



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
REGION OF CRETE**

Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion

Abbreviated Version

Heraklion, June 2015

The present text is an abbreviated presentation of the Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion of the Region of Crete. The full text of the Strategy and all supporting material have been uploaded to the website of the Special Management Service (SMS) of the Operational Programme (OP) for the Region of Crete at www.pepkritis.gr

The Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion was developed by the Region of Crete, Directorate of Social Care with the participation of experts in the context of a relevant awarding by the Special Management Service (SMS) of the Operational Programme (OP) for the Region of Crete.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
A. Philosophy of the Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion	5
1. Vision of the Strategy	5
2. The socio-political starting point of the Strategy	5
B. Priority Groups of the Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion.....	6
C. Architecture of the Strategy	7
LINE OF OPERATION 1. Combating Extreme Poverty	8
PRIORITY 1.1: Access to Basic Commodities.....	8
PRIORITY 1.2: Access to Sufficient Revenue Resources	12
PRIORITY 2.1: Access to affordable quality services.....	13
PRIORITY 2.2: Access to Compulsory Education.....	15
LINE OF OPERATION 3. Promotion of Active Inclusion.....	15
PRIORITY 3.2: Access of vulnerable groups to affordable quality services	17
LINE OF OPERATION 4. Improvement of the Regional Strategy's Governance	20
D. The Strategy's Organisational Framework.....	23
Operational monitoring of the Strategy	23
The Strategy's Financial Framework	25
1. Budget of the Strategy.....	25
2. The Strategy's sources of funding	25
2.1. Mandated public resources	25
2.2. Private Resources	34
2.3. EU Actions.....	35

INTRODUCTION

The Region of Crete, in the context of the specialisation of the regional dimensions of the **National Strategic Framework for Social Inclusion**¹, undertook the development of the **Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion**, in order to delimit and document their strategic choices for the development of an integrated policy for the prevention and the combating of labour and social exclusion of vulnerable groups.

The appropriateness of the development of a Regional Strategy is totally justified by the current circumstances. The demographic characteristics of the Region of Crete (high ageing and dependence indexes)², the economic crisis, the budgetary recession and the rapid growth of unemployment rates have resulted in the increase of poverty³ and the creation of social exclusion enclaves⁴ among its population. In view of the above, the Region of Crete adopted a **dynamic intervention model** in critical areas of social protection which complements the initiatives of the central administration and makes the best of the role of the civil society.

¹ The **National Strategic Framework for Social Inclusion** was developed in December 2014 by the Directorate of Social Protection and Social Cohesion of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Welfare with the contribution of the Working Group for the National Social Inclusion Strategy and independent experts.

² According to the findings of the 2011 census, between 2001 and 2011, the population of the Region of Crete increased by 3.36%. Its population is estimated at 621.340 inhabitants (308.760 male and 312.580 female inhabitants), with a permanent population density of 74.54 inhabitants per square kilometre. The Region of Crete represents 5.76% of the total population of Greece and ranks fifth among Greece's Regions.

³ The poverty threshold in Greece is set at 60% of the median of the equivalised total disposable income according to the *Survey on Income and Living Conditions* which is carried out by the Hellenic Statistical Authority. According to the relevant announcement by the Hellenic Statistical Authority over the conclusions of the *Survey on Income and Living Conditions* for the year 2013 (December 2014), the money poverty threshold for 2012 income was 5,023 € per person and 10,547€ for a household of two adults and two dependent children under 14 years of age.

⁴This category concerns people who a) are considered poor (that is, their disposable income is below 60% of the mean national income, b) or live in a state of deprivation (that is, they are deprived of basic consumer goods or they cannot meet their minimum obligations), c) or they live in very low work intensity households.

A. Philosophy of the Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion

The Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion of the Region of Crete is an organised initiative for the strengthening of regional and local policies that help prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion within the limits of the Region, reflecting the principle of the overall collective responsibility for the active inclusion of vulnerable groups to the economic and social web of the Region.

The development of the Strategy highlights the will of the Region of Crete to use modern social planning and programming methods in order to boost the effectiveness of existing inclusion policies for vulnerable groups and to enhance the base for the introduction of new policies which serve the purposes and the priorities of the **National Strategic Framework for Social Inclusion**.

1. Vision of the Strategy

The starting point of the Strategy is the principle that the regional social inclusion policies serve three fundamental goals: enhancement of social protection, development of social investments and stabilisation of the local economy. Regional strategies have both direct and long-term consequences, providing future economic and social benefits especially as far as the employment prospects and income support of vulnerable groups are concerned.

In view of the above, the **Vision** of the Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion of the region of Crete can be summarised as follows:

VISION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY

Effective protection of the more vulnerable population groups

Modernisation of regional and local inclusion policies focusing on the active character of the measures and the developmental dimension of social expenditure.

Creation of strong partnerships for the combating of poverty and exclusion which **boost local economy**.

2. The socio-political starting point of the Strategy

The Strategy defines **social exclusion as an unacceptable build up of various forms of deprivation**, which are detrimental to the decent living of citizens and quite often result in marginalisation and unlawful conduct.

The Strategy defines **poverty** not as a private responsibility and as the outcome of personal failure which causes social stigmatisation, but as the **result of structural distortions**, since:

- ⇒ various forms of discrimination are observed because of stereotypes and biases
- ⇒ market segmentation does not allow effective access to a certain part of the population
- ⇒ public goods and services are not in fact universal.

B. Priority Groups of the Regional Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion

The Strategy does not adopt the model of the universal coverage of the population (regardless of the person's position in the labour market, social security protection and income / assets⁵). The Strategy opts for a targeted approach of the interventions in favour of particular population groups which are defined as Priority Groups of the Regional Strategy.

The delimitation of the Priority Groups of the Regional Strategy is a complex procedure as it depends greatly on a grid of institutional and operational clauses.

Top Priority Groups of the Regional Inclusion Strategy

Lonely adults with an annual personal income less than the guaranteed minimum income for subsistence

Long-term unemployed people with personal or family annual income less than the guaranteed minimum income for subsistence

Families of inactive members (members that are unemployed and aren't seeking employment) with personal or family annual income less than the guaranteed minimum income for subsistence

Elderly people over 65 years old who do not receive any pension or welfare benefits with personal or family annual income less than the guaranteed minimum income for subsistence

Children between 0-17 years old in state of exclusion

People at high risk of poverty and social exclusion due to multiple deprivations (e.g. homeless people)

The analysis of the relevant data has revealed the following top priority groups of the Regional Strategy:

- ❑ holders of Special Booklet for Uninsured Individuals
- ❑ unprotected children
- ❑ indigent elderly people who do not receive Social Pension
- ❑ people who receive aid (children and adults) from the Social Welfare Centre of the Region of Crete and other residential care Public Law Entities/ Private Law Entities
- ❑ individuals listed in the registries of the Regional Directorate of the Labour Employment Office (OAED) of Crete as unemployed who are not eligible for income benefits
- ❑ individuals listed in the registries of the Regional Directorate of the Labour Employment Office (OAED) of Crete as recipients of the long term unemployment benefit
- ❑ individuals listed in the registries of the Regional Directorate of the Labour Employment Office (OAED) of Crete as recipients of the ordinary unemployment benefit
- ❑ recipients of welfare disability allowances.

⁵ According to the relevant announcement by the Hellenic Statistical Authority on the evolution of the GDP of the Regions of Greece (January 2015), in 2012 the mean GDP per capita at the Region of Crete was 14,398 €. Meanwhile, according to the relevant announcement by the Hellenic Statistical Authority on the conclusions of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households for the year 2013 (December 2014), the mean annual equivalised personal income was 9,303 € and the mean annual disposable household income of Greece was 16,170 €.

C. Architecture of the Strategy

The configuration of the Architecture reflects the integrated approach of the **Region of Crete** for the more efficient materialization of the **Vision of the Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion**, in view of the challenges which arise from the developments within Crete and elsewhere.

Architecture of the Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion

LEVEL A: Pillars

LEVEL B: Lines of Operation

LEVEL C: Priorities

LEVEL D: Measures

1. Pillars of the Strategy

The Strategy is structured into three pillars which ensure the materialization of the **Vision** of promoting the **Active Inclusion** of vulnerable population groups. They combine adequate income assistance, promotion of employment without exclusions and access to quality care services and they take into account both the impact of the measures on social and economic inclusion of vulnerable individuals and the possible synergies between them.

Pillars of the Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion

PILLAR 1 *Combating poverty*

PILLAR 2 *Access to services*

PILLAR 3 *Labour inclusion*

2. Lines of Operation of the Strategy

As far as operational issues are concerned, the three Pillars of the Strategy are specified by the main tools which serve their Aims, which are defined as intervention packages (**Lines of Operation**):

- Package for the combating of extreme poverty
- Package for the prevention and combating of children's exclusion
- Package for the promotion of vulnerable groups' inclusion
- Package of measures for the improvement of the Strategy's governance.

Lines of Operation

of the Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion

- (a) Combating of Extreme Poverty (Pillar 1/ Pillar 2)
- (b) Prevention and combating of children's exclusion (Pillar 1 / Pillar 2)
- (c) Promotion of vulnerable groups' Inclusion (Pillar 1/ Pillar 2/ Pillar 3)
- (d) Improvement of the Strategy's Governance

The Lines of Operation are served by specific **Priorities** which are supported by thematic **Measures**.

LINE OF OPERATION 1. Combating Extreme Poverty

The Line of Operation 1 of the Strategy focuses on the protection of individuals who experience **extreme poverty conditions** and are in a state of crisis or are unable to meet their basic needs. This specific population group is a **top priority group for the Region of Crete**, as it faces the highest risk and has the greatest need of support by the social administration services in periods of economic recession.

