

Update on the implementation of the Action Plan of the Project KISS ME EGTC Pyrenees-Mediterranean

Knowledge and Innovation Strategies involving SMEs
in the context of Interreg

Final meeting 15th April 2021



KISS ME Action plan

The Euroregion Pyrenees–Mediterranean 2-year action plan is divided in two stages with 3 incremental actions that tackle 3 specific and complementary objectives, aligned with the overall KISS ME project objectives.

OBJECTIVE: FOSTER
THE SME
INNOVATION
CAPACITIES THROUGH
COOPERATION

**ACTION 1: PILOT COMPETITIVE
CoFUND CALL EURO-REGIONAL
R+D+I**

OBJECTIVE: FOSTER
THE SME
PARTICIPATION IN
CROSS-BORDER
FUNDING
INSTRUMENTS

**ACTION 2: BEST PRACTICE –
IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO
CROSS BORDERS COLLABORATION**

OBJECTIVE:
CAPITALIZE ON
KNOWLEDGE & BEST
PRACTICES EXCHANGE
IN KISS ME

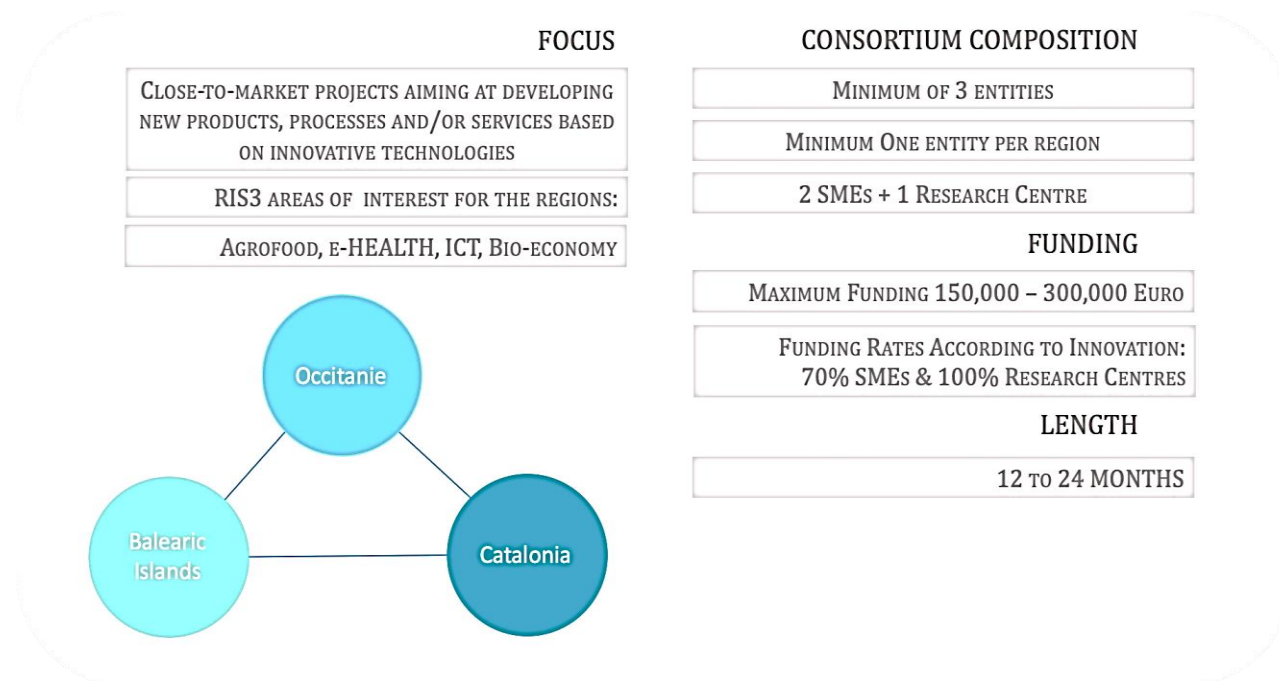
**ACTION 3: NEW EURO-
REGIONAL RIS3**

Its ultimate goal is to improve the Euroregional innovation ecosystem creating long-lasting sustainable instruments that improve the participation of SMEs and research centres in cooperative cross-border innovation actions.

Action 1: Pilot Euroregional R&I Call

Description: To design and launch the first Euroregional COFUND call for collaborative projects, set up as a pilot for a future Euroregional RIS3 funding. The proposal was presented to DG RI to be co-financed with Horizon Europe funds, within the **European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)**, launched presumably in June 2021. Meanwhile in 2020 we launched a covid fund to co-finance a strategical area of the RIS3 in agro alimentary sectors and innovation centres (200 KEUR).

