



# Regional Action Plan of ATTICA



**May 2021**

## Part I – General information

**Project:** E-COOL – Entrepreneurial and Intrapreneurial Mindset in Young People through the Dynamisation of Competences, Teaching Methodologies and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

**Partner organisation:** Regional Development Fund on behalf of the Region of Attica

**Other partner organizations involved:** INNOVATION CENTER OF ATTICA

**Country:** GREECE

**NUTS2 region:** ATTICA

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This Plan is endorsed by the Attica Regional Stakeholder Group (that was also involved in the designing period of it) and the ICAR director as the relevant policy responsible organisation on behalf the Managing Authority of Attica ROP 2014-2020.

## Part II – Policy context

### E-COOL Action Plan for the ATTICA REGION aims to impact:

Investment for Growth and Jobs programme ROP of Attica 2014 – 2020

Type 1: Implementation of new projects	✓
Type 2: Change in the management of the policy instrument (improved governance)	
Type 3: Change in the strategic focus of the policy instrument (structural change)	
Other improvements not corresponding to types 1-3 (please comment)	

### Name of the policy instrument addressed

**Policy Instrument 8:** Regional Operational Programme of Attica 2014-2020,

Priority Axis & Thematic Objective 3 in combination with Priority Axis and Thematic Objective 8

**Axis 8 – Thematic Objective 8:** Including economic, social and environmental aspects, promoting the sustainability and quality of employment and facilitating labor mobility.

**Investment Priority 8iii:** Self-employment, entrepreneurship and the creation of new businesses, and especially innovative micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

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**Axis 3 – Thematic Objective 3:** Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

**Investment Priority 3a:** promoting entrepreneurship, by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and supporting the creation of new businesses, among others through business incubators.

The policy instrument selected will be improved thanks to the action included in this regional plan, based on the exchange of experience of E-COOL Project.

## Part III – Details of the action envisaged

### ACTION

#### 1. The background

*This chapter includes a description of E-COOL lessons learnt by RDFA that constitute the basis for the design of the Attica Regional Action Plan.*

##### Issue addressed

High unemployment rates, due to the remaining crisis in Greece is the core issue to be addressed in the region. According to the E-Cool Application Form at the end of 2016 there were 555 thousand of unemployed, of whom 2/3 correspond to long – term unemployment. Particularly youth unemployment in the region (15 – 29 years) accounts for 38% of youth unemployment of the country. This situation is due, in addition to the economic crisis, to weaknesses of regional economic structure, which even in periods of economic growth can't create sustainable new jobs. The reversal of the shrinkage phenomena of the productive base of the Region requires the strengthening of SMEs in the secondary and tertiary sector, in sectors and industries consistent with productive reconstruction and with RIS3 strategy.

**Children entrepreneurial mind-set needs to be changed and supported by specific educational actions.**

##### Policy Instrument

The main objective of the Attica 2014-2020 ROP, Thematic Objective 3 & Investment priority (IP) 3a is to promote entrepreneurship, by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and supporting the creation of new businesses, among others through business incubators. A characteristic of this IP is that it promotes the creation of new businesses and the adaptation of existing ones to areas of high added value, with a view to facilitate the economic exploitation of new ideas, business discovery and Networking of SMEs. In addition, it is connected with the regional strategy on employment and reducing the problems of finding working directions for young people and also reducing poverty.

The policy is among others a solution to the high unemployment rates (22%) in the region. It is strongly connected to the objectives of ESF strategy Axis 8 of the ROP of Attica, including economic, social and environmental aspects, promoting the sustainability and quality of employment and facilitating labor mobility, especially Investment Priority 8iii (self-employment, entrepreneurship and creation of new businesses, and especially innovative micro, small and medium-sized enterprises). The policy instrument needs to be improved, as the region, faces enormous structural employment problems due to the continuing economic crisis in Greece.



The new project is expected to improve the policy instrument. **Lessons learnt by the exchange of experience were incorporated in the new project.** Particularly successful initiatives implemented in partners' regions, that fit in the Region of Attica and especially in Greek culture and present circumstances, have been carefully chosen to be implemented through the new project **aiming at supporting young unemployed people to enter the labor market.** This will be achieved by stimulating the entrepreneurial mindset in children and teenagers and therefore creating future entrepreneurs.

