

GREECE

VOLUNTARY MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE FIRST-CYCLE UPR RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCEPTED BY GREECE

RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED BY GREECE	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – JUNE 2014
RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS	
<p>83.1. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Algeria, Austria, Brazil, France, Ukraine) that it has already signed in 2007 (Algeria) and its Optional Protocol (Austria, Ukraine);</p> <p>83.2. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Argentina, India), to which it is a signatory (India);</p> <p>83.3. Adopt or ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Ecuador);</p> <p>83.4. Redouble efforts to ensure</p>	<p>Greece has already ratified the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Law 4074/2012).</p> <p>Recently, by virtue of a decision of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare was designated as focal point for the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, and as coordinating mechanism for facilitating relevant activities, in accordance with Article 33 (1) of the Convention (decision No. 426/28.2.2014). Moreover, the same decision provides, in accordance with Article 33(3) of the Convention, that civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, will be involved and fully participate in the monitoring process.</p> <p>An action called “Accessibility Program in Local Level” has been implemented in all big municipalities, under the responsibility of the General Inspector of Public Administration. This program includes all necessary measures for the creation of a chain of accessibility, which connects, through accessible side-walks and passages, the way to specific buildings and infrastructures. Moreover, in order to offer more specialized services to disabled persons, an initiative concerning the area of “electronic accessibility” has been launched.</p>

<p>access to public places and labour market to persons with disabilities and to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Morocco)</p> <p>83.5. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Spain)</p>	<p>According to Article 8 of Law 3304/2005 implementing the «principle of equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation », direct or indirect discrimination as well as harassment, inter alia, on the grounds of disability, is prohibited in the public and private sector with regard to : access to employment, access to all types and levels of vocational guidance, working terms and conditions, including those relating to dismissals and remuneration, membership or involvement in workers and employers organizations.</p> <p>Moreover, Article 10 of the abovementioned Law provides for the appropriate adjustments for the persons with disabilities, in a workplace. The employer is required, among others, to take all the appropriate measures so that the principle of equal treatment for persons with disabilities be respected, ensuring that these persons have access to a job, perform their duties, advance their careers and have the opportunity to participate in vocational training, unless these measures impose a disproportionate burden on the employer.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare in cooperation with the National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (ESAMEA) published a handbook on discrimination and reasonable accommodation for workers with disabilities. The purpose of this handbook is both to educate the officials of the Labour Inspectorate (S.E.P.E) on issues of discrimination and reasonable accommodation and to enable them to inspect whether the employers make all reasonable accommodations, by taking all measures as appropriate, so that, the access and the retention of persons with disabilities, in particular, as well as their participation in vocational training, be ensured.</p> <p>With the adoption of Law 3996/2011 «Reforming the Labour Inspectorate, regulating Social Security issues and other provisions», the Labour Inspectorate, <i>«monitors compliance with the principle of equal treatment for persons with disabilities, including persons who are HIV-positive.</i> Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare has implemented a project entitled «Measures to promote the principle of equal treatment», with a view to promoting the principle of equal treatment which is reflected every year in the national action plan to combat</p>
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	<p>discrimination and in the national legal framework. In this context, the establishment of an «Observatory on Combating Discrimination», by three partners, i.e., the National Center for Social Research (EKKE), the Economic and Social Council of Greece (OKE) and the Local Self-Government Agencies' Network "Efxini Poli", as well as the elaboration of the "Code of Conduct" by the Vocational Training Center of the Labour Institute of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (INE-GSEE) constitute individual subprojects.</p> <p>In addition, the Greek Ministry of Culture and sports is working towards improving access of persons with disabilities to cultural facilities and services. It also implements educational programs in museums, so as to contribute to the enjoyment of cultural life.</p> <p>For the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, see below.</p>
<p>83.6. Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);</p> <p>83.7. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from the Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance (Armenia);</p> <p>83.8. Proceed to the ratification of International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as soon as possible and fully recognize the competence of the Committee on</p>	<p>A law-drafting Committee, established by the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, has elaborated a draft law ratifying the Convention and amending, where appropriate, the Criminal Code, to implement the Convention. The draft was submitted to an open public consultation in April 2014 and was tabled before Parliament on 30 May 2014. The recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance, as provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention is under active consideration.</p>

<p>Enforced Disappearance, as provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention (France);</p>	
<p>84.3. Ratify a certain number of human rights treaties such as [- the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,] and- the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (Palestine); 84.4. Proceed with the ratification of [- the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights] and - the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus); 84.5. Consider (Brazil) ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Armenia, Brazil); 84.6. Ratify the remaining human</p>	<p>Greece ratified the OPCAT in December 2013 (Law 4228/2014). The ratification instrument has already been deposited with the Secretary-General of the UN; the Protocol entered into force in respect of Greece on 13 March 2014. It is to be noted that the law ratifying the OPCAT designates the Ombudsman as the National Preventive Mechanism.</p>

<p>rights instruments, especially the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovenia);</p>	
<p>84.7. Consider the gradual ratification of pending international instruments (Chile)</p>	<p>Greece has ratified the vast majority of the core international human rights treaties and thoroughly considers the prospects for a potential ratification of other relevant instruments.</p>
<p>84.8. Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);</p>	<p>Ratification of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness is still under consideration.</p>
<p>GENDER EQUALITY-WOMEN'S RIGHTS</p>	
<p>83.9. Continue efforts directed to achieving gender equality, and fully implement the National Programme for Substantive Equality for 2010–2013 (Russian Federation); 83.17. Take more efforts to eliminate discrimination against women (Bangladesh);</p>	<p>The National Program for Substantive Gender Equality 2010 – 2013 is currently being implemented. The national strategy for the promotion of gender equality has been streamlined to respond to emerging challenges and social priorities arising from the economic crisis. A newly designed and reality-informed policy frame for gender equality was timely included into the EU Partnership Agreement for Greece for the programming period 2014-2020. A range of 8 strategic priorities will ensure the effective and efficient use of the structural funds drawn from the Community Support Framework for Greece, focusing on the protection of women against the economic crisis, unemployment, poverty and exclusion.</p>
<p>83.18. Take steps to bring about changes in attitudes with a view to eliminating patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men in the family and society, including</p>	<p>Countering gender stereotypes is a horizontal policy incorporated into all thematic priorities of the National Program for Substantive Gender Equality. All forms of education, vocational training and media, including the internet, are the main tools for combating the reproduction of gender stereotypes and the representation of genders along sexist lines. The General Secretariat for Gender equality has lodged 5 complaints before the National Radio and Television Council regarding television shows deemed to be offensive to women's dignity and cooperates with the</p>

<p>through awareness-raising and public education campaigns (Moldova); 83.19. Intensify its efforts to change stereotypical images and discriminatory attitudes and perceptions about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society (Portugal);</p>	<p>Communication Control Board and the Greek Association of Advertisers to combat gender stereotypes in advertising. Efforts to promote equal participation of women in the labour market and the public life, including in political, social and economic decision-making, contribute also to the fight against gender stereotypes.</p>
<p>83.20. Take further measures in order to fully implement the already existing domestic legislation in the field of gender equality (Indonesia);</p>	<p>The competent authorities fully implement the relevant legislative framework, in particular laws transposing into the national legal order EU Directives promoting gender equality, such as Law 4097/2012 on implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity, Law 4075/2012 (Articles 49-55) on parental leave and Law 3896/2010, on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation. To improve the implementation of the existing domestic legislation, an enhanced monitoring mandate has been entrusted to the Greek Ombudsman. Established in 2008, the Gender Equality Department of the Greek Ombudsman monitors the application of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in employment and occupation. The independent authority may also investigate cases of gender discrimination in the field of the conditions of service of public sector employees, as well as in the private sector, also covering, since 2012, self-employed men and women. Furthermore, the creation of a new mechanism, the Observatory of gender equality issues in Greece, is under way, to monitor and evaluate the implemented gender equality policies through the development of an Integrated Information System and of a National System of Gender Indicators.</p>
<p>83.21. Develop measures aimed at addressing women's low</p>	<p>As a consequence of the economic crisis, gender gaps have intensified in the labor market and economic conditions. Among the strategic priorities for the use of the structural funds drawn from</p>