The Measures of the Line of Operation 1 are structured into the following two Policy Priorities:

- ❑ Access to Basic Commodities
- ❑ Access to Sufficient Revenue Resources

Table 1. Architecture of the Line of Operation 1 of the Strategy

Priority	Measure
1.1: Access to Basic Commodities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ MEASURE 1.1.1. - Access to basic commodities❑ MEASURE 1.1.2. - Access to health services❑ MEASURE 1.1.3. - Access to housing❑ MEASURE 1.1.4. - Access to energy❑ MEASURE 1.1.5. - Access to the financial system❑ MEASURE 1.1.6. - Access to cultural and recreational activities
1.2: Access to Sufficient Revenue Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ MEASURE 1.2.1. – Support of the implementation of the application to cope with the humanitarian crisis❑ MEASURE 1.2.2. - Access to the Kidney disease patients nutritional allowance

PRIORITY 1.1: Access to Basic Commodities

The access to basic commodities constitutes, because of the economic crisis, a critical priority aiming at preventing, eradicating or attenuating high risk exclusion factors, such as the inability to meet minimum needs⁶, lack of healthcare provision, inability to access the financial system, energy poverty and lack of proper housing.

⁶ Extreme forms of material deprivation pose a threat to the very subsistence of the individuals in crisis, impede them from evading poverty and exclusion and do not allow them to benefit from professional training and counselling measures.

The main intervention of this Priority is the gradual access of those individuals who experience extreme poverty to an integrated **Basic Commodities Package** through the implementation of the following Measures:

- ❑ **MEASURE 1.1.1. - Access to basic commodities**
- ❑ **MEASURE 1.1.2. - Access to health services**
- ❑ **MEASURE 1.1.3. - Access to housing**
- ❑ **MEASURE 1.1.4. - Access to energy**
- ❑ **MEASURE 1.1.5. - Access to the financial system**
- ❑ **MEASURE 1.1.6. - Access to cultural and recreational activities**

MEASURE 1.1.1. Access to basic commodities

(a) The Region of Crete has established the organisation *Social Partnership of the Region of Crete* as the Leading Partner for the use of the resources of the Operational Programme ***Food and basic material assistance to the most deprived (Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived 2014 – 2020)*** for:

- ⇒ food provision (long term and fresh as well as special food for infants)
- ⇒ addressing basic material deprivations (clothing for children and adults/mainly homeless - personal hygiene and cleaning products, children's products/books, toys, equipment for infants etc)
- ⇒ implementing accompanying measures⁷.

The Programme will be implemented according to the clauses of the Operational Programme with the participation of the Church, of Local Authorities and Non Governmental Organisations and will complement the application of the institution of the Guaranteed Minimum Income in Greece from the second half of 2015.

The *Social Partnership of the Region of Crete* will adopt the broader framework of the **Guaranteed Minimum Income** as the initial framework for the definition of the beneficiaries, focusing on the following categories:

- ⇒ poor households who live in a state of poverty or extreme poverty or are at risk of poverty
- ⇒ households with children, especially single parent households and households with three or more children, who are worst affected by deprived living conditions
- ⇒ large families
- ⇒ homeless individuals.

(b) The Region of Crete is currently implementing (until 31.12.2015), in the context of a Programme Agreement between the Region of Crete and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity, the Project ***Food supply to homeless people and people who have accommodation which does not guarantee daily food and nutrition***, which is funded by the *Granting of Social Dividend*.

⁷ Some indicative accompanying measures are the following :

- ⇒ Psychosocial support, empowerment and social inclusion services for children and families (or for single people)
- ⇒ Nutrition counselling (and healthy nutrition counselling)
- ⇒ Family budget management counselling
- ⇒ Children socialization services (e.g. access to sports activities etc)
- ⇒ Social coaching schools which provide learning support and offer adequate and appropriate study areas for children/beneficiaries
- ⇒ Implementation of cultural and creative activities for children beneficiaries (e.g. theatre plays and theatre workshops for children)
- ⇒ Excursions (educational and recreational)
- ⇒ Provision of areas for playing, meetings and events for children who have no such access.

(c) The Region of Crete supports the initiatives of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity for the **food subsidy** (in the form of an electronic card for the provision of food from stores) for individuals and families who live in conditions of extreme poverty.

(d) The Region of Crete coordinates the implementation work at schools in Crete for the Programme **Free distribution of food and vegetables in schools**⁸, which uses resources of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund.

(e) The Region of Crete and the Municipalities **guarantee complementary access** of vulnerable groups to basic commodities through the operation of **Social Grocery Stores**.

(f) The Region of Crete and the Municipalities **guarantee complementary coverage** of vulnerable groups through the operation of structures of the **National Direct Social Intervention Network**⁹.

MEASURE 1.1.2. Access to health services

(a) The Region of Crete supports the implementation procedures by the Municipalities of Crete for the Programme of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity **Programme for free hospital and medical-pharmaceutical care of uninsured and economically weak citizens**, by covering uninsured poor individuals who enter the **Common Register of Uninsured and Economically Weak Individuals** and receive a *Special Booklet for Uninsured Individuals*. According to the relevant regulations, the Register includes all people who are lawful permanent residents of Greece, are uninsured and have a annual family income of less than 6,000 €¹⁰, increased by 20% for the spouse and by 20% for every underage or dependent child, on the condition that this income does not derive from a professional activity that provides the possibility to be insured.

(b) The Region of Crete and the Municipalities guarantee access of vulnerable groups to primary healthcare services through the operation of **Municipal Health Centres** and **Social Medical Centres** and by making use, through the **7th Health Region** (Health Region of Crete), of:

- ❖ national measures for the access of uninsured individuals to healthcare services (medical examinations and prescription of medicines) through the **Primary National Health Network**
- ❖ national measures for the access of uninsured individuals to pharmaceutical care through the **Programme of free Pharmaceutical Care**¹¹

⁸ In the context of the implementation of the Programme, students are trained on healthy nutrition and families in need gain free access to staple food.

⁹ The National Network is currently funded by resources of the Thematic Priority Axis 4 of the Operational Programme Human Resources Development (OP HRD 2007-2013) and covers the operation of the following structures:

- Social Grocery Store
- Open day reception centres
- Soup kitchens provision
- Social Solidarity Pharmacy
- Municipal Vegetable Garden
- Time Bank
- Mediation Office.

¹⁰ No income sources investigation takes place in cases of special groups: children living in institutions, national resistance fighters, adult inmates and juveniles in detention schools.

¹¹ The Ministry of Health, since July 2014, has been implementing the Programme of free Pharmaceutical care according to the clauses of par.1, art. 8 of L.4238/2014 (as supplemented by article 132 of L.4270/2014). According to the relevant regulations, the Programme includes all uninsured Greek citizens, all Greek nationals who are lawful permanent residents of Greece, all citizens of EU member states and all non-EU nationals who are lawful permanent residents of Greece and are not eligible for the special booklet of uninsured individuals and are not insured in any public or private institution and finally all insured individuals who have been deprived of their insurance capacity because of debts to their Social Security Funds and also the dependent members of their families.

- ❖ national programmes for the free vaccination of **vulnerable population groups** (uninsured individuals, most deprived people and elderly individuals)
- ❖ national **prevention** programmes
- ❖ national measures for the access of uninsured individuals to **hospital care structures**.

MEASURE 1.1.3. Access to housing

(a) The Region of Crete coordinates the implementation work for the Programme of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity **Housing and Reintegration**, aiming at providing affordable and adequate housing and total or partial coverage of public utility bills or other basic needs, together with labour reintegration procedures and procedures that help the beneficiaries enter the labour market. The implementation of the Programme will help those individuals who face housing problems and in particular:

- ❑ families and individuals who are in Social Solidarity Shelters for the Homeless or Night Shelters or make use of the services provided by Open Day Centres for the Homeless.
- ❑ families and individuals listed as homeless by the social services of the Municipalities or by the Social Welfare Centres
- ❑ women in Shelters for Women Victims of Violence
- ❑ individuals in Child Protection Structures, who are more than 18 years and are not university students

(b) The Region of Crete and the Municipalities guarantee access of vulnerable groups to temporary accommodation services by operating **Social Solidarity Shelters for the Homeless, Open Day Centres for the Homeless** and **Shelters for Women Victims of Violence**.

(c) The Region of Crete supports the initiatives by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity on the **rent subsidy** (it concerns new tenancies or renewal of existing tenancies under new conditions) of individuals and families living in conditions of extreme poverty (article 2, L.4320/2015).

(d) The Region of Crete supports the initiatives by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity in the context of the new **National Strategy to prevent and combat the risk of homelessness in Greece**, and will examine the possibility of the pilot implementation of **integrated social housing programmes**.

MEASURE 1.1.4. Access to energy

(a) The Region of Crete supports the initiatives by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change to combat **energy poverty of vulnerable population groups**, by promoting access of vulnerable groups to:

- ❑ the **Social Residential Invoice of the Greek Public Power Corporation**
- ❑ the **Network for the Protection of Vulnerable Consumers of Electricity**

(b) The Region of Crete supports the initiatives by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity on the **free reconnection of electrical power supply and free electrical power supply** to individuals and families living in conditions of extreme poverty (article 1, L.4320/2015).

MEASURE 1.1.5. Access to the financial system

The Region of Crete promotes procedures for the access of vulnerable groups to the financial system, by signing a relevant **Protocol of Cooperation** with economic and social stakeholders. This will guarantee support to borrowers as far as their debts are concerned and will help them resolve such problems (e.g. bank accounts cannot be seized).

