

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Programme “East Macedonia, Thrace” 2021-2027

Region of
Eastern Macedonia & Thrace
Managing Authority of Programme
"East Macedonia, Thrace"



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



The Programme "East Macedonia, Thrace" 2021-2027 and its development strategy

The Programme "East Macedonia, Thrace" 2021-2027 is a key instrument for the implementation of its development strategy under the NSRF 2021-2027, drawing resources from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF+) and acting in complementarity and synergy with sectoral programmes and other financial instruments.

The planning of the Programme was done gradually, in accordance with the Circulars of the Ministry of Development and Investments for the Planning of the 2021-2027 programmes and the submission of Plans to the European Commission.

For the preparation of the Programme, the following were taken into account:

- The guidelines and texts of the EU Cohesion Policy.
- The principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- The recommendations of the European Union Council.
- The country-specific Recommendations of the European Semester.
- All complementary policies.
- The tools of national and regional development.
- The results of the consultations.

The **Total Programme Budget** amounts to **€639,098,846** in Public Expenditure, of which **€473,256,740** comes from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and **€165,572,106** from the European Social Fund (ESF+).

The **National Participation** amounts to 15% and corresponds to **€95,864,829**, while the remaining 85% concerns **Community Participation** which reaches **€543,234,017**.

The aim of the Programme is to effectively deal with the problems created during the economic crisis of 2009, which were further strengthened by the health crisis of Covid-19, causing multiple and significant effects on the economy, employment, social cohesion and health.

Strategic Objectives of the Programme are:

- supporting and restarting the economy,
- the protection and exploitation of the rich natural environment and cultural resources,
- upgrading human resources and strengthening social cohesion.

Through the implementation of these objectives, the improvement of the economic, social and environmental indicators of the Region is sought, reducing the distance from the performances of the other Greek Regions, but also from the EU average.

The Development Vision



Growth Gate

through the utilization of geographical location and comparative advantages in natural and cultural resources.

Priorities: the completion of critical infrastructure that connects the Region with the national and international networks of transportation, energy and telecommunications and strengthen its geostrategic position and at the same time create a favorable and competitive environment, able to attract human resources, investments and visitors contributing to development.

Pole of Value

through strengthening and expanding the production base by investing in research and innovation, primarily in areas identified by Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3).



Priorities: 1) developing a sustainable productive model formed by tourism, culture, environment and agri-food sectors και 2) Investing in clean energy, transition to circular economy, green and blue entrepreneurship.

The development vision of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace is to become:

Growth Gate

Pole of Value

Model of Social Intervention

Model of Social Intervention

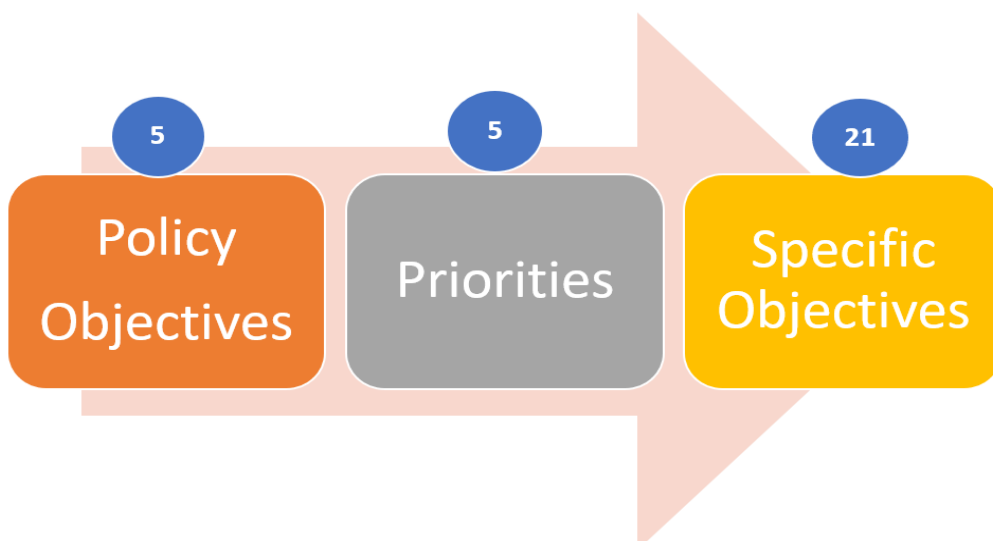
through employment enhancement initiatives in sectors, areas and population, which show particular lag.