<p>occupational representation and the promotion of diversification of women's academic and professional choices, including in nontraditional fields (Portugal); 83.60. Take special measures for unemployed women (Netherlands); 83.59. Take measures to encourage the return of women to the labour market after a long absence due to maternity (France)</p>	<p>the Community Support Framework for Greece is the promotion of the equal participation of women in the labour market, which includes the upgrading of professional skills of working women and self-employment skills, as well as a protocol of cooperation with the Network for Social Corporate Responsibility. At a time of severe unemployment, the relevant actions (individualized information, consultation, training, mentoring, supporting and boosting adaptability and career-planning) target mainly employed women, whose work positions are at risk, and self-employed women, assisting them in developing entrepreneurial initiatives, so as to remain active in the economic life of the country. The actions undertaken concern 2500 women, while an equal number of actions have been implemented in favour of female and young entrepreneurship throughout the country through the creation of new enterprises by women.</p> <p>Furthermore, law 3896/2010 prohibits a less favourable treatment of women on the grounds of pregnancy or maternity.</p>
<p>83.22. Take action with regard to the impediments that Muslim minority women in Thrace may face when sharia law is applied on family and inheritance law matters (Netherlands);</p>	<p>Women members of the Muslim minority in Thrace are fully included in gender equality policies and participate in relevant programs implemented by the competent authorities. Members of the Muslim minority in Thrace are absolutely free to address themselves either to the civil courts or the local Muftis. In case they choose the latter, the Sharia law is implemented to the extent that its rules are not in conflict with fundamental values of the Greek society and the Greek legal and constitutional order. In this respect, courts shall not enforce decisions of the Muftis which are contrary to the Greek Constitution. Greece is firmly committed to strengthening the substantive review and control, by domestic Courts, of Muftis' decisions on family and inheritance law matters and will consider possible re-adjustments with regard to the application of the Sharia Law in Thrace, bearing in mind the expressed preferences and visible trends within the majority of the Muslim minority on religious, social and legal matters.</p>
<p>83.57. Take measures to accelerate the increase in women's political participation at all levels of political and public life, particularly in Parliament and in</p>	<p>Legislative provisions have been enacted to increase the level of representation of women at all decision-making levels, such as the establishment of a 1/3 minimum quota for either gender on the electoral lists for local and parliamentary elections, in collective bodies and service councils of the public administration, public legal entities and local authorities, as well as in the composition of national organs and committees of research and technology. Recently, Law</p>

<p>the foreign services (Republic of Moldova); 83.58. Allocate a greater space for women's participation in the political sphere (Senegal);</p>	<p>4255/2014 extended the abovementioned quota to the European Parliament elections. Furthermore, political parties themselves constantly enhance the participation of women in their lists through quotas, both in parliamentary elections and the elections for the European Parliament as well as in the election of party bodies. Despite progress made, women continue to be under-represented in the political life. In the Hellenic Parliament, for instance, following the 2012 national elections, the percentage of women is 21%, which is the highest rate of women's participation in the last 16 years (though it remains lower than the EU average). The percentage of women members of government is also low. At the local level, following the establishment of a minimum quota, all parties have a large number of women candidates, but few of them are elected. However, at the level of the public administration, the participation of women in posts of responsibility (General Directorates, Divisions and Departments) has significantly increased and reached between 46% and 55%. In tertiary education, the percentage of women is higher than that of men and has been rising in recent years. Further measures to promote participation of women in decision-making and in public life include the following: establishment of Gender Equality Units at the Union of Regions of Greece and the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece; counselling and training seminars in 17 cities for 1000 women, both elected and candidates in local and regional administration; information and sensitization campaigns in progress in favour of women in decision-making (local, regional and national elections, as well as European elections), in public administration at all levels (central, regional, local), in trade unions; implementation of gender equality actions in 153 Municipalities and 13 Regions; financial support of 52 NGOs for the implementation of projects on the promotion of gender equality; coordinated action for combating gender stereotypes in schools and the media; collection and codification of relevant legislation and decisions on national and E.U. level, the evaluation of 100 key legislative texts on gender equality and the publication of relevant proposals in favour of the simplification of legislation on equality between women and men.</p>
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	
<p>83.31. Ensure the effective and full implementation of the law adopted in 2006 to fight domestic</p>	<p>The National Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women refers to all forms of gender-based violence (e.g. domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking in women). It comprises preventive actions and support of the victims on one hand and legislative</p>

<p>violence (Austria); 83.32. Strengthen efforts to effectively fight against the phenomenon of violence against women (Morocco);</p>	<p>interventions that reinforce the institutional framework on the other hand. The General Secretariat for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Interior (GSGE) has established an “Integrated Action Plan in favor of women and on combating violence at national and local level” comprising horizontal and vertical actions, with a total budget of 30,000,000 Euros. The horizontal actions include the following: establishment and operation of a bilingual SOS telephone helpline; cooperation with the Hellenic Police on the appropriate handling of cases of domestic violence and with the Forensic Services on collecting qualitative and quantitative data on cases of domestic violence; elaboration of training material as well as protocols of operation and counseling of the Counseling Centers; training of counselors who will staff the Counseling Centers and the SOS telephone line; awareness-raising campaigns. Vertical actions comprise: the operation of 14 new Counseling Centers of the GSGE at the corresponding Regions of the country (which have started their operation during the period 2012-2014); the establishment of 25 new Counselling Centres operated by the 25 largest Municipalities nationwide; the development of 18 shelters for Abused Women operated by an equal number of large Municipalities; the upgrading of the existing Counseling Center of the GSGE in Athens; a SOS Helpline run by the National Centre of Social Solidarity, offering information, counseling and referral to any citizen facing an emergency, including women victims of domestic violence or trafficking or any other kind of violence; the same Centre also runs 2 shelters for women victims of domestic violence or trafficking.</p> <p>Furthermore, victims of crimes against sexual freedom and economic abuse of sexual life as well as crimes of domestic violence have been exempted from the requirement to pay a fee in order to file a criminal complaint in cases which are not prosecuted ex officio.</p> <p>Moreover, an awareness-raising campaign has been implemented, which includes relevant seminars, a thematic conference, informational material in 4 languages, TV and radio spots, cultural events, publicity on public transport, entries in national and migrant Press, a webpage and a facebook page as well as banners in web pages.</p> <p>It is also to be noted that, in 2011, the GSGE, in collaboration with the UNHCR and the Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection published, both in Greek and in English, a manual titled</p>
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	<p>“Guidelines for Protecting Women and Girls during first entry and asylum procedures in Greece”. The Hellenic Police has issued a manual on the handling by the Police of domestic violence cases. Specialized training is already provided at the National School of Magistrates.</p>
<p>TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS</p>	
<p>83.13. Strengthen further the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, in line with suggestions made by CEDAW (Chile)</p> <p>83.33. Take necessary steps to implement the relevant plan of action adopted by the National Coordination Mechanism, as a part of its ongoing fight against trafficking in human beings (Russian Federation);</p> <p>83.34. Increase efforts to prevent trafficking in women and girls and provide support to victims effectively by implementing the integrated National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and fully enforcing the legislation on trafficking (Republic of Moldova);</p> <p>83.35. Intensify its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings with a special attention to</p>	<p>Greece ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Law 4216/2013). Furthermore, EU Directive 2011/36 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims was transposed into the national legal order by Law 4198/2013. Under the said Law, the Minister of Foreign Affairs along with eight competent Ministers formally established the Office of the National Rapporteur (NR), giving a stronger mandate to the informal, but widely acknowledged, Coordination Mechanism, operating in the MFA since 2007. The NR will cooperate closely with focal points to be designated in other 9 Ministries as well as NGOs in the field of anti-trafficking, and will plan, implement and evaluate anti-trafficking activities at the national and international level. The NR will be active in all four pillars of the strategy to combat trafficking (prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership with civil society).</p> <p>The main activities already undertaken and/or planned are related to: establishing a national reporting system for the identification, referral and support of victims of trafficking; establishing a comprehensive and systematically updated database for victims of trafficking and monitoring the progress of relevant legal cases; implementing large-scale education and “train the trainers” projects for government authorities and civil society stakeholders; promoting cooperation of state agencies and NGOs in EU projects. A special emphasis is given to creating a Corporate Social Responsibility Platform of zero tolerance towards trafficking, implementing awareness-raising projects with businesses and consumers.</p> <p>During the first semester of 2014, the NR assumed the Presidency of the EU Network of National Rapporteurs, having as a priority the issue of cooperation with the private sector on fighting demand for the services provided by victims of trafficking. A relevant action plan of the European Business Coalition was presented last May in Brussels.</p>

