

STEPHANIE

Interreg Europe



eBULLETIN 02



Research & innovation



€
1.43 M
ERDF



Jan 2017
Dec 2021

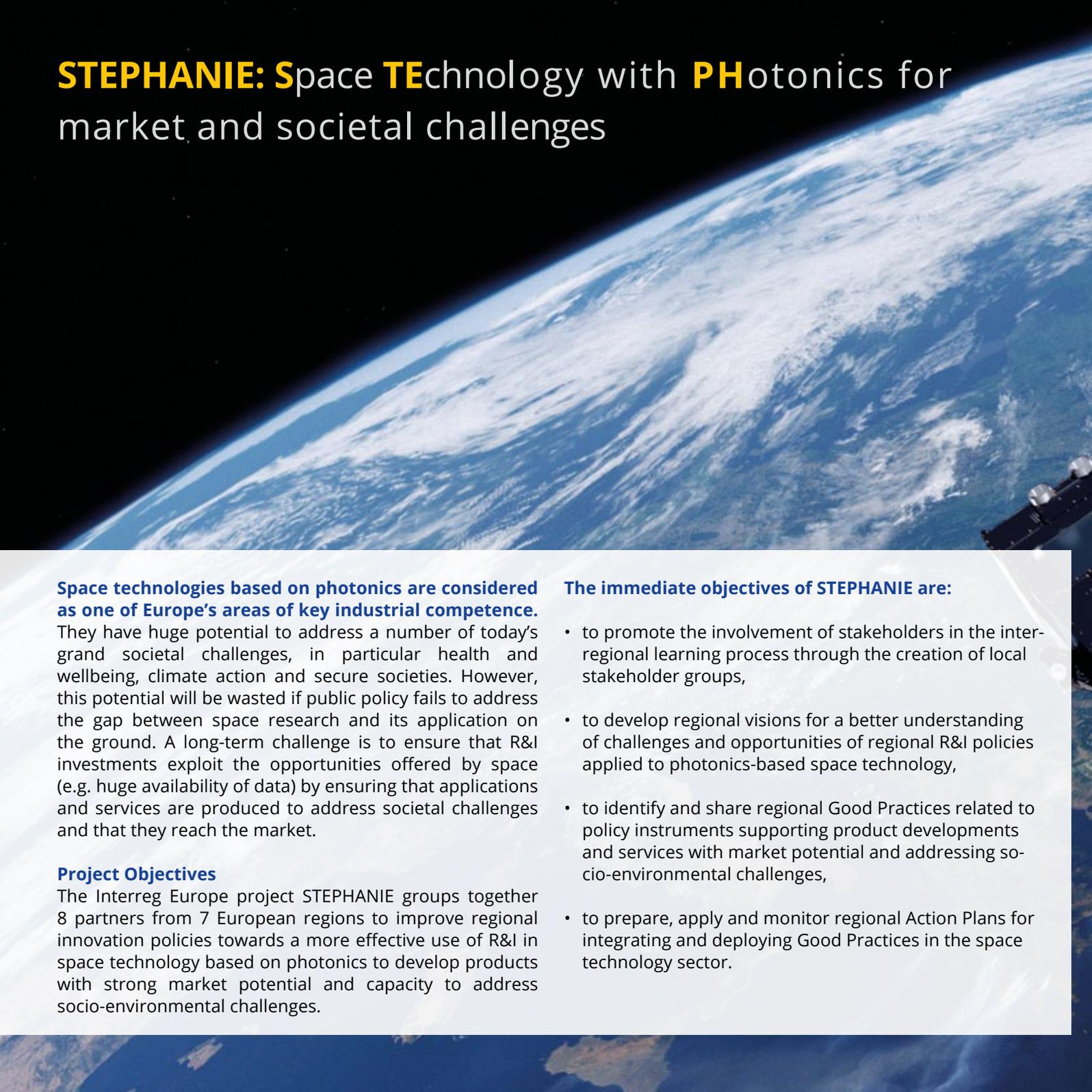
#steph_eu

www.InterregEurope.eu/stephanie



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

STEPHANIE: Space TEchnology with PHotonics for market and societal challenges



Space technologies based on photonics are considered as one of Europe's areas of key industrial competence.

