

Greece

1. Industrial Strategy

Greece defines its industrial policy through a combination of national planning and European instruments. In 2021, the Ministry of Development and Investments, launched the **National Smart Specialisation Strategy (ESEE)**, Greece's national version of the EU's Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3), an instrument that channels research and innovation funding into sectors with high industrial growth potential. The current **ESEE 2021-2027** identifies eight priority areas: agri-food, bio-sciences and health, digital technologies, sustainable energy, environment and circular economy, transport and logistics, materials and construction, and tourism and creative industries.¹ It also sets its objectives: to generate and apply knowledge, foster innovation, strengthen enterprise networks, and connect research with production.² ESEE operates at both national and regional levels: the national strategy defines the overarching priorities, while each region develops its own RIS3 plan to reflect local strengths.³ ESEE's implementation is supported by EU cohesion funds, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and a governance system that links ministries, regions, and innovation platforms.⁴

Beyond research and innovation, in 2022, the government presented a broader national policy document, the **National Industrial Strategy (NIS)**. This outlines forty-three interventions (Action Plans) grouped under seven Strategic Axes: Increasing Competitiveness, Innovation, Digital Transformation, Green Transformation, Human Resources and Skills, Business Environment, and Resilience.⁵ The interventions of the Action Plan are divided into four categories based on the type (funding scheme, reforms, etc.) as well as the scope (collaborating

¹ Ministry of Development and Investments, 'National Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-2027: Synopsis' (June 2022) <https://gsri.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Synopsis_National-Smart-Specialisation-Strategy-2021-2027.pdf> accessed 3 September 2025, 1.

² Ibid.

³ General Secretariat for Research and Innovation, 'Research & Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)' <<https://gsri.gov.gr/en/research-innovation-strategy-for-smart-specialization-ris3/>> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴ Ministry of Development and Investments (n 1), 3.

⁵ Ministry of Development and Investments, 'National Industrial Strategy and Action Plan' (September 2022) <<https://www.mindev.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2.-%CE%95%CE%B8%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE-%CE%A3%CF%84%CF%81%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE-%CE%92%CE%B9%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B7%CF%87%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%AF%CE%B1%CF%82-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9-%CE%A3%CF%87%CE%AD%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BF-%CE%94%CF%81%CE%AC%CF%83%CE%B7%CF%82-National-Industrial-Strategy-and-Action-Plan.pdf>> accessed 3 September 2025, 15-17.

agencies, intended changes, etc.) of each intervention.⁶ Its budget estimated at € 2.1 billion, is expected to be covered by the Recovery and Resilience Fund, and to leverage at least €2.4 billion of private investments in the Greek industry over the period 2022-2030.⁷

Sectoral developments reinforce these priorities. **Enterprise Greece**, the national investment and trade promotion agency, reports renewed activity in shipyards after years of dormancy, and increase in defense industry output, and improved export performance in marine equipment and semiconductors.⁸

2. Digital (Development) Strategy

Greece sets its digital policy through the **Digital Transformation Bible 2020-2025**, presented by the Ministry of Digital Governance. The plan includes more than four hundred projects, with less than three hundred projects being in progress.⁹ It expands broadband and 5G networks through the **National Broadband Plan 2021-2027**,¹⁰ develops the gov.gr portal as a single access point to state services,¹¹ and strengthens digital skills across the public sector and the wider workforce.

The government also prepared the **National Strategic Roadmap for the Digital Decade 2023-2030**,¹² in line with the **EU Digital Decade 2030 Policy Program**. The roadmap sets measurable targets for:

- High-speed connectivity¹³
- Digital skills¹⁴

⁶ Idem, 18.

⁷ Idem, 21.

⁸ Enterprise Greece, 'Media Centre' <<https://www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr/el/media-center/?media-type=11146>> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁹ Ministry of Digital Governance, 'Digital Strategy' <<https://digitalstrategy.gov.gr/en/>> accessed 3 September 2025.

¹⁰ European Commission, 'Digital Connectivity – Greece' <<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-connectivity-greece>> accessed 3 September 2025.

¹¹ Government of Greece, 'About Us' <<https://www.gov.gr/en/info/about-us>> accessed 3 September 2025.

¹² European Commission, 'Greece, National Digital Decade Strategic Roadmap' (Digital Skills and Jobs Platform) <<https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/actions/national-initiatives/national-strategies/greece-national-digital-decade-strategic-roadmap>> accessed 3 September 2025.

¹³ Ministry of Digital Governance, National Digital Decade Roadmap (2023) <https://digitalstrategy.gov.gr/website/static/website/assets/uploads/digital_decade_national_roadmap.pdf> accessed 3 September 2025 41-43.

¹⁴ Idem, 38-40.

- Digitalisation of enterprises¹⁵
- Use of e-services¹⁶

Regional Smart Specialization Strategies (RIS) link digital tools to industrial research and innovation priorities.¹⁷ They direct EU cohesion funds into sectors with growth potential, such as energy, manufacturing, and logistics.¹⁸

Greece also participates in European initiatives such as the **Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs)** in fields like microelectronics.¹⁹ These initiatives strengthen the domestic industrial base and integrate Greek firms into European value chains.

