



## “Southern Catalonia Region of Knowledge”: fostering multi-actor projects

### Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform – Follow-up Article

Online matchmaking session, Friday 18 March 2022, 10:30-12:00 (CET)

#### Policy Challenges:

- How to promote multi-actor collaboration on projects?
- How to connect multi-actor collaboration projects with other European innovation ecosystems?

#### Objective of the online matchmaking

The host region wanted to gain insights and get inspired from good practices on how to promote multi-actor collaboration on projects? And how to connect multi-actor collaboration projects with other European innovation ecosystems?. The policy challenges were outlined in a note prepared by the provincial government of Tarragona.

#### Participants:

**Host region:** the provincial government of Tarragona

- **Josep Maria Elorduy-Vidal**, Head of the European Projects, and Region of Knowledge Area of the Tarragona Provincial County
- **Laura Capel**, Technical Staff of the European Projects, and Region of Knowledge Area of the Tarragona Provincial County - [lcapel@diputaciodelatarragona.cat](mailto:lcapel@diputaciodelatarragona.cat)
- **Emma Gorgori**, Responsible of the European projects Unit at the Area of European Projects, and Region of Knowledge Area of the Tarragona Provincial County



- **Joaquim Solana**, Manager at CENFIM: Interior furnishings and hotel contract cluster and innovation hub.

#### Peers:

- **Justė Rakštytė-Hoimian**, Lithuanian Innovation Centre, Vilnius - [j.rakstyte@lic.lt](mailto:j.rakstyte@lic.lt)
- **Paz Palacio**, IDEPA, Asturias, Spain - [paz@idepa.es](mailto:paz@idepa.es)
- **Tiina Ramstedt-Sen**, Council of Tampere Region, Finland - [tiina.ramstedt-sen@pirkanmaa.fi](mailto:tiina.ramstedt-sen@pirkanmaa.fi)

#### Moderators

- **Marc Pattinson**, Policy Learning Platform, [m.pattinson@policylearning.eu](mailto:m.pattinson@policylearning.eu)
- **Arnault Morisson**, Policy Learning Platform, [a.morisson@policylearning.eu](mailto:a.morisson@policylearning.eu)
- **Elena Ferrario**, Policy Learning Platform, [e.ferrario@policylearning.eu](mailto:e.ferrario@policylearning.eu)

### Peer Presentations – Interreg Europe good practices to foster multi-actor collaboration on projects

The peers were selected for their good practices coming from Interreg Europe projects (see also the peer presentations), namely:

In **S3CHEM**, the programme **Primas Proof of Concept** is a public-private initiative to support research groups in developing proof of concepts in Asturias, Spain. Proof of concepts correspond to the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3, where first laboratory testing is conducted and require close collaboration between research and industry. Each edition of the programme is co-financed by IDEPA (50%) and a large private company (50%) to support proof of concepts in specific RIS3 priorities. The programme facilitates university-industry collaboration in the early stage of the TRL. The programme fosters multi-actor collaboration with the objective to find research solutions to regional industrial R&D challenges.

In **MARIE**, the **Tampere Region OIPs** is a programme to support the creation of platforms to foster an open and inclusive culture of innovation. It funds platforms that encourage co-creation through a bottom-up process among different actors—companies-students, companies-universities, and triple helix stakeholders. The **OECD** has selected the case of **Tampere Region OIPs** to illustrate that open innovation platforms aim “to engage a much broader knowledge base for innovation activities while offering the “city as a living lab” and user-oriented open innovation services for the use of firms and other actors (clients)”. As an example of a platform promoted in **Tampere Region OIPs**, **Demola connects leading companies and students through innovation challenges**, and it has contributed to the creation of 135 new jobs, connecting 180 companies and more than 500 people involved in projects.

In **IBUY**, the **GovTech Lab** is a Lithuanian platform to support public institutions to identify challenges and to engage startups and SMEs to find innovative solutions. The initiative strengthens public-private collaboration and promotes the use of innovative services in the public sector. GovTech Lab works in a five-step process, (1) a public sector institution submits its challenge, (2) GovTech Lab evaluates the challenge and launches the competition to find innovative solutions, (3) startups, SMEs, and entrepreneurs bid in the competition with their innovative solutions, (4) GovTech Lab with the public sector institution and experts select the best proposal, and (5) the private sector actors participate to the GovTech Incubator programme to prototype and develop the innovative solution. The good practice GovTech Lab allows public sector institutions to start thinking about innovation, to prioritise challenges, to connect them with the private sector, and to find solutions with social impacts.



## Key Insights shared during the online matchmaking

The peers shared insights on how to promote multi-actor collaboration on projects?

- It is important to align actors' interests around a shared regional vision for the future.
- Being an anchor institution, the university can play an important role to rally different stakeholders together along its third mission. Find the change agents within the faculty to co-create programs to respond to local challenges. Local place-based challenges can be a driver to bring stakeholders together, for instance students with private companies (see [Demola](#)).
- It is important to visualise/map the existing services, infrastructures, and the actors in the regional innovation ecosystem to align interests and to build the basis of shared leadership.
- Actors and organisations must trust each other and need to see their benefits to participate in shared leadership and common goals. For example, for clusters, the incentives to participate must be interesting for clusters' members as well.

The peers shared insights on how to connect multi-actor collaboration projects with other European innovation ecosystems?

- For SMEs, it is good to connect them at the regional and national level before connecting to other European networks or ecosystems.
- Regional public organisations must invite and support a relationship SMEs to participate to events, regional proposals, EU call for projects.
- Work with universities and the large companies to connect with SMES and use them to connect with other innovation ecosystems.
- Target European calls that offer cascade fundings, vouchers schemes that are very operational, to give SMEs a first experience using vouchers and small-scale projects (see [European Commission calls](#) for Cascade Funding).

## Additional Sources of further information

- Have a look at good practices from Interreg Europe project [INNOHEIS](#)
- Interreg Europe policy brief on [Open, Social, and Responsible Innovation](#)
- Interreg Europe policy brief on [Clusters: Driving the Green and Digital Twin Transition](#)
- Interreg Europe policy brief on [University-Industry Collaboration](#)
- Interreg Europe policy brief on [Innovation Networks](#)
- Interreg Europe article on [Innovation Vouchers](#)
- Interreg Europe article on [Operationalising the Concept of Open Innovation with Open Innovation Platforms](#)

## ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

Note circulation: All attendees.