
Programming Period

2007 – 2013

Operational Programme

Title:	NATIONAL CONTINGENCY RESERVE
CCI:	2007GR051RV001

FORMAL SUBMISSION

Athens, August 2008

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION..... 3

CHAPTER 1: ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD 5

CHAPTER 2: STRATEGY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY UNFORESEEN LOCAL OR SECTORAL CRISES LINKED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESTRUCTURING OR TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE OPENING UP OF TRADE, FOR THE PERIOD 2007-2013.....34

CHAPTER 3: PRIORITY AXES40

CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS 52

CHAPTER 5: FUNDING..... 101

INTRODUCTION

The National Contingency Reserve, pursuant to the provisions of Article 51 of Council Regulation 1083/2006, is a form of intervention designed to meet unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade.

The structure and content of the OP «National Contingency Reserve 2007-2013» are designed so as to cover the funding of a complex of actions that serve the aforementioned objectives through 2 Priority Axes, titled:

Priority Axis 1: «Medium- and long-term support of human resources affected by the consequences of unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade in the “Convergence” Objective regions.

Priority Axis 2: «Immediate tackling of the direct consequences affecting the human resources due to unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade in the “Convergence” Objective regions .

In accordance with the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), the National Contingency Reserve is applicable to the ‘Convergence’ Objective Regions, i.e. the Convergence Regions (8 Regions), and the Phasing Out Regions (3 Regions).

<u>GR</u>	GREECE
<u>GR11</u>	EASTERN MACEDONIA – THRACE
<u>GR14</u>	THESSALY
<u>GR21</u>	EPIRUS
<u>GR22</u>	IONIAN ISLANDS
<u>GR23</u>	W. GREECE
<u>GR25</u>	PELOPONNESE
<u>GR41</u>	N. AEGEAN
<u>GR43</u>	CRETE
<u>GR12</u>	CENTRAL MACEDONIA
<u>GR13</u>	W. MACEDONIA
<u>GR30</u>	ATTICA

The present program can also cover the “Convergence” Objective regions that are affected by natural disasters that cause their economic and social restructuring. A

characteristic example of such a situation are the areas that were stricken by the fires of summer 2007 in Greece, in particular in the whole Region of Western Greece (Prefectures of Ileia, Achaia and Aitolokarnania), in the Prefectures of Messinia, Lakonia, Arkadia and Corinth of the Region of the Peloponnese, and in the Region of Attica.

As known, Greece was stricken in the summer of 2007 by extensive and intense fires that had an impact of a general destruction nature on the natural environment and on the economic and social fabric, leading to the declaration of the nation in an emergency status. (Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Interior 47870/25.8.2007 (FEK 1706/B/25.8.2007)). Dealing with the disasters affected dramatically the priorities of the country, giving immediate weight to the reconstruction and support of the affected areas. The part of the crisis that it is linked to the environmental and ecological disasters and to the rebuilding of infrastructures in these areas falls outside the framework of the application of Article 51 and, therefore, of the application of the present program. A part, however, **of the crisis, which is linked to the economic and social restructuring that was caused by the fires, falls within the framework of the application of Article 51 of the General Regulation 1083 and may be covered in part or in whole by the Operational Program "National Contingency Reserve"**.

The budget of the OP «National Contingency Reserve 2007-2013» amounts to 211,733,870.67 Euro. Of the total public expenditure involved, 75%, that is 158,800,403 Euro, is the contribution of the European Social Fund, while 25%, that is 52,933,467.67 Euro, comes from national resources.

Agencies responsible for elaboration of OP

Agency responsible for the designing of the OP «National Contingency Reserve 2007-2013» is the Secretariat General for Investment and Development of the Ministry of Economy and Finances.

Procedures followed in definition of the OP

The Secretary General for Investment and Development assigned the task of elaborating the OP «National Contingency Reserve 2007-2013» to the Special Service for Strategy, Planning and Evaluation of Development Programmes.

In preparing the OP a number of initial alternative scenarios were drawn up in response to unforeseen crises.

The final draft of the programme was designed to cover the broader possible range of unforeseen crises, as defined in Article 51 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, giving weight to the capability of the programme to meet the part of the crisis that is linked to the economic and social restructuring caused by the disastrous fires of the summer of 2007. The approach that is recorded in the present document is the result of a first assessment of the existing situation, of the needs and development potential/prospects of the affected areas. To render possible the definition of the range of interventions of the programme as well as of its operational specialisation with regard to the economic and social restructuring that resulted from the fires of the summer 2007, the elaboration of a substantiated and validated study is necessary.

