

UNIVERSITY OF CRETE - STUDENT ACCOMODATION PPP

INVEU-ICR-0097-2024 – Social Investment and Skills Window (SISW)

Short description of the financing or investment operation and its objectives

Name of the final recipient	TALAIJA ESTIA SA
Type of final recipients	Special Purpose Vehicle
Countries of implementation	Greece
Implementing partner	European Investment Bank (EIB)

This project consists of the design, construction, financing and operation of i) student accommodation and ii) other administrative and general service facilities of the University of Crete using the public-private partnership (PPP), design-build-finance-operate-maintain (DBFOM) procurement method.

The Project will be instrumental to supporting the expansion of the University of Crete's campuses. It is expected to deliver approximately 103,487 m² of additional student accommodation (including general services) and 6,187 m² of teaching (amphitheatre) areas.

Global Assessment and rationale for approval

The Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund approved the use of the InvestEU guarantee on 26 November 2024 for the above-mentioned operation.

The project addresses a sub-optimal situation with regard to investments in higher education and teaching infrastructure. It creates additional, much needed space in student residences, as well as for teaching activities at the University of Crete, being in line with the European Education Area and the European Research Area. Moreover, the University is located in the less developed & Just Transition Mechanism area of Crete i.e. outside the main population and educational hubs of Athens and Thessaloniki. Therefore, the success of this project will contribute to better-balanced territorial development, counteracting excessive concentration, strengthening secondary growth poles and reducing inequalities between people and between places.

The Project will be delivered with the PPP procurement method in an effort to better manage construction and operation risks by transferring and sharing them with the private sector. A successful outcome with the assistance of the Bank, its co-lenders and their advisors will strengthen the capacity of the University of Crete to manage complex projects and financing methods diversifying their procurement and related funding options.

In terms of technical contribution, the Bank has reviewed the technical specifications and encouraged the Promoter to increase its ambition regarding the energy performance of the proposed facilities. Within the same context, design measures related to all other climate change and environmental sustainability objectives were presented. The InvestEU Advisory Hub is providing technical assistance, aiming at providing horizontal support and capacity building in the process of the University's internal preparation to manage the public private



Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund

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partnership (PPP) contract post award. This ability is crucial for maximizing the benefits of a PPP structure.