

AUDIT CASES

RESILIENCE



Audit Report

18/27

Measures implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment to mitigate the effects of drought and water scarcity

The objective of the audit was to examine the implementation of measures by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment to mitigate the negative impacts of drought and water scarcity and to examine the provision of funds in relation to the set objectives and their fulfilment.

The audit was carried out at the audited entities between November 2018 and June 2019.

The audited period was 2013-2018; both the previous and subsequent periods were also considered for contextual reasons.

Audited entities:

Ministry of Agriculture (hereinafter the “MoA”);

Ministry of the Environment (hereinafter the “MoE”).

The Board of the SAO, at its 14th (XIV) session held on 30 September 2019,

approved by Resolution No. 10/XIV/2019

the *Audit Report* as follows:

Key Facts

€ 1 052 million	27	€ 73,3 million	10
Funds reported to combat drought at the MoA	Number of MoA subsidy programmes reported to combat drought	Funds reported to combat drought at the MoE	Number of MoE subsidy programmes reported to combat drought

Insufficient legislation

The Water Act mentions drought only marginally and no amendment to the Act has so far been passed. The anti-erosion decree, which is supposed to refine the rules for farming on erosion-prone land, has not been approved either.

Failure to adapt subsidy programmes to drought

The MoA and the MoE have been implementing the same subsidy programmes for a long time. They have launched almost no new programmes to mitigate the impacts of drought and water scarcity, or have disbursed only negligible amounts.

Conflicting subsidy programmes

The MoA financed technical improvements to the beds of small watercourses. The MoE promoted the removal of inappropriate technical improvements and the return of watercourses to a nature-based state.

Undemonstrable effects

Most of the MoA and MoE programmes did not have drought management as a main objective and did not include specific and measurable targets to mitigate the negative impacts of drought and water scarcity. Their contribution to combating drought is difficult to measure, as is the achievement of the relevant objectives.

Growing damage caused by drought

According to the MoA, the estimated total damage caused by drought in agriculture and forestry was approximately:

- € 121,5 million in 2015,
- € 311,7 million in 2017,
- € 972,6 million in 2018.