MEASURE 1.1.6. Access to cultural and recreational activities

The Region of Crete will implement an **integrated Programme** under the title *I meet Crete* which will be primarily intended for the following categories:

- ❑ uninsured individuals with an annual personal or family income less than the guaranteed minimum income for subsistence (threshold for the granting of the Special Booklet for Uninsured Individuals)
- ❑ individuals who live in Social Care Units or other public or private entity institutions of the welfare sector
- ❑ long-term unemployed
- ❑ recipients of welfare allowances

The Programme will focus on the free access of those people who are not included in existing similar programmes to:

- ❑ selected cultural activities
- ❑ organised holidays within the Region

PRIORITY 1.2: Access to Sufficient Revenue Resources

The access of vulnerable groups to sufficient revenue resources is an essential priority of the National Social Inclusion Strategy, that aims to guarantee that any individual who has been trapped in conditions of extreme poverty will benefit from a grid of non-contributory benefits that are linked to adequate care and activation services. However, in view of its current competences and financial instruments, the **Region of Crete cannot intervene in the critical field of income support of the most deprived because this, being a matter for the state, remains under the exclusive competence of central administration.**

Despite external limitations, the Region of Crete will make the best of all of its competences as a strategic body of the Regional Social Inclusion Strategy by promoting initiatives of income support for vulnerable population groups through the following Measures:

- ❑ **MEASURE 1.2.1. – Support of the implementation of the application to cope with the humanitarian crisis (L. 4320/15)**
- ❑ **MEASURE 1.2.2. - Access to the Kidney disease patients nutritional allowance**

MEASURE 1.2.1. Support of the implementation of the application to cope with the humanitarian crisis (L. 4320/15)

The Region of Crete in the context of the implementation of L.4320/15 undertakes initiatives for its application. In this context the Region of Crete will promote regulations which concern:

- ❑ The free reconnection of electrical power supply of main residences and free electrical power supply
- ❑ The **rent subsidy** for new tenancies or renewal of existing ones
- ❑ Food subsidy in the form of an electronic card for the provision of food from stores

MEASURE 1.2.2. Access to the Kidney disease patients' nutritional allowance

The Region of Crete guarantees access of beneficiaries to the Programme *Kidney disease patients' nutritional allowance* which is funded by the Ministry of the Interior and gives a monthly allowance to all beneficiaries regardless of their social security status and the level of their personal or family income:

- a) **Kidney disease patients who are the final stage of kidney failure and are submitted to dialysis by an artificial kidney or to peritoneal dialysis.**
- b) **Transplanted kidney disease patients and transplanted heart, liver, lung and bone marrow patients.**

LINE OF OPERATION 2. Prevention and combating of children’s exclusion

The Line of Operation 2 of the Strategy focuses on protecting children from the extremely dangerous consequences of poverty on their physical, mental and psychological development and, thus, to their ability to become healthy and independent adults. In this context, children (0-17 years old) who grow up in conditions of poverty and experience multiple deprivations and difficulties are a **top priority group** for the Region of Crete.

The Measures of the Line of Operation are structured into the following priorities:

- ❑ Access to affordable quality services
- ❑ Access to compulsory education

Table 2. The Architecture of the Line of Operation 2 of the Strategy

Priority	Measure
2.1: Access to affordable quality services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ MEASURE 2.1.1 - Access to pre-school education services❑ MEASURE 2.1.2 - Access to recreational, amusement and creative activity services❑ MEASURE 2.1.3 - Access to basic open care services❑ MEASURE 2.1.4 - Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions❑ MEASURE 2.1.5 - Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration
2.2: Access to Compulsory Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ MEASURE 2.2.1 - Roma children inclusion in education❑ MEASURE 2.2.2 - Prevention of school dropout

PRIORITY 2.1: Access to affordable quality services

The access to affordable quality services is a basic priority of the Strategy, aiming at preventing, eliminating or attenuating high risk exclusion factors during childhood. As main intervention it has been chosen to promote access of children to an Integrated **Package of Basic Services** which includes the following Measures:

- ❑ **MEASURE 2.1.1 - Access to pre-school education services**
- ❑ **MEASURE 2.1.2 - Access to recreational, amusement and creative activity services**
- ❑ **MEASURE 2.1.3 - Access to open care services**
- ❑ **MEASURE 2.1.4 - Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions**
- ❑ **MEASURE 2.1.5 - Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration**

MEASURE 2.1.1. Access to pre-school education services

Pre-education services play a very important role to the lives of children and of their families because:

- ❑ they reinforce the socialisation and development prospects of children
- ❑ they guarantee supervision and care of children while their parents are at work (or while they seek occupation) and are absent, in order to effectively reconcile professional and family obligations.

The fields of intervention of the Region of Crete include:

- ❑ Promotion and development of the **Network of pre-school education structures** (Nursery schools - Kindergartens) in the Region of Crete.
- ❑ Ensuring the **free access of vulnerable groups** to pre-school education services
- ❑ Informing and supporting **parents** in their role as main educators of their children during the first years of their life.

MEASURE 2.1.2. Access to recreational, amusement and creative activity services

Creative activity and recreational services offer children the chance to participate in procedures (sports, cultural, learning etc) that promote their mental and psychological development through strong incentives and improve their smooth socialisation through group activities. In addition, amusement services are of paramount importance to the psychological uplifting of children, especially those who face more problems because of poverty.

The fields of intervention of the Region of Crete include:

- ⇒ Support and development of the **Network of Creative Activity Structures** (Centres of Creative Activities for children, Centres of Creative Activities for children with disability)
- ⇒ Ensuring the free access of vulnerable groups to **creative activity services**
- ⇒ Development of **Children's Country Camps / Summer Camps** programmes
- ⇒ Support and development of the Network of playgrounds.

MEASURE 2.1.3. Access to basic open care services

The Measure includes the development of support services for children, teenagers and their families in the following fields:

- Psychosocial support and timely intervention to prevent crisis
- Parental counselling
- Supporting parents with infants or pre-school and school age children (e.g. breastfeeding, healthy nutrition, early detection of learning difficulties)
- Early detection of problems and interconnection of families with the corresponding health & welfare services which can provide them with intensive or specialised support.

MEASURE 2.1.4. Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions

The fields of intervention of the Region of Crete include:

- ⇒ Supporting services for the access to **adoption and fostering institutions, especially for children without parental care who live in residential care institutions**
- ⇒ Supporting services for the access to **international adoption institutions**
- ⇒ The creation of four **Regional Social Centres** (one in each Regional Unit) is under examination, which will provide counselling, psychosocial support and care to families with children having extraordinary social needs, through the timely intervention in situations of crisis, in order to prevent unjustified transfer of children to residential care institutions.

MEASURE 2.1.5. Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration

The Region of Crete will support **deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration procedures of children living in:**

a) The Branches of the **Centre of Social Welfare of the Region of Crete:**

- ⇒ Branch of the Children and Young People Protection Centre of Chania
- ⇒ Branch of the Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped Children of Heraklion (Heraklion building and Pompia building)

- ⇒ Branch of the Children’s Protection Centre of Heraklion
- ⇒ Branch of the Children’s Protection Centre of Lasithi

b) Other **public and private children’s residential care institutions**.

PRIORITY 2.2: Access to Compulsory Education

The access or stay of children living in conditions of poverty to compulsory education is a basic priority of the Strategy, aiming at preventing, eliminating or attenuating high risk exclusion factors during childhood. However, in view of its current competences and financial instruments, the Region of Crete cannot intervene in the critical field of compulsory education because this, being **a matter for the state**, remains under the exclusive competence of central administration.

Despite external limitations, the Region of Crete will make the best of all of its competences as a strategic body of the Regional Social Inclusion Strategy by promoting initiatives to support access/ stay of children in compulsory education through the following Measures:

- ❑ **MEASURE 2.2.1 - Roma children inclusion in education**
- ❑ **MEASURE 2.2.2 - Prevention of school dropout.**

MEASURE 2.2.1. Roma children inclusion in education

The Region of Crete will support procedures for Roma children inclusion in compulsory education through the **Roma Social Inclusion Integrated Programme**¹².

MEASURE 2.2.2. Prevention of school dropout

The Region of Crete and the Municipalities will support the prevention procedures for school dropout through the development of the **Network of Social Coaching Schools** (educational support in secondary education courses/ teaching foreign languages) and **of other innovative initiatives (access to kindergartens)**. At the same time, all interventions of Measures 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 will be used in a systematic way, creating a powerful grid of initiatives for the access of every infant and baby of Crete to high social investment programmes (Nursery schools - Kindergartens / Centres of Creative Activities for children, Centres of Creative Activities for children with disability), that also improve the employment prospects of their parents.

Finally, the Region of Crete will promote relevant actions which support attendance of students with disabilities in mainstream schools in order to prevent school dropout of students with disabilities.

LINE OF OPERATION 3. Promotion of Active Inclusion

The Line of Operation 3 of the Strategy focuses on the promotion of active inclusion of vulnerable population groups, which combines promotion in employment and access to quality services. These interventions concern individuals and families in conditions of poverty who:

- ⇒ have already been included in programmes covered by Line of Operation 1
- ⇒ or they are included for the first time in programmes covered by Line of Operation 3, since they don’t face extreme poverty.

The Measures of the Line of Operation are structured into the following priorities:

- ❑ Access of unemployed people to activation services for the inclusion in the labour market Access

¹² The Roma Social Inclusion Integrated Programme is currently under creation by the Region of Crete according to the guidelines of the Framework of the Roma National Strategy.

- ❑ Access of unemployed people with cumulative exclusion characteristics and of other groups to affordable quality services.