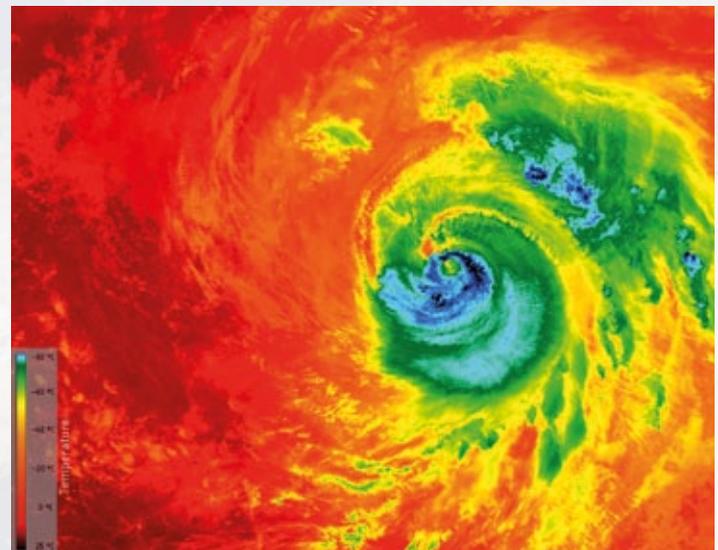
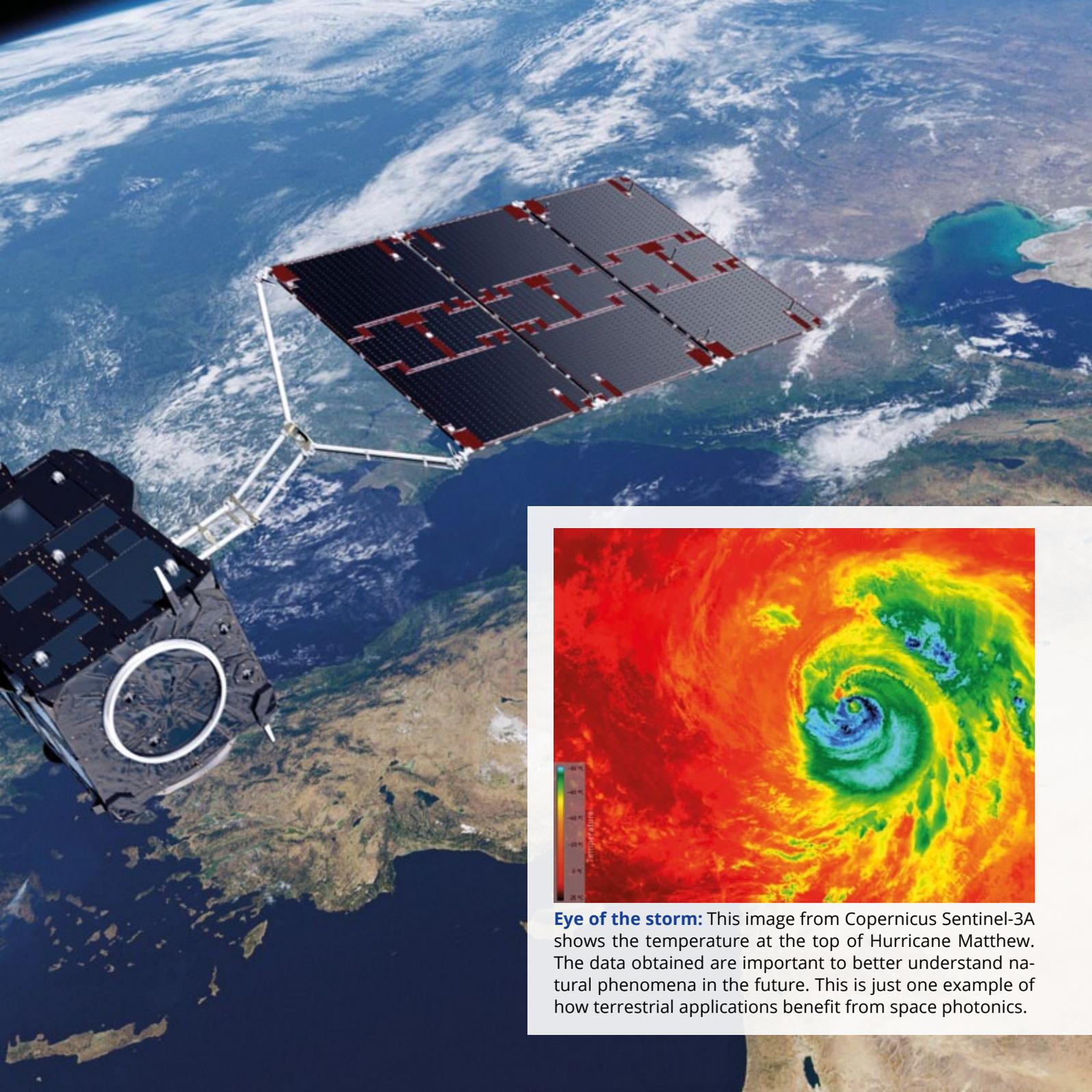
They have huge potential to address a number of today's grand societal challenges, in particular health and wellbeing, climate action and secure societies. However, this potential will be wasted if public policy fails to address the gap between space research and its application on the ground. A long-term challenge is to ensure that R&I investments exploit the opportunities offered by space (e.g. huge availability of data) by ensuring that applications and services are produced to address societal challenges and that they reach the market.

Project Objectives

The Interreg Europe project STEPHANIE groups together 8 partners from 7 European regions to improve regional innovation policies towards a more effective use of R&I in space technology based on photonics to develop products with strong market potential and capacity to address socio-environmental challenges.

