



**ENTERPRISE GREECE**  
INVEST & TRADE



# NEWSLETTER JUNE 19



**GREECE WELCOMES  
FILMMAKERS**

**RENEWABLE  
ENERGY PROSPECTS**



**GREEK FOOD  
EXPORTERS**

The newsletter is a monthly publication of Enterprise Greece, the national investment and trade promotion agency.

## Greece Welcomes

# Foreign Film Productions

New incentives for foreign film productions shooting in Greece are bearing fruit, with representatives from leading international studios like Netflix, Disney, Universal and Amazon recently scouting the country for potential locations and starting new film projects.

With its sunny climate, diverse landscape and wealth of cultural monuments, Greece has long offered attractive locations and has welcomed several major film projects -- from Captain Corelli's Mandolin to Mamma Mia! -- over the last few decades. But Greece's bureaucracy and lack of financial support has also driven many potential film projects away.

No more. The country's new incentive scheme, combined with government efforts to establish new film offices, has changed that. Under a 2017 law -- and amended late last year -- the government is offering a 35% cash rebate on audiovisual projects filmed and produced in the country. The cash incentives apply to films, documentaries, TV series and digital games. To date, roughly three dozen productions from around the world have taken advantage of the new program.

Greece has also established the EKOME National Center of Audiovisual Media and Communications to promote the film industry and administer the incentive scheme. Part of EKOME's efforts is to create a network of regional film offices across Greece that would help ease the red tape facing filmmakers. In Crete and Attica, regional authorities have already announced they are opening local film offices, with the remaining regions of the country expected to follow shortly.

A widely noted revival in Greek filmmaking has also raised Greece's visibility internationally and produced a fresh generation of directors, actors, producers and technical staff. Several have won prizes at major international festivals and established themselves abroad, most notably Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos.

Through his international presence, Lanthimos has broken ground for other Greek filmmakers overseas, say industry experts. While at home, the relatively recently established Faliro House Productions company -- launched some ten years ago -- has helped breathe new life into the industry.



### Greek Audiovisual Incentives

- » **Cash rebates equal to 35% of the total eligible costs of production up to €5 million**
- » **Minimum production costs €100,000 for films**
- » **Minimum production costs for television series: €30,000 per episode with no cap**
- » **Minimum production costs for digital games: €60,000 with no cap**
- » **The cash rebate can be combined with other state aid**
- » **The cash rebate can serve as a collateral for loans from Greek banks**
- » **30% of eligible costs incurred in Greece for each audiovisual work is tax deductible**

# news in **brief**

## **Greek Economy**

Greece's economy grew at an annualized 1.3% rate in the first quarter of 2019, and 0.2% compared with the previous quarter, according to the latest data released by Elstat, the Greek statistics agency. A significant recovery in investments, combined with strong export growth, is helping drive growth. According to the latest OECD report, Greece's economy is expected to expand 2.1% this year and 2.0% in 2020.

## **Job Growth**

Greek businesses created 159,775 net new jobs in the first four months of the year, according to Labor Ministry data, the fastest job growth for the period in almost two decades. In April, a net balance of 110,895 new jobs were created with much of the growth coming from new positions in Greece's tourism and catering sectors.

## **National Elections**

President Prokopis Pavlopoulos announced the dissolution of parliament and set the date for national elections next month. National elections will be held July 7 and comes as the current government's four-year term draws to a close.

## **Strategic Investments**

Greece's inter-ministerial committee for strategic investments has approved three new projects under the country's fast-track investment program. The projects include a €69 million recreational park in Heraklion, Crete; the construction of a 5-star tourist project on Mykonos budgeted at €46.5 million; and a €180 million project to build student housing facilities at the University of Crete in Rethymno.

## **Tourism Growth**

Greece's tourism industry contributed €21.6 billion to the economy in 2018 -- accounting for 11.7% of GDP -- and attracting €5 billion worth of investments. According to the research department of the Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE), Greek tourism receipts rose 13.3% last year compared with one year earlier.

## **Gas Pipeline**

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and his Bulgarian counterpart formally inaugurated construction works on a 182-kilometer natural gas pipeline linking Greece with Bulgaria. The €240 million project, to be built by Greek construction company J&P Avax, is expected to be ready by the end of 2020 and is part of Greece's efforts to become a regional energy hub.

## **Power Project**

Greece's electricity grid operator ADMIE has launched tenders to build two undersea power cables linking the island of Crete with the region of Attica on mainland Greece, the Energy Ministry said. The €915 million project is slated for completion in 2022 and is part of a larger eastern Mediterranean project linking the power grids of Greece, Cyprus and Israel.

## **Investor Guide**

The latest version of Greek Law Digest - The Official Guide to Greek Law, has been published, providing investors an up-to-date review of the country's legal and institutional framework ([www.greeklawdigest.gr](http://www.greeklawdigest.gr)). The guide is jointly sponsored by Enterprise Greece, the Ministry of Economy and Development, and the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund, Greece's privatization agency.

# Greece Develops its Renewable Energy Sector

The tiny Greek island of Tilos recently became the first island in the European Union to rely entirely on renewable sources for its energy needs.