<p>the needs of the victims (Algeria); 83.36. Take additional measures to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, and to protect victims and prosecute traffickers (United States of America); 83.37. Continue its efforts to combat transnational child trafficking and exploitation (Republic of Moldova); 83.83. Reinforce implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework with a view to combating efficiently trafficking in women, providing victims with all necessary assistance including legal redress, rehabilitation and social integration (Slovakia); 84.13. Include information about Greece being a country of destination and transit for human trafficking in school curriculums at secondary and university levels (Iraq); 84.12. Take supplementary measures to remedy the situation reported by the NGO ARSIS which would suggest that efforts to reinforce by legislation the fight against exploitation and sexual</p>	<p>The legislation in force extends the scope of protective legislative measures to victims of smuggling of migrants, sex tourism and child pornography. Special care is provided to unaccompanied minors-victims of trafficking in human beings or smuggling of migrants. The rights and interests of children victims are recognized and protected in all stages of criminal proceedings (with regard to psychological support, protection of the child witness and the child's family from potential reprisals or intimidation, etc.). Minors who are victims of acts of trafficking may be beneficiaries of legal aid with regard to any criminal or civil claims (Article 1 (3) of Law 3226/2004).</p> <p>Specific actions have also been implemented by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality in 2011 such as the launching of a national telephone hotline for victims of trafficking, offering advice, support and counseling to women victims of all forms of violence (including trafficking). In addition, the operation of the abovementioned Counseling Centers of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality along with the Counseling Centers and the Shelters established in the largest Greek municipalities (see recommendation 83.32 hereabove), also concerns women victims of trafficking. Moreover, the National Centre for Social Solidarity runs two emergency shelters and two short term shelters for women victims of trafficking in Athens and Thessaloniki.</p> <p>Moreover, taking into account that awareness-raising of the general public, as well as education and training of competent authorities is an intrinsic part of our anti-THB policy, the NR has included several different projects that engage human rights education (THB included) in schools in cooperation with competent stakeholders.</p> <p>Towards that direction, the NR in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, IOM, UNICEF, the US State Department, and other partners, organized an awareness raising trans-media and sports youth event in the Olympic stadium that gathered almost 10.000 high-school students.</p> <p>In addition three NGO projects, supported by the NR, (the 'No' Project, A21, and the Smile of the Child), have gained access to dozens of schools, and work closely with students to engage them in performance art campaigns against THB.</p>
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<p>abuse have not eliminated the problem of child exploitation, in particular for “street children” (France);</p>	<p>Our intention is to capitalize on such best practices and establish a formal and systematic partnership with the Ministry of Education in various anti-THB education projects involving students. Greece is exploring how to reduce ‘demand’ through human rights education in schools, namely, to address the 'demand side' and the role of the ‘client’ before it is 'too late' and the commodification of sexuality has affected male gender norms and stereotypes.</p> <p>The National Center for Social Solidarity of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare, offers services such as counseling, psychological support, temporary hosting in shelters, a hotline etc. Programs have also been implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security within the scope of the EU EQUAL Initiative. Finally, there is a significant number of NGOs that provide shelters for accommodation, psycho-social and legal support to victims of trafficking, offered by specialized personnel.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare protects children growing up in an environment that is unsuitable for their physical and mental health without family care (orphans, abused children whose parents suffer from physical or mental health problems, children affected by the current economic crisis, unprotected or abandoned children, street children), by applying a set of social welfare measures mainly through twelve (12) Child Protection - Social Welfare Centers (Public Bodies Corporate).</p> <p>Charities and church organizations perform work which is similar to that of the above mentioned public foundations.</p> <p>More specifically, in the welfare field, there is the free National Child Protection telephone line operating on a 7 X 24 hour basis, according to Joint Ministerial Decision No. 49540/2011 on «Coordinating Child Protection Actions and Services».</p> <p>With this line immediate information and emergency counseling services are provided to children and adolescents who are at risk and in need of psychological and social support on issues of concern by ensuring the protection of their interests and referring them to the competent Child</p>
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	Protection Authorities. The Helpline "1107" is cooperating closely with a network of specialized Child Protection Teams in most of the municipalities of the country.
COMBATING RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION	
<p>83.23. Take measures to strengthen legal and institutional mechanisms aimed at preventing, punishing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, racial and national origin, and religion (Argentina);</p> <p>83.24. Pursue its efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Algeria);</p> <p>83.25. Effectively implement legal provisions aimed at eliminating racial discrimination (Bangladesh);</p> <p>83.26. Take effective measures to combat the persistence of stereotypes based on racial discrimination and intolerance (Senegal);</p> <p>83.27. Contribute to the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of incitement to hatred and hate speech (Egypt);</p>	<p>In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of attacks against foreigners living in Greece. Extremist organizations or individuals have attempted to exploit the anger or the discontent of some segments of the population severely affected by the economic crisis. In addition, the situation prevailing in Greece has to be seen against the background of an unprecedented rise in irregular migration (reaching, for many years, some 100.000 persons on a yearly basis), due to the geographical position of the country, as the main gateway to the European Union. A number of measures have been taken at the level of law enforcement, criminal legislation and the justice system. In September 2013, the leader and members (including Members of Parliament) of “Golden Dawn”, a political party, described by scholars and media as a “neo-Nazi and fascist organization”, represented in Parliament, were placed under judicial investigation for membership of a “criminal organization”; the measure of pre-trial detention has been imposed to some of the suspects. Moreover, in accordance with a recently adopted legislative provision, state financing of political parties whose leaders or elected officials are charged with the crime, in particular, of membership of a “criminal organization” and put on pre-trial detention, is suspended by decision taken by the Parliament. On the basis of the said provision, no payment to the abovementioned political party has been effected since then.</p> <p>The most important measures taken in the field of law enforcement are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establishment of 2 specialized Departments and 68 Offices throughout the country tasked with tackling racist violence and operation of a hotline for complaints about racist violence or information on the rights of the victims. The Hellenic Police have also devoted part of their website (www.astynomia.gr) to racist violence matters, allowing the public to report or complain about any wrongful act with racist characteristics or motives, on a 24-hour basis and in many different languages, by completing a special electronic form, to secure anonymity and secrecy of communications.

<p>83.28. Further ensure that racially motivated crimes are effectively prosecuted and punished and that research to evaluate the incidence of racial discrimination is conducted with the aim of adopting targeted measures to eliminate such discrimination (Brazil);</p> <p>83.39. Take steps to prevent attacks against immigrants and hate speech (Turkey);</p> <p>84.14. Collect disaggregated data on the dissemination of hate speech against minorities (Egypt);</p>	<p>-Creation of a unified mechanism and database for registering alleged incidents of racist and xenophobic violence (including allegations against police personnel). During 2012, 84 <i>prima facie</i> racist violent incidents were recorded. It is to be noted that the National Commission for Human Rights and the Office of the UNHCR in Greece created, in 2011, the “Racist Violence Recording Network” in which participate 23 NGOs and other bodies, having as a primary goal the documentation of racist incidents. In 2013, the Network documented, upon interviews with victims, 166 incidents of racist violence and made recommendations on the state responses and initiatives to combat racist crimes.</p> <p>-Obligation for police officers to ascertain whether a criminal act has been racially motivated on the basis of specific instructions given to police staff for the relevant investigation. The same applies to the disciplinary investigation of cases involving inappropriate behaviour of police officers against persons belonging to vulnerable groups or third-country nationals.</p> <p>-Co-ordination with local and non-governmental organizations and training of police staff.</p> <p>In the field of criminal legislation and prosecution:</p> <p>-According to Article 66 of Law 4139/2013, the commission of a criminal act motivated by hate on the grounds of race, color, religion, origins, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation or gender identity constitutes an aggravating circumstance and the sentence imposed may not be suspended.</p> <p>-A special prosecutor has been appointed for the investigation of racist crimes.</p> <p>-Pursuant to a circular issued by the Public Prosecutor at the Supreme Court, all persons who commit the offense of usurpation of authority and conduct controls (which are only of the resort of the Police), shall be arrested and brought before the prosecutorial authorities. Even MPs may be arrested <i>in flagrante delicto</i>, if they have committed a felony.</p> <p>In November 2013, the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and human Rights tabled a draft law before Parliament amending and improving Law 927/1979 with a view to strengthening the existing criminal anti-racism legislation and adjusting the country’s legislative framework with the 2008/913/JHA EU Council Framework Decision, on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. The draft has been examined by the</p>
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	<p>competent parliamentary committee and is currently pending before the Plenary of Parliament. Furthermore, a special law-drafting Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights with the mandate to update the draft law on the incorporation into the national law of the provisions of the Convention of the Council of Europe on Cybercrime and of the Additional Protocol thereof on the criminalization of racist and xenophobic actions.</p> <p>In the framework of the training of judges on offences relating to racism, in 2013 the National School of Magistrates hosted conferences on hate speech and hate crimes following an initiative of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights in cooperation with the Council of Europe and OSCE/ODIHR. The National School of Magistrates education programme offers also courses on the legislative framework against racism and xenophobia. In February 2014, two workshops were held on "A sociological approach to the phenomenon of racism" and the "Legal treatment of the racist phenomenon".</p>
DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION	
<p>83.30. Include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for protection in antidiscrimination legislation and policies (Norway);</p> <p>84.10. Incorporate in the legislation the combat against discrimination based on gender identity or expression (Spain);</p> <p>84.11. Consider recognizing same-sex couples (Brazil);</p>	<p>The anti-discrimination Law 3304/2005 provides for the implementation of the principle of equal treatment regardless, inter alia, of sexual orientation in the fields of employment and occupation. The Office of the Ombudsman is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the law by public agencies. Furthermore, article 3 of Law 3896/2010 provides that any less favorable treatment of a person related to gender reassignment constitutes discrimination on grounds of gender.</p> <p>Article 79 (3) of the Penal Code (as amended by article 66 of Law 4139/2013) provides that the commission of an offense motivated, inter alia, by the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim constitutes an aggravating circumstance and that the relevant sentence cannot be suspended.</p> <p>Recently, Law No. 4249/2014 extended the mandate of the Office, subject to the Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection, responsible for handling alleged instances of abuse by Police, Coast Guard and Fire Brigade officers to include complaints of abuse on the grounds, inter</p>