Table 3. The Architecture of the Line of Operation 3 of the Strategy

Priority	Measure
3.1: Activation of the unemployed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ MEASURE 3.1.1. Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to programmes of active employment policies ❑ MEASURE 3.1.2. Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to Social Entrepreneurship actions
3.2: Access of unemployed people with cumulative exclusion characteristics and of other groups to affordable quality services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ MEASURE 3.2.1 - Access to basic open care services ❑ MEASURE 3.2.2 - Access to in-house care and treatment services ❑ MEASURE 3.2.3 - Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions ❑ MEASURE 3.2.4 - Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration ❑ MEASURE 3.2.5 – Promotion of active ageing ❑ MEASURE 3.2.6 - Access to services which support the solvency of poor households

PRIORITY 3.1: Activation of the unemployed

Activating the unemployed is *dictated* by the need to integrate them in the financial and social web and to help them regain their personal independence. It is based on a framework of mutual rights and obligations according to which all those who are interested establish rights as recipients of public social benefits/ services but also they gradually develop personal actions so as to able to cover their needs on their own and to lower the risks of *dependence* from the State.

MEASURE 3.1.1. Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to programmes of active employment policies

The Region of Crete will support procedures for the employment of vulnerable unemployed individuals by guaranteeing their access to:

- ❑ Local counselling and training programmes
- ❑ New Jobs Subsidisation programmes
- ❑ Traineeship and professional experience programmes
- ❑ Community Service Programmes
- ❑ Programmes for the creation of New Businesses

MEASURE 3.1.2. Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to Social Entrepreneurship actions

The Region of Crete will support procedures for the employment of vulnerable unemployed individuals through the establishment or participation in social entrepreneurship institutions within the **Regional**

Support Mechanism of Crete¹³, which will be created by local and regional agents and representatives of the civil society.

The Regional Support Mechanism of Crete will operate for an initial period of two years as a Development Partnership according to article 18 of L.4019/2011 and will serve as the main tool for the development of Social Economy, the promotion of Social Entrepreneurship and the support of Social Cooperatives aiming at boosting inclusion of vulnerable population groups through their employment.

Upon completion of this initial period of operation of the Regional Mechanism, the Region of Crete will undertake initiatives to boost the development of social entrepreneurship with actions which have been supported or are highly relevant to Mechanism's interventions, such as:

- enhancement of **social innovation networks**
- operation of **Incubators**
- **creation of networks** between credit institutions and social entrepreneurship agents
- **raising the awareness** of the public on the benefits of social entrepreneurship at local and regional level.

PRIORITY 3.2: Access of vulnerable groups to affordable quality services

This particular Priority includes interventions aiming at preventing, eliminating or attenuating high risk exclusion factors, covering unemployed people with cumulative exclusion characteristics and other groups through the following measures:

- ❑ **MEASURE 3.2.1 - Access to basic open care services**
- ❑ **MEASURE 3.2.2 - Access to in-house care and nursing services**
- ❑ **MEASURE 3.2.3 - Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions**
- ❑ **MEASURE 3.2.4 - Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration**
- ❑ **MEASURE 3.2.5 - Promotion of active ageing**
- ❑ **MEASURE 3.2.6 - Access to services which support the solvency of poor households.**

MEASURE 3.2.1. Access to basic open care services

The Measure includes the development of support services for adults in the following fields:

- Psychosocial support and timely intervention to prevent crisis
- Counselling and Care
- Early detection of problems and interconnection with the corresponding health & welfare services which can provide intensive or specialised support.

MEASURE 3.2.2. Access to in-house care and nursing services

(a) The Measure concerns the access of the elderly and of people with disabilities to the services of the **formal in-house**¹⁴ **social care system** (article 127 of L. 4199/2013), which includes **in-house social care**

¹³ A relative proposal was submitted on December 2014 to the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Welfare in the context of the invitation Operation of **Regional Support Mechanisms for the development and promotion of Social Cooperatives and of broader Social Economy initiatives** of the Action 1 *Support of action plans in the field of social economy for the creation of new jobs. Planning and implementation of specialised training programmes and counselling programmes on issues of social economy management. Support of the creation of social enterprises*, of the Category of Intervention 2 *Development of Social Economy for the employment of vulnerable groups* of the Thematic Priority Axis 4: *Complete Integration of all Human Resources into a Society of Equal Opportunities* of the Operational Programme *Human Resources Development 2007-2013*.

¹⁴ The **formal in-house care policies** are defined as a grid of organised activities of public institutions, private (profit and non-profit) organisations, voluntary institutions and religious institutions which are regulated by the State and aim at the immediate or long-term¹⁴ maintenance, restoration or improvement of the capacity of individuals to meet their living and social participation requirements, **while staying with their families**.

services and **in-house nursing services** which aim at the nursing and recuperation of patients in their own home.

(b) The Measure concerns the access of the elderly and of people with disabilities to the services of the **informal in-house social care system**¹⁵.

(c) Finally the Measure concerns the access of people with complex dependency problems to services of **in-house care**.

MEASURE 3.2.3. Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions

The fields of intervention of the Region of Crete include:

- ❑ Reinforcement and development of the infrastructures and the programmes of **public and private structures that provide open care services to adults**.
- ❑ The creation of four **Regional Social Centres**¹⁶ (one in each Regional Unit) is under examination, which will provide counselling, psychosocial support and care to adults, through the timely intervention in situations of crisis, in order to prevent phenomena of direct risk¹⁷ or unjustified transfer to residential care institutions or of failure to exercise rights to receive of social contributions and services

MEASURE 3.2.4. Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration

The fields of intervention by the Region of Crete include:

(a) Reinforcement of **deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration** procedures **for adults** who live in the Branches of the **Social Welfare Centre of the Region of Crete**:

(b) Reinforcement and development of the infrastructures of the Hospitals for Chronic Diseases of Chania and Lasithi, of the Rehabilitation Centre for people with disabilities of Crete (Chania) and of other private non-profit residential care structures

(c) Reinforcement and development of **deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration** programmes **for adult mental patients**.

(d) Development of the network of **Assisted Living Shelters for people with disabilities**.

MEASURE 3.2.5. Promotion of active ageing

The fields of intervention of the Region of Crete in the field of active ageing¹⁸ include:

- ❖ Design and implementation of awareness-raising and information initiatives aiming at producing a change in beliefs and stereotypes towards ageing in general and towards elderly workforce
- ❖ Adaptation of workers to the retirement regime (at the level of social partners' enterprises or organisations)
- ❖ Access of the elderly to adequate high quality care, long-term care and social services

¹⁵ In parallel with formal in-house care policies, in Greece we find **informal networks of care** (unpaid family carers) which offer their services to dependent people.

¹⁶ The operation of the Centres will meet the needs of Measure 2.1.4 of Priority 2.1.

¹⁷ In Crete, and for the time period between the years 2000 and 2013, 650 suicides were registered and the year with the highest number of registered suicides was 2000 (61 people).

¹⁸ *Active ageing* is defined by the **World Health Organisation** as a process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. It applies to both individuals and population groups. Active ageing allows people to realize their potential for physical, social, and mental well-being throughout the life course and to participate in society, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they need.

- ❖ Establishment of a mechanism responsible for the networking of health and welfare professionals with voluntary organisations for the improvement of the quality of life of the elderly
- ❖ Access of the elderly to techniques of active participation in social and family life through, among others, voluntary participation, lifelong education, cultural expression and sports
- ❖ Promotion of systematic research on problems and opportunities linked with population ageing.

MEASURE 3.2.6. Access to services which support the solvency of poor households

The Measure concerns the development of a regional **Network for the prevention and combating of the social consequences of over-indebtedness**, aiming at:

- ⇒ **raising the awareness, informing and training** beneficiaries on issues of sustainable money handling and prudent consumer behaviour
- ⇒ **providing guidance** to households who face problems in managing their budget and are at imminent risk of over-indebtedness
- ⇒ **providing support** to those households who are in a state of definitive inability to pay off their debts¹⁹.

¹⁹ As far over-indebtedness is concerned, the Measure aims at supporting beneficiaries in their effort to effectively manage the multiple (psychological, financial, social) consequences of over-indebtedness and to restore the financial stability of their household. This support focuses on the provision of debt counselling services, known as *debt mediation* or *debt management*.

LINE OF OPERATION 4. Improvement of the Regional Strategy's Governance

The Line of Operation 4 includes interventions aiming at reinforcing the system of governance and at guaranteeing the effective implementation of the Strategy, through the following Measures:

- ❑ **MEASURE 4.1.1 - Promotion of Social Diversity**
- ❑ **MEASURE 4.1.2 - Promotion of Social Innovation**
- ❑ **MEASURE 4.1.3 - Regional Observatory for Social Inclusion**
- ❑ **MEASURE 4.1.4 - Development of the human resources of the Strategy**
- ❑ **MEASURE 4.1.5 - Promotion of targeted research**
- ❑ **MEASURE 4.1.6 - External evaluation of the Strategy**
- ❑ **MEASURE 4.1.7 - Diffusion of the Strategy.**

MEASURE 4.1.1. Promotion of Social Diversity

This Measure concerns the development of **Social Diversity in the Region of Crete** through special actions which support **voluntary organisations, self-help associations and NGOs that operate in the field of protection of vulnerable population groups.**

The contribution of civil society organisations in providing services and benefits in kind is very important. However, their role in claiming the rights of vulnerable groups (*collective advocacy*) and in raising the awareness of the public in combating poverty and exclusion is equally important.

