversion into RRUs, as well as the conversion of existing WTPs into RRUs.
- the completion of segmented landfill projects of the 2014-2020 Framework Programmeme pursuant to article 118a of the CPR² 1060/2021, provided that they accompany the corresponding WTP/RRU or BTP in the same act. A prerequisite is that the disposal to the landfills concerns residues from the processing of the corresponding RRU and/or BTP. Pending the commissioning of the Treatment Units, the disposal to the said landfills will take place in any case in accordance with the Malagrotta decision .

All the above actions must be part of an integrated and coherent strategy, consistent with the RWMP of each region, based on a needs analysis, options analysis, cost-benefit analysis of the RWMP (from collection to treatment and disposal), and an assessment of functionality and sustainability.

For the financing of the RRUs, the procedure of partial payment of the EU participation based on performance milestones in separate collection and treatment for recycling (BONUS SCHEME) agreed between the European Commission and the Greek Authorities will be applied in order to reward the beneficiaries-WMAs that proceed with the implementation of a comprehensive programme to achieve the relevant separate collection and treatment targets for waste to enhance recycling.

Special care will be taken to avoid funding the same services for the same service area in relation to previous or parallel funding cycles of corresponding actions in each area.

The beneficiaries of the above actions will be the 14 (fourteen) WMAs of the country. The amount specified and accompanying the decision of 6/11/20025 (ΑΔΑ: 6ΖΔ7Η-6ΙΣ) is € 480,000,000.00.

Below is the Table with the Output and Result Indicators of the Action.

² Common Provisions Regulation



Table 1 Output and Result Indicators of Action - OPECC

Priority	Policy Objective / Specific Objective	Region Category	Action	Action budget (€)	Indicator		Unit measurement	Base/reference value	Base/report year	Landmark (2024)	Target 2029	Field of Intervention (FOI)		Amount corresponding to the FOI (EU contribution in €)	Amount corresponding to the FOI (EU + national contribution in €)
					ID	Designation						Code FOI	Name of the FOI		
04	SO2 / ES 2vi (RSO2.6) - Promoting the transition to a circular economy and a resource-efficient economy (Cohesion Fund)	-	Action 4.6.67.68.183.OA1 : Integrated municipal waste management to achieve long-term recycling and circular economy goals in the Regions of the country	480,000,000	RCR103	Separately collected waste	Tons/year	0	2020	0	512,600	067	Household waste management: prevention, minimization, sorting, reuse, recycling measures	62,050,000	73,000,000
					RCO 34	Additional capacity for waste recycling	Tons/year	-	-	0	2,151,412	068	Household waste management: residual waste treatment	340,000,000	400,000,000
					RCR 47	Recycled waste	Tons/year	0	2019	0	1,285,984				
					PSO 541	Capacity of waste landfills	Cubic measure (m ³)	-	-	0	357,306	183	Household waste management: landfill	5,950,000	7,000,000
					PSR 541	Quantity of municipal waste treatment residues sent for safe disposal	Tons/year	0	2021	0	16,964				
					PSO694	Beneficiaries supported	Number	-	-	0	14	067, 068,183		408,000,000	480,000,000



6.2 Specialisation of the "Attica" Programme 2021-27

The specifications of the "Attica" programme have not been published, while in the integrated operations, up to October 2025, there were no actions belonging to the specific objective RSO 2.6.

6.3 Specialisation of the "Central Greece" Programme 2021-27

The specifications of the "Central Greece" programme are not published, but in communication with the Special Management Authority it was reported that no relevant specifications have been made with the specific objective RSO2.6, except that 3 projects have been transferred from the previous programming period. These projects, with a total budget of € 2,750,839.63, are listed in the table below.

Table 2 Projects of the Operational Programme of Central Greece, transferred from the programming period 2014-2020 to 2021-2027.

MIS code	Title	Date of accession	Status	Co-financed Public Expenditure of the Operation (€)
6022306	Green Point of the Municipality of Lamia	20/05/2025	Secured	519,850.75
6022309	CREATION OF A GREEN POINT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEVADEA	16/05/2025	Secured	867,240.28
6022308	CREATION OF A GREEN POINT (Green Point) MUNICIPALITY OF CHALKIDEA	28/04/2025	Secured	1,363,748.60

6.4 Specialisation of the "Central Macedonia" Programme 2021-27

By 24/10/2025, 9 four-month [call programmes](#) had been issued, but none of them contained actions related to waste management and the circular economy, while the programme's specifications have not been made public yet.

In addition to the above, in the "Central Macedonia" programme, the transfer of 8 (eight) operations from the previous programming period has been approved, all of which relate to specific objective RSO 2.6, which are listed in the following table.

