

Promoting RIS3:

Central Macedonia's One Stop Liaison Office (OSLO)

The **RIS3 One Stop Liaison Office (OSLO)** is an initiative to support the Region of Central Macedonia's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem and the design, monitoring, evaluation, and support in the implementation of its Smart Specialization Strategy. The office provides a structure of mediation and networking between the academic and research institutes with the business community, mapping business needs in the priority areas of the RIS3 Strategy and then organizing targeted actions to address them. Thus, OSLO supports investment and entrepreneurship by linking research, innovation and new technologies produced in the universities and research centers of the region with the real economy.

OSLO also provides information to SMES and entrepreneurs about calls and funding tools, and it operates under the supervision of the Department of Innovation Support of RCM.

CREATION OF OSLO

The initial RIS3 of the Region of Central Macedonia (RCM) was launched in 2015 based on general data and entrepreneurial discovery workshops. The need for a unit to collect data, conduct primary/secondary research and implement the entrepreneurial discovery process was identified. In 2018, RCM submitted the proposal "Mechanism to support Innovation and entrepreneurship-One Stop Liaison Office (OSLO)", which was approved and funded with a budget of almost one million euros from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), until 12/9/2023. New funding from the ERDF has been approved until 30/9/2029 with a budget of approximately two million euros.



SUCCESS NUMBERS:

2 studies with the participation of **459 entrepreneurs** and **237 researchers**

10 meetings with stakeholders of the regional innovation ecosystem

273 technical meetings with regional, national, and European **innovation ecosystem stakeholders.**

783 trends identified in **8 priority areas.**

54 monthly newsletters.

Organization of **12 workshops** for the entrepreneurial discovery process, with more than **336 participants.**



Operate a Regional Intelligence Information System with continuous data feeds and data retrieval and analysis for monitoring and evaluation of the RIS3 strategy. OSLO cooperates in data collection with research institutes and other organizations such as JRC, the Greek National Documentation Centre, ICAP Greece.

Support the coordination of actions to update the RIS3 Strategy for the new programming period 2021-2027, through:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of innovation ecosystem actions and interventions to collect data from ecosystem stakeholders.
- Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) in the RIS3 Priority Areas.

Inform stakeholders of the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem through the Digital information platform.

Implementation of promotional actions through informative workshops, press releases etc.

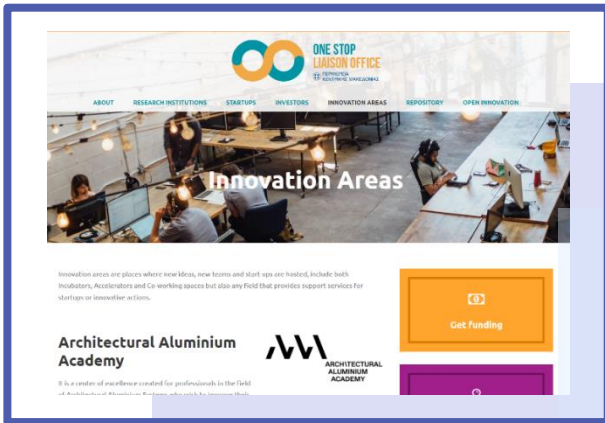
Monitoring international trends and developments at regional level in the RIS3 areas.

Advantages

of
OSLO



- 1 Being close to the market and adapt innovation strategy accordingly.
- 2 Boost knowledge and excellence, attracting investment.
- 3 Create new jobs by promoting entrepreneurship and internationalization.
- 4 Foster cooperation among SMEs, universities, and research institutes, which require a facilitator.
- 5 Easily accessible information for open calls, European initiatives, and potential synergies.
- 6 Increase the number of technology transfer agreements of all kinds (funded research, consulting services, collaborative research) between academic institutions and enterprises.
- 7 Economies of scale due to the systematic exchange of knowledge between the research and productive sectors at an international level.



One Stop Liaison Office also supports open innovation and connecting ecosystem stakeholders. In this regard, it just launched the **"Innovation for Society Awards"**, a new initiative promoting the importance of Research & Innovation in solving citizens' needs. After a consultation period to define a social innovation challenge, the solutions from start-ups, companies or individuals will be evaluated and awarded 30,000 euros.