Priorities:

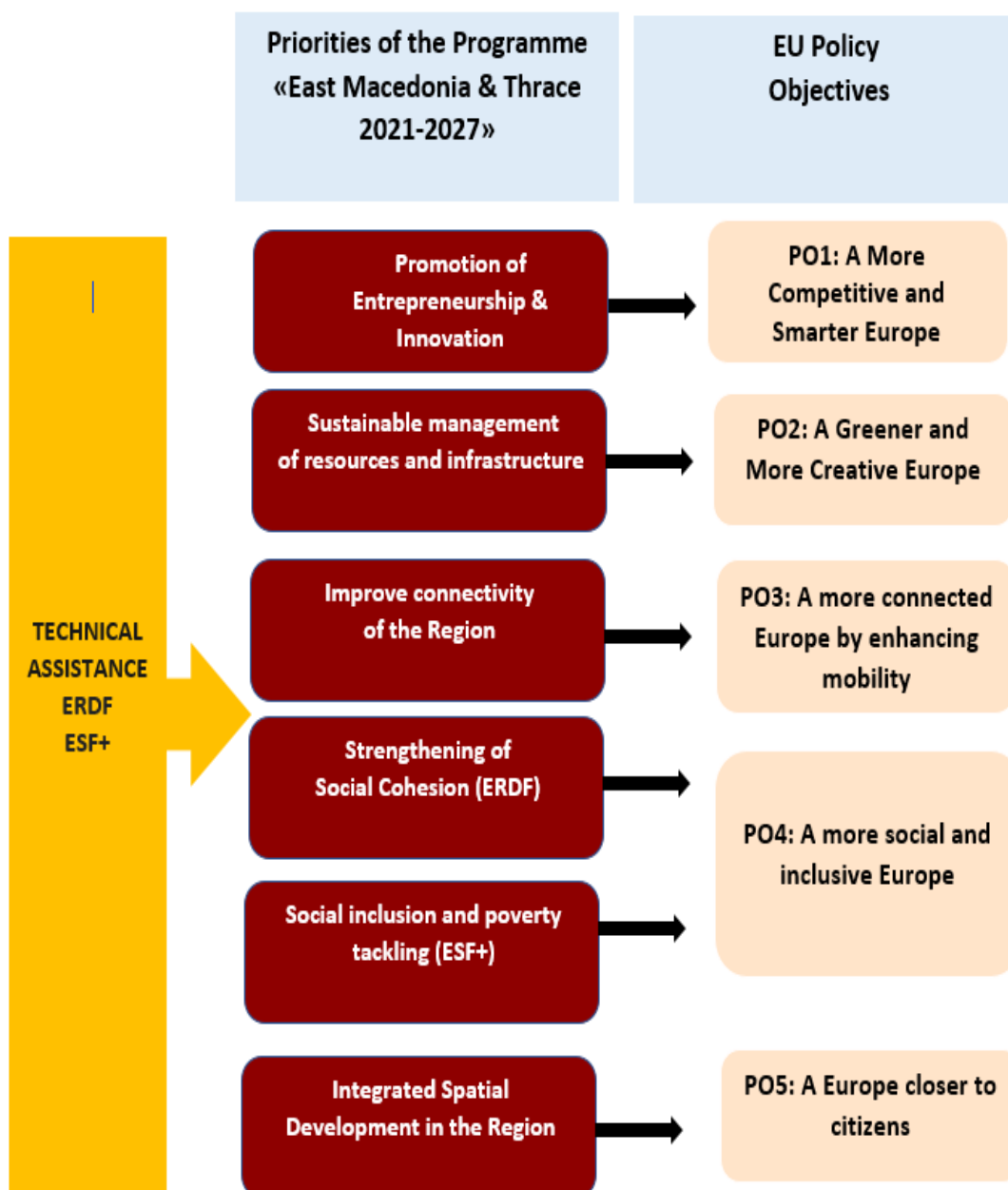
- Upgrading human resources in research, innovation and digital skills
- Expansion of existing social structures and services or creating new ones
- developing innovative solutions for areas and populations with backwardness and inequalities, promoting equal opportunities
- Combating discrimination, promoting equal opportunities, strengthening social cohesion and strengthening the education and health system

Architecture of the Programme



Priorities of the Programme

The Programme is structured by five (5) Priorities plus ERDF and ESF+ Technical Assistance.



