



Action Plan : improving RIS3

Centre-Val de Loire region (France)

May 2022

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1. General information

Project:

PGI06144 InnoHEIs - Improving Research and Innovation
Infrastructure Performance: .



Partner organisation(s) concerned: *DEV'UP Centre Val de Loire*

Country: *FRANCE*

NUTS2 region: *Centre-Val de Loire*

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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:

RIS3 2021-2027 of the Centre Val de Loire Region

We decided to focus mainly on the RIS3 2021-2027 of the Centre Val de Loire Region. Indeed, this is the strategic document on which the various innovation policy instruments are based: the Regional Economic Development, Innovation and Internationalisation Plan (SRDEII), which is currently being redefined, but above all the ERDF Operational Programme.

The 2021-2027 smart specialisation strategy, which was drawn up with regional stakeholders in 2020, was adopted in November 2020 by the Regional Strategic Innovation Committee, co-chaired by the Prefect and the President of the Region. It

serves as a link between the ERDF OP 2014-2020 and the ERDF OP 2021-2027 (which has not yet been validated by the European Commission).

Thus, the Operational Programme ERDF-ESF Centre 2014-2020, Axis 1: a knowledge-based society (OT 1) is directly linked with the RIS3 objective to increase the critical mass, visibility and attractiveness of competence centres in the five priorities areas of the RIS3 and implementing this policy.

2. Introduction

2.1. InnoHEIs Project.



InnoHEIs aims at enlarging the role of higher education institutions (HEIs) and their research and innovation infrastructure. How can they act as key stakeholders for regional innovation development?

Fostering entrepreneurship and creativity in regions

Fostering entrepreneurship and creativity brings many benefits to higher education institutions and regions. InnoHEIs addresses the challenge to enhance the role of higher education institutions and their research and innovation infrastructure.

Enabler of the entrepreneurship discovery process

This role can be filled in as an enabler of the entrepreneurship discovery process (EDP). The entrepreneurship discovery process is an inclusive and interactive bottom-up process. Participants from different environments, such as policy, business and academia are discovering a potential of new activities and opportunities that emerge through this interaction.

Integration of entrepreneurial knowledge

Higher education institutions and their research and innovation infrastructure can build partnerships thanks to their unique infrastructure and human capacities. Entrepreneurial knowledge is often fragmented and distributed over many organisations, companies, universities, clients and users. Higher education institution can support the integration of the entrepreneurial knowledge.

Remove barriers and enhance collaboration

Thus, InnoHEIs partners look at possibilities to mobilise higher education institutions and their research and innovation infrastructure for regional innovation development. Their aim is to remove barriers among different types of higher education institutions

and their research and innovation infrastructure. And enhance their cross-institutional and cross-sectoral collaboration.

2.2. Regional Action Plans

Produced by each partner, the action plan is a document providing details on how the lessons learnt from the interregional cooperation during the Phase 1 of the project will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument that is addressed within their region. It specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs and funding sources.

Based on a learning process that included a State-of-the-Art report for the identification of the areas of improvement of each Policy Instrument, the organisation of Thematic Workshops on key topics shared by the partnership, the participation in 8 Peer Reviews (organised in an on-line mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic), the identification of good practices, a 2nd round of visit (in a face-to-face mode) for an in-depth analysis of the GPs, and a close relation with the Regional Stakeholders' Groups, the action plans will be developed focusing on the improvement of the identified challenges within each region.

During Phase 2, the project partners will closely monitor the implementation of the action plans and will regularly check the extent to which the measures described in the action plan are implemented on the ground, evaluating the results of these measures and gathering evidence of success to be reported to the programme. During Phase 2 the project partners will continue to learn from each other and will exchange and build on the success achieved or on the difficulties encountered.

3. Policy context

3.1. The policy instrument



The policy instrument addressed is the RIS3 of the Centre-Val de Loire region 2021-2027 and consequently the axis1 of the OT1 of the ERDF OP.

