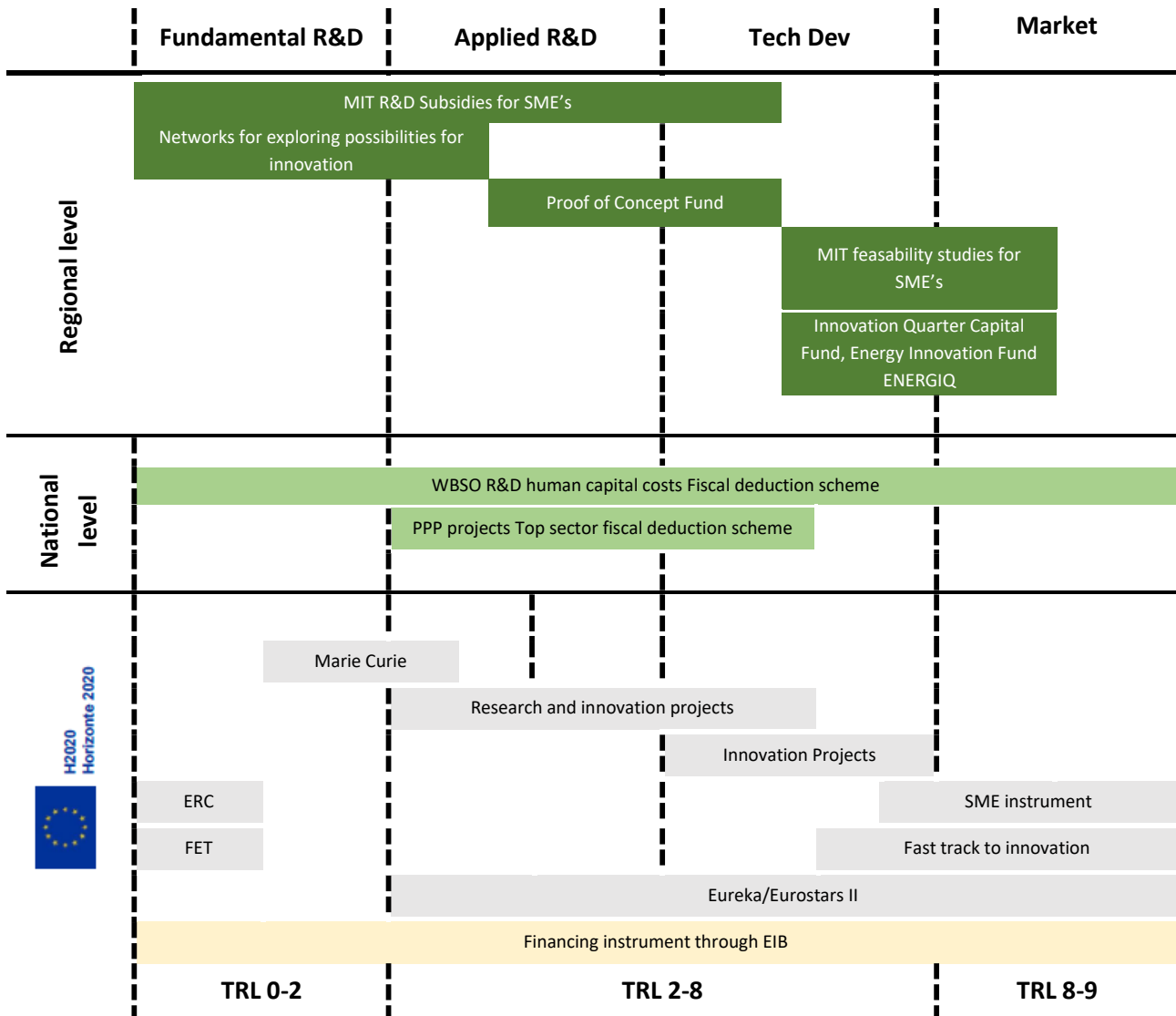


Policy Brief – Zuid Holland OSDD

Zuid Holland funding instruments scheme



The On Site Deep Dive in Zuid Holland took place from the 30th January to 1st of February 2018 in Rotterdam, The Hague and Delft. In total 40 participants from 10 partner regions participated to this OSDD.

The programme was devoted to give an overview of the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of Zuid-Holland; to provide a deeper understanding of the policy instruments and strategies for transition to the 'Next Economy' of the province of Zuid-Holland and the innovation tools designed and implemented by Innovation Quarter, with a focus on field labs, clusters and pilot plants; to provide a deeper overview of the RDI Ecosystem of Zuid-Holland through four site-visits

focused on 3D Printing, Ports in Transition, Urban Renewal, Bio economy, Photonics and Smart Industry.

Based on the presentations, discussions and policy acceleration sessions of the OSDD, as well as on post-elaboration of information performed by Regions after the meeting, the following main critical conclusions can be derived in terms of advantages of cooperation, barriers, and recommendations that can be input for the Action Plan.

Advantages and opportunities of inter-regional cooperation deriving from the extension to other Regions of the instruments/tools/practices presented

- Field labs infrastructures are an interesting concept developed in Zuid Holland as well as in other partner Regions. In particular, the exploitation of ERDF which, in The Netherlands, are primarily used to fund these infrastructures. The creation of a network of pilot infrastructure is something in which partners are interested, in particular in the framework of a Vanguard.
- Innovation Quarter is a public entity entitled to strengthen the innovation in the region through investment funds. Interregional cooperation can be established in this context among the Regions which have these entities already established or the model can be transferred also to other Regions. The related potential benefits can derive from the synergies in the establishment of regional funds or even in the creation of an interregional investment funds.
- The concept of Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies 2.0, invited the partners to think about updates of the current document keeping an eye on possible interregional synergies to strengthen targeted areas. Thanks to this approach also the budget could be distributed accordingly leaving more space for interregional investments actions.

Barriers and difficulties to face for the introduction of new instruments/tools/practices in a coordinated and synergic way

- Barriers and difficulties can emerge in running a pilot plant, since it really expensive in terms of equipment, staff, materials... Customers are scarce, especially those willing to experiment at a certain scale, and so marketing resources would be needed.
- Making the sharing of infrastructure possible is a challenge not only in term of establishment and execution, but it can be also difficult to guide local SMEs toward demonstration facilities in other regions.
- An increase in capital of investment funds is needed to increase the group of enthusiastic stakeholders accessing the funds for innovation investments.

Recommendations and suggestions proposed to overcome such barriers and difficulties

- Involvement of intermediaries to collect from companies joint interest to share RDI infrastructures as well as to map synergic interest for investment. These actors can also support local companies in the identification of the site to be accesses according to their specific need, overcoming the “cultural barrier”
- Explore and discuss the different business models adopted by the existing pilot plants to evaluate pros and cons and replicability in different contexts