



Improving Structural Funds for better delivery of R&D&i policies

www.interregeurope.eu/improve

ARTI – Puglia Regional agency for Technology and Innovation **Project overview**



Policy instrument

ARTI – Regional agency for Technology and Innovation has originally selected for the region of Puglia (Italy) the Priority Axis 1 "Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation" of the ERDF Operational Programme of Puglia 2014-2020 as the policy instrument to be improved within IMPROVE project. Based on the fact that the new programming period 2021-2027 is starting and the Good Governance of Smart Specialisation Strategy is an enabling condition for Policy Objective 1, the focus of the project will be on the new Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-2027.

Specifically, the new Operational Programme will benefit from an efficient EDP (Entrepreneurial Discovery Process), a well functioning monitoring system and more evidence based decision-making processes.



Good practices

The Good practices identified in our region are the following ones

- **The RIS3 monitoring system for Puglia Region.** It is based on primary data provided directly from applicants and beneficiaries of regional calls under Smart Specialisation strategy. This kind of approach allows to overcome some obstacles linked to the monitoring of RIS3 and have data at a good level of granularity and timely. The RIS3 monitoring system develops around a set of four questionnaires, which are delivered through a web interface during the application and, if successful, at the end of the grant.

This kind of system may be adapted to the different needs of other regional and national administrations as it is flexible enough. It requires the necessity of a coordination among the organisations in charge of the RIS3 monitoring with the Managing Authority and all the organisations involved in the design and implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

- **Apulian Innovation Overview (AIO)** - A Knowledge Tool for Better Informed Public Decisions.

It is a web-based informative tool aimed at the systematic valorisation of the information resulting from the institutional activity of survey, monitoring, elaboration and analysis of the Regional Innovative System carried out by the Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation (ARTI). AIO has a flexible structure: it is both dynamic, since it is continuously updated, and integrated, since it allows over time to add further indicators elaborated on information taken from different sources belonging to other sectors of the regional administration.

- **Apulia Research Gate (ARG)**. It is a modular information system, extensible and periodically updatable, developed by the Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation (ARTI) within the broader activity of Mapping and Enhancing the results and skills of the regional Scientific Research.

Its main goals are: mapping the regional scientific and industrial research, in order to identify connections among research groups on specific R&D areas, encourage aggregation/integration processes on specific R&D projects, represent the Regional Research System also in view of attracting investments, strengthening awareness about “who does what” in terms of research activities, results/outcomes and competences.

It aims at providing regional policy makers with cognitive and communication tools, to improve the effectiveness of the public intervention, as well as to support institutional relations and to represent the Apulian Research System.



Specific issues and areas of improvement

The strategic Agency for Technology and Innovation of Apulia supports the regional government in designing and managing economic development, innovation, education, training and job policies, in coherence with the regional smart specialization strategy and the emerging trends at national and international level. One of the main aims is to build innovation capabilities in order to enable the regional companies to respond to new global challenges. Since the Puglia regional productive structure is mainly composed by SMEs (small and medium-size enterprises) operating in traditional sectors, it is necessary to work on all those factors enabling the innovation awareness of this kind of firms.

It is mainly necessary to enhance the following elements:

- Increasing and adequating the expertises within SMEs also thanks to a better coordination among skills policies and innovation policies
- Ensuring a better involvement of the triple helix actors in the coordination of the ecosystem of each RIS3 priorities with an improvement of the EDP
- Ensuring a better coordination among the different instruments along the innovation value chain also improving the synergies among also national and international funds
- Improving the design of regional innovation policies through a better valorisation of existing data and information.



Identified solutions to specific issues

- Among the practices which we could get inspiration that may help **to increase the SMEs awareness towards innovation** there is the **Office for innovation (O4I)** which is a new Office for Technology Transfer inverse model, presented by FUNDECYT-PCTEX It is an interactive innovation model where the exchange of knowledge plays a key role starting from the R&D needs of the business fabric, searching for solutions within the scientific and technological offer of the SECTI, bridging the gaps and promoting collaboration.
- To try **to improve the connection among the regional stakeholders**, the experiences that may provide some insights are represented by “Management of the EDP at the S3 priority level through the setting up of steering committees

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/5424/management-of-the-edp-at-the-s3-priority-level-through-the-setting-up-of-steering-committees/>

- Concerning **the reinforcement of skills in connection with Smart Specialisation areas**, inspirations can come from the practice “**University of Tartu (UT) spin-off program**” which aims to increase the entrepreneurial capacity and from the Innovation and Talent Programme aiming at improving the employability of young jobless university graduates, or those who have completed intermediate or higher vocational training under 30 years of age, through integrated training and employment actions especially linked to the change in the production model and the requirements of innovative activities in strategic knowledge areas for smart specialisation.
- To respond to **the need of creating more connection among the innovation-support instruments at regional, national and european level**, the experience presented by Centro may also be interesting, especially the programme COMPETE for reinforcing R&D&I internationalisation.



Main stakeholders involved in the project

1. Puglia Region, Managing Authority
2. Puglia Region, Economic Development, Innovation, Education, Training and Employment Department
3. Puglia Region, Research, Innovation and Capacity Building Section,
4. Puglia Region, Competitiveness Section and Research of Production Systems
5. Puglia Region, Coordination of International Policy Section
6. Puglia Region, Unitary Programming Management Section
7. Regional in-house agencies and intermediate bodies (InnovaPuglia and PugliaSviluppo)
8. Regional Clusters
9. Enterprises
10. Analysis Center
11. Universities
12. Research centers