**Self-defined performance indicator:** Number of children participated in the Action Plan Implementation.

### The contribution of E-COOL project

The way E-COOL is structured was very helpful for the learning phase. In a few words, all Good Practices were presented to partners in groups and assessed by them in the project seminars. During a second action the Good Practices were presented to Stakeholders' Group, where they were assessed again on the basis of three parameters: **Relevance, Transferability and Innovativeness.**

Highly assessed Good Practices were presented again during a third project action by their owners and in many into deep details. This way all Stakeholders were very actively involved in the procedure and in the projects' learning phase.

Specifically, Interregional Seminars helped RDFA to familiarize with the selected Good Practices (Digital Academy for Juniors and Innicia, Entrepreneurial Culture). The Interreg Europe templates for Good Practices, especially the extended version of the project, helped RDFA also to understand better the specific characteristics of the good practices.

Finally, the stakeholders' group meetings, where stakeholders had the opportunity to be informed on the good practices and to assess them, were also quite constructive as it cleared out important aspects of the good practices.

The assessment of all good practices led to a good score for the selected good practices especially in transferability, which is very important for incorporating it in the action plan.

**The Managing Authority (MA) of the Attica Region and the Innovation Center of Attica (ICAR) representatives were always participating in the SG meetings and following the projects' progress to influence the Regional Action Plan.**

Moreover, Stakeholders provided during the exchange of experience phase very useful information and knowledge concerning the state of the art of the subject in the Region of Attica (entrepreneurial mindset educational activities).

## Good practices selected by RDFA

### 1<sup>st</sup> Good Practice: Digital Academy for juniors

**Partner: PP9 - Ministry of Economy and Crafts (Croatia)**

Digital Academy is a STEaM educational program launched in 2016 and verified by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia. It is intended for students from 1st to 8th grade of elementary school and takes place in 8 grades / levels and can be attended by all children, regardless of their background, because the content is adapted to each child. The focus of the workshops is on stimulating curiosity and developing creativity, thinking critically, and arriving at solutions to problems through experimentation.

The idea of the Action Plan is based mostly on this Good Practice "Digital Academy for Juniors" (Algebra University College, Zagreb). According to the Good Practice the curriculum differs depending on the degree of the Digital Academy that the children attend.

**This aspect will be transferred and included in the Action Plan of the Region of Attica. It was decided to create 2 Curriculums each one including up to 8 Thematic Units. This is expected to cover better the educational needs of the students according to their age and educational level.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Good Practice: Innicia Programme - Regional Ministry of Education and Sports

**Partner: PP1 - Chamber of Commerce of Sevilla (Spain)**

From 2016-2017, the Innicia Cultura Emprendedora Educational Program is launched for the first time so that in Andalusian educational centers, entrepreneurship can be worked from a holistic point of view, a program that helps the training of students as being creative, innovative and entrepreneur from all angles and pedagogical areas. 2 specific cases of application were introduced in Groningen and showcased the application of the model.

The Good Practice incorporates inherent personal and social dimensions.

More than a summative / gradual perspective (personal dimension + social dimension + productive dimension), a concentric / integrative approach has been incorporated, in which each and every one of the activities must be linked to these three dimensions.

**The main purpose is to foster the scientific and entrepreneurial culture with the support of Public Educational System Organizations like Universities or Institutes.**

**These aspects also inspired and were incorporated in the design of the Action Plan of the Region of Attica.**

## 2. Action

The action – project is called “Children's' University”. It will be organized, implemented and funded by the “INNOVATION CENTER OF ATTICA REGION” – I.C.A.R. a **supporting structure of the Region of Attica based in RDFA premises and funded by the Attica ROP 2014-2020 and the selected policy instrument.**

### Step 1: Framework

#### Main Content of the action:

- 7 months duration curriculums (maximum)
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Curriculum: Primary School Children
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Curriculum: Secondary School Children
- Each Curriculum includes up to 8 Thematic Units
- 3 - and 4 - hours lessons
- Free attendance of the courses
- Conduction of the courses in the participating Educational & Research Institutions areas
- Selection of students though lottery
- Attendance Certificates provision

#### **Goals**

- Contact with entrepreneurship through Sciences, Research & Innovation
- Horizons' expanding
- Life experience of a College Student
- Strengthening of entrepreneurial ambitions
- Emphasize of the diversity value in the learning process

#### **Focus**

Children's University can provide little students with the appropriate triggers so they establish a contact with entrepreneurship through science and research in order not only to satisfy their curiosity, but also to



understand how science and research can be parts of our everyday life as professionals and entrepreneurs, by providing practical solutions and innovative actions. So, the action plan will focus (through the content of the courses) on putting the idea into action.

