Key benefits and characteristics of the business ecosystem of the Region of Thessaly
"Our message is summarized in three words: Invest in Greece, invest in Thessaly. Invest in a Region that creates a positive business environment, a Region that creates opportunities and is a pioneer in the effort to a Greece of production and work.".
In recent years in Thessaly have took place

4,719 projects

✓ with a total budget of €4.8 billion
and more than **2,540 investments** have proceeded from existing and new businesses totaling €670 million, with the result of keeping or creating thousands of jobs.
Implemented and Planned activities during the EER year

Project for the Support of Innovative Youth Entrepreneurship and New Innovative Enterprises in the Region of Thessaly.

☑ The Region of Thessaly in the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities (EURegionsWeek) 2018 announced the multilateral youth support of Thessaly through the Center for Youth Innovative Entrepreneurship

☑ The first implementation steps will begin in April 2019.
Implemented and Planned activities during the EER year

The creation of the Center for Youth Innovative Entrepreneurship in Thessaly in collaboration with Technopolis and University of Applied Sciences of Thessaly, is structured in three axes of action:

- The first seeks to develop the digital skills of professionals and develop youth entrepreneurship
- The second is for the Region to acquire a recognizable advantage with a technological sector with strong local characteristics
- The third is to gain an identifiable advantage in the development of innovative technologies in the agri-food industry.
Implemented and Planned activities during the EER year

*Google's collaboration with the Region of Thessaly*

The aim of the cooperation is to enhance the digital skills of local entrepreneurs in the Region.

Its duration is from January to May 2019. The program is in progress.

- It concerns the provision of free counseling and educational services to local tour operators, regarding digital skills and tools.
Actions of the Regional Operational Program of Thessaly Enterprise Enhancement


10 million EUR to the Entrepreneurship Fund II to enhance the liquidity of the Enterprises of Thessaly by providing loans and guarantees. The aim is to improve the competitiveness of enterprises by improving their access to finance.
Directly proclaimed:

1. **10 million** EUR from the Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework of Thessaly to strengthen *Existing Businesses* targeting in the field of the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3).


3. Upgrading, complementing and expanding *Research Infrastructures* of Thessaly, aiming at accreditation, for the service areas of strategic interest of the Region with a budget of **3 million EUR**.
Next Proclamations within 2019:

1. Enterprise and Research Co-operation Actions, 1 million EUR from the Region.

2. Entrepreneurship and business collaboration - research entities, involving clusters, strengthening export and areas of smart specialization (RIS) through an Intermediate Management Body.

3. New Action to strengthen Research Infrastructures of Thessaly, under the provisions of smart specialization RIS.
1. The participation of Thessaly was particularly great in the **Researching – Innovating Programme** of the Operational Programme Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation 2014-2020 (EPAnEK). Its aim is to link research and innovation to entrepreneurship and enhance competitiveness, productivity and extroversion of businesses to international markets, with a view to transition to quality innovative entrepreneurship and increase domestic value added.

2. **Integration of 32 enterprises** into the Development Law with a budget of 43 million EUR. These are new and existing businesses in Thessaly that will invest in order to increase their productivity.

4. **Call of 8 million EUR** for manufacturing enterprises of under 600.000 € of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 - sub-measure 4.2: "Support for investment in the manufacturing / marketing and / or development of agricultural products".

5. **Rural Development Program 2014-2020 LEADER (Local Development with the Initiative of the Local Communities)»** - Measure 19.2, invitations for private interventions of total grant budget of **13.8 million EUR**.
**Conferences / Events**

**1st DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE OF THESSALY**

It was held at the headquarters of the Region of Thessaly on 15\(^{th}\) & 16\(^{th}\) of March 2019, organized by the Region of Thessaly, the Municipality of Larissa, the Association of Thessalian Industries & Enterprises (STHEV) and the Solid Waste Management Body of the Prefecture of Larissa.

The **aim** of the conference was to explore the comparative advantages of the Region of Thessaly in the agri-food sector, health, industry, innovation and all those productive sectors that can contribute to sustainable and long-term development.
Event on March 22 of the Economic Chamber -Regional Department of Thessaly and the Region of Thessaly, with theme “The Tax Justice as a Vehicle for Development – Aiming at a simple and stable tax system".