

EED implementation in Greece

Introduction

The Ministry of Environment and Energy is responsible for the transposition into the national legislation and the implementation of the Directive 2012/27/EE on energy efficiency (EED) undertaking the obligation to design, realize and monitor the required energy efficiency measures for the fulfilment of the energy saving target at national level. Nevertheless, other ministries (such as the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism) are involved into the formulation of energy efficiency measures, while vital is also the role of the Operational Programs, as they constitute the main financing mechanisms for energy efficiency measures mobilizing the available Structural Funds. Finally, the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRESS), which has been appointed by the corresponding legislation as the Greek national entity for the promotion of energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, participates in various initiatives regarding the EED implementation.

1. Legal context

The Law 4342/2015 “Pension arrangements, transposition of Directive 2012/27/EE on energy efficiency amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC” (Official Government Gazette: no. 143 of issue A') transposes into the national legislation all the provisions of the EED. The Law 4342/2015 came into force in November 2015, while the fulfilment of several obligations within the framework of Articles 3, 5, 7, 14 and 24 of the EED has started before its official transposition. Nevertheless, some ministerial decisions should be adopted in order to fully transpose all the foreseen aspects of the EED.

2. Status of the implementation

2.1. Legislative provisions

The following table contains information outlining the current degree of implementation of the EED by article in Greece.

EED Article	Implementation status
Article 3	An indicative national energy efficiency target was established based on final energy consumption taking into account the requirements of the paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the EED. The energy efficiency target was notified firstly by the 3 rd Energy Efficiency Action Plan, which was submitted to EU in December 2014, while according to the requirements of Article 4 of the Law 4342/2015 the Ministerial Decision ΔΕΠΕΑ/Γ/οικ. 185496 (Official Government Gazette: no. 3023 of issue B') has imposed officially the obligation to achieve 18.4 Mtoe of final energy consumption in 2020.
Article 4	The long-term strategy for mobilising investments in the renovation of the national stock of residential and commercial buildings was prepared and submitted to the EU in the beginning of 2015 according to the requirements of the of the paragraph 1 of Article 4 of the EED. According to the requirements of Article 6 of the Law 4342/2015, the official approval of the long-term strategy was performed through the adoption of the Ministerial Decision ΔΕΠΕΑ/Γ/οικ. 185497 (Official Government Gazette: no. 3004 of issue B').
Article 5	Article 7 of the Law 4342/2015 introduces the obligation to renovate from 1 st of January 2014 3% of the total floor area of heated and/or cooled buildings owned and occupied by the central government annually in order to meet at least the minimum energy performance requirements as foreseen in Article 4 of Directive

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	<p>2010/31/EU.</p> <p>Greece has decided to follow the default approach, while it is provided the option in paragraph 8 of Article 7 of the Law 4342/2015 to be contributed equivalent investments to the Energy Efficiency Fund for the realization of the required energy savings.</p> <p>The list of heated and/or cooled central government buildings in accordance with Article 5 of the EED was published on ministry's website on 31 December 2013. The list contained heated and/or cooled buildings of central government with a total useful floor area of over 500 m².</p> <p>Furthermore, it is foreseen in paragraph 12 of Article 7 of the Law 4342/2015 both of the preparation of actions plans at regional and local level by the corresponding authorities for the renovation of the public and municipal buildings and the establishment of energy management systems. The buildings, which will be integrated into the compiled actions plans, will have priority for being funded by the existing financial mechanisms in order to implement the identified energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>Finally, various measures have already been implemented so as to foster the public bodies at regional and local level to demonstrate their exemplary role as regards energy efficiency of buildings.</p>
Article 6	<p>According to Article 8 of the Law 4342/2015 the central governments should purchase only products, services and buildings with high energy-efficiency performance taking into consideration various criteria, such as the cost-effectiveness, the economic feasibility, the wider sustainability, the technical suitability, as well as the sufficient competition in the market.</p> <p>Moreover, the public bodies, including authorities at regional and local levels, are encouraged to purchase only products, services and buildings with high energy-efficiency performance.</p> <p>In paragraph 6 of Article 8 of the Law 4342/2015 it is foreseen that only buildings that are classified at least in the Energy Performance Class C according to the existing Energy Efficiency Regulation in Buildings can be rented or purchased by public authorities. The identical obligation exists also in the case of the potential renewal of the existing contracts.</p>
Article 7	<p>In December 2013 it was notified to the EU that the Article 7's target will be achieved through the introduction of alternative measures. The initially proposed alternative measures were updated during the submission of the 3rd Energy Efficiency Action proposing 18 policy measures finally. Nevertheless, the observed deviations from the established target in the annual reports both of 2015 and 2016 led to the reconsideration of the Article 7's implementation.</p> <p>According to Article 9 of the Law 4342/2015 the introduction of an energy obligation scheme to the energy distributors and/or retail energy sales companies is foreseen since 1st of January 2017. Therefore, the fulfilment of Article 7's target will be performed through a combination of alternative policy measures and an energy obligation scheme.</p> <p>A ministerial decision is expected in order to specify the required details about the obligated parties, the allocated target for each obligated party separately, the monitoring and verification scheme, the reporting obligations and other provisions of the scheme.</p> <p>Moreover, according to paragraph 10 of Article 9 of the Law 4342/2015 it will be given the option to the obligated party to pay equivalently the required investments to the Energy Efficiency Fund.</p> <p>Finally, the current design of the existing alternative measures will be reviewed taking into account the effectiveness of the existing measures, the introduction of the obligation scheme and the current deviations for the intermediate targets.</p>
Article 8	<p>Article 10 of the Law 4342/2015 introduces the provision of high quality energy audits, which have to be cost-effective for all final customers. Moreover, the</p>