It should be noted that according to paragraph 2 of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 «Budget Commitments»: «Where no payment has been made, the Member State may request – by 30th September of each year at the latest – the transfer of any commitments in respect of Operational Programmes related to the national contingency reserve to other Operational Programmes. The Member State shall specify in its request the Operational Programmes benefiting from that transfer».

CHAPTER 2: STRATEGY FOR THE RESTRUCTURING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY UNFORESEEN LOCAL OR SECTORAL CRISES LINKED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESTRUCTURING OR TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE OPENING UP OF TRADE FOR THE PERIOD 2007-2013

2.1 Strategic planning of the Operational Programme

This present OP is a form of intervention designed to meet the consequences of unforeseen local or sectoral crises as defined in Article 51 of the EC Regulation 1083/2006, i.e. crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade. Its strategic objective is as follows:

“Promotion of human resources to employment and their re-integration into the labour market, contribution to the rehabilitation of the socio-economic fabric, , creation of conditions for the retention of the local population, safeguarding of social cohesion and development and sustainability of the local economy in areas affected by unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade”.

The intention and aim is on the one hand, to tackle the immediate consequences of a crisis linked to the economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade and on the other hand to create the right conditions for the social and economic reconstruction and activation of local communities that suffer the consequences, so that they can acquire a new dynamic and reintegrate into both the socio-economic fabric of the country and of the European economic environment. This strategy is in line with the strategic objectives of the Operational Programmes of the NSRF, in particular with their spatial/regional dimension. It also corresponds to the priorities of the European Union for the improvement of competitiveness through the differentiation of the local economic base, the improvement of quality of life for local population and the reduction of inequalities at the level of services provided to the inhabitants of urban and rural areas.

The strategy has a **short-term and medium/long-term integrated character**, pursuing an **immediate** direct support and tackling of the needs of the labour force and populations affected by the crisis, and **subsequently** their social and productive inclusion in an endeavour to reverse adverse trends. This endeavour will involve the promotion of opportunities for multiple employment, the securing of equal

opportunities among both genders and all social groups, the creation of the right conditions to reverse adverse demographic trends and the exploitation of the competitive advantages and potentials both of the affected human resources and of the area in the context of the principles of sustainable growth.

To this end the development options must activate the whole of the human resources and population of an area and exploit the local natural resources, its cultural characteristics and its comparative advantages. This approach contributes to the dissemination of the development results across the whole local community, thereby securing social cohesion and the re-incorporation of the results into the development process.

The economic and social reconstruction of the labour force, and more generally of the populations affected by the consequences of an unforeseen crisis, is not exclusively the concern of the central government but requires also the active involvement and responsible action of the local authorities and local communities. Central government policies are more effective when applied in synergy with **local initiatives**.

To improve the effectiveness of the above policies **immediate measures** need to be taken in order to create the conditions necessary to relieve and support the affected local populations and the labour force which suffers the consequences of the crisis.

At the same time, the medium/long-term planning of an integrated intervention is required, which will be done on the basis of an exploratory study to ascertain the type and scale of the crisis linked to the economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade, as well as its and effects in an area or a sector of employment. In the context of such an intervention it is necessary to define specifically the local/sectoral development policies which will be in accordance with the specific economic, social and environmental problems created in each area/sector. Therefore, further specific strategic choices must be made in order to secure the sustainability of development and full employment of the labour force, while further measures must be taken to protect the unemployed and, where necessary, to provide transitional support to the economically active population which is integrated into the process of restructuring. The intervention measures will need to be formulated in correspondence with the form of the crisis. In the event that the consequences of the crisis require circumstantial and insignificant structural corrections, the productive activity of the area may rely on the existing productive sectors in order to overcome the transient problems being experienced. In all other cases, the economic (structural)

development of the area must rely on the support of alternative productive sectors for which the area possesses competitive advantages.

