



Action Plan

*Upper Silesian Agency
for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd.*



PART I – GENERAL INFORMATION

Project: Medtech4Europe (PGI04950)

“Optimizing the impact of public policies in favour of research and innovation facilities in the field of medical technologies”

Partner organisation: Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd.

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): _-_____

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PART II – POLICY CONTEXT

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

- Regional Operational Program of Silesian Voivodeship 2014-2020
- Regional Innovation Strategy of Silesian Voivodeship 2013-2020
- Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 – Śląskie, PL22 [in preparation]
- Silesian Development Fund

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

The project addresses a sector “Medical technology” that covers many different products, all intended to perform a therapeutic or diagnostic action on human beings to improve health.

Medical technology is a regulated EU sector (2017/745, 2017/746) and covers:

- Medical devices (MDs) which are products, services or solutions that prevent, diagnose, monitor, treat and care for human beings by physical means;
- In vitro diagnostics (IVDs) which are non-invasive tests used on biological samples (for example blood, urine or tissues) to determine the status of one’s health.
- Tools and services for Digital Health and Care can be included, depending on sectorial definition and regulatory status.

Medical technology is used to diagnose, prevent, monitor, treat or alleviate a disease or injury. In addition to the above, the Medtech4 Europe project will also consider the link to Enabling technologies (ICT, manufacturing, materials...) that contribute to the improvement of MDs and IVDs.

Upper Silesia (NUTS 2: Śląskie, PL22; further referred to as “Silesia”) is the most urbanized and most industrialized region of Poland. It is the key player of the Polish economy, holding the second place in its GDP generation. Nevertheless in terms of GDP per inhabitant, Silesia is the fourth region of Poland. The regional economic potential results from a high concentration of enterprises from different sectors, including manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, medium and high tech as well as knowledge-intensive services and business services. Many new economic activities emerged in the last 30 years as a consequence of industrial transformation. Anyway, Silesia remains the leading coal-mining region of Europe and an important coal-based energy producer. There are several HEIs and R&D institutions in the region, including the Silesian University of Technology, the Medical University of Silesia, the Foundation of Cardiac Surgery Development and the Institute of Medical Technology and Medical Equipment which play the major role in technology advances in the medtech sector.



The contemporary **innovation policy of the region** started in the early 2000's with the elaboration and implementation of the first Regional Innovation Strategy 2003-2013. The network of medtech businesses was established then, to mark the beginning of the nowadays' MedSilesia Cluster. The existing innovation policy framework was developed within the process of 2014-2020 programming, when regional authority and its partners decided (having the results of the regional technology foresight as a background) to establish the two pillars of this policy, i.e.: The Technology Development Program of the Silesian Voivodeship (2010-2020 edition, 2019-2030 edition) and The Regional Innovation Strategy (2003-2013 edition, 2013-2020 edition, 2020-2030 edition currently in the elaboration phase).

The **Technology Development Program** currently refers to the ten priority areas of the region's pro-technological development:

- Technologies for medicine,
- Technologies for the power industry,
- Technologies for environmental protection,
- Information and telecommunications technologies,
- Production and processing of materials,
- Logistics and transport,
- Machine and automobile industry,
- Aviation technologies and the space industry,
- Nanomaterials and nanotechnologies,
- Technologies for the raw materials industry.

The **Regional Innovation Strategy** 2013-2020 was focused on enhancing the innovation ecosystem of Silesia, based on dynamically changing innovation milieu and pinpointed the initially three and furtherly five regional smart specializations, i.e.:

- Power industry,
- Medicine,
- Information and communication technologies,
- Emerging industries,
- Green economy.

In the Regional Innovation Strategy, **medicine was seen as** one of the factors differentiating Silesia from the other regions in the country due to perfection in numerous fields of prevention, therapy, rehabilitation and recognition of medical engineering products. Medicine in Silesia is important as an element of public services system in the context of the general regional strategy. It is permanently linked to creation, adaptation or absorption of technologically advanced solutions in the field of medical engineering, biotechnology, materials engineering, IT and electronics; all aided by IT and telecommunications technologies in the scope of in silico research, as well as remote prevention, diagnostics and treatment.

