



RATIO

*Regional Actions To
Innovate Operational
Programmes*

September 2016

RATIO - Regional Actions To Innovate Operational Programmes

The «Regional Actions To Innovate Operational Programmes» RATIO project, approved by the Monitoring Committee of the European territorial cooperation programme Interreg Europe in February 2016, is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The project started on the 1st of April 2016 and will last for two years in the first phase and other two years in the second phase.

Kindly invited to visit
RATIO project website

www.interregeurope.eu/ratio



**Aragonese Federation of
Municipalities, Regions and
Provinces (FAMCP) is the
Lead partner of the RATIO
project.**

For more information please
visit:

www.famcp.es

RATIO – Regional Actions To Innovate Operational Programmes

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RATIO assembles 9 partners from 8 EU Member States to improve the regional innovation policies in European rural areas.

Goals of RATIO

The overall objective of RATIO project is to improve regional policies and programmes supporting the delivery of innovation, and their implementation. This must be done by creating effective Ecosystems of innovation through the real transfer of the best practices identified, and thanks to the multidimensional aspect of learning (from individual/organisational exchange to a regional and EU level learning approach). The exchange of experiences among regional actors will be followed by the transfer of the lesson learned to the regional programmes. Important is to mention that the target group are the politicians, public officials dealing with innovation managements and regional business supporting organizations, and as direct beneficiaries of the project are staff and the organizations of RATIO who are involved in designing and delivering the mentioned policies.

As a result the citizens and groups impacted by those policies will benefit from improved policies implementation and better governance.

Ratio understands the importance of the learning outcomes that need to be more effectively transferred and embedded in each partner region in order to lead to policy change, as well as put more emphasis on the demand (SMEs) side to clearly identify the real needs of potential end users.

Steps of RATIO

Step 1: Analysis of different partners' situation and identification of valuable experiences and practices.

Step 2: Interregional Policy learning.

Step 3: ACTION PLANS: transfer of knowledge and practices strategy for improving regional innovation delivery policies.

The RATIO partners:

P1

Aragonese Federation of Municipalities, Regions and Provinces (FAMCP), ES

P2

Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH, D

P3

Regional Development Agency of Usti Region, PLC, CZ

P4

Foundation in Support of Local Democracy Malopolska Institute of Local Government and Administration, PL

P5

BUSINESS CONFEDERATION OF ARAGON (CREA), ES

P6

Vidzeme Planning Region, LV

P7

Municipality of Vila Pouca de Aguiar, PT

P8

Regional Association of Lazio Municipalities ANCI Lazio, IT

P9

Cork Chamber of Commerce, IE

Kick – off conference

SPAIN

“Improving innovation delivery policies to reach regional economic development of SMEs located far from urban areas “was the topic of the RATIO Kick off (Regional Actions To Innovate Operational Programmes) on the 31 of May 2016 in Zaragoza, SPAIN; which was visited by experts and representatives of the regional partners from Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, Portugal, Italy, Ireland and Spain.

The objective of the event was to raise public awareness of the project, to demonstrate that regional authorities and local stakeholders are actively supporting innovation policy in their regions, within a joint approach from all RATIO partner synergies.

The conference was opened by regional representatives of Aragon government Mr Rafael Sánchez from the Aragon Institute of Promotion (IAF Aragón Government), Mr. Fernando Callizo President CEOE Aragón, and from FAMCP (LP) Mrs Julia Vicente Lapuente, Deputy Regional Parliament. All welcomed the regional guests, and raised the importance to enhance the innovation potential of rural SMEs through exchange of experiences among regional actors.

The speech provided and excellent link to the presentation of RATIO project, which was given by the Lead Partner, the Federation of Municipalities Regions and Provinces of Aragon represented by Mrs Romina Magni, with emphasis in the strategic importance and value of the project, and ensured the full commitment of all partners to work for a common goal of increasing innovation capacity of rural SMEs.

The 8 regional partners provided further input to the debate with their presentation on the current situation in each Regions of innovation capacities, R&D mechanisms and instruments to support SMEs.

The seminar finished with Mr. Carlos Gómez Ascaso from Technological Institute of Aragon (ITA INNOVA) who gave current initiatives of innovation support to SMEs and success factors tools in rural areas.



Photos of dissemination events



Study visit No. 1

SPAIN

The first study visit took place the 1st of June, 2016 in Ejea de los Caballeros, organised by CEOE Aragón.

The participants of the 2nd day had several presentations about initiatives related to “Improving innovation delivery policies to reach regional economic development of SMEs located far from urban areas“.

