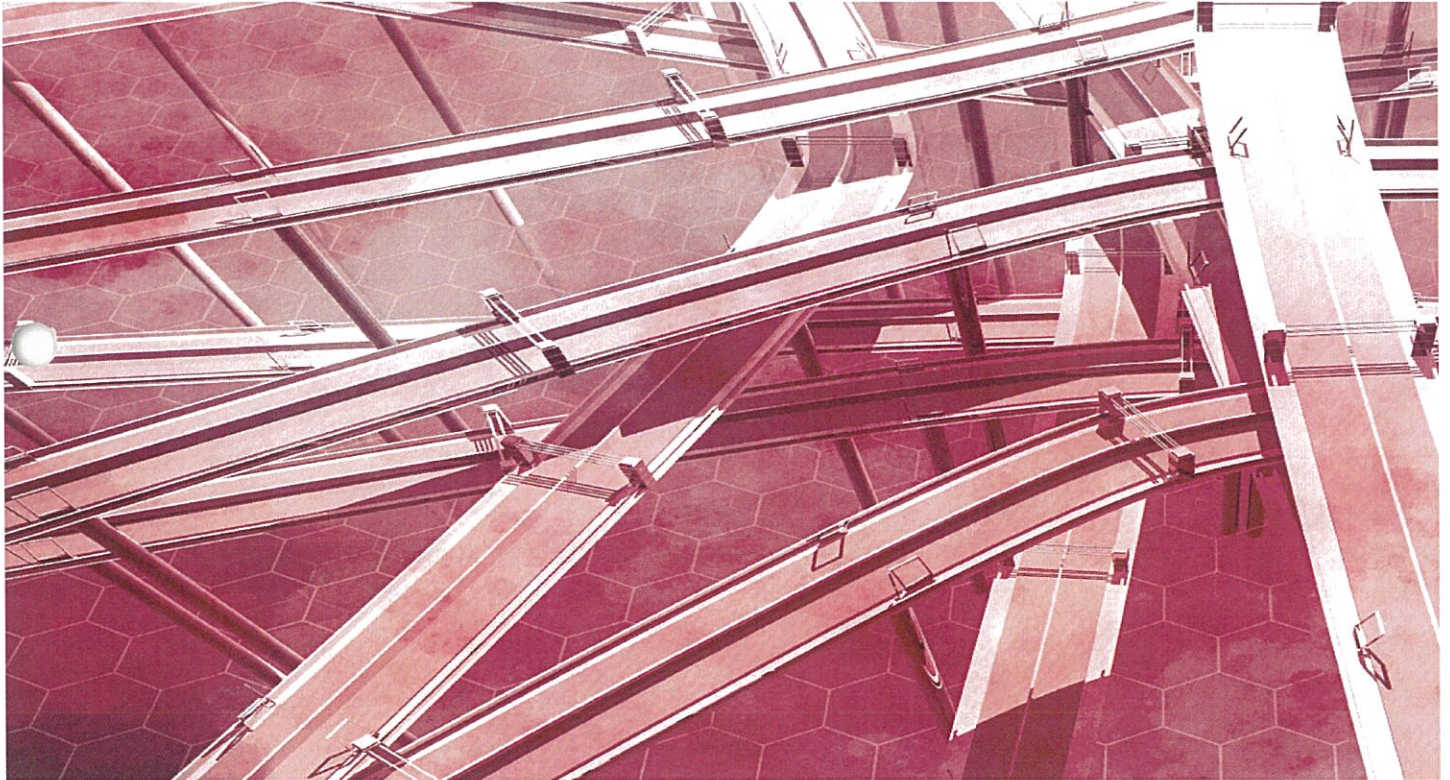




European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

**RECREATE**  
Interreg Europe



**South-West Oltenia Region**

**ACTION PLAN**



**ADR SV OLTENIA**

Dolj - Gorj - Mehedinți - Olt - Valcea

**RECREATE**

**REinforce Competitiveness of REgionAl Transport SMEs**

This document has been prepared by the RECREATE consortium within the framework of the exchange of experiences activities. Therefore, it only reflects the authors' views and the programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Project: RECREATE PGI05275**

**Partner organisation: Regional Development Agency South-West Oltenia**

Other partner organisations involved:

Country: Romania

NUTS2 region: South-West Oltenia Region

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Contact person (name of stakeholder signatory):

