

RIS3 and ROP Assessment: Region of Ionian Islands

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Executive summary

Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of Ionian Islands (RIS3 RII) is a document of the IMA of Ionian Islands based on a study prepared by prepared by Logotech SA. RIS3 is a document of 149 pages organized in 7 sections: (1) Strategy of smart specialisation: summary of ideas and methodology, (2) Development and evaluation of the existing situation in the Region of Ionian Islands, (3) Creating a vision for S3, (4) Development of strategic priorities, (5) Leverage of private funding, (6) Governance of innovation policy, (7) Monitoring and evaluation system.

Analysis and SWOT is complete, based on the most recent and valid data, provides evidence for the choice of priorities, and contains an outward looking perspective.

Strategy development, entrepreneurial discovery and prioritisation was realised through an extensive public consultation. Four priority sectors for specialisation and diversification were defined: (1) quality and thematic tourism, (2) cultural and creative economy or the ‘experience industry’, (3) primary sector and gastronomy, and (4) marine economy.

The RIS3 aAction plan and policy mix identifies 37 actions in these four priority axis. Actions are expected to take funding from the Regional OP, the EPANEK, the social fund, and the OP Agri. Per action are described the specific objectives, the implementation procedure, source of funding, and final beneficiaries.

The chapter on implementation, budget, and monitoring is totally missing. Budgetary sources are mentioned in the action plan, but no budget is given per action. There is no indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritization of investments linked to EU priorities. Monitoring and assessment systems are not described. Ex ante conditionalities (EAC) are partially covered, but it is realistic to expect fulfilment within 2014 or early 2015.

Recommendations towards RIS3 are about (1) the further elaboration of action plan and policy mix, using Balanced Scorecard methodologies, (2) the allocation of actions per thematic objective (1, 2, and 3), (3) the inclusion of actions leading to the creation of innovation environments, (4) the need of a detailed chapter or digital growth plan consistent with the Digital Agenda for Europe objectives, (5) the outline of a regional system of monitoring and assessment.

RIS3-ROP consistency analysis revealed important inconsistency between the two documents. Most important divergence concerns the level of ambition. While RIS3 aspires to a transformation of the regional economy through modernisation and diversification, the ambition of ROP – as reflected in target indicators – will have null effect on the regional economy. The impact of ROP to the implementation of RIS3 will be rather unnoticed.

The policy mix of RIS3 is not consistent with the actions of ROP: RIS3 actions are placed within the four sectors of specialisation, while the ROP actions are the same for all sectors; the number, detail, and content of actions described in the RIS3 and the ROP differ substantially. Innovation-related support actions in the ROP under investment priorities 1a, 1b, 2b or 2c seem not consistent with the RIS3 action plan and perspective.

Recommendations about the ROP are about the (1) the need of full consistency between the RIS3 and the ROP Priority Axis 1 “Support of regional competitiveness through the development of innovation and ICT”, (2) the ROP should come closer to the overall perspective and ambition of RIS3 of Ionian Islands, (3) the action plan of ROP and the specific actions included should come closer to the action plan of RIS3, and (4) monitoring indicators, target and result used by the ROP should be similar to those employed by the RIS3 (still to be defined).

1. RIS3 Ionian Islands

The RIS3 compliance assessment refers to the RIS3, the digital growth strategy and the action plan for the implementation of the smart specialisation strategy.

1.1. RIS3 structure and content

Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of Ionian Islands (RIS3 II) is a document of the Intermediary Management Authority of Ionian Islands based on a study prepared by prepared by Logotech SA. It is a text of 149 pages organized in 7 sections, as below:

1.Strategy of smart specialisation: summary of ideas and methodology (pp. 5-12)	4. Development of strategic priorities (pp. 100-134) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axis 1:Primary sector and agrofood • Axis 2: Marine economy, fisheries, aquaculture • Axis 3: Experience industry: Tourism, culture, creative economy • Axis 4: Horizontal actions • Axis 5: Intelligent spatial development of RII
2. Development and evaluation of the existing situation in the Region of Ionian Islands (RII) (pp. 12-79) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth potential in the RII • Economic performance • Innovation performance • The position of the RII in the European map of research and innovation • SWOT analysis 	5. Leverage of private funding (pp. 135-137) 6. Governance of innovation policy (pp. 138-141) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the governance system • Level 1: Coordination and policy design • Level 2: Documentation, detailed design • Level 3: Policy implementation • Level 4: Documentation and coordination at national level
3. Creating a vision for S3 (pp. 80-99) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation procedures and entrepreneurial discovery • Vision and objectives of S3 • Strategic choices for smart specialization • Intervention model • Procedures for adoption of the vision • Main problems and needs of the production system • Summary of strategies, objectives and priorities 	7. Monitoring and evaluation system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring system • Assessment of the strategy

The report adopts a typical strategic planning structure and methodology, going through analysis, vision and objectives development, action plan, implementation, monitoring and assessment.

Analysis and SWOT

Socio-economic performance, including the production structure, business activity, sectoral specialisation, exports, innovation supply, innovation spending, human resources, and innovation infrastructure, are systematically described and analysed. This part of the RIS3 takes the greater part of the document. Analysis is complete and throughout, both in terms of demand and supply of innovation.

Most of the analysis is based on recent statistical data from Eurostat and Elstat: employment data are from Elstat 2013; business activity is based on the company registry of 2008; tourism and cruising data are quite recent (2013); agricultural, bio-production, livestock, and fisheries data are from Elstat 2009; exports data refer to the period 2011-2012. Innovation performance and R&D spending are Eurostat and European Innovation Scoreboard data of the period 2005-2012.

Statistical analysis and time series conclude with a SWOT analysis for the most important sectors of production. Per sector having critical mass (agriculture and livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, trade, construction, tourism) the document outlines the production capacity, FDI, exports, clusters and innovation, research potential, and related research specialisation and KETs.

SWOT identifies a restructuring and modernisation strategy for the sectors of (1) agriculture and livestock, (2) fisheries and aquaculture, (3) trade, (4) construction, and (5) tourism, having a high critical mass but low research and innovation potential. None sector presents a potential for diversification.

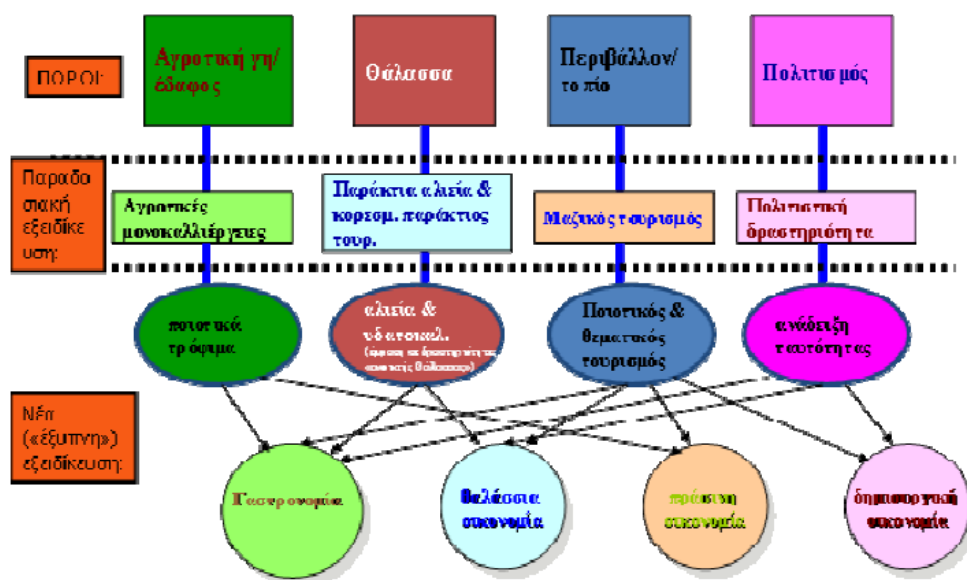
Therefore, the analysis is complete, based on the most recent and valid data, provides evidence for the choice of priorities, and contains an outward looking perspective. Analysis is based on public sector statistical data. There isn't reference about primary data collection based on surveys, consultations, round tables, private sector information, qualitative methods, or action research. Such forms of consultation were used at the next stage of RIS3 dealing with vision and strategic objectives.

