

**Interreg Europe InnoHEis -
“Improving Research and Innovation Infrastructure
Performance: from Fragmented to Integrated and
Sustainable Cooperation”**

ACTION PLAN

**Project Partners:
Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
(MoESS)
Lithuanian Innovation Centre (LIC)**

Lithuania

May 2022

Action plan

Part I – General information

Project: PGI06144 „Improving Research and Innovation Infrastructure Performance: from Fragmented to Integrated and Sustainable Cooperation”, InnoHEIs

Partner organisation: Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania
Lithuanian Innovation Centre

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant):

Country: Lithuania

NUTS2 region: Lithuania

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Part II – 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 addressed:

Operational Programme for European Structural and Investment Funds for 2014-2020

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1

The background

Science Development Program of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport launched on 26th of January 2022 presented actions to be implemented using national budget, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

Preparations for 2021-2027 programming period have been completed and a draft ESIF investment program is being prepared. In order to achieve the 1st goal “Smarter Lithuania” of the Program, the investments of the ESIF are directed to the transformation of the Lithuanian economy into a higher value-added economy and its competitiveness. This priority is dedicated to investment to the promotion of knowledge creation and commercialization in HEIs, as well as for the capacity building of HEIs to better target research to market needs, to promote better knowledge transfer and technology commercialization.

Another important source of funding is the plan „New Generation Lithuania“ by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Both the ESIF and the RRF funding have positive synergies, especially in terms of the efficient use of R&D infrastructure and the promotion of R&D performance.

One of the national RRF plan’s component is dedicated to the science and innovation and includes the reform of the "Joint Missions for Science and Innovation in Smart Specialization". The reform plans to:

- 1) reveal key priorities for smart specialization with the highest potential growth at national level.
- 2) focus on the promotion of R&D activities on joint research and innovation missions.
- 3) promote science and business participation in Horizon Europe and other EU and national Research and Innovation programs.

Action

In order to increase Lithuania's international competitiveness, Lithuania identified the potential for R&D&I in smart specialization sectors and in smart specialization by concentrating resources in areas with growth potential and tackle the strongest sectors and resources to address societal challenges by mission-oriented science and innovation programs – missions.

The objective of the mission is to provide support for science-business cooperation in the revised smart specialisation areas. Three mission-based science and innovation programmes will be created and concrete result – the establishment of three competence centres will be achieved. These centres shall cover physical infrastructure and provision of services to support R&D&I in the areas of the smart specialisation by 31 December 2025 and implementation of R&D projects under the three programmes shall be ended by 2026. After the end of the projects, the centres of competencies will continue to operate and ensure the sustainability of the services provided.

The action aims to involve Quadruple Helix (QH) actors to form missions’ themes which are dedicated to solving societal challenges and to create conditions for all QH actors to joint consortium. This model should be implemented under coherent strategy from the development of R&D idea to the commercialization of high value-added scientific knowledge.

The action contains such objectives:

- to form Committee for each mission from representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MoESS) and the Ministry of Economy and Innovation (MoEI) ;

- to organize public consultations with QH representatives (including scientists, entrepreneurs, active citizens) and identify the most challenging missions' ideas.
- to evaluate all missions'
- ideas and to approve the most challenging 3 missions' programs themes;
- to use QH-based approach to prepare a call for funding.
- to create a working group, consisting of QH representatives to prepare a tool for progress monitoring the aim to implement mission-based research and innovation programs
- to approve a tool for progress and financing conditions evaluation.
- to initiate calls for the Consortia to participate in pilot mission-oriented science and innovation programs;
- to sign contracts with the Consortia.

Lessons learned from InnoHeis project

Lithuanian partners have joined the InnoHEIs project in order to do improvements to Lithuanian regional policy instrument mainly by improving the management of Structural and Investment funds for 2014-2020 and increasing the impact of projects. It has to design how to improve the infrastructure and capacity to develop R&D&I, to improve competence centres' and to promote centres' of excellence. Accordingly, the specific objective was to encourage better use of research results, to support R&D&I infrastructure focused on the commercialization of R&D results, and to encourage public-private partnerships. The use of R&D infrastructure would be promoted by focusing on the implementation of the national priorities of smart specialization.

During the implementation of the InnoHEIs project, the experience and knowledge among partners were shared and many good practices were observed. The good practice presented by Central Catalonia (the Universitat de Vic-Universitat Central de Catalunya) pointed out the possibilities to engage all QH actors into the developing innovation ecosystems to solve societal challenges. (Good Practice: shared agenda to tackle common challenges). Catalonian good practice was inspiring as evidence of effective possible involvement of QH actors into formation of national measures. The decision to involve all quadruple Helix actors to think about the formation of mission-based themes for missions orientated programs was done and this good practice is a prove that this form of collaboration is very efficient. Representatives of private, scientific and public sectors were invited to form possible missions. Lithuanian Government has addressed the official invitation to the public and invited to suggest topics for specific challenges, where research solutions would be most relevant. The public, private, scientific and public sectors have also been involved in shaping more specific topics. The involvement of all QH participants is planned for the follow-up activities as well. Involvement of QH actors is a new form of collaboration in R&D&I ecosystem of Lithuania.

It is planned that only R&D&I activities will be carried out under each mission implementation. One of the main conditions is a requirement to carry out the R&D&I by consortium where all QH actors could join. Planning and organization of mission-oriented models and involvement of participants will be organized in the same way as a Catalonian good practice.

Players involved

The Office of the Government has participated in the formation of national mission programs. Public consultations were organized by MoESS and MoEI. Eligible consortia consist of science and business representatives and are open for NGO's sector as well.

Players for implementation: Central project management agency, expert organizations (could involve experts from Research Council of Lithuania, Innovation Agency, other entities that are receptive to and develop R&D&I).

Beneficiaries:

- SME.
- Large companies.
- Innovation and/or knowledge and/or technology transfer centres.
- Research institutes and HEIs.
- University Hospitals
- Scientists and researchers.

Timeframe

The Action is starting in 2022. Plan to sign contracts with the Consortia in 2023, the first quarter. The outputs of the mission-bases programmes are expected to be achieved in 2026.

Costs

It is planned to allocate about 77,7 million Euros for implementations of the pilot Programs.

Funding sources:

The Action processes take place from public sector resources.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____