

<i>Country Overview</i>	
Greece	
<i>Legislative framework for armed forces' use for civil protection</i>	The National Civil Protection Plan “Xenokrates” (Ministerial Decision no. 1299/2003) This is Greece's national framework for risk management planning for natural and human-made disasters, which is coordinated by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP).
<i>Key civilian authority/ies</i>	General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP) Ministry for the Climate Crisis and Civil Protection (newly established after the devastating wildfires in August 2021) Directorate General of Natural Disaster Recovery (under the Greek Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport)
<i>Armed forces branch(es) primarily involved</i>	Under the National Civil Protection Plan, the GSCP deploys different “operating actors” dependent on the scale of the emergency. These “operating actors” can include the Hellenic Army, the Hellenic Air Force, the Hellenic Navy and the paramilitary Hellenic Coast Guard, in addition to first responders, health authorities, and nongovernmental organizations such as the Hellenic Rescue Team. Hellenic Armed Forces Within the scope of their mission, all branches of the armed forces carry out a series of social contribution activities and initiatives and provide assistance to state services and local communities in case of emergencies and disasters. A formation dedicated to such tasks is the Hellenic Army’s “747 Special Engineer Battalion” which, inter alia, undertakes missions related to natural and technological emergencies to protect civilians. The Battalion comprises Special Units, such as the Water Purification Squad and the Special Disaster Response Unit (ETAK) that deals with natural - technological disasters, searching, rescuing and releasing people in distress. Hellenic Coast Guard The Hellenic Coast Guard is a paramilitary organization and is under the administration of the Greek Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy. Its mission is to patrol, monitor and safeguard Greece’s territorial waters and apply law enforcement at sea. It can support the Hellenic Navy in various operations, while its role includes marine protection, search and rescue operations, emergency response, and maritime medevacs.
<i>Cases of use / Good practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighting In 2019, in the framework of the National Civil Protection Plan “Xenokrates”, the 4th edition of the General Plan for Emergency Response due to Forest Fires was developed, under the code name “Iolaos”. In the summer of 2021, Greece was devastated by hundreds of wildfires, which were further exacerbated by severe heatwaves. To best manage the wildfires, the GSCP requested that all available military resources be deployed to increase wildfire patrols and aerial surveillance, which was endorsed by the Defence Ministry in early August 2021. In addition, the Hellenic Coast Guard assisted with evacuations of residents. Overall, the Hellenic Armed Forces provided relief to local firefighting services by supplying personnel, vehicles, fire-fighting aircraft, and helicopters. • Earthquakes Disaster response capabilities in Greece have strengthened in part due to peacebuilding efforts with neighbouring countries. An obvious example of this occurred after devastating earthquakes, which struck both Greece and Turkey in 1999. Diplomatic discussions resulted in a protocol signed in November 2001 that established a joint Greece-Turkey disaster response unit, known as the Joint Hellenic-Turkish Standby Disaster Response Unit (JHET-SDRU). Greek-Turkish civil defence teams have since taken part in training sessions led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and have participated in several joint search-and-rescue exercises. In 2020, in the framework of the National Civil Protection Plan “Xenokrates”, a “General Plan for Emergency Response and Immediate/Short-Term Management of Earthquakes Effects” with the code name “Enceladus” was introduced. Currently (September 2021), “Enceladus” has been set

	<p>in motion and the Hellenic Armed Forces have been deployed in Crete to provide assistance (tents set-up) after a magnitude 5.8 earthquake struck the Greek island.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 response During the Covid-19 crisis, the Hellenic Armed Forces were deployed in ports and airports to support Covid-19 testing and contract tracing services. Additionally, the Armed Forces were responsible for setting up field hospitals in severely affected areas and for distributing vaccines around the country. • Medical assistance in remote areas The Hellenic Armed Forces are involved in providing medical assistance in remote areas when necessary. Specifically, in 2020, 59 air medevac flights (58 patients and 1 transplant) of a total duration of 159 hours were carried out. In the first half of 2021 the corresponding figures have been 162 air medevac flights of 521 hours. The Hellenic Army also contributes military medical personnel and equipment to hospitals and local medical centres around the country. • Other The Hellenic Armed Forces contribute to civil protection often and services can include: assistance in natural disasters, search-and-rescue operations, creation of refugee accommodation structures, and construction of certain infrastructure projects (e.g. construction and maintenance works at schools in Greek cities/villages/islands, snowploughing, stream clean-ups etc.).
<p>Follow-up questions / concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At what stage and by whom are the troops called in for civil protection tasks? • Is there a standardized risk level/type explicitly described in the National Civil Protection Plan “Xenokrates” according to which the Armed Forces are called in to intervene? • What is the hierarchy and standard operating procedures between civilian and military authorities in civil protection operations? Do they have regular joint training sessions? • Who pays for the civil protection activities of the military? • Are there any concerns about bringing the military into civilian activities? How does the public perceive the role of the military in civilian-related affairs? • What about cross border cooperation with other countries’ military and civilian authorities for civil protection operations? • What about engagement in coordination via NATO, the UN or other mechanism, e.g. the EU?
<p><i>Indicative Bibliography</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ganapati, N. Emel, Ilan Kelman, and Theodore Koukis. 2010. “Analysing Greek–Turkish Disaster Related Cooperation: A Disaster Diplomacy Perspective.” <i>Cooperation and Conflict</i> 45(2): 162–85Kampouris, 2021 • Xhelili, Arthur, Francesca Grossi, Livia El-Khawad, and Luca Sander. 2020. <i>An Overview of the Emergency Management Systems in Six Countries</i>. PathoCERT. https://www.scp-centre.org/publications/pathocert-baseline-report/ • http://www.army.gr/el/drastiriotes/koinoniko-ergo/loipes-drastiriotes • http://www.army.gr/el/organosi/stoiheia-organosis-genikoy-epiteleioy-stratoy/dieythynseis-oplon/dieythynsi-mihanikoy-dmh-8 • https://www.ggde.gr/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=4481 • https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/geniko-shedio-antimetopisis-ektakton-anagkon-exaitias-dasikon-pyrkagion-metin-kodiki-onomasia • https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1168668/tents-set-up-for-quake-stricken-residents-in-southern-crete/ • https://www.onalert.gr/enoples-dynameis/ypetha-mazi-gia-panta-enoples-dynameis-kai-koinonia-to-polydiastato-koinoniko-ergo/360329/ • https://www.government.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/%CE%A5%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%BF-%CE%95%CE%B8%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE%CF%82-%CE%86%CE%BC%CF%85%CE%BD%CE%B1%CF%82.pdf • https://www.fire.gr/?p=53309 	