

Final event MANUMIX

Date: September 22nd, 2020

Attached documents:

Presentations used by each partner (see attached in the MANUMIX project webpage)

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/manumix/library/#folder=2593>

Objectives of the meeting:

The objectives of this meeting have been the following ones:

- Share a general overview and results of the project
- Experiences and lessons learnt
- Establish the next steps for the closure of the project.

Attendants:

- Iñaki Ganzarain. Innobasque. LP
- Raminta Zemaityte. STRATA. Partner.
- Susanna Longo. Finpiemonte. Partner.
- Cristiana Tabacco. Finpiemonte. Partner.
- Valentina Mastrullo. Finpiemonte Partner.
- Daniela Nepote. IRES Piemonte. Italian Stakeholder
- Gregg Green. Welsh Government. Partner.
- Edurne Magro. Orkestra. Advisory Partner.
- Amaia Azpiazu. Orkestra. Advisory Partner
- Roman Ruiz. CDI Consultants. Technical Assistance.
- Maite Zugadi. CDI Consultants. Technical Assistance.

Background and content of the public event

“Boosting Advanced Manufacturing in Europe through interregional cooperation” was the public event planned to close the MANUMIX project. Due to the current situation caused by the Covid-19, it was an online event in which more than 130 people participated through a Webinar.

The event started with an institutional welcome by Estibaliz Hernaez, Deputy Minister of Technology, Innovation and Competitiveness at the Basque Government. After that Maurizio Gattiglio, Chairman of ManuFUTURE-EU’s High Level Group and Executive Vice President of Prima Electro S.p.A. gave a lecture about the importance of manufacturing for the European Recovery from the Covid-19 and about ManuFUTURE-EU European Technology Platform’s vision on the European Recovery Plan.

Vincenzo Capocasale, Financial Officer at Interreg Europe's Joint Secretariat, presented the state of play of the interregional cooperation. Before moving on to the partners' presentation of MANUMIX's results and implementation of the action plans, Leire Bilbao (CEO, Innobasque – Basque Innovation Agency) and Iñaki Ganzarain (Project Manager, Innobasque – Basque Innovation Agency) presented MANUMIX's origins and a general overview of the results.

1. Monitoring of the action plans

For the final meeting of the project each partner prepared a presentation to explain the implementation process of the action plan in each region.

Basque country

All actions are in execution but action 2: Transference of the SBRI is in stand-by. Action 1: Transference of IR² has influenced the Business R&D subsidy programme "Hazitek" that is expected to include a new support line by 2021. The effect of this action is intended to have a greater effect on the R&D investment on the Basque economy and to help transforming it.

Action 3: monitoring and evaluation guidelines for STIP's programmes aims to align the monitoring and evaluation systems of the Science, Technology, and Innovation programmes to its objectives. This would allow to have a more comparable monitoring system for tracking Basque Country's comparative position in innovation.

Action 4: MANUMIX's programmes' monitoring and evaluation systems improvement is expected to improve the evaluation methodology for continuous adaptation of the programme to the needs of SMEs and to consider which technologies should be supported to better boost SMEs' competitiveness. They would help adapting the programme to the needs of the SMEs. This action will hopefully help improve the management of Gauzatu Industria.

This programme has also led to deeper interregional collaborations specially with Wales and Piedmont. So far, because of the Covid-19 crisis and the 3-month delay on the regional elections, there have been no improved instruments cofounded by ERDF and related with AM but there are 3 AM related instrument improvements forecasted for 2021.

Welsh Government

The goal of the Action Plan is to have an impact on the investment for growth and jobs program and on other regional development policy instruments. The aim is to achieve it by supporting the capacity of SMEs to engage in growth in regional, national, and international markets, and in innovation processes in a highly competitive and uncertain future. All four actions have been successfully implemented by the Welsh Government.

The first two actions have managed to change perception, raise awareness, and increase activity by applying new and modified instruments influenced by the experience of Basque and Finpiemonte partners in their I4.0 approach. The third action has provided support and scope for additional integration and training to deploy I4.0. And the fourth action has increased collaboration among partners within the sector and to deal with the Covid 19 challenges and post Covid recovery.