Axis 1 of the ERDF OP addresses both SME competitiveness and the capacities of the region in RDI. It is also closely linked to the S3 and to the Regional Economic Development Strategy for innovation & internationalization (SRDEII).

Both policy instruments aim:

- To encourage all types of innovation by strengthening regional research and innovation capacities;
- To make the ecological transition an asset for the industrial fabric;
- To strengthen the region's attractiveness by building on the industry and on tourism sectors having an international dimension
- To enhance the creative capacities of companies through the human capital
- To increase the number of innovative companies from 1000 to 1500 by 2020.

Indeed, both the axis 1 of the ERDF OP as well as the RIS3 aim to reinforce the innovation capacity of our territory. Especially, through the policy mix, we intend to increase the critical mass, the visibility and the attractiveness of the (public and private) RDI competence centres in the 5 priorities retained in the Centre-Val de Loire RIS3

3.2. Main challenges or areas of improvement

Our aim is to build innovation capabilities in order to enable the regional companies to make the shift to industrial, digital and ecological transition:



To improve the efficiency of the RIS3 in regards to the objectives described above, we have to professionalize the member of the regional economic development network

that supports the companies in their innovative projects, and particularly deep-tech start-ups.

Strengthening « Human capital » is one of the transversal priorities in the Centre- Val de Loire RIS3. Indeed, our aim is to build innovation capabilities by strengthening the role of HEIs in regional partnerships, and especially for deep tech related domains in line with our RIS3 priorities.

Withing the challenges addressed during the CVL peer review in November 2020, one in particular caught our attention “What steps should be taken to ensure that research projects are geared towards the needs of companies and contribute to RIS3?”

In this action plan, we have decided to focus specifically on the support of deep tech start-ups i.e. those capable of bringing disruptive innovations to market. They are mainly related to the Centre-Val de Loire RIS3 priorities. The aim is to build accompaniment paths from their pre-maturation phase to their acceleration by mobilizing the structures present in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

We are aware that our region has a moderate flow of technology-intensive projects. We have also noticed that collective approaches between actors have tended to improve these flows, particularly towards the i-LAB national competitions over the past two years. The initiatives underway to structure the valorisation of public research (C-VaLo, future “Unité d’Appui à la Recherche”, research support unit) and to reinforce the attractiveness for start-ups outside the region (DEV’UP action programme) also allow us to hope and expect a reinforcement of the flow of projects in the years to come. In this context, the coordination, articulation, stability of the participants and the legibility of the various offers will be more necessary than ever to structure the regional ecosystem in order to make the "user path" of the carriers’ fluid throughout the life of their project.

The challenge is above all to provide each promoter with a support pathway for his or her project during its various phases, ensuring that he or she always

benefits from support offers adapted to his or her specificities and guiding him or her from one support to another.

The Specialised Committee "Valorisation of Research and Innovation" coordinate at the operational level the management of the RIS3.

It acts as a link between the Regional Strategic Innovation Committee, which steers the RIS3 at the strategic level, and the steering committees of the RIS3 priorities as well as the working groups of horizontal measures. It ensures the coherence and follow-up of the actions proposed at the micro level. It also validates the proposed action plans and recommendations that emanate from the micro level (RIS3 priorities steering committee and horizontal measures working group) before they are proposed to the Regional Strategic Committee on Innovation.

All members of this committee will be involved in the project. It is composed of

- Regional Council of Centre Val de Loire
- State administration -represented by the Regional Academic Delegations for Research and Innovation (DRARI) and the Regional Directorate for the Economy, Employment, Labour and Solidarity (DREETS)
- Bpifrance (French Investment Public Bank)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Regional Chamber of Craft, Regional Chamber of Agriculture
- DEV'UP Centre-Val de Loire
- 6 Clusters (Pôle de compétitivité)
- 2 metropolitan areas (Tours and Orleans)
- 2 Universities (Tours and Orleans)
- 6 Research Institutes
- C-Valo
- Tech transfer units, Incubators, Accelerators,

3.3. Identification of best practices relevant for the Policy Instrument

According to the challenges previously identified, we need to better coordinate support activities for deep tech start-ups to ensure that each project leader of start-up always benefits from support offers adapted to their specific needs. This will help to strengthen the regional value chains of the priority areas of specialisation, but also to attract investors and companies to the Centre-Val de Loire region to complete our value chains.



