

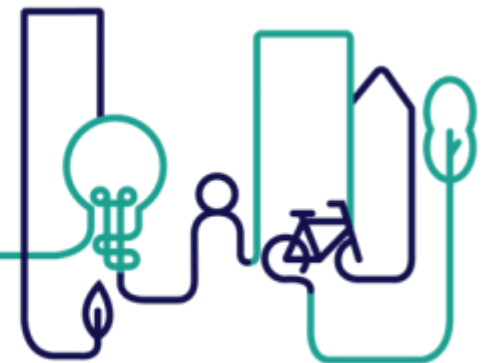


Presentation of Igoumenitsa

Plenary Session

EUI peer review - Coimbra, 28-29 November 2023

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Title of the strategy:

Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Municipality of Igoumenitsa, Greece

Territorial delivery mechanism: Integrated territorial investment

Main theme of the strategy:

"The emergence of the identity of the city that is inextricably linked to the port, oriented towards people and the environment. Also the promotion of the Municipality of Igoumenitsa as an eco-destination, utilizing its natural wealth and its contact with the sea."

National map



Strategy map



Urban or governance context:

Its about the coastline of Igoumenitsa, a small semi urban city in a strategic point for tourism and commerce due to the international port, but not yet a touristic centre or a destination point for visitors

Stage of development:

The stage of design and plan is finished and approved by the city council.

The SUD Strategy is submitted in the regional programme of Epirus 2021-2027 and we are waiting for its evaluation and also for the official decision of the actions that can and will be funded.

Till the final results, we will make all the other necessary arrangements so as to be ready to start the implementation. Projects must be implemented by 31 of December 2029.

For the actions that will not be able to be funded we will try to find other EU or National sources.



The port



Overall view of the city

Strategy of SUD of Municipality of Igoumenitsa

SAT4SUD Results

High scores (Strategic dimension)

- in line with the SUDS targets of the Region of Epirus

Low scores Governance

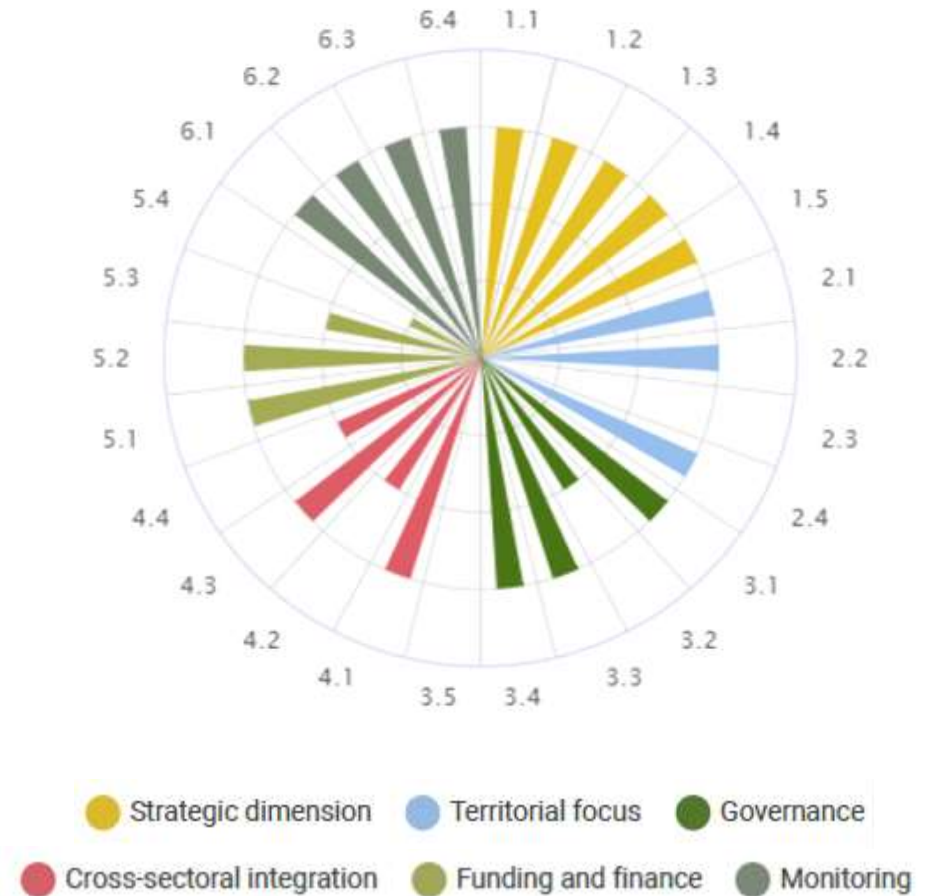
- insufficient staff and workload
- difficulties in coordinating services

