



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY FOR DEVELOPMENT & COMPETITIVENESS



**OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
'COMPETITIVENESS,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
& INNOVATION'**

CCI: 2014GR16M2OP001

NSRF 2014 - 2020

Summary



European Union

DECEMBER 2014 - VERSION 1.3

Introduction

The planning of the New Programming Period 2014-2020 coincides with a period during which an effort is being made to lay the groundwork and create a new developmental model for the country over the coming years. The Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework 'NSRF 2014-2020' can act as a catalyst **rebooting** the Greek economy and the Operational Programme 'Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship & Innovation' (EPAnEK) is the means for strengthening quality entrepreneurship.

Utilising a Community Contribution of €3.65 billion (Public Expenditure €4.67 billion) from the New Programming Period budget, EPAnEK aims at creating a new developmental model centred on productive, competitive and extroverted sectors of the economy. By implementing the strategy of Smart Specialisation, the new model aims at connecting research and development to entrepreneurship and at strengthening the existing advantages of Greece and its regions as necessary requirements for their long-term growth and the prosperity of its citizens.

The planning of EPAnEK combines national and Community priorities through an integrated intervention strategy for competitiveness, entrepreneurship and innovation that is structured into **3 basic priority axes, 21 special objectives and 70 indicative actions** that can ensure its successful implementation. However, based on the maximum co-financing percentages at priority axis level for the 13 Greek regions, as well as their differentiation in the regions of the Southern Aegean and Sterea Hellas (where Community contribution percentage is 50% versus 80% in the remaining 11 regions), EPAnEK has created **3 more supplementary priority axes** that cover all the special objectives and actions for the 2 regions with a different Community contribution percentage.

EPAnEK contributes to the '**Europe 2020**' strategy, it is harmonised with the **EU's Blue Growth Strategy** and has taken into account the **European Commission's recommendations** for Greece with regard to focusing on reforms that strengthen competitiveness, boost potential high-growth sectors and the creation of sustainable jobs, and serve as a driving force for private investment.

The Operational Programme highlights the national priorities for the recovery of the economy and the development of the country's productive base, implementing the **national strategy of smart specialisation**, while taking into account the country's **commitments** and the **National Reform Programme**. It is connected to and operates **in a complementary manner with the other sectoral and regional operational programmes** of the NSRF 2014-2020 and supports the **National Strategy for Research, Technology and Innovation** (ESETAK) (RIS3 national strategy) and the **National Strategy for Digital Development**.

The Programme's funds originate from two structural funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). **The ERDF contributes €2,970.9 million to EPAnEK, while the ESF contributes €675.5 million**, covering all 13 Regions.

The programme's strategy

The development needs of the Greek economy focus on the requirement for a new development model that will be based on **smart specialisation, sound investments and extroversion**. This model must overcome existing distortions, low competitiveness and mediocre research and innovation performance. The new entrepreneurship will mainly concern knowledge-intensive activities and must be directly or indirectly linked to the creation of new jobs.

Smart specialisation must permeate the new business environment and aim at identifying and highlighting the characteristics of the country and the regions that create **sustainable competitive advantages**. The smart specialisation strategy affects all aspects of the

developmental model by finding the country's specialised markets, incorporating new technologies in traditional sectors and utilising their 'smart' dynamism. It will contribute to extroversion and the improvement of interconnections and cooperation between sectors and agents of innovation in the country, as well as with other countries.

The crisis has shown that in order to reboot the economy and restore growth, the role of internationally competitive enterprises is particularly important, within a society that supports this model and a state that liberates and assists the creative forces of quality entrepreneurship through its structures and policies. Such a productive model results in the creation of sustainable, high-quality jobs and income improvement opportunities.

Halting the breakdown of the productive fabric and reversing de-industrialisation requires the improvement of the processing industry's competitiveness through its overall upgrading aiming at a new productive model that aims at the production of high added value products. Greek enterprises must be suitably prepared to adapt and benefit from the inevitable restructuring of 'value chains' in the coming years at local, national and European level. The objective is for them to contribute in this way to financial prosperity and the preservation of social cohesion through growth and increased employment.

