

Action plan



GREECE

2021



ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΟ
ΤΑΜΕΙΟ
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ
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ΘΡΑΚΗΣ



CircPro
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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Part I – General information

Project: «CircPro» - «Smart Circular Procurement»

Partner organisation(s) concerned: Regional Development Fund of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace on behalf of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

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Part II – Policy context

1. The Action Plan aims to impact:
 - Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
 - European Territorial Cooperation programme
 - Other regional development policy instrument
2. Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed: Operational Programme of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace 2014-2020
3. Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

The Operational Program (OP) of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (REMTH) was approved on 18/12/2014 by the European Commission and was revised on 7/7/2020. It is an important programmatic and financial tool for the support of the development policy in the Region in the programming period 2014-2020 and aims at the contribution to both the Partnership Agreement (PA) of Greece and the European Strategy "Europe 2020".

The Co-financed Public Expenditure of the OP REMTH amounts to € 507,739,340 of which € 441,171,009 relate to resources of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and € 66,568,331 relate to resources of the European Social Fund (ESF).

The development vision of PAMTH for 2020 is formulated as the "reconstruction of the productive model of the Region in order to be transformed into a tourist destination of excellence and an important industrial pole, utilizing its comparative advantage in the agri-food complex, its rich endogenous geographical potential and promoting social cohesion by mobilizing existing and new social collectives".

In relation to Thematic Objective (TO) 3: Improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF), the OP EMTH sets one of the priorities supporting the ability of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to participate in innovation processes.

The desired result can be achieved through various horizontal and specific actions, which vary depending on the classification of the sectors and sectors of the regional economy. Nevertheless, the most typical categories of actions concern:

The reason that Thematic Objective 3 and Investment Priority 3d were chosen are the following:

- Existence of a relatively small, family-run business with an organizational structure that does not provide dynamism in the strategic response to the challenges. At the same time, the necessary economies of scale are lacking in both the introduction of technological and organizational innovation with the ultimate goal of joining international value chains.
- In companies of all sectors of the regional economy there is minimal effort of product innovation. The tactics of creative copying of products and the way they are produced and distributed are mostly followed. Especially for the industries of the "core of expertise" of RIS3, the application of technologies and methods of development of innovative products is considered as the first priority.

•Aid to clusters either between similar companies or companies that form an integrated value chain for the introduction of innovative features in the products / services produced

•Creation of support structures for the adoption of technological and non-innovation

•Establishment and support in the initial stages of operation of New Technology Intensive Businesses (NTIB)

•Enhancing the extrovert orientation of business groups (horizontal and vertical clusters)

•Completing the value chain of the tourism-culture sector

The relevant Investment Priority adopted by the OP of REMTH is the 3d: "Supporting the ability of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to participate in innovation processes", which specializes in Specific

Objective 5: "Increasing the profitability and productivity of SMEs" and Specific Objective 6: "Increasing the extroversion of SMEs", which have been summarized in one: "Increasing the efficiency and extroversion of SMEs".

The objectives of the Policy Tool of REMTH, which correspond to Investment Priority 3d and Specific Objective 5-6, have the following expected results:

- Reduction of production costs and distribution of products and services of the social media.
- Increase of productivity factors of SMEs.
- Improving the competitiveness of SMEs.
- Facilitating the entry of SMEs of REMTH in international (primarily) but also domestic value chains.

Indicative actions for funding by the OP REMTH include:

- Strengthening business investment plans of the industries selected by the RIS3 process, for the introduction of basic general application technologies, with emphasis on the promotion and implementation of mature research results (eg research results 7FP, H2020 etc). The basic technologies are the ones selected by the GSRT: ICT, nanotechnology, biotechnology, photonics, advanced materials.
- Strengthening investment plans of companies of all sectors for the introduction of process, organizational or promotional innovations, with emphasis on the promotion and implementation of mature research results (eg research results 7FP, H2020 etc).
- Strengthening investment plans of companies of all sectors for the introduction of technologies to improve energy efficiency and the use of RES with emphasis on the use of geothermal applications and biomass products.
- Cooperation actions of the tourism and culture sectors with sectors that directly affect the tourism product (catering, transport, trade, processing) with the aim of strengthening the tourism networks and the integrated tourism programs / destinations
- Strengthening investment plans of integrated value chains to improve their export performance.