2.2 Basic principles of planning the Operational Programme

In implementing the above strategic options, the following basic planning principles must be adhered to:

- Resources will be directed solely to the attainment of the objectives being pursued. This will entail concentration and not diffusion of resources, which, it should be noted, are not only financial but also human resources and effective systems of administration and management,
- Securing of harmonious cooperation among all parties involved in order for the development objectives to be jointly agreed and implemented.
Elaboration and implementation of these objectives will take as their starting point the local/sectoral economy, wherever it is possible to formulate integrated restructuring programmes, which will take into account the total existing production dynamic, the needs of the economy and society at this level, and also the existing capital in terms of experience and knowledge, which can form the basis of a new production process and the utilisation of new knowledge and innovations.
- Emphasis will be placed on the improvement of the business environment, adapting it to the rules of international competition and attaching particular importance to the use of new knowledge and the adoption of innovations.
- Finally, the greatest emphasis will be attached to replacement in the labour market, on the basis of integrated planning at both local and central levels, to be facilitated by greater mobility, which is the result of a contemporary process of training and linking labour market needs with worker skills. Programmes of lifelong learning and active employment policies can help support the unemployed, and mainly all vulnerable population groups like older workers or persons with poor skill levels.

2.2.1 Basic principles of planning to tackle the consequences of the crises linked to the economic and social restructuring caused by natural disasters.

The basic principles aforementioned and apply to coping with the consequences of an unforeseen crisis as defined in Article 51 of EC Regulation 1083/2006, also apply, as is only natural, to the planning of the response in the case where economic and social restructuring is caused by unforeseen natural disasters as in the case of the most recent crisis resulting from the fires of the summer of 2007.

Given the conditions, and after a first assessment of the existing situation, the medium/long-term needs and development potential/prospects of the areas affected, the strategic objective for coping with the specific crisis can be stated as follows:

"Medium/long-term promotion to employment and re-integration into the labour market of the human resources of the afflicted areas, restoration of the socio-economic fabric; creation of preconditions to retain the local population; maintenance of social cohesion and development and sustainability of the local economy".

The intention and aim is to create the preconditions for the social and economic reconstitution of the local communities, so that the areas in question can acquire the necessary dynamic and be reintegrated into the socio-economic fabric of the country and into the European economic environment.

As was mentioned earlier, this objective is framed on the basis of a first assessment of the situation in the affected areas. **The OP will take into account and revise the medium/long-term definition of its operational planning in accordance with the conclusions of a thorough and fully documented study to be funded by the Programme and which is designed to provide an in-depth assessment of the medium- and long-term consequences of the disastrous fires on the economic and social structure. The OP secures that it will undertake targeted, definite and integrated action, in full synergy, complementarity and affinity with the other interventions co-financed by the structural funds, avoiding any overlapping, in order to highlight the added value of the actions of the European Social Fund.**

2.2.2 Equal opportunities for men and women

Highlighting the economic, social and developmental character of gender equality issues is the 11th general objective of the NSRF 2007-2013. In this context, the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities for men and women is a choice fully aligned with the revised Lisbon Strategy, the guidelines for Economic Growth and Employment (2005-2008) and the Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion 2007-2013. The objectives of growth, competitiveness and employment all depend to a great extent on the full participation of the whole active population in social and economic life.

In the context of the current OP all policies and actions are directed to securing gender equality in the various stages of implementation of the actions, and particularly in securing access to these actions. This means that gender issues are inherent components of the Operational Programme, while they will be also be incorporated in the definition and implementation of all the axes, actions and priorities of each intervention.

Bearing in mind the context of Article 16 of Reg. 1083/2006 on **gender equality and non-discrimination**, as well as the approach of General Objective 11 of the NSRF, the Operational Programme ensures:

- **promotion of gender equality**, as well as
- **incorporation of the gender dimension**, horizontally, in all interventions of the Programme.

2.2.3 Ensuring the principle of non-discrimination

In the present OP all policies and actions are directed at achieving the principle of non-discrimination – whether on grounds of sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation – during both implementation of the actions and, especially, in access to these actions. This means that issues of non-discrimination are inherent components of the planning and implementation of the Operational Programme.

Details concerning implementation of the non-discrimination principle, its monitoring and evaluation are given in the OP implementation provisions.

2.2.4 Accessibility

The strategy, objectives and priorities of the OP incorporate principles of non-discrimination and accessibility for the disabled, as envisaged in article 16 of Reg. 1083/2006; consequently the priorities/actions of the OP will be implemented in such a way as to ensure equal access for all categories of the disabled.

2.2.5 Incorporation of the principles of the Community Initiative EQUAL

The OP interventions will take account of the results of implementation of the CI EQUAL and will be implemented and disseminated on the basis of the implementation principles laid down for the Initiative: partnership on the local and national level, transnationality, innovation, mainstreaming of best results, active involvement of target groups in the planning and implementation of interventions and the securing of equal opportunities for men and women.