A necessary condition for achieving the new developmental model is the implementation of an integrated approach based on the shaping of a suitable business environment ('ecosystem') that will help enterprises identify and utilise new opportunities for growth and participate in sections of global chains. This includes the removal of ineffective institutional, regulatory and administrative obstacles to entrepreneurship, as well as the creation and application of a targeted stimulus package for the undertaking of business initiatives in select sectors.

The EPAnEK strategy, aiming at the new developmental model for the Greek economy, is built on and supported by four **strategic pillars**. This pillars concern:

- 1) Adaptation of enterprises and the workforce to new developmental requirements
- 2) Focus on productive, competitive and potentially extroverted and innovative sectors
- 3) Targeted selection of investments/enterprises/activities with the characteristics required for the new developmental model
- 4) Safeguarding of the factors that facilitate business activity in the Greek operational environment.

More specifically:

1) Enhancing the adaptation of enterprises and the workforce to new developmental requirements

The highlighting and adoption of a new productive model that is based on extroversion and innovation cannot be achieved without the adaptation of the workforce's knowledge, skills and abilities. The country needs a well-trained workforce, with specialised knowledge and horizontal skills, that can create hotbeds of innovation, support developmental priority areas and serve a new business model.

Based on the above, it is necessary to achieve a swift and effective transition of enterprises and workers to the new reality of our age and to mitigate the painful consequences of the economic crisis, particularly on the labour market. The results being pursued are the following:

- Adaptation of enterprises and the workforce to changes
- Development of workers' skills that will support the adaptation of businesses to new developmental requirements
- Creation of a favourable climate for combating unemployment and creating new, sustainable jobs

Human Workforce	Enterprises
<p>Development of the knowledge, skills and abilities of the workforce that will support the adaptation of businesses to new developmental requirements</p> <p>Shifting of the 'centre of gravity' from the production of vocational training to support for enterprises and, more specifically, their plans for structural adaptation to changing developmental conditions and technological challenges.</p>	<p>Adaptation of businesses to the new operational model, with emphasis placed on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation and operation - Optimisation of resource use - Enhancement of extroversion and innovation - Development of tools and methods for administrative information provision and comparative evaluations - Technological upgrading - Enhancement of the quality of products and services - Evaluation of staff skills and abilities - Improvement of environmental management etc.

2) Focus on productive, competitive and potentially extroverted and innovative sectors

Supporting the country's dynamic entrepreneurship hotbeds that have a major competitive advantage in terms of technology, innovation, quality, synergy capability and extroversion. These sectors have the characteristics (critical mass and competitive advantages) necessary for utilising the capabilities offered by smart specialisation.

The strategic sectors recognised and recorded in 'Greece 2021', the country's new developmental model, are:

- Agri-nutrition/Food industry
- Energy
- Logistics
- Cultural and Creative Industries
- Environment
- Tourism
- Information & Communications Technologies (ICT)
- Health
- Materials - Construction

Monitoring the development of the sectors presented and highlighting new sectors, technologies and activities will be an on-going process of studies, deliberations, monitoring and control throughout the programming period.

3) Targeted selection of investments/enterprises/activities with the characteristics required for the new developmental model

In order to use the Programme funds as effectively as possible, investments must focus on enterprises with developmental prospects. The characteristics of enterprises that receive a positive evaluation as regards their developmental prospects and that are differentiated to a smaller or greater extent per sector as summarised below:

- Extroversion (export prospects created)
- Innovation / creativity
- Significant turnover and employment figures / sufficient range of products for addressing global competition
- Targeting of specialised compartments of the global market ('niche markets')
- Positive results and financial prospects/competitiveness of enterprises
- Re-distribution of funds to the domestic market (maximising the percentage of domestic added value)
- New entrepreneurship / creation of new enterprises (e.g. start-ups)
- Small CO₂, NO₂, SO₂, etc. footprint / low environmental burden
- Cooperation between enterprises pursuing a similar purpose in order to strengthen vertical integration, the creation of a negotiation advantage and the integration of the product/service offered.
- Products/Services of high added value (Premium brands)

4) Safeguarding of the factors that facilitate business activity in the Greek operational environment

The creation of a business-friendly environment attracts investments. In this light, the programme strategy must aim at facilitating business activity through the following parameters:

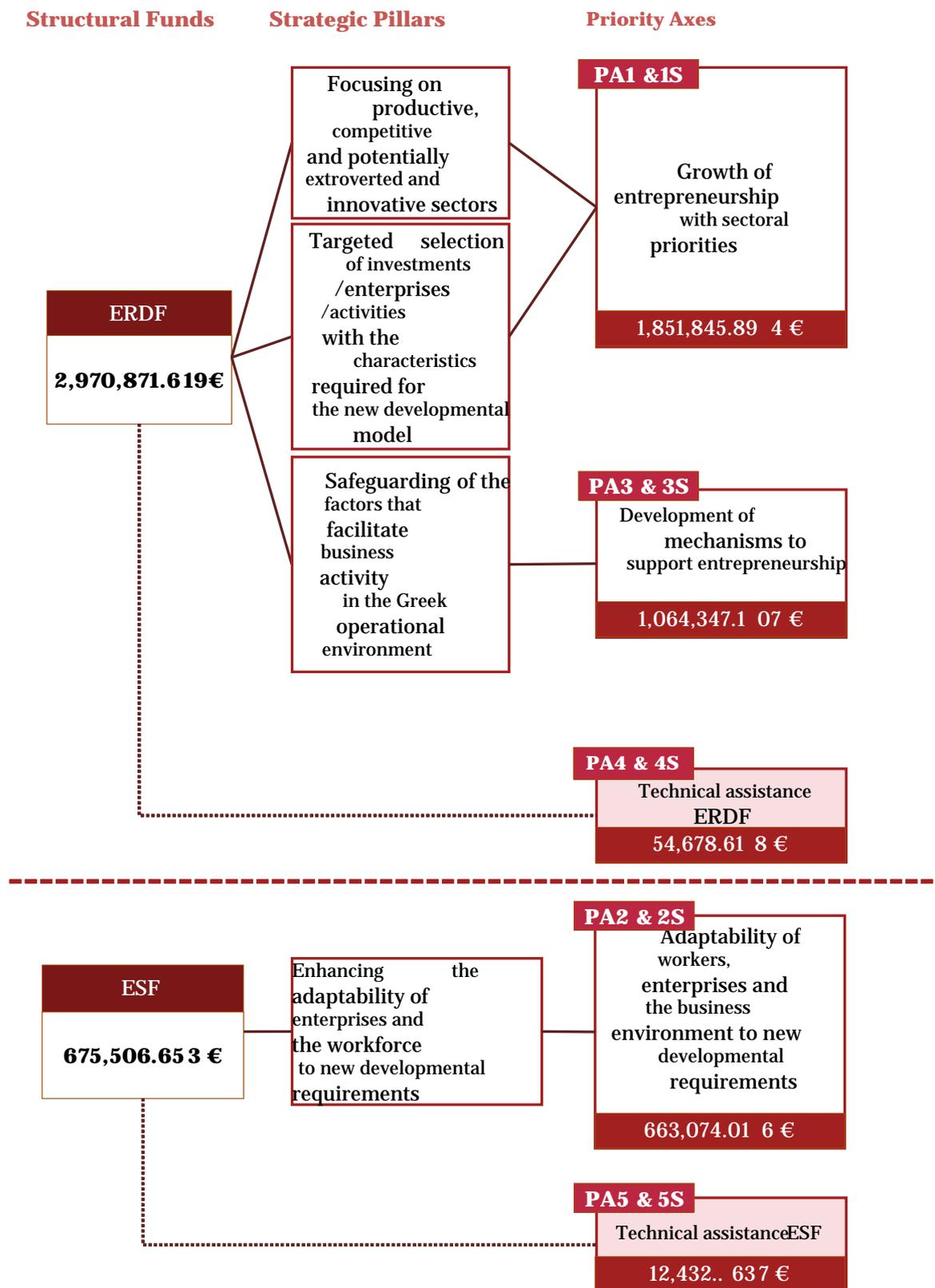
- Restructuring of Public Administration with a view to eradicating bureaucratic obstacles and speeding up procedures for the creation of business activities and the simplification of administrative processes related to entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Development of youth structures and infrastructure aiming at the direct and indirect improvement and operation of the business environment and at increasing the country's competitiveness.

