



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe
Cyprus and Greece

Brussels,
REGIO.DGA2.G.5/GP

Dear Mr Firbas,

Subject: Fulfilment of the criterion 1 of the Ex-ante conditionality 1 “National RIS3”

Thank you for your letters of 7/08/2015 [Ares(2015) 3311551, Ares(2015) 3310667, Ares(2015) 3310747, Ares(2015) 3310745 and Ares(2015) 3310740] regarding the reporting on the fulfilment of criterion 1 of the Ex ante conditionality 1 which was not fulfilled at the date of submission of the Greek Partnership Agreement and the national operational programme of Competitiveness and Innovation.

Following the assessment of the information provided in the above letters, we agree with your self-assessment, provided that the points highlighted in the assessment report of the Commission supported by the RIS3 experts and the comments listed below will be addressed during the implementation of the Strategy:

- Till the end of 2015, the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) should finish a first round of meetings at the level of the 8 priority sectors. With the progress of the EDP the Action Plan should be adapted accordingly. In the implementation, priority should be given to actions with expected high impact.
- The sectoral emphasis and the sub-sectoral level activities are well identified and discussed. Inter-sectorality needs to be further defined and monitored during the implementation phase of the operational programme
- We note that specific intervention logics for each priority area will take place by the end of 2015. This will be a part of EDP procedure and the revision of RIS3, following a more in depth consultation with existing firms.
- Finally, it should be noted that instruments to promote RTD are similar throughout Europe (spinoffs, vouchers, etc). The economic activities and relevant technologies that are promoted with these instruments vary, depending on the EDP findings.
- We note as well that you intend to link the regional-national analysis with the EDP, as you consider that no serious division of types of activities and measures between regional and national level can be clearly illustrated now, based on

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analyses and data so far provided by the regional RIS3 as they are approved today.

- Quantitative indicators are needed to define the expected impact per priority sector. As mentioned in pages 75-76 and table 6.2, the values for 2020 will be set with the finalisation of the EDP process. A first estimation of the values is expected by the end of 2015 and a second by mid-2016.
- The national system of monitoring and measurement with respect to the national RIS3 monitoring system should be further defined. Input from General Secretariat of Research and Technology (GSRT) and National documentation Centre (EKT) is expected for the national and the regional RIS3. We note that the final monitoring system is expected by December 2015-January 2016.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that the criterion 1 of the Ex ante conditionality 1 “National RIS3” is fulfilled and requests from the Greek authorities to continue working on addressing the issues presented above during the implementation of the Strategy. Calls for Pilot Projects referring to Thematic Objective 1 can be launched and the results of their experience should feed the EDP which is and should remain active during the whole programming period 2014-2020 and beyond.

The calls by the ROPs and the OP EPANEK concerning RIS3 actions can be launched after close cooperation with DG REGIO.

The Commission would like to highlight that the assessment of the fulfilment of the entire Ex ante conditionality will be decided only upon the receipt of the member state report on the fulfilment of all the non-fulfilled criteria (for instance ExAC 1.2).

Yours sincerely,

Sabine BOURDY
Head of Unit

Cc: Mr Maloutas, General Secretary for Research and Technology

Mr. Iakovidis, Head of Coordination of Implementation of Operational Programmes

Mrs Sofouli, GSRT

Mr Wolfe, Head of Unit G1, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Mr Gilland, Head of Unit F1, DG Regional and Urban Policy