MIS code	Title	Date of accession	Status	Co-financed Public Expenditure of the Operation (€)
6016207	Green Point Polygyros	6/6/24	Secured	1,380,745.16



6016671	Creation of a Green Spot in the Municipality of Volvi	7/22/24	Secured	642,199.10
6017615	Creation of a Green Spot in the Municipality of Edessa	10/2/24	Secured	631,656.88
6016428	Construction of a Green Waste Management Point in the Municipality of Serres	6/19/24	Secured	2,304,632.23
6017587	Creation of a Green Spot in the Municipality of Nea Zichni	10/1/24	Secured	494,564.88
6016206	Creation of a Green Spot in the Municipality of Veria	7/22/24	Secured	609,878.00
6016257	Creation of a Green Spot in Giannitsa, Municipality of Pella	6/26/24	Secured	734,143.44
6011254	Creation of a Green Spot in the Municipality of Iraklia	7/24/24	Secured	670,906.10
			TOTAL	7,468,725.79

6.5 Specialisation of the "Crete" Programme 2021-27

The [specialisations](#) of the "Crete" programme do not yet include any specialisation in the areas related to waste management and the circular economy and in particular in the specific objective RSO 2.6.

6.6 Specialisation of the "Eastern Macedonia, Thrace" Programme 2021-27

By 2/9/2025, [33 decisions had been issued to specialise](#) the programme, but pending the approval of the region's HSCS, no specialisation has yet been made in the areas related to waste management and the circular economy.

6.7 Specialisation of the "Epirus" Programme 2021-27

Until 17/9/2025, the [specialisations](#) of the "Epirus" programme are in the 8th^{edition} (8.3). In this, there is a specification in the specific objective RSO2.6 "Promoting the transition to a circular economy and a resource-efficient economy". Through this specific type of action, the integration of environmental infrastructure in Municipalities (this is small-scale local infrastructure) for waste management is sought in accordance with the provisions of the revised Epirus RWMP and the Local Waste Management Plans (LWMP) of the Municipalities, taking into account the principles of the circular economy.

Within the framework of this specific type of action, the following actions are included:



- Completion of Green Centres in the Region of Epirus (concerns the smallest municipalities in terms of population in the Region).
- Small-scale or local interest actions and projects.

In particular, the following are financed:

- Infrastructure projects for the creation of Large or Small Green Centres
- Supplies of equipment for the operation of the above, excluding equipment available from existing EPR schemes
- Acquisition of land for the installation of the above
- Connection projects with utility networks
- Archaeological works, with the competent ephorate of antiquities as beneficiary-partner
- Awareness and Publicity Actions

This sub-action concerns the inclusion of operations in the Epirus 2021-2027 Programmeme for which, for administrative reasons, their withdrawal from the OP Operational Programme of Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development (SMA_OP_TIESD) 2014-2020 is required, in accordance with the Action Plan, and meets the eligibility criteria of the new Programmeming Period 2021-2027.

The actions are:

MIS code	Title	Date of accession	Status	Co-financed Public Expenditure of the Operation (€)
6011327	Construction of a Green Centre in the Municipality of Ziros	7/15/24	Integrated	697,644.62
6007480	Construction of a Green Centre in the Municipality of Zitsa	6/12/24	Integrated	799,508.43
6010830	Construction of a Green Centre in the Municipality of Nikolaos Skoufas	7/24/24	Integrated	849,871.26
6006961	Construction of a Green Centre in the Municipality of Igoumenitsa	7/15/24	Integrated	926,798.44
6011306	Green Centre of the Municipality of Preveza	7/24/24	Integrated	615,029.48
6011242	Construction of a "Green Centre " in the Municipality of Ioannina	7/30/24	Integrated	876,620.22
6012099	Green Centre of the Municipality of Parga	9/18/24	Integrated	782,592.61
			TOTAL	5,548,065.06

From the above total budget, payments of € 2,215,474.09 have been made and € 1,759,532.62 remain.



The budget of the action is € 2,000,000.00. However, the necessary enabling conditions, which are the updated waste management plan, are not met yet.

6.8 Specialisation of the "Ionian Islands" Programme 2021-27

The specialisations [up](#) to 20/10/2025, when the 26th specialisation phase was implemented, do not yet include any specialisation in the areas related to waste management and the circular economy.

6.9 Specialisation of the "North Aegean" Programme 2021-27

The programme's [specialisations](#) up to 12/11/2025 do not yet include any specialisation in the areas related to waste management and the circular economy, and in particular for the specific objective RSO 2.6.

