REGION OF CRETE
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

ibo
innovation
business
observatory
Region of Crete



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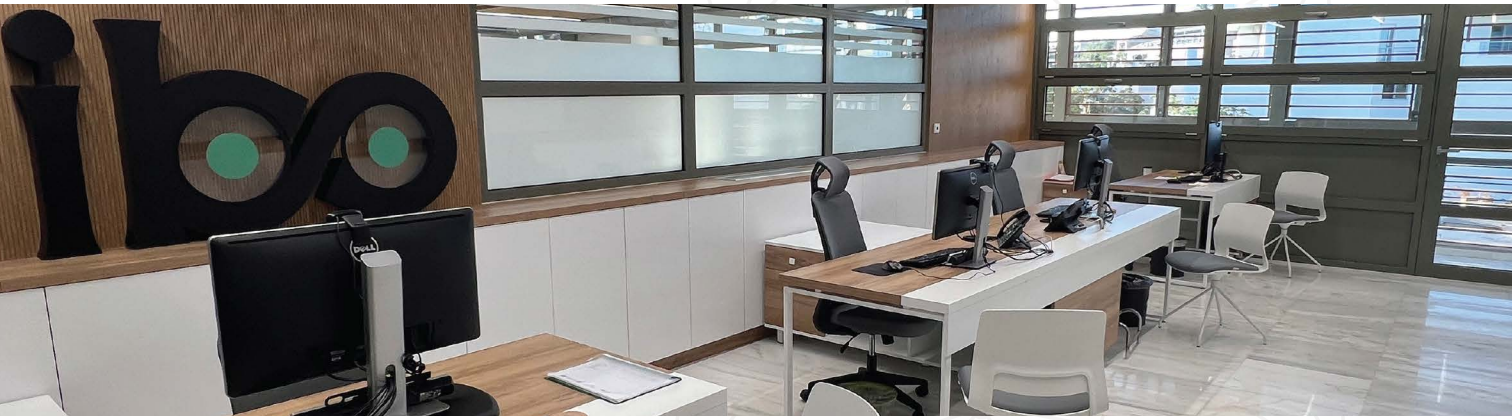
innovation
business
observatory

Region of Crete

COLLABORATE

Innovation Business Observatory (IBO) Region of Crete

The permanent unit of the Region of Crete connecting businesses with research and academic institutions and mapping the innovation ecosystem.



OBJECTIVES

- **Mapping & monitoring** of the innovation ecosystem.
- **Collection & analysis** of entrepreneurship and research data.
- **Support** continuous Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)
- **Informing, mobilizing stakeholder & supporting** collaborations.
- **Monitoring & promoting** innovative good practices.
- **Strengthening new innovative entrepreneurship** & the creation of knowledge-intensive jobs.

Crete Innovation Registries Information System

Businesses - Research & Academic Laboratories - Innovation Teams - Innovation Bodies & Organisations - Researchers - Expert Scientists

Discover, Collaborate and Become a Member of the Innovation Ecosystem!

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- EEPA Awards 2024 - National Winner
- Recognised Good Practice - Ministry of the Interior
- Regional Innovation Valley (RIV)
- Operation of Strategic Importance (OSI) Operataional Programme “Crete” 2021–2027