In order to carry out the support path for regional start-ups, we got inspiration from the Good Practice presented during the Tampere Region Peer-review in May 2021, that is how TAMK organize the higher education network in their territory, and especially how they involved the different stakeholders.

NAME OF THE GP	Regional Higher Education Network cooperation in Tampere Region
OWNER	Tampere University of Applied Sciences
DESCRIPTION	<p>Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) has established a Regional Higher Education Network cooperation in Tampere Region. It is a networking and operating model offering multidisciplinary education, innovation and development expertise comprising of a wide range of tools for the benefit of the whole region.</p> <p>TAMK's multidisciplinary team of agents is looking for solutions to the development needs of the regions. These needs often consist of challenges in the availability of skilled labour force, the introduction of new methods for regional development involving all stakeholders, strengthening business cooperation, and providing opportunities for further training and capacity building.</p>

TRANSFERABILITY ASPECTS TO THE REGION

Reducing the risk of failure for young companies and increasing the chances of success for research and innovation projects requires the implementation of a support system adapted to the different phases of development: technological maturation, financial engineering, hosting, support, financing, etc. Many players contribute to this support during the various phases of the creation project, by fulfilling maturation/pre-incubation, incubation and acceleration functions: the development services of universities and organisations within the C-VaLo consortium, public (OVLT, CEEI Chartres, etc.) and private incubators, DEV'UP, competitiveness clusters, etc.

Overall, this regional ecosystem makes it possible to mobilise the various functions and types of support required, under relatively satisfactory conditions.

Nevertheless, a better coordination of the ecosystem is necessary by associating in a more important and systematic way, the metropolises, the project holders and beneficiary companies and the support providers around a multidisciplinary team in the image of what has been set up in Tampere.

4. Action Plan

4.1. General description



4.2. Action 1

4.2.1. Summary of the action

Context of the Action Plan	Instrument to be improved	and RIS3 2021-2027												
	Policy instrument tackled	Axis 1 of the ERDF OP												
Name of the ACTION 1		Priority												
Structuring the support of deep tech start-ups		2021				2022				2023				
Activities	Funding Sources	Costs	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
1	Collecting the experiences of different project leaders in the creation of innovative start-ups (from academic research or not) Share and refine with them the challenges of supporting innovative start-ups Confront their "client" vision with those of the support structures	Included in Dev'up budget												
2	Meet the institutional players (Region, Metropolis, State) to present them with the structure and obtain their agreement on financing	Included in Dev'up budget												
3	Collectively co-construct solutions to implement this support pathway	Included in Dev'up budget												
4	Formalise the support pathway and obtain a formalised agreement of the parties on the modalities of co-ordination	Included in Dev'up budget												

Players Involved		Indicators/ Monitoring	
Responsible	Functions	Indicators	No
A	Director Higher Education / Research / Technology Transfer, department Region Centre-Val de Loire	Number of coordination meetings to structure the deep tech start-ups development support	5
B	Head of the Transitions and Innovation Support Unit, DEV'UP	Proposed policy mix evolution or recommendations to improve the structuration of the deep tech start-ups development support	1
C	mission head, Higher Education / Research, department Region Centre-Val de Loire		



4.2.2. Relevance to the project

Overall, the regional ecosystem of support for innovation from public research and deep tech enables the mobilisation of the various functions and types of support required, under relatively satisfactory conditions in view of the fairly low flow of projects observed in recent years, particularly in the context of preparation for the national I-Lab competitions. However, the "user pathway" of project leaders is marked by the multiplicity and frequent change of their interlocutors, a lack of legibility of the support mechanisms, and of articulation between the mechanisms which is a source of anxiety for them, and of delay and perhaps sometimes failure for their projects.



