

# **OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING"**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Operational Programme "Education and Lifelong Learning", like all Greek OP of the 4<sup>th</sup> Programming Period that are co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), concerns all 13 of the nation's regions, thus also covering the "Convergence" and "Regional Competitiveness and Employment" goals.

## **2. BUDGET**

The Total Co-funded Budget from the E.U. amounts to EUR 2,058,000,000, of which EUR 1,440,000,000 is from Community Resources and EUR 618,000,000 from National Resources. In addition to this amount, it is estimated that National Resources amounting to EUR 157,000,000 will also be earmarked to cover the cost of projects that are not co-funded by the E.U., such as anticipated earnings, etc. The total sum is estimated to reach EUR 2,215,000,000.

## **3. OP STRATEGY – GOALS**

The goal of the National Strategy for education is to increase the quantity, quality and effectiveness of investments in human capital, in order to upgrade the Greek educational and vocational training system.

The Programme is centred on four Strategic Goals, which correspond to its four thematic Priority Axes. Each thematic Priority Axis is repeated three times, once for each regional category (convergence, phasing out, phasing in). Thus, each Strategic Goal of the Programme corresponds to three Priority Axes with exactly the same content, one per regional category.

## **4. PRIORITY AXES, SPECIAL OBJECTIVES**

### **PRIORITY AXES 1, 2, 3: "Upgrading the quality of education and promoting inclusion"**

#### **Special Objectives**

1. Reforming, modernizing and decentralizing the educational system – reinforcing the mobility of pupils and students.
2. Assessing progress made in the area of education by implementing systems of quality assurance – evaluation for all factors involved in the educational system.
3. Accelerating the rhythm of integrating new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the education process.
4. Reinforcing access and participation of all in the educational system and combating early school leaving, with emphasis on persons with disability and vulnerable social groups.
5. Reinforcing and improving the quality of teaching staff training in primary and secondary education, with emphasis on innovation and the use of ICTs.

**PRIORITY AXES 4, 5, 6: “Upgrading the systems of initial vocational training and vocational education and linking education with the labour market”**

**Special Objectives**

1. Redefining the role of initial vocational education and training and enriching its content.
2. Upgrading technical-vocational education in order to improve its attractiveness and effectiveness.
3. More effective links between the educational system and the labour market.

**PRIORITY AXES 7, 8, 9: “Enhancing lifelong education for adults”**

**Special Objectives**

1. Enhancing the system and the services of lifelong education and promoting equal access– increasing participation by establishing special incentives.
2. Development of distance learning.

**PRIORITY AXES 10, 11, 12: “Enhancing human capital in order to promote research and innovation”**

**Special Objectives**

1. Enhancing research and innovation through basic and applied research programmes and attracting high level researchers from abroad.
2. Upgrading the level of post-graduate studies in order to contribute to the production and dissemination of new knowledge, with main thrust on MST studies and ICTs.

**PRIORITY AXES 13, 14, 15: “Technical assistance for the implementation of the O.P”**

**Special Objectives**

1. Enhancing the quality of management.
2. Publicity and information.