The immediate objectives of STEPHANIE are:

- to promote the involvement of stakeholders in the inter-regional learning process through the creation of local stakeholder groups,
- to develop regional visions for a better understanding of challenges and opportunities of regional R&I policies applied to photonics-based space technology,
- to identify and share regional Good Practices related to policy instruments supporting product developments and services with market potential and addressing socio-environmental challenges,
- to prepare, apply and monitor regional Action Plans for integrating and deploying Good Practices in the space technology sector.



Eye of the storm: This image from Copernicus Sentinel-3A shows the temperature at the top of Hurricane Matthew. The data obtained are important to better understand natural phenomena in the future. This is just one example of how terrestrial applications benefit from space photonics.

Coordinated actions for improving **regional**
innovation strategies





STEPHANIE brings together regional Space and Technology Innovation Actors (SPIA) to exchange ideas and experiences on policy models. The approach is designed to improve innovation delivery in the field of photonics-based space technology by addressing two main policy challenges:

- Quadruple helix cooperation of academia, industry, government and users along the technology value chain at regional and interregional level.
- Strengthening of existing and new regional and international funding schemes and simplification of access and administration.

Project Road Map

Phase 1 – Sharing Solutions and Development of Action Plans

(01.2017 to 12.2019)

- Exchange of experience on challenges, needs, current strategies and good practices.
- In-depth analysis of Good Practices and their potential for transfer.
- Drafting of recommendations for regional policy action.
- Development of Action Plans.

Phase 2 – Implementation and Monitoring

(01.2020 to 12.2021)

- Implementation and monitoring of regional action plans.
- Finalising the monitoring activities and summarising the results.

Eight partners identifying good practices in seven European regions

1 Tuscany (Italy)



'Nello Carrara' Institute of Applied Physics - National Research Council of Italy (Lead Partner)

REGIONE
TOSCANA



Regional Government of Tuscany

2 Prague (Czech Republic)



City of Prague

3 Bretagne (France)



Photonics Bretagne

4 North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)



NanoMicroMaterials-Photonics.NRW Cluster of NMWP Management GmbH

5 Andalusia (Spain)



Andalusian Foundation for Aerospace Development - Center for Advanced Aerospace Technologies

6 Durham County (United Kingdom)



Durham County Council



7 Wallonia (Belgium)



Liège Space Centre - University of Liège





6

4

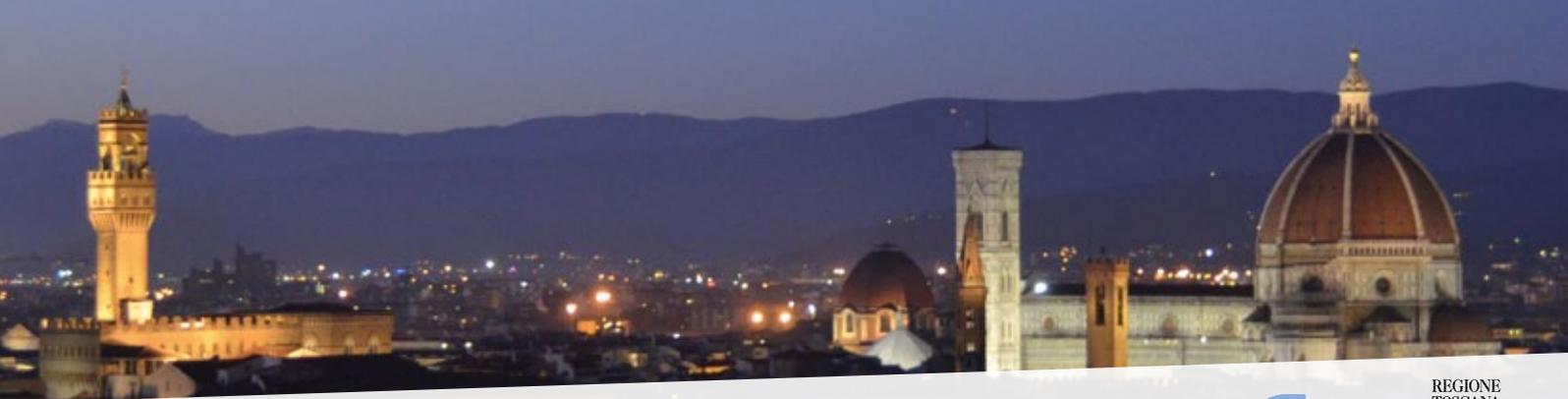
2

7

3

1

5



40 years of experience in space and a regional government build a source for promoting technology transfer in Tuscany

The “Nello Carrara” Institute of Applied Physics (IFAC) is part of the National Research Council (CNR), which is the main public organisation pursuing research and innovation in Italy. The main research areas are optoelectronics, spectroscopy and ICT. Research mainly focuses on sensors, remote sensing, laser technology, micro optics, microwaves, and image and signal processing. IFAC owns a 40-year experience in the Space sector, with the development of breadboards, level 1 and level 2 procedures, product-oriented algorithms, calibration and validation activities. IFAC contributes to R&D programs at international, national and regional level, collaborating also with several Space Agencies (e.g. ASI, ESA, CNES, NASA, JAXA).

