Region of Central Macedonia, Greece
European Entrepreneurial Region 2018

EER ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

“BUILDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS OF THE FUTURE
BRUSSELS, 24TH JANUARY 2018
Region of Central Macedonia

- 2nd largest region in Greece, 17.2% of Greece’s Population,
- GDP 78% of the Greek Average and 57% of EU average.
- 25% unemployment, “Brain Drain”
- Low levers of Investments in R&D from businesses.
- Competitiveness index of Greece 87th out of 137 countries (Global Competitiveness report WEF)
- European Regional Competitiveness Index 2016
  Region of Central Macedonia 11.7 (242/263)

- 2nd largest Industrial Centre in Greece,
- Wide range of economic activities
- High level of education and researchers
- 25% of Greece’ exports in Agrofood products
Region of Central Macedonia, Mapping the actors of the Region’s Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

- Smart Specialization Strategy
- Regional Operational Programme of Central Macedonia 2014-2020
- EU Funded projects, Interreg Europe, Horizon 2020,
  - Formulate action plans for various areas of our economy such as
    - Circular economy,
    - Transfer of Innovation from Urban to rural Areas,
    - Promotion of Cultural Tourism,
    - Innovation in the Agrofood sector though Public Private Partnerships
- JRC Smart Specialization Thematic Platforms in agrofood sector
Region of Central Macedonia,
Insights of the mapping

- Smart Specialization Strategy
  - Agrofood, Tourism, Textiles, Building materials
  - Strategy not so much specialized.
  - Local Ecosystem does not understand the need to specialize

- Regional Operational Programme of Central Macedonia 2014-2020

- Action plans
  - Weakness of Policy Makers to transform the action plans into actions

- Thematic Smart Specialization Platforms
  - The lever of Innovation is not high,
  - RCM’s Institutes and companies are mainly followers and adopt technologies,
  - not adequate impact on tackling unemployment of boosting economy or developing a whole entrepreneurial ecosystem around them,
Region of Central Macedonia,
How did it helped us to formulate the Region’s Entrepreneurial Strategy

- A continuous process of collecting data, exchanging ideas and reviewing of policies had to be established at a Regional Level
- Establishment of a Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support
  - Review the Smart Specialization Strategy
  - Liaison office for Research institutes and Entrepreneurs
  - Depository of Good practices and studies
  - Act as an ONE STOP SHOP for Entrepreneurs
  - Act as an intermediate for big projects
Thank You

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