\$2.3 Process of Strategic Environmental Assessment

According to document no. 100496 of the Special Environment Service of the Ministry of the Environment, Land Use and Public Works, the OP National Contingency Reserve does not fall under the category of the plans and programmes of paragraph 1a of article 3 (Field of implementation) of Joint Ministerial Decision ΥΠΕΧΩΔΕ/ΕΥΠΕ/οικ.107017/2006 (Government Gazette/1225/B/5-9-2006) «Process of Strategic Environmental Assessment». There is therefore **no requirement for compliance with the process of environmental assessment** in accordance with article 5 of the relevant Joint Ministerial Decision, nor for compliance with need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment, pursuant to article 7 of the relevant Joint Ministerial Decision.

CHAPTER 3: PRIORITY AXES

3.1 PRIORITY AXIS 1 «Medium- and long-term support of human resources affected by the consequences of unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade in the “Convergence” Objective regions

3.1.1 Basic strategic priorities

The present Priority Axis is intended to meet, through **medium/long-term measures of an integrated nature**, the consequences on human resources of the local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the opening up of trade.

Basic and immediate priority of the Priority Axis is the provision of possibilities for employment and adaptability of the human resources of the economically and socially restructuring labour market, the provision of incentives and the creation of conditions for the maintenance and strengthening of social cohesion, and the retention of the local population in the affected areas.

Crises associated with social and economic structural changes have, as a rule, unforeseen and disastrous effects on the human resources subjected to those changes. However, it should be mentioned that even if those structural changes are sectoral in character and are related to a broader sector of employment or commerce, their peak consequences are located in territorially specific areas and affect the total of the population of these areas. However, despite the disastrous effects in the affected areas, the potential is provided, with the appropriate planning, technical support and financing, in order to place again these areas on a development track through the re-composition / restructuring of the productive fabric, the

creation and extension of social structures, and the support of the human resources.

Preserving the population base is a precondition for the revival and exploitation of the comparative advantages of an area in the perspective of an endogenous development process. Any significant fall in population, in particular a contraction of the available manpower would make any endogenous development endeavour non-viable, due to the unavailability of the necessary human resources. Moreover, efforts must be made to ensure that the areas involved will become attractive in order to attract new individuals seeking work and a place to live in them.

3.1.2 Specific development objectives

The **specific development objectives**, the attainment of which on the one hand will meet the strategic objective and on the other hand will secure the abovementioned results that are anticipated for the socioeconomic fabric of the region, are as follows:

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1
<i>Access to employment and retention in the labour market of the active population of the affected areas/sectors, through active employment policies and integrated employment plans of a local nature – Support of entrepreneurship</i>

The unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the opening up of trade obviously have particularly adverse effects on the socioeconomic fabric of the areas affected. However, there is the possibility/prospect of economic reconstruction and modernization of the local economy and its incorporation in the national and international environment. On the one hand, it is required to modernise / restructure the economic sectors through the introduction of new technologies and production and processing methods, as well as through the vertical integration of production, and on the other hand it is required to create new business activities. At all cases, precondition, amongst others, is the training and technical support of the local population.

Indicative actions for attainment of the objective:

- Measures to promote employment and self-employment, with special emphasis on young people, women, the long-term unemployed and people from special social groups.
- Measures to train/re-train and upgrade the skills of local people to help them face the new challenges and exploit the employment opportunities created through the implementation of special reconstruction plans
- Strengthening the interventions of the employment agencies in favour of the unemployed affected by the consequences of the crisis.
- Programmes for new independent professionals.
- Support for entrepreneurship among those who lose their businesses, with emphasis on the key sectors (tourism, culture, the environment, etc.).
- Development of local employment initiatives.
- Incorporation of the principles of the Community Initiative EQUAL in the development policy.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2

<i>Active policies to improve quality of life – preserve social cohesion – combat social exclusion</i>

In order to retain the local population affected by the adverse effects of the structural changes, to preserve social cohesion and to promote economic growth, it is vital to improve local people's quality of life. The objective involves the restoration/expansion/improvement of social structures and of the services provided. Social inclusion interventions will focus on newly emerging manifestations/threats of poverty and social exclusion, which may lead to the formation of new vulnerable population groups threatened by or experiencing social exclusion as a consequence of the crisis, or the placing of heavier burdens on those groups traditionally threatened by social exclusion.