The rationale for further **policy focus on medtech** was currently (December 2018) provided in the updated Technology Development Program. The list is following:

- *The specificity of the medical devices sector in Poland, but also in the Silesian Voivodeship is the large fragmentation and concentration of producers on individual products and competences.*
- *The sector of producers of medical devices generally comprises small and medium-sized enterprises.*
- *The estimated value of the market for Polish medical devices according to Polish Investment and Trade Agency is 2.9 billion USD*
- *The value of sold production in 2016 in the medical equipment sector exceeded 3.5 billion PLN in Poland. One of the growth aspects for sales is the export of medical devices, which*

shows a growing trend, as in 2016 it amounted to 1.35 billion USD, and in 2017, 1.8 billion USD.

- The offer of medical devices on the Polish market is wide and comparable to the most advanced countries in the world. The Polish specialty is hospital furniture, surgical, diagnostic and bactericidal lamps, dressings and hygiene materials, technologically advanced products (surgical instruments, implants).
- The Silesian Voivodship dominates in such areas of medicine as cardiology and cardiac surgery, in the field of orthopaedics and traumatology of the musculoskeletal system, in the field of transplantology, in the field of medical rehabilitation, in the field of clinical oncology, oncology and paediatric haematology or oncological rehabilitation.
- The region constitutes a strong academic resource in the field of staff education in the field of technologies for medicine.
- There are several universities and research institutes associated with the development of technologies for medicine in the Silesian Voivodeship. These are key units conducting research, but also cooperating with the economic sector, which allows to create innovative solutions in the field of technology for medicine. These units have wide recognition not only in Poland. Those units are: Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, Silesian Centre for Heart Diseases in Zabrze, Professor Zbigniew Religa Foundation of Cardiac Surgery Development in Zabrze, Silesian University of Technology Faculty of Biomedical Engineering, American Heart of Poland Co., Tissue Bank of the Regional Centre for Blood Donation and Haemotherapy in Katowice, Institute of Medical Technology and Equipment ITAM in Zabrze, District Hospital of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery named after Dr. Janusz Daab in Piekary Slaskie, Independent Public Clinical Hospital named after Andrzej Mielęcki in Katowice, Burn Treatment Centre in Siemianowice Silesian, SP ZOZ „Repty” Silesian Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Hospital named after gen. J. Ziętka in Ustroń, Silesian Medical Technology Park Kardio-Med Silesia Ltd.
- 978 entities operate in the region. These data do not include drug manufacturers and distributors as well as pharmaceutical substances, because in accordance with the Law on Medical Devices, these substances are not included in medical devices.
- The following are the leading manufacturers of medical devices in the Silesian Voivodeship, identified by the observatory technologies for medicine: ASTAR ABR A. Jędrzejowski R. Dziendziel GP, BHH Mikromed Ltd., EGZO Tech Ltd., Medical Tools Factory CHIRMED M. Dyer, FAMED Żywiec Ltd., FORMED Pro Ltd., F.R.K. Intra-Cordis Ltd., INNOW Ltd., L.P., Kardio-Med Silesia Ltd., OPTOPOL Technology Ltd., PHU TECHNOMEX Ltd., Reha-Bed Ltd., VIMEX Ltp., ZARYS International Group Ltd., L.P., among companies operating in the field of ICT use in medicine, the following manufacturers may be indicated: WASKO Co., KAMSOFT Co., COMARCH, Future Processing, 2KMM Ltd., The Farm.
- In addition to the above manufacturers of medical devices on the basis of the analysis of implemented projects with funds allocated for increasing innovation in enterprises under the Regional Operational Program, the region of technologies used in dentistry and the use of 3d printing in medicine is strongly visible in the region.
- The company: Philips Polska is one of the main investors in the region in the field of medical devices and technologies
- The activity in the field of patent applications is demonstrated by technical universities, research institutes from the region, as well as enterprises themselves, to which, due to their specificity of products, we can include, e.g. Medical Technology Agency Atmed J. Rafalska, LABIOT Laboratory of Biotechnology & Medical Practice, Department of Medical Supplies "DEMED" Ltd., Sanitary Equipment Factory "SANMED" Ltd., PPH KAMED-Plus A. Góral, INVENTMED Ltd.