6.10 Specialisation of the "Peloponnese" Programme 2021-27

Until 17/11/2025, the [specialisations](#) of the "Peloponnese" programme do not yet include any specialisation in the areas related to waste management and the circular economy.

6.11 Specialisation of the "South Aegean" Programme 2021-27

The programme's [specialisations](#) do not yet include any specialisation in areas related to waste management and the circular economy.

6.12 Specialisation of the "Thessaly" Programme 2021-27

On 12/4/2023, the [specialisation](#) of the "Thessaly" programme took place with ΑΔΑ: 91597ΑΠ-7ΛΟ, which provides for the action entitled "Promotion of recycling, "green centre" projects (transferred projects)".

The action concerns exclusively operations that were positively assessed in the context of the Call with code 074 and were included in the SMA_OP_Thessaly 2014-2020 and that for management reasons dictate their transfer from the SMA_OP_Thessaly 2014-2020 for their continuation and completion in the "Thessaly" Programme 2021-2027 and in full compliance with the requirements of the 2021-2027 period. This procedure was foreseen in the Action Plan for the progress and completion of the SMA_OP_Thessaly 2014-2020, within the context of the EU Regulations, Circulars and Directives of the General Directorate for Public Administration and the National Strategic Reference Framework. The factors taken into account concern the progress of implementation of the operations in question, the financial data established for the SMA_OP_Thessaly 2014-2020, as well as the



targeting and corresponding financial capabilities, as well as the requirements for achieving payment progress and achieving the indicator value in the year 2024 of the "Thessaly" 2021-2027 Programme, ensuring the uninterrupted continuation of financing and completion of the operations in question.

The action includes:

- Construction & equipment of Green Centres in Municipalities of Thessaly (including bulky waste shredding equipment as provided for by the approved Thessaly RWMP for the central Municipalities) and recycling equipment, as well as a Recyclable Transfer Station (RTS) on the island of Skopelos.
- Supply of home composting bins to the Municipalities of Thessaly.
The action to promote home composting concerns the supply, installation and operation of home composting bins in households that express interest and sign a contract with the respective Municipality in order to cover 4 - 5% of the households in the Municipalities of Thessaly.
- Biowaste collection systems exclusively for the Municipalities of Karditsa, Trikala, Pyli and Mouzaki.
The collection systems include brown bins, vehicles/garbage trucks for collecting brown (biowaste) bins with the aim of transporting them to the under-construction central RRU of the Trikala-Karditsa Administrative Unit.

It is noted that the agreement of the competent WMA on the compatibility of each proposed act with the RWMP of Thessaly under review is a necessary condition for its positive evaluation. Finally, the specification states that the necessary and appropriate conditions are not met yet.

The projects transferred from the NSRF 2014-2020 are listed in the table below.

MIS code	Title	Date of accession	Status	Eligible Public Expenditure of the Operation (€)
6016393	Green centres and recycling transfer station (RTS) of the Municipality of Skopelos	7/23/24	Integrated	1,828,739.20
6016396	Central Green Centre and biowaste management system of the Municipality of Karditsa	7/31/24	Integrated	2,380,180.93
6016397	Green Centre of the Municipalities of Pyli and Mouzaki and Biowaste Management System of the Municipality of Pyli	9/2/24	Integrated	1,365,197.92
6016398	Home Composting and Sorting System at the Biowaste Source of the Municipality of Mouzaki	8/6/24	Integrated	597,620.41



6016400	Actions for separation at source of the municipality of Tyrnavos	9/11/24	Integrated	786,095.27
6016401	Creation of a Central Green Centre in the Municipality of Volos and promotion of Home Composting	9/11/24	Integrated	2,470,477.00
6016402	Green Centre, Home Composting and Bulky Waste Processing Equipment of the Municipality of Larissa	7/26/24	Integrated	2,713,958.57
6016560	Solid waste management interventions of high priority of the Thessalia RWMP in the municipality of Trikala (GREEN CENTRE)	8/23/24	Integrated	3,076,764.64
6016572	Separation at source actions, Municipality of Farsala	8/6/24	Integrated	749,199.87
6017507	Separation at source actions, Municipality of Agia	9/17/24	Integrated	818,201.49
			TOTAL	16,786,435.30

The total budget earmarked for the above projects amounts to € 19,000,000.00.

6.13 Specialisation of the "Western Greece" Programme 2021-27

The programme's [specialisations](#) do not yet include any specialisation in areas related to waste management and the circular economy.

