Mobilisation of H2020 and ESIF resources
Local and International actors to create a local growth pole in Cyprus
Overview

• **Nicosia Restarted – A vision**
  – Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy
  – RISE – Research Centre on Interactive Media, Smart Systems and Emerging Technologies

• **Synergistic Resource Utilisation**
  – ESIF + H2020 + National funds
Relevance to MLE

• **Synergies**
  – **Success due to urban development strategy**
    • Municipality strategy
    • Directorate-General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (EPCD)

• **Widening - Topic 2**
  – Encouraging science-business cooperation
Nicosia Restarted – A vision

• Grand Vision:
  – Turn Nicosia into a regional Innovation, Technology and Creativity Hub

• Instruments for realizing this vision:
  – Instrument 1: Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy
  – Instrument 2: RISE – Research Centre of Excellence

• Goals:
  – boost competitiveness, sustainability and cohesion
  – connectivity and accessibility
  – Long term economic rejuvenation
    • foster innovation and technology transfer activities in Cyprus
    • fuel entrepreneurship and start-up culture in Cyprus

Nicosia Municipality - Efstatios Stavrakis (stathis@algalysis.com)
Instrument 1

Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy
Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy

- Facing more than 40 years of division – the “buffer zone” runs from East to West through its historic and cultural heart

- A champion in city diplomacy

- A pioneer at a national level in:
  - **Local Planning** (before legislation enforcement)
  - **Heritage and culture – led regeneration**
  - **Local transport** services and pedestrianization schemes
  - City-wide **environmental infrastructure** (sewage system)
  - Multi-level services promoting **social inclusion**
  - **Collaborative initiatives** involving multiple actors and stakeholders
Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy

- Strategy concerns a series of infrastructure & rejuvenation projects.
  - Projects worth around 100m euro

- Quarter of Creative Industries (QCI)
  - Old Municipal Market renovation
  - Buildings’ renovation along the Green Line
  - Rejuvenation of other QCI areas
  - Creative and urban entrepreneurship
Quarter for Creative Industries (QCI)
ESIF Funds

- Quarter of Creative Industries (QCI)
  - Old Municipal Market renovation (~34%)
  - Buildings’ renovation along the Green Line (~24%)
  - Rejuvenation of other QCI areas (~34%)
  - Creative and urban entrepreneurship (~8%)
Instrument 2

Research Centre on Interactive Media, Smart Systems and Emerging Technologies
RISE a brief overview

• Well-planned Centre of Excellence
  – brings Research, Technology & Innovation under one roof

• Align with the Smart Specialization Areas of Cyprus

• Conduct primarily applied research + invest in promising basis research

• To support around 25 multidisciplinary research teams (120 staff)

• Work directly with industry
  – special focus on entrepreneurs
  – create and/or support startups & SMEs
RISE – What’s different?

• Invest in **Bottom-Up Innovation**
  – Mainly use ideas from the bowels of the ecosystem

• Provide technical & scientific know-how
  – not just high-level innovation services
  – invest in capability-building internally

• Fulfil an important social mission of culture change
  – Turn ideas/research into products & services
  – Fuel and encourage business creation

• Become an Innovation Testbed
  – Test locally -> Deploy globally
Key Ingredients

• Location
• Expert Partners
• Synergistic Funding Utilisation
Key Location

- **Nicosia Municipality**
- **Efstathios Stavrakis** (stathis@algolysis.com)

**T/C Innovative Entrepreneurship**

**Green Line**

**QCI Enterprises**

**STOA**

**RISE**
Key Ingredients: Expert Partners

• Expert Partners
  – International (Advanced) Partners: Max Planck / University College London
  – Local Experts: University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology, Open University Cyprus

• Advanced Partners:
  – Excellent in Research – Excellent in Innovation!
  – Tight Collaboration: staff exchanges, mobility, know-how transfer
  – Hire talent through their network

• Local Partners:
  – Best human capital: Faculty, Researchers, Students
  – Best expertise, reputation, know-how, infrastructure
Key Ingredients: Synergistic Funding Utilisation

- Funding from H2020 Widening - Teaming Phase 2 (15m)
- Co-funding by the Government (~15m)
- Partners (~10m)
  - Cash (~3m)
  - ESIF Synergistic Utilisation (~7m+)
- Third-party commitments (~10m)
  - Cash + services
ESIF + H2020 Synergies

ESIF Utilisation by Nicosia Municipality

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ESIF + H2020 Synergies

**ESIF Utilisation by Nicosia Municipality**

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- RISE in the QCI
  1. Premises -> Old Municipal Market
  2. Supported SMEs -> Offices along Green Line
  3. Collaborating SMEs + tech. deployments -> Other QCI areas
  4. Innovation Services -> Creative and urban entrepreneurship

Nicosia Municipality - Efstathios Stavrakis (stathis@algolysis.com)
RISE – Important Mission

- Instigate innovation-driven culture across Nicosia
  - Support a Cluster of Innovative SMEs
  - Work with the Turkish Cypriot Community
- Innovative Entrepreneurship - 2018 Aid Programme for T/C
Thank you!

Questions?