Email address:

## 2. INTRODUCTION

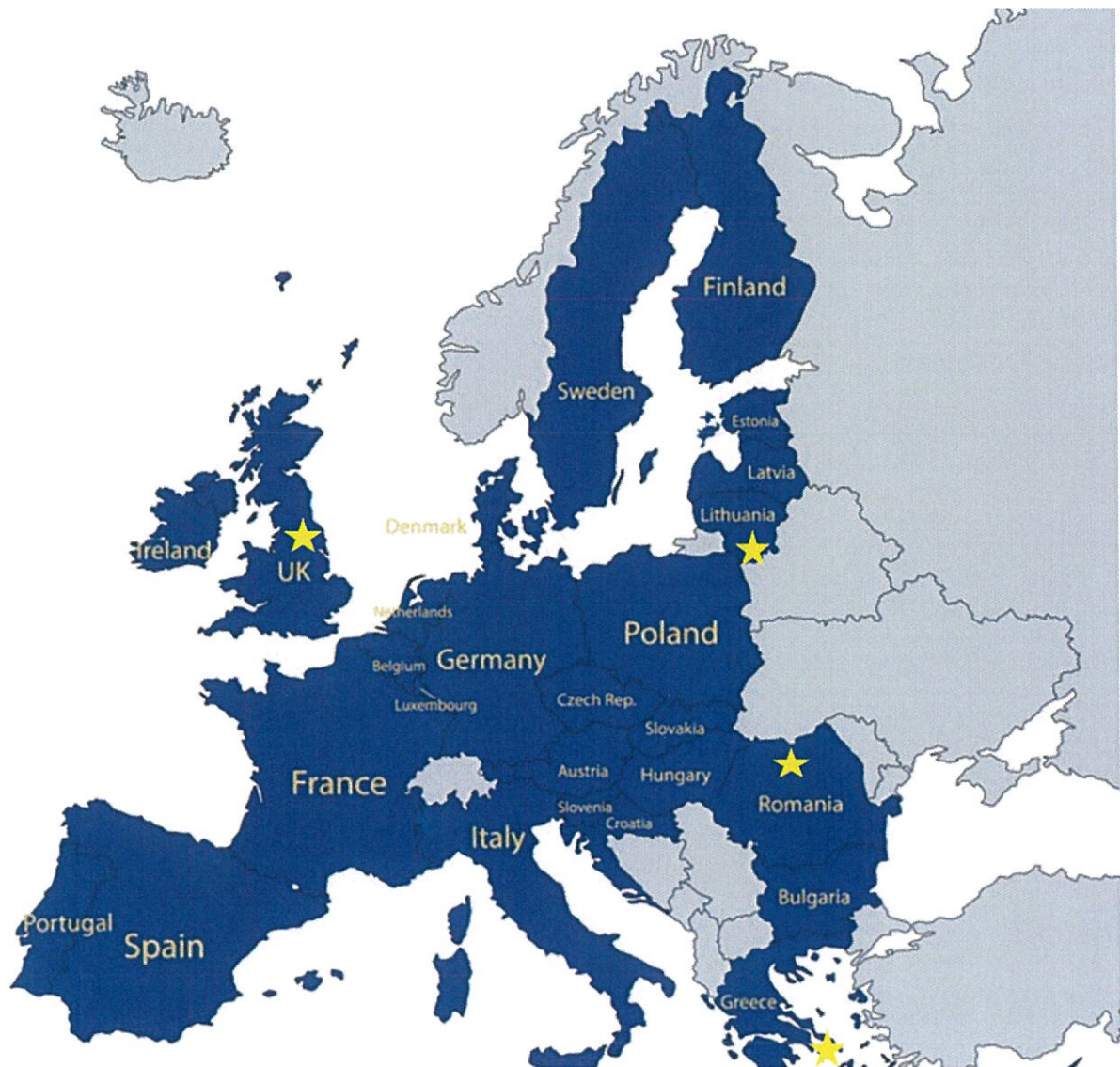
SMEs currently employ 55% of the EU workforce in transport and their important role in the value chain is expected to expand. The rigid value chain of the transport sector is stifling the introduction of innovation by SMEs into new vehicles and transport-related products. SMEs (usually Tier 2 suppliers) find it difficult to interact with vehicle manufacturers, as they generally have short-term supply contracts to Tier 1 companies, who are strongly linked to specific large volume OEMs. Tier 2 SMEs have no collective voice or influence at European level and the EU is not taking advantage of or supporting directly the thriving innovative companies in this sector.