6.14 Specialisation of the "Western Macedonia" Programme 2021-27

By 25/10/2025, [105 decisions had been made](#) to specialize the "Western Macedonia" programme, but without including actions related to waste management and the circular economy.

7. Complementary funds progress

The project has been closely monitoring the progress of complementary funds expenditure since the beginning. In this detailed report, an additional table showing the expenditure that has been achieved so far has been produced. This expenditure reflects the amounts that have been spent with the funds available mainly from NSRF 2014-2020, plus some other funding sources. Since funding from the NSRF 2021-2027 has not commenced yet, although the transfer of projects has been going on, as can be seen in chapter 6, the expenditure in the table below gives a clear indication of the level of achievement of the complementary funds mobilization process achieved so far, compared to the targets set in the FP forms of the proposal.



Table 3 Expenditure overview. Mobilisation of funds compared to the targets set in FP forms.

Sources of financing	Amount of funding (EUR)			
	Amount foreseen in the GA	Amount spent (NSRF 2014-2020)	Remaining to fulfill GA	(%) Absorption of funds per source of funding
EU Funds				
OP"Environment and Climate Change"	373,728,163.00	240,464,090.08	133,264,072.92	64.3%
ROP 'ATTICA'	157,605,000.00	13,237,442.31	144,367,557.69	8.4%
ROP 'CENTRAL GREECE'	23,303,754.00	0.00	23,303,754.00	0.0%
ROP 'CENTRAL MACEDONIA'	31,705,882.00	36,297,354.58	-4,591,472.58	114.5%
ROP 'CRETE'	11,352,000.00	1,052,899.61	10,299,100.39	9.3%
ROP 'EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE'	42,955,500.00	10,134,704.66	32,820,795.34	23.6%
ROP 'EPIRUS'	7,750,000.00	7,620,374.16	129,625.84	98.3%
ROP 'IONIAN ISLANDS'	11,067,958.30	0.00	11,067,958.30	0.0%
ROP 'NORTH AEGEAN'	16,400,000.00	722,582.15	15,677,417.85	4.4%
ROP 'PELOPONNESUS'	59,250,000.00	1,781,136.00	57,468,864.00	3.0%
ROP 'SOUTH AEGEAN'	4,500,000.00	0.00	4,500,000.00	0.0%
ROP 'THESSALY'	11,200,000.00	1,673,848.21	9,526,151.79	14.9%
ROP 'WESTERN GREECE'	28,300,000.00	11,935,647.29	16,364,352.71	42.2%
ROP 'WESTERN MACEDONIA'	8,958,823.53	2,641,752.95	6,317,070.58	29.5%
TOTAL (OP, ROPs)	788,077,080.83	327,561,832.00	460,515,248.83	41.6%
EU Funded Projects				
LIFE	0.00	8,051,154.00		
INTERREG		1,880,594.00		
OTHER		1,315,000.00		
TOTAL (EU Funded Projects)	0.00	11,246,748.00		
Other public funds				



Public Investment Programme (PIP) - National Financing	12,232,000.00			
Green Fund	0.00	444,892.80		
TOTAL (Public Funds)	12,232,000.00	444,892.80	11,787,107.20	3.6%
Private Funds				
-	-			
TOTAL (Private Funds)	0.00			
GRAND TOTAL	800,309,080.83	339,253,472.80	461,055,608.03	42.4%

It can be seen in Table 3 that the mobilisation achieved so far has reached 42.4% of the initially set target. Bearing in mind that the HSCS are about to be completed and the new calls are going to open, it is expected that the achievement of the set targets level is going to increase with an accelerated pace. Certain infrastructure that have not yet started being built, are expected to be completed after the foreseen end date of the project as it is at the moment. Based on this assumption, an extension of the project's duration could ensure that all infrastructure is in place and operational, to ensure that the mobilisation of the complementary funds is acting synergistically with all project actions.

Based on the data that has been provided by the Special Managing Authority of the NSRF – MEEN, that depict the existing transferred projects to the new programming period, the complementary funds overview is as follows.



Table 4 Overview of complementary funds mobilisation status.