The process of **entrepreneurial discovery** in Silesia is supported by the Network of Regional Specialized Observatories (SO RIS). Its task is to integrate the actors of the innovation ecosystem around the regional areas of specialization. The following Observatories have been operating at the moment in the region:

- SO Technologies for Medicine,
- SO Technologies for Energetics,
- SO Information and Telecommunications Technologies,
- SO Technologies for Environmental Protection,
- SO Production and Materials Processing,
- SO Technologies for the Aviation Industry,
- SO Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies.

The Observatories focus on regional scientific and technological potential by: strengthening regional specializations and adaptive capacity; building regional market for research services; bridging the R&D sector, enterprises, business support organisations (BSOs) and regional authorities; developing knowledge and competence. **SO Technologies for Medicine** is led by the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd. in a partnership with: Professor Zbigniew Religa Foundation of Cardiac Surgery Development, The Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Medical Technology and Medical Equipment in Zabrze, Silesian University of Technology – Faculty of Biomedical Engineering.

Silesia is a home to the **MedSilesia Cluster** started in 2007 by 17 signatories. Currently, the cluster is a network of numerous enterprises, key research and development centres, universities and BSOs (more than 140 entities) which operate in the field of technology, equipment and medical devices. MedSilesia is a partner of business community, local / regional governments and science; affecting the shape of medical industry at national and international level. It ensures effective platform for collaboration to enable: innovative solutions, transfer and absorption of knowledge and experience as well as implementation of joint projects related to the global value chain. MedSilesia Cluster is the biggest medical technology cluster in Poland.

In a wider perspective (outside medtech), there are numerous BSOs which are either territorially (e.g. parks and incubators in certain cities across the region) or thematically focused (e.g. technology parks in ICT, energy, sustainable buildings). Several clustering initiatives emerged in the region in the last 15 years. Unfortunately in most of the cases their lifespan was limited to a single externally financed project or to the timeframe of certain business activities. The most sustainable initiatives (apart from MedSilesia) are linked to aviation, automotive and advanced manufacturing. The currently emerging clusters deal with nanotech and the internet of things. All major universities and research institutes in the region have their technology transfer offices. Altogether the **regional innovation ecosystem** is very rich. Anyway, as time goes by, the capacity and offers of the institution changes. For this reason the whole ecosystem right now faces the challenge of adaptation and further professionalisation.

The innovation policy of the region is mostly financed throughout the **Regional Operational Programs of Silesian Voivodeship 2013-2020 (ROP)**. Since 2007 the Polish government has allocated European Funds on both national and regional levels. Thus, the issues of innovation and SME support, since then, have always been included in the ROP as well as in the dedicated country-level OP. In 2014-2020, funds linked to thematic objectives 1 and 3 have been distributed in the frameworks of the ROP and OP Smart Economy. At the moment, it is expected that this approach will also be used for 2021-2027. Silesia also awaits a significant share in the Just Transition Fund and certain support from REACT-EU.

By this action plan the partnership aims to increase the effectiveness of public policies on research and innovation capacities in the field of medtech. Medtech are understood as medical



devices and aids as well as e-medical and device-to-device-related solutions. The Medtech4 Europe project, in accordance with the relevant regulations of the European Union (2017/745, 2017/746) and the Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN) deals with products that can be used to diagnose, prevent, monitor, or treat or alleviate a disease or injury. In addition to the above, the Medtech4 Europe project will consider the related Key Enabling Technologies and will remain closely associated with the Vanguard Initiative based on smart specializations and the ESTHER (Alliance for Global Health Partnership) initiative during the experience exchange.