### 2.1 *RECREATE project*

RECREATE project (**RE**inforce **Co**mpetitiveness of **RE**gion**AI** **T**ransport **S**MEs) will address this market failure and focus on the opportunities that new markets offer to innovative and dynamic transport SMEs through the adoption of regional support schemes. It will improve the capacity and capability of regional transport SMEs to further development and growth. This includes support for: 1. Research and Development 2. Rapid development and implementation of products and services 3. Access to finance schemes 4. Internationalisation opportunities. Project adopts a holistic approach to SME support by improving all the relevant schemes that could potentially deliver growth to the regional transport SMEs. Recognising the importance and the potential of the transport SMEs in the economies of the regions involved, RECREATE will map transport SME support measures and assess their effectiveness. The integrated approach adopted by the RECREATE project will drive the identification and development of support mechanisms in the transport SME sector and it will ultimately deliver Action Plans and policy recommendations for evidence-based policy improvement.

## RECREATE regions

RECREATE partners exchange, explore and disseminate good practices in ways to promote growth in innovative Transport SMEs and their support infrastructure, as well as improving competitiveness of the respective regions involved. RECREATE has 4 partners from four different EU28 member states: Coventry University Enterprises Limited (United Kingdom), Lithuanian Innovation Center (Lithuania), Development Agency of South Aegean Region (Greece), Regional Development Agency South-West Oltenia (Romania) and is supported by the Managing Authorities for ERDF and represent active stakeholders.



RECREATE Project Partners





ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA



UNIVERSITATEA  
DIN  
CRAIOVA

DOLJ  
COUNTY COUNCIL



GORJ  
COUNTY COUNCIL



MEHEDINTI  
COUNTY COUNCIL



OLT  
COUNTY COUNCIL



VALCEA  
COUNTY COUNCIL



INCESA RESEARCH HUB



SOFTRONIC SRL - TRAINS MANUFACTURING



NEXTROM INDUSTRIES – ELECTRIC VEHICLES MANUFACTURING



IPA CRAIOVA SA – TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER





### 3. Description of the South-West Oltenia Region

**Country data:**

- Romania Location: in the south-east of Central Europe, north of Balkan Peninsula, on the lower Danube;
- Surface: 238 391 sq.km
- Romania is a full member of the European Union, starting 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007.
- Population: 22,242,738 inhabitants
- Official language: Romanian
- National currency: LEU (RON)

**South-West Oltenia Region data:** SWO is situated in the South-Western part of Romania

Borders: South: with Bulgaria; East: with hist. region of Muntenia (nowadays South Muntenia Region); North with Transilvania (Center Region); West with Banat (West Region) and Republic of Serbia.

Surface area: 29,212 sq.km, representing 12.25% of total territory, the Region occupies the 7<sup>th</sup> place among the 8 Romanian regions

The region includes 40 towns (of which 11 municipalities), 408 communes (comprising 2070 villages).

Population of SW Oltenia: 2,212,539 inhabitants, out of which: 1,103,303 in urban area and 1,109,236 in rural area (2015)

South-West Oltenia Region comprises five counties:

- 1.Dolj (including the region's capital city, Craiova)
- 2.Gorj
- 3.Mehedinti
- 4.Olt
- 5.Valcea.

Although South-West Oltenia is a region with modest innovation overall, the transport sector and specifically the automotive sector has the biggest developing potential in the whole region, having over 27 local units working in this field, the most important one being Ford. One remarkable achievement of Romania's national transport research is the high involvement of SMEs. The present document is also based on the RECREATE's report on Transport-related SMEs competitiveness that contains findings of competitiveness indicators, which are based on the assessment of more than 300 Transport SMEs in South-West Oltenia region. SMEs have not yet succeeded in transforming comparatively good opportunities and conditions into a clear competitive advantage. SMEs see themselves disadvantaged by unfavourable location conditions such as inadequate infrastructure. But the SMEs in SW Oltenia region are making efforts to significantly improve their international competitiveness.