	<p>alia, of sexual orientation and gender identity.</p> <p>Same-sex partnerships are not recognized under the legislation in force, while same-sex marriages have been considered as null and void by the Greek case-law. The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights has found that the legislation on “cohabitation pacts”, which concerns persons of different sexes only, is not in conformity with Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (prohibition of discrimination) taken in conjunction with Article 8 ECHR (right to private and family life). The authorities are considering ways and means of implementing the abovementioned judgment.</p>
<p>83.29. Adopt mitigating measures to protect its most vulnerable population: women heads of household, the unemployed, farmers, retired people, children, persons with disabilities, et alia (Ecuador);</p>	<p>Law 4254/2014 as well as special programs and activities for homeless provided a social lump-sum dividend. The lump-sum amount of payment is handed out based on eligibility criteria such as: income threshold, marital status, single parent households and disability. Furthermore, Programs and activities for homeless (providing food, housing and social care) are financed with the amount of 20.000.000 €.</p> <p>Law 4093/2012 established the “Guaranteed Minimum Income Pilot Programme”, which is targeted to the extreme poor -individuals and families- living in two areas of the country with different socioeconomic characteristics. The beneficiaries will receive income support based on income and assets criteria, together with a network of social benefits (health, welfare, etc.) as well as actions aiming at their integration / reintegration in the labour market (for those who are able to work). Program terms and conditions (eligibility threshold, benefit level, business process, payment system, pilot areas) will be determined by a Joint Ministerial Decision (Minister of Finance and Minister of Labour, Social Security & Welfare) in the following period. The pilot programme is to be implemented in 2014. The experience gained by the implementation of this pilot programme will be used in order to establish a Guaranteed Minimum Income Programme for the whole country.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, low-income households in mountainous and disadvantaged areas, including single-parent families, continue to be granted with an allowance of 600 euros per year, for an annual income up to 3.000 euros and an allowance of 300 euros per year, for an annual income up to 4.700 euros (Law 3016/2002, Article 27 (2)).</p> <p>Moreover, within the framework of institutionalizing social economy and entrepreneurship in Greece, by virtue of Law 4019/2011, a new legal form has been established, the Social Cooperative Enterprise. Depending on their special purpose, Social Cooperative Enterprises are divided into three categories. In the Integration SCEs that aim at integrating people belonging to vulnerable social groups into the economic and social life, at least 40% of the employees belong to such groups.</p> <p>The National Centre for Social Solidarity runs three shelters for homeless people. One of them is only for single mothers, who suffer from serious social and economic problems and are threatened by social exclusion and the other two for other vulnerable groups (older persons, released prisoners, refugees etc.).</p>
ACCOUNTABILITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL	
<p>83.38. Take an initiative to draft a law that would establish an independent bureau under the direct authority of the Ministry of Citizen's Protection to deal with incidents of arbitrary conduct by law enforcement officials (Turkey);</p> <p>83.40. Ensure prompt and impartial investigations of cases of excessive use of force by the police</p>	<p>Law 3938/2011 established, within the Ministry of Public Order and Citizens' Protection, an Office, subject to the Minister, responsible for handling alleged instances of arbitrary conduct by law enforcement personnel. The mission of the Office is to collect, register, assess and further refer for investigation complaints about acts of Police, Coast Guard and Fire Brigade officers in the exercise of their duties or in abuse of their officers' status. Furthermore, it will reexamine cases for which a violation has been found by the European Court of Human Rights. The Office is not yet operational, due to difficulties which have arisen in relation to its staffing.</p> <p>Law 4249/2014 aims at overcoming the aforementioned difficulties, by expanding membership of the relevant committee within the Office to include lawyers who are members of a Greek Bar Association, facilitating thus the staffing of the Office. The same Law also foresees the</p>

<p>and law enforcement officials (Austria);</p> <p>83.41. Continue pursuing measures aimed at improving police accountability and prioritizing alleged instances of misconduct (Lebanon);</p> <p>83.42. Regarding the use of excessive force by the police, implement an independent complaint mechanism, which will investigate any allegation concerning violence, acts of torture and other mistreatments by the police (Switzerland);</p> <p>83.46. Quickly establish an independent and effective police complaints mechanism (United Kingdom);</p> <p>83.91. Implement measures to curb abuses against refugees and migrants, including minors, regardless of their immigration status, perpetrated by police authorities, and punish adequately those responsible, so to avoid impunity (Ecuador);</p> <p>83.44. Continue efforts to combat human rights violations in the public administration (Indonesia);</p>	<p>participation, without the right to vote, of a representative of the Greek Ombudsman.</p> <p>Furthermore, Law 4249/2014 widens the scope of the Office, which now covers allegations of illegal conduct on the grounds of racism or other forms of discriminatory treatment on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other beliefs, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity and, more generally, any offending conduct against persons living in Greece.</p> <p>A number of Circular Orders on the protection of human rights and the conduct of the police personnel in general have been issued by the Hellenic Police Headquarters to all police stations, covering a wide variety of fields, such as prevention and punishment of torture and ill-treatment, safeguarding the rights of detained persons, combating racism and xenophobia. Relevant provisions are also included in the 2004 Code of Ethics for Police Officers. A 2012 Circular Order addressed to the Department of Internal Affairs gives absolute priority to the investigation of allegations of ill-treatment of foreign citizens by police personnel, including complaints about racist violence.</p> <p>A 2010 Order of the Prosecutor at the Supreme Court sets out the procedure for an effective and impartial criminal investigation of allegations of ill-treatment of detainees. The Disciplinary Code adopted in 2008 has brought about considerable progress in ensuring an effective investigation of allegations of abuse by the police. It is to be noted that the Greek Ombudsman has the power to control the lawfulness of such disciplinary proceedings.</p> <p>It is also to be recalled that Greece has recently ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and designated the Office of the Ombudsman as the National Preventive Mechanism.</p> <p>Finally, at all levels of police training (basic level, post-training), human rights courses are given, both from a constitutional law and an international law perspective.</p>
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<p>83.43. Build upon its achievement in the area of human rights education and training, particularly for public officials, to strengthen the fight against alleged police violence (Botswana);</p>	
<p>CONDITIONS OF DETENTION-RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL</p>	
<p>83.45. Reduce the use of pretrial detention, ensuring judicial review, [establishing an independent police complaints mechanism] and speeding up trials (Hungary);</p> <p>83.47. Make the necessary efforts so that judicial proceedings do not suffer undue delay, and implement a system that prevents people of different sex being detained in the same facilities, and sometimes even mixed with minors (Spain);</p> <p>83.48. Continue its efforts in improving the situation of detainees in Greek prisons and those held in police custody (Denmark);</p> <p>83.49. Establish prison conditions</p>	<p>With regard to pre-trial detention, the number of persons in custody in the penitentiary premises was 4.254 out of 12.479 detainees on 1/1/2012 and 4.325 out of 12.475 detainees on 1/1/2013. The policy of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights is to decrease the number of persons on pre-trial detention. Following the adoption of relevant legislation since 2010, the high percentage of pre-trial detainees (more than 30% of the prison population) is expected to be effectively reduced and the separation between pre-trial and convicted detainees to be improved.</p> <p>One of the measures applied to overcrowded detention facilities was the conditional release of certain categories of prisoners, provided for, more recently, by Laws 4043/2012, 4111/2013 and 4139/2013. In particular, Law 4043/2012 allowed the release, subject to recall, of all convicted persons sentenced up to three years of imprisonment, of which 1/10 has been served, whilst for sentences from three to five years, detainees should have served 1/5 of the sentence. This measure applied also in the case of juvenile detainees. The validity of these favorable provisions for the decongestion of detention facilities was extended until 30.6.2013. Approximately 3.143 detainees have been released pursuant to the provisions of the law during the year 2012. Furthermore, Law 4139/2013 introduced favorable provisions for the release, subject to recall, of prisoners convicted to fixed-term sentences for violating drug laws. Steps have been taken towards the broader and more effective implementation of the institution of community service, as an alternative way of serving a sentence.</p> <p>Law 4205/2013 introduced the institution of house arrest into the Greek legal order, using</p>