The exchange of experience within Medtech4 Europe allowed identification of **4 actions to address Regional Operational Program implementation in Silesia**. They are to be implemented in 2020-2022 to enhance the impact of the current ROP (2014-2020). All of them build upon the existing potential of the SO Technologies for Medicine and the MedSilesia Cluster to aim for their improved performance, stronger competitive advantages and better international capacity. The actions initiated in medtech are expected to be used as pilots for wider use within the network of SOs. Moreover, **2 supplementary actions were identified** and listed in this action plan. They are currently undergoing the feasibility check to find out whether they could serve as flagship medtech projects for ROP 2021-2027.

The **delivery of the action plan was preceded by the Medtech4 Europe study visits** to: Stuttgart, Maastricht, Pecs and Copenhagen as well as virtual visits to the CEA Technology Innovation Showroom and CETIM – Technical Center for Mechanical Engineering. The **inputs for the action plan** were collected thanks to a moderated discussion that was conducted as part of the workshops and meetings in 2019/2020. The lessons learned (good practices) of the Medtech4Europe project have been offered to participants as a source of inspiration with the clear question of their transferability. The participants of the meeting represented R&D units, companies, and administration of local and regional level.

PART III – DETAILS OF THE ACTIONS ENVISAGED

ACTION 1

Name of the action: **Business Support Organisations - professional support in the field of technology transfer and internationalisation services**

1. Relevance to the project

Clustering processes in the medtech sector in Silesia already have a long (as for Poland) history. The MedSilesia Cluster strongly marks its presence in the region as well as in the country. It has also been involved in several projects targeting either international exchange of experience or internationalisation of companies. As a result MedSilesia has a strong track record in delivering facilitation, brokerage and awareness raising services for cluster companies. Nevertheless international experiences show that the entity responsible for cluster management should also go further and provide services that enable smooth technology transfer and its positioning on international markets. For the moment this is identified as a bottleneck for MedSilesia growth. As MedSilesia is one of the strongest regional clusters, its experiences and practices provide a good learning for the other clustering initiatives and BSOs. For this reason in this action the activities originating from medtech as well as targeting medtech will also be scaled-up towards the other interested regional BSOs.

The Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development (cluster manager of MedSilesia) was strongly inspired by the **Smart Innovation initiative in the Capital Region of Denmark** (study visit in February 2020) and by the concept of **Brightlands Ecosystem in the Province of Limburg** (study visit in March 2019). Both of them focus on close collaboration of businesses with their regional research community. Especially the concept of the Copenhagen HealthtechSolutions (cooperation between DTU and Copenhagen HealthtechCluster) was very insightful for the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development and its partners. Within Smart Innovation companies receive up to 400 research hours, 45 hours of business consulting and 100 hours of support from the science park. In Brightlands more attention is put on open innovation and campus-based collaboration to foster new ideas and propose better solutions to the global challenges in health, sustainability, nutrition and digitization. The related practices from Limburg are of a great value to the Polish partners who have learned how to set up the open innovation culture to improve bridging businesses and other organisations with a focus on innovation and growth of SMEs on the Single Market and internationally. The Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development is capable of utilising the two concepts due to its sound relations with the Silesian University of Technology, the Medical University of Silesia, the Foundation of Cardiac Surgery Development and the Łukasiewicz Research Network Institute of Medical Technology and Medical Equipment. The other BSOs will implement them within their thematic networks.

2. Nature of the action

The proposed action is aimed at professionalisation of Silesian BSOs by enhancing their potential concerning technology transfer and internationalisation services. The scheme was drafted and will be developed by the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development to be used as a pilot action with five medtech companies or joint ventures. Within the process the approach and method will be shared



with the other regional BSOs so that they could follow. Altogether this will provide a prompt scale-up of the action in different fields of regional specialisation.

For every possible regional specialisation the action will consist of two work packages:

A1WP1. Competence and service development,

A1WP2. Pilot services.

In A1WP1 the leading BSO will receive training based upon the know-how gathered in Medtech4 Europe (offered by the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development). Furtherly more insights into Smart Innovation and Brightland Ecosystem will be collected. Webinars with the involved institutions are planned to discuss recent solutions and challenges in selected specialisations. This will allow the sectoral fine-tuning of a new service to be established by the BSO, encompassing open innovation (idea search, troubleshooting) workshops, PoP / PoC research hours and business / legal (IPR) consulting hours. Procedures and guidelines for service delivery will be primary prepared (for medtech) by the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development and discussed with its research partners in order to prepare for smooth pilot delivery. While validated, they will be adapted to the other BSOs and specialisations.