**LIFE-IP CEI
Greece
Complementary Funding
Details
LIFE18
IPE/GR/000013**

Worksheet Name Planning for 2021-2027

Update of October 2025 (contains updated data up to 27 October 2025)

Data used Date November 2025

Sources of financing	Amount of funding (EUR)				
	REMAINING Amount foreseen in the GA	Amount Specified	Amount committed	Amount Approved	Amount Spent
EU Funds					
OP 'Environment and Climate Change' (OPECC)	133,264,072.92	480,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP 'ATTICA'	144,367,557.69	0.00	867,800.00	585,945.00	0.00
OP 'CENTRAL GREECE'	23,303,754.00	0.00	2,569,102.17	636,319.45	0.00
OP 'CENTRAL MACEDONIA'	-4,591,472.58	0.00	7,468,725.79	5,174,637.38	0.00
OP 'CRETE'	10,299,100.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP 'EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE'	32,820,795.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP 'EPIRUS'	129,625.84	0.00	5,548,065.06	3,788,532.44	2,146,174.09
OP 'IONIAN ISLANDS'	11,067,958.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP 'NORTH AEGEAN'	15,677,417.85	0.00	12,065,847.65	2,935,597.48	72,495.56



OP 'PELOPONNES US'	57,468,864.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP 'SOUTH AEGEAN'	4,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP 'THESSALY'	9,526,151.79	19,000,000.00	16,792,418.29	748,586.84	0.00
OP 'WESTERN GREECE'	16,364,352.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP 'WESTERN MACEDONIA'	6,317,070.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	460,515,248.83	499,000,000.00	45,311,958.96	13,869,618.59	2,218,669.65
EU Funded Projects					
LIFE					
INTERREG			9,442,961.80	9,442,961.80	-
OTHER					
TOTAL (EU Funded Projects)		0.00	9,442,961.80	9,442,961.80	0.00
Other public funds					
Public Investment Programme (PIP) - National Financing	11,787,107.20				
TOTAL (Public Funds)		-	-	-	-
Private Funds					
-					
TOTAL (Private Funds)					
GRAND TOTAL	472,302,356.03	499,000,000.00	54,754,920.76	23,312,580.39	2,218,669.65

As can be seen from Table 4 and after the recent specialisation published from the OPECC, the amount of funds that have been specialised for the implementation of the NWMP and the RWMPs has been secured and following the completion of the HSCSs, existing and new projects are going to be completed.

7.2 LPIs connected with existing projects in Greece

Based on the availability of data that were provided by the NSRF Authority of MEEN, for the projects that have been transferred so far, at least one indicator is connected to the projects that is relevant to the amount of waste separately collected (RCR 103). From 42 project currently in the data, 35 have the RCR 103 indicator.



The RCR 103 indicator per region and per beneficiary can be seen in the following Table.

Table 5 Indicator RCR 103 target value sum per region and per beneficiary (waste separately collected) for the projects that have been transferred and data is available from the relevant authority.

Region/Beneficiary	Indicator's target value (tn/yr)
Central Greece	11212.48
MUNICIPALITY OF LAMIA	708.48
MUNICIPALITY OF LIVADIA	2500
MUNICIPALITY OF CHALKIDA	8004
Central Macedonia	6021.79
MUNICIPALITY OF VERIA	1179.17
MUNICIPALITY OF VOLVI	619.4
MUNICIPALITY OF EDESSA	760
MUNICIPALITY OF IRAKLIA	495.9
MUNICIPALITY OF NEA ZICHNI	328.9
MUNICIPALITY OF PELLA	432.01
MUNICIPALITY OF POLYGYROS	179.71
MUNICIPALITY OF SERRES	2026.7
Epirus	15486.55
MUNICIPALITY OF ZIROS	787.5
MUNICIPALITY OF ZITSA	822.9
MUNICIPALITY OF IGOUMENITSA	1831.55
MUNICIPALITY OF IOANNINA	7695.6
MUNICIPALITY OF NIKOLAOS SKOUFAS	727
MUNICIPALITY OF PARGA	977
MUNICIPALITY OF PREVEZA	2645
North Aegean	19635.46
MUNICIPALITY OF WEST LESVOS	6053
MUNICIPALITY OF LEMNOS	127
MUNICIPALITY OF MYTILENE	11652.46
MUNICIPALITY OF CHIOS	1803
Thessaly	9250.87
MUNICIPALITY OF AGIA	175.75
MUNICIPALITY OF VOLOS	5536.25
MUNICIPALITY OF KARDITSA	362.2
MUNICIPALITY OF LARISSA	1939.08
MUNICIPALITY OF MOUZAKI	69.98
MUNICIPALITY OF PYLI	173.97
MUNICIPALITY OF SKOPELOS PREFECTURE OF MAGNESIA	37
MUNICIPALITY OF TRIKALA	575.56
MUNICIPALITY OF TYRNAVOS	126.88



MUNICIPALITY OF FARSALA	254.2
Grand Sum	61607.15

As can be seen from Table 5 the amount of separately collected waste capacity that will be achieved in 32 municipalities by 35 projects is 61,607.15 tn/yr.