Tuscany Region is involved in the definition of the national Space Economy Strategic Plan and is the Managing Authority of the ERDF ROP in implementing regional policies in areas of “smart specialisation”, such as photonics and space technologies.

Over the last two decades, Tuscany Region has invested in technological transfer in order to fill the gap between Research and Industry.

As far as the structure of the space manufacturing sector in Tuscany is concerned, Large Enterprises play a strategic role on key technologies (mainly optics and optoelectronics),

although several SME's as well are involved in the value chain. Research Centres and Universities as well are active in the Space and Photonics sectors.

YOUR CONTACT IN TUSCANY

Istituto di Fisica Applicata “Nello Carrara”

Roberto Pini

🏠 Via Madonna del Piano 10
50019 Sesto Fiorentino
Italy

☎ +39-055-5226436
✉ r.pini@ifac.cnr.it
🌐 www.ifac.cnr.it

Regione Toscana

Elena Perla Simonetti

🏠 Palazzo Strozzi Sacratì
Piazza del Duomo 10
50122 Firenze
Italy

☎ +39-055-4383231
✉ elenaperla.simonetti@regione.toscana.it
🌐 www.regione.toscana.it



The City of Prague - the centre for education and innovation within the Czech Republic

Prague is the capital and largest city in the Czech Republic and the 14th largest city in the European Union. Situated in the north-west of the country on the Vltava river, the city is home to about 1.3 million people, while its metropolitan area is estimated to have a population of 2.6 million. The city has been traditionally centre of politics, education, research and culture for the whole region and has become quite multicultural and opened to international activities. For example, during the recent years, the city has begun to make significant efforts to streamline its administration and is actively working on many Smart City projects.

others responsible for the Copernicus and Galileo program, moreover, it is supposed to become the seat of the EU Space Program Agency, effective 2021. The Agency will be responsible for managing and development of the Galileo and EGNOS satellite navigation system, Copernicus Earth observation system, and the upcoming GOVSATCOM telecommunications system. The Agency will also be responsible for the security accreditation of the entire program. This development in the area of space technologies brings many new opportunities for Czech scientists, municipalities and innovative businesses.



What is particularly important from our point of view is that Prague is quickly becoming the centre of space activities for the whole Europe. There is already the headquarters of the European Global Navigation Satellite System (GSA), which is besides

YOUR CONTACT IN PRAGUE

City of Prague

Michala Kudrlickova

🏠 Mariánské náměstí 2/2
110 01 Prague
Czech Republic

☎ +420 236 003 928
✉ michala.kudrlickova@praha.eu
🌐 www.praha.eu

Technology Transfer Demonstrator

Contact

Mr. Pavel Habarta, TC CAS, (habarta@tc.cz)

Main institutions involved

Technology Centre CAS (<https://www.tc.cz/en>)

Website

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/2299/technology-transfer-demonstrator/>

Start- and End-Date

Ongoing, call every year

Technology Transfer Demonstrator projects support the transfer of space technology to terrestrial applications where there is a strong commercial or societal benefit and there is a clear technical risk that can be eliminated. These projects result in the development and testing of new hardware and software which increase the likelihood of the core technology being transferred from space to ground.

Priority is given to projects where there is a clear ground based commercial application with a customer group with defined needs, and for whom the transfer demonstrator may be used to gain commercial traction.

Applicants could be from any ESA member state. The main advantage of this practice is very short evaluation period (ca 1 month) and brief project proposal (8 pages). Tool is so very friendly towards SMEs and lowering administrative burden in relation to project administration.

QUADRUPLE HELIX



Assistance program

Contact

Mr. Jiri Kubis, (kubis@kr-s.cz)

Main institutions involved

The Central Bohemia Region
(<https://www.kr-stredocesky.cz/en/web/centralbohemia/>)

Website

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/2260/assistance-programme/>

Start- and End-Date

Ongoing, last call 2018

This financial tool was prepared to promote the higher participation of regional stakeholders into complex strategic R&D project which should fulfil regional S3 strategy also.

The tool is focused on public stakeholders, but it could be extended to private sector also. The general scheme of practice is following. The region has specific R&D topics and outcomes defined in S3 strategy. The public stakeholders could find the synergies between S3 strategy and their project proposal. Then the cost for project proposal preparation could be covered from the regional funding.

Another outcome of the tool is to encourage the regional stakeholders in participation in bigger R&D projects - especially H2020 scheme. So the tool should help to increase the success rate of regional beneficiaries in these calls and help them to overcome high preparation costs to submit competitive proposals.

FUNDING SCHEMES





A strong community of photonics related industry and institutes, represented by an Innovation Hub in Lannion

Photonics in Brittany is represented by Photonics Bretagne, a Photonics Innovation Hub located in Lannion (Brittany, France). Photonics Bretagne gathers a cluster (113 members: companies, research centres, schools and support agencies) and a Research and Technology Organisation (RTO).

With a high level of expertise, the technology center develops specialty optical fibres and components (product line: PERFOS®) such as tubes, capillaries, tapers... Scientific studies and proof of concept in the field of biophotonics (in particular for the agri-food sector) are also a growing activity.