Indicative actions for attainment of the objective:

- Programmes for social inclusion and professional integration. Support for social inclusion actions, with emphasis on population groups with special needs (the elderly, disabled, etc.)

- Strengthening services to protect and upgrade the quality of life of persons requiring protection (infants, the elderly, the handicapped, etc.)
- Intervention to improve quantity and quality of the public services provided in the affected areas: local Employment Services of the OAED, social structures, primary health care centres.
- Upgrading of the services provided in the health and social solidarity sectors, giving priority to the affected areas
- Strengthening services for primary care and public health through preventive actions and actions to safeguard public health in the affected areas
- Integrated actions of counselling and psychological support for vulnerable groups in the affected areas (for example: counselling for the school population, mobile units, psychological intervention teams in remote areas, etc.)
- Prevention and response to social exclusion of groups or individuals in the local populations threatened by poverty.
- Programmes to mobilize and involve local social partners in actions for economic and social development
- Utilization of social entrepreneurship to provide employment for members of vulnerable social groups.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3

<i>Interventions to support human resources in the sectors of restoration and protection of the natural and cultural environment</i>

The restoration/regeneration, protection and promotion of the environment and of the cultural and natural resources of an area that is affected by the consequences of a crisis, as defined in Article 51, and that is at risk to be in decline and depression, is a vital condition for the development of activities that will not only stimulate the productive and social base of the area, but will also improve local people's quality of life. Support for manpower in the sectors of restoration and rational management of the environment and of the cultural and natural resources, based on the principles of sustainable growth, consists a basic choice within the strategy, given that it will help to ensure a self-sustaining development process.

To this end, the programme will implement interventions to support human resources in order to contribute to the restoration, conservation and promotion of the environment and cultural heritage, of the urban and rural landscape, and of the cultural and natural resources, to contribute to the regeneration and showcasing of forest areas, and so on.

Indicative actions for attainment of the objective:

- Information and awareness-raising actions on environmental and cultural issues
- Support for environmental education centres
- Support for NGOs active in the environment sector
- Training actions on the rehabilitation and protection of the environment and of the natural and cultural heritage
- Programmes to provide to the unemployed employment in organizations responsible for cleaning up, building flood protection projects and reforesting the affected areas
- Training programmes on the issues of civil protection, crisis management, emergencies and public health.
- Emphasis on interventions for employment, education, social integration, and training in relation to the management of the natural environment, the civil protection and the public health.

3.1.3. Specialisation of the priorities of the present Priority Axis in the case of crises linked to economic and social restructuring caused by natural disasters.

As was mentioned in the introduction, **with the present program a part of the crisis linked to the economic and social restructuring caused by the disastrous fires of the summer of 2007 may be covered partly or in whole by the present Priority Axis. It was also noted that the specialisation of the strategy for responding to the effects of the fires is based on a preliminary assessment of the situation in the affected areas.** However, this preliminary assessment is rather useful for the definition of the immediate measures to be taken to relieve the most urgent needs of the affected populations, than for the integrated planning of medium/long-term intervention strategies. **Instead, for the**

specialisation of the operational planning at the level of categories of intervention particularly for the case of the fires of the summer of 2007, for the definition and finalisation of the methodology, of the implementation priorities and of the weight of each of the specific objectives, as well as for the valid definition of the quantitative and qualitative indicators to monitor targets, the conclusions of an extensive and in – depth study aiming at the assessment of the mid-and long-term consequences of the disastrous fires and the ways that those affect the economic and social situation and the employment sectors of the affected populations will be taken into account.

For this reason, provision is being made within this specific Priority Axis of the OP for the preparation of a study to assess the current situation, to assess the consequences of the crisis in the affected areas and to formulate a specific and detailed proposal for tackling the various problems. It is anticipated that this study will help in preparing an integrated action plan for the social and economic regeneration and the vocational reintegration of the labour force of these areas, as well as for the prevention of social exclusion and poverty.

The OP will intervene in full synergy and affinity with the sectoral programmes of the ESF, avoiding any overlapping of actions and highlighting the added value of the European Social Fund actions.

- All the actions of the OP will be implemented in a targeted, distinct and integrated manner, adapted to the tackling of the consequences of the crisis, in full synergy, complementarity and affinity with other actions co-financed under other interventions of the ESF, and avoiding any overlapping.*

3.1.4 10% ESF/ERDF flexibility clause

In the context of the OP «National Contingency Reserve» and the current Priority Axis, use may be made of the flexibility clause (pursuant to article 34 para. 2 of the Regulation).

