Press Release

"ATLAS 2026": Large-Scale Earthquake Scenario Exercise Strengthens HEDNO's Operational Readiness and Crisis Management Capabilities

With the safety of citizens as its foremost priority, **HEDNO** successfully conducted once again the **"ATLAS 2026"** exercise, aimed at strengthening its ability to respond effectively to emergency situations, particularly in the aftermath of a major earthquake. The exercise was carried out in cooperation with the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO), with the support of its President and Emeritus Professor of Dynamic, Tectonic, Applied Geology, and Natural Disaster Management at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, **Dr. Efthymios Lekkas.**

As part of the Tabletop Exercise, which was conducted in a controlled environment without the deployment of field resources, four operational scenarios affecting Western Attica and Western Athens were examined. Participants were required to assess critical situations, make decisions and activate the prescribed emergency response procedures.

The scenarios involved hypothetical conditions following a major seismic event and included, among other challenges, widespread power outages resulting from damage to critical infrastructure, health and safety issues affecting personnel, the need for the immediate electrification of temporary shelters for earthquake-affected citizens, and the simultaneous management of a wildfire threatening the electricity distribution network.

Given that electricity distribution networks constitute critical national infrastructure of strategic importance and represent a fundamental pillar supporting the operation of complex socio-technical systems, the **"ATLAS 2026"** exercise demonstrated **HEDNO**'s operational readiness and organisational resilience through the testing of procedures, the assessment of coordination among participating entities, and the management of complex incidents under high-pressure conditions.

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The exercise is particularly significant at a time when natural disasters and complex crises are occurring with greater intensity, frequency and complexity, affecting critical infrastructure, economic activity and citizens' daily lives. Electricity networks are vital infrastructures upon which essential services depend, including healthcare, transportation, telecommunications, water supply infrastructure, digital services and state civil protection mechanisms.

For **HEDNO**, strengthening the resilience of its infrastructure, ensuring business continuity and enhancing crisis management capabilities are strategic priorities. Within this framework, HEDNO places particular emphasis on managing complex situations through realistic exercises and on effective coordination with Civil Protection authorities, the Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Fire Service, safeguarding critical functions and infrastructure, and responding to events such as wildfires or floods following an earthquake.

Commenting on the "ATLAS 2026" exercise, **HEDNO Chief Executive Officer Anastasios Manos** stated: *"Through this exercise, HEDNO demonstrated that it is fully operationally prepared to manage complex situations that may place electricity networks at risk.*

We continue to invest systematically in training, collaboration and operational preparedness, strengthening every day our ability to protect our people, safeguard critical infrastructure and ensure the reliable operation of the network for the benefit of society."

In addition to **HEDNO** executives, the planning and execution of the exercise, which took place on 27 May 2026, involved representatives and scientific experts from the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO), the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, the Hellenic Police, the Hellenic Fire Service, the Hellenic Coast Guard, the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (DIKAFKA) and the Region of Attica.

Photo 1
Photo 2

Athens,

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