STRATEGY

The Strategy for Development

RIS3 Στρατηγική Έξυπνης Εξειδίκευσης Περιφέρειας Κρήτης

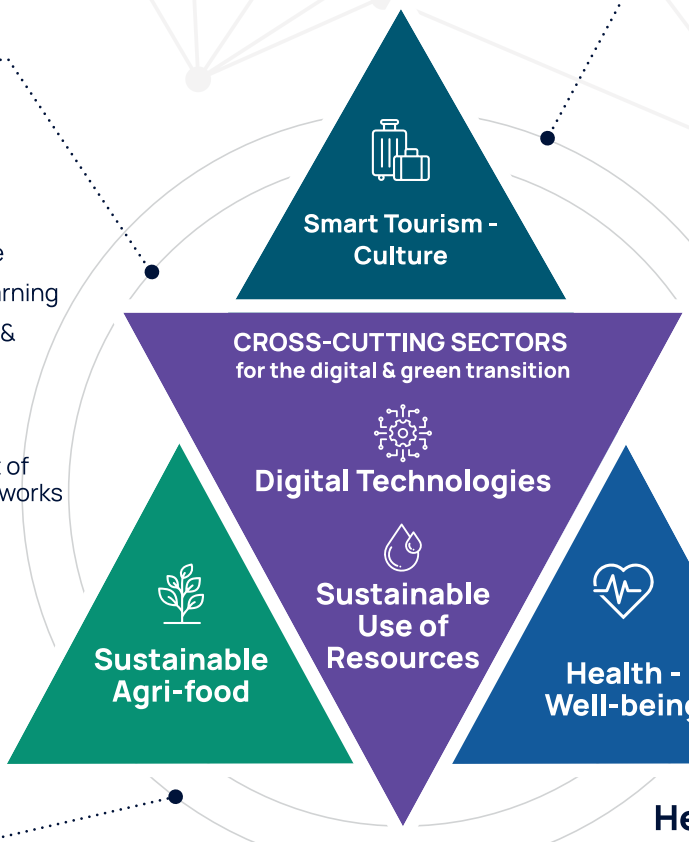


> "From knowledge and research to innovation and action"

The **Smart Specialisation Strategy - RIS3Crete** is a **coherent development roadmap** that guides targeted actions and investments in **knowledge, research, technology and innovation**. It focuses on areas where Crete has a strong research base, productive specialisation and comparative advantages, promoting **links between science and the market** through the **Entrepreneurial Discovery Process** with the participation of quadruple-helix stakeholders.

KNOWLEDGE · RESEARCH · INNOVATION · ENTREPRENEURSHIP · DEVELOPMENT

RIS3Crete
PRIORITY SECTORS & SPECIALISATION AREAS
2021 - 2027



Digital Technologies
- Internet of Things
- Artificial Intelligence
- Machine & Deep Learning
- Cloud technologies & applications
- Digital imaging - Virtual Reality
- Digital management of infrastructure & networks
- Cybersecurity

Smart Tourism - Culture
- Digital transition (AI, IoT, Data Analytics)
- Augmented/Mixed Reality
- Smart tourism-experience applications
- Cultural heritage & digital documentation

Sustainable Agri-food
- Smart farming & precision agriculture
- Food biotechnology & functional food
- Valorisation of by-products & circular economy
- Cretan diet & protected designations

Health - Well-being
- Biomedical research & diagnostics
- Personalised treatment & pharmacogenomics
- Digital health & telemedicine
- Medical tourism & advanced treatments

Sustainable Use of Resources
- Marine resources & aquaculture (Blue Growth)
- Renewable energy sources & energy efficiency
- Water-resource management & circular economy
- Coastal protection & coastal environment

INSPIRE

INNODAYS

Region of Crete Innovation Days



InnoDays

Crete of Knowledge and Production

> **"Crete's leading innovation event"**

A three-day event packed with networking and collaboration activities, an exhibition of innovative solutions, talks and panel discussions, innovative entrepreneurship awards, targeted meetings, innovation competitions, and hands-on robotics & technology workshops.











innodays.gr | InnoDays 2027 Loading...



THE EVENT IN NUMBERS

15.000 Visitors

500+ Exhibitors & Innovation Bodies

200+ Innovation Presentations

300+ Structured Meetings B2B / B2G / Workshops

SECTIONS & PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITION	CONFERENCE	HACKATHON	AWARDS	VC CONNECT	WORKSHOPS	PITCHING
Innovative Products & Services	Talks & Panels	Innovation Marathon	Innovative Entrepreneurship	Investors & Startups	Robotics & Technology	Idea Presentations

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM PARTICIPATION

- Businesses & Startups
- Research & Academic Laboratories
- Innovation Bodies & Organisations
- Researchers & Scientists
- Investors & Venture Capital Funds
- Public Administration
- University & School Students
- General Public

INNOVATE



“From Idea to Innovation”

Through programmes, competitions and awards, we support innovation at every stage of its journey - from the initial idea to business success.