In addition, Photonics Bretagne supports innovation and contributes to industrial and technological development of its members and regional SMEs. The association promotes the integration of photonics technologies in all application areas, and especially into agri-food chains (food safety, quality and sorting of products, on-line process control ...)

Our services:

- Custom optical fibres (PCF, Multicore...) and components (silica rods, capillaries, tapers, etc)
- Market analysis

- Technological watch
- Project engineering
- Organisation of workshops and networking events.
- Feasibility study
- Proof of concept in Biophotonics (Agri-food)
- Demonstrator and prototyping
- Industrial transfer
- Characterisation, modelling and simulation of optical fibres
- Consulting
- Connecting photonics players

YOUR CONTACT IN BRITTANY

Photronics Bretagne

David Méchin

🏠 4 Rue Louis de Broglie
22300 Lannion
France

☎ +33296485889
✉ contact@photronics-bretagne.com
🌐 www.photonics-bretagne.com

Organising BtoB events technology/end-user

Contact
David Méchin (dmechin@photonics-bretagne.com)

Main institutions involved
Photonics Bretagne

Website
www.photonics-bretagne.com

Start- and End-Date
2013 – Ongoing



It is well known that the connection between end-users/system integrators and technology providers is currently a barrier which slows down the deployment of innovation. One way to foster such connection is to organise focused events with plenty of time to exchange (both with formal presentation of technology providers and end-users need) but also by allowing informal talks during the breaks to create link and trust between the participants. To be even more effective, BtoB meetings can be organised at the end of the day to start the connection right away.

Photonics Bretagne routinely organises such events to promote technology (if possible local) to the local applicative ecosystem. It is usually not easy to quantify the impact in the short term but we know that this kind of initiative has a strong added value through our surveys. This type of event needs to be more widespread across Europe to boost the competitiveness of the industry.

The main beneficiaries are the local providers of technology who find new customers/applications and also the local end-users who can then bring innovation in their system and become more competitive on the international market.

Setting up a new regional Photonics Innovation Hub

Contact
David Méchin (dmechin@photonics-bretagne.com)

Main institutions involved
Photonics Bretagne

Website
www.photonics-bretagne.com

Start- and End-Date
2012 – Ongoing



Photonics was big in the Brittany region but was not represented or structured by any dedicated organisation before 2011. The local ecosystem decided to create a thematic cluster from a RTO. The idea was to help specifically the development of the companies in this area.

6 years later, Photonics Bretagne has more than 100 members. Numerous events have been organised and there are now more links between all the partners of the network (between Research and SMEs, between technology providers and end-users, between schools and Industry, between local players and international partners, etc.)

Photonics Bretagne is now a unique organisation including technological (RTO) and business (cluster) competencies. The complementarities between both activities are a real advantage for the local players. We don't know any other example of such hybrid organisation in Europe in Photonics.



Innovative photonic solutions for space applications – made in North Rhine-Westphalia

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is Germany's No. 1 industrial region. Of Germany's top 100 corporations, about one third are based in North Rhine-Westphalia. At the same time, NRW is not only the home of large companies; it also hosts a significant small and medium business sector. SMEs account for 99 percent of business enterprises, 70 percent of employees and over 80 percent of trainees.

The Regional Operational Programme EFRE.NRW 'Growth and Employment' 2014-2020 aims at improving the competitiveness and adaptability of the NRW economy, creating employment and promoting integration.

To achieve these goals, the Programme concentrates on three thematic subject areas (Priority axis) and a fourth 'mixed' axis:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- Improving the competitiveness of SME
- Supporting measures to reduce CO₂ emissions
- Sustainable urban development and town planning / Prevention

The Programme is based on the Regional Innovation Strategy,

which merges NRW's research strategy, lead market strategy and transfer strategy into one joint concept and focuses on selected areas of activity to address a number of today's societal challenges.

Within the field of photonics and space research and technology NRW is characterised by many universities, research institutes, companies and administrative facilities. They cover many aspects of space technologies, photonics and data analysis, especially in laser-based production technology, lightweight construction and material engineering as well in inspection technologies and vision systems.

YOUR CONTACT IN NRW

Cluster NanoMikroWerkstoffePhotonik.NRW

Dirk Kalinowski

 Merowingerplatz 1
40225 Düsseldorf
Germany

 +49 211 38 54 59-15
 dirk.kalinowski@nmwp.de
 www.nmwp.nrw.de

RWTH Aachen Campus

Dirk Kalinowski (dirk.kalinowski@nmwp.de)

Contact

Main institutions involved

RWTH Aachen University

Website

www.rwth-campus.com

Start- and End-Date

March 2019 – Ongoing



The RWTH Aachen Campus is part of the university's "Strategy 2020" based on the status of an "Excellent University" since 2007. A total of 16 research clusters will be established. Each cluster forms the contextual framework for long-term research and comprises several centers which focus on the development of visionary solutions for relevant topics. Companies can become a member of the RWTH Aachen Campus and benefit from the different types of memberships. The classic membership offers e.g. direct insight and influence in future research topics, access to an interdisciplinary team of scientists and exchange with other experts from academia and industry. Enrolled businesses benefit from fast, high quality research results (R&I), reduced research and development costs. The participation in cluster- and center-activities like conventions, fairs or conferences facilitates exchange and networking. Targeted further education programs of the centers offer opportunities for employees of enrolled businesses to improve their knowledge and the services offered include consulting, certification, approbation and more.