It therefore seems necessary to structure the regional ecosystem in order to facilitate the "user path" of project leaders throughout the life of their project.

The "Regional Higher Education Network" initiative set up in the Länsi-Suomi region (Finland) by Tampere University of Applied Sciences seems to us to be a source of inspiration for structuring this support pathway. The fact that they managed to involve the municipalities in the project (in our case the Metropolitan areas of Tours and Orléans) and set up the information sharing processes between the supporting structures seems to us to be two essential steps for the success of our action plan.

Nature of the Action

The creation of a new start-up support structure does not seem necessary: the challenge is above all to provide each project leader with a single contact person who can monitor his or her project throughout its various phases, ensuring that he or she always benefits from support offers adapted to his or her specific needs and guiding him or her from one support to another. Coordinated and monitored in this way, this entire ecosystem could form a "regional incubator" based on structures brought together within a consortium, which would be recognised through a label guaranteeing the quality and coordination of the support provided to project leaders and start-ups.

This would also make it possible to guarantee a continuum of support before and after the creation of the company.

The objective of the action is therefore to carry out concertation actions with the various partners in order to arrive at a structured approach to supporting deep tech strat-ups (with defined processes and responsibilities).

4.2.3. Stakeholders involved

- DEV'UP Centre-Val de Loire, in charge of Regional economic development agency: in charge of the overall communication, monitoring and evaluation of the RIS3, of the management of the Innovation steering committee and as well as of the regional economic development network (REDCVL). The Unit "Territorial Animation and Attractiveness" coordinates the ecosystem providing innovation and economic development services to the regional companies. The Unit "Transitions and Innovation Support Unit" is animating the steering committee, responsible for the RIS3 monitoring and evaluation and participating to the assessment of the ROP. Furthermore, through Enterprise Europe Network, it provides free-of-charge internationalisation services to SME. It will be involved in the improvement of the economic development policy as the project manager.
- The Region Centre-Val de Loire, which is the managing authorities of the economic development public policies: ERDF OP (European Level) as well as the CPER (national level) and SREDEII (regional level). It will be involved in the improvement of the economic development policy as the project owner, in collaboration with the French State services.
- The French State services that participate in the co-construction of public economic development policies: FEDER OP (European level) and SREDEII (regional level) and it is the co-management authority the CPER (national level).

- HESS: future Unit for Research Support. Units hosting both administrative and technical staff and research staff; Operational service structure created by the signing of a contract of association between a higher education institution and a research organisation. (Orleans University, Tours University, CNRS),
- C-VaLo, programme dedicated to the maturation and transfer of academic research results in the Centre-Val de Loire region. The C-VaLo structure brings together all the academic research players in the Centre-Val de Loire region and the other players in the regional innovation ecosystem, in particular the Centre Val de Loire region and the region's incubators.
- Lab'O: The LAB'O Village de CA Orléans is a 14,000 m² space specially dedicated to young innovative companies. The Innovation Accelerator detects and helps companies to emerge and provides support to business creators. It hosts some sixty startups that benefit daily from the expertise of its teams and partners. Managed by the metropolitan development body OVLT Orléans Val de Loire Technologie, the incubator promotes endogenous development. However, it also aims to encourage the reception of exogenous project leaders or companies
- Biolab now called Health Tech Station in Tours. In order to initially accommodate 5 accelerating companies and a few start-ups, premises will be fitted out and a range of services put in place (supported by Mabdesign).
- The Place by CCI is an innovation incubator in the Centre-Val de Loire region. In Chartres, it offers business incubation (support over 1 to 2 years) to welcome start-ups and young companies with both accommodation and support solutions. This initiative is being extended to the entire region with variations in the various departments (28, 36, 18, 41)
- Orléans and Tours Métropoles. The Metropolises are responsible for supporting and assisting higher education and research establishments

and research programmes, taking into account the Schéma Régional de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation (SRESRI)

