



ATHENS

GREECE

KEY FEATURES OF THE CITY

Demographic Facts

- Urban population of around 3.000.000 inhabitants
- Metropolitan population of 3.750.000 citizens
- Around 660000 residents in the historic core (municipality)

Heritage

- Registered heritage: Acropolis
- Date of inscription: 1987
- List: World Heritage List

EXISTING GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

Development and Management Plans

- Structural Plan of Athens (SPA)
- “Attica SOS” program (1996 – 2002)
- Operational Program for the Attica Region (2000 – 2006)

8.1 Athens

Athens is the capital of Greece and one of the world's oldest cities, with its recorded history spanning around 3,400 years. In 1985, the city hosted the European City/Capital Culture (ECoC) annual event for the first time.

8.1.1 Key features of the city

Demographic facts

Athens is the largest city of Greece, with a urban population of more than 3.000 inhabitants, a metropolitan population of around 3.700.000 citizens and around 660.000 residents within the municipality, corresponding to the historic core city.

Urban figures

Heritage

Athens is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Acropolis of Athens and the medieval Daphni Monastery. The Acropolis was inscribed in the List in 1987.



8.1.2 Existing governance mechanisms

Development and management plans

Initially, environmental policy priorities were specialized in the **Structural Plan of Athens** (SPA) while its operational part was mostly described in the “**Attica SOS**” program (1996 – 2002). The specific program aimed at improving environmental conditions in the Attica region where Athens resides and included interventions at local and regional scale in the thematic areas of air, water, waste, traffic, noise, land planning, urban development, environmental awareness and legislation. Several actions were identified, contributing towards this goal such as the establishment of a special area concentrating the activities of wholesale trade, the upgrading of road infrastructure also through the construction of the metro, the tramway and the suburban railway, and the integration and unification of the Athens’ archaeological sites into a park.

On the other hand, the national priorities in parallel with the specific needs for the environment of the Athens metropolitan area shape environmental policy and action at the regional level as described in the **Operational Program for the Attica Region** (2000 – 2006). The plan specifically concerned water resource and waste management, protection of biodiversity, restoration of urban and coastal areas, support of green and recreation areas.

Responsible authorities

The “Attica SOS” program was implemented by the **Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works**.