In A1WP2 certain companies (five in the pilot mode related to medtech) will be offered a delivery of the service. Their business ideas / problems / challenges will be presented (under case specific disclosure arrangements) to faculty and student research groups for development (open innovation workshops). Roadmaps for PoP / PoC will be prepared and consequently research and international business / legal (IPR) consulting hours will be dedicated to all concepts. The work package will be finalised with service evaluation and following amendments to procedures and guidelines. Experiences will be shared with thematically-related BSOs in Europe.

The action will result in:

- 1 technology transfer and internationalisation support service for developed, tested and validated in medtech;
- improved knowledge and competence of: MedSilesia cluster manager, at least its 3 research partners and 5 companies involved in pilot phase;
- technology transfer and internationalisation support service scaled-up to cover other interested regional specialisations in Silesia;
- at least 3 webinars on recent solutions / challenges in sectors related to regional specialisations in Silesia with at least 20 participants from min. 3 countries.

3. Stakeholders involved

The key stakeholder for the pilot in medtech and further scale-up is the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development – cluster manager for MedSilesia. It will be the main beneficiary of the process as the service to be developed and validated within the action will be delivered by this institution. The Agency will: coordinate the action; set up the competence development platform – organise the webinars and study visits; work on procedures and guidelines for service delivery; prepare for the pilot phase and organise delivery of the pilot service to five companies – incl. provision of the international business / legal (IPR) consulting hours; run evaluation and validation of the procedures and guidelines; disseminate results of the action. Four research organisations will be responsible for the technological aspects of the PoP / PoC service to be delivered, i.e.:

- the Silesian University of Technology,
- the Medical University of Silesia,
- the Foundation of Cardiac Surgery Development,
- the Institute of Medical Technology and Medical Equipment.

They will: participate in the webinars and study visits; offer feedback on procedures and guidelines for service delivery; provide the research hours in the pilot phase; contribute to validation of the procedures and guidelines; support dissemination of the results of the action.

Furtherly the other interested regional BSOs will utilise this approach within their thematic networks related to the other regional specialisations.

Danish Technical University (Smart Innovation initiative in the Capital Region of Denmark) and the Province of Limburg (Brightlands Ecosystem) will be involved as sources of know-how and objects of reference for the whole action.

SCANBALT (Northern Europe's Leading Accelerator for Inter-regional Cooperation envisioning the region as a Global Hotspot for Health and Bio Economy) and TCI (the leading global network of people and organizations working in clusters and innovation ecosystems around the globe) will be used as sources of further inspirations and platforms for dissemination.

4. Timeframe

A1WP1. Competence and service development: Sep 2020 – Dec 2021

A1WP2. Pilot services: Sep 2021 – Jun 2023

5. Indicative costs

100 000 EUR

6. Indicative funding sources:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs, ERDF: Regional Operational Program of Silesian Voivodeship 2014-2020, priority I. Modern Economy, measure

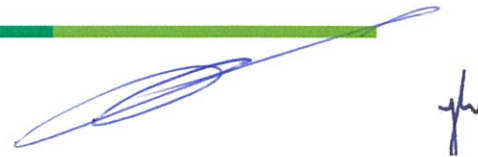
ACTION 2

Name of the action: **Developing the non-financial support scheme for medtech**

1. Relevance to the project

The medtech sector in Silesia is vibrant but still (in majority) rather young and, in terms of employment in technological companies, not large. Businesses are operating on a very competitive market, incl. the international market; competing with numerous start-up companies from around the globe and trying to align with offers and strategies of the big, multinational players. To support the sector, the regional authorities and their partners have established the Specialized Observatory Technologies for Medicine (see Part II). Up to now the SO was mainly involved in awareness raising, networking, trend analyses and gathering regional data on medtech. For this reason it was the cornerstone of the entrepreneurial discovery process in Silesia for medtech. In the nearest future the SO aims at developing its support scheme for medtech by offering deeper insights into the nature of business in medtech and its links to horizontal digital technologies.

