



Greece

Greek Partnerships

Framework and setting

- Geographic scale** At present, there are 242 partnerships in total operating at the regional and sub-regional level. There are 123 partnerships belonging to the Local Employment Initiatives programme (funded via the Regional Operational Programmes); 72 partnerships funded by the Urban Community Initiative and 47 partnerships covering mountainous and disadvantaged areas.
- Policy framework** The partnerships function in the context of either the Regional Operational Programmes (ROPs) of the European Structural Funds or area-based schemes.

Partnerships at work

- Rationale** The primary scope of the partnerships is employment promotion and social inclusion, while in parallel promoting a bottom-up approach to local development.

- Objectives** The major objectives of the Greek partnerships are to create a favourable environment for job creation, to prevent social exclusion associated to unemployment and discrimination, to develop innovative methods, tools and to promote co-operation amongst local, regional and, occasionally, national actors.

Greek partnerships' focus lies on creating of conditions for full employment, maintaining existing job positions while creating new ones, so as to overall increase employment and decrease unemployment rate. The voluntary extension of the working status and the improvement of quality of work and productivity (i.e. work satisfaction, life learning opportunity, equality of the sexes) is also targeted. Partnerships further focus at the creation of measures which aim not only to help women's equal access to employment but to its maintenance. In addition, the enhancement of employment for young persons is also stressed in the sense that high school graduates are offered opportunities for employment, training, or acquisition of professional experience. These partnerships aim to combat unregistered unemployment, while enhancing measures directed to combating the inequalities in employment (people with special needs, disadvantaged, etc.).

- Functions** The functions of partnerships in Greece include:
- _ development and implementation of projects and co-ordination of activities;
 - _ consulting and facilitating services (especially for social vulnerable groups);
 - _ improving and upgrading services of employment (Centres for the Promotion of Employment);
 - _ promoting social dialogue and better governance;
 - _ creation of active Employment Policies (e.g. Active Ageing); and
 - _ supporting measures for the promotion of equality in the employment (i.e. compatibility/harmonisation of family and professional life).

- Policy areas** The activities of the Greek partnerships correspond to the policy areas of employment and social inclusion, along with regional and local development, social economy, and community initiatives.

- Policy tools/ Instruments** Relevant policy instruments / tools of the partnerships include the design and implementation of training programmes, support and advice for new organisations within the social economy, the creation of networks and soft social services delivery at a local level.

- Timeframe** In Greece, the first partnerships appeared at the end of the eighties. There were seven pilot TEPs operating during the period 1997-2000. The majority of partnerships nowadays run within the EU operational programming period 2000-2006. In Greece, one of the disadvantages associated with partnerships is their short-life span.

- Partners** The partnerships include representatives from the local authorities, regional authorities, social partners, educational and training organisations, actors of the social economy,

representatives of SMEs and Employers' Associations and occasionally representatives from government bodies.

Contracts Every partnership develops a contract on the basis of private law while a board of elected members with responsibility for the operation of the partnership undertakes the necessary administration.

Legal status None

Sources of Financing Primary sources of financing are the European Structural Fund Regional Operational Programmes, the European Community Initiatives, the European Article 6 Budget Line and own resources.

Results Local Employment Initiatives influence the economic and social nexus of Greek regions. The implementation of the Local Employment Initiatives created a total of 3,637 beneficiaries in regions affected with a high rate of unemployment. Another 17,000 beneficiaries will be integrated in actions promoting employment. There will be acceleration as well as a qualitative upgrade of all procedures of implementation along with an increase in expenditure.

Contacts

Partnership co-ordination at national / sub-regional level

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