It is a Priority of the Strategy of the Region of Crete to support voluntary organisations, self-help associations, NGOs and Social Solidarity Networks through special interventions which will guarantee:

- the improvement of their capacity to develop entrepreneurial action
- the development of systemic networking with the public sector at a regional and local level
- the enhancement of their collective representation in the public consultation for the development of the Regional Strategy through participative procedures (e.g. open debate fora, regional days on social inclusion, etc)

MEASURE 4.1.2. Promotion of Social Innovation

The use of social innovation, that is the mobilisation of all participants (public, private and of the third sector) towards the implementation of a new more effective management of social needs, is a basic operational priority of the Strategy of the Region of Crete. The development of socially innovative actions is of high interest in the fields of social care services and of service which support the activation of the unemployed. In view of the above, the Measure includes:

- ❑ the enhancement of **socially innovative actions** of the Region of Crete, which will be specified by the **Directorate of Social Care** and the **Directorate of Lifelong Education, Employment and Commerce**
- ❑ the development of **Local Social Innovation Networks** between public and non-public institutions aiming at the improvement of the accessibility and quality of activation services for vulnerable unemployed individuals and of social care for vulnerable population groups.

The development of **Local Networks** will be promoted mainly by the activation of local **social experimentation** enclaves (with the networking techniques that they will design and implement pilot

innovative solutions in order to more effectively meet top priority social challenges such as the **support of poor workers**, the **prevention of over-indebtedness** and the **development of sustainable voluntary networks**).

MEASURE 4.1.3. Regional Observatory for Social Inclusion

The Measure concerns the development of a **Regional Observatory for Social Inclusion** aiming at monitoring intervention at a regional/local level, highlighting local needs and challenges, mapping of the territorial dimensions of poverty and social exclusion, documenting and monitoring of statistical data on social phenomena and providing data of critical importance of the Strategy of the Region of Crete to the National Coordinating Mechanism (at the level of the competent Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity).

MEASURE 4.1.4. Development of the human resources of the Strategy

The enhancement of the managerial and leadership skills of officials of **public organisations of territorial competence** on matters of design, application and monitoring of inclusion policies and also on special priority fields (networking, partnership, social innovation etc.) will be a basic credibility and effectiveness mechanism of the Strategy of the Region of Crete.

In view of the above, the Measure concerns the **upgrading of skills / qualifications of officials who take part in the development of the Strategy and work**:

- ❑ in the **Decentralised Administration of Crete**
- ❑ In the **Region of Crete**
- ❑ in **Municipalities of the Region of Crete**
- ❑ in the **Social Welfare Centre of the Region of Crete**
- ❑ in other **public law institutions** which operate only in Crete or constitute decentralised services of national organisations.

MEASURE 4.1.5. Promotion of targeted research

The Measure is oriented towards the gradual development of an **ecosystem for the promotion of fundamental and applied research on the field of social inclusion**, which will be the main documentation tool of the Strategy of the Region of Crete and will provide feedback with critical operational and empirical data. Despite the activation of public institutions of university education and research (**University of Crete, Technical University of Crete, Technological Educational Institute of Crete**) and the production of important research work on social inclusion, there is a gap in the systematic use of this research by public and private institutions of the Region of Crete which reduces significantly the build-up of know-how in an already *marginal research field* of the broader social protection field (when compared to social security, health and employment). To cover this gap, the Measure concerns the promotion of actions which will allow the strengthening of research and the development of innovation in inclusion policies in order to achieve systematic use of the **research web of the Region of Crete** and enhancement of the Strategy.

MEASURE 4.1.6. External evaluation of the Strategy

The Measure is oriented towards the development of a **system of external evaluation of the Strategy**. The system will map all parameters which allow the objective documentation of data as for the following axes:

- ❑ monitoring of the Strategy's actions
- ❑ evaluation of the overall impact of the operation and of the actions of the Strategy with the application of effectiveness, efficiency and impact indicators, which are directly linked to horizontal policy indicators in the field of social inclusion.

MEASURE 4.1.7. Diffusion of the Strategy

The Measure serves the promotion of the Vision of the Region of Crete in an *horizontal* way, as it ensures the citizens' information and awareness of the goals and the content of the Strategy, aiming at the understanding of new actions from interested population groups and at informing labour market and civil society players on the mitigation of prejudices and the combating of discriminations.

D. The Strategy's Organisational Framework

The Region of Crete undertakes to promote social dialogue for the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy, through the **Regional Committee for Social Inclusion**, a new body which will be established by a decision of the Regional Governor and, indicatively, will consist of the following parties:

- ⇒ the Regional Governor of Crete (President)
- ⇒ His Holiness the Archbishop of Crete
- ⇒ the Vice Regional Governor for Public Health
- ⇒ the Vice Regional Governor for Employment, Lifelong Learning and Education
- ⇒ the Appointed Vice Regional Governor for Social Policy
- ⇒ the Appointed Vice Regional Governor for Issues of Mental Health
- ⇒ the President of the Board of Directors of the Regional Association of Municipalities of Crete
- ⇒ the Governor of the 7th Health Region (Crete)
- ⇒ the President of the Social Welfare Centre of the Region of Crete
- ⇒ the Head of the Regional Directorate of the Labour Employment Office of Crete
- ⇒ the Head of the Regional Directorate of Education of Crete
- ⇒ representatives of key socioeconomic players of the area and who are appointed by a decision of the Regional Governor (mainly representatives of Scientific Associations, social partners, financial institutions, academia, chambers, consumer associations and civil society organisations).

The Committee will operate as an advisory body with the following competences:

- ⇒ to submit proposals to the Region for the implementation of the Strategy
- ⇒ to prepare and carry out consultation procedures on top priority issues of the Strategy

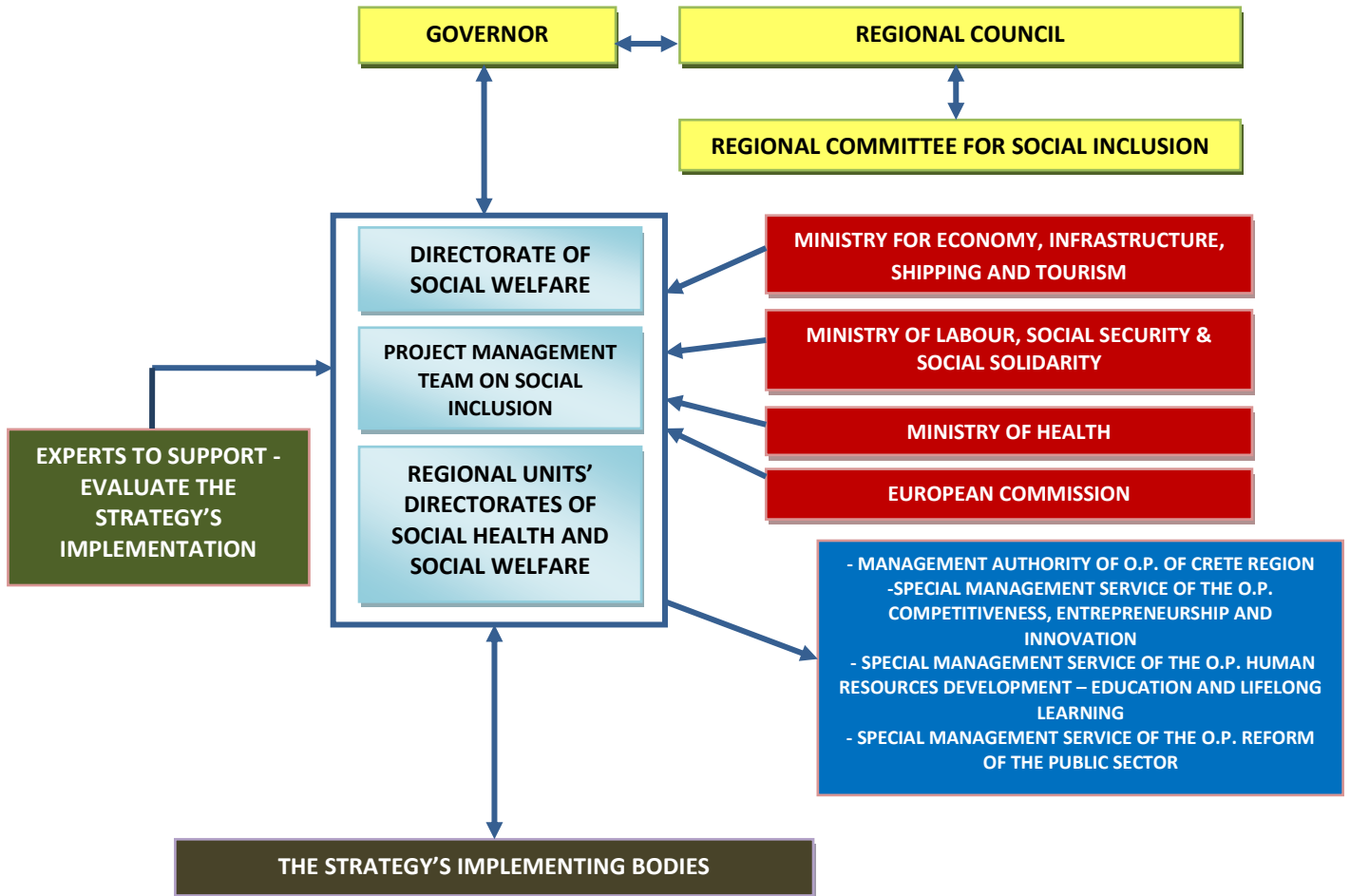
Operational monitoring of the Strategy

The Region of Crete undertakes all coordination and operational monitoring of the Strategy procedures through its competent services that operate in the fields of planning, implementation and funding of its Measures.

The operational monitoring of the Strategy will be coordinated by a **Project Management Team** (*Project Management Team on Social Inclusion*) which will be established by a decision of the Regional Governor²⁰ and it will be supported by an **Integrated Information System (I.I.S. Inclusion)**.

²⁰ The relevant decision will appoint the Coordinator and the Members of the Project Management Team and will specify their relevant competences.