ROCKET

Dirk Kalinowski (dirk.kalinowski@nmwp.de)

Contact

Main institutions involved

OostNL (NL), Cluster NanoMicroMaterialsPhotonics.NRW (D), Novel-T (NL), BCSEMI (NL), innos spaerlich (D)

Website

www.rocket-innovations.eu

Start- and End-Date

April 2016 – March 2020



"ROCKET" (Regional Collaboration on Key Enabling Technologies) is an umbrella project within the INTERREG V A programme (www.deutschland-nederland.eu/en/). It promotes cooperation between business and science in the German-Dutch border area between the North Sea and the Lower Rhine to strengthen research, technological development and innovation. Key enabling technologies (KETs) provide the technological basis for the answers to global challenges. ROCKET aims to develop, promote and implement cross-border innovation projects in the fields of health, energy and production. Project ideas are evaluated by means of feasibility studies. Targets are the acceleration of knowledge transfer for the development of marketable, KET-based products as well as building-up a cross-border network with a large pool of high-tech SMEs. ROCKET will increase the competitiveness of SMEs, promote growth and job creation. To meet the individual requirements of the involved project partners there are five cluster and networks from both sides of the Dutch-German border as personal contact persons and consultants available.



Andalusia – the versatile center for innovations in the aerospace sector in Spain

The Andalusian Foundation for Aerospace Progress (FADA) is a non-profit foundation constituted in January 2007. Its purpose is the impulse, the development and the promotion of R&D activities to foment the economic development of the aerospace sector in Andalusia, and to promote the generation and exploitation of new knowledge and technologies. FADA manages two centers:

- Advanced Center for Aerospace Technologies (CATEC) focused on applied research, development and technological innovation for aeronautics and space sectors, and also for others ones: ICT, medicine, security, etc.
- Air Traffic Laboratory for Advanced Systems (ATLAS), a Center for experimental UAVs flights (Segregated air-space of 1,000 km² & 5.000 feet for R&D and flight tests)

The implementation of CATEC contributes in an outstanding way to the improvement of the competitiveness of the companies of the sector, by means of the impulse of the creation of knowledge, the management of the intellectual property of the R&D and the technological innovation. CATEC is an European leader in collaborative and aerial robotics, Additive Manufacturing and the development of technologies for small and light UAVs.

CATEC develops an important work of cooperation with the university and the industry, especially supporting the SMEs of the sector. It works hard to achieve an effective technological vigilance of the aerospace sector, giving also a special importance to its policy of strategic alliances and technological consortia to give rise to the most efficient use of the available capacities.

YOUR CONTACT IN ANDALUSIA

FADA-CATEC

Macarena Márquez

🏠 Parque Tecnológico y
Aeronáutico de Andalucía
C/ Wilbur y Orville Wright
street 19
41309 - La Rinconada Sevilla
Spain

☎ +34 954.179.002
✉ mmarquez@catec.aero
🌐 www.catec.aero/

Technical sectoral committees

Macarena Márquez (mmarquez@catec.aero)

Contact

Main institutions involved

Technological Corporation of Andalusia (CTA)

Website

www.corporaciontecnologica.com

Start- and End-Date

June 2012 – Ongoing



Sectoral committees are private events organized around a specific sector in order to develop a network between big and small companies, universities, technical centers and financial entities. When a specific sector is detected of interest for society and industry, CTA develops tools as sectoral committees in order to develop the network within the sector. Up to now, 7 sectors of interest (aerospace and productive processes, agri-food, biotechnology, building and civil works, energy and environment, leisure and tourism, information technology and communications) have been identified in Andalusia and use to organize these kinds of committees in relation with these sectors. The advantage of this practice is the low cost. CTA should need one person organizing during 6 months before the event and then rent a place and catering for one day. A follow up should be in place in order to assure the network is working well. The main beneficiaries of the practice are the professionals of the sector that can exchange their point of view on the sector from there different institutions.

Public Procurement: Creation of an industry pole

Macarena Márquez (mmarquez@catec.aero)

Contact

Main institutions involved

Regional Government of Galicia (Spain)

Website

www.civiluavsinitiative.com

Start- and End-Date

April 2016 – Ongoing



In Galicia, Civil UAV Initiative is a public procurement tool to develop an aerospace industry pole and attract new companies. Before that action from the local government, the main industries have been for long time fishery, automotive, health, green energies to name few. The innovative public purchase is a contract that the public entity puts in a contest in order to cover a necessity not fulfilled through an innovative solution. Galician authorities defined a road map that includes several open market consultations, early demand map, and tenders publications. It requires the development of new or enhanced technology to be able to meet the requirements of the buyer. There is a focus on creating fluid communication between the public administration and companies and entrepreneurs. The winners of the Initiative were required from the beginning to include Galician suppliers in their programs. Those types of initiatives could introduce enhancements in the public services and at the same time reduce the innovation investment risk and development.



