

Audit Report 3/2021

“Minimum Guaranteed Income:

Does the established procedure ensure that the criteria for inclusion of the beneficiaries in the program are met, in accordance with the relevant provisions?”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The “Minimum Guaranteed Income” Program was launched nationally in order to comply with the values of the protection of human dignity and the rule of law, as well as the right to participate in the social and economic life of the country, by supporting individuals and households living in extreme poverty; all these values derive from the Constitution.

The audit, entitled “Minimum Guaranteed Income: does the established procedure ensure that the criteria for inclusion of the beneficiaries in the program are met, in accordance with the relevant provisions?” was included in the Annual Audit Program of the Hellenic Court of Audit (HCA) for the year 2021, which was approved by the HCA’s Plenary Session and presented to the Special Committee on Institutions and Transparency of the Hellenic Parliament on 14th December 2020.

The main audit findings consist of the following:

1. The lack of complete data on the target population of the Program and of an updated and appropriate publicity / information strategy does not ensure that all those in need are actually included in the protection of the Minimum Guaranteed Income.
2. The system of electronic cross-checks constitutes a powerful tool; however, its effectiveness is very much affected by the lack of updated information, as well as by various deficiencies in the interconnections of the Program's information system.
3. Weaknesses were identified in the way of processing the submitted supporting documents; the tool of “social research” was used to a very limited extent, while a greater effort is needed to coordinate the control procedures implemented by the competent bodies.
4. The link between income support and providing complementary social services (2nd pillar of the Program) is incomplete, while the full activation of the 3rd pillar of the Program (reintegration services) with the integration of beneficiaries in the labour market, universally started in June 2021 and has therefore not yet produced significant results.