



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe
Cyprus and Greece

Brussels,
REGIO.DGA2.G.5

Dear Mr Firbas,

Subject: Fulfilment of the criterion 1 of the Ex-ante conditionality 1 “RIS3 for the Greek Region of Continental Greece”

Thank you for your letters of 20 May and 21 July 2015 [Ares(2015) 2105176, Ares(2015) 2105199 and Ares(2015) 3057548] regarding the reporting on the fulfilment of criterion 1 of the Ex ante conditionality 1 which was not fulfilled at the date of submission of the Greek Partnership Agreement and the regional operational programme of Continental Greece.

Following the assessment of the information provided in the above letters, we agree with your self-assessment, provided that the points highlighted in the assessment report of the Commission supported by the RIS3 experts and the comments listed below will be addressed during the implementation of the Strategy:

- There is a need to further elaborate on the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP). Priorities currently are presented in the forms of sectoral specialisation and links to enabling technologies. The EDP is about identifying niches and intersections of activities in which either existing or new agents can develop; the meetings that are an important part of the EDP should be targeted to identify these agents.
- With the progress of the EDP the Action Plan should be adapted accordingly. In the implementation, priority should be given to actions with expected high impact.
- The sectoral approach is presented and the sub-sectoral level of activities is identified and discussed. Inter-sectorality needs to be further defined and monitored during the implementation phase of the operational programme.
- The Action Plan lists a detailed number of actions per priority and an effort is made to allocate budget to different actions. Nevertheless, the budget estimates going beyond the ROP are not well attributed to thematic priorities and adjustments may be necessary.
- It is mentioned (p. 35) that scale economies are not achieved, not even in the aluminum sector, the only one with firms present in the region, throughout the

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production process, from upstream to downstream. It is recommended to clarify further this issue

- Quantitative indicators are needed to define the expected impact per priority sector.
- The regional system of monitoring and measurement with respect to the national RIS3 monitoring system should be defined. Input from General Secretariat of Research and Technology (GSRT) and National documentation Centre (EKT) is expected.
- It is finally recommended to detail how the mechanisms of monitoring will contribute to the challenges of the evaluation process.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that the criterion 1 of the Ex ante conditionality 1 “RIS3 for the Greek Region of Continental Greece” is fulfilled and requests from the Greek authorities to continue working on addressing the issues presented above during the implementation of the Strategy. Calls for Pilot Projects referring to Thematic Objective 1 should be agreed with the European Commission before launching in order to ensure that they correspond to specialisation of RIS3 priorities. The results of the experience from the Pilot Projects should feed the EDP which is and should remain active during the whole programming period 2014-2020 and beyond.

The Commission would like to highlight that the assessment of the fulfilment of the entire Ex ante conditionality will be decided only upon the receipt of the member state report on the fulfilment of all the non-fulfilled criteria.

Yours sincerely,

Sabine BOURDY
Head of Unit

Cc: Mr Maloutas, General Secretary for Research and Technology

Mr. Iakovidis, Head of Coordination of Implementation of Operational Programmes

Mr Lemas, Head of the Special Implementing Service of Continental Greece

Mr Wolfe, Head of Unit G1, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Mr Gilland, Head of Unit F1, DG Regional and Urban Policy