<p>that comply with the provisions of the 1999 Prison Law (Australia); 83.50. Adopt appropriate legislative or administrative measures for effective access to justice, including the right to legal redress in the courts (Mexico); 83.51. Take all necessary, prompt and effective measures to remedy the problem of the length of the judicial procedure (Morocco); 83.52. Implement measures to ensure speedier resolution of legal cases, for example, encouraging out of courts settlements and better use of information technology (United Kingdom);</p>	<p>electronic surveillance of detainees and convicts as a reliable intermediate alternative to the already existing institution of detention.</p> <p>Two detention facilities were completed in 2013, one of which is partly in operation and the other will soon be fully operational.</p> <p>In implementation of Law 4111/2013, doctors of various specialties from the National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (EOPYY) have been appointed to serve in a number of prisons.</p> <p>In order to facilitate the smooth integration of detainees into society, measures have been adopted in the fields of education, professional training and work of detainees.</p> <p>With regard to the supervision of detention facilities, the Body of Inspection and Control of Detention Facilities conducts regular and extraordinary controls, while the Greek Ombudsman, the National Commission for Human Rights, Members of Parliament have free access to detention facilities. As already mentioned, Greece recently ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and designated the Office of the Ombudsman as the National Preventive Mechanism.</p> <p>With regard to police detention facilities, the most important challenges are the existence of deficiencies related to the buildings used (old, rented buildings with sewage problems, lacking natural lighting and ventilation), as well as to the non-existence of sufficient space, due mainly to the large number of persons awaiting expulsion. Continuous efforts are being made to improve detention facilities and repair immediately any damage (regular painting, replacement of equipment), to maintain a high hygiene standard for detainees (meticulous cleaning and disinfection, sufficient ventilation of the areas, personal hygiene of detainees), to give detainees access to guarded outdoor spaces, to provide food and medical care on a regular basis, and to ensure the regular health inspection of detention facilities by the competent Health Service of the relevant Regional Unit (see also below on pre-removal facilities).</p>
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	<p>Since 2011, a number of laws have been adopted to rationalize, accelerate and improve the efficiency of judicial (civil, criminal and administrative) proceedings. A major piece of legislation is Law 4055/2012, in terms of which all cases must be heard within a reasonable and brief time; the institution of judicial mediation is further encouraged; the administration of justice at first instance through a single-judge formation is promoted; technological innovations are used, allowing the electronic filing and service of pleadings; a large volume of cases are transferred to lower courts (courts of the peace); some simple cases, such as divorce by consent, are taken away from courts; the institution of pre-trial detention is regulated with respect for legality and the rights of the accused; the concept of “pilot trial” in the Council of State (Supreme Administrative Court) is completed and reinforced; ‘pilot trial’ in the Court of Audit is introduced; the right to compensation of the parties is introduced in case of breach of the reasonable time requirement in administrative proceedings (a similar remedy was established by Law 4239/2014 in civil and criminal proceedings as well as before the Court of Auditors).</p> <p>In the same vein, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code are currently being revised.</p> <p>At the same time, alternative methods of dispute resolution have been introduced, such as judicial mediation (pre-trial conciliation) and mediation in civil and commercial law cases by certified mediators.</p> <p>Finally, the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights is implementing an Action Plan on e-Justice and Administrative Enhancement, which includes strategic guidance, administrative interventions and a project plan.</p>
PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF	
83.53. Consider appropriate, effective measures to provide for a	School textbooks have been and continue to be revised to reinforce understanding and respect for different cultures, religions and languages, as well as to enhance interest in other people’s beliefs.

<p>better promotion and protection of the freedom of religion or belief (Slovakia);</p> <p>83.54. Continue to take measures to safeguard religious freedom and promote tolerance among its inhabitants (United States of America);</p> <p>83.64. Accelerate the process for the building of a mosque in Votanikos, Athens, without further delay (Turkey);</p> <p>84.15. Consider opening of one of the historical mosques in Thessaloniki, where significant number of Muslim population live (Turkey);</p>	<p>The Greek authorities are taking the necessary steps for the construction of a mosque in the Municipality of Athens, to be financed exclusively by national funds. The relevant procedure was set out in Law 3512/2006 and Law 4014/2011. The tender for the construction of the Mosque was awarded in November 2013. The decision of the Supreme Administrative Court on the appeal against the construction of the Mosque in the designated site is expected to be taken in 2014.</p> <p>Every year since August 2011, the Hellenic Government, with the cooperation of all competent Ministries, concedes for free two housed places in Peace and Friendship stadium and the Olympic sports Center as well as many other smaller facilities in municipalities all over Greece during the celebration of Ramadan (Eid al-Fitr) and the Feast of Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha) for all Muslims who want to participate.</p> <p>The amended Article 218 of the Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates that a witness appearing before a criminal court can, at his or her discretion and without other formalities, either take an oath publicly or make a solemn declaration. Such choice ensures that, in the context of a criminal procedure (as it is already the case in civil procedures) no one is obliged to disclose his or her religious beliefs.</p> <p>Furthermore, a draft law on the organization of the legal form of religious communities and their unions in Greece was submitted to an open, public consultation, concluded in April 2014.</p> <p>The Government and the regional / municipal authorities are aware of the request, by representatives of a cultural association of Greek Muslims, living in Thessaloniki, to have a mosque opened there. This is being examined also within Greece's broader policy and programmes on the restoration and use of Islamic monuments in the Greek territory during the Ottoman era. Last year, students of the Hayriye Koranic School (madrasah) of Komotini visited the Yeni Cami Mosque in Thessaloniki and organized there a Muslim prayer. Furthermore at the same mosque a prayer was organized on the occasion of the festivities for the Seker Bayrami/Eid al-Fitr, in August 2013</p>
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RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO MINORITIES	
<p>83.55. Take appropriate measures to ensure the effective enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, particularly in the case of national, ethnic and religious minorities (Mexico);</p> <p>83.61. Uphold respect for and protection of the rights of all individuals to self-identification, freedom of expression and freedom of association, including for the members of ethnic, religious and linguistic groups that are not officially recognized as minorities (Slovenia);</p> <p>84.17. Execute the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the applications of the Turkish Union of Xanthi, the Cultural Association of Turkish Women of Rodopi and the Evros Minority Youth Association (Turkey);</p>	<p>At the outset, it is to be recalled that the only officially recognized minority in Greece is the Muslim minority in Thrace, whose status was established by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne. The Muslim minority consists of three distinct groups whose members are of Turkish, Pomak and Roma origin, the Muslim faith being the common denominator of the aforementioned components. Each of these groups has its own spoken language, cultural traditions and heritage, which are fully respected by the Greek state. Further to fully complying with the Lausanne Treaty, Greece’s policy and legislation, over the last twenty five years, reflect and implement contemporary human rights norms and standards.</p> <p>Greece fully respects the right of each person to self-identify as they wish and no disadvantage results from such an expression of wish. In keeping with the principle of individual self-identification, everyone living in Greece is free to declare their origin, speak their language, exercise their religion and observe their particular customs and traditions. Persons belonging to groups who do not fulfill the criteria set out in international law for their recognition as “minorities” fully enjoy their human rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of association and peaceful assembly, under the conditions set out in the relevant universal and regional human rights treaties.</p> <p>The Greek Government is considering ways and means of executing three judgments of the European Court of Human Rights finding a violation of the right to freedom of association under the European Convention on Human Rights. Full implementation of the said judgments is pending, due to procedural reasons identified by the competent courts, not related to the statute or the activities of any particular association. Domestic courts apply in the cases before them the principles derived from the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. It is worth mentioning in this respect judgment No. 24/2012 of the Supreme Court in the case of “South Evros Educational and Cultural Association of Western Thrace Minority”, overturning the decision of the competent appeals court, which had refused the registration of the said association.</p>