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	<p>enterprises that are not SMEs have the obligation to carry out an energy audit in an independent and cost-effective manner by qualified and/or accredited experts or by independent authorities under the national legislation until 9 November 2016 and at least every four years from the date of the previous energy audit. In the case that the obligated enterprises have already developed an energy or environmental management system, which is certified by an independent body according to the relevant European or International Standards, will be exempted from the obligation to conduct an energy audit.</p> <p>Nevertheless, all the details regarding the quality criteria of the energy audits, the energy auditors and the implemented procedure will be determined through the adoption of a ministerial decision.</p> <p>Finally, specific incentives will be introduced in order to encourage SMEs to conduct an energy audit and specific initiatives will be organised in order to enhance the existing level of awareness and knowledge considering energy audits.</p>
Article 9	<p>Article 11 of the Law 4342/2015 sets energy distributors and retail energy sales companies responsible for implementing Article 9 of the EED.</p> <p>Paragraph 6 of Article 10 indicates that, where appropriate, a Joint Ministerial Decision will include additional rules and guidelines on the way to allocate costs for heat and/or hot water that is used.</p>
Article 10 & 11	<p>Article 12 of the Law 4342/2015 includes the legal provisions of Article 10 and 11 of the EED. According to Article 12, where final customers do not have smart meters as referred to in Article 59 of the Law 4001/2011, energy distributors and retail energy sales companies must ensure that billing information is accurate and based on actual consumption, in accordance with point 1.1 of Annex VII.</p> <p>According to paragraph 2 of Article 12, smart meters must enable accurate billing information based on actual consumption. Energy distributors and retail energy sales companies must ensure that final customers have the possibility of easy access to complementary information on historical consumption allowing detailed self-checks.</p> <p>Independently of whether smart meters have been installed or not, energy distributors and retail energy sales companies, from the 1st January 2016, are responsible for the legal provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 10 and Article 11 of the EED.</p>
Article 12	<p>According to Article 13 of the Law 4342/2015 the Division of Energy Policy and Energy Efficiency of the Ministry of Environment and Energy is responsible for taking the appropriate measures to promote and facilitate an efficient use of energy by small energy customers, including domestic customers.</p>
Article 14	<p>The exceptions relating to Article 14(6) of the EED were submitted promptly to the EU in December 2013.</p> <p>Article 15 of the Law 4342/2015 appoints the Division of Renewable Energy Sources and Electrical Energy of the Ministry of Environment and Energy responsible for the implementation of Article 14 of the EED.</p> <p>The comprehensive assessment of the potential for the application of high efficiency cogeneration and efficient district heating and cooling, containing the information set out in Annex VIII and the analysis of high-efficiency cogeneration potential referred to the Law 3734/2009 (Article 8), has submitted to the EU in March 2016.</p> <p>The comprehensive assessment will be approved by a decision of the Minister of Environment and Energy. By decisions of the competent Ministers or Prefects measures will be adopted, which will encourage the use of efficient heating and cooling systems at local and regional levels.</p> <p>The cost-benefit analysis is carrying out in cooperation with the companies responsible for the operation of the district heating and cooling networks.</p> <p>According to paragraph 14 of Article 15 of the Law 4342/2015, when adopting</p>