3.1.5 Special implementation issues affecting the Priority Axis

The active participation of the Ministries that handle issues concerning the European Social Fund (Ministry of Employment, Health, Education, Interior) is essential for the

specialisation and implementation of the programme in order to ensure the synergy and complementarity of the actions and the mobilisation of the competent implementing bodies. The participation of the Ministries will be secured both through their representation in the Monitoring Committee and, in some cases, their appointment as Intermediate Bodies.

In the context of this priority axis provision is made for the funding of Technical Assistance actions with a ceiling of 3% of its community contribution, covering all measures and activities pertaining to the implementation of the interventions, the provision of guidelines and support to the agencies involved (both public and private), the support and assistance for all administrative structures and mechanisms participating in the Programme, as well as the actions for awareness-raising, information and publicity of the Programme, in accordance with Article 69 of the Regulation.

Provision is also made for the possible use of management tools such as global grants.

3.2 PRIORITY AXIS 2 «Immediate tackling of the direct consequences affecting the human resources due to unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade in the “Convergence” Objective regions.

3.2.1 Basic strategic priorities

This Priority Axis is designed to cover the **short-term measures** necessary to meet the **urgent needs** resulting from a crisis linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade.

The main priority of the Priority Axis is to undertake immediate measures to relieve and support the affected local populations and/or labour force suffering the effects of a crisis.

A successful response to the immediate consequences of a crisis as defined in Article 51 of the General Regulation 1083/2006 is of vital importance with regard to the subsequent smooth and effective management of the crisis. Absorbing the psychological, social and economic shock suffered by the affected populations is a key factor in building a climate of trust and security which will subsequently lead to the creation of the right conditions for rebuilding the lives of the populations and/or labour force.

For this reason provision is made in this Priority Axis for the implementation of interventions which will meet directly, flexibly, effectively and comprehensively the immediate needs of the affected populations, **operating mainly on three levels:**

- the level of provision of psychological support,
- the level of prevention of downgrading and/or, as far as possible, of restoration of the quality of life of local people, and ensuring satisfactory living conditions and standards of hygiene, and
- the level of providing opportunities and prospects for return to employment.

The difficulty of implementing these actions lies mainly in the **particularity of their nature** since immediate action is required for:

- a proper evaluation of the kind and scale of the crisis and its consequences,
- a selection of the appropriate method of action and effective coordination of different actions, and
- an immediate, flexible, effective and integrated methods of implementation.

To ensure the right framework for a rapid and effective response to crises provision is made in the Priority Axis for the preparation of a study leading to the establishment of a special regulatory and implementation framework, the definition of a criteria system and of criteria for the evaluation of crises, the creation of a more effective structure for the management of crises, which will ensure in a flexible, immediate and effective manner the planning, coordination and implementation of the actions designed to support the population and labour force.

The Greek authorities will make every effort to ensure that the results of this study will be available within no more than a year from the adoption of the OP «National Contingency Reserve» by the European Commission in order to ensure that the content of the Priority Axis is fully operational.

Indicative actions for attainment of the objective:

- Provision of immediate short-term accompanying support services – guidance and psychological support
- Suitably adapted measures to support provision of welfare and care services for local population
- Creation of emergency mobile structures to provide welfare and support operations of existing structures actively involved in tackling the crisis impact
- Support for primary care and public health services, with creation of emergency mobile units for health prevention and public health promotion actions in affected areas
- Specially designed and adapted integrated actions providing counselling and psychological support to vulnerable groups in affected areas/sectors (for example: counselling for school populations, mobile units, psychological intervention teams, and so on)
- Immediate actions to promote individuals into employment (for example: measures lasting only a short period of time, support in job-seeking, mobility or participation in lifelong learning)

✚ *All the actions in the OP will be implemented in a targeted, distinct and integrated manner, adapted to the tackling of the consequences of the crisis, in full synergy, complementarity and affinity with other actions co-financed under other interventions of the ESF, and avoiding any overlapping.*

3.2.2 10% ESF/ERDF flexibility clause

In the context of the OP «National Contingency Reserve» and the current Priority Axis, use may be made of the flexibility clause (pursuant to article 34 para. 2 of the Regulation).