Focus and Eligibility criteria:



Phase 1 : Euroregional proposal to the EIE call in June 2021. Responses in September/October

Phase 2 if Euroregional proposal accepted :

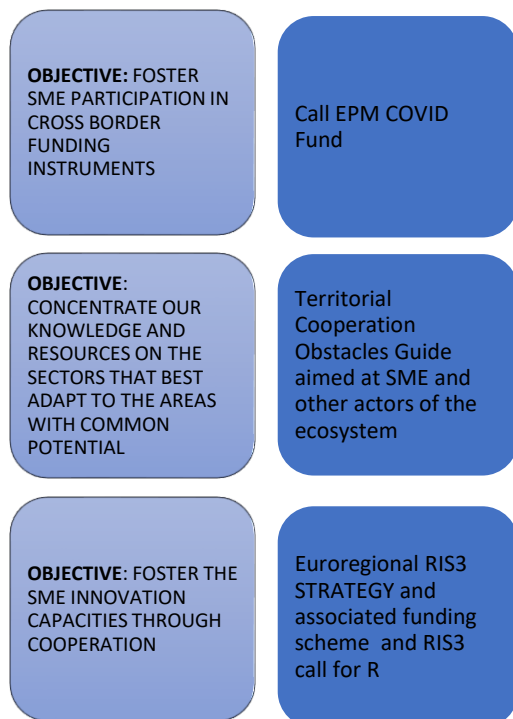
Publication of the Euroregional call: Q1 2022

Projects to be implemented: from Q2 2022 To Q2 2024

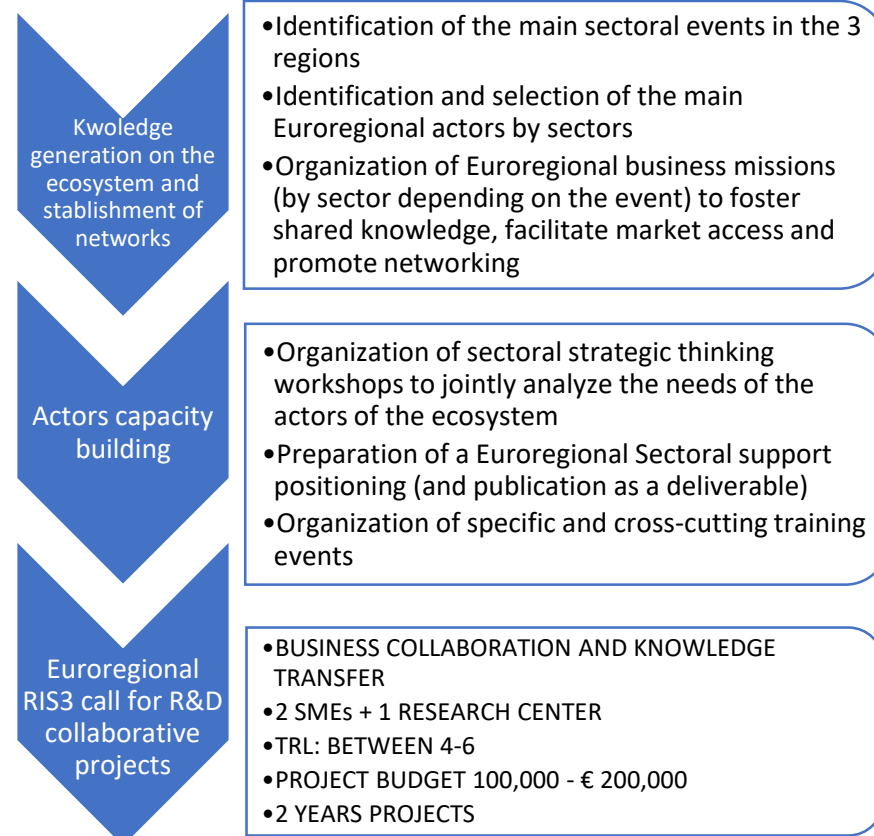
Action 1: Pilot Euroregional R&I Call

During this phase 2, this action has evolved into a new complete action programme divided into phases: a wider first phase of knowledge generation on the ecosystem and the actors capacity-building, and a second one dedicated to the preparation of R&I projects between companies and research centers in the priority sectors of the new Euroregional RIS3.