According to the 3rd Revision with reference date of 2/9/2021, the invitations of Priority 3d total amount to € 97,000,000 and are presented in detail per Action in the following table:

Action	Invitations	Memberships
3d. 5-6.1 Aid for the modernization - upgrading of existing companies, as a priority in areas of the Regional Strategy of Smart Specialization EFEPAE (DESMOS)	32,000,000.00	31,934,537.32

Action	Invitations	Memberships
3d. 5-6.2 Business support to deal with the effects of the COVID19 pandemic in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace	65,000,000.00	21,972,900.00
Total	97,000,000.00	53,907,437.00

Source: EYDEP REMTH, own processing (September 2021)

In relation to the Thematic Objective (TS) 6 "Preservation and protection of the environment and promotion of resource efficiency", OP REMTH sets as one of the priorities the Investments in the field of waste, in order to meet the requirements of the environmental acquis of the Union and to address the needs identified by Member States for investments that exceed these requirements.

The main needs in the field of environment are:

- the completion of the basic solid waste management infrastructure (completion of the Regional Waste Management Plan PESDA),
- the implementation of Water Management Plans 11 and 12,
- the completion of the missing environmental sewerage infrastructure and Sewage Treatment Facilities; and
- the implementation of management plans in protected areas where there are plans and the preparation of management plans for areas that do not have.

Environmental protection is fundamental to achieving "Sustainable Development". It is the Union's longest-running horizontal policy, set out in a set of relevant Directives, the observance of which is a commitment for the Member States.

One of the actions of TO 6, which is planned to be implemented through PA 2 is to:

- Increase the recycling capacity of the Region by 400% (from 3,685 tonnes to 14,609 tonnes) - thus contributing to the recycling target for 2020 by increasing the percentage of recycled materials in the total ASA from 2.8% to 11.4%,

The Special Objective that corresponds to the Investment Priority 6a is the Special Objective 10: "Support of the integrated and sustainable waste management in REMTH". The indicative types of actions that will be supported are the following:

- Supply of solid waste pre-treatment and composting equipment.
- Supply of garbage trucks.
- Supply of recycling bins.

- Supply of operating equipment for waste separation and recovery centre (KDAY).

The relevant Investment Priority adopted by the OP REMTH is the 6a: "Investments in the field of waste, in order to meet the requirements of the environmental acquis of the Union and to meet the needs identified by the Member States for investments that exceed these requirements", which specializes in Specific Objective 10: "Support for integrated and sustainable waste management at REMTH".

The reason that the Thematic Objective 6 and Investment Priority 6a was chosen is because there was:

- Need to complete the Regional Waste Management Plan and harmonize with the requirements of Directive 2008/98/EK (on waste management) and the National Planning.

The objectives of the Policy Tool of EMTH, which correspond to Investment Priority 6a, have the following expected results:

- Increase of municipal solid waste that is recycled.

Indicative actions for funding by the OP PAMTH include:

- Supply of solid waste pre-treatment and composting equipment.
- Supply of garbage trucks.
- Supply of recycling bins.
- Supply of operating equipment for waste separation and recovery centre KDAY.

The quantified targets set for the priorities 3d and 6a of the OP REMTH are the following:

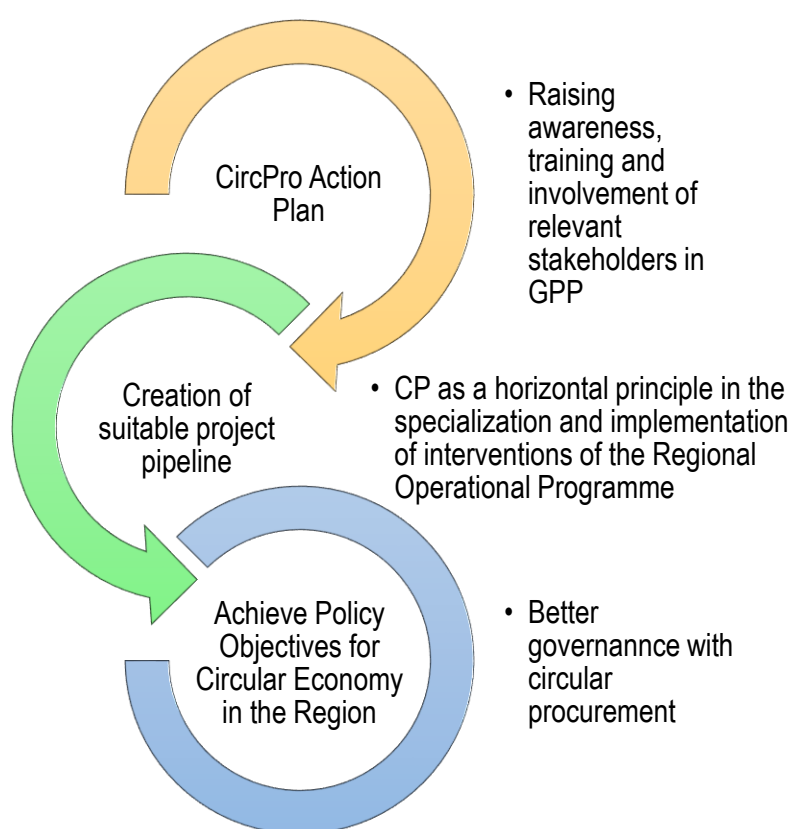
Indicator	Investment priority / Specific objective	Region category (if applicable)	Type	Unit of measurement	Base value (2013)	Target value (2023)
Gross Value Added	3d/5-6	Less developed regions	Result	Million €	6,212.83	6,500.00
Export value	3d/5-6	Less developed regions	Result	Million €	688.47	745.00
Productive investments: Number of companies receiving grants	3d	Less developed regions	Outflow	Businesses		70.00

