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Action Plan : improving RIS3

Centre-Val de Loire region (France)

[May 2022]

devup Centre-Val de Loire

innovation et développement des entreprises

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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1. General information

Project: *PGI05786 Improving Structural Funds for better delivery of R&D&I policies*

Partner organisation(s) concerned: *DEV'UP Centre Val de Loire*

Country: *FRANCE*

NUTS2 region: *Centre-Val de Loire*

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The Action Plan aims to impact: x Investment for Growth and Jobs programme

☐ European Territorial Cooperation programme

☐ Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:

The policy instrument addressed is the Centre Val de Loire Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation -RIS3.

It is directly linked with the CVL ERDF OP: Axis 1 Knowledge Society (TO1 directly linked with RIS3, investment priorities 1a and 1b).

2. Introduction

2.1. Improve Project.

Structural Funds Programmes are the main policy instruments European regions have for building up Research, Technological Development and Innovation and support the implementation of their Smart Specialisation Strategies.

The policy instruments addressed by the IMPROVE project are mainly Structural Funds Programmes, except for the Municipal Plan for Development of Gabrovo (Bulgaria) and the Development Plan of Tartu City (Estonia), which have in common the goal of enhancing a knowledge based regional/municipal economic growth.

Beyond their different background, scope and particular target, these polices seek a smart, sustainable and inclusive regional/local development by means of actions and instruments that, to a greater or lesser extent, focus on entrepreneurship, competitiveness of regional/local businesses, employment, education and lifelong learning, innovation, research, technological development, etc.

Achieving an efficient delivery of regional development policies is crucial, not only in terms of making the best possible use of public funds, but also in terms of maximising regional potentials, fighting regional inequalities and strengthening Europe´s economic well-being, as well as its social and political cohesion.

The partnership includes a wide range of regional realities, with different levels of economic development, more and less centralised administration systems and different levels of innovation performance, as well as distinct level of involvement in the management of the addressed policies (more strategic for some partners and more operative for others), which allowed a comparative analysis of the policy makers approaches and enriched the perspective about the management and implementation of Structural Funds.

2.2. Regional Action Plans

Produced by each partner, the action plan is a document providing details on how the lessons learnt from the interregional cooperation during the Phase 1 of the project will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument that is addressed within their region. It specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs and funding sources.

Based on a learning process that included a State-of-the-Art report for the identification of the areas of improvement of each Policy Instrument, the organisation of Thematic Workshops on key topics shared by the partnership, the participation in 8 Peer Reviews (organised in an on-line mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic), the identification of good practices, a 2nd round of visit (in a face-to-face mode) for an in-depth analysis of the GPs, and a close relation with the Regional Stakeholders' Groups, the action plans will be developed focusing on the improvement of the identified challenges within each region.

During Phase 2, the project partners will closely monitor the implementation of the action plans and will regularly check the extent to which the measures described in the action plan are implemented on the ground, evaluating the results of these measures and gathering evidence of success to be reported to the programme. During Phase 2 the project partners will continue to learn from each other and will exchange and build on the success achieved or on the difficulties encountered.

3. Policy context

3.1. The policy instrument

The policy instrument addressed is the RIS3 of the Centre-Val de Loire region 2014-2020, its evolution for 2021-2027 and consequently the axis1 of the OT1 of the ERDF OP.

Axis 1 of the ERDF OP addresses both SME competitiveness and the capacities of the region in RDI. It is also closely linked to the S3 and to the Regional Economic Development Strategy for innovation & internationalization (SRDEII).

Both policy instruments aim:

- To encourage all types of innovation by strengthening regional research and innovation capacities;
- To make the ecological transition an asset for the industrial fabric;
- To strengthen the region's attractiveness by building on the industry and on tourism sectors having an international dimension
- To enhance the creative capacities of companies through the human capital
- To increase the number of innovative companies from 1000 to 1500.

3.2. Main challenges or areas of improvement

(Details about regional barriers and challenges. Key stakeholders involved. Information updated from the Peer-review report.)

Our aim is to build innovation capabilities in order to enable the regional companies to make the shift to industrial, digital and ecological transition:

- Firstly, we have to professionalize the member of the regional economic development network that supports the companies in their innovative projects, especially for new themes or issues (ecological transitions, new economic models, digital transitions, etc.)

