

Development Corporations in Greece

The emergence of development corporations in the mid-1990s in Greece and their proliferation since is associated with types of European Union targeted funding. Most of these corporations were founded by local or regional authorities and other public or private institutions, and aimed mostly at locating E.U. funding opportunities rather than implementing E.U. policies. In specific, goals of these corporations are the promotion of local and/or regional development, the conduct of market researches, as well as the consultation of businesses and administrative agencies in effective management. While these corporations uniformly constitute promoters of E.U. forms of governance, they re-produce the technicalities of a formal perception of development deeply entrenched in the new technopolitics of the market: the promotion of scientific and professional erudition, the application of ISO criteria both to themselves and to agencies they support, all speak a language of expertise that decides on what constitutes a marketable “product” and how the quality of this product is to be evaluated.