INNO INFRA SHARE
Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

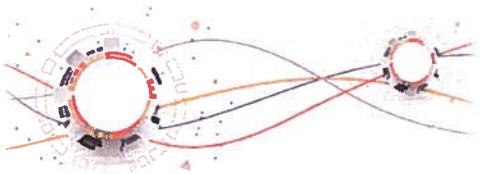
Sharing Strategies for European Research and Innovation Infrastructure

(INNO INFRA SHARE)

The Flemish Action Plan

Flanders Make

1 July 2019



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1. General information

Inno Infra Share project	
Partner organization	Flanders Make
Position in the project	Project partner
Country	Belgium
NUTS2 region	Prov. Limburg
Contact person	Ger van den Kerkhof
E-mail	ger.vandenkerkhof@flandersmake.be
Phone	+32 (0)11 790560
	+32 (0)497 438247

2. Introduction

The Inno Infra Share project ("Sharing Strategies for European Research and Innovation Infrastructures") is aimed at improving the exploitation of research and innovation facilities for the benefit of the business sector. The project targets – among others – the efficiency and impact of policies addressed to the governance, management and accessibility of RII by companies, in particular SMEs. The goal is to create business models for a long-term sustainability of the RII.

This Flemish action plan aims to contribute to a more efficient use of funds in order to support not only the actual investment in RII, but also the management and long-term exploitation of the targeted RII. Furthermore, this action plan addresses opportunities for interregional collaboration in the scope of the Inno Infra Share project.

In the framework of the project – between January 2017 and end of 2018 – the partnership has been deeply involved in the policy and regional learning process.

- Interregional study visits in Emilia Romagna, Brainport/Flanders and Skane Region
- Interregional peer reviews in Dresden and Brno
- Regional policy learning workshops
- Regional stakeholder meetings
- Mapping of RII and defining good practices

We have learned that the management, governance and exploitation of RII is different in the participating regions. There is definitely no "single" solution which fits all partners. Each region is different with own specific regional plans, priorities, topics, instruments, etc. This action plan is tailored for the Flemish situation and is compiled in consultation with different Flemish stakeholders. Several actions are elaborated which could help to increase the accessibility of companies (SMEs) to the regional RII and thus make the RII more sustainable on the longer term.

This action plan has been discussed with the Flemish Management Authority (Vlaio) on several occasions and meetings. Both in bi-lateral meetings which were specifically dedicated to the actions in this plan, but also in stakeholder meetings in the Interreg Europe NMPREG project (where Flanders Make is one of the stakeholders).

The Flemish Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship endorses the actions in this plan – however not yet formally signed – and supports the analyses in sections 3 and

4. During the coming weeks, when the actions will be executed a more formal endorsement will be sought.

3. The policy context

In this chapter the Flemish policy actions/instruments/initiatives are elaborated which are most relevant in the scope of the Inno Infra Share project.

3.1. Flanders as a region

The Flemish industry is challenged by the speed of change due to digital technology having a major impact on business models, products and the organization of production. Global competition, and especially China, has had a significant impact on the manufacturing share of many countries. Belgium lost more than average in Europe. In Europe, Germany is an exception and therefore the frontrunner.

Today the manufacturing share in Flanders is about stabilized and the Flemish economy has become one of the most productive in the world although productivity growth has been stagnating over the last few years. The backbone of the Flemish industry is a high level of education, many sites of (high tech) multinationals, high productivity rates and an excellent knowledge of different EU languages.

Steel, textile, pharmaceutics and automotive are the main industrial sectors. Different Flemish companies are world market leader in their segment (e.g. Picanol and vd Wiele for weaving machines, Bekaert for steel wire products, Punch Powertrain for transmission systems).

More recently many companies located in Flanders are focussed on introducing industry4.0-related technologies and many start-up companies in this industrial field have been created.

Flanders has also created an extensive "service-oriented" economy. Logistics and transport – connected to the Flemish ports of Antwerp and Ghent – are examples.

Flanders has the ambition to spend 3% of the GDP on Research and Innovation (see figure below) and wants to be in the top 5 of European regions. From a European perspective Flanders is seen an a "strong innovator" with innovative and collaborating SMEs and strong product innovations.

Evolution of Gross Expenditure on R&D in the Flemish Region as a percentage of regional GDP (2005-2015)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
GERD gew/BBPR	2,00	1,91	1,92	2,01	2,06	2,21	2,33	2,53	2,56	2,60	2,69

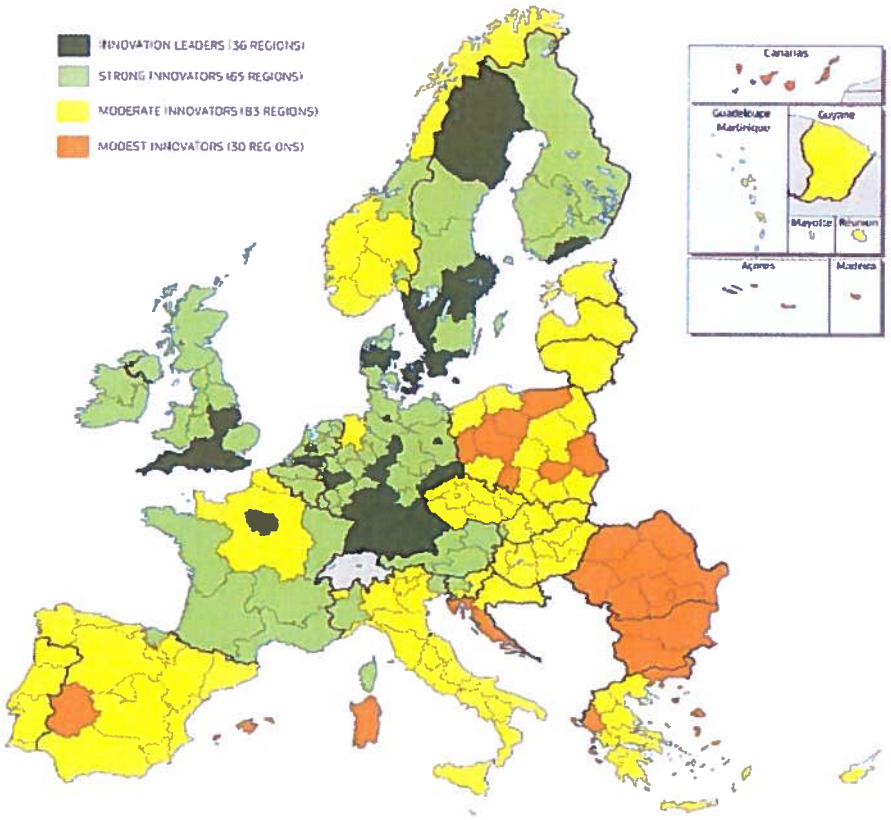
In %

Source: "3%-nota" (ECOOM & EWI, 2017) - http://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/sites/default/files/bestanden/325nota_20170609.pdf

The Flemish innovation landscape is currently still scattered. The policy is aimed at consolidation and cooperation between different actors in the innovation ecosystem. .

From a governmental perspective strategic basic research funding is organized through Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO). The Flemish Agency for Innovation

and Entrepreneurship (Vlaio) manages the funding instruments for research and development.



3.2. ERDF Flanders

The policy instrument for Flanders which is targeted in this project is the ERDF Flanders program (2014 – 2020), *Priority Axis 1: Stimulating Research, Technological Development and Innovation*.
Strengthening RII and increasing R&D&I investments from companies are the two focal points within this priority axis of the program which is embedded in the smart specialisation strategy for Flanders.
In this strategy 8 cluster domains have been defined in which Flanders has comparative advantages and innovation potentials towards excellence: sustainable chemistry, specialized manufacturing, personalized healthcare, specialized logistics, specialized agro-food, integrated energy-efficient building environment, smart systems and creative industries.

The efforts of the program are oriented towards the expansion of the Flemish R&D-instruments covering some missing links, namely living labs and demonstration projects, to stimulate product development and market introduction of innovative products and services. In parallel, it is aimed to involve more companies in the innovation process/dynamics. In this respect, two program performance indicators (number of SMEs with innovations and share of turnover generated by innovations) have been defined for this priority axis. To realise these objectives two investment priorities have been defined:

- Strengthening the R&I infrastructure and capacity for excellence at European level

and

- Stimulating the R&I investments from companies through a broad set of instruments (such as exchange of knowhow, networking, experimental/pilot set ups, fast product validation, advanced production capacity, technology dissemination, ...)

In the ERDF Flanders program 42,29 mln € of the EU-funding was initially earmarked for Priority Axis 1. In 2014 this budget was increased with 27,09 mln € due to the reconversion of the province of Limburg (SALK-program) resulting in an overall EU-budget of 69,55 mln € for innovation, research and technological development. This is 40% of the total program EU-budget (173,57 mln €). In a program update (approved October 2017) the budget for priority axis 1 was increased to 85 mln €, whereas the budgets for the other priority axes were reduced stipulating the importance of R&D&I. Most of this budget has already been allocated to projects (36, status June 2018) with less than 10% available for future projects. A new program to start in 2021 will be developed and negotiated with the EC in 2019 and 2020. Elections for a new Flemish government will take place in May 2019, which can influence this process.

3.3. The Flemish Cluster Policy

In 2016 and in line with the New industrial policy, the Flemish government initiated a new cluster policy based on a joint commitment for transformation by innovation in domains with important potential for economic and societal value creation in Flanders. The goal for this cluster development is an increasing self-organisation of interlinked companies and related institutes in a specific competence area and around innovative value chains to provide a leverage in tackling the innovation paradox and improve the marketing/commercialization of innovations. A dual approach is established with Spearhead Clusters and Innovative Company networks.

The *Spearhead Clusters* are ambitious initiatives with a long-term vision linked to a strategic domain for Flanders and able to play a prominent role at international level. Scientific and technological excellence, but also high economic potential and support from the main stakeholder groups (i.e. industry, research and government) are important characteristics for these spearhead clusters creating coherence with the smart specialization strategy. Today 5 spearhead clusters (topics: food, energy, logistics, sustainable chemistry and materials) have been established.

Innovative Company Networks are similar initiatives, but with a smaller scale, a lower ambition level, a shorter time horizon and a different maturity level. They should establish an intense collaboration between companies to carry out a concrete action plan (max 3 year) with demonstrable economic benefit for the participating companies thereby targeting SMEs. Mid 2018 14 ICNs have been approved around several topics defined in a bottom up approach and will be supported by the Flemish government.

The Clusters (SC and ICN) create triple helix ecosystems in which companies cooperate with research institutes allowing a better access and exploitation of strategic Research and Innovation Infrastructures. The Flemish government recognizes this playing ground looking to link other instruments, e.g. supporting infrastructures, to the Clusters. As a result of this cluster policy, budget from other programs, such as ERDF, will be oriented more towards these spearhead clusters and ICNs creating additional leverage for them.

3.4. SWOT ERDF-program

During the project, the Flemish ERDF program as well as the overall Flemish strategy related to the interaction between SMEs and innovation actors have been discussed with different stakeholders (from industry, research and government) and with the management authority (Flemish Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship). These discussions, combined with the learnings from the other regions in study visits, peer reviews and bi-lateral project meetings, resulted in a SWOT analysis of the instrument.

Strengths

- The ERDF program is a unique instrument in the Flemish innovation landscape - direct funding of infrastructure for high TRL suitable for SMEs – demand driven
- Regional projects are grafted on the needs of the sector and SMEs + strong link between RTOs and SMEs
- Projects focus on transfer of knowledge to the market
- Accompanying measures can also be funded (e.g. promotion)
- Several regional instruments already address the inclusion of SMEs in innovation projects – low threshold, high TRL, low cost, hardly any administration (e.g. Vlaio Research projects, Vlaio Development projects, …)

Weaknesses

- Funding of infrastructure via ERDF, but NOT the exploitation, business development, governance and management of the RII
- Short term – project based – approach
- After project ends no incentives from ERDF are available for attracting SMEs
- Business models are not supported in the longer term
- Limited number of projects have been started in the "healthcare" segment
- Limited possibilities/incentives within ERDF for international/interregional cooperation
- State aid rules make it difficult to directly fund/support companies/SMEs
- The supported projects are only for "demonstration" activities NOT for lower TRL levels
- In general, there is an under occupation of (in many cases expensive) Research and Innovation Infrastructure

Opportunities

- Cluster policy in Flanders enables stronger involvement of SMEs in research and innovation
- Innovative Company Networks are bottom-up initiatives geared towards collaboration between SMEs
- Living labs and "innovation zones" could provide playing fields for innovative SMEs
- Interregional opportunities to increase the degree of occupation of top-level infrastructures and to increase the accessibility of highly specialized infrastructures for SMEs (e.g. between Flanders and Brainport region)
  In next ERDF program more emphasis will be given to innovation

Threats

- Future funding of ERDF programs under pressure

- Great diversity of infrastructures, organizations and instruments available – SMEs don't know where to go.
- Business model for research infrastructures has no or limited incentives for external participation – RIIs are generally embedded in research environment iso commercial environment.

4. Summary of interregional project findings and lessons learnt

The study visits and peer reviews in this project have been extremely educational. Especially the three examples below have been of great inspiration for the Flemish action plan.

In Skane the Open Lab – strategically located between MAX IV and European Spallation Source – learned that research/innovation infrastructures will generate the most added value if they are an integral part of an innovation ecosystem of infrastructure, knowledge, education with support from the Government. So, in general, an active (business)management of the ecosystem around RIIs is required to give industry and especially SMEs access to those RIIs.
This example was particularly inspiring for the Flemish action plan as in Flanders the Clusters, as part of the Flemish RIS3 strategy, act as intermediates and "connectors" in the ecosystem of innovation stakeholders.

The HighTech Manufacturing Campus showed that campus management can facilitate the collaboration between the different actors in such an innovation ecosystem. Solliance and the Automotive Campus were good examples of collaboration between industry and research in the field of shared resources. The Brainport Study visit also showed that creating and maintaining in overview of the existing innovation infrastructures is key to support the companies.

Also Flanders Make and Sirris, where infrastructure is set-up with the help of the Flemish/Belgian government, show that a good business model, resources and intense interaction and collaboration with the industry is needed to create an open access model for the infrastructure.

The interregional study visits, peer reviews, bilateral project meetings, combined with the regional stakeholder meetings and regional learning workshops have resulted in several observations and conclusions with regard to the Flemish situation.

4.1. Observations related to Flanders

- The Flemish innovation (RII) ecosystem is relatively well developed but fragmented
- Many RIIs are available at Universities and RTOs, but they are difficult to find by companies
- Flanders already has a strong collaboration between industry and research managed by RTOs, Universities, Clusters and ICNs
- Broad range of innovation instruments available for SMEs with a specific place for ERDF
- Marketing and exploitation of research infrastructures well developed at RTOs
- The ERDF program covered the Flemish "white spot" in infrastructure funding, but the funds are almost fully spent or allocated
- Next program still undefined
- The potential of international collaboration is underexplored

4.2. Conclusions for the Flemish action plan

- ERDF
  The current Flemish OP fund is almost depleted and the remaining funds are almost all allocated to the next and final call for clusters which is due for Q2 2019. The Flemish Cluster Policy is therefore an integral part of the Flemish OP – Priority 1 "Investment projects at Spearhead Clusters".
  In order to make the action executable the focus will be on defining new or modified KPIs for the next cluster call which will open in the beginning of Q2 2019 and be closed at the end of Q2 2019.

- Create room for "sustainable business model for innovation infrastructures" and address fragmentation in the Flemish landscape

- Include interregional collaboration in one of the actions
  Flanders and The Netherlands have been collaborating on innovative topics already for years, mainly in framework or structural funds projects.
  We would now enhance this project based collaboration to a more structural collaboration related to infrastructures.

5. The actions envisaged

Based on the analyses of the program, the Flemish policy, the SWOT analysis and the learnings from the INNO_INFRA_SHARE project, we plan the following fields of action for Flanders:

1. Support sustainable business models for exploitation of existing and new RII
   a. Define KPIs for next call for projects in Flemish ERDF program Axis 1 together with VLAIO (addressing the current ERDF program)

2. Increase accessibility of RII for companies through better managing fragmentation in innovation landscape
   a. Create/improve counter function for companies
   b. Support "one stop shop" approach for companies

3. Enhance Interregional collaboration
   a. Determine opportunities for new RII based on cross regional mapping results and EU and regional roadmaps and combine with sustainable business models
   b. Work out cross-regional collaboration program with South Netherlands, using the Flemish – Netherlands working group as a platform
   c. Roll-out this program to other partner regions (e.g. Saxony)

5.1. Details of the actions

5.1.1 ACTION 1: Support sustainable business models for exploitation of existing and new RII

1. The background

The Flemish innovation ecosystem and more specifically the innovation infrastructures are already well developed, but are fragmented over different players (universities, RTOs, federations, industry, ...) with their own specific objectives.

The ERDF Flanders program is able to fund higher TRL infrastructures (6 – 8), making this program important as it covers a missing link in the funding landscape in Flanders. The program budget for the actual program is almost entirely spent and the remaining funds are already allocated to Flemish smart specialization topics within the last project calls. The next program (2020- ...) is still at a definition phase with negotiations at EU-level.

The ERDF program is mainly supporting the development of RIIs, but it has limited instruments to support the exploitation of these RIIs towards a sustainable business model. E.g. there are no stimuli for open access beyond project duration; there are no KPI's with regard to access of Industry (SMEs) on the RIIs; and financing for exploitation of RIIs is difficult due to state aid roles.

The learnings from the study visit in Brainport (The High Tech Campus including the University Campus) showed that a structured management combined with good business models is fundamental to the exploitation of the infrastructures and the level of access that companies (SMEs) have to these infrastructures.
The Medicon Village in Lund (Skane) showed that collaboration between industry, research and government (triple helix) is key in this respect.

2. Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

a. Prepare discussion note on sustainable business models for access of RIIs

Based on the findings during this project (e.g. Science Village Skane and High Tech Campus Brainport/Solliance) a short discussion note will be made with the main building blocks of an "open access model". This note will be discussed with the funding authority and will form the input for action b).

b. Work-out KPIs and reporting scheme for next call for projects within the current running OP axis 1 to monitor and stimulate access of SMEs to RIIs

The next call for projects within the current OP will open in Q2 2019. This call will be focussed on new cluster initiatives and innovative company networks. In order to facilitate the open connection between existing and new research and innovation infrastructures and SMEs a new (or modified) set of KPIs for these initiatives needs to be developed, together with the funding authority. The funding authority will then further follow-up the KPI reporting once the clusters are set-up. The discussion with the funding authority will take place in April/May 2019 to follow implementation of the modified set of KPIs in Q3/Q4 of 2019.

3. Players involved (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

- Flemish Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO) *(Operational management ERDF instrument)*

- Department Economics, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government (EWI) *(Administration preparing and monitoring Innovation Policy instruments)*
- ERDF Program Committee in Flemish government *(Stakeholders providing inputs to next ERDF-program at Flemish level)*
- Flemish Advisory Council for Innovation and Enterprise (VARIO) *(Advisory council for innovation policy with stakeholders providing inputs to ERDF-program at Flemish level)*

4. Timeframe

a. Q2 2019
b. Q2 2019

5. Costs (if relevant)

We expect that no (additional) costs are involved. In order to implement these actions some follow-up and discussions are needed between Flanders Make and different Flemish organisations (see above). We expect 4 meeting of 4 hours = appr. € 1.500 staff costs for Flanders Make

6. Funding sources (if relevant): Flanders Make?

7. Results/Impact and background of the action:

a. Discussion note sustainable business models
   One meeting Flemish stakeholders
b. Discussion note KPI's (including reporting scheme), integrated in next call ERDF
   One meeting Flemish administration (Vlaio)
c. 8 meetings with different stakeholder groups

This action was mainly inspired by the observation in Skane where a good ecosystem of innovation infrastructures and an "open lab" prove that an overall business approach is favourable for the exploitation of the infrastructures.

5.1.2 ACTION 2: Increase accessibility of RII for companies through better managing fragmentation in the innovation landscape

1. The background

The Flemish innovation ecosystem is well-developed, but fragmented. On the supply side are the innovation infrastructures owned and operated by different players (universities, RTOs, federations, industry, ...). On the demand side, the industrial base in Flanders consists of large companies and many SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups. The needs of these companies differ and do not necessarilly match with the available infrastructures in the innovation ecosystem.

For SMEs different funding mechanisms for RT&D are already in place (e.g. "SME Instrument", SME Growth Subsidy, Vlaio Development Projects, Vlaio Research Projects, etc.).
However, the fragmentation seems to be an obstacle for SMEs to get involved in RT&D as it is difficult for them to identify the right partners and RIIs.

The Flemish government has started to structure the Research field through the reorganisation of the "innovation centres" into one organization "Team Bedrijfstrajecten vzw" as a portal for companies looking for support to innovate and to grow as well as through the elaboration of a cluster policy shaping the ecosystems around specific (smart specialization) topics.

The Region of Skane has in recent years developed some successful ecosystems around physical infrastructures, human capital and financial resources attracting SMEs. These models could be interesting for creating a Flemish ecosystem around Industry 4.0 as part of its smart specialization strategy. This action is specifically inspired on the Skane situation (see reports on Study Visit Skane – May 2018)

Also the work done in the Brainport region with regard to the mapping of the infrastructures in the ecosystem – as shown in the study visit – was very interesting in combination with Flanders. Also it is based on the need to avoid duplication of investments in a relatively small geographical area, in spite of the fact that there is a border in between the regions.

2. Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

a. <u>Inventory of the Flemish RII and innovation players with the Industry 4.0 Transition Area.</u>

Flanders Make will actively collaborate with IDEA consult in this topic. We will start with 3D printing as a first testcase to set-up a platform to link research questions with innovation actors and RII.
Flanders Make will leverage on the EU project *"Speeding-up EU industrial modernization by improving support for pan-European demonstration facilities – the 3D printing case".* In this project a (virtual) **support platform** will be set-up to link SMEs with 3D printing facilities. The projects will start with comprehensive mapping of available infrastructures and develop a list of datasets that will be provided by the platform including a user-friendly web interface. Flanders Make will bring in the Flemish RII on 3D printing. Also the project will develop connectivity between RIIs. This topic is however out of scope for this action.
This ICT-platform/tool should form the basis of a dynamic management of the Flemish ecosystem around Industry4.0/3D printing. It should allow business developers of research centres and clusters and the "Team Bedrijfstrajecten vzw" to actively link the demand and supply side thereby bringing SMEs research questions to appropriate RIIs.
After successful evaluation, this platform could be extended to different areas of technology.
This action focusses specifically on the (inter)regional infrastructures; the exact geographical scoping still needs to be defined. It is therefore complementary to the mentioned EU Industrial Modernization project. It addresses the fragmentation of the Flemish innovation landscape and the "source" comes from the mapping process which Brainport Development has already done in the INNO INFRA

SHARE project. Flanders Make has also started the mapping process, but not completed it fully. This action has been discussed with the Flemish Management Authority and the idea was to start with a very focused and limited area of Industry4.0 infrastructures (3D printing). Once this process has been finished, the mapping process can be extended to other areas of infrastructures. The Flemish Management Authority has offered IDEA Consult to be the supporting partner of the survey/mapping action.

b. Embed this platform in Flemish ecosystem

The platform developed (once successful) should be embedded in the Flemish innovation ecosystem of business developers. We will discuss with Vlaio how to do this and what the boundary conditions are.

3. **Players involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

- IDEA Consult (developer ICT tool)
- Department Economics, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government (EWI) *(Administration preparing and monitoring Innovation Policy instruments)*
- Flemish Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO) *(Agency managing cluster policy → impose/monitoring use of tool)*
- Flanders Make *(stakeholder with business developers implementing tool)*
- SIRRIS *(industry 4.0 stakeholder with business developers implementing tool)*
- "Team Bedrijfstrajecten vzw" (*government agency with business developers implementing tool)*
- Spearhead Clusters *(innovation clusters with business developers implementing tool)*

4. **Timeframe**

a. Q3 2019 – Q3 2019
b. Q4 2019 – Q3 2019

5. **Costs** (if relevant)

In this action the support from Idea Consult is needed. We will make use of the current support from our Management Authority (Vlaio) which supports the efforts of Idea Consult.

We expect some costs from Flanders Make staff: 4 meetings of 2 hours = approximately € 750

6. **Funding sources** (if relevant):
Part of the work will be carried out under the EU project *"Speeding-up EU industrial modernization by improving support for pan-European demonstration facilities – the 3D printing case".*

Work of Idea Consult will be funded by Vlaio (see above)

7. **Results/Impact:**
a. ICT-platform with Ecosystem overview to support business developers
b. 3 meetings Vlaio to discuss implementation ICT-platform

5.1.3 ACTION 3: Enhance interregional collaboration

1. **The background** (please describe the lessons learnt from the project that constitute the basis for the development of the present Action Plan)

During the course of the project it became – once again – clear that many interesting synergies exist between the different regions. During the study visits highly specialized RII in other regions which are not available in Flanders were discovered and vice versa Flanders has RII which can be valuable for other regions and are underutilized.
During the Peer Review meeting in Dresden the Tartu preliminary Action Plan was presented. Especially the interregional cooperation actions (with Saxony) were inspiring. This also showed the important role of RTOs and RIIs in this respect. It appeared that in case of Flanders Make a coordinating role was relevant. This Peer Review triggered the collaboration between Flanders and the Brainport region.