The SO is going to build upon the scheme promoted by the **Brightlands Innovation Factory in the Province of Limburg** and combine this approach with the **Easytech: Easy innovation for SMEs program**



by the **Minalogic Cluster** (presented during the study visit in Pecs in October 2019) to achieve stronger impact on business digitalisation. Some activities of the **Interreg Central Europe Chain Reactions** project will also be associated with the action. Under the scheme of the Brightlands Innovation Factory, medtech companies receive: the bootcamp, business model consultancy, access to venture capital experts and office space. The SO plans to use this approach and adapt it to the regional conditions in Silesia. All services are to be offered, but the office space provision. The business model-related tasks will be organised within the Chain Reactions. Contributions from Easytech will be used to increase SME capacity concerning integration of digital technologies (electronics, photonics, software) in product development (from the exploration phase to the market launch). In training activities the SO will use experiences of the **Padua Chamber of Commerce** (partner in the Chain Reactions) in setting-up e-learning initiatives and virtual competence centers.

2. Nature of the action

The proposed action is aimed at developing the non-financial support scheme for SMEs in medtech. The regional Specialized Observatory Technologies for Medicine will operate a service package addressed to around 10 individual micro companies and SMEs in medtech.

The action consists of five work packages:

A2WP1. Intensive product development bootcamp,

A2WP2. Intensive digitalisation bootcamp,

A2WP3. Intensive internationalisation bootcamp,

A2WP4. Business model lab,

A2WP5. Investment arena.

In A2WP1-A2WP3 medtech companies will be offered to join intensive programs (bootcamps) in support of their product development / digitalisation / internationalisation capacity. All bootcamps will be case-driven and offered in a way of blended learning. General lectures and seminars will be available as webinars. Teaching materials will be uploaded to a dedicated online platform. If possible (having in mind restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic) every edition of bootcamp will have its central 2-3-day workshop with businesses, experts and facilitators working jointly on individual issues or the issues of common interest. The workshops will wrap-up by defining an individual roadmap for every participating company.

Concepts developed within the bootcamps (as well as the other incoming ideas) will receive bespoke consultancy in A2WP4, i.e. the business model lab. In the lab experienced managers and business trainers will facilitate the participants in identifying or fine-tuning their business models.

Finally, the regional Specialized Observatory Technologies for Medicine will periodically set up a virtual (online) investment arena (A2WP5) by bringing together investment seekers and investors (business angels, seed capital, venture capital) as well as public bodies offering grant schemes for innovation in SMEs. Business projects will be presented to receive feedback and establish individual contacts.

The action will result in:

- improved knowledge and competence of 10 companies participating in the action;
- at least 3 international webinars within the bootcamps on recent issues related to their thematic scope, with at least 30 participants from min. 3 countries;
- intensive bootcamp conceptualised, implemented and validated as an element of the support scheme;
- business model lab conceptualised, implemented and validated as an element of the support scheme;
- virtual investment arena conceptualised, implemented and validated as an element of the support scheme.



3. Stakeholders involved

All founding members of the Specialized Observatory Technologies for Medicine will be involved in implementation. The Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development will be responsible for general organization and all logistics of the action. The Professor Zbigniew Religa Foundation of Cardiac Surgery Development, The Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Medical Technology and Medical Equipment in Zabrze and the Silesian University of Technology – Faculty of Biomedical Engineering will provide expertise to the bootcamps. Individual business experts will also be hired by the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development.

The Chain Reactions project will be used to deliver the Business model lab.

Brightlands Innovation Factory in the Province of Limburg, Minalogic Cluster as well as Padua Chamber of Commerce will be involved as sources of know-how and objects of reference for the whole action.