8. Progress of projects relevant to LIFE-IP CEI-Greece

The progress and status of all the projects that are directly related to LIFE-IP CEI-Greece actions are presented in this chapter.

The definition of this category of projects currently being implemented in Greece is projects that belong into one of the following sub-categories:

- a) Pilot projects described in the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece proposal i.e. Enhanced Green Centres (EGCs) and the RRR unit³, and
- b) Projects that act synergistically with LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project actions and are located in the vicinity of partner municipalities⁴.

These projects were described and presented in the previous detailed report (LIFE-IP_CEI-GR_F2_D3_0.1_Detailed-Report), as amended, in Table 13 and annexed (Annex X) in the letter sent by MEEN on the 18th of October 2024 "Response to the e-mail received on 24th of June 2024 with subject "LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013 - LIFE-IP CEI-Greece – Second Interim Payment" (issue 51 of the CINEA letter Ref. Ares (2024)3736780-24/05/2024)".

³ These projects are indicated with an "a" in their S/N in the following table

⁴ These projects are indicated with a "b" in their S/N in the following table



Table 6 Actions of the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project that are financed by complementary funds and complementary actions that are implemented in the same geographical area and affect the local waste management plans.

S/N	Relevance to LIFE	Description	Foreseen budget (€)	Funding source	Funding status	Legal Commitment (€)	Total Expenditures (€)	Comments
1a	Sub-Action C.1.1 Thessaloniki's EGCs construction & Operation	Building permit (EGCs and RRR unit)	151,000	LIFE	Secured	151,000	0	The building permit and all the technical documents necessary to start the construction of the EGC and the Reuse unit are being prepared by the Development Authority of Greater Urban Thessaloniki SA (MATH) and are expected by 2/1/2026 ⁵ .
2a	Sub-Action C.1.1 Thessaloniki's EGCs construction & Operation	EGC construction in Municipal Communities D and E and Reuse Centre	3,000,000	GRFU Bridge funding/ NSRF 2021-2027	Secured	0	0	The NSRF 2021-2027 will open its calls by the end of 2025 early 2026. In order to avoid any delays in the project's progress a bridge funding mechanism has been ensured by the GRFU. The project's funding will be transferred from GRFU to NSRF 2021-2027 when the call opens and MoT makes the relevant application.
3a	Sub-Action C.1.1 Thessaloniki's EGCs construction & Operation	EGC operating equipment	805,000	LIFE - NSRF 2021-2027 - MoT	Secured	0	0	The necessary equipment will be purchased by MoT either as part of the project's approval for funding in NSRF or with combined funds from LIFE and own funds.
4a	Sub-Action C.1.2 Greater Athens area EGCs construction and Operation - EGC of Municipality of Athens	Building permit	144,300	MoA	Secured	144,300	0	The selection process for the entity that will prepare the construction study and the building permits has been cancelled and will reopen by the end of November 2025 with a deadline by the end of December 2025. After that the selection process will start and the entity that will prepare the construction study will be selected.
5a	Sub-Action C.1.2 Greater Athens area EGCs construction and Operation - EGC	EGC construction in Athens	3,000,000	GRFU Bridge funding/ NSRF 2021-2027	Secured	0	0	The NSRF 2021-2027 will open its calls by the end of 2025 early 2026. In order to avoid any delays in the project's progress a bridge funding mechanism has been ensured by the GRFU. The project's funding will be

⁵ The Joint Monitoring Committee of the contract with MATH, on 3/11/2025, unanimously approved an extension of two (2) months for the submission of the 1st contractual deliverable. This pushed the deadline for the 1st deliverable submission to January 2, 2026. The delivery date of the 2nd deliverable will also be similarly shifted. The extension was requested by MATH due to delays caused by the need to incorporate observations into the final studies (architectural, static, and E/M), and because the infrastructures and building volume were submitted to CINEA for approval.



