

COVID-DISRUPTED REGIONAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS (CODIL)

CODIL - An interregional cooperation project for improving research and innovation capacities policies.

ABOUT the Project

The COVID pandemic continues to create the biggest revolution in the organisation of knowledge-intensive work since the industrial revolution, impacting all European regions. Highly skilled digital workers, the major driver of the regional digital innovation ecosystems, no longer work together in the same location or premises. Many work from home often located in a different region or city. This dispersal of knowledge workers has had profound implications for the entire traditional innovation process that occurs in start-ups, companies, regional clusters, research and innovation and higher education.

As the nature of innovation has fundamentally changed, policy instruments that support innovation must also change if they are to effectively support this changed post-COVID innovation ecosystem.

The overwhelming factor enabling and making the changes possible is the increased deployment of new applications of digital technologies in the innovation process itself. The increased use of digital technology is bringing about changes, often positive, in the innovation process including:

- Increased levels of digital related innovation as a result of growing demand for digital applications in e-health, virtual conferencing, machine learning and research
- Increased productivity in collaboration, training and research (virtual communication platforms, digital tools and use of AI);
- Increased demand for resilience to future shocks (blockchain and cybersecurity);
- Increased demand for local production to offset supply-chain disruption (3D printing);
- Integration of new approaches and tools including (open data, open science);
- Potential for greater inclusiveness by integrating new groups into the innovation process including women, minorities and migrants.

CODIL's Innovative character

- **Specifically addresses** how the revolution in the way highly skilled knowledge workers – the core of regional innovation performance – now collaborate, enabled by disruptive technology, is currently impacting regional innovation patterns and models;
- **Recognises** that policy choices that can attract knowledge workers by addressing their needs (societal, family, incentives, workspaces) are key for a successful innovation trajectory for the region;
- **Demonstrates** how selective development of regional competences in disruptive technology can also enhance innovation performance.

Goal

As a result of improving the implementation of regional policy instruments, the main goal of the CODIL project is to **enable participating regions to adapt their innovation policy instruments to better support the emerging distributed-team innovation model and its key component, highly skilled mobile knowledge workers.**

CODIL encompasses the following sub-objectives:

- Provide the correct mix of space solutions, training and education to attract digital investment from start-ups, established companies wishing to expand and diversify and research projects/initiatives
- Ensure the correct mix of incentives and innovation services to make the project regions attractive for high value mobile knowledge workers
- Provide access to the disruptive digital services and technology needed to ensure the survival of companies in each region's target sectors and clusters.
- Improve the responsiveness, inclusiveness, resilience of the digital innovation ecosystem

The CODIL Project will reach its goal through a review and adaptation of the following policy instruments:

- Regional Programme of South Ostrobothnia for 2022-2025
- West Regional Operational Programme 2021-2027 (West ROP 2021-2027)
- Údarás na Gaeltachta Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Cantabrian Operational Programme ERDF 2021-2027
- Digital Slovenia information society strategy
- Schéma directeur des systèmes d'information et du numérique 2022-2026 de Laval Agglomération

Through a multi-step approach designed to build the capacity of the participant partners and stakeholders, CODIL will focus on the definition and implementation of actions to improve the regional policy instruments making use of the knowledge acquired in the project.

Programme	Project duration	Funding
EU, Interreg Europe	March 2023 – May 2027	1.13 M EU

Project outputs



Timeline

Over the course of the three years of the project, project work will cover:

- **First year:** mapping the current situation in the regional innovation ecosystems participating in the project, identifying, and monitoring good practices of potential interest and capacity building of partners.
- **Second year:** production of a good practice package and a series of extended knowledge transfer activities (thematic workshops, site visits and staff exchanges), along with defining and launching of first actions for policy instrument improvement and monitoring of policy instruments.
- **Third year:** monitoring and identifying additional good practices and continued knowledge transfer among partners. Implementation of actions to improve policy instruments, peer reviews and monitoring the potential improvements in the policy instruments.
- **Fourth year:** follow-up phase - continued monitoring of potential improvements in the policy instruments and drafting of a final report.

Current status

The CODIL project is already in full swing. The first part of the project involving setting up the teams formed by the key stakeholders and engaging them to ensure that the knowledge is transferred was finalized and the learning process has begun, with the involvement of both partners and stakeholders. As such, the project has been coordinating with partners underpinning the learning process and future improvement of policies.

A lot of planning and effort has already been undertaken in drafting the common methodology for the regional/local analysis in each of the partner regions. **The analysis will cover different dimensions, including:**

- Level of readiness to run innovation in distributed teams;
- Availability and current level of use of disruptive technologies by the innovation ecosystems;
- Existing incentives and innovation services to attract talent;
- Business models of the regional/local innovation hubs; and
- The current role played by social innovation within the regional ecosystems. This activity will be finalized in the second project semester and will serve to identify the current situation in the regional innovation ecosystems participating in the project.

The good practice identification and the knowledge transfer activities have also already begun their efforts. A methodology for good practices collection has been identified and seven good practices have been collected in this first semester. A detailed description of good practices including relevant information (i.e. context, main results, lessons to apply) will be soon put on the disposal of partners.

The first knowledge transfer activity, a site visit in Slovenia, was organized following the project **kick-off meeting in May 2023**.



CODIL Kick-Off Meeting, 15-16 May 2023, Ljubljana (Slovenia)



First site visit in Slovenia, 16 May 2023
Slovenian innovation digital ecosystem & CyberLabs in 5G + Spirent Test Centre and Multimedia projects at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, UL

Upcoming event

Second interregional knowledge transfer event, 7-8 November in Seinäjoki, Finland.

The event will enable a progressive capacity building of both project partners and stakeholders and serve as a platform to discuss ecosystem approaches to innovation.

JOIN US in enhancing regional capacities to address innovation!

Project Partners

- University of Ljubljana (SI)
- Údarás na Gaeltachta (IE)
- Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (FI)
- West Romania Regional Development Agency (RO)
- Regional Government of Cantabria (ES)
- Laval Mayenne Technopole (FR)

Project Associated Partners

- Slovenian Ministry of Digital Transformation, Slovenia
- Laval Agglomeration, France

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Future newsletters

Make sure to stay tuned on our project webpage and social media accounts for the release of more information on CODIL. Our project newsletters are expected to be released every six months and will focus on project updates and interesting aspects of the project.

www.interregeurope.eu/codil

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South Ostrobothnia



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