European Cluster Matchmaking Event

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CERTH Center for Research and Technology Hellas - Thessaloniki

Regional Operation Programme
“Central Macedonia 2014-2020”
Promoting Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Cooperation

George Kostaras
Managing Authority
Region of Central Macedonia
Email: gkostaras@mou.gr
Tel.: +30 2313 321 717
Key pillars of the regional strategy for growth

- Innovation,
- Entrepreneurship
- Cooperation

constitute key pillars of the regional strategy for **smart, sustainable** and **inclusive growth**, along the provisions of the E2020 Strategy
RIS3 Strategy

The key document, defining the Regional priorities and action plans to promote growth in the entrepreneurial ecosystem is **the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 Strategy)**.
RIS3 Strategy

- Integrated, place-based economic transformation agenda that:
  - Focuses policy support and investments on key regional priorities, challenges and needs for knowledge-based development;
  - Builds on the region’s strengths, competitive advantages and potential for excellence (champion sectors);
  - Supports technological as well as practice-based innovation and aims to stimulate private sector investment;
  - Gets stakeholders fully involved and encourages innovation and experimentation;
  - Is evidence-based with sound monitoring & evaluation systems.
RIS3 = RIS + 2S

- Policies
- Enterprises
  - Innovation Supply
  - Innovation Demand
The RIS3 “Champion” Sectors

- Agro-food
- Tourism
- Building Materials
- Textiles & Clothing
The RIS3 “Champion” Technologies

- Information & Communication Technologies
- Energy
- Environment
- Logistics
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- Three main areas of intervention:
  - Knowledge Production
  - Knowledge Diffusion
  - Knowledge Exploitation
Knowledge Production

- Support Public & Private R&D Infrastructure
- Promote Academic – SMEs cooperation
- Promote the creation of permanent cooperation mechanisms (clusters)
Knowledge Diffusion

- Promote Academia / Market Clustering
- Support TTOs / KTOs (Tech / Knowledge Transfer Offices)
- Promote “innovation Voucher” schemes
- Support mobility of researchers
- Support establishment of Certification Labs / Offices
Knowledge Exploitation

- Support Knowledge-Intensive entrepreneurship
- Support start-up creation
- Encourage spin-off / spin-out acceleration
- Promote access to funding
- Promote SME clustering
- Promote environment-friendly technologies
- Promote strategies for production-cost reduction
- Support enterprise PhD scholarships
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Points of Intervention

Value chains

Possible Points of Intervention
(figurative not actual!)

Technologies

ICT

Energy

Environment

Logistics

Agro-food

Tourism

Textile

Materials

Value chains
RIS3 – Sources of Funding

- The Regional Operational Programme
- EPANEK - The National Operational Programme
- HORIZON 2020 & Other EU Programmes
- Private Funding
The RIS3 Funding Scheme \( \approx 480 \text{ M\( \varepsilon \)} \)

- Regional OP \( \approx 130 \text{ M\( \varepsilon \)} \)
- National OP (ΕΠΑΝΕΚ) (t.b.d.)
- Horizon 2020 \( \approx 30 \text{ M\( \varepsilon \)} \)
- Private Funding (45%-50%.)
The Regional Operational Programme

- “Multi-sectoral” and “multi-fund”
- Budget = 960 M€
- Ten (10) Priority Axes
- Numerous sectors supported
  
  (R&D, ICT, competitiveness, Environment, Energy, Transport, Health, Social Inclusion, Education, etc)
The Regional Operational Programme

Three Priority Axes are RIS3 related

- PA1 - Promotion of R&D: 23 M€ (explicitly supporting RIS3)
- PA2 - Promotion of ICT Use: 11 M€
- PA3 - Competitiveness: 104 M€
Priority Axis 01 - Promotion of R&D

- Support Public R&D Infrastructures
- Support Private (SME) R&D Infrastructures
- Promote co-operation schemes & clusters

23 M€
Priority Axis 02 - Promotion of ICT Use

- Support ICT Innovation supply
- Support ICT Innovation demand
- Enhance Public ICT services & platforms

11 M€
Priority Axis 03 - Competitiveness

- Support Knowledge-Intensive Start-ups
- Support Introduction of Innovation in SMEs
- Promote Productivity & Extroversion
- Optimize Production Costs & Use of Resources
- Promote SME cooperation / Clustering

104 M€
Cluster-specific Policies

Clustering is at the center of the OP’s Intervention Logic

The OP Rational states that one of the region’s key objectives is to:

“Promote sustainable cooperation mechanisms (clusters) is SMEs, horizontally or vertically, along selected value chains, with the aim of promoting innovation production and supply and the participation of regional SMEs in international value chains”
Cluster Specific Policies

Clusters in our OP are by default innovative:

- A grouping of independent undertakings — innovative start-ups, small, medium and large undertakings as well as research organizations — operating in a particular sector and designed to stimulate innovative activity by promoting intensive interactions, sharing of facilities and exchange of knowledge and expertise and by contributing effectively to technology transfer, networking and information dissemination among the undertakings in the cluster.

Clusters are seen a means for producing, diffusing and exploiting new knowledge produced in the ecosystem.
Cluster Specific Policies

Clustering is mainly promoted via PA1 and PA3 (≈ 18,5 M€)

Specific Objective 1b2, relates to: “Promoting permanent cooperation mechanism (clusters) between the Research Community and the SMEs in order to promote knowledge and technology. (Allocation: 5,6 M€, Intervention Field 64)

Specific Objective 3d1, relates to: “Promoting clustering as a catalyst for SME development. Clusters to be developed along selected value chains in order to promote the production and supply of innovative products and services. (Allocation: 12,8 M€, Intervention Field 63)
Challenges

- Unfavorable investment environment due to crisis
- The majority of SMEs appear introvert
- Lack of clustering culture / mentality
- Relevant lack of expertise; limited knowledge on cluster development
- Complex institutional / regulatory framework
- Cluster = State Aid = co-financing required!
- Synergies between ESIF and other potential sources (eg H2020) to be further developed
Thank you very much for your attention!

Questions are welcome

George Kostaras  
Managing Authority  
Region of Central Macedonia  
Email: gkostaras@mou.gr  
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