The programme's structure

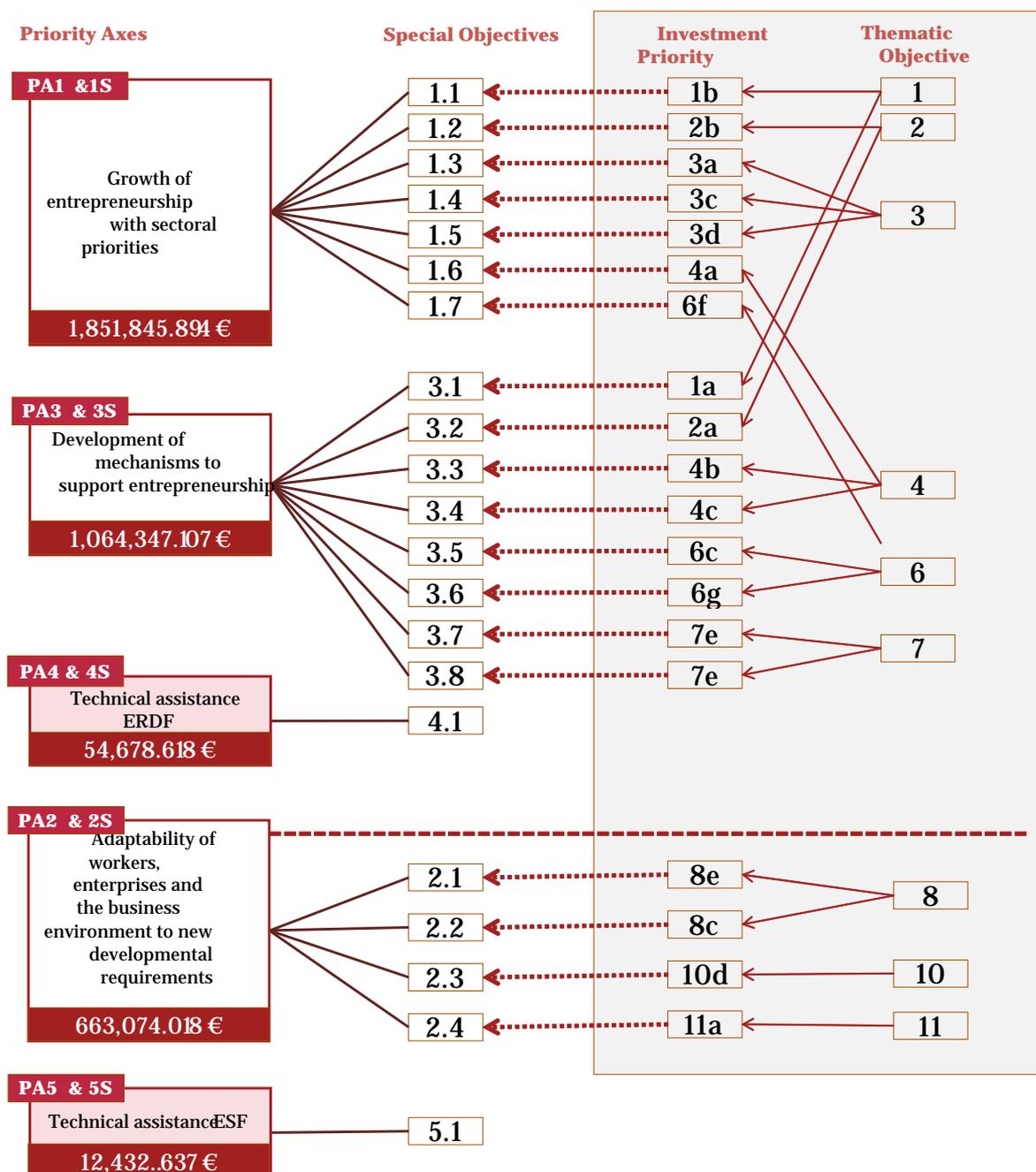
As previously noted, the programme is structured along **3 basic** and 3 supplementary axes (for Sterea Hellas and the Southern Aegean), as well as 4 technical assistance axes (2 basic and 2 supplementary). Axis 1 (& 1S) concerns the growth of entrepreneurship with sectoral priorities, Axis 2 (& 2S) the adaptability of workers, enterprises and the business environment to new developmental requirements, while Axis 3 (& 3S) the mechanisms and infrastructure to support entrepreneurship. Axes 4 (& 4s) and 5 (& 5S) concern technical assistance for the management of the programme.

Each axis covers specific thematic objectives and selected investment priorities, as set and agreed upon in the approved text of the NSRF 2014-2020 between Greece and the European Commission. Furthermore, each priority axis is connected to the resources of one of the structural funds financing EPAnEK (ERDF or ESF), depending on the objectives and actions it includes.

The following diagram depicts the connection between the priority axes and the four strategic pillars, as well as the source and amount of Community funding available per priority axis.



The Priority Axes are broken down into **Special Objectives**. The special objectives consists of groups of selected actions with a common purpose that also serve a specific European investment priority and thematic objective, as defined in NSRF 2014-2020. These actions are analysed in detail in the programme with the use of indicative examples. They aim at specific, measurable results for which an **indicators system** has been developed to monitor the progress of implementation and success of the programme.



* The annex contains a detailed table presenting the object of the thematic objectives and individual investment priorities utilised in planning the EPAnEK.

The programme's content

More specifically, the Priority Axes and Special Objectives were formulated as follows:

1. PA1 (&1S) "Growth of entrepreneurship with sectoral priorities"

The growth of entrepreneurship through EPAnEK focuses on productive, competitive and potentially extroverted and innovative sectors (9 strategic sectors of the country) that are expected to serve as driving forces for the recovery of Greek economy. In order to strengthen the activity of these sectors, there will be targeted selection of investments and activities with the characteristics required for the new developmental model. Smart specialisation is a key parameter of the programme, as it must permeate the new developmental model, and aims at identifying the unique characteristics of Greece and highlighting its existing advantages.

The following table presents the special objectives set within the framework of Axis 1 and 1S, the investment priority connected with the axis, as well as their budget.

Special Objectives	Investment Priority	Budget (Community Contribution)
1.1. Increasing entrepreneurial initiatives and partnerships for the development of innovative entrepreneurship in accordance with the national research and innovation strategy for smart specialisation (RIS3 strategy)	1b	€663,731,215
1.2. Increasing the offer of digital services, applications and integrated ICT solutions for enterprises	2b	€216,791,942
1.3. Achieving growth of entrepreneurship through new, innovative ideas by order of priority in the strategic sectors of the country	3a	€244,999,996
1.4. Upgrading the level of business organisation and operation of SMEs by order of priority in the country's nine (9) strategic sectors	3c	€367,499,998
1.5. Increasing the volume of exports of Greek enterprises by order of priority in the country's nine (9) strategic sectors	3d	€271,422,743
1.6. Increasing the penetration of new forms of RES in the country's energy balance.	4a	€65,399,998
1.7. Reducing the generation of waste and environmental pollution due to the operation of enterprises	6f	€22,000,002
Total		€1,851,845,894

2. PA2 (&2S) 'Adaptability of workers, enterprises and business environment to new developmental requirements'

This Axis aims at the adaptability of workers, enterprises and business environment to new developmental requirements, mainly, through the implementation of plans for the structural adaptation of enterprises or collective operating/sectoral plans. The adaptation needs will be studied and will highlight actual gaps in terms of training, educational and professional growth of workers, will indicate emerging skills and abilities and will lead to the planning and implementation of targeted workforce development programmes. At the same time, in order to achieve the overall objective of the axis, it will be necessary to adapt the institutional ability of public administration and stakeholder agencies in the direction of improving the business environment.

The following table presents the special objectives set within the framework of Axis 2 and 2S, the investment priority connected with the axis, as well as their budget.

Special Objectives	Investment Priority	Budget (Community Contribution)
2.1. Increasing healthy start-up entrepreneurship and self-employment	8iii	€79,999,999
2.2. Achieving the adaptation of enterprises and their workers to new developmental requirements, particularly for enterprises with the characteristics required by the country's new developmental model	8v	€446,123,817
2.3. Enhancing the participation of enterprises in education and training systems	10iv	€52,612,380
2.4. Improving the business environment by upgrading the ability of public administration to support entrepreneurship	11i	€84,337,820
Total		€663,074,016

3. PA3 (&3S) 'Development of mechanisms to support entrepreneurship'

This Axis aims at upgrading the country's infrastructure in priority sectors that will help support entrepreneurship. This axis includes objectives for strengthening structures and infrastructure that are directly and indirectly related to the growth of entrepreneurship and the improvement of the competitiveness, innovation and extroversion of enterprises.