4. Timeframe

A2WP1. Intensive product development bootcamp: Jan 2021 – Dec 2021

A2WP2. Intensive digitalisation bootcamp: Jun 2021 – Dec 2021

A2WP3. Intensive internationalisation bootcamp: Oct 2021 – Jun 2022

A2WP4. Business model lab: Jan 2021 – Jun 2022

A2WP5. Virtual investment arena: Oct 2021 – Jun 2022

5. Indicative costs

Costs have not been decided on yet.

6. Indicative funding sources:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs, ERDF
- Interreg Central Europe

ACTION 3

Name of the action: **Communication of opportunities for collaboration with R&D units**

1. Relevance to the project

Silesia is advanced in building its innovation ecosystem. The existing partnerships, instruments and tools are anchored in the economic reality of the region. Nevertheless, there are still many companies which have not benefited from opportunities within the ecosystem due to the lack of information or non-attractive information. This calls for re-inventing communication among innovation community of Silesia and better promotion of this community across Poland and Europe. The Marshal Office of Silesia (regional authority) together with the network of regional Specialized Observatories is devoted to focus on this issue in the forthcoming months.

This partnership will use lessons learned by **Ecosistema Innovazione Lecco in Lombardy** to improve performance in spreading information on opportunities related to collaboration within the regional innovation system. Even though the proposed action is of a different nature, it was strongly inspired by the Danish

concept of joint awareness building and learning offered **in the Capital Region of Denmark within the Copenhagen Health Innovation: Health Innovation Through Education**. The Polish partnership would like to use the concept of thematic meetings related to current issues developed by certain stakeholders in the ecosystem. The know-how on achieving a clear orientation towards the development of concrete applications and innovations that can be used by potential users to solve technological, ecological, economic and social problems was shared by **Wissenschaftsoffensive initiative organised by regions: Baden-Württemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz, Grand Est**. In Silesia it will not be used in a cross-border context, but hints on strengthening the networking of universities, research institutions and SMEs will be applied to the regional innovation ecosystem.

2. Nature of the action

The proposed action is aimed at strengthening the regional information and communication system concerning innovation and innovative growth. The regional Specialized Observatory Technologies for Medicine associated with the other regional SOs will upgrade communication tools by applying four work packages, i.e.:

- A3WP1. Case study database,
- A3WP2. Cross-sectoral cooperation facilitation,
- A3WP3. R&D cooperation facilitation,
- A3WP4. Results showcase.

In A3WP1 the SOs will prepare and electronically publish a database of business cases related to innovation that emerged thanks to collaboration among companies and R&D units. The case studies will cover possible wide array of industrial applications and will be written in a way to present the offer of Silesian businesses and research institutions as well as to attract companies to make a first step into joint technology development projects / ventures. The business cases will be used as teaching / coaching material in A3WP2 and A3WP3 so that the “newcomers” could easily follow existing (regionally contextualized) patterns in the requested thematic area. The use of the business cases in further WPs will help its participants to memorize the actors of the regional innovation ecosystem and some framework information concerning their R&D infrastructures and offers.

A3WP2 and A3WP3 will be a mix of internet search tools, webinars and on-site workshops. All of them will be set up by the SOs to facilitate cooperation among companies in different sectors as well as companies with R&D institutions. Internet tools will be user friendly and will comply with standards for web accessibility such as the WCAG 2.0 guidelines. Webinars and workshops will be practically oriented and organised around precisely defined themes, with renowned speakers and facilitators to attract attention of participants.

In A3WP4 the SOs will invite all regional research institutions and innovative companies to publish brief notes promoting results of their prospective / implemented technological advances. This will aim at establishing a “living” technological portfolio of the region available to all interested parties.

The action will result in:

- 1 case study database;
- 2 internet search tools to facilitate cross-sectoral and R&D cooperation;
- at least 10 thematic webinars with approx. 20 participants each, to facilitate cross-sectoral and R&D cooperation;
- at least 5 thematic workshops with approx. 15 participants each, to facilitate cross-sectoral and R&D cooperation;
- 1 internet showcase tool (“living” technological portfolio of the region).

