



Brussels, 7.12.2021
C(2021) 9141 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.12.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10174 approving certain elements of the operational programme "East Macedonia and Thrace" for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region East Macedonia and Thrace in Greece

CCI 2014GR16M2OP014

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006¹, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 10174, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 4705, certain elements of the operational programme "East Macedonia and Thrace" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') and the European Social Fund ('ESF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region East Macedonia and Thrace in Greece were approved.
- (2) On 10 November 2021 Greece submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Greece proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (b)(i) to (v), (c)(iii) and (iv) and (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 2 and points (a) to (c) of paragraph 3 of Article 96 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 10174.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in the transfer of the ERDF allocation from priority axes 2 "Improving the region's attractiveness as a place of establishment for businesses and people" and 5 "Technical Assistance" to priority axes 1 "Strengthening Competitiveness of the regional economy" and 3 "Infrastructures for human resource development and strengthening of social cohesion". Furthermore, the amendment consists in the transfer of the ESF allocation

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

from priority axis 6 "Technical Assistance" to priority axis 4 "Human Resources and Social Inclusion". Consequently, the budget of most thematic objectives and the corresponding output and result indicators, including the performance framework have been adjusted.

- (4) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the response to the COVID-19 outbreak and, in particular, by the need to allocate additional resources to finance the measures to support businesses and the health sector to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme indicators are modified to reflect the transfer of funds accordingly. The request for the amendment sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013² and (EU) No 1304/2013³ of the European Parliament and of the Council, and the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (5) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 5 November 2021 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.
- (6) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (7) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.
- (8) Implementing Decision C(2014) 10174 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10174 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the operational programme "East Macedonia and Thrace" for joint support from the ERDF and the ESF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region East Macedonia and Thrace in Greece for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 13 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 10 November 2021, are hereby approved:";
2. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

² Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

³ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 7.12.2021

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission

