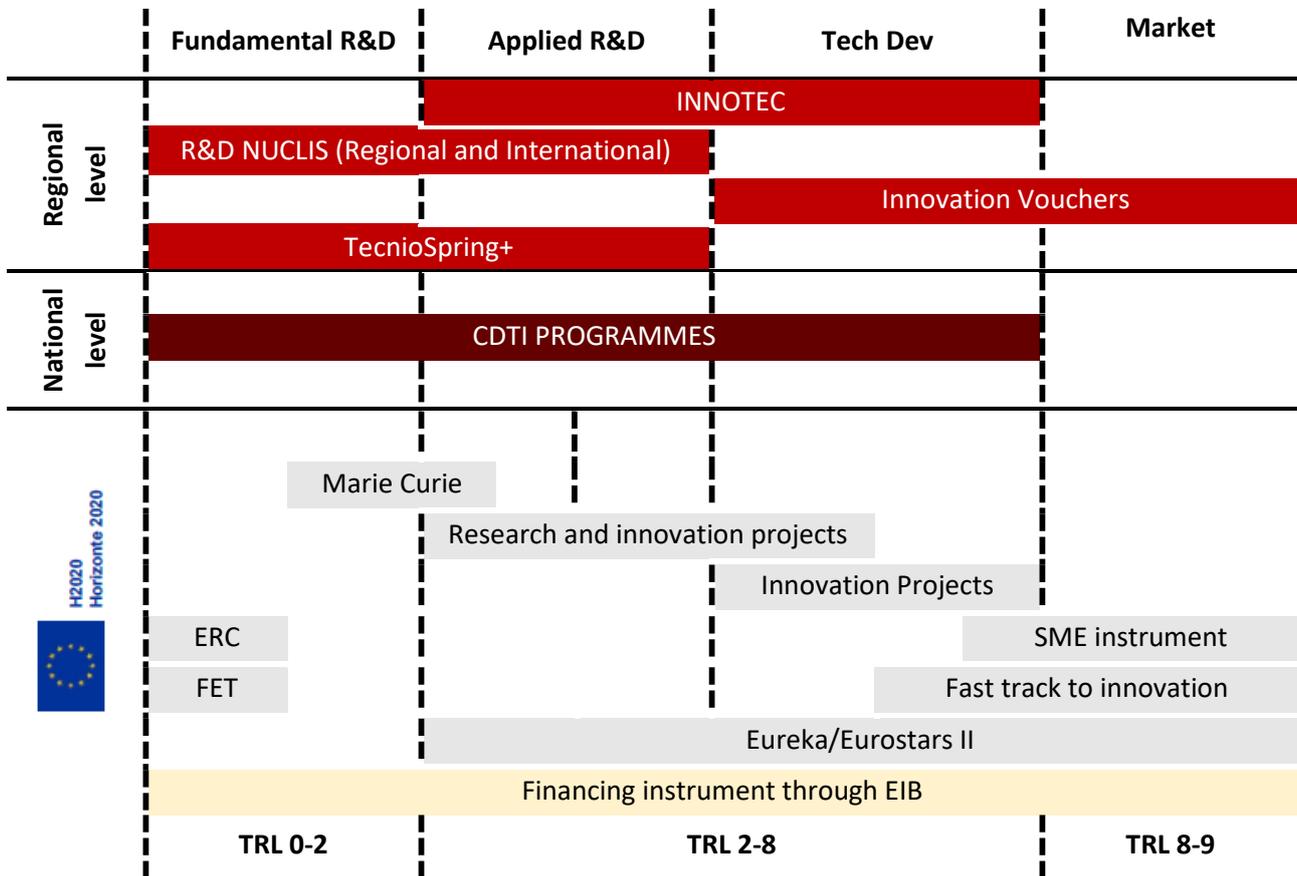


Policy Brief – Catalonia OSDD

Catalonia funding instruments scheme



The On Site Deep Dive in Catalonia took place from the 3rd to 4th of October 2017 in Barcelona. In total 40 participants from 10 partner regions participated to this OSDD.

In principle, the programme was devoted to give an overview of the Research and Innovation Strategy for the Smart Specialisation of Catalonia (RIS3CAT) and its monitoring system, to provide a deeper understanding of the innovation mechanisms designed and implemented by ACCIÓ with a focus on advanced manufacturing and the clusters policy and to provide a deeper overview of the Catalan RDI Ecosystem through three site-visits focused on Advanced Manufacturing and 3DPrinting/Additive Manufacturing: the “Barcelona Industry Week”, the facilities of HP and the facilities of Fundació CIM-UPC. However, due to a general strike in Catalonia part of the first day programme was postponed to the following meeting. During the following OSDD in Zuid-Holland, this part was explained in detail.

Based on the presentations, discussions and policy acceleration sessions of the OSDD, as well as on post-elaboration of information performed by Regions after the meeting, the following main critical conclusions can be derived in terms of advantages of cooperation, barriers, and recommendations that can be input for the Action Plan.

Advantages and opportunities of inter-regional cooperation deriving from the extension to other Regions of the instruments/tools/practices presented

- Interesting cooperation opportunities can come from NUCLIS R&D projects aimed at obtaining prototypes and demonstrators on new products, processes and technologies.
- Very well-structured approach toward Digital Innovation Hub, the Region was able to exploit this concept to promote key topics among local companies as well as internationally. An interesting example run by LEITAT is the IAM3DHub, the Catalan 'digital innovation hub' for 3D printing.
- ACCIO is a one stop shop kind of organization to take care of companies growth offering diverse services. The close alignment with EU and S3 strategies will make applying EU funding easier.
- Also interesting to explore opportunities that can come from other instruments like TecnioSpring+ (researchers' mobility) and opportunities to explore in Horizon Calls (companies and entities from the S34Growth regions that can prepare a consortium for Horizon2020).

Barriers and difficulties to face for the introduction of new instruments/tools/practices in a coordinated and synergic way

- These DIHs take many shapes and forms in different regions and this may generate confusion and difficulties in extending the cooperation in this field and in the alignment among the existing initiatives. At the moment in many Regions this concept it is still far from being a concrete ad practical solution.
- The network of DIHs, if not clearly identified, risks to overlap other ongoing initiatives and network such as Vanguard and EPPN.
- When most policies and strategies are funded and stated from the national level, it is more difficult to get funding specifically regional programmes.

Recommendations and suggestions proposed to overcome such barriers and difficulties

- Project partners can start working on the definition of a common approach to DIHs in particular focusing on its positioning with respect to ongoing initiative (i.e. starting from Vanguard Initiative considering that all the partners are well aware of it)
- Considering the interest on NUCLIS projects, partner should analyse in detail the structure of the programme and start thinking about possible cooperation in this field. First of all this can be done evaluating the technical feasibility in each region.