	<p>It is to be noted that in Thrace, there is a thriving civil society comprising a large number of Muslim minority associations and NGOs that have been registered by the competent courts and operate unimpeded, thus preserving, highlighting and promoting all aspects of the cultural, educational and economic life of the minority. Since January 2008, some 50 minority associations have been registered by the local courts in Thrace.</p>
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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE ROMA	
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<p>83.62. Continue its work for the realization of human rights of the Roma population in the country and to focus on implementation of adopted strategies at a local level as well as on countering discrimination by private actors (Sweden);</p> <p>83.63. Take measures to provide Roma with increased opportunities for education and employment (United States);</p>	<p>In December 2011, Greece submitted to the European Commission the National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma 2012-2020. The strategy constitutes a long-term and comprehensive national framework of action at the local level for the social integration of Roma, within the general framework of combating poverty and social exclusion. It focuses on fundamental priority areas (education, employment, health and housing) with a long-term planning at the local level and a combination of sectoral and territorial-regional programmes and horizontal interventions (civic status, culture, awareness-raising and social dialogue). The implementation of the Strategy will be ensured through the coherent planning of actions at the local, national, European and international level, the parallel participation of Roma people as a target group, the establishment of monitoring mechanisms, indicators and time-frame as well as the effective use of EU funding. The National Strategy has initially been specialized in three pilot regional strategies (Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Thessaly and West Greece) and the development of actions is planned to promote social inclusion and promotion of employment.</p> <p>Supplementary measures have also been adopted in favor of persons of Roma origin including access to the labor market and promotion of Roma entrepreneurship, medical visits to Roma camps by Mobile Medical Units, etc. In 2012, the Ministry of Labour mandated the National Center of Social Research to submit and carry out a proposal titled “Combating Discrimination in the Field with Entrepreneurship: Women and young Roma and Muslim immigrants”. This action aims at exploring the phenomenon of multiple discrimination faced by young Roma and migrants, integrating gender mainstreaming. The Ministry also, mandated the Byzantine and Christian Museum to submit and carry out a proposal titled “With Roma at the Museum”, focusing on the</p>
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	<p>promotion of equality and the elimination of stereotypes against the Roma population, through the intercultural dialogue between Roma and non-Roma populations.</p> <p>In the field of education, the main priorities are schooling from an early age, timely enrollment in the 1st grade of primary school and extra tutorial support. The integration of Roma children in mainstream classes continues to be a firm intention and goal of the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education supervises a project funded by the EU concerning the education of Roma children implemented by the University of Thessaloniki, the University of Patras and the University of Athens, focusing on local areas with a strong presence of Roma children. Throughout the implementation of the project special priority is given to the role and action of Roma school mediators. A school attendance card for moving Roma students has been introduced by Ministerial Decision, which facilitates their enrollment and monitors their regular attendance at each school, bypassing the time-consuming bureaucratic procedures of formal registration. In addition, Roma families with low income can benefit from an annual allowance for every child enrolled in public school of compulsory education which can be granted upon submission of a certificate of regular school attendance.</p>
<p>83.56. Take steps to improve transparency, including by improving citizens' rights to access Government-held information (Australia);</p>	<p>Program Diageia (Law 3861/2010) aims to achieve maximum publicity of government policy and administrative activity, ensuring transparency and consolidation of responsibility and accountability on the part of institutions exercising public power. Beginning October 1st, 2010, all government institutions are obliged to upload their acts and decisions on the Internet with special attention to issues of national security and sensitive personal data. Each document is digitally signed and assigned a unique Internet Uploading Number (IUN) certifying that the decision has been uploaded at the "Transparency Portal". Following latest legislative initiative (Law 4210/2013), administrative acts and decisions are not valid unless published online.</p> <p>The main objectives of Diageia concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ø Safeguarding transparency of government actions Ø Eliminating corruption by exposing it more easily when it takes place Ø Observing legality and good administration Ø Reinforcing citizens' constitutional rights, such as the participation in the Information Society

	<p>Ø Enhancing and modernizing existing publication systems of administrative acts and decisions</p> <p>Ø Making of all administrative acts available in formats that are easy to access, navigate and comprehend, regardless of the citizen’s knowledge level of the inner processes of the administration.</p> <p>Diageia introduced unprecedented levels of transparency within all levels of Greek public administration and established a new “social contract” between the citizen and the state. This initiative has a silent but profound impact on the way officials handle their executive power.</p> <p>The direct accountability brought upon the administration by the radical transparency that the Transparency program introduces, leaves considerably less room for corruption, and exposes it much more easily when it takes place since any citizen and every interested party enjoy the widest possible access to questionable acts. Such a collective scrutiny can be extremely effective, since it allows citizens directly involved or concerned with an issue to scrutinize it in depth, rather than leaving public scrutiny to the media, whose choice of issues necessarily may be restricted and oriented towards sensational topics.</p>
ASYLUM SEEKERS, IRREGULAR MIGRANTS	
<p>83.10. Accelerate the implementation of the National Action Plan for Migration Management (Canada);</p> <p>83.11. Continue to implement the National Action Plan on Asylum Reform and Migration Management to address legal and institutional shortcomings (Australia);</p> <p>83.12. Give priority to the implementation of the National</p>	<p>With regard to the legal framework in force, Law 3907/2011 established the First Reception Service, the Asylum Service and the Appeals Authority. Presidential Decree 113/2013 transposed into the Greek legal order EU Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status, while Presidential Decree 141/2013 transposed Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted.</p> <p>A National Action Plan on the reform of the asylum system and migration management has been implemented for two years (2010-2012) with encouraging results. A revised Action Plan, conceived as a “living document”, was elaborated in December 2012, with the aim to ensuring</p>