Strategy / prioritisation

Strategy development, entrepreneurial discovery and prioritisation were realised through an extensive and long-term public consultation. Consultation took place at the level of prefectures, and three socio-institutional levels with the participation of the business and academic communities, producer associations, and the regional council. The process started in October 2012 with the DG Regio expert group assessment, continued with the development conference in April 2013, the creation of the S3 network, informal meetings with groups of producers in May 2013, thematic working sessions organised by IMA in August 2013, follow-up in October 2013, and presentation of the four priority sectors for specialisation on January 2014.

Through this open and multi-level consultation were defined (a) the vision of the region: “Ionian islands should become an even more attractive destination for international visitors and investors, and a liveable place for their inhabitants”, and (b) the four priority domains for specialisation and diversification: (1) quality and thematic tourism, (2) creative economy, cultural identity and tradition or the ‘experience industry’, (3) agro-food and gastronomy, and (4) sea economy, fisheries & aquaculture, marine biology. The transition from an old to the new proposed specialisation is presented on Figure 1.

Figure 1: Old and new specialisation in the region of Ionian Islands



The entrepreneurial discovery process continued further into each one of the four priority sectors with the identification of multipliers in added-value and products, basic challenges and needs of the productive system, and concluded with a SWOT analysis per priority sector.

For the implementation of the restructuring / modernisation strategy four objectives were defined dealing with the (1) reform of the productive model, (2) activation of human resources, (3) creation of thematic poles of specialisation, and (4) support towards the new productive model.

Overall, this stage / section of RIS3 focuses on a limited set of research and innovation priorities, which are suitable to the region and coherent to the conclusions of SWOT analysis. The prioritisation process has been based on wide / multi-level consultation with stakeholders. It is not clear, however, whether these priorities, vision, and strategic objectives have been already politically endorsed by the Regional Council or this will be done at a later stage.

The strategic objectives and vision of the RIS3 Ionian Islands are in line with the National Reform Programme and the specificities of island regions. Complementarity with the Innovation Platforms perspective of the GSRT, has to be sought, and how national innovation support structures will facilitate the turn of the region towards a model of quality tourism and a creative economy.

Action plan and policy mix

The action plan and the policy mix identifies 37 actions in the four priority axis (sectors):

Axis 1: Primary sector, agrofood and gastronomy - 7 actions supporting

- production and new agrofood products
- enhancement and promotion Ionian gastronomy

Axis 2: Marine economy, fisheries, aquaculture, sea tourism – 11 actions supporting

- fisheries and aquaculture
- sea tourism

Axis 3: Experience industry: tourism, culture, and creative economy – 9 actions supporting

- diversification of the tourism product
- connecting tourism and creative industry

Axis 4: Horizontal actions – 10 actions related to

- productive specialisation of human potential
- improvement of productivity through ICT
- use of green and energy efficiency technologies

Axis 5: Intelligent spatial development of the Ionian islands – Actions to be defined

These actions are expected to get funding from the Regional OP, the EPANEEK, the social fund, and the OP Agri. Per action, are described the specific objectives, the implementation procedure, sources of funding, and final beneficiaries.

Actions include only funding however; no other measures are foreseen, such as administrative reform, governance efficiency, tax incentives, legislative measures, change in the university – industry collaboration procedures.

Most actions focus on companies. 25 actions are expected to get funding from the private sector. However, it is not described how the Plan will mobilize private R&I investments and address the extremely low participation of the private sector to R&I (as described in the analysis and SWOT).

Implementation, budget, monitoring

The chapter on implementation is totally missing.

- Budgetary sources are mentioned in the action plan, but no budget is given per action.
- There is no indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritization of investments linked to EU priorities
- Monitoring and assessment systems are not described, including indicators and governance structure of the monitoring mechanism.
- Monitoring is expected to be provided by the Observatory of smart, sustainable, and inclusive regional development.

