



Greece

Water & Waste Water Market Brief 2009

Greece: Important Links & Contacts

Ministry of Environment – www.minenv.gr

Ministry of Agriculture – www.minagric.gr

Ministry of Merchant Marine, the Aegean and Island Policy – www.yen.gr

Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises for Water Supply and Sewerage – www.edeya.gr

Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP) – www.eydap.gr

Thessaloniki Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYATH) – www.eyath.gr

National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development – www.ekpaa.gr

Public & Private Partnerships – www.sdit.mnec.gr



Market Overview

Water management in Greece is, in general terms, satisfactory. Any problems related to water management focus on quantity issues, as water quality in Greece is considered to be high and water borne diseases are virtually non-existent. The uneven distribution of water resources and amount of rainfall creates water availability problems. Agricultural needs account for the most significant water consumption, and demand for irrigation has doubled in the past twenty years.

It is estimated that 98.8% of households have continuous access to an improved water supply and 94.6% of households are connected to a sewage system. The Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP SA), is the largest company in Greece operating in the water market. EYDAP SA supplies approximately 4,000,000 inhabitants of Attica with potable water through an extensive network that includes 1,796,500 metered connections and a total length of 7,940 km. The sewerage sector similarly serves 3,300,000 inhabitants, with a total network length of 5,800 km.

Large-scale sewage treatment plants have been constructed in recent years. The most significant among them are the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Psittalia, in order to prevent the pollution of the Saronic Gulf by industrial and residential sewage from Athens and Piraeus, and a second wastewater treatment plant in Thessaloniki, northern Greece.

Since December 2003, a new legislative and institutional framework has been put into force in Greece with an emphasis on managing water levels and innovative approaches concerning the protection of water quantity, as well as actions for joint measures to confront transboundary water problems, since 30% of surface waters come from, or pass through, neighboring countries (Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria and Turkey).

In a report revealed in March 2008 by the Ministry of Environment, the largest water surplus in Greece is in the western mainland, and the highest deficit is in Thessaly. Supply concerns are greater on islands that have limited fresh water resources and must rely on transported water. Innovative desalination projects using technologies based on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) are currently being planned for implementation. Candidates for the program include 13 islands, while some smaller islands will receive water from larger islands nearby. The RES plants and facilities will be self-funded, on plots of land granted for this purpose by municipalities, according to the ministry.

Greece's Investment Incentives Law regarding water resource management provides aid of up to 40% of the project cost for water recycling and desalination, and up to 35% for the desalination and production of potable water. Investors may take advantage of: cash grants and/or leasing subsidies, wage subsidies for new employment created by an investment, or tax allowances through the creation of a tax reserve.

Further information: Ms. Irene Ralli, Commercial Specialist
U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Embassy Athens
91 Vas. Sofias Avenue, GR-101 60 Athens, Greece
Tel: [30] (210) 720-2224, Fax: [30] (210) 721-8660
Mail to: Irene.Ralli@mail.doc.gov