Cross-sectoral integration

- difficulty in the active participation and involvement of citizens
- mechanisms for coordination among the bodies/departments not provided

Funding and finance

- private investors not included in funding the strategy
- different status of each public authority concludes to
- difficulties in coordination and monitoring
- searching for new funding mechanisms





Strategy of SUD of Municipality of Igoumenitsa

The three questions we would like to discuss....

Question 1

How to connect planned actions with means of financing beyond the National Strategic Reference Framework (ERDF programme "Epirus 2021-2027") funds so that the program can be implemented?

Question 2

How to ensure the engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the SUD strategy when their ideas could not be taken onboard in the design phase?

Question 3

How to organize the monitoring of the strategy and select correct and objective indicators?

QUESTION 1

How to connect planned actions with means of financing beyond the National Strategic Reference Framework (ERDF programme "Epirus 2021-2027") funds so that the program can be implemented?



State of play

Our main problem is finding financing for the implementation of the plan. There will be funding through the regional ERDF program for 2021-2027 of 20.000.000.00€, but it is barely enough for the implementation of the 1st priority projects, that makes it necessary to look for other National or European financial programs. Greek municipalities do not have their own income, so they cannot ensure financing for the various projects they need to implement. In particular the revenues of the municipality are almost zero, while the state subsidy for new projects and maintenance is only €500,000 per year, which makes it very difficult to implement the required projects

For the time being the Region of Epirus is the stakeholder.



Why is this an important question?

- Finding financing for the implementation of the plan (projects), otherwise the implementation of the strategy is threatened
- Some of the financing tools ask for co-funding from the city budget, which is very limited



What has been done & worked?

- Main funding mechanism is the regional ERDF program for 2021-2027 of 20M€ (out of 57M€) through a very competitive process



What has been done but should be improved?

- We have ensured the funding mechanism from the regional program for 2021-2027 of about 20M€ (out of 57M€)
- We are trying to find other financing sources and mechanisms through EU programmes (for example Interreg)

- The collaborations with private companies or other bodies are not very flexible or they are very time-consuming procedures that become prohibitive, because of the Greek legislation



What is being considered?

- How to collaborate with private bodies or companies
- Searching of new funding approaches and mechanism

QUESTION 2

How to organize the monitoring of the strategy and select correct and objective indicators?



State of play

- The monitoring progress of the projects and the strategy will be done through indicators such as:
 - i) Indicators for monitoring the course of Strategy implementation
 - a) Physical Completion Index: Number of Strategy Interventions completed per total Number of Interventions.
 - b) Absorption Rate: Expenditures incurred per total Intervention Budget.
 - ii) Indicators at the level of interventions

These refer to indicators of outputs and results from the interventions of the Strategy which are related to the corresponding target location of the Epirus 2021-2027 Regional Programme (our main funding source). This means achievement of the SUD Strategy in terms of indicators relates directly to the EU-funded projects achievement.
- Two departments of the Municipality will have the key role in organizing, monitoring and implementing the strategy, but they don't have much experience in monitoring procedures



Why is this an important question?

The departments of Municipality have experience in other European programs but don't have much experience in monitoring procedures, so the good practices that we will gain are crucial for the implementation of the whole strategy.



What has been done & worked?

- Output & result indicators are related to the corresponding target of the Epirus 2021-2027 Regional Programme
- Organizing, monitoring and implementing the strategy - key role: two departments of the Municipality, but lack experience in the monitoring procedures.



What has been done but should be improved?

- Monitoring uses the framework of the Epirus programme (so in theory everything is there) but how can we monitor the strategy with quality indicators and not only the financial progress



What is being considered?

- Good practices for taking correctives measures to achieve the goals of the strategy
- Data recording and processing need time and equipment
- Monitoring of the strategy and not only the financing progress



Thank you!

**EUI peer review
Coimbra, 28-29 November 2023**

Igoumenitsa

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