A rich level of experience and a vivid infrastructure as drivers for economic growth – that’s Durham

Business Durham is the economic development organisation for County Durham, delivering the environment for business and economic growth.

As part Durham County Council, the local authority for the county, Business Durham works directly with local businesses and a range of partners in the public, academic and business support sectors to help innovate, maximise business opportunities and tackle some of the challenges the businesses face.

The organisation has a rich level of experience in engaging with technology firms including university spin out companies through its science park, NETPark in Sedgefield, various local engineering and manufacturing businesses, and Durham University – an university which has a high reputation for a number of disciplines including physics and astronomy. The county is also host to the Centre for Process Innovation which has expertise and capabilities to support businesses in printable electronics, formulations and then national centre for Healthcare Photonics.

Business Durham has also been managing the North East Satellite Applications Centre of Excellence since 2014, which

means it has been providing a series of soft infrastructure to support innovation in the space data and technology sector in the region.

Government-led investments in R&D in photonics in the UK space sector are primarily, although not exclusively, through academic research councils, Innovate UK via programmes such as the Emerging and Technology strand, Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation, European Space Agency and UK Space Agency.

YOUR CONTACT IN DURHAM

Business Durham, part of Durham County Council

Elaine Scott

 Salvus House
Aykley Heads
DURHAM
DH1 5TS

 +44 191 261261
 Elaine.scott@durham.gov.uk
 www.northeasttechnologypark.com
www.businessdurham.co.uk

GOOD PRACTICES FROM THE STATE OF NORTH EAST ENGLAND

Innovation Breakfast Networking

Elaine Scott

Contact

Main institutions involved

Business Durham

Website

www.businessdurham.co.uk

Start- and End-Date

Developed as part of an ERDF project between June 2012 – May 2014 but the practice is still ongoing

Originally called NETPark Net breakfast, the meetings started in 2012 as part of an ERDF funded innovation community building project and are still ongoing.

Innovation Breakfast Networking is a simple, low cost mechanism for helping businesses keep up with current opportunities while providing them with a meaningful networking opportunity.

They have an innovation focus to help stakeholders raise their profiles and find people who may be able to help them progress with a plan or idea.

The two-hour event takes place at 8am on the first Tuesday of each month. This enables businesses to attend the sessions without intruding too much on their working day.

Sometimes the meetings are held as networking only events but a speaker is usually invited to cover a topic for each meeting.



QUADRUPLE HELIX

Funding service for SMEs

Omar Al-Janabi

Contact

Main institutions involved

Teesside University

Website

www.teesside.ac.uk

Start- and End-Date

2015 - 2019

It is quite common for the technology SMEs which the University engages with to have limited knowledge of what funding is available for innovation, and how (or indeed have the time) to submit a good application. In order to increase the level of innovation activity especially where it involves academic input from the University, the innovation team provides a writing service to remove the barrier of funding take up.

The support has been particularly useful where the company has not had experience of applying for funding generally or to particular fund holders. This experience provides the company with the skills to write future applications.

The success rate in obtaining funding is an average of 1 in 3 applications submitted. In 2017-2018, around 12 applications were made and about 5-6 were awarded funding to fund projects totalling around £4m.



FUNDING SCHEMES

A Centre of Excellence in optics for space systems in Liège

CSL, a Research Center owned by University of Liège, is focused on space systems for payloads and associated technologies.

CSL delivers a customized service from design to integration and calibration (on ground or in-flight). CSL elaborates solutions providing a unique expertise in system engineering, optics and thermal regulation. CSL was the first Test Centre agreed by ESA for space harsh environment tests (cryogenics, vacuum, vibrations) in an ultraclean environment.

The CSL technologies are also used in Collaborative Research projects, in partnership with space and non-space (e.g. medical) industries, in various technological fields as optical design and metrology (e.g. straylight management), surface engineering (e.g. optical coatings for sensors, SPR, ...), electronics solutions for harsh environment (radiation), Additive Manufacturing techniques, radar image processing for geomatics industry. In aeronautics, CSL is specialized in Non-Destructive Testing techniques based on laser applications, shearography, thermography, laser ultrasounds methods.

In Wallonia, the STEPHANIE project is related to the "Clustering Policy". The Business clusters and the Competitive clusters

are complementary tools for the Walloon economic development. They both fit in the same logic of the Government's policy consisting in the willingness to create the conditions needed to build clusters in the Walloon Region.

In that frame, Skywin Wallonie (The Belgian Aerospace Competitive Cluster) represents some 7,500 direct jobs and 1.6 billion euros in turnover, 90% relating to exports. Skywin has 144 members. Among them, there are 112 businesses (85% of which are SMEs) and 20 universities, research centres or competence centres.