- Secondly, we need to better involve the triple helix actors in the coordination of the ecosystem of each RIS3 priorities, in which a pool stakeholder is empowered and supported to define ways to address local challenges.
- Thirdly, we need to structure the process of innovation support by relying on the regional assets and creating a "innovation journey".
- Fourthly, we have to foster the technology transfer activity and the way to support start-ups, especially concerning the Deep Tech.
- On the other hand, we also need to strengthen innovation processes closer to the companies, especially in the rural areas of our territory.
- Finally, we need to adapt our human capital to the major challenges of the above-mentioned transitions.
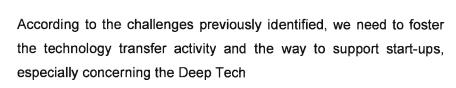
All members of the Regional Innovation Strategy Committee (which steers the RIS3) will be involved in the project. It is composed of

- Regional Council of Centre Val de Loire
- State administration -represented by the Regional Academic Delegations for Research and Innovation (DRARI) and the Regional Directorate for the Economy, Employment, Labour and Solidarity (DREETS)
- Bpifrance (French Investment Public Bank)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries
- DEV'UP Centre-Val de Loire
- 4 Clusters (Pôle de compétitivité)
- 2 metropolitan areas (Tours and Orleans)
- 2 Universities (Tours and Orleans)
- 6 Research Institutes
- Rector of the Academy
- APEC (Association for the employment of executives)
- The pilots (Entrepreneurs) and co-pilots (academics) of each RIS3 priority

3.3. Identification of best practices relevant for the Policy Instrument

According to the challenges previously identified, we need to foster the technology transfer activity and the way to support start-ups, especially concerning the Deep Tech

- Favor matchmaking between researchers' profiles and SMEs' needs.

NAME OF THE GP	Office for innovation (O4I) which is a new Office for Technology Transfer inverse model
OWNER	FUNDECYT-PCTEX
DESCRIPTION	This is, an interactive innovation model where the exchange of knowledge plays a key role starting from the R&D needs of the business fabric, searching for solutions within the scientific and technological offer of the SECTI, bridging the gaps and promoting collaboration
TRANSFERABILITY ASPECTS TO THE REGION	We would like to go deeper on the way that new OTT inverse model runs, especially the starting from the R&D needs of the business fabric, searching for solutions within the scientific and technological offer of the SECTI, bridging the gaps and promoting collaboration We would like to better understand the methodology: • identify: Innovation challenges in companies • interexchange: Exchange of knowledge between enterprises, • research centres and technological companies • investigate: Analyse possible solutions for companies 'needs. • invest: In new R&D collaborative projects

On the other hand, we also need to strengthen innovation processes closer to the entrepreneurs, to broaden and diffusing innovation towards less innovation aware SMEs or those in less developed area.

From the actions that have emerged from the brainstorming session with our counterparts of the IMPROVE project, we intend to explore the followings ones:

- Analyse and rationalise the fragmentation in innovation-support instruments offered by clusters and by other actors in CVL.
- Reinforce the role of the intermediaries, as the actors who are best able to understand firm's needs and translate them to policy makers.
- Make the most of clusters in the definition and implementation of S3 internationalisation.
- Develop call targeted to SMEs that are struggling to enter the innovation ecosystem.

The different calls implemented in Puglia Region (Italy), such as, Innonetwork, Innolabs, Innoaid, and Tecnonidi seemed also a good source of inspiration for our own policy design.

NAME OF THE GP	Innoaid Innolabs : Innonetwork
OWNER	Puglia Region
DESCRIPTION	Innoaid : purchase of services for technological, strategic, organizational, and commercial innovation for projects related to specific innovation areas Innolabs : collaborative research projects between companies and research organizations for projects related to specific innovation areas Innonetwork : collaborative research projects between companies and research organizations for projects related to specific innovation areas
TRANSFERABILITY ASPECTS TO THE REGION	The presentation and implementation of the various instruments for supporting innovation among SMEs, as well as their monitoring, seemed to us to be particularly structured in the Puglia region. We would like to draw inspiration from this to propose design and implementation methods to the public decision-makers (State and Region) who will manage the Future Investment Programme (PIA) 4 regionalised.

We also need to improve the monitoring system, paying more attention to international benchmarking and to the use of open data.

We also could find inspiration on the Smart Specialisation monitoring tool implemented by Fundecyt-Pctex (Spain). In this way, the Apulian Innovation Overview (AIO), the Apulia Research Gate implemented by ARTI (Italy) and the Apulian RIS3 monitoring through questionnaire could also be a great source of inspiration.

NAME OF THE GP	Apulia RIS3 Monitoring System
OWNER	ARTI
DESCRIPTION	A key feature of the Apulia RIS3 Monitoring System is that the data for calculating indicators are directly collected by the beneficiaries of the public policies, through a set of four questionnaires, which are delivered through a web interface during the application and, if successful, at the end of the grant. These questionnaires capture two levels of information: the project, with its expected outputs and results and the individual project prospers and beneficiaries, with their economic and innovation performance.
TRANSFERABILITY ASPECTS TO THE REGION	The data collection system is mainly based on information provided by the participants to the public calls The cost and effort of data collection for building the indicators is largely incorporated in the routine processes of call for proposals and grants management.

Although all practices mentioned above be interesting for overcoming the challenges identified in Centre-Val de Loire, in the framework of this action plan we chose to focus in improving the Monitoring system of our RIS3.