Indicator	Investment priority / Specific objective	Region category (if applicable)	Type	Unit of measurement	Base value (2013)	Target value (2023)
Productive investments: Number of companies that receive financial support other than grants	3d	Less developed regions	Outflow	Businesses		180.00
Productive investments: Increase employment in companies that receive aid	3d	Less developed regions	Outflow	Full-time equivalents		220.00
Percentage of municipal solid waste generated diverted from landfill	6a/10	Less developed regions	Result	Percentage	1.40	40.00
Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	6a		Outflow	Tons / year		10,000.00

Source: EYDEP REMTH, own processing (March 2021)

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

The Action Plan aims at the development of actions which will affect and/or will be included in a policy tool of REMTH and will be implemented by the end of the CircPro project. Due to the end of the 2014-2020 programming period, the available resources of the current Operational Program of the Region of Eastern Macedonia-Thrace have been fully committed, also taking into account the amounts that were used to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the proposed actions of the project are expected to contribute mainly:



ACTION 1:

Name of the action:

Enhanced capacity for utilizing Green Public Procurement

Relevance to the project

The inspiration for this action was the good practice of the Green Criteria in an electronic contract register of the Estonian Ministry of Finance, as well as the Public Procurement & Change Services for Sustainable and Innovative Public Procurement in Kouvola, Finland. The key elements that were considered suitable to transfer to the Region of Eastern Macedonia Thrace from the

example of Estonia are the existence of a helpdesk that helps the services in the analysis of the criteria of Green Public Procurement.

Nature of the action

For the purposes of informing the public and the private sector, informative and educational events will be organized, where the interested bodies will be invited, in order to participate, be informed, educated and sensitized about the procedures that should now be followed. To this end, information material will be developed and produced in order to properly inform and educate stakeholders. The information material will be based on the CircPro Regional Guidebook, as well as information material of the competent Ministry on the procedures of Green Public Procurement. The information material will also be produced in electronic form, in order to be distributed to public bodies and private bodies.

Objectives:

- Skills development of the contracting authorities about the benefits and opportunities from the implementation of the Green Public Procurement,
- Informing market representatives and entrepreneurs about the intention of the public sector to proceed with the "greening" of public procurement, but also about the benefits that arise for the various sectors from the certification of products and the promotion of environmentally friendly production as well as the adaptation of the Greek market to the new data.

Planned activities include:

- 1.1 Dissemination of Regional Guidebook to local stakeholders
- 1.2 Awareness events for market actors
- 1.3 Training of relevant units of contracting authorities

Stakeholders involved:

Organization	Role
Region of EMTH	REMTH is the owner of the action, and given its role as a body of policy planning and implementation undertakes the coordination of the action.
Municipalities and other contracting authorities in the Region of Central Macedonia	Immediate beneficiaries of the action
Business community	Encouragement for participation in Green Public Procurement

Timeframe 2021 – 2023

Activities	Semester			
	B2021	A2022	B2022	A2023
1.1 Dissemination of Regional Guidebook to local stakeholders				
1.2 Awareness events for market actors				
1.3 Training of relevant units of contracting authorities				

Costs

The total cost for the implementation of the action1 is estimated at 10.800€ and includes expenditure on promotion and training public and private sector about the procedures that should be followed in terms of Green Public Procurement

nr.	Expenditure	Cost
1	Information and publicity (promotion material, social media, newsletter)	2.000€
2	Speakers for workshops	1.500€
3	Organizing 3 workshops (organizing support, space renting & other equipment, program configuration, sending invitations, photographing, secretarial support, minutes, catering etc.)	4.000€
4	Coordination services for implementation of the workshops	2.500€
	SUM	10.000€

Funding sources *Own sources*

ACTION 2:

Name of the action:

Introducing CPP in interventions of the Regional Operational Programme

Relevance to the project

The inspiration for this action was the good practice of the Service of Public Procurement & Change Specialists for Sustainable and Innovative Public Procurement in Kouvola, Finland. The key elements assessed as suitable to

transfer to the Region of Eastern Macedonia Thrace from the example of Finland are the existence of special public contracts that provide assistance in the preparation of tender documents and market consultation.