Funding comes mainly from the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**²⁰ and the **Digital Europe Programme**.²¹ This financing supports investment in infrastructure, digital services, and training, ensuring that digitalisation advances both public administration and industrial competitiveness.

3. *Main Constitutional Provisions*

The Constitution of 1975, most recently revised in 2019, sets the legal basis for state action in industrial policy.²² It grants Parliament and the Government authority to regulate economic activity and intervene when public interest requires it.²³

¹⁵ Idem, 40- 41, 44-52.

¹⁶ Idem, 53-57.

¹⁷ General Secretariat for Research and Technology, 'Research & Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3)' <<http://www.gsrt.gr/central.aspx?sId=12014661139613231496367>> accessed 3 September 2025.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ European Commission. 'Microelectronics Value Chain' (IPCEI) <https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/ipcei/approved-ipceis/microelectronics-value-chain_en> accessed 3 September 2025; AENEAS, 'IPCEI in Microelectronics and Communication Technologies Has Been Approved by the Commission' (8 June 2023) <<https://aeneas-office.org/2023/06/08/ipcei-in-microelectronics-and-communication-technologies-has-been-approved-by-the-commission/>> accessed 3 September 2025.

²⁰ European Commission, 'Recovery and Resilience Facility' <https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en> accessed 3 September 2025.

²¹ European Commission, 'Digital Europe Programme' <<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>> accessed 3 September 2025.

²² Constitution of Greece (1975, rev 2019), Art. 106(1)-(2) <<https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/UserFiles/f3c70a23-7696-49db-9148-f24dce6a27c8/THE%20CONSTITUTION%20OF%20GREECE.pdf>> accessed 3 September 2025.

²³ Idem, Art. 106(3), (5).

Article 5 guarantees the right to free economic activity, provided it does not harm the public interest.²⁴ It secures entrepreneurship while recognizing that regulation may limit private action where necessary.

Article 106 empowers the state to plan economic development.²⁵ It allows the government to plan growth, support sectors of national importance, and oversee enterprises operating in monopolistic or strategic industries.²⁶ The article also allows the creation of public enterprises in areas considered essential, including energy, transports, and communications.²⁷

Other provisions strengthen the constitutional basis for industrial policy. Article 16 obliges the state to promote research, science, and technological development, while directly supports innovation and industrial modernization.²⁸ Article 22 affirms the state's role in shaping employment relations and Labour conditions, both of which affect industrial competitiveness.²⁹ Property rights under Article 17 provide the general legal context for investment and regulation.³⁰

4. Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments

Greece integrates the **Recovery and Resilience Plan (Greece 2.0)** into its industrial and digital policy. This allocates funds to green energy, smart infrastructure, and innovation.³¹ Its “Power up” and “Renovate” components aim to enhance energy efficiency and urban resilience.³²

National legislation provides the legal basis for investment and industrial activity:

- Law 3982/2011 (on the simplification of licensing of industrial and professional activities); it modernizes procedures for technical professions, manufacturing plants, and industrial facilities.³³

²⁴ Idem, Art. 5.

²⁵ Idem, Art. 106(1).

²⁶ Idem, Art. 106(2)-(3).

²⁷ Idem, Art. 106(5).

²⁸ Idem, Art. 16.

²⁹ Idem, Art. 22.

³⁰ Idem, Art. 17.

³¹ Government of Greece, 'Greece 2.0: National Recovery and Resilience Plan' <<https://greece20.gov.gr/en/>> accessed 3 September 2025.

³² Ibid.

³³ European Commission, 'Best Practice on Regulatory Impact Assessment: Greece' (2014) <https://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/docs/greece_best_practice_final.pdf> accessed 3 September 2025.

- Law 4442/2016 (on the exercise of economic activity); it introduces the notification system, meaning many business can start operating by simply notifying authorities, rather than waiting for prior approval.³⁴
- Law 4635/2019 (“Invest in Greece” Law); it expands the fast-track regime for large-scale strategic investments, and strengthens Enterprise Greece’s role as one-stop shop.³⁵
- Law 4819/2021 (on circular economy and environmental licensing); it simplifies environmental permits while introducing sustainability requirements.³⁶
- Law 4887/2022 (on investment incentives); it establishes financial support schemes for enterprises, while licensing laws simplify procedures for industrial operations and strategic projects.³⁷

5. (Regional) Economic Treaties to which Greece is a Signatory

Greece participates in trade and economic agreements through its membership on the European Union.³⁸ As part of the EU, Greece is bound by the customs union and the single market, which shape its industrial and trade policies.

Through the EU, Greece is a party to:

- The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada³⁹
- The EU-Japan Economic Partnership⁴⁰
- The EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement⁴¹

³⁴ Bank of Greece, Ministerial Decision A7/316010/2021 (2021) <https://www.bankofgreece.gr/RelatedDocuments/YA%20A7_316010_2021_EN_LIN.docx> accessed 3 September 2025.