3. Stakeholders involved

All founding members of the regional Specialized Observatories will be involved in implementation. The Marshal Office of Silesia (regional authority) will provide general coordination and arrange for necessary tools. Content will be delivered by: SO Technologies for Medicine, SO Technologies for Energetics, SO Information and Telecommunications Technologies, SO Technologies for Environmental Protection, SO Production and Materials Processing, SO Technologies for the Aviation Industry, SO Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies.

4. **Timeframe**

A3WP1. Case study database: Jan 2021 – Jun 2022

A3WP2. Cross-sectoral cooperation facilitation: Jan 2021 – Jun 2022

A3WP3. R&D cooperation facilitation: Jan 2021 – Jun 2022

A3WP4. Results showcase: Jan 2021 – Jun 2022

5. **Indicative costs**

Costs have not been decided on yet.

6. **Indicative funding sources:**

- Investment for Growth and Jobs, ERDF: Regional Operational Program of Silesian Voivodeship 2014-2020, priority I. Modern Economy, measure 1.4. Support to the Innovation Ecosystem, Sub-measure 1.4.1. Management and Implementation of the Regional Innovation Ecosystem
- Digital Europe Programme

ACTION 4

Name of the action: **The Medtech Innovation Infrastructure (OncoBiotechLab)**

1. **Relevance to the project**

In many places across Poland and Europe the region of Silesia is associated with health sector, especially with hospitals offering advanced treatment related to oncology, cardiac surgery and cardiology. The general audience hardly sees a flora of medtech businesses growing around the huge, specialised hospital units and research institutes related to medicine. Up to now in Silesia there is no dedicated, flagship place that could be associated with medtech (science and technology park, expo zone etc.) to enhance understanding of the sector, its products and development perspectives.

2. **Nature of the action**

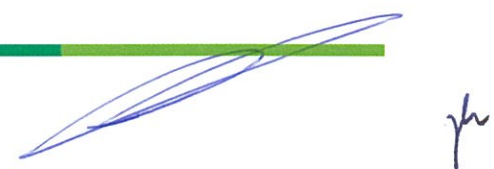
The proposed action is aimed at creation of the medtech innovation infrastructure in Gliwice related to the personalised, advanced tumour treatment with CAR-T cells. There are two work packages of the action related to establishment of the lab and the third one – linked to its operations:

A4WP1. Adaptation of the spaces;

A4WP2. Technology development and transfer;

A4WP3. Pilot operations.

In A4WP1. the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development will run construction works to adapt the existing post-industrial spaces towards laboratories and associated facilities.



A4WP2. will be focused on internal advances in technology as well as purchases of the equipment and know-how (in cases where it is needed or feasible). This will allow setup and implementation of the research procedures and consequently accreditation of the laboratory.

In A4WP3. the partnership of the action (research-wise led by the National Institute for Oncology, section Gliwice) will implement pilot services and research projects based upon the new infrastructures.

The action will result in:

1. 1 laboratory dedicated to medtech developments (CAR-T cells immunotherapy treatment techniques) in Silesia;
2. at least 3 webinars on advances in CAR-T cells immunotherapy treatment techniques supported by the OncoBiotechLab, from min. 3 countries by 2027.

3. Stakeholders involved

There are four key stakeholders of the action. Primarily the Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development – cluster manager for MedSilesia and facility operator of the post-industrial area to be transformed into the Medtech Innovation Park. The content-related issues are coordinated by the National Institute for Oncology, section Gliwice – which is one of the leading Polish clinical centres in tumour treatment. Radan (local real estate development and management company) will be involved in the process of redevelopment. Silesian Development Fund (financial institution established by regional authority) will co-finance the action.

4. Timeframe

Timeframe has not been decided on yet.

5. Indicative costs

Costs have not been decided on yet.

6. Indicative funding sources:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs, ERDF: Regional Operational Program of Silesian Voivodeship 2014-2020, priority I. Modern Economy, measure 1.4. Support to the Innovation Ecosystem, Sub-measure 1.4.1. Management and Implementation of the Regional Innovation Ecosystem,
- Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 – Śląskie, PL22 [in preparation]
- Silesian Development Fund

Date: _____



Bogdan Traczyk

Signature: *Prezes Zarządu*

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Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____

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