The Local Support Group tried, given the time and regulatory constraints, to transfer the above to the classic grants program of the Business Program of the Region of Eastern Macedonia Thrace 2014-2020. However, taking into account the following:

- The current Programming period comes to its end, and therefore any available resources of the current selected policy instrument (ROP 2014-2020) have urgently been fully committed and / or have been reallocated to actions to addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- it's likely difficult for any new call of proposals concerning ROP 2014-2020 to be launched within the remaining period;
- the new OP 2021-2027 is still under development, in draft version;
- the national legislation for GPP was only introduced in March 2021, the Local Support Group will continue its efforts to transfer the experience and knowledge accumulated through the CircPro projects and the practice of Kouvola to the drafting and specialization of the new OP 2021-27 to be able to transplant “green” circular procurement tools into the new Operational Programme’s context and the new legislation introduced.

Nature of the action

In order to achieve the objectives of the circular economy of the policy tool of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, it is proposed to introduce means of prioritization and / or premiums of interventions that choose to use green contracts, according to the basic criteria of the CPP of EU, for their implementation. In particular, the use of CPP is intended for interventions that include supplies or services for the following goods:

- Photocopy and writing paper
- Computers and monitors
- Imaging equipment
- Indoor lighting - LED lamps
- Air conditioners
- Furniture
- Textile products
- Electrical and electronic equipment used in the field of healthcare
- Road construction design, construction and maintenance
- Design of office buildings, construction and management

which emerged as main areas from the results of the Local Stakeholder Group meetings and the exchange of experiences with the partners and the respective Regions of the CircPro project.

The promotion of the implementation of the CPP criteria can be accelerated if the Region introduces relevant regulations and / or objectives in the specialization of the actions of the Regional Operational Program and / or in the methodology and criteria of evaluation of the operations.

Planned activities include:

- 2.1 Identification of relevant types of actions in the interventions of the Funds of the Program 2021-2027 of the Region
- 2.2 Assessment and proposal of indicative methodology for introduction of CPP criteria
- 2.3 Informing the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee
- 2.4 Adoption of relevant criteria in the specialization or evaluation in selected action categories of the Program of the Region 2021-2027

Stakeholders involved

Organization	Role
Region of Eastern Macedonia-Thrace	REMTH is the owner of the action, and given its role as a body of policy planning and implementation undertakes the coordination of the action.
Managing Authority	
Monitoring Committee	Selection and application of appropriate methodologies and criteria

Timeframe 2021 - 2023

Activities	Semester			
	B2021	A2022	B2022	A2023
2.1 Identification of relevant types of actions in the interventions of the Funds of the Program 2021-2027 of the Region				
2.2 Assessment and proposal of indicative methodology for introduction of CPP criteria				
2.3 Informing the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee				
2.4 Adoption of relevant criteria in the specialization or evaluation in selected action categories of the Program of the Region 2021-2027				

Costs

The total cost for the implementation of the action 2 is estimated at 21.200€ and includes the promotion of the implementation of the CPP criteria in the specialization of the actions of the Regional Operational Program.

nr.	Expenditure	Cost
1	Identification of relevant types and adopting CPP criteria	4.000 €
2	Organizing meetings with Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee (3)	1.000 €
3	Services for specialization of relevant CPP criteria in action categories of Region OP 2021-2017	5.000 €
	SUM	10.000 €

Funding sources own sources

Monitoring of the Action Plan

The monitoring period of the Action Plan of the CircPro project for REMTH lasts from 01/06/2021 - 30/05/2023. During the monitoring period, the implementation of the actions and the achievement of the objectives are expected to be evaluated every six months, during the meetings of the Local Support Group. At the same time, the achievement of the objectives will be recorded in the reports to the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Europe Program.

The CircPro project for REMTH sets as a self-evaluation index the number of innovative projects or projects that include innovative actions.

Indicator	Type	Action	Source	Target value
Number of companies raised awareness	Outflow	Action 1		
Number of executives trained	Outflow	Action 1		
Number of tenders for projects of the Regional Operational Program of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace with basic CPP criteria	Result	Action 1 & 2		
Number of innovative projects or projects involving innovative actions	Result	Action 2		

Date: ... October, 2021

Name of the organisation(s): Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):