

Launch of the Subnational Business Ready in Greece report

Athens, Greece | April 28, 2026

Concept: The Subnational Business Ready in Greece is part of a series that implements the Business Ready methodology at the subnational level in 14 EU member states (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia were published in 2024; in addition to Greece, Czechia, Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Spain will be published in 2025/26; France and Germany will be published in 2026/27). The study assesses the business environment in six areas—Business entry, Business location, Utility services, Property transfer, Dispute resolution, and Business insolvency. The aim is to advance regulatory reforms and promote peer learning and convergence among locations towards the best regulatory practices. The project is implemented at the request of and funded by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, and in collaboration with the Government counterparts in each country. The project builds on the experience conducting subnational Doing Business assessments and policy dialogue with national and local authorities from 16 EU Member States between 2016 and 2022 (data available at www.doingbusiness.org/eu). In Greece, the study covered six cities: Alexandroupoli, Athens, Herakleion, Larissa, Patra, and Thessaloniki. Given the Greek Government’s strong collaboration in the study at both the national and local levels, including the provision of data and numerous interviews, as well as previous events for similar studies, there is an expectation that the report is launched live or in hybrid format in Athens. Moreover, as the World Bank is still active in Greece and is open to expanding the portfolio, the event is an opportunity for interaction and business development at high levels of representation.

Objectives:

Present the findings of the Subnational Business Ready in Greece report to a range of stakeholders. Presenting the data in this forum and explaining its potential uses in both reform planning as well as research will increase the likelihood and weight of the report’s impact. Participation by the financiers in the European Commission will demonstrate the value of their funding for this report and follow-up activities. Note: No media would be invited, but a press release would be issued following the event.

Provide a platform for the Government of Greece to discuss the data, promote peer-to-peer learning among cities, while allowing all stakeholders to ask questions and offer ideas for reforms. The format of the event will facilitate learning and follow-up actions.

Build momentum for the World Bank and Greek Government to explore further collaboration. The presence of high-level representatives from both the GoG and the WB, as well as donors, sets the stage for both informal and organized meetings to discuss additional WB activities in Greece.

Leverage the Knowledge Bank and build momentum for continued knowledge-sharing with the GoG. This knowledge-sharing benefits both Greece and other WBG clients, given the innovative solutions that Greece has to offer, such as its online business registration system and the digitalization of the Hellenic Cadastre.

Venue: The event shall be hosted at the IOBE facilities at Tsami Karatasou 11, Athina 117 42.

Time and date: April 28, 2026, 3pm – 4:30pm.

Detailed agenda:

- 3pm – 3:05pm: Introduction and welcome (Nikos Vettas, IOBE)
- 3:05 – 3:10pm: Remarks from the Ministry of Digital Governance (Dimosthenis Anagnostopoulos, Secretary General of the MoDG)
- 3:10 – 3:15pm: Support to Business Ready by the European Commission (Pasquale D’Apice, Economic Analyst, DG REGIO)
- 3:15 – 3:20pm: Introduction and presentation of WB in Greece (Annely Koudstaal, Program Manager for Southern Europe)
- 3:20 – 3:25pm: Introduction and presentation of Subnational Business Ready in Greece (Norman Loayza, Director, DECIG)
- 3:25 – 3:55pm: Presentation of the results of the Subnational Business Ready in Greece report (Penelope Fidas, Lead of Subnational B-READY in Greece, DECRE)
- 3:55 – 4:20pm: Questions and answers (moderated by Nikos Vettas, IOBE)
- 4:20 – 4:25pm: Closing remarks and main takeaways (Valentina Saltane, Manager, DECRE)

- 4:25 – 4:30pm: Thanks from Nikolaos Schmidt (Resident Representative, World Bank,

Greece)

- Event closing (Nikos Vettas, IOBE)

➤ Event languages will be English and Greek, with simultaneous interpretation provided.

Refreshments, coffee and snacks to be served.