1.2. Digital growth strategy

The chapter on digital growth (2.2.5 ICT, broadband networks and innovation) is extremely limited and summary (pp. 69-71). It is based on data from the Observatory of Digital Greece on broadband infrastructure, Internet penetration, main ICT projects realised (in the field of tourism and historical archives), and the low technological potential of local SMEs which are disconnected from global value chains. However, the document does not contain any kind of SWOT or similar analysis consistent with the Scoreboard of the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE), neither an analysis of demand and supply of information and communication technologies.

Proposed actions focus on the use of ICT for business purposes (4.2.1 Adoption and use of ICT in the agrofood sector, 4.2.2 Use of ICT to increase productivity, autonomy, and quality of services in tourism) do not constitute the equivalent of a plan for digital growth.

Therefore, this part of RIS3 should be revised with strategy and actions covering all areas of the DAE / ICT RIS3, such as:

Broadband infrastructure	Usages: Platforms, applications, e-services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Generation Networks – FTTH Wireless technologies for high speed broadband City-wide Wi-Fi Focal Wi-Fi networks Cloud infrastructure, Government cloud 	Digital entrepreneurial services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-Services for individual companies e-Services for clusters and groups of companies
	Digital services to citizens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture & historical heritage e-services Vocational training e-services Health services, e-health
	Digital services for optimisation of infrastructure and utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intelligent transport systems Smart energy grid Digital water management Digital waste management
	Digital services for e-governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration services to citizens Planning and monitoring services

1.3. Ex ante conditionalities (Action plan checklist)

Ex ante conditionalities (EAC) are partially covered, but it is realistic to expect fulfilment within 2014 early 2015. In particular,

EAC 1.1. Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Programme, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well-performing national or regional R&I systems.

Fulfilment checklist

A national or regional smart specialisation is in place that:	YES	
– is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;	YES	
– outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment;		NO
– contains a monitoring mechanism.		NO
A framework outlining available budgetary resources for research and innovation has been adopted.		NO

EAC 1.2 Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multiannual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.

Fulfilment checklist

An indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritization of investments linked to Union priorities, and, where appropriate, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures - ESFRI has been adopted.		NO
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EAC 2.1 Digital growth. A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT-enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.

Fulfilment checklist

A strategic policy framework for digital growth, for instance, within the national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that contains:		NO
– budgeting and prioritisation of actions through a SWOT or similar analysis consistent with the Scoreboard of the Digital Agenda for Europe;		NO
– an analysis of balancing support for demand and supply of information and communication technologies (ICT) should have been conducted;		NO
– indicators to measure progress of interventions in areas such as digital literacy, e-inclusion, e-accessibility, and progress of e-health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU which are aligned, where appropriate, with existing relevant sectoral Union, national or regional strategies;		NO
– assessment of needs to reinforce ICT capacity-building.		NO

1.4. Recommendations towards RIS3

Based on the above observation related to analysis, vision and strategic objectives, action plan and implementation chapters of RIS3 of Ionian islands, we suggest the following recommendations and compliance to ex ante conditionalities:

Rec 1: The action plan and policy mix should be further elaborated and completed. We suggest using some kind of Balanced Scorecard methodology adapted to regional development and planning (i.e. <http://www.wseas.us/e-library/conferences/2010/Tenerife/DEEE/DEEE-02.pdf>), which will allow interconnecting objectives, actions, measurement indicators, and expected results. An example is given below:

Objectives	Measurement indicators: KPIs that can capture improvements of objectives	Initiatives / actions / projects to meet the objectives	Targets: Expected achievements in terms of selected KPIs
For instance, in Axis 1:			
Objective: Creation of new agrofood products	KPIs to measure this objective: -Number of new products introduced -Sales from new products	Action 1.1.1: New products based on research and innovation in the agrofood	-Increase of sales from new products by x% per year

Rec 2: Allocate the actions per thematic objective (1, 2, and 3). Provide a detailed budget and estimate the total cost of RIS3 implementation, the allocation of budget per funding line, and the time schedule for funding over the entire planning period.

