

STEPHANIE

Interreg Europe

STEPHANIE directs regional research and innovation policies towards photonics-based space technologies to address today's grand societal challenges.

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An interregional cooperation project for improving innovation delivery policies.

ACTION PLAN OF TUSCANY REGION

by: IFAC CNR
TUSCANY REGION



Research & innovation

€

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Part I – General Information

About the STEPHANIE Project

Space technologies based on photonics are considered as one of Europe's areas of key industrial competence. They have huge potential to address a number of today's grand societal challenges, in particular health and wellbeing, climate action and secure societies. However, this potential will be wasted if public policy fails to address the gap between space research and its application on the ground. A long-term challenge is to ensure that R&I investments exploit the opportunities offered by space (e.g. huge availability of data) by ensuring that applications and services are produced to address societal challenges and that they reach the market.

Project Objectives

The Interreg Europe project STEPHANIE groups together 8 partners from 7 European regions to improve regional innovation policies towards a more effective use of R&I in space technology based on photonics to develop products with strong market potential and capacity to address socio-environmental challenges.

The immediate objectives of STEPHANIE are:

- to promote the involvement of stakeholders in the interregional learning process through the creation of local stakeholders' groups;
- to develop regional visions for a better understanding of challenges and opportunities of regional R&I policies applied to photonics-based space technology;
- to identify and share regional Good Practices related to policy instruments supporting product developments and services with market potential and addressing socio-environmental challenges;
- to prepare, apply and monitor regional Action Plans for integrating and deploying Good Practices in the space technology sector.

Approach

STEPHANIE brings together regional Space and Technology Innovation Actors (SPIA) to exchange ideas and experiences on policy models. The approach is designed to improve innovation delivery in the field of photonics-based space technology by addressing two main policy challenges:

- quadruple helix cooperation of research organisations, industry, government and users along the technology value chain at regional and interregional level;
- strengthening of existing and new regional and international funding schemes and simplification of access and administration.

Project Road Map

Phase 1 – Sharing Solutions and Development of Action Plans (01.2017 to 12.2019)

- Exchange of experience on challenges, needs, current strategies and good practices.
- In-depth Analysis of Good Practices and their potential for transfer.
- Drafting of recommendations for regional policy action.
- Development of Action Plans.

Phase 2 – Implementation and Monitoring (01.2020 to 12.2021)

- Implementation and monitoring of regional action plans.
- Finalising the monitoring activities and summarising the results.

Project	STEPHANIE: Space Technology with Photonics for market and societal challenges
Partner organisation	Tuscany Region
Other partner organisations involved	None
Country	Italy
NUTS2 region	Tuscany
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Part II – Policy Context

Policy instruments addressed by Tuscany Region

The Tuscany Action Plan aims to impact the current Tuscany Regional Operative ERDF Programme (ROP) 2014-2020. The policy instrument is managed by the ERDF POR 2014-2020 Regional Managing Authority.

The policy instrument objective is to strengthen RTD and Innovation (Axis 1). STEPHANIE addresses priority 1b “promote innovation, RTD investments and support synergies among enterprises, RTD centres and higher education institutes. Cooperation should develop new products/services, technology transfer, social/eco/open innovation and clusters through smart specialisation, applied research and advanced manufacturing, especially in KETs, including photonics”.

Measures that the project hopes to addresses are those supporting: innovation services in companies, innovative solutions for new products/processes and industrialisation of RTD results; clusters among

enterprises, RTD centres and other stakeholders; support to technological advancement through pilot lines, early product validation, large-scale demonstration.

The measures are designed to address the need to improve innovation delivery along the technological value chain. Cluster organisations and innovation services have been supported by regional policy, but more work is required. Real impact is hindered by lack of systemic cooperation among regional stakeholders, as well as concrete measures to connect R&I and applied solutions to societal/environmental challenges.

New Technology Districts should encourage collaboration among key actors, with a focus on supporting market exploitation. However, while the vision is clear, it requires practical inputs to make it a reality in terms of business/funding and cooperation models.