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	<p>the authorisation criteria as referred to decision of licensing Minister of Development No. D5-HL/B/F.1/oik.17951/6.12.2000 (B. 1498), Deputy Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change No. YAPE /F1 / 14810 / 4.10.2011 (B 2373) and the Deputy Minister Woo Development, Competitiveness and Shipping number 483/35 / F.15 / 17.1.2012 (B 158), except those definitions, the permit criteria also include the aspects of points a-b of paragraph 7 of Article 14 of the EED.</p> <p>Ministerial Decisions will determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thresholds, expressed in terms of the amount of available useful waste heat, the demand for heat or the distances between industrial installations and district heating networks, for exempting individual installations and • exemptions for individual installations from the authorisation and permit criteria. <p>Finally, public support to cogeneration and district heating generation and networks is a subject to State aid rules, where applicable.</p>
Article 15	<p>According to Article 16 of the Law 4342/2015 the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) due to its responsibility that is specified in the Law 4001/2011, takes into account the energy efficiency in its decisions on the operation of the gas and electricity infrastructure.</p> <p>Ministerial Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will determine the rules relating to the ranking of the different access and dispatch priorities granted in their electricity systems, • will promote access to and participation of demand response in balancing and • shall encourage operators of installations referred to in the first subparagraph to improve their annual average net operational rates.
Article 16	<p>Currently, there is no qualification, certification and accreditation scheme for the providers of energy services, the energy auditors, the energy managers and the installers of energy-related building elements. Moreover, there are no suitable training programmes developed for these professional categories.</p> <p>Article 17 of the Law 4342/2015 foresees the establishment of certification and/or accreditation schemes and/or equivalent qualification schemes, including suitable training programmes potentially, for the energy auditors and for the related professions with the building elements as defined in Directive 2010/31/EU.</p> <p>Finally, information about the established certification and/or accreditation schemes and/or equivalent qualification schemes should be provided to all the consumers.</p>
Article 17	<p>According to Article 18 of the Law 4342/2015 the Ministry of Environment and Energy should launch a specialised web-site for the provision of information to all the involved stakeholders, such as consumers, builders, architects, engineers, banks, financial institutions, environmental and energy auditors, and installers of building elements as defined in Directive 2010/31/EU.</p> <p>Moreover, the public authorities should publicize in their web-sites the related information about the implemented energy efficiency measures, while specific dissemination actions should be incorporated into the Energy Efficiency Actions Plans according to the paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 18 correspondingly.</p>
Article 18	<p>Law 3855/2010 “Measures to improve energy efficiency in end use, energy services and other provisions” (Official Government Gazette: no. 95 of issue A’) established the necessary institutional framework for the provision of energy services. Specifically, Article 10 introduced the requirement to develop an ESCO Registry for the registration of the ESCOs, which provide energy services and implement energy efficiency measures. The details regarding the operation of the ESCO Registry were determined by the Ministerial Decision D6/13280/07.06.2011 entitled ‘Energy Service Companies. Operation, Register,</p>

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	Code of Conduct and relevant provisions'. Moreover, two different templates of the Energy Performance Contract have been prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Energy and are available on the ESCO Registry. Currently, 39 ESCOs have already registered to ESCO registry. Finally, Article 19 of the Law 4342 introduces provisions for the promotion of the energy services to SMEs and supports the appropriate functioning of the energy services market.
Article 20	Article 20 of the Law 4342/2015 promotes either the adoption of new financing measures or the exploitation of the existing financing mechanisms for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in order to maximise the derived benefits by the multiple streams of financing. Furthermore, according to Article 21 of the Law 4342/2015 the establishment of an Energy Efficiency National Fund is foresees. Nevertheless, the responsibilities of the Energy Efficiency National Fund may be exercised by the existing Green Fund until the official establishment according to its operational characteristics as outlined in Article 9(5) of the Law 3855/2010.

2.2. Non-legislative provisions

No non-legislative provisions have been introduced yet.

3. Future activities

The preparation of the foreseen ministerial decisions has been scheduled and will be adopted in the nearest future.

4. Relevant information

More information about the foreseen energy efficiency measures can be found within the 3rd National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the submitted to the EU annual reports for the years 2015 and 2016.