Rec 3: Combine the business support measures foreseen in the action plan with support towards the creation of innovation environments (institutional, collaborative, experimental, user-driven, digital services, etc.) enabling the supported businesses to find external resources for product development, technology learning, and market access.

Rec 4: Add a detailed chapter or a digital growth plan consistent with the Digital Agenda for Europe objectives. As the *Digital Agenda Toolbox* defines “For the upcoming period of Structural Funds, an ex-ante conditionality applies which aims at fostering the development and implementation of national and regional digital growth measures and promoting the DAE goals by exploiting national and regional assets in line with the idea of smart specialisation. This conditionality applies to Member States and regions that are planning to allocate ERDF funding to developing ICT products and services, and public eServices. They are obliged to develop a *Strategic Policy Framework for Digital Growth*. Those wishing to use ERDF to extend broadband deployment should also develop a *Next Generation Network (NGN) Plan*.” (p. 9).

Targets and actions related to next generation broadband networks in the region of Ionian Islands and advanced digital services, should enable

By 2015

- 33% of SMEs selling online
- 20% of population buying online
- 60% of disadvantaged people using Internet regularly
- 75% of population using Internet regularly
- 15% of population having never used the Internet
- 50% of population using e-government
- 25% of population using e-government and returning forms

By 2020

- Fast broadband (>30Mbps) coverage for all
- 50% of households taking broadband subscriptions >100 Mbps
- 100% increase in ICT R&D public spending

Rec 5: Define a regional system of monitoring and assessment, define the indicators needed to monitor the progress of action plan implementation and the impact on the performance of the region. Take into account the coordination of regional and national monitoring and assessment systems.

2. Consistency analysis between RIS3 and ROP

In order to advise whether the Regional Operational Programme of Ionian Islands is consistent with the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the same region we address the following questions:

(a) Are the analysis in the ROP of Ionian Islands and its research / innovation / digital growth related result and output indicators and targets consistent with the results of the RIS3 SWOT or other analysis?

(b) Are the research / innovation / digital growth priority axis and description of the actions in the ROP consistent with the RIS3 specialisation fields and policy mix (including possible horizontal / generic support measures)?

(c) Are innovation-related support actions in the ROP under investment priorities 1a, 1b, 2b or 2c that are NOT consistent with the RIS3? If relevant: Are there any innovation-related actions that do not fall under investment priorities 1a, 1b, 2b or 2c (but for instance IP3 SME competitiveness or IP4 energy and eco-innovation) and are they consistent with the RIS3?

(d) What percentage of the budget for the research / innovation / digital growth priority axis goes into horizontal / generic support actions and which is targeted exclusively at the RIS3 specialisation fields? Is the ROP budget consistent with the RIS3 indicative budget planning / information?

2.1. Research, innovation and digital growth action in the ROP and RIS3

ROP of Ionian Islands is conceived as a strategy covering the dimensions of smart growth, sustainable growth, and inclusive growth. ROP includes all the ingredients of a strategic plan document, such as analysis and SWOT, strategic objectives, action plan, budget, monitoring and assessment indicators.

It is said that the design of ROP has taken in account the RIS3 of Ionian Islands and other strategies as well, such as (1) the strategy of agricultural development, dealing with the quality of products, bio-agriculture, specialisations of human capital, rational management of resources, dissemination of R&I, promotion of producers cooperation, and (2) the strategy of "macro-region Adriatic and Ionian" in areas such as transport, energy, the environment, natural and technological risks, blue economy, cultural heritage and tourism.

Therefore a first statement about the consistency of ROP and RIS3 is that the ROP is not designed as follow-up and implementation component of RIS3, but as an integral and coherent strategy that takes into account RIS3 and other strategies as well.