The ERDF-program gives some stimuli for interregional collaboration. These stimuli have however little success, especially when considering SMEs. Other RTD-funding mechanisms for SMEs (e.g. KMO Portefeuille, KMO Growth Subsidy, etc.) provide also possibilities for interregional collaborations but with limited success.

This action will initially explore the collaboration opportunities with the region Brainport, as a joint action between Brainport and Flanders Make. Brainport and Flanders are interesting regions for cross border collaboration (many synergies, same challenges but different approaches, same language and already existing collaboration/platforms). Results of the analysis will be shared with mutual stakeholders and within interregional platforms such as the Flemish-Netherlands High Tech Working Group.

For this specific topic we will establish a connection between the ERDF OPs in Flanders and South Netherlands, in order to exchange information, learn from each other's way of working and where possible align both programs and increase interregional activities.

This action was inspired on the work done in the Brainport region with regard to the mapping of the infrastructures in the ecosystem – as shown in the study visit. Also it is based on the need to avoid duplication of investments in a relatively small geographical area, in spite of the fact that there is a border in between the regions

2. **Action** (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

a. Organize 1 meeting between the M.A. secretariats

The Stimulus Programme Management and VLAIO – being the Management Authorities from both regions – will be connected by having a mutual meeting. From there onwards we will follow up wherever possible on the ideas that would lead to more alignment.

b. Define linkages, missing and overlapping RII between the two regions.

Starting from the mapping process which has already been set-up in the Inno Infra Share project and finalized in Action 2 in this plan, we will make a specific overview of missing and overlapping RII between the two regions related to the common Smart Specialisation areas in both regions. The current database will be used as the ICT platform.

c. Work-out cross regional collaboration program between South Netherlands and Flanders, using the Flemish – Netherlands working group as a potential platform

Based on the outcome of the mapping process collaboration opportunities are explored and existing RIIs are cross linked with the needs of the industrial landscape (SMEs). Also the organisational structure for such a cross border collaboration will be explored, developed and discussed in the different stakeholder fora.

d. Involve other regions

In the Inno Infra Share project also the region of Saxony appeared to be very interesting in the innovation topics addressed and the way the system is managed. Once the Dutch-Flemish collaboration program is successfully running the discussions will be started with other regions.

This action builds upon the results of the policy learning process in phase 1 of the project. More specific study visits in Brainport and Flanders formed the basis to explore further collaboration between Flanders and Brainport with the focus on potential alignment of the innovation policies in both regions. The real tangible output of this action will be a **mutual collaboration program** between South Netherlands and Flanders, supported by both management authorities. The meetings as described in this action are a means to explore the complementarity and overlap between the regions with regard to innovation infrastructures and the accessibility of SMEs in more detail. First meeting is planned for 27 September 2019.

3. **Players involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

- ERDF stakeholders in the Flemish government (EWI, VLAIO) *(policy and management authority for ERDF-instrument)*
- Stakeholders in the Flemish-Netherlands High Tech Working Group *(platform for enforcing the interregional actions)*
- The regional authorities in Flanders and Brainport
- IDEA Consult *(for exploring and setting up a potential collaboration model between the two regions and for supporting the mapping initiative).*
- Flanders Make/Brainport *(coordinating action)*

4. **Timeframe**

a. Q2 2019
The current status of the mapping process needs to be identified. Then the remaining mapping activities can be executed on both sides of the border.

b. Q3 2019
In parallel the business model (structure) of cross border collaboration will be explored, discussed and set-up

5. **Costs** (if relevant)

IDEA Consult will support in the set-up of a collaboration program. We will leverage on other running activities and the support for the IDEA efforts by our Management Authority.

For Flanders Make some (staff) costs will be made. More specific 4 meetings for 4 hours = € 1.500

6. **Funding sources** (if relevant):

Support IDEA consult is funded by Vlaio (within running agreement). Same as Action 2.

7. **Results/impact and background of the action:**
   a. RII overview (overlap/complementarity) Flanders-Brainport region
   b. Proposal cross border collaboration (incl organisational structure)
      6 meetings with stakeholders (Flanders, Flemish-Netherlands High Tech Working Group, Brainport) to discuss cross border collaboration set up

Date: 01-07-2019

Signature: _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____

Flanders Make vzw
Oude Diestersebaan 133
3920 Lommel
Tel.: +32 11 790 590
BTW/VAT: BE 0860.286.268