Programme structure by Policy Objective (PO) & Priority

PO1: A More Competitive and Smarter Europe

Strategic Directions of the Programme in PO1

- Redefining the production model, focusing on innovative products and services in priority areas of the RIS3 strategy.
- Improving the business environment with the support and empowerment of SMEs.
- Support-strengthening of research infrastructure.
- Strengthening of research and its connection with production, especially in sectors where the Region shows an asset and promotion of partnerships of research structures with companies.
- Development of 5G network infrastructures primarily in areas of business activity and expansion of broadband coverage in mountainous and rural areas to alleviate intra-regional disparities and abrogation of the isolation of remote areas.
- Expansion-empowerment of public digital services to residents, businesses and visitors.

PO1: A More Competitive and Smarter Europe

Priority 1

Promotion of Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Budget 61.875.893€

Specific Objectives

1i Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.

Budget: 8.000.000€

1ii Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities

Budget: 5.000.000€

1iii Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments

Budget: 48.875.893€

Indicative Actions

- Supporting companies to enhance their performance in research, development and innovation as well as their collaboration with research / academic institutions.
- Digitization Actions (of public, cultural, social, etc., bodies).
- Strengthening existing and establishment of new businesses with emphasis on start-ups in areas of the RIS3 strategy.
- Enhancing business extroversion and supporting exports as a priority in areas of the RIS3 strategy.
- Development / upgrade of mechanisms and structures of business support.

Strategic Directions of the Programme in PO2

- Utilization of the existing RES potential and especially of geothermal energy, reduction of the dependence on conventional energy sources.
- Energy saving in building infrastructure and public space.
- Promoting the rational and sustainable management of water resources and ensuring a sufficient quantity and quality of drinking water.
- Improving the efficient use of resources and promoting integrated solid and liquid waste management.
- Preservation, protection and promotion of the natural and man-made environment.
- Risk prevention, enhancing infrastructure resilience and protecting residents and ecosystems from climate change.

Priority 2

Sustainable management of resources and infrastructure

Budget 129.018.926€

Specific Objectives

2i Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Budget: 40.000.000€

2ii Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein

Budget:10.000.000€

2iv Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches

Budget: 25.000.000€

2v. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management

Budget: 54.018.926€

Indicative Actions

- Energy saving actions in public / municipal buildings of regional and local competence in sectors such as health, education, sports, culture, public administration and local government etc.
- Development of basic infrastructures and applications for the utilization of geothermal energy in urban, rural and industrial areas.
- Construction of flood protection works, including green infrastructure.
- Strengthen civil protection infrastructure for the prevention and management of climate-related risks.
- Construction and/or upgrade of water infrastructure.
- Upgrading of water supply networks with the application of remote-control systems – Leakages' reduction.
- River Basin Management Plans - Marine Strategy Actions and Completion of Marine Spatial Frameworks. Includes plans and interventions to ensure access to quality drinking water resources (Master Plan, Water Safety Plans, etc.) as well as bathing shores.
- Development of surface and groundwater monitoring network.

PO3: A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility

Strategic Directions of the Programme in PO3

- Integration into the wider international transport networks with the continuation of the construction of the trans-European road network.
- Improving the intra-regional road network and enhancing the accessibility of remote areas.
- Enhancing the safe and fast movement of residents, visitors and products' transportation.
- Strengthening coastal transport and improving port infrastructure.

Priority 3:

Improve connectivity of the Region

Budget 77.545.512€

Specific Objectives

3i Developing a climate resilient, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal TEN-T

Budget: 36.194.034€

3ii Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

Budget:41.351.478€

Indicative Actions

- Construction / upgrade of detailed road TEN-M.
- Development / upgrade of Border Stations.
- Interventions to improve road safety and citizens' accessibility.

PO4: A more social and inclusive Europe (ERDF)

Strategic Directions of the Programme in PO4

- Ensuring quality infrastructures for all levels of education.
- Strengthening of social welfare infrastructure and support structures for vulnerable and socially vulnerable groups.
- Strengthening of the public health system by creating modern infrastructure for everyone.
- Enhancement of tourism, creation of a new tourist identity, adoption of the DMO process-mechanism, strengthening of the position of the Region in the international tourism market.
- Highlighting the cultural wealth and modern forms of culture, connection with the local production, for the enrichment and the upgrade of the tourist product.