Diagram The monitoring model of the Strategy



The Strategy's Financial Framework

1. Budget of the Strategy

The Budget of the Strategy includes all expenditure which will be allocated to:

- ❑ the operational maturity of the Strategy's Pillars
- ❑ the effective implementation of the Strategy's Pillars
- ❑ the enhancement of the Strategy's system of Governance

2. The Strategy's sources of funding

In view of the current circumstances, the Strategy's sources of funding correspond to a **grid of public and private external resources** which include, **in order of importance**:

- a) State Budget Resources
- b) Resources payable to First & Second Grade Local Authorities (Central Independent Resources and reciprocal duties)
- c) EU Cohesion Policy Resources (NSRF 2007-2013, NSRF 2014-2020)
- d) Resources from General and Specific EU Programmes
- e) Resources from the European economic area financial mechanism 2015-2020
- f) Other International Organisations' Resources
- g) Resources from International Pacts / Agreements for Cooperation
- h) Private resources from professional associations and businesses in the framework of the development of Corporate Social Responsibility actions
- i) Private resources in the framework of social contribution (donations and sponsorship).

The development of the Strategy will be based mainly on **public resources** (direct and indirect taxation) using new **collective solidarity** techniques for the funding of inclusion programmes and other supranational initiatives (e.g. **EU** and **E.E.A.**)

2.1. Mandated public resources

The basic source of funding of the Strategy is the total of national public resources allocated for the exercise of the competences of the organs of the Central Government and of Local Authorities in the field of social inclusion. In particular:

- the relevant resources of the State Budget (Ordinary Budget and Public Investment Budget)
- grants for investments of the Region of Crete
- Central Independent Resources payable to the Region of Crete
- Central Independent Resources payable to the Municipalities of the Region
- reciprocal duties paid to the Region of Crete and its Municipalities
- special resources of the Public Utility Companies and of Public Law Entities/ Private Law Entities of the social sector
- EU Cohesion Policy's Resources (NSRF 2007-2013, NSRF 2014-2020).

The use of the State Budget's resources, of the budget of the Region of Crete and of the budgets of the Municipalities of the Region of Crete for the funding of the Strategy is currently presenting **high variability** because of the decreased ability of the population to pay taxes and of the financial constraints as far as the funding of First & Second Grade Local Authorities is concerned.

On the contrary, the use of the EU Cohesion Policy's resources, which include NSRF 2007-2013 (eligibility of expenditure until 31.12.2015) and NSRF 2014-2020 (eligibility of expenditure between 1.1.2014-31.12.2023) is presenting **low variability**. That is because the relevant resources have already been committed and specified creating the **basic financial support protocol** of the Strategy of the Region of Crete.

NSRF 2007-2013 Resources

The NSRF 2007-2013 has to this day contributed to the funding of basic social programmes (European Social Fund) and structures (European Regional Development Fund) in Crete, which guarantee access of vulnerable groups to care, housing, health, entrepreneurship, education, training and employment services while they mitigate discriminations and stereotypes towards them.

The main sources of funding are located in:

- ❑ the resources of the **Thematic Priority Axes 1 and 4 of the O.P. Human Resources Development (O.P. HRD 2007-2013)**
- ❑ the resources of the **Thematic Priority Axis 2 of the O.P. Education and Lifelong Learning**
- ❑ the resources of the **Thematic Priority Axis 3 of the O.P. Administrative Reform**
- ❑ the resources of the **Thematic Priority Axis 2 Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Extroversion and 3 Improvement of Business Environment of the O.P. Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship**
- ❑ the resources of the **Regional Operational Programme Crete and Aegean Islands**

The relative resources of NSRF 2007-2013 will continue to fund, until the end of 2015, ongoing actions at the same time will create the necessary conditions for the *maturing* of new actions which will be co-funded by NSRF 2014-2020.

NSRF 2014-2020 Resources

The Region of Crete will use in a systematic and coordinated way all funding options for the Social Inclusion Strategy through the resources of the approved **Partnership Agreement for the Framework of Development** for Greece (hereinafter **NSRF**) **2014-2020**, which will be allocated mainly for the development of Thematic Objective 9 *Promotion of social inclusion and of the combating of poverty and all discriminations* during the Programming Period 2014-2020. The relevant procedure will be moved forward by the **Special Management Service for O.P. of the Region of Crete**.

Table Sources of Funding of the Thematic Objective 9

ESIF	Total of Funding
ECB	72.822.028 (16,75%)
ERDF	362.061.097 (83,25%)

The Thematic Objective 9 includes actions which will be implemented in the context of 13 **Regional Operational Programmes** of NSRF 2014-2020. The needs in the field of poverty and social exclusion will be addressed by the following investment priorities, which will be ranked by the Regions according to the

particular local conditions and needs for development and according to the framework and the directions of corresponding national and regional strategies:

- ❑ Active inclusion policies aiming at improving employment opportunities
- ❑ Integration of marginalised communities (Roma, homeless people, immigrants, applicants for asylum, refugees etc)
- ❑ Elimination of discriminations based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.
- ❑ Improving access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, including healthcare services and social services of general interest.
- ❑ Promotion of social economy and social enterprises
- ❑ Local development strategies instigated by local communities.

The Operational Programme Crete 2014-2020

The **Operational Programme Crete** (hereinafter ROP *Crete* 2014-2020) was approved on 18.12.2014 by the European Commission (CCI 2014GR16M2OP011), as it fulfilled all conditions laid down in the relevant community acquis. The Commission confirmed that the ROP helps contributes to the implementation of the Union's Strategy 2020 for a development which is smart, sustainable and free of exclusions and is in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Regulation (EU) 1304/2013 and the content of the Partnership Agreement with Greece (NSRF 2014-2020).

The ROP *Crete* 2014-2014 consists of **7 Priority Axes** (PA) with **24 Investment Priorities** (IP) which receive the funds of the **Thematic Objectives** (TO) of the European Strategy 2020. Total appropriations: **434.883.125 €**.

For the Thematic Objective 9 *Promotion of social inclusion and of the combating of poverty and all discriminations*, the ROP will allocate resources of the ECB and the ERDF.

a) The ECB will fund initiatives in favour of:

- ❑ the active inclusion of vulnerable groups with the use of orientation, counselling, training and employment actions
- ❑ the promotion of women's employability through the creation of childcare structures (children, elderly people)
- ❑ the social inclusion of vulnerable groups
- ❑ the housing of homeless people
- ❑ social entrepreneurship
- ❑ public health
- ❑ the implementation of Integrated Employment Plans at a local level

b) The ERDF will fund initiatives in favour of:

- ❑ the upgrading of existing buildings of a central hospital
- ❑ complementing / upgrading the network of combined and regional clinics
- ❑ complementing welfare structures (children's shelters, vulnerable groups' support centres etc)
- ❑ complementing kindergartens - nursery schools

A substantial amount of funds has been committed for the promotion of policies which address poverty and social exclusion, because the **relevant Priority Axis 5 *Promotion of social inclusion and of the combating of poverty in Crete* is the second Axis as far as the allocation of funds is concerned**

(66.047.150,00 € - 15,19%). The Axis' goal is to safeguard and revitalize the Region's social web and to promote active inclusion in the labour market, to boost social entrepreneurship, to improve the access to affordable, sustainable and high quality social services and to promote the integration of socially and financially vulnerable groups by the abolition of all discriminations.

A. The Priority Axis 5 includes the following 6 Investment Priorities:

- ❑ Active inclusion, aiming, among others, at promoting equal opportunities, active participation and improving employability
- ❑ Integration of marginalised communities (Roma, homeless people, immigrants, applicants for asylum, refugees etc)
- ❑ Elimination of discriminations based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.
- ❑ Improving access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, including healthcare services and social services of general interest.
- ❑ Promotion of social entrepreneurship and of professional inclusion in social enterprises. Promotion of social economy and solidarity economy to facilitate access to employment.
- ❑ Local development strategies instigated by local communities.

B. The Priority Axis 3 *Promotion of education and social cohesion in Crete* includes Actions of direct relevance to the field of social inclusion, and is the fourth Axis as far as the allocation of funds is concerned (47.671.028,00 € - 10,96%). The Axis' goal is to improve the quality of life of the population of the Region through the enhancement of:

- ⇒ the necessary infrastructures of health, welfare and nursery schools in order to improve the access to affordable, sustainable and high quality healthcare and welfare services.
- ⇒ the educational infrastructures of all grades especially as far as preschool, primary and secondary education are concerned.