Through participation in STEPHANIE, the Regional Government and IFAC CNR intend to improve the policy instrument as follows:

-implementation of new projects: STEPHANIE will influence the calls for projects funded by ROP. Relevant stakeholders have learned from experience of other regions in overcoming barriers (e.g. lack of quadruple helix cooperation / lack of connection between R&I and applied solutions to societal /environmental challenges) by working on criteria, procedures and objectives for funding projects related to Photonics. STEPHANIE will improve quality of project proposals, by building capacity among regional stakeholders. The regional Technology District is a tool in this, as it groups regional stakeholders. It is also an element that could be improved by working on new forms of funding support for proposals, which can emerge from this initiative and improve funding leverage (non just regional public funding, but also how to use this to leverage other private / public funding sources, including interregional funding);

-change in management: STEPHANIE will influence the way the ROP is managed, by importing new approaches from other regions, with a specific focus on how to run intermediate monitoring and final evaluation. These evaluations should include criteria / means of verification related to the impacts that STEPHANIE wishes to bring: societal/environmental impact, market access, cooperation.

Name of the policy instrument addressed	Tuscany Regional Operative ERDF Programme (ROP) 2014-2020/Axis 1 – Strengthen RTD and Innovation /Priority 1b (several measures)
Investment for Growth and Jobs programme	YES
European Territorial Cooperation programme	NO
Other regional development policy instrument	NO

Overview of the Regional Vision

The structure of the aerospace manufacturing sector in Tuscany reflects the national one, in which the large industry (Large Enterprise – LE) plays a strategic role on key technologies (in the case of



Tuscany, mainly optical and optoelectronic technologies), while MSMEs (Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises) are mainly involved in the design and development of payload components. In this context, some Tuscan SMEs can also play a leading role as Prime Contractor towards the Italian Space Agency (ASI) or the European Space Agency (ESA). In Tuscany, the only Space sector has a turnover of over 210 million Euros, with almost 1,000 employees. These figures rank Tuscany just under those Italian regions featuring the most important industrial sites in the field, specifically: Lazio, Lombardy, Piedmont and Campania. The overall Space sector in Italy accounts for about 1,500 million euros and 7,000 employees (figures from ASI).

In Tuscany there are two large companies and a number of SMEs, most of which are located in the areas of Florence, Pisa, Livorno and Siena.

The large companies are primarily represented by Leonardo-Finmeccanica at Campi Bisenzio, Florence, which is a national leader in the field of Optoelectronics for Space, and by 2 branches of a large company from Puglia region, SITAEL and ALTA (Pisa) of the Angelo Investments Group, with specific skills in Electric Thrusters, Electronic Power & Control Devices and Microelectronics. Corporate activities in the space sector are also carried out by two large companies in the Pisa area, namely INTECS with expertise in Information Technology and Systems, and IDS in the field of Radar and Radio Communications.

The territory also offers a large number of high and very high-tech MSMEs, some of which are involved for a large part of their turnover in the space sector. Just to name a few, Kayser Italia (Livorno) operating in the field of the Exobiology, AvMap (Carrara) involved in GPS / GALILEO technologies, FlyBy (Livorno) with skills in Data Processing of Earth Observation data, MBI (Pisa) active in communications and satellite television. There are also micro-companies with extremely vertical skills in the sector, such as D-Orbit (Florence) which develops a technology for decommissioning of satellites at the end of their life.

The two main technological axes that characterise the Aerospace sector in Tuscany are based on Optoelectronic and ICT technologies, which represent the two main pillars of the supply chain. More specifically, the main technological areas covered by the enterprises are:

- i. Optoelectronics
- ii. Electronic components
- iii. Communication systems
- iv. Software (on board and ground segments)
- v. Data processing and downstream services
- vi. Testing, calibration and certification
- vii. GPS e GIS services and software.