The smart growth dimension of the ROP and the design of Thematic Objectives 1, 2, and 3, partially corresponds to RIS3 of Ionian Islands:

- the focus of statistical analysis and SWOT in the two documents differ,
- strategic objectives concerning the priority domains are the same (quality and thematic tourism, cultural and creative economy or the 'experience industry', primary sector and gastronomy, and marine economy), but the thematic objectives are different,
- the action plan of ROP is different from the action plan of RIS3,
- monitoring and assessment indicators are given for ROP but not for RIS3 priority sectors.

Research, innovation and digital growth actions fall under the 1st priority axis of the ROP Ionian Islands, which contains all actions of the Thematic Objectives 1, 2, and 3. An outlook of the Thematic Objectives and investment priorities is given in the Table below. The overall budget to this Axis comes to the last position of regional priorities after support to sustainable growth, transport, and social inclusion. Tables 1 and 2 show some fundamental features of the ROP of Ionian Islands.

Table 1: Priority axis 1- Support of regional competitiveness through the development of innovation and ICT

EU support in Euro	% OP	Specific Objective	Investment Priority	Results indicators
18.975.664	10,45%	01-Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1a 1b	T2604 T2605 T2601 T2603 T2608 T2609 T2607 T2610
		02-Enhancing access to, and use and quality of information and communication technologies	2b 2c	
		03-Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sectors and the fisheries and aquaculture	3a 3c	

Table 2: Actions and indicators per investment priority related to thematic objectives 1, 2, and 3 (1st priority axis of ROP)

Investment Priority	Indicator	Name of indicator	Baseline value (2011)	Target value (2023)
Action 1.a1.1 Targeted actions for R&T in sectors of regional specialisation and new sectors of global competitiveness				
1a	T2610	Publications by researchers in the Region (number)	120	135

1a	T2602	Employees in research, technology and innovation in the region (equivalent of full time employment)	141	185
1a	CO24	Number of new researchers in supported actions		10
1a	CO25	Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities		55
Action 1b1.1 Collaboration of companies with research organisations in sectors of regional priority				
1b	T2603	Business R&D expenditure (as % of regional GDP)	0,01	0,07
1b	CO26	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions		10
1b	CO27	Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects (euro)		2.080.000
Action 2b1.1 Support to businesses for the development of digital apps and tools for the valorisation of cultural resources of RII				
2b	T2604	Increase of turnover of business that are supported (%)	0	15
2b	CO28	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products		15
Action 2c1.1 Development of digital applications for the promotion of comparative advantage of the RII in the domains of tourism, culture, and environment				
2c	T2605	Environmental and cultural resources of II valorised and promoted through ICT (%)		5
2c	T2701	Digital applications in the domain of tourism, culture, and environment (number)		10
Action 2c.2.1 Digital applications of public interest in the domain of e-health and e-care				
2c	T2605	Environmental and cultural resources of II valorised and promoted through ICT (%)		6
2c	T2702	Population served by e-health and e-care services (number)		80.000
Action 3a1.1 Provision of incentives for the development of new products and services and the technological modernisation of companies in the sectors of regional priority Action 3a1.2 Creation of clusters around tourism, culture, and agrofood value chain Action 3a1.3 Creation of incubator of innovative companies active in sectors of regional specialisation Action 3a1.4 Support of innovative youth entrepreneurship in sectors of regional specialisation				
3a	T2607	Fix capital investment in sectors of smart specialisation (%)		
3a	T2608	Increase of turnover of businesses that participate in clusters (%)		20
3a	T2609	Businesses that continue operation after the end of support (%)		60
3a	CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support		75
3a	CO05	Number of new enterprises supported		40
3a	CO08	Employment increase in supported enterprises (full time equivalent)		72,50
3a	T2703	Number of business clusters		10
Action 3c1.1. Creation of decentralised institution to support innovation in the sectors of regional priority				
3c	T2610	Number of businesses supported to develop innovation in the sectors of regional specialisation		15
3c	T2704	Number of institutions to support business innovation		1

It is expected that the above ROP actions, target and result indicators will enable implementing the RIS3 actions.

