

ISI – INNOPOLE Regional Innovation Pole of the Region of Western Greece

The Regional Innovation Pole of Western Greece is a union of public and private sector key players in the Region of Western Greece aiming at the development, promotion and exploitation of innovation in the Region. The pole has succeeded in bringing together universities, technological institutions, research institutions, business support organizations, regional authorities and the entrepreneurial stakeholders of Western Greece in the effort to combine their capabilities and to facilitate the overall growth of the Region. The Regional Innovation Pole focuses on three axes that represent the areas of strategic importance of the Region of Western Greece: Technologies of Informatics and Communications, Safety and Technologies of Foods, Environmental Management and Protection. The tools utilized by the pole comprise 9 R&D consortia, 4 infrastructure development activities, 3 spin-off companies, 1 technological platform, 1 educational / training course, 6 horizontal activities for the development of tools and methods for the pole viability.

The Regional Innovation Pole of Western Greece was funded by the Greek Operational Program Competitiveness under priority axis 4 “Technological Innovation & Research” and measure 4.6 “Creation of Regional Innovation Poles”. The overall budget of the project amounted to 4, 39 M€ of which 25.6% was private sector participation while public expense came from the Greek state (50%) and from the European Union (50%). The project followed a public call procedure and was accepted on a competitive way.

<http://www.innopolewest.gr>

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths:

- Both, public and private sector players are involved which exploits the maximum of potential;
- Triple-helix-approach: academia, government, and industry, as well as R&D, business support organizations, regional authorities and entrepreneurs;
- Good balance in the participation of various players in the pool, which gives a warranty for successful establishment of bonds between academia/research and the entrepreneurial world with a focus on the enhancement of the technological and innovation performance of the Region of Western Greece;
- Well-defined hierarchy at the project management.
- Strong presence of research units (2 Universities, of which the University of Patras participates through 10 different laboratories; 3 Research institutions, 2 Technological institutions);
- Sources of funding are clearly defined (The overall budget of the project amounted to 4,39 M€ of which 25.6% - private sector participation; public expense comes by 50% from the Greek state and by 50% by the European Union).

Weaknesses:

- Not described current results of the pool activity;
- Are there any barriers to get into this circle of InnoPole as an outsider of InnoPole within the Region of Western Greece? –If yes, this might scare off newcomers;
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Opportunities:

- The project is in accordance with the EU strategy;
- Full exploitation of competencies within the area by building a strong network within the Region of Western Greece;
- The project has been regarded as the second most successful Regional Innovation Pole in Greece by the Ministry of Development (there are 5 of them in Greece);
- Opportunity to broaden the geographical reach to allow growth not only within the instant area of Western Greece.

Threats:

- 75% of the financing of the project depends on government and EU funding;
- How was the crisis managed?
- The influence of political and economic instability isn't considered.