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President of Regional Development Fund of Western Greece Region

The purpose of this edition is to communicate the operations and competencies of the Regional Development Fund of Region of Western Greece.

In the framework of the European policy, regional development is in focus of all efforts towards the reinforcement of Europe's worldwide economic position and the enhancement of the social cohesion. The Greek governments conceiving in time the era dynamics proceeded in the founding of the Regional Development Funds at the seat of each region in Greece, with the main goal of supporting the development policy of the region.

The Regional Development Fund of Region of Western Greece in the few years of operation has followed a steadily growing path of active participation and support in the development acts of the local society.

Main goal of the Region of Western Greece is to share values, to develop and create for its people and the whole Europe in total. Main care is to improve living conditions for the inhabitants of Western Greece as well as to attract new residents to the region. With intensive teamwork we give our best to improve quality of life, strengthen social security and provide motives for the new generation to turn to the new technologies and sciences.

One of the corner stones of the regional strategy for the enhancement of the economic prosperity of its citizens is the development of innovation. A strong prerequisite for this is the warm and open cooperation among public sector, private SME's and research and academic community. Only this trilateral scheme has the power to remove the obstacles and lay the foundations for the development of innovation, which we believe is going to provide a new perspective for the regional economy.

Towards these efforts the Regional Development Fund of Region of Western Greece is a strategic development tool and a co-operation bridge between public and private sector which steadily expands.

INTRODUCTION



The Regional Development Fund of the Region of Western Greece (RDF-RWG) was founded in 1998 at the seat of the Regional Local Government of Western Greece by virtue of the article 53, Act 2218/94. The RDF-RWG is supervised by the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization.

AIM AND COMPETENCES

RDF-RWG's objective is essentially based on its service to the development policies of the Region. More particularly, the aims and competences of RDF-RWG have as follows:

- The management of credits of the Public Investments Programme, the management of financing of public sector bodies and other legal entities, and the management of financing of European Commission, International Organisations and other foreign bodies with respect to regional, prefectural, municipal and other special development programmes of the region.
- The reinforcement of the Region in strategic planning, the drawing, monitoring and assessment of the regional policy in the sectors of its responsibility.
- The provision of technical assistance for the Region, which implies the elaboration of studies and surveys as well as the implementation of Programmes.
- The practice of their cash administration.
- The participation in European Commission Programmes.
- Loan contracting with foreign and domestic financing bodies for the performance contracts, the rendering of services and the implementation of programmes.
- Provision of services, work accomplishment, conduction of researches, elaboration of developing, techno-economic and organizational studies and project implementation that are assigned to the fund by third bodies.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The RDF-RWG is administered by the Management Board (MB) consisted of 7 members and its President, the Secretary General of the Region. The Director of RDF-RWG supervises and coordinates the four main departments of the Services Directorate, which are staffed with highly qualified personnel with long experience in regional planning, financial administration of investments and project management. The Law Office of RDF-RWG provides the legal support to the services and the administration instruments of the Fund.



PRESIDENT OF RDF-RWG (Secretary General of RWG) MANAGEMENT BOARD				
SERVICES DIRECTORATE of RDF-RWG				LAW OFFICE
Department of Financial Management of Investment Programmes	Department of Scientific-Technical Support & Programmes Implementation	Department of Financial Services	Department of Administrative Services	
Financing of public bodies and other legal entities with regard to the Regional Public Investment Program Financing of EU funds and other international organizations	Provision of scientific & technical support to the Region in elaboration of studies, surveys and programmes Planning, administration & implementation of EU co-funded programmes and projects	Preparation and auditing of the implementation of the Fund's annual budget Auditing of expenditures and cash administration	Secretarial support of the RDF's President and of the MB Public Relations Publicity & communication Labour-related topics	

STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

Staffed with experienced personnel of high qualification, RDF-RWG is an important instrument for the regional government in the regional planning and auditing. The main objectives of RDF-RWG are aligned with the development strategy of the Region and its activities act complementarily to the priorities and the measures of the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) of Western Greece Region.

The purpose of the ROP is to promote the long-term development of the region of Western Greece. It will endeavour to profit from the region's geographical position as the country's western gateway and from its tourist development potential in connection with the Olympic Games in Greece. It is also planned to improve the existing infrastructure and to create the conditions for sustainable development by paying greater attention to environmental problems. The main priorities of this strategy are as follows:

1. Enhancing and valorisation of the region's position as the country's western gateway
2. Cultural and tourist development - deriving maximum benefit from the Olympic Games of 2004
3. Restructuring and expanding the region's industrial base and promoting innovation
4. Improving urban infrastructure - enhancing the quality of life



5. Maintaining employment and specialisation of human resources

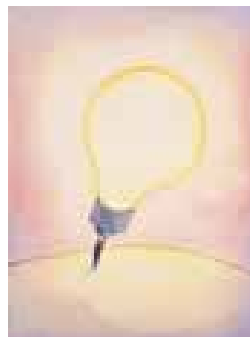


6. Sustainable rural development



In this framework, special focus is given in the enhancement of the competitiveness of the regional economy through the introduction of innovation and the promotion of an extrovert culture in the regional SMEs, in the development of co-operations between research and production, as well as the development of innovative methods for the employment stimulation, with long-term goal the achievement of sustainability of a regional knowledge-based economy.

The above regional development strategies are reflected in the targeted projects and the coordinated actions of RDF-RWG, as described in further detail in the following sections.



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES



The main activities of the RFD-RWG have as a goal to provide assistance to the regional administration and other bodies of the local administration and legal entities of the public sector related to the financial management of investment programs as well as the exploitation of national and community resources that will have as a target the sustainable development.

Additionally, the RFD-RWG demonstrates active action in many sectors of the regional social and economical life: management and implementation of European innovation programmes, participation in interregional projects, elaboration of development studies and surveys for local bodies, participation in national and international networks, co-organization of economical, development and cultural events, financing/management/participation of national operational programmes, participation in exhibitions and conferences, informative events, editions, representation of the Region in Brussels with a local liaison office, participation as a basic partner in enterprises and consortia.

Indicatively some data from the most important actions of RDF-RWG are reported below:

- **Development Studies**
 - Study of introducing the Natural Gas in Western Greece
 - Study of imprinting the Innovation in the RWG
 - Study of creating ICT Cluster in the RWG
 - Study of the Labor Market in the RWG
 - Study about the Historical Center of Patras
 - Survey of imprinting the Traffic Situation of Patras
 - Study of the environmental consequences and of the expediency and economical viability of VIOPA of Patras
 - Land-planning survey for the localization of open or closed spaces about the creation of settlements for the disadvantaged population groups
 - Study and Imprinting the existing situation and the configuration of proposals that have as a target the development of the District of Aitoloakarnania
 - Study about the environmental estimation and evaluation XYTA of the District of Ilia
 - Study about the reactivation of the region of the completed tourist development of the District of Aitoloakarnania

- **Operational Programmes**
 - «POLITEIA»
 - «Information Society»
 - «Competitiveness» - project «Regional Poles of Innovation»

- **European Programmes and Inter-regional collaborations**
 - Programme of Innovative Actions (ERDF)
 - Programme of Regional Information Society Initiatives (ERDF)
 - 2 Projects of Innovative Measures (ESF)
 - 11 Inter-regional projects (INTERREG)
 - Co-ordination project on industrial research (FP6)

- **Networks of Collaboration**
 - National Network of Innovation
 - Innovating Regions in Europe (IRE Network)
 - European Regions Knowledge Based Innovation Network (ERIK+)
 - Environment Platform of Regional Offices (EPRO)

- **Co-organization of events**
 - «Cultural Capital of Europe - Patras 2006»
 - «MONEY SHOW» of Patras
 - «Development of the Real-Estate in Western Greece: Opportunities and Prospects »
 - Informative events on topics concerning the European Union
 - Events of Agro-environmental Information
 - 1^o National Congress of Biological Livestock-farming
 - 2^o Congress of Measurement of Effectiveness and Productivity
 - Conference with the subject «Developmental Capabilities and Problems of Aitolokarnania»
 - Conference with the subject «The Problems of the Trade of MME and very small enterprises»
 - Development Event «BRIDGES»
 - Race of Solar Vehicles «FAETHON 2004»

- **Participation in Exhibitions**
 - Tourist Exhibition of RWG in Thessalonica
 - Tourist Exhibition of RWG in Brussels
 - Exhibition «Park of Greek Culture» in Athens
 - Exhibition of Cultural Heritage and Environmental Action
 - Exhibition of Agricultural Machines, Supplies and Local Products
 - Exhibition «Tourist Panorama 2004»

- **Editions**
 - Tour Guides (Region of Western Greece, District of Ilia, etc.)
 - Informative Guide of the New Developmental Law
 - Album of the Press Museum
 - Editions of cultural content
 - File of candidature of the *Mediterranean Games 2013*

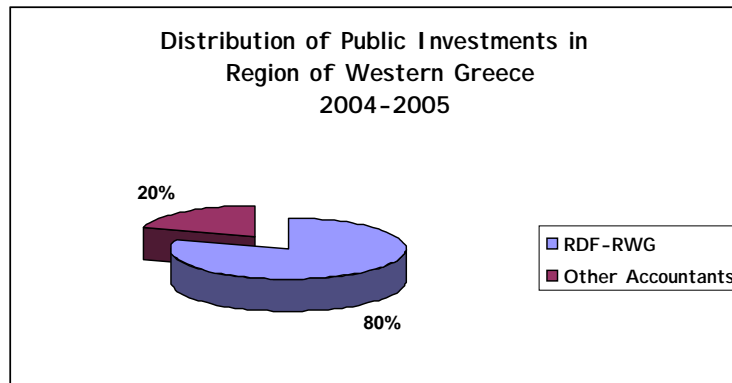
- **Participation in Enterprises and Consortia (*)**
 - «Enterprise of Tourist Development of the Region of Western Greece»
 - «Cultural Courses»
 - Consortium «Bridges of Development»



(*) The participation of the RFD-RWG is being prepared in two new enterprises: (A) Enterprise of Agricultural Development of RWG and (B) Developmental Enterprise of RWG

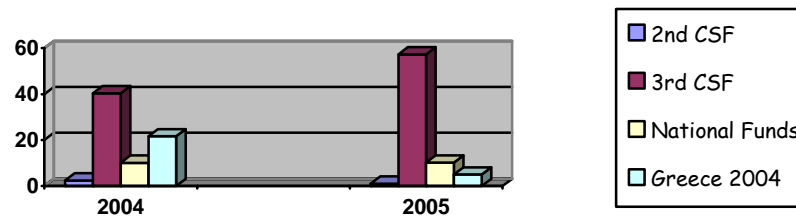
FINANCIAL DATA

- During the last two years (2004-2005) the Region of Western Greece has been funded with a total amount of around 134.900.000 € from the National Public Investments Programme, from which the 107.266.000 € have been distributed to RFD-RWG and the rest 27.634.000 € to other accountants.



- The Public Investments funds distributed to RDF-RWG were derived from different financing sources, as shown below:

PIP Distribution according to financing source
(in million €)



- The above distributions for the year 2004 corresponded to the financing of more than 1.500 projects and studies.
- With regard to the Operational Programme "Politeia" the last three years (2003-2005) a set of projects has been implemented that come up to around 457.400 €, paid by RDF-RWG's own resources.
- Globally, for the years 2004-2005, the RDF-RWG financed with own resources expenses of a total amount of 6.400.000 €, contributing significantly to the development strategy of the Region of Western Greece.

GREEK OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Apart from the cash administration of the Regional Public Investment Programme, RDF-RWG is actively involved in large-scale Operational Programmes, either in terms of technical support or in terms of co-financing with own resources. A few indicative examples of the most important programmes are:

- Regional Operational Programme "Information Society" (IS) which comprised the elaboration of a Regional Operational Plan for Western Greece in relation to actions like e-health, e-learning, e-conference, e-government, e-culture / e-tourism, e-transport, wireless-net infrastructures, hot-spots, etc. (2000-2001).



- Regional Operational Programme "POLITEIA" which regards the implementation of approved projects for the endorsement of new technologies and the improvement of existing infrastructures (2002-2004).



- "Regional Innovation Poles" Programme (2006-), under the recent call of the National Operational Programme "Competitiveness" of the General Secretariat for Research & Technology - Ministry of Development, which regards the creation of regional innovation poles in the Greek regions.



EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES & INTER-REGIONAL PROJECTS



Rural Market Place of "Strategies of Regional Innovation (RISI II)" which was concerned with the creation of an electronic network for the promotion of rural products (1997-2000)



"INN-ACT" in the framework of ERDF Innovative Actions 2000-2006, concerned with regional strategies on innovation in sectors as public health, networking of companies, electronic commerce, organic farming, etc. (2002-2004)



"WISE: Western Greece Region Integrated Strategy for Employment Stimulation" of the Programme "Innovative Measures of the European Social Fund (ESF)", which is concerned with the implementation of an integrated strategy for the strengthening of the employment in Western Greece (2002-2004)



"REMOMED" of INTERREG III B (MEDOCC): "European Intermodal Network for the integrated development of Western Mediterranean space", regarding the study of the creation of a European Network of combined transports for the integrated development of the Western Mediterranean area (2004-)



"ARACNE" of INTERREG III B (MEDOCC): "Renforcer et accroître le textile féminin dans la Méditerranée", having to do with the development and the promotion of new mediterranean creations in textile sector aiming at the empowerment of the women's know-how (2004-)



"INNOREF" of INTERREG III C: "Innovation and Resource Efficiency as Driving Forces for Sustainable Growth", to apply an elaborated plan for sustainable growth with the aim to improving the regional administration through participating procedures (2004-)



"e-PRODAT" of INTERREG III C: "European Data Protection Best Practices in e-Government Services", targeting at the assessment and knowledge exchange, the creation of a European e-Government Data Protection Observatory (via Internet) and best practices identification and proposals to European regional/local public managers and elected officials (2005-)



"S3" of INTERREG III C: "Sharing Solutions on Structural Funds", concerning the creation of a wide cooperation network among the Managing Authorities of Objective 1 and 2 Regions for the exchange of experiences and best practices (2005-)



"ENMR" of INTERREG III C: "European Network of Mining Regions", regarding the improvement of the development strategy of European mining areas and the creation of new productive investments in them (2005-)



"GRDP" of INTERREG III C: "Greening Regional Development Programmes", to exchange knowledge and experience so as to locate and develop best practices for the environmental / sustainable development and its evaluation techniques (2005-)



"KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS" of INTERREG III C, having to do with the creation of a new network, looking for methods and instruments that stimulate and improve the gathering and sharing of information between towns and within the towns (interactions with inhabitants) in the area of local governance" (2005-)



"FILES": Future-oriented Implementation of Local Employment Strategies" of the Programme "Innovative Measures of the European Social Fund (ESF), which is concerned with the management of restructuring from a regional perspective, using strategies that come from the experience exchange among various European regions (2005-)



"MANUNET" of ERANET scheme (FP6), which deals with the coordination of regional activities towards a European regionally based research area on new processes and flexible intelligent manufacturing systems (2006-)

WETMUST : INTERREG III B (ARCHIMED): "Integrated multiple level wetlands monitoring system using innovative technologies", which concerns the application of innovative technologies in the surveillance of wetlands (2006-)

NETWET3 : INTERREG III B (ARCHIMED): "New forms of territorial governance for the promotion of landscape policies in the field of water resources management at water territories" (2006-)

HUREDPIIS : INTERREG III B (ARCHIMED): "Human resources and development planning around Ionian Sea" (2006-)

INFORMATION CENTRE OF "EUROPE DIRECT" NETWORK



Upgrade of Offices of European Information INFO POINT EUROPE and CARREFOUR to EUROPE DIRECT

In the end 2004 the European Committee decided and suspended the operation of the "Offices of European Information" and of "European Centers of Rural Information" as well and advanced in the implementation of a project for the creation of an upgraded network of European Information entitled "EUROPE DIRECT", incorporating the two already existing networks to one and dispensing integrated information about all the subjects that concern and are related to the E.U.

After a Competition where all European countries participated the Region of Western Greece claimed and achieved the creation of the Information Center of the Network EUROPE DIRECT in Patras, with the RWG serving as the final beneficiary and RDF-RWG providing financial management and support.

This Center is one of the 19 that were approved in Greece and of the 393 in the whole Europe.

The activities of the Center, concisely, are :

- 1) The representation of the RWG in the E.U.
- 2) Briefing of the public about the European Strategies via booklets, magazines, books, CDs etc. that are retailed free of charge
- 3) Compilation of informational and communicative projects in matters of priority for the European completion and matters concerning the public (Constitution, Expansion, Youth, Future of the E.U., Space of Freedom, of Justice and Security, the Role of the E.U. in the world, Employment Opportunities, studies, practical training, Voluntary



occupation in the E.U.)