An important step to improve international competitiveness is to increase innovation process and energy efficiency. Transport-related SMEs are aiming to improve in this respect. SMEs have to implement specific measures to become competitive in the near future and achieve sector-specific targets. From the perspective of Transport-related SMEs, support schemes and measures are essential for increasing level of competitiveness and drive change.



## 4. Policy context

### The Action Plan aims to impact:

- € Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- € European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument**

### Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:

**The South-West Oltenia Regional Development Strategy 2021-2027. Under the Regional Priority 1 - Increasing the economic competitiveness of the region, the role and importance of the support for SMEs development and competitiveness at the regional level are further reaffirmed and readdressed.**

### Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

The Action Plan proposed by PP5 is related to the programming document named South-West Oltenia Regional Development Strategy 2021-2027, as part of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) based on which the activities / funds of the South-West Oltenia Region are planned and spent. The RDP establishes the resources to be allocated to new activities according to the objectives of the SWO Region.

In the context in which the ROP policy instrument, chosen in the project, is already in the finalising stage and is therefore difficult to influence at this time, RDA SWO, after consultation with the main stakeholders, we propose other policy instrument according to period of time and which can have an effect on the territory of the region – that is South-West Oltenia Regional Development Strategy 2021-2027, as part of the Regional Development Plan (RDP), with emphasis on the increase of economic competitiveness of the region, coupled with special support for transport sector SMEs and upholding the entrepreneurial initiatives in the region, endeavouring to identify new financing solutions and support mechanisms to SMEs internationalisation, and further development of innovation, and digitalisation of the productive processes in SMEs.

The RDP represents the strategic basis for substantiating the projects initiated in the region and is a benchmark both for the national authorities regarding the justification of the financing programs, and for the regional/county/local authorities and potential public or private investors.

The RDP was developed for periods corresponding to the planning process at European level. For the period 2014-2020, PDR was approved by Regional Development Board South-West Oltenia in 2015. The revision of the RDP is a long process and involves both specific analysis, consultations with regional stakeholders/partners and reconsideration of measures/priorities depending on the lessons learnt from different projects (including RECREATE) and then the final document is materialized in the new Development Plan of the Region. The process of revising the RDP started in 2019 and all the analysis and lessons learnt from RECREATE could be integrated in the document. The RDP for 2021-2027 is

published on website for public consultation since June 2020 and it will be officially approved by the Regional Development Board.

The updating of the RDP started during the implementation of the RECREATE project. In this document, thanks to the participatory process of identification and documentation of good practices in the field of transport sector SMEs' competitiveness within RECREATE project, there were several lessons learned about sectoral support mechanisms and innovative financing schemes that can be used in order to boost the development of the new generation of competitive SMEs in transport sectors of South-West Oltenia region.

All the possible transfers of experiences and good practice examples were discussed with the regional stakeholders (representatives of transport sector SMEs, chambers of commerce, county council, local councils, University, R&D centers/units etc.) during the RECREATE regional stakeholders' meetings, and also during the thematic working groups organized for the Regional Development Plan.

The Regional Development Plan (RDP) is a strategic document outlining the priorities of the Region through the South-West Oltenia Regional Development Strategy 2021-2027, in terms of competitiveness, social cohesion and sustainable development and responding to the specific challenges and needs.

The Regional Development Plan of South-West Oltenia 2021-2027 (RDP) is the document that provides an essential strategic basis for the implementation of projects at regional level, regardless of their source of funding (state budget, local budget, European funds, private funds, etc.) and it defines the South-West Oltenia Regional Development Strategy 2021-2027.

The estimation of the financing needs was made by centralizing the budgets of the projects in the project portfolio for the period 2021-2027, a portfolio built together with the local actors involved in the programming process.

**Supporting the increase of economic competitiveness of the region (P1) is one of the priorities of the South-West Oltenia Regional Development Strategy 2021-2027. Under the Regional Priority 1 - Increasing the economic competitiveness of the region, the role and importance of the support for SMEs development and competitiveness at the regional level are further reaffirmed and readdressed.**

Indicative operations in support to the SMEs competitiveness, related to all the above are provided, such as:

- Construction / upgrading and extension of the SME production / services area
- Activities required to run and implement the certification process
- Promotion of products and services
- Activities specific to the internationalization process
- Product or process innovation activities
- Other specific operations to support SMEs development & competitiveness...

P1 is one of the priorities addressed in the South-West Oltenia Regional Development Strategy 2021-2027, and it refers to the increasing of economic competitiveness of the region, with its key component: regional SMEs competitiveness.



