



Brussels, 7.12.2021  
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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 7.12.2021**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10173 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Continental Greece" for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region Continental Greece in Greece**

**CCI 2014GR16M2OP007**

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 10173, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 4811, certain elements of the operational programme "Continental Greece" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') and the European Social Fund ('ESF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region Continental Greece in Greece were approved.
- (2) On 10 November 2021 Greece submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Greece proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (b)(i) to (v) and (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 2 and point (c) of paragraph 3 of Article 96 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 10173.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in the transfer of funds from priority axes 2 "Improving the access, use and quality of information and communication technologies", 4 "Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy in all sectors", 5 "Promoting climate change adaptation, prevention and risk management", 6 "Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency", 9 "Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty - ERDF" and 11 "Invest in

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

education, skills acquisition and lifelong learning" to priority axes 1 "Enhancing research, technological development and innovation", 3 "Improving the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises", 7 "Promoting sustainable transport and eliminating bottlenecks in key network infrastructure", all supported by the ERDF, and from priority axis 8 "Promoting high quality sustainable employment and supporting employee mobility" to priority axis 10 "Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty - ESF", all supported by the ESF. The corresponding output and result indicators, including the performance framework, are modified accordingly.

- (4) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the response to the COVID-19 outbreak and, in particular, by the need to finance measures to support business and health sectors as well as by the need to strengthen some priority axes that have high rates of fund absorption by transferring funds from priority axes that have lower absorption rates. The programme indicators are adjusted following transfer of funds. The request for the amendment sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013<sup>2</sup> and (EU) No 1304/2013<sup>3</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, and the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (5) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 27 September 2021 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.
- (6) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (7) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.
- (8) Implementing Decision C(2014) 10173 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10173 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the operational programme "Continental Greece" for joint support from the ERDF and the ESF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region Continental Greece in Greece for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 13 December 2014, as last

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 10 November 2021, are hereby approved:";

2. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

*Article 2*

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 7.12.2021

*For the Commission*  
*Elisa FERREIRA*  
*Member of the Commission*

