

# REVES EXCELLENCE AWARD 2017

*Application form*



## ▪ **Part A: APPLICANT'S DETAILS**

Name of the organization: The Social Economy Institute  
Type of organization: Enterprise  
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## ▪ **Part B: DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE**

1. Name of the initiative: City PLUS

2. For which topic(s) are you applying?

- Integration of migrants/refugees
- Digital economy
- European Structural and Investment Funds (in particular the implementation of Community-Led Local Development, CLLD)
- Youth capacity building
- Child poverty and vulnerability
- Transfer of enterprises (e.g. worker buy-out phenomenon)

3. Please describe the context of the initiative, providing also information about the identification of perceived needs and constraints in the target group(s).

*The City PLUS project brings together the Cities of Delphi, Loutraki-Perachora-Hagioi Theodoroi and Servia-Velventos forming a coalition directed by the Social Economy Institute, the Wuppertal Institute, the GLS social bank and the energy cooperative*

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*Energiewenniner Eg. The aim is to invest in the retrofitting of municipal buildings generating electricity via photo-voltaic panels, downsizing the operational costs and fees imposed to citizens, opening-up a new financing line for the city budget via NSRF and EFSI and engage in the establishment of the first citizens-contracting energy cooperatives in Greece.*

4. Which are the main objectives of the initiative?

*(a) To create a coalition of Greek cities that share efforts and resources for the first energy sustainability project through social innovation in Greece*

*(b) To leverage public, private, NSRF, EFSI and social finance for the retrofitting of public facilities aiming to sustainable power generation, through the formation of citizens-led social cooperatives in Greece.*

5. Please describe the initiative, including the actors involved and the concrete activities.

*The Social Economy Institute is directing the formation and fine-tuning of the network. The three Greek cities provide municipal buildings for the initial pilot assessment and the actual retrofitting exercise. The Wuppertal Institute directs the technical studies. The energy cooperative Energiegewinner provides expertise for a replication path, especially regarding infrastructure and economo-technical operation. GLS intends to engage by issuing securitization, credit and social bond lines for the construction phase.*

*Key to the intervention model is the establishment of local, energy-production, social cooperatives set-up by citizens so as to open-up citizens-contracting lines. The Social Economy Institute heads the task of institutional mechanics so as to present the optimal juridical form for the local, social cooperatives and the consortium as a whole, taking stock of the existing legislative context both in Greece and the EU.*

*Consistent effort is invested in twinning public budgets foreseen with private investment capital, subsidies and social finance by the NSRF, EFSI and social banks.*

6. Please highlight the strengths of your approach, stressing also the elements that make it a real partnership.

*The Greek crisis has led to a dramatic downsizing of the municipal budgets, in a level not sustainable. Actual operational costs related to energy consumption of public facilities are disproportional. Latent public, private and social banking capital is available for investments in energy sustainability. Along, citizens would be eager to participate in social cooperatives operating the energy-production installations. The City PLUS consortium builds critical mass, bringing together representative actors of the ecosystem so as to achieve this goal.*

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7. Please explain who are the partners, what exactly is their role and what is their concrete contribution to the initiative.

The Social Economy Institute fine-tunes the consortium. The Greek Municipalities of Delphi, Loutraki-Perachora-Hagioi Theodoroi provide public facilities and buildings for the task of assessing, installing and operating photo-voltaics. The Wuppertal Institute and the Energiegewinner cooperative provide know-how. GLS is committed to finance the project in the deployment phase.

8. Which are the main results – if already visible – resulting from the described initiative; and how do you imagine the continuation of this action?

*A consortium is already set-up by the three Greek Municipalities and the Social Economy Institute. Along, the Social Economy Institute, the Wuppertal Institute and Energiegewinner are committing own funding for the project whose budget is estimated at 1.1 million EUR for the assessment and capacity-building phase. Around 50% of own funding is foreseen. The GLS has committed to issue banking tools for the deployment phase. Actions are now under way to ensure “yin-yang” funding from other public and private sources. A well-articulated action plan is already deployed for engaging citizens. Visit:*

[www.delphi.plus](http://www.delphi.plus)

[www.loutraki.plus](http://www.loutraki.plus)

[www.topos.plus](http://www.topos.plus)

9. Please provide some details on how you raised the resources for the initiative. (This is not an element to be judged by the jury – however, it is important to readers of our Yearbook in which eligible initiatives will be presented.)

*The consortium has filed a funding proposal to the Greek NSRF which could eventually contribute around 700.000 EUR. Another 450.000 EUR approx. will be put by the Social Economy Institute, the Wuppertal Institute and Energiegewinner so as to conclude the capacity-building phase. The financing of the deployment phase will be made by the GLS and other sources. All three Greek Municipalities are already officially committing resources for the deployment of the City PLUS initiative in their region: [www.delphi.plus](http://www.delphi.plus), [www.loutraki.plus](http://www.loutraki.plus), [www.topos.plus](http://www.topos.plus).*