ΦΥΤΩΡΙΟ ΙΔΕΩΝ
IDEAS INCUBATOR
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ΓΡΗΓΟΡΟΥΔΗΣ

IDEAS INCUBATOR

Promoting an entrepreneurial culture within the academic community

An initiative that turns academic knowledge into practice, supporting students, researchers and academic teams in transforming their ideas into viable and innovative products or services.

Partner organisations

4 Academic & Research Institutions

- TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
- UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
- HELLENIC MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY
- FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY - HELLAS (FORTH)

IN NUMBERS

4	45	240.000€	3	3
Academic & Research Institutions	Participating Teams	Total Initiative Budget	Implementation Cycles	Hackathons

ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE & MARKET

RESEARCH VALORISATION

Innovation Competitions & Hackathons



Dynamic initiatives fostering empowerment, creativity, collaboration & business innovation.

Participants **(pupils, university students, researchers, entrepreneurs & scientists)** develop original ideas and solutions to real-world challenges in thematic fields linked to the priority sectors of the Region of Crete's Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3Crete).

IN NUMBERS

7	150+	5
Innovation Competitions	Innovation Teams	Specialisation Sectors

TARGETS

- Strengthening innovative entrepreneurship
- Promoting creative thinking
- Active participation in collaborative activities
- Problem solving & development of sustainable business ideas



Awards
Region of Crete Innovative Entrepreneurship

An annual institution designed to **reward and promote businesses** distinguished by their **innovation**, **business growth** and **development**.

Award Categories for Innovative Businesses

1. **Best Innovative Business Award**
2. **Innovative Product/Service Award**
3. **Best New Innovative Business Award**

IN NUMBERS

12	90+	3
Businesses awarded across all categories	Participating Businesses	Award Cycles

NETWORKING

The Power of Collaboration

Through collaboration, outreach and networking activities, the Observatory strengthens connections among businesses, research bodies and organisations, building bridges for knowledge, innovation and growth.



COLLABORATION ROOMS

Exchange of experience & connecting businesses with research laboratories

Targeted thematic meetings that bring together businesses & research laboratories in Crete on shared **RIS3Crete** specialisation areas.

> **Where business meets research**

GOALS

- Connecting research & entrepreneurship
- Targeted dialogue by thematic field
- Development of new products & services
- Identification of market needs
- Development of innovative proposals
- Monitoring & support of collaborations

COLLABORATION ROOMS

- **Agri-food**
  Vine - Wine
- **Sustainable Use of Resources**
  Blue Growth
- **Digital Technologies**
  Artificial Intelligence

OUTREACH - NETWORKING - COLLABORATION

The Innovation Business Observatory actively participates in exhibitions, forums & innovation conferences to showcase innovative solutions, strengthen international outreach and create new collaborations for the innovation ecosystem at national and international level.

BEYOND Expo - International Technology & Innovation Exhibition

Active participation of members of the Region of Crete Innovation Registries
Implementation of Collaboration and Networking Actions



Group Participation

The Region of Crete's group pavilion hosts innovative businesses, research laboratories and innovation organisations from across Crete's innovation ecosystem.



Collaboration Actions

Structured-dialogue actions and thematic meetings are organised with bodies within and outside Crete to connect innovation ecosystems and foster collaboration.



Outreach - Networking

Showcasing innovative solutions and business initiatives to develop collaborations and strengthen innovative entrepreneurship internationally.

NETWORKING AND SYNERGIES WITH INNOVATION BODIES

The IBO develops a strong collaboration network with innovation bodies within and outside Crete, enhancing knowledge dissemination and business development.