S/N	Relevance to LIFE	Description	Foreseen budget (€)	Funding source	Funding status	Legal Commitment (€)	Total Expenditures (€)	Comments
	of Municipality of Athens							transferred from GRFU to NSRF 2021-2027 when the call opens and MoA makes the relevant application.
6a	Sub-Action C.1.2 Greater Athens area EGCs construction and Operation - EGC of Municipality of Athens	EGC operating equipment	980,000	LIFE - NSRF 2021-2027 - MoA	Secured	0	0	The necessary equipment will be purchased by MoA either as part of the project's approval for funding in NSRF or with combined funds from LIFE and own funds.
7a	Sub-Action C.1.2 Greater Athens area EGCs construction and Operation - EGC of Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni	Building permit	61,654.99	MoVV	Secured	61,654.99	61,654.99	Completed
8a	Sub-Action C.1.2 Greater Athens area EGCs construction and Operation - EGC of Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni	EGC construction in Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni	3,000,000	GRFU Bridge funding/ NSRF 2021-2027	Secured	0	0	The NSRF 2021-2027 will open its calls by the end of 2025 early 2026. In order to avoid any delays in the project's progress a bridge funding mechanism has been ensured by the GRFU. The project's funding will be transferred from GRFU to NSRF 2021-2027 when the call opens and MoA makes the relevant application.
9a	Sub-Action C.1.2 Greater Athens area EGCs construction and Operation - EGC of Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni	EGC operating equipment	980,000	LIFE - NSRF 2021-2027 - MoVV	Secured	0	0	The necessary equipment will be purchased by MoVV either as part of the project's approval for funding in NSRF or with combined funds from LIFE and own funds.
10b	Sub-action C.2.1 - Municipality of Alonissos	Biowaste Treatment Plant	659,475.66	GRFU/ NSRF 2021-2027	Secured	0	42,000	The sub-projects that comprise the BTP plant are as follows: 1. Land acquisition of a biowaste treatment plant of the municipality of Alonissos. This has been completed through a loan given to the municipality from the Green Fund. Once



S/N	Relevance to LIFE	Description	Foreseen budget (€)	Funding source	Funding status	Legal Commitment (€)	Total Expenditures (€)	Comments
								<p>the project is approved in NSRF 2021-2027, the amount is going to be recovered.</p> <p>The remaining sub-projects have not commenced yet. A licensing procedure (zoning) is underway from the Region of Thessaly. Once complete the remaining sub-projects will proceed. Preliminary work for sub-project 2 is taking place.</p> <p>2. Studies of biowaste treatment plant of the municipality of Alonissos. 3. Construction of a biowaste treatment plant in the municipality of Alonissos. 4. Supply of equipment for the biowaste treatment plant of the municipality of Alonissos. 5. Supply of equipment for the separate collection system of biowaste of the municipality of Alonissos. 6. Technical support for the implementation of a separate biowaste collection system of the municipality of Alonissos.</p>
11b	Sub-action C.2.1 - Municipality of Paros	Biowaste Treatment Plant as part of a Recovery and Recycling Unit (RRU)	5,880,000	80% (PIP - National funds - NSRF), 20% (PPP)	Secured	-	-	This budget is updated and corresponds to the construction of the BTP plant in Paros. The RRU will have a capacity of 15,000tn/yr. The plant will be financed as part of a decision for South Aegean's waste management infrastructure that has a budget of approximately € 600,000,000.
		2 Green Centres	1,990,000	NSRF 2014-2020	Secured			Under completion.
		Home composters	9,837,600	NSRF 2014-2020	Secured			Household composters of South Aegean (including pilot areas of Paros and Thira) Under completion
		Underground bins	120,000	NSRF 2014-2020	Secured			Completed
12b	Sub-action C.2.1 -	Waste transfer station (WTS)		80% (PIP - National	Secured			The WTS will have a capacity of 6,000 tn/yr, as part of a decision for South Aegean's



S/N	Relevance to LIFE	Description	Foreseen budget (€)	Funding source	Funding status	Legal Commitment (€)	Total Expenditures (€)	Comments
	Municipality of Tinos			funds – NSRF), 20% (PPP)				waste management infrastructure that has a budget of approximately € 600,000,000.
		Waste collection truck	80,000	Filodimos	Secured		80,000	Completed
13b	Sub-action C.2.1 – Municipality of Thira	RRU and landfill for residues	26,500,000	PIP – National funds – NSRF, PPP	Tendering Process (Submission of Expression of Interest Files)			Phase A has been completed, which was the pre-selection of those candidates who meet the criteria of personal status and prove that they have, on the one hand, the required financial and financial competence and, on the other hand, the required technical and professional ability as well as the suitability to exercise a professional activity for the participation in the tender and the award of the partnership contract.
14b	Sub-action C.2.1 – Municipality of Nafpaktia	Biowaste collection system	433,173.17	NSRF 2014-2020	Secured		67,741.20	
		2 Green Centres	927,413.94	NSRF 2014-2020	Secured		892,063.76	Completed
		Waste Treatment Plant, Biowaste Treatment Plant and Landfill)	15,035,685.55	NSRF 2014-2020 / NSRF 2021-2027	Secured		4,960.00	The project will commence once the HSCS of Western Greece is finalized and the call opens. Biowaste collected from the Municipality of Nafpaktia is currently diverted in a private BTP plant.