Priority 4A:

Strengthening of Social Cohesion (ERDF)

Budget 83.702.958€

Specific Objectives

4ii. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

Budget: 35.000.000€

4v. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care

Budget: 38.702.958€

4vi. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Budget: 10.000.000€

Indicative Actions

- Creation, expansion and modernization of pre-school education and care units.
- Creation, expansion and modernization of primary or secondary education units.
- Creation, expansion and modernization of higher education institutions.
- Health infrastructure and equipment
- Creation, expansion and modernisation of social care infrastructure
- Protection, promotion and utilization of cultural infrastructure.
- Development of integrated accessible tourist destinations.
- Protection, promotion and utilization of valuable natural heritage sites and strengthening their accessibility infrastructures.
- Protection and development of infrastructure and services (alternative) tourism.
- Actions for the promotion and elevation of cultural heritage.
- Actions for the promotion of tourist resources and thematic forms of tourism.

PO4: A more social and inclusive Europe (ESF+)

Strategic Directions of the Programme in PO4

- Improving access to employment and promoting lifelong learning, upskilling and specialisation of human resources as a matter of priority in entrepreneurial, digital and RIS3 sectors, in particular the long-term unemployed, young people, women and other disadvantaged population groups (Roma, migrants, People with Disabilities, people with low socio-economic/educational attainment) and enhancing self-employment.
- Promoting equal access to education and training in particular for disadvantaged groups, for all levels, and preventing early leaving with a focus on childcare.
- Strengthening of Public Health structures and services (primary, mental, treatment of addictions), with emphasis on deinstitutionalization and long-term care.
- Supporting disadvantaged population groups through a complex network of structures and services to combat poverty, discrimination, social exclusion and strengthen social cohesion.

Priority 4B:

Social inclusion and poverty tackling (ESF+)

Budget 163.328.870€

Specific Objectives

4a. improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular young people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through the promotion of self-employment and the social economy.

Budget: 11.750.000€

4d. Promoting the adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment that addresses health risks

Budget: 3.000.000€

4f. Promoting equal access to and completion of quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Budget: 29.600.000€

4i. Promoting socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants

Budget: 4.200.000€

Indicative Actions

- Protection, promotion and utilization of cultural infrastructure.
- Development of integrated accessible tourist destinations.
- Protection, promotion and utilization of valuable natural heritage sites and strengthening their accessibility infrastructures.
- Protection and development of infrastructure and services (alternative) tourism.
- Actions for the promotion and elevation of cultural heritage.
- Actions for the promotion of tourist resources and thematic forms of tourism.
- Adaptation of employees, companies and entrepreneurs to change, including training, as a matter of priority in areas of implementation of integrated spatial strategies (Sustainable Urban Development and Integrated Territorial Investments).
- Specialized educational support for the integration of students with disabilities and / or special educational needs
- Centers for the Creative Employment of Children STEM
- Actions to integrate third-country nationals into the labor market (e.g. digital and social support and

4j. Promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people

Budget: 5.000.000€

4k. Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services.

Budget: 105.286.318€

- development programs, skills, social inclusion actions, rent subsidy, informing and raising awareness of the local community, including government agencies and organizations).
- Greek language courses for third country nationals.
- Awareness raising and intercultural interactions
- Interventions of Roma people integration in the labor market (e.g. counseling interventions, rent subsidies including fight against digital exclusion).
- Support of Roma people to improve their living conditions (Migration Management and Improvement Groups).
- Support for interventions of equal access for people with disabilities and other special educational needs in higher education
- Promotion and support of children in need and particularly vulnerable children in early childhood education (new harmonisation)
- Community Centers.
- Goods Supply Structures including Feeding Structures
- Structures to combat violence against women
- Provision of care services at the level of families and local communities
- Strengthening primary health care services
- Strengthening Mental Health Services
- Developing services to address dependency (alcohol drugs, etc.), including prevention programs Units for the protection of addicts and parental support.
- Social care and personal assistant program for people with disabilities, the elderly, etc.

- Development of post-hospital care services in cooperation with the hospitals of the Region.
- Long-term care support action at the local community level.
- Develop and implement transformation plans, supporting the reunification of children with their families or their transition to other forms of care.
- Strengthening the institution of foster care, including professional foster care, to prevent the institutionalization of children in need of alternative care, and to promote deinstitutionalization.
- Social services at community level to prevent institutionalization
- Implementation of plans for the transformation of services for the deinstitutionalization of children.

4I. Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children.

Budget: 4.492.552€

- Integrated local action plans to tackle child poverty.
- Support for teenagers in deprived areas

PO5: A Europe closer to citizens

Strategic Directions of the Programme in PO5

- Highlighting locality as a key component of the Regional Strategy for promoting integrated development and reducing inequalities.
- Continuation and expansion of the implementation of Sustainable Urban Development policies in the 5 urban centers of the Region.
- Completion of the multi-level intervention concerning the Integrated Territorial Investments of Egnatia.
- Addressing the problems of remote and disadvantaged areas through the utilization of the Integrated Territorial Investments mechanism

Priority 5:

Integrated Spatial Development in the Region

Budget 113.394.058€

Specific Objectives

5i. Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban areas.