Some of the most important lessons learnt during this program are the importance of the role of RTOs, the adoption of the Industry 4.0 policies, strategies, vision, and ambition. It has also given the opportunity for closer partner region collaborations (official and stakeholder).

The initial target was to support 245 innovation projects, but at the end of this period 399 were supported. Of those 399 projects, 97, with have a combined project value of over £22.5m/€24.63, have been supported to introduce new to the market products. The other 302 projects are innovation vouchers that work thanks to the MANUMIX project.

Piedmont

IRES is the key stakeholder in the implementation of the action plan. All activities have already been implemented.

In Piedmont they had identified several aspects of the AM sector that needed to be improved. To do so, several challenges were addressed in the action plan: ad-hoc surveys to learn more about the A.M. enterprises and innovation centers, cooperate with the ISTAT in order to elaborate trends and comparisons with the new information, new ways to classify the enterprises so that it is consistent with the S3 specificities and to explore a new ESF indicator to know the amount of ESF funds supporting AM sector.

The 3 new indicators have been introduced in the S3 monitoring and evaluation system of the OP and S3. The results of these indicators have been analyzed by the ISTAT and used by IRES for further elaboration in support to decision making.

The MANUMIX Action Plan should continue after the end of the project in order to make a more effective regional policy evaluation in Piedmont.

Lithuania

All 4 actions defined in the action plan have been implemented. Action 1: Progress evaluation of the policy instrument “targeted research in the smart specialization areas” was included as case study in

evaluation of all policy instruments administered by Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The case study was finished and approved in March 2020.

Action 2: Progress evaluation of the policy instrument “promotion of activities of centres of excellence and centres for innovation and technology transfer” was also included as case study and the study was approved in March 2020.

Action 3 aimed to increase the maximum amount of funding available under the policy instrument “promotion of the commercialization and transnationality of R&D results” and action 4 aimed to include additional activity into the previous policy instrument. The procedure of changing financial conditions of the policy instrument has been successful and two calls for proposals under new conditions have been launched. The funding of one project is increased up to 100 000 euros.

One of the most important lessons learnt during this project is that the improvement of the policy instruments should be directed to a more detailed policy analysis, including the policy environment, progress, and possible impacts. This analysis should include qualitative and quantitative analytical methods and involve all key stakeholders.

The initial goal of the project was to finance up to 5 projects related to advanced manufacturing, but at the end of this period 8 project were supported.

2.Orkestra

This project has taught all the partners some important lessons. One of them is that small consortiums allow deep learning among all partners and that peer reviews are one productive way to learn. The different contexts facilitate the diversity of experiences although implementation issues can be raised because of that.

Different sources of learning have been used during this period. Learning journeys have been useful to get to know all the partners. Peer reviews allowed each partner to have ad-hoc learnings. The third source of learning was a document prepared by Orkestra (as advisory partner) including a base line study and a benchmarking study for each partner. The last source of learning used during this project is the report of good practices that allowed to share positive experiences and policies.

As a result of this programme partners were able to change some existing practices and instruments for new and improved ones.

3. Project management

CDI presented the following administrative steps for the closure of the Project. The most important aspects to take into account are the followings:

- All expenses must be **paid by October 1st**. By this date all Project related activities must have been completed.
 - ➔ The only expense that must be included in the report without being executed is the one of the first level controller.
- All individual progress reports submitted to the FLC → 1st November 2020
- All individual progress reports validated by the FLC → 1st December 2020
- Final progress report submitted to the JS → 23rd December 2020
- JS clarifications → January-February 2021
- The last 3 months of the Project will be exclusively dedicated to the administrative closure of the Project (01/10/2020-30/12/2020)
- **Important topics** to include in the final report: **lessons learnt** and **territorial impact**
- **Budget limitations:**

Each partner can have a **maximum deviation per category** of **20%** of its budget

The **total expense** justification can **NOT exceed the total budget** of each partner