9. Conclusion

This 3rd Detailed Report on Complementary Funding (Deliverable F2.D4) assesses the coordination, monitoring, and mobilization of complementary funding for the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project (LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013), which aims to support the implementation of the Circular Economy in Greece. The report finds that the waste management system in Greece is undergoing a significant reform necessary to improve waste management, comply with EU funding regulations, and ensure the financing of infrastructure needed to achieve the country's targets.

A key result of the waste management reform is the development of the Holistic Separate Collection System (HSCS) across Greece's 14 regions. The HSCS is now established as the main operational axis for implementing the targets outlined in the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) and the Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP). The preparation of the HSCS is mandatory for Solid Waste Management Authorities (WMA) and is a key prerequisite for projects to be eligible under the "Environment and Climate Change" Operational Programme (OPECC) 2021–2027. The HSCS provides a structured framework, involving steps such as the categorization of Municipalities, the quantification of targets, the development and techno-economic analysis of alternative collection scenarios, and the selection of the final implementable solution. This framework strengthens the role of WMAs as central planning bodies. Furthermore, recent guidelines from the Ministry of Environment and Energy emphasize WMA support for smaller municipalities (below 30,000 inhabitants) by centralizing the collection and transport of biowaste, green waste, and bulky items to achieve economies of scale and optimize resource use.

Monitoring of complementary funds indicates that mobilization has reached 42.4% of the initially set target of € 800,309,080.83. This achievement, summarized in the expenditure overview, is primarily driven by funds available from the NSRF 2014-2020 period. Specifically, the Operational Programme "Environment and Climate Change" (OP) shows a 64.3% absorption rate of its foreseen amount (€373,728,163.00), while ROP 'Central Macedonia' has exceeded its target at 114.5% absorption, and ROP 'Epirus' is nearing completion at 98.3%. However, large sums remain to be mobilized, totalling € 461,055,608.03.

The transition to the 2021-2027 programming period is underway, and significant funds are now being specialized for circular economy initiatives. The "Environment and Climate Change" Programme 2021-27 (OPECC), under Action 4.6.67.68.183.OA1, has specified €480,000,000.00 for integrated municipal waste management. This OPECC action aims to finance infrastructure and equipment networks (such as Recovery and Recycling Units (RRUs), independent biowaste processing units (BTP), and separate collection systems) necessary to meet 2030 recycling and landfill diversion targets.

The total amount of funds that have been specialized for the implementation of the NWMP and RWMPs, as reflected in the October 2025 update, amounts to €499,000,000.00. Following the completion of the HSCSs, the existing and new projects are expected to accelerate in their completion.

Projects directly related to the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece actions are advancing, often facilitated by bridge funding mechanisms due to the timing of the new NSRF calls.



- Enhanced Green Centres (EGCs): The construction of EGCs in the Greater Athens area and Thessaloniki (Action C.1.1 and C.1.2) requires substantial complementary funding. The Green Fund (GRFU) has ensured bridge funding of €3,000,000 for the construction of the EGCs in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni, which will be transferred to NSRF 2021-2027 when the calls open.
- Island and Mountainous Region Systems: Synergistic infrastructure is progressing in the pilot regions. For the Municipality of Alonissos, land acquisition for the Biowaste Treatment Plant (BTP) has been completed via a loan from the Green Fund, which is expected to be recovered once the project is approved in NSRF 2021-2027. In the Municipality of Paros, a Recovery and Recycling Unit (RRU) with a capacity of 15,000 tn/yr is foreseen, and other projects like Green Centres and home composters are under completion using NSRF 2014-2020 funds. The Municipality of Thira is in the tendering process (Phase A completed) for an RRU and landfill for residues, as part of a decision for South Aegean's waste management infrastructure. The Municipality of Nafpaktia has completed two Green Centres using NSRF 2014-2020 funds, and the larger Waste Treatment Plant project is secured but pending the finalization of the HSCS of Western Greece.

The preparatory phase—including major structural reform, the development of the HSCS, and the specialization of critical funding under the NSRF 2021-2027—is maturing, suggesting an accelerated pace of complementary funds absorption is imminent. However, the report notes that delays arising from the transition and reform process mean that certain necessary infrastructure, which acts synergistically with the project actions, has not yet started construction.

Based on the assumption that infrastructure completion will extend beyond the current project end date (October 2027), the report suggests that an extension of the project's duration could ensure that all synergistic infrastructure is in place and operational. Such an extension would maximize the benefits and successful operationalization of the complementary funding mobilized under the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece framework.