Technology & Knowledge Transfer Offices

Collaboration with the **7 Technology & Knowledge Transfer Offices** of Crete's academic and research institutions, linking research with entrepreneurship

Partner Innovation Bodies

Collaboration with 32 entrepreneurship and innovation bodies within and outside Crete, with which joint actions and initiatives are developed to strengthen entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

SUPPORT

Innovation Registries & Services

SUPPORT • INFORMATION • INNOVATION REGISTRIES • COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Innovation Business Observatory of the Region of Crete is an **integrated information, networking and support hub for the innovation ecosystem.** Through its web portal, businesses, research laboratories and organisations gain access, become members of the Innovation Registries, and receive information on new **entrepreneurship data, funding opportunities, initiatives, events and opportunities to develop new collaborations.**



WEB PORTAL SECTIONS

ibo.crete.gov.gr

Innovation News & Information
News, announcements and developments from the innovation ecosystem.

Innovation Registries - Members
Registries of innovative businesses, research laboratories and bodies of the innovation ecosystem.

Entrepreneurship & Research Data
Data and indicators on entrepreneurship, research and innovation.

Innovation Stories - Showcasing Innovation
Innovative ideas, products and solutions developed in Crete.

Funding Instruments - Collaboration Opportunities
Funding calls and opportunities to develop new collaborations.

Ongoing Actions & Programmes
Initiatives and programmes supporting innovative entrepreneurship.

Events & Innovation Actions
Information days, workshops, conferences, networking and awareness-raising activities.

Collaboration & Outreach Opportunities
Networking and synergies among businesses, research and organisations.

PARTNER SEARCH



The "Partner Search" service is addressed to **businesses, research laboratories, innovation teams, and public and private organisations** seeking suitable partners.

Submit your request
and connect with Crete's innovation ecosystem

1. **Request submission** | The interested party completes the relevant online form, describing the need, idea or subject of the collaboration sought.
2. **Assessment & clarification of needs/challenges** | The IBO team reviews the request and, where necessary, contacts the interested party to better define the needs and the collaborations being sought.
3. **Search for potential partners** | The Innovation Registries, the network of partner organisations and Crete's innovation ecosystem are used to identify suitable businesses, laboratories, organisations, experts or other partners.
4. **Connection & Communication** | IBO facilitates initial communication between the interested parties, creating the conditions for exploring a potential collaboration.
5. **Collaboration support** | Where required, IBO supports continued engagement and activates the appropriate network to further develop the collaboration.

Data, Research & Reports

Reliable and timely information on entrepreneurship, research and innovation in Crete.



Research & Studies

Research and studies mapping the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and highlighting trends in cutting-edge fields and emerging sectors of the economy.

Statistical Reports

Statistics, indicators and analyses on businesses, research and innovation. Reports include detailed information on innovative entrepreneurship in the Region of Crete as well as at international level.

Annual Reports

Annual overview of trends, developments and key indicators of the innovation ecosystem. Annual reports on the Smart Specialisation Strategy and on national and regional development strategies at national and European level.

IMPACT

2021–2026: 5 Years of the Observatory



IBO in Numbers

Overview of impact and key results

Ecosystem Monitoring & Innovation Registries

3.700+
Businesses - Professionals

250+
Innovative Businesses

170+
Research Laboratories

150+
Innovation Bodies & Organisations

50+
Innovation Teams

500+
Researchers & Expert Scientists

50+
Innovation Stories

40+
Innovation Actions

Outreach & Networking Actions

100+
Participants in Collaboration Rooms

200+
Innovation Team Participations in Hackathons

90+
Participations in the Innovative Entrepreneurship Awards

48 Collaborations in Progress
5 New Collaborations

100+
Hosted Participants at Innovation Exhibitions

3 InnoDays Editions
2022, 2023, 2025



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ΕΠΑ
Εθνικό
Πρόγραμμα
Ανάπτυξης
2026-2030

Π.Π.Α. ΚΡΗΤΗΣ



Co-funded by
the European Union

ΕΣΠΑ
2021-2027

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
CRETE
2021-2027

REGION OF CRETE
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Regional Economic Development & Openness Directorate
General Directorate of Development Planning - Region of Crete

56 Monis Kardiotissis St. • 3rd floor • 71201 • Heraklion, Crete
T. +30 2810 002132, +30 2810 002121, +30 2810 002124, +30 2810 002134
ibo@crete.gov.gr