- 4) The Realization of informative events at school units of all grades that will have as a target the information and comprehension from the students of the «European Existing»
- 5) Fund lending library for students, researchers, students (Universities, Technological Institutes) for subjects related to the strategies of the E.U.
- 6) Briefing the public and parts of population of our region about the part-financed programs and initiatives and dispensing advisory services for the search of partners between countries and contact with the bodies of implementation
- 7) Dispensing the capability to students to realize their practical exercise in the Center
- 8) Co-organization of informative events - congresses with other bodies and social partners about subjects concerning the E.U.
- 9) Support and encouragement of voluntary teams that deal with subjects concerning the E.U.
- 10) Publications of press releases, articles and interviews to the local press and participation to the radio and television emissions

The Center is located at "Akti Dymeon and Dim. Ypsilandi 1" (Ground floor).

Tel. 2610-317723, 2610-337013, Fax 2610-337013

All services of the Information Center of EUROPE DIRECT

are provided FREE OF CHARGE

BRUSSELS LIAISON OFFICE



Its purpose is to support the Region in its efforts to make *Western Greece* a dynamic and thriving actor in the European Scene. The office provides general administrative support to and acts as a contact point for all Regional actors visiting Brussels. Its main functions include tasks that are best carried out in direct contact with Brussels, namely:

- **Representing and Promoting the Region in Europe**
The office represents the Region in meetings, seminars and conferences and strives to disseminate best practice and experiences from the Region as well as promote Western Greek expertise.
- **Monitoring Developments & Disseminating Information about the European Union**
It monitors the changes and developments in European Union Policy with a view to providing "early warning" to the interested Regional actors. It follows EU programmes and funding and provides a constant flow of information with regards to tender opportunities, calls for proposals & partner searches that might be of interest to the Region.
- **Networking**
The office strives to develop and maintain close relations with all European Institutions, as well as other Regional representations in Brussels. It is currently working on joining networks and associations that would help promote Regional interests

Address and Contact Details:

Region of Western Greece - Regional Development Fund Brussels Liaison Office

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GENERAL DATA OF THE REGION



The Region of *Western Greece* stretches from the northwest part of the Peloponnese to the western tip of the *Greek mainland*. It is one of the 13 Regions of *Greece*, is separated in 3 administrative districts, the Prefectures of Aitolokarnania, Achaia, Elia and covers an area of 11.350 square kilometres (8,6% of the total area of *Greece*).



For the most part the terrain is mountainous (45,3%) or hilly (25,6%), while only 29,1% consists of plains. All three prefectures have extensive coastal areas along the Ionian Sea and the Gulfs of Ambrakia, Patras and Corinth. There is a wide variety of landscapes, from alpine meadows to sandy beaches and a unique network of rivers and wetlands that support a wide range of wildlife (including golden eagles and vultures). The visitor exploring the fertile mountain valleys and gorges with rushing waters will find a small haven of unsurpassed beauty.

RWG is a modern communications and transport hub that connects *Greece* to the rest of Europe. The busy port of Patras is not only the Region's capital but also the country's main gateway to Western Europe.

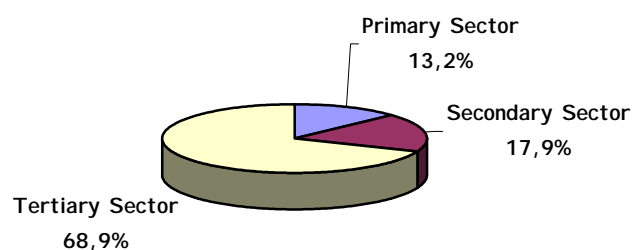


BASIC REGIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

Although the Region of Western Greece produces 5.7% of the gross domestic product (4th largest contribution), it is next to last (12th) among the country's Regions in per capita produce. All three of the Region's prefectures lag behind the national average. Moreover, the per capita product of its inhabitants is only 53% of the average in the EU, which ranks among the lowest in all the Regions of the European Union.

The tertiary sector covers more than two thirds of the Gross Regional Product, while the manufacturing contribution is less than 20% and the agriculture one less than 15%.

Gross Regional Product (GRP) - Sectoral Distribution (2001)



Source: ESYE, Regional accounts

Employment

The available workforce of Western Greece amounts to 297.303, while the number of employed amounts to 261.278. The primary sector employs 41.5% of the workforce, 17.6% are employed in the secondary sector and 40.9% in the tertiary sector.

Basic Demographic Data

Characteristics	%
Population under 15	16,3
Population over 65	17,2
Percentage of literates	94,5
University Graduates	10,1



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