2.2. Consistency analysis between RIS3 and ROP

a. Consistency of the ROP Ionian Islands research, innovation, and digital growth result, output indicators and targets with the results of the RIS3 SWOT or other analysis

RIS3 of Ionian Island SWOT analysis identifies eight (8) sectors and activities of prioritisation / new specialisation (quality food, gastronomy, fisheries & aquaculture, quality thematic tourism, regional identity, sea economy, green economy, creative economy) that are expected driving the entire regional economy towards a new productive model. This new specialisation is to be implemented by 37 actions allocated into the sectors selected.

ROP of Ionian Islands accepts the specialisation priorities selected by RIS3, but proposes an action plan quite different, composed of 10 actions (rather horizontal) that are pertinent to all sectors of specialisation.

In the case of RIS3, SWOT analysis is performed at the level of the priority sectors selected. On the contrary, the result and target indicators of ROP are horizontal. Weaknesses and opportunities defined at RIS3 SWOT are not reflected in the ROP result, output indicators and targets.

Most important divergence between RIS3 and ROP of Ionian Islands output and targets is at the level of ambition. While RIS3 aspires to a transformation of the regional economy through modernisation and diversification, the ambition of ROP – as reflected in target indicators – will have null effect on the regional economy. For instance target indicators of ROP foresee very limited private sector involvement:

- Business R&D < 0.01%
- Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions: 10 only
- Number of enterprises receiving support: 75
- Number of new enterprises supported: 40
- Employment increase in supported enterprises (full time equivalent): 72,5
- Number of businesses supported to develop innovation in the sectors of regional specialisation: 15

With these estimations, the impact of ROP to the implementation of RIS3 will be rather unnoticed.

b. Research, innovation, and digital growth priority axis and description of the actions in the ROP consistency with respect to RIS3 specialisation fields and policy mix (including possible horizontal / generic support measures).

The actions of the ROP do not provide information about their focus with respect to specialisation fields defined in the RIS3. It is mentioned that ROP actions in investment priorities 1 and 3 will fall into the sectors of specialisation of RIS3, but no differentiation is made among the four specialisation sectors.

The policy mix of RIS3 is not consistent with the actions of ROP, because (1) RIS3 actions are different per sector of specialisation, while the ROP actions are the same for all sectors, and (2) the number, detail, and content of actions described in the RIS3 and the ROP differ.

Horizontal actions in RIS3 (10 actions of Axis 4) are about productive specialisation of human potential, improvement of productivity through ICT, and use of green and energy efficiency technologies. These actions go through all priority sectors. In the case of ROP all actions go through all priority sectors.

Overall, the policy mix of ROP is substantially different to the policy mix of RIS3.

c. Innovation-related support actions in the ROP under investment priorities 1a, 1b, 2b or 2c NOT consistent with the RIS3

The following actions of ROP fall under the investment priorities 1a, 1b, 2b, and 2c:

- 1.a1.1 Targeted actions for R&T in sectors of regional specialisation and new sectors of global competitiveness
- 1b1.1 Collaboration of companies with research organisations in sectors of regional priority

2b.1.1 Support to businesses for the development of digital apps and tools for the valorisation of cultural resources of RII

2c1.1 Development of digital applications for the promotion of comparative advantage of the RII in the domains of tourism, culture, and environment

2c.2.1 Digital applications of public interest in the domain of e-health and e-care

All these actions might be considered as non-consistent to RIS3, either because they will be implemented in all sectors, while RIS3 foresees diversification per sector (i.e. R&D support to the agrofood sector only). On the contrary ICT actions focus to specific sectors (tourism, culture) while RIS3 describes horizontal ICT actions, digital tools and applications that enhance productivity to all sectors of specialisation.

There isn't any reference into the RIS3 about the sector to the domain of e-health / e-care, which appears in the ROP.

d. Percentage of the budget for the research / innovation / digital growth priority axis that goes into horizontal / generic support actions and which is targeted exclusively at the RIS3 specialisation fields?

The breakdown of ROP actions into vertical to priority axis and horizontal / generic support is given in the Table below.