Budget: 71.000.000€

Indicative Actions

5 Sustainable Urban Development Plans are foreseen: Kavala, Drama, Komotini, Xanthi, Alexandroupoli

- Promotion of areas of historical, commercial, cultural and tourist interest.
- Upgrading, modernization of emblematic buildings (historic, designated or not) and attribution for use for the benefit of citizens.
- Reuse of abandoned / discredited municipal buildings. Indicative buildings: cultural centers, covered lodges, warehouses, municipal baths, swimming pools, other buildings of special architectural value such as barracks, historic houses of Municipalities' ownership.
- Creation, upgrade, modernization of municipal markets.
- Creation, upgrade, modernization of municipal sports and leisure facilities, including specialized sports facilities and playgrounds.
- Creation of visiting routes in places of tourist interest.
- Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism.
- Creation / upgrade of open municipal recreation areas, greenery and parking lots, including the utilization of unformed and / or abandoned municipal areas.
- Construction, upgrading of pedestrian safety infrastructure, including sidewalks and footbridges.
- Construction, upgrading of access-security-service infrastructure for the disabled.
- Construction / Expansion / Upgrading of bike lanes.
- Construction / Expansion / Upgrading of urban road network in order to improve traffic conditions, the safety of citizens.
- Traffic regulations (infrastructure, works).
- Environmental quality monitoring systems, including action plans to address air pollution and noise.
- Waste sorting and recycling facilities and systems.
- Systems for the prevention of natural hazards including flood protection and stream management.

- Improving energy efficiency of public buildings and public spaces.
 - Introduction, expansion of the use of mild-alternative forms of energy in public buildings and common areas.
 - Application of new technologies in the provision of services to citizens and simplification of municipal-citizen communication but also electronic services and applications in sectors such as tourism and culture.
 - Support structures for entrepreneurs-professionals and young people.
 - Primary and secondary education infrastructure.
- Social infrastructure that contributes to social inclusion in the community.

Specific Objectives

5ii. Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in areas other than urban areas.

Budget: 42.394.058€

Indicative Actions

- **Integrated Territorial Investment for the cultural Route of Egnatia**
- **Integrated Territorial Investment of the Rhodope & Nestos Mountain Range**
- Protection, development and promotion of public tourism property and relevant services, including cultural heritage and services.
- Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism both in Natura 2000 areas and beyond.
- Material renovation and safeguarding of public spaces, including creation / upgrade of open municipal recreation areas, green and parking spaces, utilization of undeveloped and / or abandoned municipal spaces.
- Application of new technologies in the provision of services to citizens and simplification of municipal-citizen communication but also electronic services and applications in sectors such as tourism and culture.
- Improving the energy efficiency of public buildings and public spaces.
- Systems for the prevention of natural hazards including flood protection and stream management.
- Improving the quality and quantity of water.

- Reconstruction and modernization of roads (national, regional or local roads).
- Social infrastructure that contributes to social inclusion in the community.
- Mobile data in the field of health.
- Construction, upgrading of pedestrian safety infrastructure, including sidewalks and footbridges.
- Mobile data in the field of health.
- Construction, upgrading of pedestrian safety infrastructure, including sidewalks and footbridges.

Priority 6:

Technical Assistance ERDF

Budget 7.989.393€

Indicative Actions

- Information and communication of the Programme
- Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control of the Programme
- Evaluation, elaboration of studies and data collection
- Support of the Managing Authority
- Strengthening the capacity of institutions and beneficiaries of the Programme
- Supporting social partners and civil society
- Operation of the Regional Support Structure of the RIS3 strategy.

Priority 7:

Technical Assistance ESF+

Budget 2.243.236€

Indicative Actions

- Information and communication of the Programme
- Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control of the Programme

- Regional Mechanism for diagnosing labour market needs
- Regional Observatory on Social Inclusion.
- Evaluation, elaboration of studies and data collection
- Support of the Managing Authority
- Strengthening the capacity of the institutions and beneficiaries of the Programme

This includes actions to improve the capacity of bodies related to social inclusion.

- Supporting social partners and civil society



MANAGING AUTHORITY
OF PROGRAMME "EAST MACEDONIA, THRACE"

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