<p>Action Plan for the reform of the asylum system and migration management (Netherlands);</p> <p>83.65. Rapidly incorporate the adopted legislative amendments in order that its asylum system will be fully in conformity with regional and international norms in the field of human rights (Switzerland);</p> <p>83.66. Continue giving priority to introducing legislative amendments and implementing actions aiming at respecting human rights of all migrants and speeding asylum procedures (Lebanon);</p> <p>83.67. Consider establishing and implementing a comprehensive asylum system consistent with international and regional standards on protection and reception of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, with an allocation of adequate resources (Poland);</p> <p>83.68. Ensure that asylum-seekers and irregular migrants are treated according to Greece's human rights obligations and strengthen</p>	<p>access to international protection on the one hand and an effective border management and return system on the other.</p> <p>The Revised Action Plan focuses on a new autonomous Asylum Service, reporting directly to the Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection, operated by civil (not police) personnel, trained by specialists in the field with the cooperation of the UNHCR and the European Asylum Support Office and having as a sole task the examination of international protection claims, as well as on a new Appeals Authority. The Asylum Service is structured in full compliance with the EU acquis and the international legal framework regarding international protection, providing all necessary guarantees and requirements so that international protection (refugee status-subsiary protection status) is granted in a short period of time to all those who are eligible for such a status. In addition to the above, it is cooperating with local actors, independent authorities and non-governmental organizations, EU organs and organizations, as well as international organizations. Five Regional Offices of the Asylum Service (Athens, Northern Evros, Southern Evros, Lesvos, Rhodes) and four mobile units (Amygdaleza, Komotini, Thessaloniki, Patras) are currently operating. At the end of April 2014, 8102 international protection claims have been lodged and the recognition rate has risen to 24,1% (first instance).</p> <p>As a response to the congestion of reception and detention facilities following the unprecedented rise of irregular migration over the last ten years, the first reception system was upgraded through the establishment of First Reception Centers (FRC) and Citizenship Identification Centers (within which operate mobile units as rapid response teams to perform first reception operations on the spot). Thus, a new system has been established for recording and validly certifying the identity and origin of third-country nationals subject to first reception procedures, through specialized personnel, while ensuring the registration and medical screening of foreign nationals, as well as providing support to vulnerable groups (unaccompanied minors, women, single parents) and guidance to those entitled to international protection. Health care services for the FRCs and detention centers are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Order & Citizen Protection and the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the National Health Operations Centre (Na.H.O.C). First Reception Centers are not detention centers. Irregular migrants may stay therein</p>
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<p>all efforts to implement the national action plan on asylum reform and migration management (Austria);</p> <p>83.69. Undertake a review of detention conditions for asylum-seekers to ensure they are fully in line with international and European standards (Canada);</p> <p>83.70. Commit to speedily implement an effective asylum system consistent with EU standards (United Kingdom);</p> <p>83.71. Resort to forced expulsions only within the strict respect of regional and international norms (Switzerland);</p> <p>83.72. Take steps to protect asylum-seekers and ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement in accordance with international refugee law and international human rights law (Canada);</p> <p>83.73. Ensure that no individual is directly or indirectly “refouled” to their country of origin, or any other country where they may face persecution (Poland);</p> <p>83.74. Take further measures to</p>	<p>up to fifteen days only, which is the maximum number of days required for the referral to be issued. Only in exceptional circumstances, an extension of the stay up to twenty five days may be ordered, by a duly reasoned decision. The above Centers are guarded, but they cannot be qualified as “closed centers”, since all accommodated migrants have the right to apply for leave at any time. The First Reception Service is structured in full compliance with the EU acquis and the international legal framework regarding protection of human rights, providing all necessary guarantees and requirements so that protection of human rights is guaranteed to all those who illegally enter the territory of Greece. In addition to the above, it is cooperating with local actors, independent authorities and non-governmental organizations, EU organs and organizations, as well as international organizations. Migrants staying in the FRCs have full access to the asylum procedure. Currently, 1 First Reception Center and 3 Citizenship Identification Centers with mobile units for first reception purposes are operating. Sites have been designated for 3 more FRCs.</p> <p>It is to be noted that persons belonging to vulnerable groups, i.e. unaccompanied minors, older persons, victims of trafficking and persons with disabilities or suffering from incurable diseases leave the First Reception Centre after a short time, upon completion of the first reception procedures and the provision of all necessary health and psychosocial support services. Such persons are transferred either to a proper host structure, through the network of the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), or to public hospitals or to a corresponding support or hosting unit/service (run or supervised by the state, but under the administration of a body of the civil society).</p> <p>Furthermore, new pre-departure detention centers have been established and are currently operating in different regions of the country. The need to create pre-removal facilities arises mainly from difficulties in the issuance of the necessary travel documents by the consular authorities of the countries of origin. Thus, migrants under removal procedures are to be detained in centers, which have the necessary infrastructure. Moreover, every effort is being made to observe safety and hygiene rules and to fully respect the human rights of detainees, with a particular emphasis on the protection of persons belonging to vulnerable groups and to the</p>
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<p>improve the treatment of asylum-seekers and to ensure that deportation processes are carried out after exhaustion of legal remedies (Brazil);</p> <p>83.82. Continue addressing irregular migration as a matter of priority, reinforcing further its efforts, such as the recently adopted National Action Plan for Migration Management (Slovakia);</p> <p>83.87. Work for amelioration of the situation of migrants, particularly in regards to access to and quality of the asylum procedure, the conditions in detention centres and to ensure that protection is granted to refugees in line with its international obligations, by implementing the National Action Plan for Migration Management and taking necessary further actions (Sweden);</p> <p>83.89. Establish a new unit in the Ministry for Citizen Protection, and continue the reform aimed at training police officers in order to deal with asylum-seekers and</p>	<p>immediate provision of health care, as well as psychological support. Five pre-departure detention centers have been put into operation since 2012.</p> <p>In all detention centers, irregular migrants are comprehensively informed of their rights. In most detention centers, contact information for the Greek Ombudsman, the UNHCR and NGOs is available and on display. Representatives of NGOs and the UNHCR are granted access in every detention facility every day and can freely contact irregular migrants under detention.</p> <p>At the same time, Greece implements an improved and effective returns policy based on IOM Voluntary Repatriation Programmes with Reintegration Measures as well as forced returns, in implementation of Readmission Agreements with third countries. The Hellenic Police is also implementing an additional returns program aiming at the repatriation of migrants who do not or no longer fulfill the conditions for entry and/or stay in the country. There has already been a significant increase in the number of returns, a consequence of the robust return programs operated by the IOM and the Greek Government and the high interest shown by the irregular migrants themselves to return to their country of origin.</p> <p>The competent authorities attach great importance to the absorption, through the Return and External Borders Fund, of the financing granted by the European Union</p> <p>As a rule, irregular foreign nationals under expulsion are detained in the abovementioned Pre-Departure Detention Centres until their return procedures have been completed, as well as in police detention facilities for a short time period. Foreign nationals arrested at the borders are detained until the completion of the necessary identification and registration procedures. Following that, an expulsion decision is issued, accompanied with a detention order until the finalization of the removal procedure. If, however, the departure from the country is not possible, due to exceptional circumstances, such as difficulties in identifying the person or establishing their citizenship, lack of cooperation of the competent consular authorities for the issuing of travel documents, war situation in the country of origin, etc., the expulsion decision is suspended until the removal has become feasible. To this end, the foreign nationals concerned are informed of</p>
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<p>migrants in accordance with international criteria for human rights (Qatar);</p> <p>83.90. Design and implement a comprehensive policy on care and protection to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece (Ecuador);</p> <p>83.92. Take the necessary measures to ensure that no asylum-seeker is sent back immediately to its country of origin or any other country where his/her life is in danger, in accordance with applicable international norms (Ecuador);</p> <p>84.18. On the one hand, constantly reflect on human rights when processing the request of asylum-seekers and refugees, specifically focusing on their individual situation, their detention conditions and the eventual organization of their repatriation and, on the other hand, solicit the necessary support of the European Union in this regard (Senegal).</p> <p>83.85. Increase its budget for migration detention centres and</p>	<p>their obligation to depart voluntarily from the country, within the delay prescribed.</p> <p>As regards foreign nationals arrested in other parts of the country, they are held until finalization of the necessary identification and registration procedures. Following that, an expulsion decision is issued, accompanied with a detention order until the finalization of the removal procedure. In case their departure is not possible, a return decision without detention is issued; the foreign nationals concerned are informed of their obligation to depart voluntarily from the country, within the delay prescribed.</p> <p>It is to be noted that the maximum detention time of the foreigners under expulsion in view of the implementation of the return procedures can be extended, under specific conditions, up to 18 months, by decisions which must be fully reasoned. The aforementioned extension may be ordered in case the third-country national refuses to co-operate in the return procedure or in case there are delays in obtaining the necessary documentation from the countries of origin. The detention of irregular migrants is periodically reviewed, taking also into account the availability of appropriate detention facilities and the possibility to ensure decent living conditions for the detainees. According to the legislation in force, irregular migrants have the right to challenge the measure of expulsion and detention in view of the expulsion before the competent administrative court and to seek provisional measures.</p> <p>Ever since the mixed migratory pressures in the Eastern Aegean Sea increased (August 2012), the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) reinforced the local HCG Authorities with additional surface assets to enhance its response capacity in distress situations of people at sea, safeguarding, in this way, the right to life at sea.</p> <p>Moreover, suitable areas have been designated in the East Aegean islands, in cooperation with the local entities, for the temporary stay (up to 48 hours) of persons belonging to mixed migratory groups arriving by sea for the period they remain under the responsibility of the HCG local Authorities.</p> <p>With the objective to fully integrate respect and protection of fundamental rights and human</p>
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<p>migrant care through intensified cooperation with EU partners (United States);</p> <p>83.86. Ensure detention conditions for irregular migrants are in conformity with EU human rights standards (United Kingdom);</p> <p>83.88. Continue efforts aimed at improving the administrative and legal services and the living conditions of irregular migrants and asylum-seekers, especially vulnerable categories, such as women and children (Qatar);</p> <p>83.93. Improve the space and sanitary conditions of shelters for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, so that they comply with international and regional standards (Ecuador);</p> <p>83.94. Strengthen, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, the capacity to process, treat and shelter asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, in accordance with relevant regional and international standards (Mexico);</p> <p>83.95. Improve the treatment of migrants, asylum-seekers and</p>	<p>rights principles in the HCG daily workings, the HCG adopted FRONTEX Common Core Curriculum into the curricula of its schools of Basic Training. Furthermore, with the co-funding of the External Borders Fund, it launched a series of seminars on fundamental and human rights issues addressed to the HCG staff dealing with border management tasks at the field of operations. Finally, it aims to enhance its cooperation with the UNHCR, the IOM and various NGOs to improve its efficiency in respecting the fundamental and human rights of the individuals belonging to mixed migratory groups arriving by sea.</p>
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refugees (Iraq);	
UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN	
<p>83.76. Continue to implement measures within the framework of the presidential decree that set the framework for addressing the situation of unaccompanied minors (Chile);</p> <p>83.77. Continue its efforts to ensure the observance of fundamental rights and international standards in the context of asylum procedures, particularly with regard to the treatment of unaccompanied minors (Argentina);</p> <p>83.78. When reforming the asylum system and migration management, pay special attention to the needs of unaccompanied minors in all processes that pertain to solving their cases, and prevent administrative detention from being a standard practice for new irregular migrants (Slovenia);</p> <p>83.79. Take immediate measures</p>	<p>According to the legislation in force, the competent prosecution or police authorities take the necessary steps to establish the identity and nationality of unaccompanied children as well as the fact that they are unaccompanied. They also make every effort for the fastest possible identification of their families and immediately put into effect all necessary measures to ensure their legal representation. Every case of an unaccompanied minor entering Greece illegally is reported to the competent Public Prosecutor. The Prosecutor is designated as temporary legal guardian; following that, a permanent legal guardian, usually a social worker, is designated, in coordination with NGOs and social services. Designated guardians who do not fulfill their duties may be replaced by order of the Prosecutor. The issue of guardianship is of great concern to the Greek Government and a topic under consideration in the National Action Plan on Human Rights. There is a close cooperation on this issue between the Government, the Ombudsman, the UNHCR and NGOs. On 20 March 2013, the General Secretariat of Transparency and Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights organized a one-day Conference on “unaccompanied children”. The conclusions of the Seminar are expected to contribute in the identification of appropriate and urgent responses, in the best interests of the children.</p> <p>Identified unaccompanied children are referred to the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), responsible for seeking an accommodation center for the children. However, the capacity of available structures is insufficient. As a result, a number of children stay in police stations or other places which are not the most appropriate to the situation of the unaccompanied children. Two open accommodation centers are already available in the district of Athens to accommodate vulnerable groups, mainly unaccompanied minors. The running costs for both facilities have been secured for one year under EEA Grants. After the first year of operation, the running costs will need to be covered by the New Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020).</p> <p>The competent authorities are aware of the fact that the framework governing the status of</p>