Beside the productive fabric described above, Tuscany hosts several Research Centers and Universities active in the space sector: these are represented by the Universities of Florence, Pisa

and Siena and by the Scuola Superiore S. Anna of Pisa, by the CNR institutes of ISTI of Pisa, INO and IFAC of Florence, and by the CNIT Consortium offices.

Part III – Introduction to the Actions Envisaged

The Tuscany Region Action Plan includes activities to further develop the Tuscany Region ERDF ROP 2014-2020 to promote economic development and foster innovation transfer in key technologies, in particular in the field of Space&Photonics to strengthen the (aero-)space sector in Tuscany.

For this reason, new and more developed support mechanisms tailored to the specific needs of stakeholders need to be implemented, taking into account best practices from other European regions as well as experience and lessons learnt from successful business cases.

The policy measures described in the following sections aim at supporting enterprises, in particular SMEs, and research institutions with the long-term goal of creating a positive framework for a regional ecosystem. All actions stem from an assessment of regional needs and are based on a deep and intensive exchange of experience with key stakeholders and innovation actors at regional and interregional level.

The envisaged measures are grouped in policy actions, which constitute the frame of the regional Action Plan:

- 1 Fostering the participatory approach in the Mid Term Review of the Tuscany Region Research&innovation Strategy (RIS3)
 - 2 Promoting simplifications in the procedures of public funds award under the Tuscany Region ROP ERDF (Axis 1 – Strengthen RTD and Innovation)
 - 3 Introduction of a specific intervention under the Tuscany Region ROP ERDF (Axis 1 – Strengthen RTD and Innovation), to address investments in the Aerospace Sector, to be implemented even through the Public Procurement
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Part IV – Details of the Actions Envisaged

ACTION 1

TITLE: FOSTERING THE PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN THE MID TERM REVIEW OF THE TUSCANY REGION RESEARCH&INNOVATION STRATEGY (RIS3)

1. Overall Topic and Description of the proposed Policy Improvement (type 2)



<p>Overall Topic</p>	<p>Fostering the participatory approach in the mid-term review of the Tuscany Region "Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization" (RIS3), through an inclusive and effective path involving all relevant stakeholders with particular attention to the ones belonging to the aerospace sector.</p>
<p>Specific Description</p>	<p>The "Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization" (RIS3) represents the Regional Strategy for innovation and research that Member States and Regions are called to adopt, in compliance with the provisions of EU regulations, identifying the priority technological domains for regional policies and the planning of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), of which the main one is the EU fund about regional development (ERDF). The mid-term review of the RIS3 is a process oriented to adapt the Research and Innovation Strategy to the changed policy and economic framework, with the main objective of fostering opportunities for the territorial development. Therefore, it is crucial to guarantee an active participation of all relevant stakeholders to the review process.</p> <p>The Aerospace sector and technologies, that in the first version of our Smart Specialisation were generally included both in the ICT-Photonics and Smart Factory priorities, need to be better declined and need to have specific roadmaps in the new version of such strategic document, taking into account the contribution of relevant stakeholders. Such a goal has already been reached thanks to the STEPHANIE project within phase 1 of the STEPHANIE project, specifically in the RIS3 mid-term review document officially formalised in February 2019 (Resolution n. 204), which is the basis for all ROP ERDF calls from 2019 onward (only projects coherent with RIS3 priorities and roadmaps could be funded under our ROP ERDF).</p> <p>Thanks to the STEPHANIE activities and their inspiring outcomes, the updated RIS3 document contains now a specific roadmap for Aerospace sector and technologies.</p>
<p>2. Need addressed</p>	
<p>Need to better decline and to design specific roadmaps for Aerospace sector in the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy.</p> <p>Need to define a governance of the Smart Specialization Strategy that, through an enhanced participatory approach, takes into account the contribution of all relevant stakeholders.</p>	
<p>3. Relevance to the STEPHANIE project</p>	
<p>STEPHANIE Project, by fostering the involvement of the stakeholders in the project's activities, has encouraged their commitment also in the updating of the Tuscan RIS 3.</p>	

In occasion of the regional stakeholder groups (SPIAs), participants are involved according to Quadruple Helix Method, which favoured the interchange among the different actors along the technological value chain at regional level: from design, production, marketing, distribution, to support to the final consumer:

1) public administrations (responsible for administrative political instruments); 2) Academic and Research world; 3) companies or their associations; 4) end users / consumers, citizens (represented by associations and communities).

Within the STEPHANIE project, the stakeholders are involved in meetings at both interregional and regional level, in interregional training events, in study visits and in staff exchanges. They have also the opportunity to be involved in the implementation and monitoring phases of the action plan, and, finally, in actions of external communication and dissemination.

This method was very effective for the exchange of ideas and the analysis through project's phase 1. In particular, this method was very effective for the analysis of needs and barriers regarding the Quadruple Helix in Tuscany, for the identification of strengths and weaknesses of actual funding schemes. Moreover, the study of the Good Practices proposed at interregional level has fostered a wide and fruitful comparison between public and private organisations.

Under this respect, the GP "RWTH Aachen Campus" presented by the German partner has been particularly inspiring for Tuscany Region as an effective and challenging example of collaboration among different subjects, based on the Quadruple Helix Method. For this reason, such method has been promoted and applied within the RIS3 updating process, during which a wider participative and inclusive approach was adopted.

4. Specific Activities and TIMEFRAME

Activity Number	Activity Description	Timing (with details)
PHASE 1: this action has been included in our VIA (for more details see annexes: VIA and report on policy improvement)		
1	- second SPIA meeting of the STEPHANIE project, in which the proposals for the mid-term review of Smart Specialization Strategy in the Aerospace sector have been discussed by the participants at the presence of the MA	14th December 2017
2	- public consultations for RIS3 mid-term review	From 1st of March to 30th of April 2018
3	- review and ratification by the ROP ERDF MA of the RIS3 roadmaps (including the ones for aerospace sector)	June 2018
4	- adoption of the Tuscany Region RIS3 Mid Term review	Formally approved with resolution 204 of February 2019
PHASE 2: even if the main policy improvement has been reached in Phase 1, we will go to further policy improvement related to the next planning period (in phase 2 we will implement and monitor the process		



of definition of the new Smart Specialisation Strategy and its governance)		
5	- definition of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (comprising specific roadmaps for aerospace sector) & its Governance for the planning period 2021/2027, implemented through the methodology of STEPHANIE Quadruple Helix approach as already done in Phase 1 for the RIS3 review, see VIA and report on policy improvement). This process will allow to update the Smart Specialisation to the changed framework of European, national and regional policies enhancing local development in an integrated a participatory way.	The process will start on the first half 2020

5. Players involved	
<i>Name of Organisation</i>	<i>Role in Action Plan Implementation</i>
ROP ERDF MA Unit	Direct responsible for the preparation and updating of the Tuscany Region Smart Specialization
Advanced Manufacturing 4.0	Regional platform, that includes also the aerospace sector.
SPIA stakeholders	Stakeholders taking part to the SPIA meetings (companies, public authorities, end users, universities and research centres)

6. Risk and Contingency Plans		
<i>Description of Risk</i>	<i>Level of probability (High, Medium, Low)</i>	<i>Description of Contingency Plan</i>
Turnaround with reference to a) Smart Specialisation Strategy approach to the aerospace sector, b) Governance of the Smart Specialisation Strategy	Low	Active participation of the SPIAs involved in the STEPHANIE project to the preparatory process of Smart Specialisation Strategy document for 2021/2027

7. Costs & Funding sources
Costs for internal personnel (Tuscany Region): around 35.000,00 euros. Funding resources for personnel of ROP ERDF MA Unit (Tuscany Region) come from resources ERDF funds.

8. Monitoring			
Monitoring tools		<p>Monitoring tool of the Tuscany Region ROP ERDF 2014/2020 implemented through the ERDF SIUF, that is the unified system to record and store in computerised form data for programme monitoring/evaluation/financial management/verification and audit and includes data on individual participants in operations.</p> <p>Relevant statistics produced by IRPET (the Regional Institute for Economic Planning)</p> <p>ROP ERDF MA report and official documents on Smart Specialisation Strategy</p>	
Indicators		target amounts (within 31/12/2023)	Means of Verification
1	Number of enterprises investing in Space Technology with Photonics (AF indicator)	+20% (year 0: 2017 - oct)	ERDF SIUF/IRPET statistics
2	Amounts of investments in Space Technology with Photonics	+25% (year 0: 2017 - oct)	ERDF SIUF/IRPET statistics
3	Specific roadmaps for the Aerospace sector and technologies mentioned in the Smart Specialization Strategy for planning period 2017/2021.	1	ROP ERDF MA report and official documents on Smart Specialisation Strategy
4	Smart Specialization Strategy Governance for planning period 2017/2021 inspired to the participatory and quadruple helix approach	1	ROP ERDF MA report and official documents on Smart Specialisation Strategy

ACTION 2

TITLE: PROMOTING SIMPLIFICATIONS IN THE PROCEDURES OF PUBLIC FUNDS AWARD UNDER THE TUSCANY REGION ROP ERDF (Axis 1- Strengthen RTD and Innovation)

1. Overall Topic and Description of the proposed Policy Improvement

Overall Topic	Design and establishment of simplified procedures in the management of calls under the policy instrument, that funds regional enterprises in high-tech technology sectors (such as aerospace sector)
Specific Description	<p>Introduction of simplified procedures for several Tuscany region ROP ERDF 2014-2020 (Axis 1) actions that imply, in particular, the submission of a certificate from an external certified controller, as follows:</p> <p>a) Proposal phase: SMEs applying for funding present a certificate signed by an external certified controller, together with their proposal. The controller verifies the pre-requisites of the enterprise and assesses several indicators/ criteria for selection. Thus, the public administration does not need to establish an external committee of evaluators, but can award the funding on the basis of the certificates received. As detailed in VIA document and in Policy Improvement document (see annexes), Tuscany Region has formally introduced for the first time (with decree n. 15643/2017) the possibility for final beneficiaries to report the costs incurred for projects implementation through a financial statement certificate issued by auditors. If the final beneficiary adopts such a reporting method, the public contribution is paid in 45 days instead of 90 days, starting from the date of formal request. The procedure has already been applied at the end of the phase 1 of the STEPHANIE project.</p> <p>b) Monitoring and approval of intermediate/balance payments: Funded beneficiaries have the possibility to present a certification of their reported expenses by an external controller. In this way, the MA verifies the validity of the certificate and annexes (check list) only, without the need to go through each expense reported and the supporting documents provided, thus having a first level controller role in the process. This, as explained in VIA Document and in Policy improvement document, leads to positive simplifications for the benefit of the enterprises. This has already been applied at the end of the phase 1 of the STEPHANIE project, specifically for projects financed under Action</p>



	<p>1.1.5 “supporting R&D projects for Tuscan enterprises”.</p> <p>In both cases, the new set of rules allows to implement a relevant bureaucratic and administrative simplification and has a substantial impact for the economy and for enterprises. In fact, a faster response is guarantee both for enterprises waiting for projects approval and for those awaiting public contribution for their approved projects (45 days instead of 90).</p> <p>The tool goes in the proposed direction of reinforcing measures to support regional enterprises (including those from the space and photonics sector), through a process of simplification of the current procedures of the grants awards under the ROP ERDF in Tuscany.</p> <p>From the initial results achieved, the applied procedures have proven successful in a simplified and fast management of regional ERDF funds.</p>
2. Need addressed	
<p>Needs of companies of the high-tech technology sectors (including aerospace sector) in terms of rapid availability of public funding for investments funded through the policy instrument.</p> <p>Needs of the MA in terms of fostering the effectiveness of companies’ investments in high-tech technology sectors (including aerospace sector). The simplification of administrative procedures encourages a greater number of enterprises, including small and medium enterprises, to apply to the calls of the ROP ERDF of the Region of Tuscany.</p> <p>The territorial impact of this tool will be effectively measured in the medium to long term, in terms of investment in innovation within enterprises, and consequently, in terms of increased competitiveness.</p>	

3. Relevance to the STEPHANIE project	
<p>Since the beginning of the STEPHANIE Project, a major topic of discussion in several occasions both at interregional and regional level has been the issue to overcome the huge difficulties caused by the complexity of both procedures regarding the Regional Operational Programmes (ROP) and of the documentation to be produced for reporting. This was one of the main barriers identified by partners within the pillar of funding schemes supporting research & development initiatives in the region (and open to space and photonics actors, too).</p> <p>The experience shared during STEPHANIE interregional exchange was a source of great inspiration for the LP and P2, who wanted to improve the aspect of simplified procedures within calls of the ROP ERDF in Tuscany both in the proposal and monitoring phases.</p> <p>In particular, we have been inspired by the experience shared by the following partners GPs:</p> <p>1. Cluster NMWP: Rocket-Regional Collaboration on Key Enabling Technologies, that foresees fast</p>	

track procedures for project funding. The GP was presented by the German partner at the Interregional Learning Event in Dusseldorf (10-11 July 2018);

2. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) a Dutch programme to support innovative business in a fast, simple and flexible way: 2 months for proposal preparation; 1 month after submission projects get the response; possibility to change the initial project. The initiative was presented by an external EU stakeholder, Data Craft, invited to participate in one of the STEPHANIE Interregional Learning Event in Prague (Prague - 2017, June, 7th-8th);

The two experiences were analysed in details and the LP and P2 initiated a discussion on how to introduce similar simplified procedures in the regional operational programme.

The key aspect of the good practices analysed is the simplification process in the management of calls funding regional enterprises. The LP and P2 worked with regional stakeholders to consider how the procedures put into place only in the proposal phase could be adapted to the whole project life cycle (from the proposal phase to the monitoring and approval of intermediate / balance payments).

As a result, Tuscany Region has formally introduced simplified procedures for several actions of the ROP ERDF 2014-2020 that imply the submission of a certificate from an external certified controller.

4. Specific Activities and TIMEFRAME

Activity Number	Activity Description	Timing (with details)
PHASE 1: this action has been included in our VIA (see annexes: VIA and report on policy improvement)		
1	- provision of a shorter procedure/timelines for grant award and financial contribution payment - drafting of the auditor financial statement forms	Formally approved with decree n. 15643 of October 23, 2017
2	- inclusion of the auditing costs as eligible under the granted projects	Formally approved with decree n. 8306 of 24 May 2018
PHASE 2: even if the main policy improvement has been reached in Phase 1, in phase 2 we will monitor the implementation of the policy improvement in new calls under our policy instrument)		
3	- confirmation of the above described improvements in new calls under the policy instrument to be detected through the monitoring the following process: - new calls for proposal design; - approval of proposals - on going evaluation of running approved projects - evaluation of simplified procedure even through survey among beneficiaries	First half 2020 Second half 2020

4	- investigation for the establishment of further simplification procedures in new calls, based on evaluation results described in point 3, under the policy instrument.	First half 2020 Second half 2020
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5. Players involved

<i>Name of Organisation</i>	<i>Role in Action Plan Implementation</i>
Department of business supporting policies	Direct responsible of implementation of several actions included in the Tuscany Region ROP ERDF 2014-2020 - Axis 1
Sviluppo Toscana	Intermediate organization for implementation of Tuscany Region ROP ERDF 2014-2020

6. Risk and Contingency Plans

<i>Description of Risk</i>	<i>Level of probability (High, Medium, Low)</i>	<i>Description of Contingency Plan</i>
Revocation of the simplified procedures introduced in 2017/2018	low	Monitoring of the implementation of simplified procedures, detection of possible problems, identification and introduction of corrective measures, including enhanced/additional procedures

7. Costs & Funding sources

Costs for internal personnel (Tuscany Region) - regional own resources: around 15.000,00 euros
 Costs for technical assistance (ROP ERDF resources): around 25.000,00 euros
 Funding budget of projects benefitting from the simplified procedures: around 30 mln of euros (ROP ERDF resources)

8. Monitoring

Monitoring tools	Monitoring tool of the Tuscany Region ROP ERDF 2014/2020, implemented through the ERDF SIUF, that is the unified system to record and store in computerised form data for programme monitoring/evaluation/financial management/verification and audit and
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		includes data on individual participants in operations. Relevant statistics produced by IRPET (the Regional Institute for Economic Planning)	
Indicators		target amounts (31/12/2023)	Means of Verification
1	Number of enterprises investing in Space Technology with Photonics (AF indicator)	+20% (year 0: 2017 - oct)	ERDF SIUF/IRPET statistics
2	Amounts of investments in Space Technology with Photonics	+25% (year 0: 2017 - oct)	ERDF SIUF/IRPET statistics
3	Number of beneficiaries adopting simplified procedures	60% of the total of the beneficiaries for each call (year 0: 2017 - oct)	SIUF
4	Timing for public funds granting	50% of the standard	SIUF
5	Level of satisfaction of beneficiaries with simplified procedure	At least 50% of interviewed beneficiaries satisfied	Questionnaire of satisfaction

ACTION 3

TITLE: INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIFIC INTERVENTION UNDER THE TUSCANY REGION ROP ERDF (Axis 1- Strengthen RTD and Innovation), TO ADDRESS INVESTMENTS IN THE AEROSPACE SECTOR, TO BE IMPLEMENTED EVEN THROUGH THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

1. Overall Topic and Description of the proposed Policy Improvement

Overall Topic	Design and establishment of a specific intervention under the policy instrument, to address investments in the aerospace sector, to be implemented even through the public procurement tool.
Specific Description	<p>Design and establishment of a funding scheme dedicated to the aerospace sector, to be realised in closed connection with national government and including public procurement procedure.</p> <p>Financial resources from Tuscany Region ROP ERDF (Axis 1- Strengthen RTD and Innovation) will be allocated to such funding scheme.</p> <p>The coordination with national level implies the need to subscribe specific policy agreements: first, a policy commitment has been required to confirm the contribution of Tuscany Region to the national aerospace policy; secondly, the signature of a framework agreement has been needed to define roles, priorities and financial contribution to the national policy (programme level); finally, specific agreements are needed to be signed to select and fund specific investment projects with direct impact a regional level (project level). While the policy commitment and the subscription with the Ministry of Economic Development of the implementation framework agreement of the SPACE COM Strategic Plan (that contains guidelines for procurement procedures and specific agreements) has already been completed in phase 1 (directly influenced by STEPHANIE project activities, namely the KoM held in February 2017, the regional SPIA meetings held in February and December 2017 and the interregional learning events held in June 2017 and January 2018), the funding schemes will be implemented, taking into account the lessons learnt thanks to the STEPHANIE SPIA meetings and interregional learning events held after February 2018, through specific calls/agreements as well as through the public procurement procedures directly managed at national level during phase 2 of the STEPHANIE project.</p>

2. Need addressed

Need of a dedicated funding scheme for aerospace sector that takes into account the particular features of the aerospace sector.

Need of a closer coordination of regional and national policies in aerospace sector.

3. Relevance to the STEPHANIE project

In occasion of STEPHANIE SPIA regional meetings (starting from the first one held at the beginning of February 2017) as well as of interregional learning events (the first one held in June 2017) emerged in recurrent way the importance of providing funding schemes specifically dedicated to investments in the aerospace sector, as well as the need to coordinate regional and national policies in this sector. This due to the particular features of the aerospace sector, as emerged several times during the interregional learning events, with particular reference to: the high level of technologies involved, the key role played by the research, the fact that policies in the aerospace sector are defined mainly and primarily at national level and that very often end users are public authorities (the innovation demand comes, in fact, mainly from the public side).

With regard to possible policy improvements, we have been particularly inspired by the GP presented by the Spanish partner of STEPHANIE project, namely **Public Procurement: creation of an industry pole**. Public procurement is an already existing tool in our present legislation, although not yet fully exploited. In particular, it could be used on a regular basis at regional level in order to open additional opportunities for companies, driving innovation from the demand side and enabling a faster modernisation of public services.

It could contribute to reduce the innovation investment risk while favouring a closer synergy between public and private subjects reducing the investment risk and optimising public investments.

The staff exchange organised in Seville on the 3rd of April 2019 and participated by Tuscany Region with P6-FADA-CATEC was the occasion to get more details on the practice implemented in Spain and confirmed the importance of such a tool for Tuscany Region. The tool is already existing in the Italian Code of Procurement (that implements European rules, common to our Spanish partners): it is named "partnership for innovation". What we miss is the concrete application of it within the framework of our ROP ERDF. For this reason, LP and P2 pushed the regional government towards the collaboration with the national ministry, that was already adopting such tool in national strategic plans, thus providing the occasion of using it as a leverage for improving investments in the aerospace sector and set up dedicated calls.

4. Specific Activities and TIMEFRAME

Activity Number	Activity Description	Timing (with details)
PHASE 1		
1	- participation of Tuscany Region to the national SPACE COM Strategic Plan and engagement of ROP ERDF resources to finance the plan at regional level	Formally approved with resolution 417 of May 2017
2	- subscription with the Ministry of Economic Development	Formally approved with

	of the implementation framework agreement of the SPACE COM Strategic Plan	resolution 186 of February 2018
PHASE 2		
3	- ending of the public procurement procedures managed at national level by relevant ministries and agencies	First half 2020
4	- subscription of specific Innovation Agreements, to be implemented at regional level, with national Ministry of Economic Development and final beneficiaries	Second half of 2020/first half 2021

5. Players involved

Name of Organisation	Role in Action Plan Implementation
Presidency of Tuscany Region	Responsible for signing agreements at policy level with national Government.
Department of business supporting policies	Direct responsible of implementation of several actions included in the Tuscany Region ROP ERDF 2014-2020 - Axis 1, in particular action 1.1.5 sub a4) under which the specific funding scheme is funded.

6. Risk and Contingency Plans

Description of Risk	Level of probability (High, Medium, Low)	Description of Contingency Plan
Change of the national priorities and policies in aerospace sector	Low	Subscription of preliminary agreements with relevant ministries

7. Costs & Funding sources

Costs for internal personnel (Tuscany Region) - regional own resources
 Costs for funding scheme: 1.5 mln of euros (ROP ERDF resources)

8. Monitoring

Monitoring tools	Monitoring tool of the Tuscany Region ROP ERDF 2014/2020 implemented through the ERDF SIUF, that is the unified system to record and store in computerised form data for programme monitoring/evaluation/financial management/verification and audit and includes data on individual participants in operations. Relevant statistics produced by IRPET (the Regional Institute for Economic Planning). Reports of national Ministries/Agencies involved in the funding scheme
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implementation.			
Indicators		target amounts (within 31/12/2023)	Means of Verification
1	Number of enterprises investing in Space Technology with Photonics (AF indicator)	+20% (year 0: 2017 - oct)	ERDF SIUF/IRPET statistics
2	Amounts of investments in Space Technology with Photonics	+25% (year 0: 2017 - oct)	ERDF SIUF/IRPET statistics
3	Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the new funding scheme (at regional level)	20	ERDF SIUF/report of national ministries
4	Total amount of investments in aerospace sector generated through the funding scheme (at regional level)	7,5 mln of euros (costs of the funding scheme included)	ERDF SIUF/report of national ministries

Part IV - Official Signature(s)

Date:	20/01/2020
Name	Elisa Nannicini - Head of Department "Politiche di Sostegno alle imprese"
Signature	Stamp of the organisation (if available) 