Table 3: Priority and horizontal actions in ROP Ionian Islands

Actions	RIS3 priority axis	Horizontal
Productive investment to SMEs	8.000.000	
Research and innovation infrastructure		2.570.240
Technology transfer, university- enterprise cooperation		1.000.000
Cluster support	1.200.000	
SME business development	2.179.824	
Access to public sector information, open data, e-culture		2.120.000
ICT for healthy active ageing, e-health, e-care		945.600
ICT services and applications to SMEs	960.000	
TOTAL VERTICAL	12.339.824 65,03%	
TOTAL HORIZONTAL		6.635.840 34,97%
TOTAL AXIS 1	18.975.664 100%	

There is no budget breakdown at the level of RIS3 to compare with this allocation foreseen in the ROP.

2.3. Recommendations towards ROP of Ionian Islands

Based on the above comments of consistency analysis, we suggest the following recommendations:

Rec 1: ROP should become a main pillar of RIS3 implementation. Full consistency should be sought between the RIS3 and the ROP Priority Axis 1 “Support of regional competitiveness through the development of innovation and ICT”. There is no meaning to replicate at the level of the ROP a strategic planning approach quasi similar (but state-led) to RIS3.

Rec 2: The ROP should come closer to the overall perspective and ambition of RIS3 of Ionian Islands. The objective for change / diversification towards a more innovative regional economy is absent from the ROP, and the quantitative targets described do not serve the new production model objectives of RIS3. The overall effort towards a new development model of the regional economy, export orientation, and restructuring of the regional economy is not feasible with the level of funding for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship foreseen in the ROP.

Rec 3: The action plan of ROP and the specific actions included should come closer to the action plan of RIS3. Especially, all actions of ROP should make clear how they relate to the priority sectors (four) and subsectors (eight) defined by the RIS3.

Rec 4: Monitoring indicators, target and result used by the ROP should be similar to those employed by the RIS3 (still to be defined). As in the case of actions, full consistency is expected at the level of monitoring and assessment indicators.

Assessment grid

RIS3 IONIAN ISLANDS: LEVEL OF ELABORATION	
PRIORITISATION/ED:	
RIS accounts for the Region in total or just the ROP	The RIS3 accounts for all research and innovation actions in the region, not only those foreseen into the ROP
Governance provisions to ensure entrepreneurial discovery	Some degree
Priority Sectors (SS) well & clearly defined?	(1) quality and thematic tourism, (2) creative economy, cultural identity and tradition or the 'experience industry', (3) agro-food and gastronomy, and (4) sea economy, fisheries & aquaculture, marine biology
Ensure inclusion	100% of enterprises declaring R&D expenditure fall into the selected priority sectors
Priority role to the business sector	Yes, in the description of priority sectors
Is demand side innovation addressed?	No
RIS3 ACTIVITIES PLANNED:	
Political endorsement	No
Activities for envisaged RIS3 actions and Policy mix	Yes, 36 actions are described
Indicative actions for each Priority Sector.	Yes, actions are categorized by priority sector
Activities - Measures with Time Schedule and Budget	No
TOTAL FUNDING:	
Total funding – all sources clear?	No
Provisions private funding	No
RIS 3 INDICATORS:	
Existence and adequacy of Indicators	No
Output Indicators – do they exist?	No
Output Indicators – are they adequate?	No
Result Indicators – do they exist?	No

Result Indicators – are they adequate?	No
RIS3 – OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	
COMPLIANCE:	
Complementarity - Synergies btn ROP and EPANEK	Not addressed
Complementarity - Synergies btn ROP and PAA	Not addressed
Are Regional RIS3 priorities reflected in ROP?	Yes, all
Are RIS3 priorities reflected in EPANEK?	Yes
Does the ROP identify opportunities within the chosen sectors?	No
Compliance with RIS3 EACs	Partly
OP INDICATORS:	
Is methodology of OP/ ROP of setting up and quantifying indicators described in a separate annex?	No
Are RIS and ROP indicators identical?	No
OTHER TARGETS:	
Contribution to ΕΣΠΕΚ	No
Contribution to Digital Agenda strategy	No