<p>to make sure that all unaccompanied children are given a guardian and a safe residence when they arrive in Greece (Norway);</p> <p>83.80. Take further steps to enhance the number and quality of available accommodation facilities and other services offered to minors and vulnerable groups arriving in Greece (Denmark);</p> <p>83.81. Pay special attention to the position of unaccompanied minor immigrants (Netherlands);</p>	<p>unaccompanied minors should be assessed and that concrete and immediate solutions are required.</p>
<p>INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS</p>	
<p>83.84. Devise a long-term Government strategy aimed at integration of immigrants (Poland);</p>	<p>Recently, Parliament adopted Law 4251/2014 on “Code of Immigration and Social Integration” which codifies the relevant legislative provisions, simplifies administrative procedures, introduces amendments on issues such as the renewal of residence permits and family reunification, facilitates the acquisition of residence permits by second-generation migrants and promotes the long-term resident status under the relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>Article 78 of Law 3852/2010 provides for the establishment of Migrant Integration Councils (MIC). MICs are composed of 5-11 members namely municipal councilors (one of them is the Chair of the Council and representatives from local social stakeholders on immigrant issues. They aim at identifying integration problems encountered by foreign nationals and submit to the Municipal Council relevant proposals for the smooth integration of local migrant populations. The Councils play a significant role in the integration of foreign citizens as they ensure, through participation of representatives from the local migrant communities, the representation of</p>

	<p>migrants in local public life and promote active participation of migrants in local decision-making. Up to now 220 Migrant Integration Councils have been established all over the country. Their establishment and everyday running has been financially and technically supported by actions undertaken in the context of the European Integration Fund of third country nationals (EIF) - Greece.</p> <p>Greek authorities have been very active in the implementation of programmes for the integration of third country nationals, mainly through the European Integration Fund and the European Social Fund as well as initiatives undertaken by municipalities and civil society actors. The Ministry of Interior, as the Responsible Authority for the European Integration Fund (EIF) for third country nationals in Greece for the period 2007-2013, has launched and funded a series of actions concerning the social integration of third country nationals in Greece, such as: awareness raising of the host society with regard to migration issues, language courses for migrants, support and information campaigns for migrants, intercultural projects and festivals, intercultural mediation programmes in hospitals, exchange of best practices between policy actors in the field of integration, training of civil servants who deal with third country nationals, etc.</p> <p>Under the legislative framework in force, steps will be taken to simplify the procedures and improve the existing framework for the social inclusion of immigrants.</p>
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS	
<p>84.9. Develop and implement a National Action Plan on Human Rights in order to have a systematic strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights (Spain);</p>	<p>Greece's first National Action Plan on Human Rights, covering the period 2014-2016, has been prepared, under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, with the cooperation of all competent Ministries, government agencies and national human rights institutions. The National Action Plan has been drafted in accordance with relevant UN guidelines and the requirements of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. The draft has been submitted to an open and public consultation, following which a large number of comments and proposals were incorporated into the final text. The Action Plan aims to form the basis of a coherent human rights policy at the national level, covers a wide range of civil and political, economic and social rights and focuses mainly on the recommendations of international</p>

	<p>monitoring bodies (both at the universal and the regional level) in the field of human rights, as well as the UPR recommendations. Under each human right or fundamental freedom, a number of relevant sets of action to be implemented are listed, comprising the objective pursued, the action to be taken, the competent body and implementation indicators.</p> <p>The inter-ministerial team which drafted the Action Plan will continue its work as a body responsible for monitoring the implementation and evaluating the actions included in the Action Plan, with the assistance of the competent authorities, the national human rights institutions and civil society.</p>
COOPERATION WITH NGOs AND CIVIL SOCIETY	
83.75. Formalize a closer cooperation with local and international NGOs, in order to make a better use of available resources, when addressing the difficult humanitarian situation in Greece today (Norway);	The Greek State, recognizes and emphasizes the importance of the work and role of civil society and also acknowledges that Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), around the world, have dedicated their efforts to protect human rights. Greek State fosters and supports the social work that NGOs, charities and church organizations perform in collaboration with local authorities, in order to provide assistance to those in need, due to present economic crisis.
83.16. Continue its activities in full cooperation with NGOs and civil society organizations in order to guarantee the effective and equal application of all human rights (Palestine);	The competent authorities cooperate with NGOs and civil society organizations in a number of fields, in particular protection of refugees and asylum seekers, including unaccompanied children, assistance to persons in vulnerable situations due to the economic crisis, fight against trafficking in human beings, promotion and protection of women's and children rights, etc. Six of the most representative NGOs are members of the National Commission of Human Rights; NGOs will be closely involved in monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan for Human Rights.
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS	
83.14. Implement recommendations and decision of human rights protection mechanisms, including special procedures (Austria);	The competent authorities thoroughly examine and take fully into consideration the recommendations and decisions of all human rights protection mechanisms, including special procedures, and engage in a meaningful follow-up dialogue with the aforementioned mechanisms.

<p>83.15. Enhance accessibility of the United Nations Human Rights system for all members of Greek society by ensuring the translation into Greek of its UPR outcome and relevant treaty body concluding observations and special procedures country reports (Canada);</p>	<p>The UPR outcome was translated into Greek and served as one of the main background documents for the elaboration of the first National Action Plan for Human Rights. The translation of future treaty body concluding observations and recommendations, at the least, contained in special procedures country reports will be assured.</p>
<p>83.96. Undertake the process of consultations with civil society stakeholders and the National Commission for Human Rights in the follow-up to the UPR review (Austria);</p>	<p>National human rights institutions and civil society stakeholders will be consulted in view of the preparation of the next UPR report and the assessment of the follow-up to the first cycle of UPR review. It is to be noted that UPR recommendations have been fully taken into account and largely incorporated in the first National Action Plan on Human Rights, the implementation of which will be monitored with the participation of NHRIs and civil society.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION</p>	
<p>83.97. Continue its commendable engagement in the field of the international development cooperation despite current challenges (Algeria).</p>	<p>The current international financial crisis had a significant negative effect on the economic situation of all donors, including Greece. Despite the difficulties in 2013, Greece has reached a level of 0.13% of Official Development Assistance (ODA)/GNI, a percentage higher compared to other countries. Nevertheless, our commitment to reaching the 0.7% ODA/GNI target on a long-term basis still remains. At the same time, we will put the emphasis on the quality parameters of our development assistance.</p>