The city of Ejea de los Caballeros covers 609.9 km² and has 16,941 inhabitants (2005 census) with a density of 27.78 inhabitants per km². The average altitude is 420 m. It is one of the five main towns in the rural area called Comarca de las Cinco Villas ("Shire of the Five Villages"). The five villages are Ejea de los Caballeros itself, Sos del Rey Católico, Uncastillo, Sádaba and Tauste.

What was especially interesting, was the visit to MAGAPOR, a company established in 1992 in Ejea de los Caballeros, Magapor designs, manufactures and commercializes materials and technologies for artificial insemination in swine, R+D is a strategic line for the firm Magapor is a strong global supplier. At present, thanks to the international project Magapor is present in more than 40 countries and have consolidated a strong position in the main pork producer markets worldwide, as the USA, Brazil or Russia.

There was an official reception at Ejea de los Caballeros City Hall and finally a demonstration at the Technological Centre, an initiative to support R+I in local companies.

Stakeholders meetings

GERMANY

The Germany partner has published information about the project and the study visit as news on his website and in a EU magazine in Leipzig, which is called EULE.

The partner has had a meeting with the Neu e.V., the energy and environmental cluster in Leipzig on July 20, 2016 where the possibilities and the RATIO project activities for the Leipzig region were discussed. Currently the partner is in the planning phase of the meeting with all cluster managers from Leipzig. This meeting is planned in October and there the partner will present the RATIO project and also will get into contact to a wide range of SMEs active in the different clusters.

There are 5 clusters in Leipzig: Automotive & suppliers, Healthcare & Biotech, Energy & Environment, Logistic & Services, Media & Creative Industries.



LATVIA

The stakeholder meeting took place on 14 June 2016 at the co-working house „School 6” in Cesis. It gathered together 15 participants from project management group, experts and business development specialists from Vidzeme municipalities.

The meeting was aimed to introduce the Interreg Europe RATIO project, identify a stakeholder group and discuss how to involve them in the project and potentially expand this group. The project manager Laima Engere has a good experience working for promotion of startups in Valmiera Business and Innovation Incubator. Project manager introduced the project objectives, planned results and expectations towards an involvement of stakeholders and their role in the project. „ The project will be successful and achieve its goals if there will be a team work - local governments and policy makers , businesses and business promotion organizations ,” concluded Laima. During the meeting participants discussed business promotion activities in the municipalities, introduced the successful innovative business examples from their territories and expressed an interest to learn good practices from partner regions, pointed out what kind of support is needed for local enterprises. At the end of the meeting, specialists agreed about organizations and institutions, which should be invited to other RATIO project stakeholder meetings.

There was also introduced another Interreg Europe programme project SUPER, which aims to support eco-innovations in international markets. Both RATIO and SUPER projects intend to cooperate and complement each other.

Meetings with business development specialists from Vidzeme municipalities are organized several times a year, with the aim of promoting a dialogue between the local authorities and Vidzeme Planning Region in order to share experience and find the best solutions for promotion of entrepreneurship. The stakeholder meeting was held within the framework of the Interreg Europe programme RATIO project.



IRELAND

The Cork region has a proud reputation as a creative, innovative and vibrant location, firmly focused on not only maintaining its standing as a great place to live and do business but also on one that seeks out synergies and is ready to lead and innovate. As Cork grows so does its need to prepare and adapt to meet not only the existing but also the projected future needs of sustaining a thriving and enabling business environment, therefore this lends itself to an opportunity to re-imagine how we promote the region and how we compete both nationally and internationally. With SMEs forming the backbone of the Irish economy, and regionally the Cork economy, Cork Chamber are delighted to be involved in the RATIO Interreg Europe project which seeks to ultimately increase innovation potential of SMEs within the region.

Cork Chamber has worked successfully with partners within the Cork region to bring this project and the objectives of this project to SMEs across the region. Organisations from around the region that engage with SMEs and with their local business communities on an ongoing basis were invited to participate in the Cork Chamber RATIO stakeholder group thereby ensuring a wide geographical spread of SMEs involved in the project and so ensuring an all-encompassing assessment of the innovation landscape within the Cork region. SMEs from across the region were successfully surveyed to assess their innovation culture and capacity with a strong response being received. The stakeholder group meeting, which saw ten attendees representing the various regional and national organisations, took place on Tuesday 30th August and which led to good discussion of the topic of innovation and innovation potential for SMEs within the region. All who attended were enthused to see the involvement of the Chamber in this project and as such the involvement of the region in this project.



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