

3rd Evaluation of the Implementation of the Epirus Region OP 2014 - 2020

Executive Summary November 2023





## The Development Vision

• The structure of the OP "Epirus 2014-2020" focused on the Region's Development Vision, which is:

«To make the Region worth-living and sustainable, having outward-looking development, focused on productive activities which are comparative advantages and reinforce the local identity, respecting the environment, history and the citizen of Epirus»



# **Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy**

In the context of achieving this vision, particular emphasis is placed on the implementation of the Regional Strategy "Smart Specialisation", with support focusing on the following areas:

- Primary sector processing agri-food gastronomy
- Industry of experience: Tourism, Culture & Creative Economy
- Academic Institutions, ICT (Information & Communication Technologies) and Youth Entrepreneurship
- Health and Wellness



# **Program Outline - 1**

- Five Strategic Objectives allocated to an equal number of Priority Axis -PA (plus two PAs for technical assistance)
- Ten Thematic Objectives
- Twenty-five Investment Priorities
- Two Funds (ERDF, ESF)



## **Program Outline - 2**

#### Priority Axis 1: Enhancing regional competitiveness by developing innovation and ICT

- •T.O. 1. Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation
- •T.O. 2. Improving access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), their use and quality
- •T.O. 3. Improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises

#### **Priority Axis 2**: Environmental protection and sustainable development

- •T.O. 4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- •T.O. 5. Promoting climate change adaptation and risk prevention
- •T.O. 6. Conservation and protection of the environment and promotion of resource efficiency

#### **Priority Axis 3**: Strengthening transport infrastructure

•T.O. 7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

#### **Priority Axis 4**: Strengthening education, health and welfare infrastructures

- •T.O. 9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, particularly with the priority of health and social infrastructure
- •T.O. 10 Investing in education training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning

#### Priority Axis 5: Human Resources Development, Social Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination

- •T.O. 8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
- •T.O. 9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any discrimination

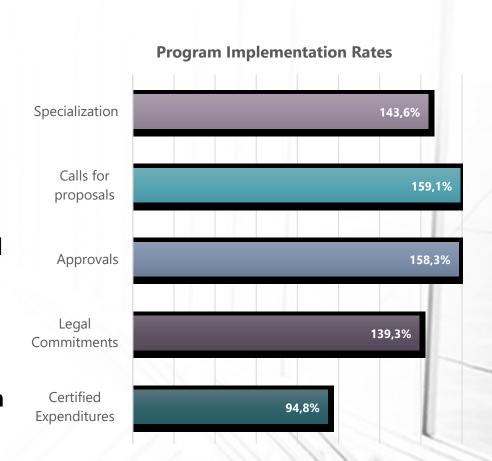
#### Priority Axis 6: ESF Technical Assistance

Priority Axis 7: ERDF Technical Assistance



# Implementation Course (up to 07.11.2023)

- the Budget of the Programme amounts to EUR
   295.5 million of which EUR 236,4 million constitute the Community Assistance
- 92 actions with a total budget of EUR 424.31
   million have been specialised
- 108 Calls for proposals with a total public expenditure of EUR 470.12 million have been issued
- 5,386 projects with a total eligible public expenditure of EUR 467.71 million have been approved for support by OP
- Legal Commitments amount to EUR 411.69 million
- Certified Expenditures amount to EUR 280.2
   million



