

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
"CRETE AND AEGEAN ISLANDS 2007-2013"

BUDGET

The Total Co-funded Budget from the E.U. amounts to EUR 1,194,000,178, of which EUR 871,300,178 from Community Resources and EUR 322,700,000 from National Resources. In addition to this amount, it is estimated that National Resources amounting to EUR 131,000,000 will also be earmarked, in order to cover the cost of projects that are not co-funded by the E.U., such as expropriations, (larger than a certain percentage of the project's cost), anticipated earnings, etc. Private Funding reaching EUR 173,000,000 is also expected to be earmarked for the realisation of these projects.

The total sum is estimated to reach EUR 1,498,000,178.

GOALS AND STRATEGY

Development Vision

The development vision for Crete and the Aegean Islands for 2007-2013 is to *strengthen competitiveness and promote the potential of Crete and the Aegean Islands under conditions of sustainable development.*

Strategic Goals

The Region's development vision will be served through the following strategic goals:

- Boosting of entrepreneurship and attraction of investments in the regions affected by the programme.
- Promotion of innovation and research and their interlinking with entrepreneurship.
- Ensuring the sustainability and functionality of regional infrastructure, with an emphasis on developing environmentally friendly forms of energy.
- Improving the quality of life.
- Strengthening productive activities and promoting the Region as an area of residential, business and investment opportunity.
- Training of human resources in order to effectively reinforce employment, productivity and social cohesion.

General Goals of ROP of Crete and Aegean Islands

The aforementioned strategy will be realised by means of the general goals of the Regional Operational Programme, which are the following:

- Improving accessibility (intraregional and interregional).
- Guaranteeing quality of life for its residents.
- Integrating sustainability into development policy and interventions, in conjunction with the protection of the region's natural environment.
- Promoting the establishment of a knowledge society and strengthening outward-looking partnerships.
- Boosting entrepreneurship, cultivating innovation, attracting high added value investments and creating new employment opportunities.

- Combined utilisation of tourism and cultural resources.
- Managing intraregional inequalities and specific growth characteristics.
- Supporting the networking trends between the region's urban centres and showcasing development hubs.

PRIORITY AXES

The Regional Operational Programme for Crete and the Aegean Islands comprises the following Priority Axes:

Priority Axis 1: Accessibility Infrastructure and Services in Crete

The interventions that will be implemented in the framework of Priority Axis 1 aim at:

- completing and upgrading the road network (at the regional and local levels) and the ports of Region of Crete.
- completing and upgrading the basic arterial roads of the urban centres of the Region of Crete.

Priority Axis 2: Accessibility Infrastructures and Services in the North Aegean

The interventions, which will be carried out in the framework of Priority Axis 2, aim at improving and expanding port infrastructure, national highways and the regional / trans-municipal road network in the North Aegean Region.

Priority Axis 3: Accessibility Infrastructures and Services in the South Aegean

The interventions that will be implemented in the framework of Priority Axis 3 aim at:

- improving the port and airport facilities in the South Aegean Region, as well as its road transport conditions.
- guaranteeing sufficient generating capacity and promoting investments in renewable sources of energy.

Priority Axis 4: Digital Convergence and Entrepreneurship in Crete

The interventions that will be implemented in the framework of Priority Axis 4 aim at:

- supporting productive investments,
- supporting investments in tourism sector,
- supporting enterprises in order for them to provide high added value and cutting edge products and services,
- strengthening the infrastructures of research centres in Crete.

Priority Axis 5: Digital Convergence and Entrepreneurship in the North Aegean

The interventions that will be implemented in the framework of Priority Axis 5 aim at integrating new technologies into the North Aegean's business fabric and modernising the operation of enterprises.

Priority Axis 6: Digital Convergence and Entrepreneurship in the South Aegean

The interventions that will be implemented in the framework of Priority Axis 6 will principally contribute towards:

- improving service provision to citizens,
- utilising information and communication technologies by enterprises,
- upgrading existing enterprises,
- boosting entrepreneurship,
- promoting research, technology and innovation,
- qualitative upgrade of the tourist offering and extension of the tourist season,
- guaranteeing adequate telecommunications services,
- improving road safety through telematics.

Priority Axis 7: Sustainable Development and Quality of Life in Crete

In the framework of Priority Axis 7, interventions will be carried out that aim at upgrading educational, health and social welfare infrastructure, as well as at sustainable environmental management and the enhancement of cultural heritage in the Region of Crete.

Priority Axis 8: Sustainable Development and Quality of Life in the North Aegean

In the framework of Priority Axis 8, interventions will be implemented aiming at the following:

- enhancement of monuments / archaeological sites,
- upgrade and/or increase in the efficiency and functionality of education, health & welfare infrastructure,
- improvement of conditions and/or increase in the number of people living in the islands and visitors benefiting from drinking water, with a concomitant reduction in water losses,
- safeguarding the environment against solid and liquid waste,
- protecting and enhancing areas of natural beauty and vulnerable areas,
- improving functionality of the urban and semi-urban areas of the South Aegean Region,
- regenerating rural / underdeveloped areas in the larger islands of the Region,
- supporting and strengthen the socio-economic fabric of the small islands of the Region.

Priority Axis 9: Sustainable Development and Quality of Life in the South Aegean

In the framework of Priority Axis 9, interventions will be implemented aiming at the following:

- reinforcing / supplementing environmental infrastructure, with an emphasis on waste management,
- improving water management and distribution,
- ensuring sufficient support for education, health and social welfare services,
- preventing and managing environmental hazards,
- protecting and conserving natural heritage,
- monitoring building activities and land use,

- developing cultural infrastructure.

Priority Axis 10: Regional Cohesion and Cooperation in the South Aegean

In the framework of Priority Axis 10, interventions will be implemented aiming at the following:

- strengthening the necessary environmental infrastructure,
- protecting and conserving the natural environment,
- supplementing and improving basic transportation infrastructure (ports - roads)
- promoting cultural resources and their interconnection with tourism activities,
- improving water management and distribution,
- implementing special actions for balancing additional costs generated from the small market size, accessibility difficulties and geographic dispersion,
- improving educational, health and welfare infrastructure.