

Information about territorial administration (Greece)

With the annomination “**Kallikratis plan**” is known the new Greek Law 3852/2010 (FEK 87 A/ 2010), with which the administrative division of Greece has been reformed through mergers. In addition the heads of the new self-administrative units have been reassigned, the procedure of their election has been described and the competences of each unit have been appointed by this law.

This Law was voted from Parliament of Greeks on May 2010 while it will be placed in force on 1st January 2011.

“Kallikratis” has been considered as the subsequence of the previous administrative plan “Kapodistrias”. Both the plans are serving similar ideas such as the compulsory merger of the current small municipalities in order to create bigger and fewer. More specifically, by “Kallikratis plan” the first tier level of Territorial Administration will be reformed, so the newly created municipalities will be fewer and more powerful than before and will be capable to respond to contemporary demands and be more effective in discharging the assigned duties.

Moreover the composition of the municipalities into bigger, concerning the population and the extent of ground, geographical units, facilitates the development of a more strong administrative system in Greece and also leads to a serious saving of economical resources of the country.

Basic aspects of “Kallikratis plan” are:

- The reduction of the number of municipalities and their juridical persons
- The abolition of the 54 prefectures and 19 provinces that consisted the second level of Territorial Administration
- The determination of the 13 regions as the second level of Territorial Administration
- The formation of the new 7 decentralized administrations

From 1st January 2011, in accordance with the **Kallikratis plan** (Law 3852/2010), the administrative system of Greece has been drastically overhauled. The previous system of 13 regions, 54 prefectures and 1034 municipalities and communities has been replaced by the 7 decentralized administrations, 13 regions and 325 municipalities. The regions and municipalities will be fully self-governed, while the decentralized administrations will be run by a general secretary appointed by the Greek Government.

Provisions of law 3852/2010 “Kallikratis plan”

- The first tier level of government is constituted by the municipalities, which have resulting from merging several former municipalities and communities. Each of them will be administered by a mayor and a municipal council, popularly elected every 5 years. The municipalities are further subdivided into municipal unities and finally into communities. Communities will have their

own councils, but their role will be purely advisory to the municipal-level government.

- The second level is composed of the existing 13 regions and each one run by a regional governor and a regional council popularly elected every 5 years. The regions will be divided into regional units, usually but not always coterminous with the former prefectures. Each regional unit will be headed by a vice-regional governor, drawn from the same political block as the general secretary of each region. The obligation of each region is the planning and effectuating policies in regional level and in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and social coherence. Between these two levels (first-tier and second-tier levels) of territorial administration there is no relationship of control and hierarchy, but only harmonious collaboration.
- The third level is composed of the new decentralized administrations, comprising two or three regions, run by a government-appointed general secretary, assisted by an advisory council drawn from the regional governor of the region and the representatives of the municipalities.

TABLE 1 – ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF GREECE

	Former situation	Current situation from 1st Jan. 2011
Municipalities	<p>First tier level of Territorial Administration</p> <p>910 municipalities and 124 communities</p> <p>Subdivided into municipal departments</p> <p>Head: mayor (elected every 4 years)</p>	<p>First tier level of Territorial Administration</p> <p>Constituted by the 325 municipalities resulting from merging of several former municipalities and communities.</p> <p>Subdivided into municipal unities. Municipal unities further subdivided into communities.</p> <p>Head: mayor (elected every 5 years)</p> <p>They undertook part of the competences of previous prefectures</p>
Prefectures	<p>Second tier level of Territorial Administration</p> <p>54 prefectures and 19 provinces</p>	Abolished

<p>Regions</p>	<p>13 regions</p> <p>Head: General Secretary appointed by the Government</p> <p>Responsible for the co-ordination of the first and second level of Territorial Administration, the control of legality of their actions and of the implementation of Governmental policies in regional level</p>	<p>Second tier level of Territorial Administration</p> <p>13 regions</p> <p>Remained in the same geographical premises.</p> <p>Head: Regional Governor (popularly elected every 5 years) and a regional council</p> <p>They undertook part of the competences of previous prefectures</p>
<p>Decentralized Administrations</p>	<p>Did not exist</p>	<p>7 Decentralized Administrations</p> <p>Head: General Secretary appointed by the Government</p> <p>They undertook the competences of previous prefectures</p>

TABLE 2 - COMPETENCES

<p>National Level</p>	<p><u>Parliament</u> : enacts primary legislation for the whole country</p> <hr/> <p><u>Government</u> : (Prime-Minister and Ministers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare and execute public policies • make secondary or subordinate legislation <hr/> <p><u>Courts</u> : control the application of the laws and the legality of administrative acts through the enactment of case-law</p>
<p>Regional Level</p>	<p>- 13 Administrative regions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairs the Regional Council (advisory organ made up of local government representatives and socio-economic partners of the Region) 2. Supervises the regional services 3. Enacts the administrative acts for the competencies that fall under his responsibility
<p>Local Level</p>	<p>- 325 Municipalities</p>