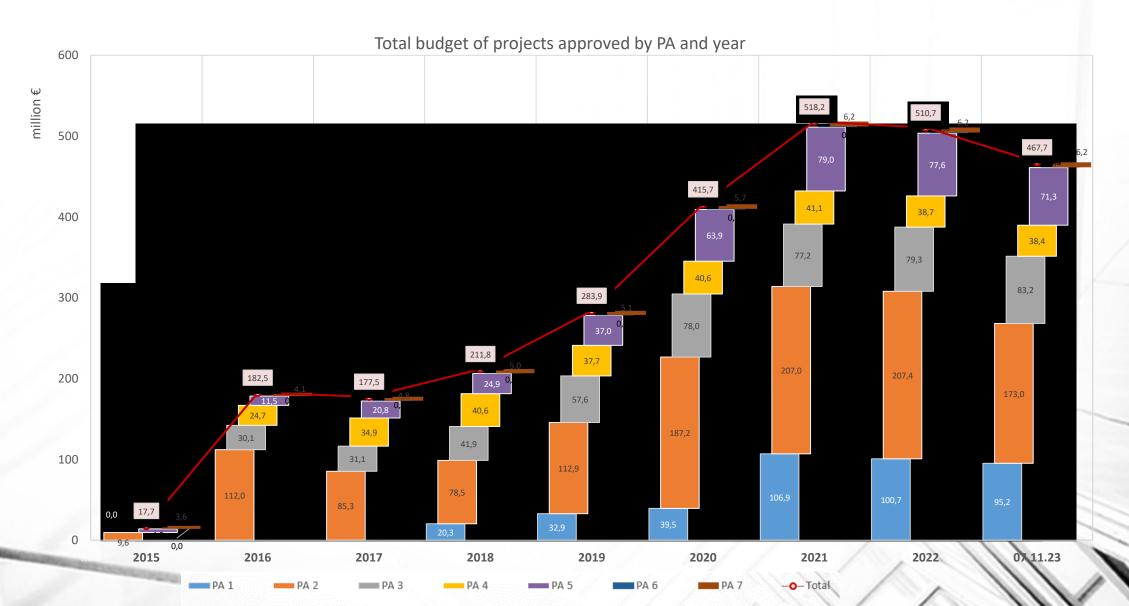


# **Funded Projects**

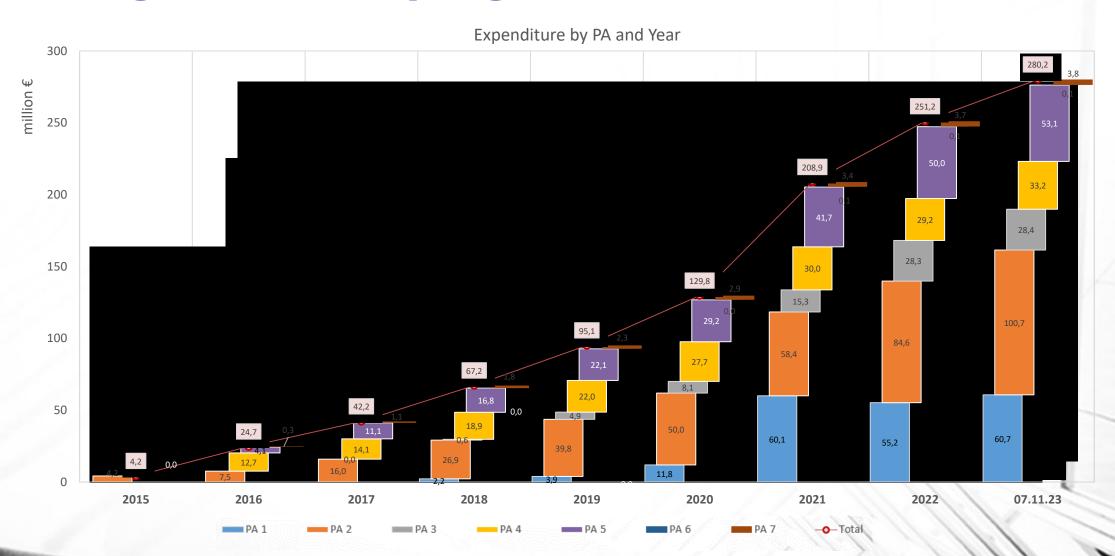
In total, until 07.11.2023, the Program has intergrated:

- > 237 public procurement projects (projects other than State aid), of which:
  - 99 projects have been completed, with a total budget of €60.01 million
  - 101 projects are in progress and it is estimated that they will be completed by the end of 2023
  - 13 projects are ongoing projects related to the operation of social structures whose funding will be transferred to the programming period 2021-2027
  - 8 projects are planned to be transferred to the new programming period
  - 3 projects are planned to be disengaged from the Program
  - 9 projects are characterized as "phasing"
  - 4 projects are characterized as "incomplete" projects
- > **5,149 state aid projects**, of which 4,982 projects with a total budget of €67.12 million have already been completed, while the rest are estimated to be completed on time by the end of 2023.

# **Progress of the program - 1**



# **Progress of the program - 2**





# **Program evaluation**

- In line with the current status in the areas of intervention of the Epirus Regional OP, the focus of the Program's strategy on its Strategic Priorities remains still relevant.
- The **high degree of relevance and synergy** of the development planning of OP "Epirus" is confirmed.
- The contribution of the program to dealing with the economic effects
  of the COVID-19 pandemic by including relevant actions has been
  significant.
- Completion of selected projects by the end of Programming Period 2014-2020:
  - **ERDF** available resources: absorption with overcommitment by ~17,3%
  - **ESF** available resources: absorption with overcommitment by ~11,2%