EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.12.2021
C(2021) 9819 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.12.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10162 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Greece

CCI 2014GR16M2OP001

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006[1], and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

(1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 10162, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 4441, certain elements of the operational programme "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') and the European Social Fund ('ESF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Greece were approved.

(2) On 8 December 2021 Greece submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Greece proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (b)(i) to (v), (c)(iv) and (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 10162.

(3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in the transfer of the ERDF allocations from priority axis 1S "Fostering entrepreneurship with sector specific priorities (Continental Greece and South Aegean)" to priority axis 1 "Fostering entrepreneurship with sector specific priorities" and from priority axis 3S "Development of support mechanisms for the entrepreneurship (Continental Greece and South Aegean)" to priority axis 3 "Development of support mechanisms for the entrepreneurship" as well as a transfer of the ESF allocations from priority axes 2

[1] OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

"Adaptability of the workforce, of enterprises and entrepreneurial environment to the new development requirements" and priority axis 2S "Adaptability of the workforce, of enterprises and entrepreneurial environment to the new development requirements (Continental Greece and South Aegean)" to priority axis 5 "Technical Assistance ESF" and priority axis 5S "Technical assistance ESF (Continental Greece and South Aegean)", without any modifications on the allocations per category of regions. Consequently, the budget of most thematic objectives and the corresponding output and result indicators, including the performance framework, have been accordingly adjusted.

(4) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and in particular, the need to allocate additional resources in order to finance entrepreneurship support actions. The programme indicators are also modified to reflect the transfer of funds. The amendment to the operational programme sets out sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013[2] and (EU) No 1304/2013[3] of the European Parliament and of the Council and the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

(5) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 7 December 2021 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.

(6) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. However, Greece provided supplementary information and submitted a modified version of the revised operational programme on 15 December 2021.

(7) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.

(8) Implementing Decision C(2014) 10162 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10162 is amended as follows:

1. In Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the operational programme "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" for joint support from the ERDF and the ESF

[2] Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

[3] Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Greece for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 13 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 15 December 2021, are hereby approved:".

2. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 22.12.2021

For the Commission
Elisa FERREIRA
Member of the Commission

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For the Secretary-General

Martine DEPREZ
Director
Decision-making & Collegiality
EUROPEAN COMMISSION