This aspect is expected to fully improve and stimulate the entrepreneurial mindset of little students.

## Step 2: Preparation

### Initial Steps needed for the implementation of the Action

- Approval Decisions of the Competent Bodies of the Region of Attica
- Contracts with the participating institutions
- Launching of additional Publicity Actions for students to submit their application
- Launching of Supporting Actions – Infrastructure
- Establishment of a Monitoring Body

## Step 3: Implementation

### Description of the maximum content of the Curriculums – Type of courses

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Curriculum

- Ask a scientist
- Software for small architects
- Astronomy to go
- Colorful child business
- Small Medical Researchers
- When knowledge becomes fun: Visits to Research Centers
- Alive books – Alive library
- My ecological footprint

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Curriculum

- Ask a scientist



- Astronomy to Go
- Circular Economy
- Exploring Robotics
- When knowledge becomes fun: Visits to Research Centers
- In a role of a Nuclear Scientist
- Tourism Research
- When Research guides you the World of Law

#### Types of courses

- Lectures: Conduction of lectures from University Professors. Questions – Answers on the topics
- Seminars: In Seminars, every issue is treated more accurately. In addition, they are discussed ideas derived from children per se
- Workshops: In workshops, there is an opportunity to heavily participate in small groups on a specific issue or task

#### Other information

- Registration is taking place during the application submission period.
- After the registration, the student will be equipped with Student Identity (Student Identification Card) and T-Shirt.
- Each student attends one of the Curriculums according to the respective school class.
- For the graduation, a presence in 75% of Curriculum hours is required. During the graduation, students receive the Graduation Certificate.
- Maximum Potential Number of Students: 250 for C1 and 150 for C2.

#### Monitoring the implementation of “Children's' University”

Steps for monitoring the implementation of the action plan are:

1. Creation of a document template called Monitoring Report by the project team of RDFA that will be updated every year.

2. RDFA will choose the members of the stakeholders' group to form a Monitoring Team for the implementation of Action Plan during the phase 2.
3. The Monitoring Team shall meet every 6 months to discuss on the progress of the Action Plan and to propose corrective actions if needed.
4. Ongoing cooperation with the members of the MA of Attica Region so the requirements defined in the Application Form of the project, on monitoring are met.
5. An annual Report will be elaborated on the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan.
6. A special meeting will be organized with the participation of the Managing Authority on the outcomes and final report of Action Plan.

### 3. Players involved

The organizations in the Region of Attica who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and their role in the projects steps are the following:

- The Regional Development Fund on behalf of the Region of Attica (RDFA) will implement the Action Plan through its Innovation Center of Attica (ICAR) and is involved in all steps.



- The Managing Authority of Attica ROP 2014 – 2020 is funding the Action Plan and participates in the monitoring of Phase 2 and is involved mostly in monitoring of the Action Plan.



- Universities and other Institutions of Attica (as participating bodies) that will take over the courses of the Children's University and are involved in steps 1 to 3.



#### 4. Timeframe

The action will start implementing in autumn 2021 and its duration will be 2 years. If the pandemic is still in progress affecting educational activities with physical appearance, the action will start implementing in early 2022.

#### 5. Costs

Cost Center	Provider	Cost Estimation (€)
1. Cooperative Institutions	Institutions	123,750
2. Publicity – 1 <sup>st</sup> phase (study & execution of publicity actions)	Communication Consultant	20,000
3. Design & Production of logo, leaflet, banners, brochures, sports etc.	Graphic Designer, Studio	7,000
4. Design & creation of electronic form (web)	Web Developer	3,000
5. Design & creation of the website of the action	Web Developer	2,000
6. Printouts (brand identity, bags, shirts, training material)	Print Partner	5,000
7. Send of the material in the program starting points	Transportation Company	200
<b>Total (€)</b>		<b>160,950</b>
<b>Cost per student (€)</b>		<b>537</b>

#### 6. Funding sources

The action will be funded by ROP 2014-2020 of the Region of Attica.

DATE:

01/07/2021

SIGNATURE:

STAMP OF THE ORGANISATION

E-COOL: REGIONAL ACTION PLAN OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND ON BEHALF OF THE REGION OF ATTICA