Within the framework of RECREATE Interreg Europe project, the current action plan proposed is aiming at transferring the best practices and valuable lessons learnt during Phase 1 of the project.

Setting out from the fact that every policy instrument recognises the importance of supporting the competitiveness of SMEs in the region, in practice it is found that the flow of information and cooperation between the SMEs remains insufficient/suboptimal. Going through the implementation of RECREATE project, aiming to improve the transport-related SMEs competitiveness, the factual development in these low size companies requires them to be more innovative in new product development, financing, logistics, within the transport-related technology circuit.

Based on the above considerations, RDA SW Oltenia, through the good practices resulted from the implementation of RECREATE project, aims to propose measures that are specifically aimed to support the transport-related SMEs, in order to increase their competitiveness, to stimulate creation and expansion of advanced production capacities and to increase their quality and productivity in the long term. Specifically, we propose to formulate a better support line for businesses specifically tailored to the Transport Sector, and no longer aimed at "all Sectors". **We believe in the importance of targeted support to businesses in the Transport Sector via digital means, in order to fast forward the growth of Companies which often don't have the time and the resources to look for help in an often very complex business support scenario. The way we are planning to achieve this is via a dedicated digital web platform which will aim at facilitating their access to: International (action 1) and to Innovation (action 2).**

Our two Actions will also provide further benefits and implications to Transport SMEs in terms of:

- Digitalisation.
- R&D capabilities
- Optimization of resources in their business cycle (improvement in their marketing capabilities and improved responses in terms of timing when responding to new market trends).
- Smart manufacturing.

The proposed action plan (digital platform linked to International and Innovation) aims to bring together a variety of Business Support Organisation, policy makers, research centres, business associations, experts and businesses from the region.

We will be contributing to the economic and social cohesion of the region by allowing and motivating the regional players to explore, support and exploit business possibilities of reaching the market and business to have access to potentially profitable ideas in the region and across the borders. The creation of the transport sectoral focused network via the web platform as well as the maintenance of the core of dedicated experts and entrepreneurs database will constitute a solid base for further integration and strong connexion of the region to the European Union market.

In the South-West Oltenia Region, the SMEs have submitted 1361 projects within the schemes with ERDF funding 2014-2020. Total value of these projects submitted in the region is approx. 900 Million Euro. The projects are covering a very wide range of fields and sectors: equipment industry, construction, furniture, electronics, IT industry, automotive industry, aviation industry etc. Among these, the importance of automotive industry sector

and related components is of key importance to the SWO region, a strategic sector that is defined by very strong production hubs (Ford Company and others) in the motor industry that is now under full effort to transform itself into a “green” industry, with focus on development of electric vehicles. Another main sectors in the region are also: the production of light electric vehicles & components (Nextrom Company and others), the production of electric trains & components (Softronic Company and others), production of airplanes and drones (Avioane Craiova company), all contributing to the development of transport sector which is engaging important numbers of SMEs that need support and necessary human resources for their business development on medium and long term.

As a remark related to transport innovation in SWO region: just recently, in Craiova started the construction of the Aerospace Green Technologies Research Center, titled "TGA Technologies for Green Aviation". This is a 17 million Euro investment project (EU&national funds), located within Craiova Int'l Airport. The owner of investment is the National Institute for Aerospace Research & Development; the Aerospace Research Center will be operational as of 2023, with a predicted positive impact on transport sector SMEs in the region.

Keeping in mind the importance of automotive, light electric vehicles, electric trains, aviation, aerospace and related components sectors in the region, it is important to set up specific measures to support the SMEs in the transport sector in the region. The implementation of these measures would lead to the development of new innovative projects and businesses, focused on internationalisation in this sector, on the outlook of the 2021-2027 funding period, with encouraging perspective of new sectoral investments for the regional SMEs.

Even though there is remarkable potential and opportunities for transport SMEs in the region, there is a need to establish frameworks to motivate SMEs for innovation activities or to bring them closer to the results of R&D activities. In other words, through the proposed sectoral policies we have to ease their access to innovation, R&D results, international markets and foster cooperation within this specific business sector.

