
Executive Summary

June 2021
The Development Vision

- The Region's Development Vision, which focused on the structure and structure of the “Epirus 2014-2020" OP, is:

«To become sustainable, having out-ward looking development, focused on productive activities that are comparative advantages and reinforce the local identity, with respect to the environment, history and the citizen of Epirus»
Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy

In the context of achieving this vision, particular emphasis is placed on the implementation of the Regional Strategy "Smart Specialisation", with support focusing on the following areas:

- Primary sector – processing – agri-food – gastronomy
- Industry of experience: Tourism, Culture & Creative Economy
- Academic Institutions, ICT (Information & Communication Technologies) and Youth Entrepreneurship
- Health and Wellness
Program Outline - 1

- Five Strategic Objectives allocated to an equal number of Priority Axis - PA (plus two PAs for technical assistance)
- Ten Thematic Objectives
- Twenty-six Investment Priorities
- Two Financial Funds (ERDF, ESF)
Program Outline - 2

**Priority Axis 1:** Enhancing regional competitiveness by developing innovation and ICT
- T.O. 1. Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation
- T.O. 2. Improving access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), their use and quality
- T.O. 3. Improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises

**Priority Axis 2:** Environmental protection and sustainable development
- T.O. 4. Supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- T.O. 5. Promoting adaptation to climate change and risk prevention
- T.O. 6. Conservation and protection of the environment and promotion of resource efficiency

**Priority Axis 3:** Strengthening transport infrastructure
- T.O. 7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing barriers to basic network infrastructure

**Priority Axis 4:** Strengthening education, health and welfare infrastructures
- T.O. 9. Promoting social inclusion and the fight against poverty and all discrimination
- T.O. 10. Investing in education and training for skills acquisition and lifelong learning

**Priority Axis 5:** Human Resources Development, Social Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination
- T.O. 8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting workers' mobility
- T.O. 9. Promoting social inclusion and the fight against poverty and all discrimination

**Priority Axis 6:** ESF Technical Assistance

**Priority Axis 7:** ERDF Technical Assistance
Implementation Course
(up to the first quarter of 2021)

- The Budget of the Programme amounts to EUR 295.5 million of which EUR 236.4 million constitute the Community Assistance.
- 91 actions with a total budget of EUR 411.91 million have been specialised.
- 103 Calls for total public expenditure amounting to EUR 454.52 million have been issued.
- 5,378 projects with a total eligible public expenditure of EUR 478.4 million have been integrated.
- Projects and subprojects amounting to EUR 293.6 million have been contracted.
- Expenditure amounts to EUR 132.4 million and have absorbed almost 44.8% of the budget.

Program Implementation Rates

- Specialisation: 139.4%
- Calls: 153.8%
- Integrations: 161.9%
- Contracts: 99.4%
- Expenditure: 44.8%
Funded Projects

In total, until 07.05.2021, there had been integrated to the Program:

• **224 public procurement projects** (projects other than State Aid), of which
  • 37 projects have been completed
    • 137 are under way and are expected to be completed on-time by the end of 2023
    • 31 projects concern projects supporting the functioning of social structures whose funding will continue in the next programming period
    • 19 projects are planned to be transferred to the new programming period

• **5,154 State Aid projects**, of which 102 projects have already been completed, 3,992 projects relate to the new COVID-19 action, with all projects expected to be completed on-time by the end of 2023
Progress of the program - 1

Total budget of integrations by PA and year
Progress of the program - 2

Expenditure by PA and year

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PA 1</th>
<th>PA 2</th>
<th>PA 3</th>
<th>PA 4</th>
<th>PA 5</th>
<th>PA 6</th>
<th>PA 7</th>
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<td>8.1</td>
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Units: million €

Legend:
- PA 1
- PA 2
- PA 3
- PA 4
- PA 5
- PA 6
- PA 7
- Total
Project evaluation

• In line with the current status of the sectors of activity in which the Epirus Regional OP operates, the objective of the Programme to achieve the five Strategic Objectives remains relevant.

• The high degree of relevance and synergy of the development planning of the Region of Epirus is confirmed.

• Very significant is the contribution of the programme to addressing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by integrating new specialised actions into it.

• Further adaptation of the programme to deal with the consequences of the pandemic and its smooth completion.

• Completion of integrated projects.