



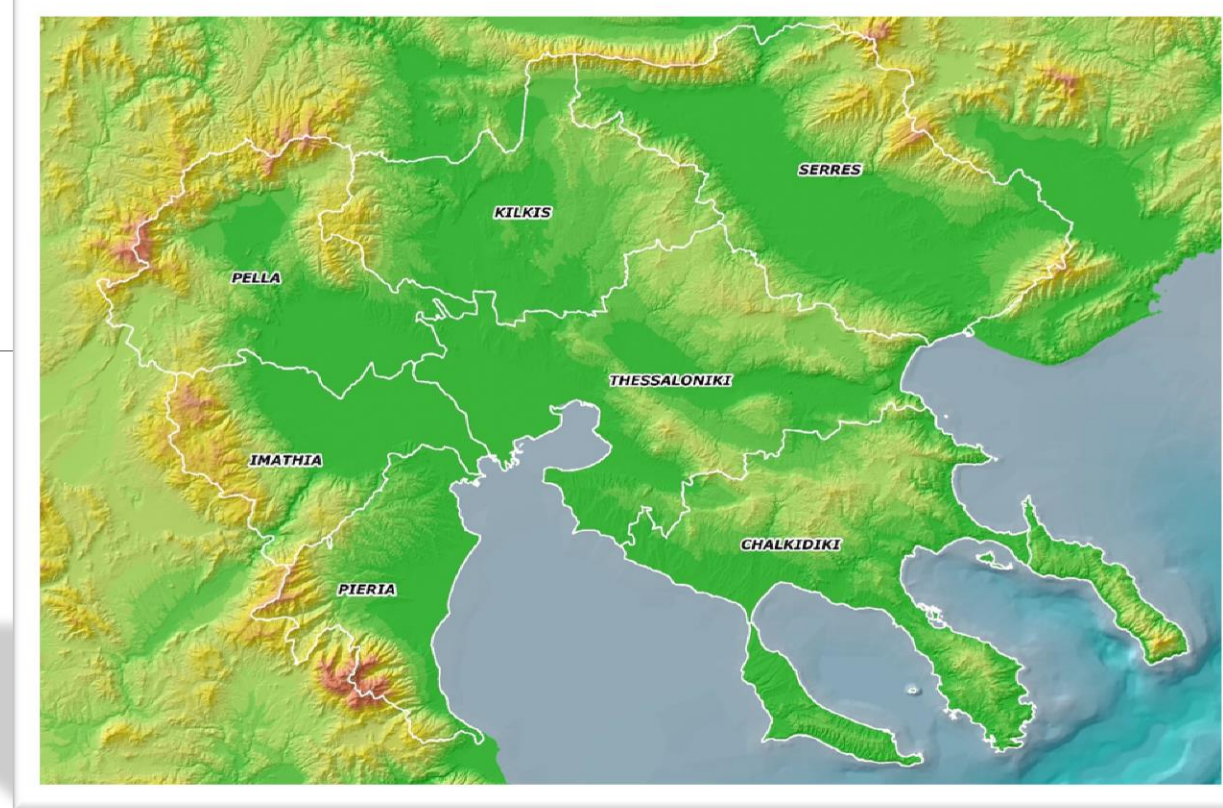
Region of Central Macedonia
European Entrepreneurial Region 2018



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 through 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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