#### **Regional needs to be addressed:**

- Low level of competitiveness and productivity of the entrepreneurial environment in the region, including the Transport-related SMEs in the region;
- Insufficient efforts and weak financing solutions based on the distinct needs of Transport-related SMEs, not only depending on their size, but also taking into account the different phases of the life cycle of SMEs;
- Low level of policies in addressing innovation & technological transfer and also the lack of courageous mechanisms to transfer the knowledge between the research sectors to the industrial sector represented by the SMEs (including Transport-related SMEs);
- Transport-related SMEs in the region are very slow in adopting new technologies, and they stay away from applying the innovation & knowledge transfer in their business.



## 5. Details of the actions envisaged

### **ACTION 1:**

**Name of the action: WEB PLATFORM - Smart specialisation platform to support the internationalisation of Transport-related SMEs in SW Oltenia Region**

#### **1. Relevance to the project/ Inspiration**

From West Midlands Region, Mr. David Hope, Programme Development Manager from Coventry City Council, presented during their interregional thematic and study visit workshop held in September 2020, a comprehensive approach that was related to Smart specialisation as basis for prioritizing ERDF resources in their Region. South-West Oltenia has been inspired by the elements highlighted in this entrepreneurial discovery process which is mainly about creating platforms between clusters and infrastructures for internationalisation of value chains and to create collaborative leadership. This represents the core of smart specialisation and enables the move from a theoretically defined and narrowly looking oriented smart specialisation process of the region towards an outward looking approach that connects quadruple helix actors, and integrates relevant flows of goods among regions. This is very relevant for South-West Oltenia economy and for SWO ERDF programming and the broader approach for internationalisation that encompasses more than only export and FDI but is about technology showcases, co-development, strategic alliances, as shown by the British partner.

SWO region's innovation and smart specialisation policy often needs to stretch beyond awareness creation, reporting and dissemination of research results. As a result, the economic, industrial and societal valorisation of research results into new and innovative products, processes and services delivered by Transport-related SMEs remains too limited and is not translated into entrepreneurship. This bottleneck needs to be better addressed to create higher economic added value and jobs in the region. To move away from this 'static business view' in policy for smart specialisation, new dynamical mechanisms and tools might help to improve the regional innovation strategy.

The proposed web platform will facilitate internationalisation by providing a platform where SMEs will be able to collect information about Business Support Organisations. It will be like a "One stop Shop" place where SMEs could find information related to support around their International expansion (legal, funding, contacts, regulations, list of organisations providing One to One support and so on). Businesses will be required to sign up and register their details when accessing the platform. Better and guided information (via the web platform) will lead towards a more proactive Transport Sector. The platform will provide DIGITAL GUIDANCE to Transport Related innovative SMEs when considering to Internationalise. This will result in a better positioning of Transport SMEs businesses in the International arena and will lead to new International partnerships and potential Export Opportunities. This platform will be publicised via Social Media and via our Stakeholders.



By consolidating the support provided to transport SMEs by means of this web platform proposed, we are aiming to increase competitiveness and visibility of those SMEs.

With the results of our Action and data collected via RECREATE, we are aiming to demonstrate that a more targeted digital support towards Transport SMEs is the way forward. This will result in impacting future European, National, Regional and Local funding streams in terms of future priorities.

## **2. Nature of the action**

Creation of a web platform in collaboration with the local stakeholders (Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the University of Craiova and IPA Craiova SA). The web platform will be addressed to transport SMEs with the aim of fast forwarding their GROWTH in terms of smart specialization and innovation to assess opportunities, to better deploy the economic potential of Transport-related SMEs internationally, following the aforementioned key elements of the smart specialisation approach, in order to connect to knowledge and infrastructure in a smarter way.

The support will be offering on the platform will be linked to the following sub-sectors:

- Transport systems;
- Industrial engineering and materials;
- ICT and Digitalisation.

RDA SWO is intermediate body for the Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 implemented in the SW Oltenia region. Under the Priority Axis 2 – “Improving the competitiveness of SMEs”, numerous ERDF funded projects are promoting businesses in the above-mentioned smart specialisation investment priorities of SWO region.

The aim is also to help transport businesses increasing their international reach, by B2B matchmaking all over Europe.

This action adopts an innovative approach that enables support to relevant SMEs to reach their international market potential through a process of acquiring the smart specialisation knowledge of major importance to the region's technological potential.