C. The ROP fulfils the conditions of article 7 of the Regulation 1303/2013 on **non discrimination and accessibility** as it includes interventions which support groups who are at risk of suffering discriminations:

- ❑ social care and protection actions for vulnerable and special groups
- ❑ safeguarding the operation of welfare structures and creation of new ones (e.g. Day Care Centres for the Elderly, All day & Day Care Centres, Centres of Creative Activities for children, Centres of Creative Activities for children with disability) and amplification of the services rendered to people from vulnerable and special groups (people with disabilities, elderly people who can't support themselves, people living in households where no one is employed and people with financial problems etc).
- ❑ promotion of assisted living by guaranteeing the operation and propagation of Open Care Structures (e.g. Assisted Living Shelters, Independent Living Shelters etc)
- ❑ promotion of socioeconomic inclusion for people who are at risk of suffering multiple discriminations (e.g. women with disabilities and chronic diseases, young people with disabilities, parents with disabilities etc)
- ❑ awareness and information campaigns for workers and enterprises on issues related to non discrimination, disability and accessibility of people with disabilities
- ❑ equal access to education for all of the aforementioned groups
- ❑ creation of accessible destinations (improving the accessibility of structures and services, raising the awareness of entrepreneurs and giving incentives, training of staff, promotional actions etc)
- ❑ promotion of accessibility actions through Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) interventions

A breakdown of the content of ROP confirms that it could be used as a basic funding mechanism for the Social Inclusion Strategy of the Region of Crete since some of its Investment Priorities are highly compatible to the Strategy's Priorities and Measures:

a) all six Priorities of **Priority Axis 5**

b) **Investment Priority 4c** *Support of energy efficiency, smart energy management and use of renewable energy sources in public infrastructures, including public buildings, and in the field of housing*

c) **Investment Priority 2c** *Support of ICT applications for e-Government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health of Priority Axis 2*

d) **Investment Priority 9a** *Investments in health infrastructures and in social infrastructures which contribute in national, regional and local development by diminishing inequalities in the health sector, by promoting social inclusion through the easier access to social, cultural and recreational services and by shifting from residential care to social care of Priority Axis 3, which serves the Special Objective 17 Increase in the capacity of childcare infrastructures in order to facilitate the access of women to employment and the Special Objective 18 Better access to health and welfare services for all residents of Crete*

e) **Investment Priority 10** *Investment in education, training and vocational training for skills development and lifelong learning of Priority Axis 3*

Table Basic sources of funding of the Social Inclusion Strategy by the O.P. Crete (2015-2020)

Measures of the Strategy	Investment Priority O.P. Crete 2014-2020	Budget of Investment Priority
<p>MEASURE 2.1.1 Access to pre-school education services</p> <p>MEASURE 2.1.2 Access to recreational, amusement and creative activity services</p> <p>MEASURE 3.1.1 Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to programmes of active employment policies</p> <p>MEASURE 4.1.2 Development of Social Innovation</p>	9i) Active inclusion, aiming, among others, at promoting equal opportunities, active participation and improving employability	23.047.150,00€
<p>MEASURE 1.1.3 Access to housing Integrated Programme for Roma Social Inclusion²¹</p>	9ii) Socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities	3.000.000,00€
<p>MEASURE 1.1.6 Access to cultural and recreational activities</p> <p>MEASURE 4.1.1 Promotion of Social Diversity</p> <p>MEASURE 2.1.2 Access to recreational, amusement and creative activity services</p> <p>MEASURE 2.1.5 Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration</p> <p>MEASURE 3.2.4 Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration</p>	9iii) Combating all forms of discriminations and promotion of equal opportunities	6.000.000,00€
<p>MEASURE 1.1.2 Access to health services</p> <p>MEASURE 2.1.3 Access to basic open care services</p> <p>MEASURE 2.1.4 Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions</p> <p>MEASURE 3.2.1 Access to basic open care services</p> <p>MEASURE 3.2.3 Prevention of the transfer to residential care institutions</p> <p>MEASURE 3.2.4 Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration</p> <p>MEASURE 3.2.5 Promotion of active ageing</p>	9iv) Improving access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, including healthcare services and social services of general interest.	24.000.000,00€

²¹ A Roma Social Inclusion Integrated Programme which will include actions in the context of the Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion is currently under creation

MEASURE 3.2.6 Access to services which support the solvency of poor households		
MEASURE 3.1.2 Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to Social Entrepreneurship actions	9v) Promotion of social entrepreneurship and of professional inclusion in social enterprises. Promotion of social economy and solidarity economy to facilitate access to employment.	5.000.000,00€
MEASURE 3.1.1 Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to programmes of active employment policies MEASURE 4.1.2 Development of Social Innovation	9vi) Local development strategies instigated by local communities.	5.000.000,00€
MEASURE 1.1.2 Access to health services MEASURE 1.1.3 Access to housing MEASURE 2.1.1 Access to pre-school education services MEASURE 2.1.2 Access to recreational, amusement and creative activity services MEASURE 2.1.5 Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration	9a) Investments in health infrastructures and in social infrastructures which contribute in national, regional and local development by diminishing inequalities in the health sector, by promoting social inclusion through the easier access to social, cultural and recreational services and by shifting from institutional care to community care	21.691.164,00€
MEASURE 4.1.3 Regional Observatory for Social Inclusion	2 c) Support of ICT applications for e-Government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health	5.724.419,00€
MEASURE 1.1.4 Access to energy	<i>4c) Support of energy efficiency, smart energy management and use of renewable energy sources in public infrastructures, including public buildings, and in the field of housing</i>	6.000.000,00€
MEASURE 4.1.6. External Evaluation of the Strategy MEASURE 4.1.7. Diffusion of the Strategy	ECB Technical Assistance	1.340.283,00€

The Sectoral Operational Programmes of the NSRF 2014-2020

Apart from the resources of the O.P.*Crete*, there are funding opportunities for the Strategy for the Combating of Poverty and the Promotion of Social Inclusion of the Region of Crete in the Sectoral Operational Programmes of the Partnership Agreement (ex-NSRF) 2014-2020, especially for those actions that are mentioned in the National Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion.

Flagship Interventions of NSRF 2014-2020 for the funding of actions of the Social Inclusion Strategy apart from T.O. 9

- ❑ Creation of **networks of social care enterprises** (O.P. *Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation*)
- ❑ Development of **social and humanitarian research** in the fields of social inclusion, poverty combating and elimination of all discriminations (O.P. *Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation*)
- ❑ **Combating school dropout** (O.P. *Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning*)
- ❑ Access of vulnerable young people to **apprenticeship programmes** (O.P. *Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning*)
- ❑ Access of vulnerable young people to **traineeship and vocational experience programmes**
- ❑ **Subsidisation of New Jobs** in the field of social care Programmes (O.P. *Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning*)
- ❑ **Administrative and organisational reform** of core social inclusion institutions (O.P. *Reform of the Public Sector*)
- ❑ Creation of a Social Inclusion **e-Platform** (O.P. *Reform of the Public Sector*)

Table Complementary sources of funding of the Social Inclusion Strategy by Sectoral O.P. of the NSRF (2015-2020)

Initiatives of the Strategy	Sectoral O.P.
Creation of new private businesses through developmental support in the fields of health and social care (MEASURE 3.1.1)	<i>Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</i>
Promotion of researchers on social inclusion (MEASURE 4.1.5)	<i>Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</i>
Prevention of school dropout (MEASURE 2.2.2)	<i>Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning</i>
Access of vulnerable young people to traineeship and vocational experience programmes (MEASURE 3.1.1)	<i>Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning</i>
Access of unemployed individuals to Subsidisation of New Jobs Programmes (MEASURE 3.1.1)	<i>Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning</i>
Access of unemployed individuals to Local Counselling and Training Programmes (MEASURE 3.1.1)	<i>Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning</i>
Access of unemployed individuals to Creation of New Businesses Programmes (MEASURE 3.1.1)	<i>Human Resources Development – Education and Lifelong Learning</i>
Rationalisation of processes and tools of the Directorate of Social Care, Directorate of Public Health and Directorate of Lifelong Learning, Employment and Commerce of the Region of Crete (MEASURE 4.1.2)	<i>Reform of the Public Sector</i>
Creation and operation of the Social Inclusion Portal of the Region of Crete (MEASURE 4.1.3)	<i>Reform of the Public Sector</i>
Training of the officials of public organisations of territorial competence of the Region of Crete on matters of planning, implementation and monitoring of inclusion policies (MEASURE 4.1.4)	<i>Reform of the Public Sector</i>

2.2. Private Resources

All private resources allocated to the Strategy's Priorities are a complementary source of funding and include, indicatively, in order of importance:

- ❑ creation of new jobs in the **private sector** for the Strategy' target groups
- ❑ creation of new jobs in the field of **social entrepreneurship** for the Strategy's target groups
- ❑ creation of new apprenticeship positions in the private sector for the Strategy's target groups
- ❑ **Corporate Social Responsibility** Programmes²²
- ❑ **Microfinance or microcredit**²³
- ❑ **Donations by** natural and legal persons²⁴
- ❑ Organised **Sponsorships** by institutions of the non profit private sector
- ❑ Programmes for the **Collective raising of offers from the Internet** (*Crowdfunding*).

The promotion of the procedures to raise private funds will be coordinated by the **Project Management Team on Social Inclusion** and will be supported by the Integrated Information System (IIS).

Table. Indicative sources of funding for the Social Inclusion Strategy from private resources (2015-2020)

Measure of the Strategy	Basic Source of Funding	Targeted Budget
MEASURE 1.1.1. Access to basic commodities (Regional and Municipal Social Grocery Stores)	Corporate social responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Banks ❑ Super markets ❑ Members of the Hellenic Network of Corporate Social Responsibility ❑ Private businesses 	500.000,00€
MEASURE 1.1.3. Access to housing (Social Solidarity Shelters / Social Accommodation Programmes)	Corporate social responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Banks ❑ Construction companies ❑ Public Utility Companies ❑ Members of the Hellenic Network of Corporate Social Responsibility ❑ Private businesses 	500.000,00€
MEASURE 1.1.6. Access to cultural and recreational activities (Programme <i>I meet Crete</i>)	Corporate social responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises ❑ Banks ❑ Associations of Hotel Owners of Crete 	500.000,00€

²² The European Commission defines Corporate Social Responsibility as *the concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis*. cf. **European Commission, Green Paper - Promotion of a European Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility** COM (2001), 366.

²³ *Microfinance/microcredit* concerns loans granted by private or public banks, non-banking microcredit institutions and non-profit organisations for the following categories:

- a) people who lost or are at risk of losing their job or face difficulties in their effort to enter or re-enter the labour market
- b) people who are at risk of social exclusion or vulnerable people who have no easy access to the mainstream credit market and want to set up or further develop their own microenterprise (even as self-employed)
- c) microenterprises, mainly of social economy
- d) microenterprises which employ people from high risk of exclusion categories

²⁴ For example the donation by the International Humanitarian Organisation **International Orthodox Christian Charities** (IOCC) to the 7th Health Region of Crete of healthcare consumables for a total of 827.000 \$. cf. 29.12.2014 Press Release by the Administration of the Health Region of Crete.