3.2.3 Special implementation issues affecting the Priority Axis

The active participation of the Ministries that handle issues concerning the European Social Fund (Ministry of Employment, Health, Education, Interior) is essential for the specialisation and implementation of the programme in order to ensure the synergy and complementarity of the actions and the mobilisation of the competent implementing bodies. The participation of the Ministries will be secured both through their representation in the Monitoring Committee and, in some cases, their appointment as Intermediate Bodies.

A Technical Steering Committee may be set up to support implementation of the Priority Axis, with the participation of experts, engaged in processing both at scientific and technical levels the conclusions of the above study and in submitting the appropriate recommendations to the Programme's Managing Authority.

In the context of this Priority Axis provision is made for the funding of Technical Assistance actions with a ceiling of 3% of its community contribution, covering all measures and activities pertaining to the implementation of the interventions, the provision of guidelines and support to the agencies involved (both public and private), the support and assistance for all administrative structures and mechanisms participating in the Programme, as well as the actions for awareness-raising, information and publicity of the Programme, in accordance with Article 69 of the Regulation.

Provision is also made for the possible use of management tools such as global grants

3.3 Indicative target groups of the Programme interventions

The indicative target groups of the Programme interventions will be linked, directly or indirectly, to the consequences of the crisis, and are as follows:

Unemployed – women, young people (15-24), older people (55-64).

Persons from vulnerable social groups threatened by exclusion from the labour market.

Non-active persons (persons outside the labour market).

Individuals threatened by unemployment.

- Workers in areas which suffer the consequences of the crisis in all sectors of the

economy, businessmen/employers, self-employed persons,

- Persons from vulnerable population groups in specific areas, in the context of the development of local social inclusion plans
- Families and persons (elderly-children) in state of poverty

.....

CHAPTER 5: FUNDING

Table 1: «National Contingency Reserve» - Annual allocation of community contribution

National Contingency Reserve			
Annual Allocation of Community Contribution – 'Convergence' Objective			
Year	Regions	ESF	Total
2009	Regions without transitional support	13.189.422	13.189.422
	Regions with transitional support	13.995.201	13.995.201
	Total	27.184.623	27.184.623
2010	Regions without transitional support	17.294.416	17.294.416
	Regions with transitional support	13.478.005	13.478.005
	Total	30.772.421	30.772.421
2011	Regions without transitional support	18.843.883	18.843.883
	Regions with transitional support	12.936.199	12.936.199
	Total	31.780.082	31.780.082
2012	Regions without transitional support	20.398.732	20.398.732
	Regions with transitional support	12.369.016	12.369.016
	Total	32.767.748	32.767.748
2013	Regions without transitional support	24.519.875	24.519.875
	Regions with transitional support	11.775.654	11.775.654
	Total	36.295.529	36.295.529
General Total 2009 - 2013	Regions without transitional support	94.246.328	94.246.328
	Regions with transitional support	64.554.075	64.554.075
	TOTAL	158.800.403	158.800.403

Table 2: National Contingency Reserve Funding Scheme

Eligible public spending (column 8) is used as the basis for calculation of the community contribution

National Contingency Reserve Funding Scheme													
Priority Axis	Community Funding				National Contribution	Indicative analysis of percentage of national contribution		Total funding	percentage of contribution	For information			Total public spending
	ERDF	ESF	CF	TOTAL		National public funding	National private funding			European Investment Bank contribution	Other funding		
	1	2	3	4=1+2+3	5=6+7	6	7*	8=4+5	9=4/8	10	11α	11β	12=4+5+11α
P A 1: «Medium- and long-term support of human resources affected by the consequences of unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade in the "Convergence" Objective regions		100.000.000		100.000.000	33.333.333	33.333.333		133.000.000	75,00%				133.333.333

P A 2: «Immediate tackling of the direct consequences affecting the human resources due to unforeseen local or sectoral crises linked to economic and social restructuring or to the consequences of the opening up of trade in the "Convergence" Objective regions		58.800.403		58.800.403	19.600.134	19.600.134		78.400.537	75,00%				78.400.537
Total	0	158.800.403	0	158.800.403	52.933.467	52.933.467	0	211.733.870	75,00%	0	0	0	211.733.870

* This column has not been completed since eligible public spending is the basis for calculation of the community contribution. Private contribution is given in column 11β.

11α: Other national resources, anticipated income, non-eligible spending, etc.

11β: The amounts of private contribution are entered