YOUR CONTACT IN WALLONIA

Centre Spatial de Liège (Université de Liège)

Joseph Bernier

🏠 Liege Science Park
Avenue du Pré Aily B29
4031 Angleur
Belgium

☎ +32 4 382 46 00
✉ jbernier@uliege.be
🌐 <http://www.csl.ulg.ac.be>

ERA-STAR Plate-form to develop Interregional R&D projects

Joseph Bernier

Contact

Leader: Wallonia Region

Main institutions involved

Website

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/era_en

Start- and End-Date

2004-2009



FUNDING SCHEMES

ERA-STAR (ERA - Space Technologies Applications & Research for the Regions and medium-sized Countries).

The European space programmes have a lot of impact in European Regions. Public funds are dedicated to support European space projects aimed by ESA or the EU. In order to make coherent these various support policies of aerospace applications developments, the ERA STAR Regions consortium has been formed to concert the regions own efforts with the European and national activities. This maximizes the advantages for all partners.

Thanks to the involvement of space-based clusters (including industrial and academic players), the key stakeholders coordinates the scientific research and industrial innovations in the space sector that complement European and national programmes to drive Regional economic growth and prosperity.

In addition, on top of direct research funding, support is also supplied to the regional space sectors (infrastructures, incubation facilities for star-ups...).

Joint calls for proposals were launched to build transregional cooperation and distributed resource bases.

Contacts between clusters

Joseph Bernier

Contact

Public Authorities, Business, Researchers, Users

Main institutions involved

Website

clusters.wallonie.be

Start- and End-Date

Since 2001



QUADRUPLE HELIX

Since 2001, in the frame of the Clustering Policy in Wallonia, 12 business clusters have been supported by the Region. The business clusters are funded to develop economic promotion and promote innovative partnerships (industrial, commercial or technological). Business cluster "Photonics" and competitiveness cluster "Skywin", mainly via its "Wallonie Espace" component, are in connection with STEPHANIE.

To identify the cooperation needs, meetings are organized by the "Council of Walloon Clusters" (presentation of needs and B2B meetings).

Photonics activities are essentially diffusive in many fields of application and sectors (for e.g.: transport, environment, health, telecommunications, defense...) and constitute an important potential for transfer of technologies.

Staff exchanges between the regions for mutual learning

An integral part of InterregEurope projects is mutual learning between the participating regions, for example through strategic advice and best practice examples. In the following meetings special knowledge could be gained and strategic partnerships deepened.



December 2018 - Funding Service for SMEs in Durham



December 2018 - Innovation Networking Breakfast in Durham



March 2019 - Technology transfer and cooperation strategy at RWTH Aachen Campus, NRW



April 2019 - Cluster initiatives and Innovation strategies in Liège



April 2019 - Technology transfer and cooperation strategy at RWTH Aachen Campus, NRW



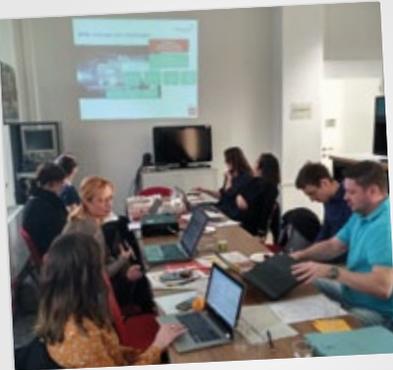
October 2018 - Technology Transfer Demonstrator Competition, ERC CZ programme and the Central Bohemia Innovation Centre in Prague



October 2018 - Smart City Data meeting in Prague



November 2018 - Platform to develop interregional R&D projects; Interdisciplinary contacts between clusters in Liège



March 2019 - RIS 3 - Voucher scheme in Florence



March 2019 - RIS 3 - Voucher scheme in Florence



April 2018 - Toscana Region visits Seville



May 2019 - Technology transfer and cooperation strategy at RWTH Aachen Campus, NRW

Get! involved.

If YOU **represent** a

- Regional /Local authority
- Technology network, Business cluster and/or Support structure
- Company / Enterprise
- R&D centre
- Industry association
- Chamber of commerce
- Banking and finance institution
- Venture capital company and/or Private equity fund
- Technology user

interested or engaging in space technology and photonics – then become an active part of the STEPHANIE project and help shape the future of Europe's high-tech infrastructure with your experience and expertise!

Join today, share your experience to progress future innovation strategies. Find your regional project partner here:
www.InterregEurope.eu/stephanie

The Interreg Programme

- Also known as European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), represents one of the two goals of European cohesion policy.
- Funded by the European Commission through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- Provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy.
- Exchanges experiences between national, regional and local actors from different member states.
- The overall objective is to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the European Union as a whole.
- Three strands of cooperation:
 - Cross-border (Interreg A)
 - Transnational (Interreg B)
 - Interregional (Interreg C)

Interreg Europe

- Covers the 28 EU Member States plus Switzerland and Norway.
- Provides a framework for exchanging experience and good practice between regional and local bodies in different countries.
- ERDF contribution: EUR 359 million.