The following table presents the special objectives set within the framework of Axis 3 and 3S, the investment priority connected with the axis, as well as their budget.

Special Objectives	Investment Priority	Budget (Community Contribution)
3.1. Upgrading and/or developing research and innovation infrastructure to improve the country's innovative ability in order to support entrepreneurship	1a	€159,499,996
3.2. Expanding infrastructure for broadband services and high-speed networks	2a	€303,699,998
3.3. Improving the energy performance of the operation of businesses and the professional building reserves	4b	€50,049,234
3.4. Improving the energy performance of the residential and public building reserves	4c	€178,999,999
3.5. Developing and/or promoting economic activity based on natural capital and the cultural heritage of Greece, focusing on the Tourism sector	6c	€57,787,428
3.6. Improving the capability of recovery of industrial waste and refuse and increasing their reusability	6g	€22,499,998
3.7. Reducing the country's dependence on oil	7e	€244,500,000
3.8. Increasing the implementation of smart systems for more effective management of energy distribution	7e	€47,310,454
Total		€1,064,347,107

Technical Assistance AxesPA4 (&4S) 'ERDF Technical Assistance' and PA5 (&5S) 'ESF Technical Assistance' are ancillary axes that aim at strengthening the management and administration system that concerns the priority axes of the corresponding funds and preparing the implementation of their actions.

The budget of Axis 4 (&4S) amounts to €54,678,618 in Community contribution terms, while Axis 5 (&5S) to €12,432,637.

The actions included in technical assistance are of a national character, as structures and processes for the management, evaluation, monitoring and promotion of the operational plan's interventions concern all the regions of Greece. The ultimate goal is to safeguard the alignment of the manner in which the operational programme's implementation is being managed and the maximisation of the effectiveness of the related work of stakeholders/beneficiaries in each region.

Use of financing tools

At an early stage, EPAnEK recommends financing tools that could be used to evaluate action groups, as further study and processing will ensue. Financing tools (FT) can be used in programme actions combined either with each other or with subsidies.

The programme foresees that a significant part of the financial resources of PA1 will be given through the use of financing tools, while there is the possibility of their use in PA3 actions. The precise amount of funding will be determined based on ex-ante assessments of the tools.

The following recording is presented by way of indication, as their use and content has not been finalised at this stage:

- **Micro-loans**

Micro-loans are tools of social character that combine small loan amounts (0 to 25,000 euro) and education of entrepreneurs. They mainly target individuals who are at risk of poverty and unemployment and who wish to establish their own enterprise. ***Low collateral loans for investment and working capital***

Risk allocation loans are FTs that enable the final beneficiaries to gain access to bank loans at better terms as regards cost (low interest rates). Usually, national or Community aid shares the loan amount with the intermediate agency (bank) in order to provide an incentive for the financing of beneficiaries who would otherwise not meet banking criteria.

- **Guarantees**

Guarantees are also tools that provide beneficiaries with access to banking products at better terms, particularly with regard to the collateral required. Guarantees are high leverage tools and apply to all sectors and all banking products. They can be implemented with the immediate guarantee of all loans (Loan to loan) issued by the financial organisation (or, correspondingly, of other products) or as guarantee of part of a portfolio (First loss portfolio guarantee).

- **Equity financing**

As a financing tool, equity financing often allows the creation of investment funds that, in turn, strengthen the capital base of enterprises in which they participate as partners. These tools mainly target enterprises in the fields of innovation and new technologies.

The following table presents the percentage of use per type of financing initially estimated for each Priority Axis. Limited or zero use of financial instruments in PA2 and PA3 is justified by the particular features of the actions they include, as well as the type of agency carrying out their implementation.

Type of Financing	PA1	PA2	PA3
Non-repayable subsidy	45%	98.4%	98.3%
Support with financial instruments: business capital and participation in the share capital (or equivalents)	15%	0%	1.1%
Support with financial instruments: loan or equivalent	40%	1.6%	0.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

The programme's implementation

The authority competent for the new Operational Programme 'Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship & Innovation' 2014-2020 is the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism and, more specifically, the Special Management Service of the OP 'Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship & Innovation'.