- Competitiveness clusters
 - - Cosmetic Valley (Chartres): The Cosmetic Valley cluster, a complete ecosystem, brings together all the companies in the perfume and cosmetics industry at national level. Its vocation is to be the world leader in the perfume and cosmetics industry and to be the natural driving force of the French industry.
 - DREAM (Orléans): The DREAM Water & Environment cluster aims to support innovation. It promotes the development of particularly innovative collaborative research and development (R&D) projects in the field of ecotechnologies relating to water and its environments. DREAM's ambition is to master the entire value chain: from metrology to environmental engineering to alternative water and soil treatments.
 - Plastipolis Valley (ex Elastopôle) (Orléans): An inter-regional cluster with a national vocation and European ambitions, Elastopôle is the French competitiveness cluster for the rubber and polymer sector. Its ambition is to master the entire value chain of elastomers and polymers in a perspective of sustainable development and economic efficiency, and to contribute to the development of companies and the maintenance of employment, by anticipating the evolution and emergence of new technologies.
 - S2E2 (Tours): The S2E2 competitiveness cluster aims to optimise electrical energy, from its source to its use, via information and communication technologies as well as electrical engineering (electrical engineering, electrochemistry, electronics, microelectronics). It supports start-ups, SMEs, large groups, research/training structures and the development and growth of their activities through innovation. Its network enables it to meet numerous partners offering real development opportunities.

- Végépolys Valley is a competitiveness cluster bringing together companies, research and training centres in the plant field around innovative projects to strengthen the competitiveness of companies.
- Atlanpole Biotherapies federates the skills of laboratories, platforms and companies for a complete, relevant and competitive public-private offer, on the bio-drug value chain from target discovery to clinical evaluation.
- The Alter' Incub Centre-Val de Loire is a programme managed by the Union régionale des Scop et Scic. It is funded by the Centre-Val de Loire Region and co-financed by the cooperative movement. The incubator supports the creation of companies with a strong social impact. It is structured around an initial 4-month phase during which the opportunity and feasibility of the project will be verified. The second phase lasts 12 months and aims to create the company

All of these actors are brought together in the Specialised Committee "Valorisation of Research and Innovation".

The role of the specialised committee is to monitor the progress of the horizontal measures and the DPSs of the RIS3 and to propose any changes which would then be arbitrated at the level of the Regional Strategic Committee for Innovation (CSRI), which in turn retains the role of steering body for the RIS3.

4.2.4. Timeframe

Activity number	Activity description	Implementation time line
1	Collecting the experiences of different project leaders in the creation of innovative start-ups (from academic research or not)	Q1-Q2 2022

	Share and refine with them the challenges of supporting innovative start-ups Confront their "client" vision with those of the support structures	
2	Meet the institutional players (Region, Metropolis, State) to present them with the structure and obtain their agreement on financing	Q2-Q4 2022
3	Collectively co-construct solutions to implement this support pathway	Q4 2022 – Q1 2023
4	Formalise the support pathway and obtain a formalised agreement of the parties on the modalities of co-ordination	Q1-Q2 2023


4.2.5. Cost and funding sources

According to the current status, the design and the implementation of a new mode of management of one of the horizontal measures of the CVL RIS3 will not incur additional costs. The activities will be carried out by the respective promoters, under the existing or new financial conventions contracted with the Centre-Val de Loire Region and the State.

4.2.6. Monitoring of the activities

In order to monitor, the activities implemented as part of this action plan, we intend to follow the indicators: -

- Performance indicators
 - Number of coordination meetings to structure the deep tech start-ups development support
- Outcome indicators
 - Proposed policy mix evolution or recommendations to improve the structuration of the deep tech start-ups development support

Date:	04/07/2022
Signature:	
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