4.   Action Plan

4.1. Action 1

4.2.1. Summary of the action

Context of the Action Plan	Instrument to be improved	Monitoring of the CVL RIS3
	Policy instrument tackled	2021-2027 Centre-Val de Loire RIS3

Name of the ACTION 1
Monitoring of the CVL RIS3

Priority: High / Medium (x) / Low

#	Activities	Funding Sources	Costs	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
1	To analyse how ARTI carries out the interview questionnaires with the beneficiaries of the aid systems, how it deploys them and analyses the results	Regional funds/ ERDF	Included in Dev'up budget				x	x			
2	Propose a methodology towards our counterparts at the regional council to collect data on the support provided and its impact	Regional funds/ ERDF	Included in Dev'up budget						x	x	
3	Update of the RIS3 priority monitoring by including the methodology to measure the impact of the support provided	Regional funds/ ERDF	Included in Dev'up budget								x

Players Involved

	Responsible	Functions
A	Nathalie Boulanger	Head of the Transitions and Innovation Support Unit, Dev'up

Indicators/ Monitoring

	Indicators	No
1	Number of coordination meetings to improve the RIS3 monitoring	

B	Nicolas Dubouloz	Director Higher Education / Research / Technology Transfer, Region Centre6val de Loire	Proposed policy mix evolution or recommendations to improve the RIS3 monitoring
C			

4.2.2. Relevance to the project

The RIS3 thematic sub-domains are not easily translated into economy sectors and their related sets of NACE codes. In fact, what we call here "Innovation value chains" are often complex value chains in which companies and other organizations from different sectors exchange goods and services of various kinds.

A "proxy" of this analysis can be obtained by simply relying on the information provided by the companies (or other organisations) when they submit a proposal to a regional public call. The latter is the approach followed by Puglia (please see the good practice's part related to Apulia RIS3 Monitoring System), which is based on questionnaires that the applicants must fill in at two points in time: when they apply for a policy measure, and when they conclude the related project.

4.2.3. Nature of the Action

We intend to work with our counterparts of the Regional Council in charge of the RDI support and with the steering committees of the RIS3 priorities on the monitoring of each RIS3 priority.

From our understanding of the management of the Apulia RIS3 Monitoring System, we are going to translate the questionnaires methodology and modalities in the CVL context in order to collect data about the projects and the beneficiaries in each RIS3 priorities.

We will work on the one hand with the services of the Region to study the feasibility of implementing these questionnaires and on the other hand with the steering committees so that they can integrate these data into the monitoring of the priorities of the RIS3

4.2.4. Stakeholders involved

• DEV'UP Centre-Val de Loire, in charge of Regional economic development agency: in charge of the overall communication, monitoring and evaluation of the RIS3,

of the management of the Innovation steering committee and as well as of the regional economic development network (REDCVL). The Unit "Territorial Animation and Attractiveness" coordinates the ecosystem providing innovation and economic development services to the regional companies. The Unit "Transitions and Innovation Support Unit" is animating the steering committee, responsible for the RIS3 monitoring and evaluation and participating to the assessment of the ROP. Furthermore, through Enterprise Europe Network, it provides free-of-charge internationalisation services to SME. It will be involved in the improvement of the economic development policy as the project manager.

• The Region Centre-Val de Loire, which is the managing authorities of the economic development public policies: ERDF OP (European Level) as well as the CPER (national level) and SREDEII (regional level). It will be involved in the improvement of the economic development policy as the project owner, in collaboration with the French State services. The Region Centre-Val de Loire will designate two referents for each RIS3 priority. These referents will make the connection between the regional policies (in particular in terms of innovation projects supported), the management of the ERDF OP and the activities of the RIS3 coordination committee.

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4.2.5. Timeframe

Activity number	Activity description	Implementation time line
1	To analyse how ARTI carries out the interview questionnaires with the beneficiaries of the aid systems, how it deploys them and analyses the results	Q2-Q3 2022

| 2 | Propose a methodology towards our counterparts at the regional council to collect data on the support provided and its impact | Q4 2022- Q12023 |
| 3 | Update of the RIS3 priority monitoring by including the methodology to measure the impact of the support provided | Q2 2023 |

4.2.6. Cost and funding sources

(Estimate the costs related to the implementation of action 1 and how it will be financed. Is it through the policy instrument(s) indicated in Point 3?)

According to the current status, the design and the implementation of a new mode of RIS3 priority will not incur additional costs. The activities will be carried out by the respective promoters, under the existing of new financial conventions contracted with the Centre-Val de Loire Region and the State.

4.2.7. Monitoring of the activities

In order to monitor, the activities implemented as part of this action plan, we intend to follow the indicators:

- Performance indicators
  - Number of coordination meetings to improve the RIS3 monitoring
- Outcome indicators
  - Proposed policy mix evolution or recommendations to improve the RIS3 monitoring

Date: 04/07/2022

Signature:

Function: President

Organisation: Dev'up Centre Val de Loire

Stamp of the organisation:

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