The EU funded 80% of the €13.7 million project that involved a new wind turbine, solar panels and an innovative battery system. Now Tilos is an example the EU wants other islands to emulate.

From its windswept seas to its mountain peaks, Greece is fast developing its renewable energy resources with some €2.5 billion worth of new projects slated to come online in the next two years alone. Those efforts are part of Greece's new €35 billion national energy plan which aims to dramatically increase the share of renewable energy.

By 2030, the EU wants at least 32% of bloc-wide energy consumption to come from renewable sources. Greece is on track to meet interim targets by 2020, but will need to invest heavily to reach those long term goals. Under its new energy plan, Greece is targeting 6.4GW of installed solar and wind capacity by 2020, and 13.4GW by 2030 -- up from about 5GW today.

Fortunately, investors are responding. In May, U.S. fund Fortress launched three new wind parks in central Greece, while China's Shenhua Group has announced plans for a €3 billion energy investment plan encompassing both renewable and conventional energy projects. Norway's giant state energy company, Equinor, is also eyeing floating offshore wind parks as Greece moves ahead with a pilot project.

## Estimation of investments in key areas of the National Energy Planning

Sector	Total estimated Investments (€ million) for the period 2020-2030
Electricity generation from RES	8.500
Electrical system infrastructure	5.500
New conventional electricity generation plants and upgrading of existing	1.900
Works for the development of electricity distribution network - Digitisation	3.300
Cross-border natural gas pipelines	2.200
Natural gas network and Storage	2.000
Research and innovation	800
Energy Efficiency	9.000
Investments in the refinery sector	1.500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34.700</b>

Source: Greece's National Energy Plan, Ministry of Environment and Energy



# Greek F&B Firms Continue Export Push

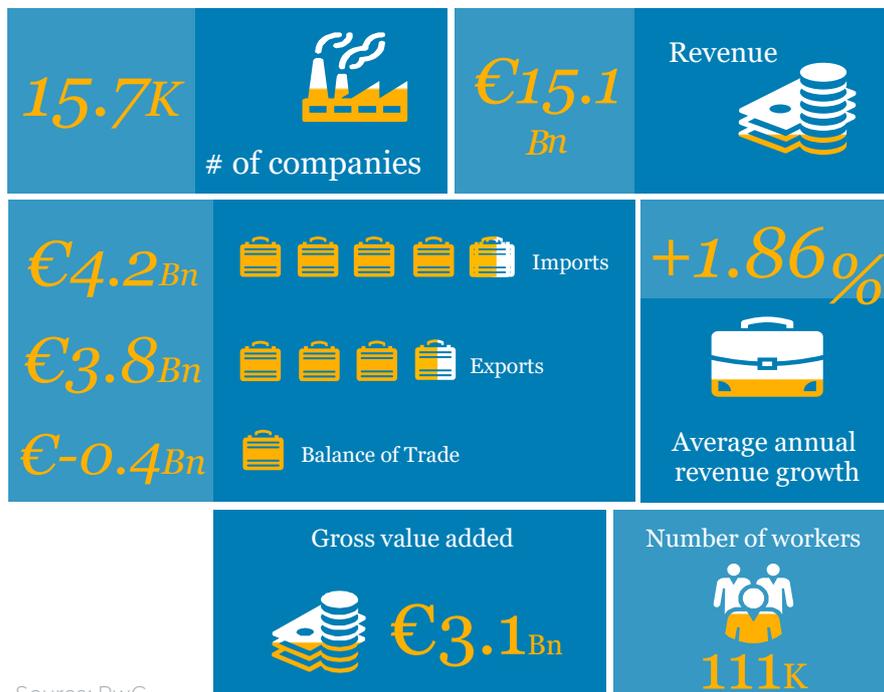
Greece's diverse food and beverage companies – from dairy farms to snack food makers – continue to sharpen their export readiness, a strategy that has led the country's F&B industry to three successive years of record export growth and growing profits.

In the past two months alone, a record 47 food companies participated in the Greek national pavilion at the prestigious Summer Fancy Food Show in New York; while for the first time ever 34 Greek food exporters took part in the PLMA's Private Label Products Exhibition in Amsterdam where they had more than 1,500 business contacts with visitors.

Saffron growers from the northern town of Kozani recently announced their first ever export consignment to China. While this month 40 Greek dairy producers held more than 500 meetings with 21 overseas buyers from Asia, North America and Europe at Enterprise Greece-organized gatherings in Athens and Larisa.

Later this year, Greece will send a national delegation to the Anuga food show in Cologne, and 20 wine masters from around the world will visit wine producing regions in Attica, Crete and Santorini.

- Greek national elections (July 7)
- Diamonds of the Greek Economy, awards ceremony for Greek enterprises, Athens (July 10)
- 4th Iraqi-European Business & Investment Forum, Athens (July 10-11)
- 23rd Roundtable with the Government of Greece, business conference, Lagonissi, Attica (July 16-17)
- Unbound London, innovation and technology forum, London (July 17-18)
- Enterprise Greece: Exporters' seminars, Athens & Thessaloniki (July)
- Enterprise Greece: Investment Fora in Madrid, Paris (July)



Source: PwC

## CONTACT US

To learn more about the many investment and trade opportunities Greece offers, visit us today at [www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr](http://www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr)

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