The process of preparing the Programme is governed by the main principles set in the 3rd Circular issued by the General Secretariat of Public Investments-NSRF, which includes the important principle of Partnership and the procedures of 'Smart Specialisation' as regards the participation of stakeholders during planning. The approach to partnership during the preparation of the programme ensures that the specialisation of each activity sector, as expressed by the corresponding partners, will be substantially utilised and will safeguard the effective use of EU funds. It includes deliberations with the competent Ministries and Regions, the agencies supervised by Ministries and Regions (Legal Entities under Private Law, Legal Entities under Public Law), NGOs, local developmental agencies, environmental agencies, social partners, educational foundations, representatives of business sectors, unions-associations of agencies, research agencies, etc.

The process of preparing the operational programme took place on the basis of two dimensions and the formation of the corresponding partnership:

- Sectoral dimension
- National and regional dimension focusing on smart specialisation

1. Sectoral Dimension

The organisational structure for the planning of EPAnEK, within the framework of the NSRF 2014-2020, provided for the establishment of Sectoral Planning Groups in parallel to and in cooperation with the Innovation Platforms of the Smart Specialisation process. The Sectoral Planning Groups were established on the basis of the country's priority sectors selected: Agri-nutrition / Food industry, Energy, Environment, Transport/Logistics, Materials - Construction, Tourism, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Cultural and Creative Industries, Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).

The role of the Sectoral Planning Groups is the co-formulation, in cooperation with social partners and all the stakeholders involved, of the developmental strategy in their areas of competency (Sectoral Development Plans) within the framework of the new programming period 2014-2020.

2. National and regional dimension focusing on smart specialisation

The General Secretariat of Research and Technology (GSRT) has further specialised the areas/sectors highlighted as priority sectors through structured deliberation with stakeholders.

This process contributed to the identification of critical activities on which the research and technological endeavour must focus during the new programming period and to the formulation of the National Strategy for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (**ESETAK**) 2015-2021 (national RIS strategy, taking into account the regional RIS3 strategies being formulated by the Regions).

The establishment of the partnership that mainly operated through the Sectoral Planning Groups and the innovation platforms of the GSRT, within the framework of the Programme's preparation, ensured the collective information supply for the preparation of the operational programme through the synthesis of all the results of the deliberations that took place.

During the programme's implementation stage and the formulation of the framework of mechanisms for the management and monitoring of the OP's implementation, the experience of this deliberation will be utilised, with a view to promoting the new developmental model that supports the strengthening of enterprise competitiveness and extroversion, the shift to high-quality entrepreneurship spearheaded by innovation, as well as the increase of domestic added value.

The participation of social partners will also be important in drafting proposals and implementation actions supported by the ESF, the key features being the development of social dialogue at all levels, the promotion of policies for significant economic and social issues of a systemic character, as well as the promotion of partnerships and networking of financial and social agencies.

3. Monitoring Committee

The supreme body for the participation of partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OP is the Monitoring Committee, with measures of substantial and effective operation being taken for its functioning, aiming at increasing its effectiveness. Beyond the formal measures for enhancing its operational character, such as representational composition and support of its operation by the Managing Authority, measures are to be taken for direct communication with and provision of information to its members, the expected result being their increased mobility.

The connection of the programme to the other sectoral and regional operational programmes

- 1) Regional Programmes:** During the planning of EPANEK, stock was taken of regional priorities, as highlighted by regional strategies for smart specialisation. These strategies had a significant impact on the priorities of the corresponding national RIS3 strategy. Through methodological analysis, it was proven that these strategies thematically converge in an almost absolute manner. Systematic deliberation through the relevant innovation platforms developed led to specific priorities that support both the country's competitive advantages and the new dynamic growth areas at national level through the process of entrepreneurial discovery. At the same time, specific differentiations emerged at the level of strategic interventions between the national strategic interventions and those at regional level.

Based on the above, primarily, **strengthening entrepreneurship in the strategic priority sectors on the basis of the smart specialisation principles will be supported by EPAnEK resources**, with a view to addressing the significant developmental need with an integrated approach and, where required due to the special nature or scale of the needs and changes pursued, ROP resources will be used.

