

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "WESTERN GREECE – PELOPONNESUS – IONIAN ISLANDS"

The ROP for Western Greece, Peloponnesus and the Ionian Islands is directed exclusively at regions included under the "Convergence" Objective.

BUDGET

The Total Co-funded Budget from the E.U. amounts to EUR 1,143,000,000, of which EUR 914,000,000 is from Community Resources and EUR 229,000,000 from National Resources. In addition to this amount, it is estimated that National Resources amounting to EUR 172,000,000 will be earmarked to cover the cost of projects that are not co-funded by E.U., such as expropriations, (larger than a certain percentage of the project's cost), anticipated earnings, etc. Private Resources amounting to EUR 127,186,000 are also expected to be earmarked for the realisation of these projects.

The total sum is estimated to reach EUR 1,442,186,000.

It is noted that the growth strategy of that region is based both on the resources that have been earmarked for the ROP for Western Greece, Peloponnesus and the Ionian Islands, as well as on the allocation of Sectoral Operational Programmes by region.

STRATEGY – GENERAL GOALS

The Programme's strategy focuses on broadening its development potential, accelerating economic growth and social development, as well as increasing productivity, with the aim of achieving real convergence and improving the quality of life of those living in the regions touched by the programmes.

The General Development Objective will be realised through the implementation of three **development priorities** whose purpose is to strategically target the region affected by the programme and help achieve the vision in the field of development:

- *Appeal of the region affected by the programme as a key investment, employment and residential hub.*
- *Investment in the productive sector of the economy of the region affected by the programme.*
- *Alleviation of intraregional and interregional inequalities.*

The actions of the ROP for Western Greece, Peloponnesus and the Ionian Islands have been categorised into **three General Goals**, in order to achieve synergy both between them, as well as with the interventions of other programmes and fulfil the programme's General Development Objective.

General Goal 1: Development and modernisation of accessibility infrastructure.

General Goal 2: Digital convergence through the utilisation of information and communication technologies and the reinforcement of entrepreneurship.

General Goal 3: Sustainable development and quality of life.

PRIORITY AXES

The aforementioned General Goals are correlated to the Priority Axes of the Operational Programme, as follows:

Priority Axis 1: Accessibility Infrastructure and Services for Western Greece

The specific Goals of this Priority Axis are:

completion of the road network of the region, with a priority given to regional/country roads and national roads;
modernisation of the road and railway infrastructure, ports and airports in the region affected by the programme, with the purpose of enhancing service provision and safety levels provided to users;
creation of safety conditions and traffic management systems in the region affected by the programme.

Priority Axis 2: Accessibility Infrastructure and Services for Peloponnesus

This Axis includes three specific goals, which refer to:

- a) the improvement and expansion the National Road network,
- b) the improvement and expansion of the country / trans-municipal and inter-municipal road network,
- c) the upgrade / expansion of basic port infrastructure.

Priority Axis 3: Accessibility Infrastructure and Services for the Ionian Islands

The specific goals of this Axis are:

- upgrade and completion of regional land and marine infrastructure,
- instauration of safety conditions and traffic management systems.

Priority Axis 4: Digital Convergence and Entrepreneurship in Western Greece

The specific Goals of this Priority Axis are:

integrating new technologies into the production process and adopting innovative practices
and perceptions in business activities,
transferring Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in enterprises and local government authorities,
development and integration of broadband networks, infrastructure and services,
boosting business activity by establishing new enterprises and supporting existing enterprises
that are active in all sectors of the economy,
promoting special forms of tourism,
integrating quality standards, as well as expanding and modernising business activities in general,
strengthening applied research and technology, linking entrepreneurship, innovation and the specialisation local traditional sectors and new enterprises into sectors of higher added value
and promoting large-scale investment plans.

Priority Axis 5: Digital Convergence and Entrepreneurship in Peloponnesus

The specific goals of this Axis are:

- a) Integration of new technologies into enterprises' the production process;

- b) Modernisation of the productive and administrative operation of enterprises;
- c) Modernisation and streamlining of Regional public administration in order to better serve the needs of enterprises and civilians.

Priority Axis 6: Digital Convergence and Entrepreneurship in the Ionian Islands

The specific goals of this Axis are:

- encouraging business activity by promoting special forms of tourism, upgrading its quality, integrating quality standards and generally through the calculated expansion and modernisation of tourism;
- supporting enterprises in the introduction of new technologies;
- encouraging the integration of innovative practices and mentalities in business activities;
- enriching integrated interventions in support of regional cohesion.

Priority Axis 7: Sustainable Development and Quality of Life in Western Greece

The Specific Goals of the Priority Axis are the following:

- Guarantee drinking water in adequate quantities and of good quality (e.g. by promoting best practices in drinking water treatment).
- Improve the natural and man-made environment and cultural infrastructure.
- Restore ecological balance, protect the environment & biodiversity and support the rational use of water resources.
- Reduce regional isolation and social infrastructure shortages (health & welfare, education).
- Promote the socio-economic regeneration of urban areas.
- Maintain populations in agricultural areas by creating a more diversified economic basis and improving socio-economic conditions.
- Utilise the potential of urban, semi-urban & tourist areas in the direction of boosting the competitiveness of regional economies and rendering them hubs of activities at different levels.
- Guard against and safeguard the environment from hazards.
- Protect and promote the region's cultural resources.
- Create, strengthen and utilise supporting infrastructure.

Priority Axis 8: Sustainable Development and Quality of Life in Peloponnesus

The specific goals include:

- a) Enhancing monuments / archaeological sites;
- b) Upgrading and/or improving the effectiveness and functionality of social infrastructure (education, health & welfare).
- c) Additionally increasing the functionality of Regional urban and semi-urban areas.
- d) Improving the conditions and/or increasing the number of people living in the Region and the visitors benefiting from drinking water, in tandem with a reduction of water losses.
- e) Safeguarding the environment against solid and liquid waste.
- f) Regenerating rural / under-developed areas.
- g) Protecting and enhancing areas of natural beauty and vulnerable areas.

Priority Axis 9: Sustainable Development and Quality of Life in the Ionian Islands

The specific goals are:

- The creation of the necessary (environmental, cultural etc.) basis for promoting the diversification of the regional system, by developing mild, alternative and high-quality activities.
- The promotion of spatial planning.
- The promotion of the protection of the natural, principally, environment.
- The qualitative and quantitative improvement of social infrastructure (education and health & welfare), through which the respective services are provided.
- The improvement of living conditions of vulnerable social groups in order to strengthen social cohesion and fight poverty.
- The implementation of integrated interventions in support of regional cohesion.