³⁵ KPMG Greece, ‘CPA Newsflash: GEMI’ (November 2019) <https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/gr/pdf/2019/11/CPA_Newsflash_ENG-GEMI-01112019.pdf> accessed 3 September 2025.

³⁶ US Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, ‘Greece - Waste Management Opportunities’ (Market Intelligence, 6 December 2022) <<https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/greece-waste-management-opportunities>> accessed 3 September 2025.

³⁷ Ministry of Development and Investments, ‘General Private Investment Aid Schemes’ (ependyseis.gov.gr) <<https://ependyseis.mindev.gov.gr/en/idiotikes/p/general>> accessed 3 September 2025.

³⁸ Constitution of Greece (1975, rev 2019) art 28 (2)-(3) <<https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/UserFiles/f3c70a23-7696-49db-9148-f24dce6a27c8/THE%20CONSTITUTION%20OF%20GREECE.pdf>> accessed 3 September 2025.

³⁹ European Commission, ‘EU-Canada Agreement’ <https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/canada/eu-canada-agreement_en> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴⁰ European Commission, ‘EU-Japan Agreement’ <https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/japan/eu-japan-agreement_en> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴¹ European Commission, ‘EU-South Korea Agreements’ <https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/south-korea/eu-south-korea-agreements_en> accessed 3 September 2025.

- Several agreements with Singapore, Vietnam, and the United Kingdom under the Trade Cooperation Agreement.⁴²

Beyond the EU framework, Greece takes part in regional initiatives. It is a founding member of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), which promotes trade and energy cooperation among neighboring states.⁴³ Greece also participates in the Union for Mediterranean (UfM)⁴⁴ and the Energy Community Treaty, linking it to regional energy and infrastructure markets in South-East Europe.⁴⁵

6. *Plurilaterals*

Greece participates in plurilaterals agreements mainly through the European Union. Within the WTO, Greece is part of the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), which opens foreign procurement markets to Greek companies,⁴⁶ and the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), which reduces tariffs on technology goods and supports the ICT sector.⁴⁷

As a member of the OECD, Greece commits to common rules on investment, competition, industrial subsidies, and the digital economy.⁴⁸

At the European level, Greece takes part in Important Projects of Common Interest (IPCEIs), including initiatives in microelectronics, hydrogens, and batteries. These projects pool resources across EU member states and allow Greek firms and research institutions to integrate into wider European value chains.

⁴² European Commission, 'EU – Singapore Agreements' <https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/singapore/eu-singapore-agreements_en> accessed 3 September 2025; European Commission, 'EU- Viet Nam Agreements' <https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/viet-nam/eu-viet-nam-agreements_en> accessed 3 September 2025; European Commission, 'EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement' <https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴³ Council of Europe, 'Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)' <<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/bsec>> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴⁴ Union for the Mediterranean, 'Member States' <<https://ufmsecretariat.org/who-we-are/member-states/>> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴⁵ State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 'Energy Community' <<https://www.derk.ba/en/legislation/energycommunity>> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴⁶ World Trade Organisation, 'Agreement on Government Procurement' <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴⁷ World Trade Organisation, 'Information Technology Agreement' <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/inftec_e/inftec_e.htm> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁴⁸ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'Industrial Subsidies' <<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/industrial-subsidies.html>> accessed 3 September 2025.

7. *Proceedings Initiated Against Greece, or by It, Before International Fora for Adoption/Implementation of Industrial Policy Measures (e.g., Before WTO Panels, the WTO's AB)*

Greece does not litigate independently before the WTO. As an EU Member State, it is represented by the European Union in all proceedings. Given that Greece has downstream industries (construction, shipbuilding, manufacturing) and that it is energy-intensive and dependent on gas imports, the key disputes for Greek industries are:

- DS595 (Turkey v. EU) which confirms the EU's steel safeguards, affecting input costs and supply for Greek steel-using industries.⁴⁹
- DS548 (EU v. US) which contests US Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs, important for Greek exporters and downstream users.⁵⁰
- DS476 (Russia v. EU) which challenges EU energy rules, shaping gas market access and costs for energy-intensive firms.⁵¹

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⁴⁹ World Trade Organisation, *European Union – Safeguard Measures on Certain Steel Products* (Turkey v European Union) WT/DS595 (adopted 29 April 2022) <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds595_e.htm> accessed 3 September 2022.

⁵⁰ World Trade Organisation, *United States – Certain Measures in Steel and Aluminum Products* (European Union v United States) WT/DS548 (adopted 9 December 2022) <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds548_e.htm> accessed 3 September 2025.

⁵¹ World Trade Organisation, *European Union, and its Member States – Certain Measures Relating to the Energy Sector* (Russian Federation v European Union) WT/DS476 (adopted 21 August 2018) <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds476_e.htm> accessed 3 September 2025.