MEASURE 2.1.1 Access to pre-school education services (Nursery schools - Kindergartens)	Donations and Sponsorships	500.000,00€
MEASURE 2.1.2 Access to recreational, amusement and creative activity services (Playgrounds)	Corporate social responsibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Banks <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Companies <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Companies <input type="checkbox"/> Private businesses	500.000,00€
MEASURE 2.2.2 Prevention of school dropout (Social coaching schools)	Corporate social responsibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Associations of Owners of Coaching Schools for Middle School <input type="checkbox"/> Associations of Owners of Coaching Schools of foreign languages	200.000,00€
MEASURE 3.1.2. Access of vulnerable groups to Social Entrepreneurship actions	<input type="checkbox"/> Social entrepreneurship <input type="checkbox"/> Microcredit <input type="checkbox"/> Investment Funds	500.000,00€

2.3. EU Actions

Apart from the relevant resources by the approved NSRF 2014-2020 (which could be over **150 million € when combined with the development of the proper coordination and maturity procedures for similar projects**), the Region of Crete will use in a systematic and coordinated way all complementary funding options for the Social Inclusion Strategy through other resources of the **EU Cohesion Policy** and the **EU Asylum and Migration Policy**. The acceleration of the relevant procedures will be coordinated by the **Project Management Team on Social Inclusion** and will be supported by an Integrated Information System (IIS).

A. Use of resources of the EU Cohesion Policy

The following sources will be used (indicatively):

(a) The **Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived** (total budget for Greece 330.000.000 €) as a direct support mechanism for groups which are at high risk of impoverishment and exclusion²⁵, which will carry on the basic functions of the **Programme for Food Distribution to the Most Deprived**. The Fund will help reducing absolute poverty by: a) supporting national programmes for benefits in kind to the most deprived in order to provide relief from food deprivation, lack of shelter and material deprivation suffered²⁶ through partner organisations²⁷ which are selected from the EU Member States , b) supporting ancillary measures

²⁵ The objectives of the Fund confirm the ability to directly use its resources in order to serve Axis 1 of the Strategy of the Region of Crete (meeting basic needs of people without sufficient subsistence resources)

²⁶ The Fund will focus on these extreme forms of material deprivation for two reasons: First, because they could threaten the very subsistence of the person who is in crisis and second, because insufficient nutrition and lack of basic commodities do not allow people to evade poverty and exclusion and to benefit from active employment policies.

²⁷ *Partner organisations* are defined as public institutions or non-profit organisations which offer food or other commodities to the most deprived directly or indirectly or through other partner organisations.

which supplement food and commodities' provision and contribute to the social inclusion of the most deprived.

(b) The **Solidarity Fund**²⁸ as a direct aid mechanism to those EU Member States which face extraordinary needs due to unforeseen events and natural disasters.

(c) The **European Globalisation Adjustment Fund**²⁹ (total budget for all Member States 150.000.000 €) as a support mechanism for people who lose their job because of significant structural changes in global commerce due to globalisation or because of the global financial crisis. The eligible actions of the Fund include active employment measures, in the form of coordinated customised services which aim at facilitating the reintegration of those beneficiaries for whom support is requested (especially disabled, elderly and young unemployed people) in employment or self-employment.

(d) The **European Young People's Employment Initiative** as a support mechanism for the employment of young people up to 29 years old (total budget for Greece 342.000.000 €).

(e) Programmes of the **European Investment Bank** which facilitate the granting of loans to projects in the fields of a) cohesion and convergence and b) support to small and medium enterprises that operate in the field of social care.

(f) The **EU Social Entrepreneurship Funds** as a support mechanism of social businesses, by improving their fundraising efficiency from those investment funds that want to allocate resources to those businesses.

(g) The **European Programmes** of the Objective *European Territorial Cooperation*

(h) The **EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation** (total budget for all EU Member States 958.000.000 €) as a support mechanism of EU Member States' social initiatives, by replacing relevant actions of the 2007-2013 period: a) the Programme *Progress*, b) the Programme *EURES*³⁰ and c) the *European Progress Microfinance Facility for Employment and Social Inclusion*³¹.

(i) The **Programme Horizon 2020** (total budget for all EU Member States 70 billion €) as a support mechanism of research and innovation activities³² in the field of social inclusion (at national and international level).

(j) Programmes of the **European Fund for Strategic Investments** (in the context of the European Commission's new **Investment Plan**) following the approval of the Regulation on enforcement which is included in the relevant **Announcement by the European Commission**

²⁸ cf. Regulation (EC) 2012/2002 of the Council of 11/11/2002 on the establishment of an EU Solidarity Fund, EU L 311/14.11.2002.

²⁹ cf. Regulation (EU) 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17/12/2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and the repeal of Regulation (EC) 1927/2006, EU L 347/20.12.2013.

³⁰ The Programme supported the activities within the EURES network, that is the specialised services which were specified by the Member States of the European Economic Area (EAA) and the Swiss Confederation, jointly with other stakeholders, for the development of the exchange and diffusion of information, and also other forms of cooperation for the promotion of geographic mobility of workers.

³¹ The Programme was established in 2010 by the Decision 283/2010/EU aiming at facilitating the access of entrepreneurs to funding, especially those furthest from the labour market and of social economy businesses. In Greece, the *Progress* microcredit providers were the **Pancretan Cooperative Bank** and the Cooperative Bank of Peloponnese, who received 900.000 € and 4 million € respectively.

³² Par. 1 of article 2 of the Regulation 1291/2013 defines *research and innovation activities* as the full spectrum of activities of research, technological development, demonstration and innovation, including the promotion of cooperation with third countries and international organisations, dissemination and optimisation of results and stimulation of the training and mobility of researchers.

Table Representative Initiatives of the Directorate of Social Care for the use of EU funds

PROJECT TITLE	OBJECT	TOTAL BUDGET
<i>Social Needs' Networking Centre</i> (Designed and submitted on August 2014 in the context of an invitation by the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation - EASI 2014-2020)	1. Direct Access of vulnerable groups to Health and Welfare Services 2. Interconnection of Social Services	1.497.000 €
Food distribution and basic material assistance programme 2015-2020 of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (Designed and submitted on February 2015)	Alleviation of food deprivation and severe material deprivation.	Will be specified by an invitation of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security & Social Solidarity

B. The use of funds from the EU Asylum and Migration Policy

The sources of the **EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund** (total budget for Greece 259.348.877 €) will be used, to support the following actions with Crete being their territorial reference:

- reception and support of asylum applicants
- improvement of housing infrastructures and reception systems
- resettlement procedures for third-country nationals who are resettling or have resettled in Crete
- social inclusion of third-country nationals who are lawful residents of Crete.

Social inclusion of immigrants is, according to Regulation 516/2014, a separate object of the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, which supports the following actions by the EU Member States for the 2014-2020 period:

- (a) setting up and developing such integration strategies with the participation of local or regional actors, where appropriate, including needs analysis, the improvement of integration indicators, and evaluation, including participatory assessments, in order to identify best practices;
- (b) providing advice and assistance in areas such as housing, means of subsistence, administrative and legal guidance, health, psychological and social care, child care and family reunification;
- (c) actions introducing third-country nationals to the receiving society and actions enabling them to adapt to it, to inform them about their rights and obligations, to participate in civil and cultural life and to share the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- (d) measures focusing on education and training, including language training and preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market;
- (e) actions designed to promote self-empowerment and to enable third-country nationals to provide for

themselves;

- (f) actions that promote meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between third-country nationals and the receiving society, and actions to promote acceptance by the receiving society, including through the involvement of the media;
- (g) actions promoting both equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to third-country nationals' dealings with public and private services, including adaptation of those services to dealing with third-country nationals;
- (h) capacity-building of beneficiaries, including through exchanges of experience and best practices, and networking.

Table. Funding of the Social Inclusion Strategy by EU actions (2015-2020)

Measure of the Strategy	Source of funding	Targeted Budget
MEASURE 1.1.1. Access to basic commodities	Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived	35.000.000,00€
MEASURE 1.1.3. Access to housing (Social Solidarity Shelters / Social Accommodation Programmes)	European Fund for Strategic Investments	10.000.000,00€
MEASURE 1.1.4. Access to energy	European Fund for Strategic Investments	5.000.000,00€
MEASURE 3.1.1. Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to programmes of active employment policies	European Globalisation Adjustment Fund <i>European Young People's Employment Initiative</i>	1.000.000,00€ 5.000.000,00€
MEASURE 3.1.2. Access of vulnerable groups of unemployed individuals to Social Entrepreneurship actions	EU Social Entrepreneurship Funds	5.000.000,00€
MEASURE 3.2.4. Promotion of deinstitutionalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration	European Investment Bank	5.000.000,00€
MEASURE 3.2.5 Promotion of active ageing	Programme <i>Horizon 2020</i>	500.000,00€
MEASURE 3.2.6 Access to services which support the solvency of poor households	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation 2014-2020	500.000,00€
MEASURE 4.1.1. Promotion of Social Diversity	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation 2014-2020	500.000,00€
MEASURE 4.1.2 Development of Social Innovation	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation 2014-2020 Operational Programme URBACT III	500.000,00€ 500.000,00€
MEASURE 4.1.3 Regional Observatory for Social Inclusion	Programme <i>Horizon 2020</i>	2.000.000,00€
MEASURE 4.1.5 Promotion of targeted research	Programme <i>Horizon 2020</i>	2.000.000,00€