RDA SWO, after having tested the format of working groups with Transport-related stakeholders during COVID-19, we believe in the importance and sustainability in the long term of further recurrent working groups. These will allow stakeholders in the transport sector to come under one roof and to share knowledge/ objectives/ discussions around Transport related topics, enabling collaboration and facilitating growth in transport SMEs. As a result, it will shape the development of smart specialisation domains as investment priorities of South-West Oltenia, in order to better reflect the S3 approach. RDA SWO team will integrate project matchmaking tools to better deploy interregional innovation to increase the visibility

of SWO region Smart Specialisations meant to setup the preparations for S3 and innovation investments for the post 2020 programming.

### 3. Stakeholders involved

*Strategic level:* University of Craiova (through several faculties) - will be involved through the working group with RDA SWO, Dolj County Council, thus they all will be updating and improving the RIS3 in order to better reflect the selected domains.

*Operational level:* IPA Craiova SA and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Oltenia, will be involved as contact point and representative organisations in matchmaking the innovative businesses.

### 4. Timeframe

June 2021-May 2023, with working groups to be held every 3 months

Main steps proposed over the period June 2021-May 2023:

1. Create the Template - to collect tasks, deadlines and assignments. The task-related items of the action plan, and collecting the relevant information - 1 month
2. Use a Tool - to organise and process the input information
3. The Team Work on the Web Platform development
4. Output - the processed information and data are presented in reports and databases

### 5. Costs

5000 Euro

### 6. Funding sources

The funds needed to cover the costs for implementing this RECREATE Action Plan will be from the RDA SWO own budget, through the Regional Development Fund (based on the Law No. 315/2004).

### 7. Monitoring Measures *(please describe how you are going to monitor the results of such action)*

We are going to be measuring the number of Transport SMEs which will be registering on the platform. Our proposed target is 20 SMEs. We are aiming to collect data relative to their online registration. We will be capturing data like, for example:

- Name of the company
- Address
- Type of support received
- Market potential
- Investment potential
- Innovativeness of the product or solution



## **ACTION 2:**

**Name of the action: WEB PLATFORM - Innovation Accelerator for Transport-related SMEs in SW Oltenia region** (+ *preparation for Horizon Programme applications, with valorisation of R&D results*)

### **1. Relevance to the project/ Inspiration**

Accelerator programmes are among the most relevant and operative elements of innovation ecosystems.

West Midlands Region presented, during their interregional thematic workshop and study visit, the Transport Systems Catapult as a valuable resource in their Region. South-West Oltenia has been inspired by the elements highlighted in this innovation accelerator programme that is operating in the West Midlands. Their Innovation Accelerator Centre called Catapult is a highly certified facility for innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, business leaders and people passionate about how technology can improve transport systems. Also, the Connected and Automated Vehicles is a field approached by a number of experts and projects looking to put the region at the forefront of the Connected and Automated Vehicle Revolution. Catapult is supporting the SMEs and start-ups specifically working in Transport sectors. Catapult accelerates smarter living and travelling, in and between the places of tomorrow and helps SMEs to grow with innovations in mobility services, using digitalisation and connected systems – driving even faster growth for the region's economy. Catapult engages with academic networks, diverse SMEs ecosystems, business and public departments as it seeks to foster new markets, boost demand for innovation and increase the supply of proven products and services across transport, cities, towns and villages. It is part of a regional network of technology and innovation centres established and overseen by the UK's innovation agency, Innovate UK. The purpose of this action is to help build a new accelerator that will fit perfectly into the regional startup ecosystem and give a few ideas on how long-term sustainability can be provided. It covers all the important strategic, tactical and operational parts when preparing a business plan for a new accelerator, with all the possible flexibility in mind, to make sure you design an accelerator suitable for regional needs, gaps and your available resources. All this is to be setup and developed to the benefit of Transport-related SMEs of the SW Oltenia region.

Thanks to this Action, during phase 2 of the projects, we are aiming to develop a new approach towards Transport SMEs in terms of Innovation. **We are aiming to demonstrate that a Sectorial focused Digital support and guidance to such businesses, will results in growth in terms of Innovation.**

The objective is to set up a mechanism which triggers accelerated application of key innovative technologies and helps to establish supply chains between the R&D and innovation centres/institutions and the business actors/players in the transport sector. The action follows an integrated approach for strengthening the linkages among R&D and innovation centres and transport SMEs and start-up in related industries, with guidance given to entrepreneurs towards the public or private funding schemes through involvement of experts in acceleration and valorisation of R&D results, all to the benefit of entrepreneurial initiatives. The action aims to stimulate regional SMEs development and performance on



the market, to create a benefit to the skilled specialists and technicians who will have stable jobs in the innovative SMEs in the transport sector that are going through the accelerator support scheme.

## 2. Nature of the action

The ACTION is: developing a Web PLATFORM facilitating recruitment and signposting onto the Acceleration Program. This platform will be the same of the one in Action ONE, but will have a separate section dedicated to Innovation & the Acceleration Programme.

An (innovation) accelerator play a particularly important role in the growth of the start-up system. Accelerator programme is designed to support early stage start-ups, entrepreneurs and university-based researchers. Considering the current state of start-up ecosystem development in the SWO region, the accelerator will address the start-up with valuable ideas for new innovative products and services in the Transport sectors SMEs.

This Action will impact and influence future priorities and impact themes for project applications of Horizon Europe, the research and innovation framework programme running from 2021-2027.

This is not just a general intention. It is a focused support tool, specifically for Transport-related SMEs in the SWO region.

An accelerator of the most promising innovative cases will be created and will form the base for the future innovative businesses of the region in transport sector.

Participating institutions and SMEs will integrate their capacity to support exploitation of R&D results.

A sustainability plan for this initiative will be defined based on the experience gained throughout the RECREATE project and the inspiration from West Midlands' Catapult mechanism. A network of innovative players and R&D and innovation centres and experts will continue and consolidate the accelerated business initiatives in the region.

Businesses in transport sector are going to be actively involved in the New Product Development process, while local/regional support centres will be involved through the brokerage events and other dissemination activities, as an additional supportive lever to the accelerator effects.

Our team is determined to continue its acceleration function well beyond the duration of the project. After the end of the project, the partners involved in the platform will aim to continue to operate as a Network of business innovative unit, overseen by a technical committee that will undertake the management of the network and build upon the experience gained during the project.

The accelerator will aim to include new members from the region, thus creating more potential for exploitation and commercialization of R&D and innovative solutions / products / services developed by entrepreneurs and start-ups in the transport sector, to aim for sustainability as an implementation success for each accelerated business in transport sector, to deliver products/services that are successfully commercialized.

## 3. Stakeholders involved

*Strategic level:* University of Craiova (through INCESA Centre) - will be involved through the working group with RDA SWO, Dolj County Council, thus they all will be proactively involved in the concept of accelerator programme in order to better valorise and exploit the R&D results. It is realized that a missing element is the definition of those R&D results elements that block valorisation potential, through the involvement of experts. Accelerator aims to bridge the gap between R&D creators, producers, financiers and marketers by creating a regional mechanism that facilitates the valorisation of research results. This valorisation is emphasized since the various elements of R&D valorisation (researchers, financiers, producers and marketers) could come from inside the region and there will be

interaction between researchers and transfer of experience between stakeholders, to support regional innovative SMEs in Transport-related sectors.

*Operational level:* INCESA Centre and the RDA SWO will be involved as contact point and representative organisations in registering and guiding the innovative businesses that will go through the accelerator programme.

4. **Timeframe**

June 2021-May 2023, with working groups to be held every 3 months.

Main steps proposed over the period June 2021-May 2023:

1. Create the Template - to collect tasks, deadlines and assignments. The task-related items of the action plan, and collecting the relevant information - 1 month
2. Use a Tool - to organise and process the input information
3. The Team Work on the Web Platform development
4. Output - the processed information and data are presented in reports and databases

5. **Costs**

5000 Euro

6. **Funding sources:**

The funds needed to cover the costs for implementing this RECREATE Action Plan will be from the RDA SWO own budget, through the Regional Development Fund (based on the Law No. 315/2004).

7. **Monitoring Measures**

Number of Transport-related SMEs that receive support under the Acceleration programme. There will be web platform containing the SMEs with identification details, profile, type of support received etc. Updating of data is monthly based. Our proposed target is 20 SMEs. We will be capturing data like, for example:

- Name of the company
- Address
- Type of support received
- Market potential
- Investment potential
- Innovativeness of the product or solution

**Date:**

15.10.2021

**Name of the organisation:**

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA

**Signature:**

MARILENA BOGHEANU

General Director