The key categories of actions that serve the aforementioned objectives include actions for the immediate provision of aid to enterprises through subsidies or indirect financing via returnable financial tools and/or a combination thereof, as well as actions for the interconnection of enterprises and agencies conducting research. Actions for the promotion of research and innovation in the framework of the national strategy for smart specialisation that are linked to serving objectives and priorities of a national scale, as well as priorities at European and national level (excellence), actions of a relatively high budget that, although of regional scope, cannot be covered by the limited resources of the ROPs and/or actions in which agencies from various regions are participating will be financed by EPANEK. This also includes actions of national scope that concern the enhancement of human resources, excellence and extroversion (and through trans-national partnerships), research infrastructure (in the framework of the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures) as well as innovation infrastructures, as structures for improving the business environment, such as infrastructure for the establishment and operation of business activities, development of laboratory infrastructure for the standardisation and certification of products and services, realisation of combined actions for the promotion of different sectors/products abroad, etc.

On the other hand, actions aiming at the productive capacity of the regions and enhancement of their capabilities through research and innovation, in relation to highlighting their competitive advantages, will be implemented through the ROPs. The ROPs are also expected to fund relatively low budget actions with local targeting, utilisation and highlighting of regional comparative advantages, aiming at strengthening the Regions' capabilities ('stairway to excellence', with key participation of the Region's agencies).

As regards actions for the energy upgrading of residences, these will be primarily financed by EPANEK and to a lesser extent by the ROPs. Similarly, actions for the energy upgrading of public buildings will be supported by EPANEK, mainly as regards central government buildings, while the ROPs will support interventions to buildings of regional and local character. The actions for enhancing the energy performance of enterprises will be primarily financed by EPANEK, along with actions that concern smart networks.

Furthermore, EPANEK will contribute to strengthening research, technological development and innovation through post-graduate studies and the development of entrepreneurial skills, researcher training and researcher employment at enterprises, in accordance with the priorities of smart specialisation.

- 2) Operational Programme 'Human Resources Development – Education & Lifelong Learning (EPANAD-EDVM)'**: The adaptation of workers, enterprises and business environment to new developmental requirements is being pursued through EPANEK, particularly enterprises with the characteristics required by the country's new developmental model, operating favourably in the direction of creating sustainable jobs, particularly in sectors

that spearhead the Greek economy in the framework of the country's developmental model, which is a main objective of EPANAD-EDVM. EPANAD-EDVM also focuses on improving the quality of the educational system and developing the knowledge, skills and abilities of the workforce, so that they can respond effectively to the specialised needs of a modern, competitive economy, complementing EPAnEK, which will contribute to connecting education systems with the needs of the labour market, combined with supporting enterprises in education and training systems, while broader horizontal interventions will be implemented through EPANAD-EDVM.

- 3) Operational Programme 'Public Sector Reform (EPMDT)'**: EPMDT focuses on improving the executive character of Administration and on safeguarding the coordination of the Public Sector, as well as promoting the multi-level governance-improvement of the organisation and operation of Public Sector Agencies. More specifically, EPMDT will horizontally address all levels of operation, production and development, contributing to the good coordination, flexibility and extroversion of Public Administration, restoring the relationship of trust between the state and citizens and enterprises. Thus, priority is placed on EPAnEK for improving the business environment and extroversion of enterprises on upgrading the ability of public administration to support entrepreneurship by reducing bureaucracy and improving the services provided. Furthermore, EPMDT aims at modernising the state and safeguarding upgraded services that are friendly to citizens and enterprises by utilising ICT, while EPAnEK will aim at the integration and development of ICT infrastructures that improve entrepreneurship conditions.
- 4) OP 'Rural Development' (EPAA) and OP 'Sea and Fisheries' (EPTHA)**: EPAnEK aims at complementarity with the corresponding actions promoted by EPAA and EPTHA of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food for the secondary sector, in research and innovation, product certification, workforce development, promotion of extroversion, enhancement of partnerships, so that the funds available can be utilised in the most effective manner. The promoted actions concern targeted interventions in the 'ecosystem' of agri-nutrition and food industry enterprises, aiming at utilising their developmental capabilities.
- 5) Operational Programme 'Infrastructure, Transport, Environment and Sustainable Development'**: EPAnEK will support supplementary actions for waste management, import and utilisation of anti-pollution technology, as well as measurement and monitoring of the environmental footprint of economic activities. Furthermore, EPAnEK will contribute to the zoning and construction of hazardous and industrial waste processing facilities, and will leverage private funds through investment financing for Re-Use Centres in major urban complexes.