



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS



HELLAS: INNOVATION JOURNEY 2021-2027

**National
Smart
Specialisation
Strategy
2021-2027**

SYNOPSIS

June 2022



European Union

Co-funded by Greece and the European Union



Partnership Agreement 2014 - 2020

1. Introduction

The National Smart Specialisation Strategy (ESEE) identifies the strategic areas of intervention (priorities), on which investments are focused. Identification of priorities is based on the strengths and the potential of the economy as well as the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) in which stakeholders are involved. EDP is an extrovert approach that adopts a broad view on innovation and is supported by effective monitoring mechanisms.

2. Priority Areas

The analysis done when drafting the new National Smart Specialisation Strategy led to the identification of eight priority areas, in which the country has advantages and on which the transition to a new growth model could be based. These areas are the following:

- Agro-food value chain
- Bio-sciences, Health and Pharmaceuticals
- Digital Technologies
- Sustainable Energy
- Environment and Circular Economy
- Transport and Logistics
- Materials, Constructions and Industry
- Tourism, Culture and Creative Industries

The above-cited eight priority areas are similar to the ones in the programming period 2014-2020.

The Regions have specified their priorities in the context of these eight areas. These priorities are the relevant regional specialisation of the ESEE.

3. Vision and Strategy

The vision of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-2027 is the transition to a new growth model that will be sustainable in social, financial and environmental terms, based on knowledge and its utilization in the production of high added value products and services that can be integrated into global value chains.

This vision can be further analysed into the **five Strategic Objectives** below:

- Production of New Knowledge
- Effective utilisation and diffusion of new knowledge
- Technological streamlining – Innovation adoption
- Development, networking and internationalisation of Greek enterprises

- Increase in extroversion – Involvement in Research, Technological and Entrepreneurial Global Value Chains

In order to achieve the abovementioned strategic objectives, ESEE has identified a number of actions that fall under the following **eight intervention areas**:

- Human Resources (business and academia)
- Research and Innovation Infrastructures
- Innovation support mechanisms, services and facilities
- Link of Research with Production
- Digital Transformation
- Regulatory Framework (Regulations, Administration, Taxation)
- Promotion of innovation by public sector
- Visibility - Publicity

4. Entrepreneurial Discovery Process

The Entrepreneurial Discovery Process is linked to the identification of competitive advantage sources and the development of investment plans for innovation and investments adaptation to the requirements of the current digital and green transition of production activities. Good governance of EDP constitutes an initiative to mobilise the innovation ecosystem with a view to helping research in Greece achieve innovation results of high quality and internationally competitive in response to the business community that will have the opportunity -via EDP- to express systematically and clearly its needs, sending the appropriate signals towards the research community.

Entrepreneurial Discovery Mechanism: The Entrepreneurial Discovery Mechanism is supported by the Innovation Platforms per Priority Area, which is the core part of consultation at national level for the implementation of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process. The platforms' combination ensures adequate representation of all axes of the Quadruple Helix (business, public sector, research/academia, civil society) aiming to update and further specify the priority areas of the ESEE and identify the sources of competitive advantage. The platforms meet regularly to ensure the continuity of the process. The new Innovation Agency under the Organisation of Industrial Property (OBI) within the Ministry of Development and Investments has the task to contribute to further improvement of the research and innovation production capacity of enterprises, to their adjustment to the demands of modern digital and green transition of the industrial segment, to the internationalisation as well as to develop the appropriate skills. The Innovation Agency operates in support of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Mechanism and in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation, assesses the EDP results in terms of entrepreneurship and capitalises on the relevant conclusions as an input to the next round of EDP implementation. It can also commission studies with a view to enriching ideas during the next round of EDP implementation and to better documenting its results. The Innovation Agency will communicate the results of the abovementioned studies to enterprises through their liaisons.

At regional level the EDP is carried out under the responsibility of the competent regional bodies for the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

5. Governance System

In order to implement effectively the National Smart Specialisation Strategy a new Governance System was established, which consists of three levels:

Decisive/ Strategic Level: The Council of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy is the competent body at this level, which consists of the competent General Secretaries, a representative of the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE) and three highly acclaimed persons in the field of business, research and new technologies. The Council is competent, among others, to recommend to the Minister of Development and Investments the approval of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy and of its amendments that may arise further to the monitoring of the Strategy's implementation and assessment. The General Secretary of Public Investments and NSRF chairs the Council. The Regions participate at this level of governance through the Association's representation at the Council of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy.

Steering Level: It consists of the Unit for Programming, Coordination and Monitoring of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy (MON ESEE) and the Entrepreneurial Discovery Mechanism (Innovation Platforms, General Secretary for Research and Innovation, Innovation Agency). The Regions participate at the second level of governance through the competent bodies for the Smart Specialisation Strategy they have designated. The competent regional body will work closely with the above Unit for the communication and the matching of results from the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process between national and regional level and the coordination of the actions between the two levels.

Implementation level and actions/projects management: It consists of the managing bodies and the bodies responsible for the implementation of the actions and projects through which the Strategy is implemented (e.g. Managing Authorities of the Partnership Agreement Programmes, Intermediate Bodies etc). In the Regions, the third level of governance consists of the respective bodies of management and implementation of projects/actions that are included in the regional dimension (specialisation) of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (e.g. Managing Authority of the Regional Programme).

A solid monitoring and assessment system registers the implementation progress of ESEE as well as the impacts which can be reasonably attributed to such Strategy.

6. Funding

National Smart Specialisation Strategy will be funded by the Programmes of the PA 2021-2027. The main corpus of the Strategy actions (national component) will be mainly funded by the Programme "Competitiveness" and each regional dimension (specialisation) from the relevant Regional Programme. Additional source of funding for ESEE will be the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.