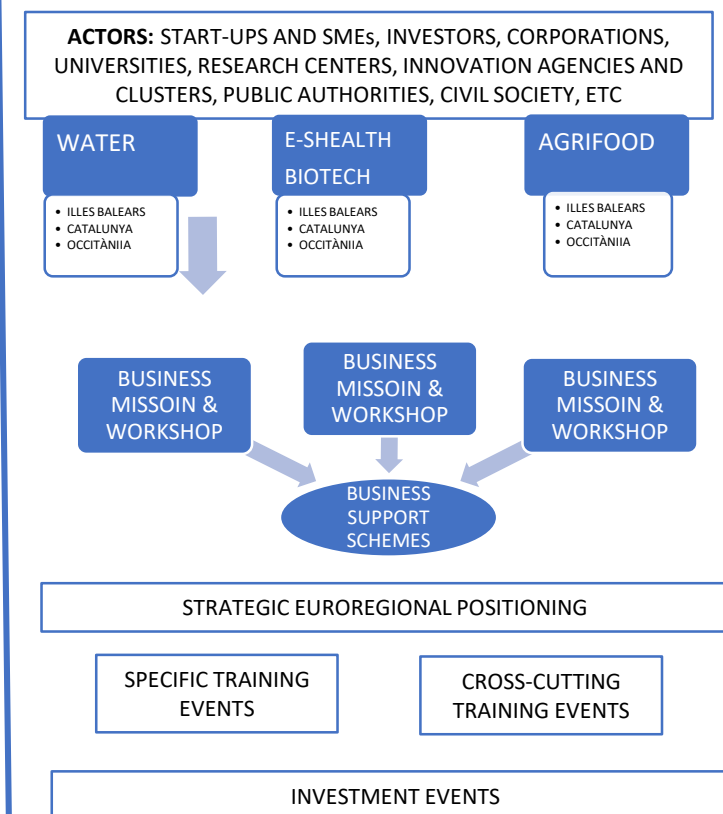
PREPARATION STAGE: EPM ACTION PLAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE KISS ME PROJECT



EIE PILOT PROGRAMME



CONNECTIONS



Action 2: Barriers to SMEs cooperation



To analyse the existing barriers to cross-border collaboration between regions: mental, administrative, legal, cultural and social.

The action will entail:

- Launching a public procurement for the selection of the expert who will help us elaborate this guide (11/2020).
- the screening of existing regional SME registries for the identification of potential participants in the analysis;
- the contact and engagement of a sample of up to 50 representatives per region, that should be significant and representative of the existing regional SME diversity;
- the data collection by means of online surveys, targeted questionnaires and/or personal interviews; and
- the subsequent results analysis and elaboration of a guide to be presented together when launching new eurorégional calls.

In parallel, the Euroregion will support the proposal for a new mechanism to solve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context. The Euroregion participates in the DG Regio expert group on this topic as well as on the GECT platform providing ideas and their experience in this field.

<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/boosting-eu-border-regions/european-cross-border-mechanism-practical-explanation>

Timelines: Q4 2020 – Q2 2021

Funding: 23 400 € for the expert selected via public procurement process and funded entirely by the Euroregion

Action 3: Euroregional RIS3 strategy

Aligned with the renewal of the Euroregional Innovation Strategy a first Euroregional RIS3 would be launched and it's associated funding scheme.

Description: Identifying key priorities per region based on their new RIS3 strategies and defining the future call topics with the participation of the quadruple helix stakeholders (policy makers and regional government representatives, businesses -specially SMEs-, research and education centers, and civil society) by means of:

- Launching a public procurement for the selection of the expert who will help us elaborate this renewal of our strategy (11/2020)
- Establishing an open and continuous communication with the different actors:
 - Regular meetings with policy makers and authorities responsible for the elaboration of the RIS3;
 - Regional Entrepreneurial Discovery Process events where SMEs can contribute to the identification of emerging sectors of interest and transformative projects for the regional economy;
 - A Euro-regional strategic thinking workshop with all quadruple helix actors, to agree on the focus of the Euro-regional strategic plan in alignment with the scientific know-how.
- Consolidating outputs obtained from all the above activities and elaborating the Euro-regional RIS3, considering in the final design the insights gained from action 2.
- Disseminating the results appropriately, over the last part of the KISS ME project implementation.

Timelines: Q4 2020 – Q2 2021

Funding: 30.000€ for the expert selected via public procurement process and funded entirely by the Euroregion

Thank you for your attention

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