“Smart Specialisation challenges and opportunities in the region of Crete”
-2017-

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Crete at a glance

- Largest island of Greece
- Size: 8336 square km
- Population (2011) 623,065
- GDP per capita in PPS
  - 2008: 21,400 EUR
  - 2014: 17,300 EUR
- Unemployment
  - 2010: 12%
  - 2014: 24%
- Main economic sectors:
  - Primary sector, Agriculture, Tourism, Services
Strong local academic community

- Scientific excellence
- Innovative research
- Significant R&D infrastructures
- International recognition

University of Crete

FORTH
FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY - HELLAS

Technical University of Crete

CIHEAM
MAI CHANIA
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania

NAGREF
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

HCMR
Hellenic Center of Marine Research

CET@rium

praxi
help-forward network

TEI of Crete
Technological Educational Institute of Crete
Regional Innovation Policymaking: experience from the past

- Strong performance in tailor-made regional innovation planning
- Place-based STI initiatives
- Tradition in bottom-up innovation actions
  - RITTS Crete Project (1997-2000)
  - Regional Innovation Pole (2007-2008)
Smart Specialisation practices

Starting point (2012)

RIS3 working group

Consultation Processes

Entrepreneurial Process of Discovery

Pilot actions (2016)

Innovation Platforms (2017)
RIS3 tools & infrastructures

Critical Success Factors for Crete

- Existence of unique regional assets and resources
- Regional Innovation Council of Crete
- Previous STI experience
- Complementary innovation actions conducted simultaneously (the case of CRINI Project)
- Institutions' maturity
RIS3 challenges for Crete (i)

✓ Concentrating natural resources and linking them with RIS3 opportunities

✓ Limited critical mass in the private sector

✓ Tailor-made micro and meso-level capacity building

✓ Regional VS national governance

✓ National & EU regulations VS RIS3 implementation

✓ Massive mobilisation of key local actors, critical synergies
RIS3 challenges for Crete (ii)

- Fiscal barriers and budget cuts
- Political setting challenges (e.g. political will of the national government to allow more regional STI action)
- Regional autonomy and paradigm shift (make better conditions for RIS3)
- Setting multilevel governance mechanisms (balancing top-down & bottom-up approaches)
- Monitoring and review system
Smart specialisation could help Crete:

- Make structural reforms and create new trajectories of growth
- Achieve improvements in the current developmental model of Crete
- Support quadruple helix linkages
- Change public administration pathogeneses
- Conduct a robust evidence-based analysis and make regional innovation planning in the long-run
RIS3 opportunities for Crete (ii)

✓ Stimulate international exploitation of local economic assets (e.g. local cuisine, agro-food products) to achieve a breakthrough

✓ Consider RIS3 as significant source of innovation learning and strategic thinking (e.g. establishment of permanent learning mechanisms)

▪ Do we still need ‘business as usual’ models in innovation policymaking?

▪ One-size-fits-all vs Tailor-made design & planning

✓ RIS3 approach helps Crete move regional innovation planning forward
  ▪ Improve STI practices at the regional level
  ▪ Identify the right innovation policy mix
RIS3 opportunities for Crete (iii)

If not now, when?

✓ Moving from ‘business as usual’ models to more sophisticated and tailor-made practices
Interesting questions for further reflection

✓ What types of capabilities would be more relevant for Crete to develop successful RIS3 strategies?

✓ How could Crete overcome the serious problems that the financial crisis has brought in the spotlight to implement its RIS3 strategies?