



TIMIS COUNTY ACTION PLAN

Part I – General information

Project: ACSELL - Accelerating SME Innovation Capacities with a Living Lab Approach

Partner organisation: Timiș County Council

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant):

Key partners (Action 1 and 2)

- West University of Timișoara
- Politehnica University of Timișoara
- West Regional Development Agency

Facilitators / Enablers (Action 1)

- Co-Work Timișoara
- Helixconnect Europe
- Banat IT

Country: Romania

NUTS2 region: RO42

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Territorial Cooperation programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: The Integrated Economic and Social Development Strategy of Timiș County – 2021-2027

Note: The chosen Policy Instrument within the project was initially the Regional Operational Programme, Priority Axis 2 – Improving the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises. Upon our request, and on grounds of higher relevance and more appropriate timing of the implementation, the JS approved the newly proposed PI, namely the Integrated Economic and Social Development Strategy of Timiș County – 2021-2027.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1 - *TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY – INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME*

The background

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN

The title of the Action Plan is “ACSELL Academy” due to the fact that our aim is to **build on the legacy of the ACSELL project, and set the foundations for a Type 1 action – “Implementation of new projects”**. The innovation voucher scheme that we are proposing, constitutes a **radical innovation, at the level of public administration**.

As the **TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY** shall be addressing a **smart specialisation sector that has not yet benefited from structured business support services at local, county or regional level**, we are relying on several key outcomes of the SCIROCCO Maturity Model, and we are targeting the following objectives, based on the OSAT self-assessment:

- To design and launch a **systematic pilot endeavour to support startups, SMEs, spin-offs and students within the healthcare and social wellbeing sectors**, in order to define an **innovative product / service / process or business model**;
- To build the **pilot voucher scheme offerings on a demand-driven approach**, consisting of a **thorough needs assessment** that will be implemented at the beginning of the innovation voucher scheme;
- To **engage several key local partners, as well as enablers, in a structured and coordinated way**, under the management of innovation voucher scheme, by Timiș County Council;
- To create a **replicable and scalable mechanism of support for innovative projects coming from various players within the healthcare and social wellbeing sector**, with clear success measurement KPIs.

According to the OSAT conclusions, we are relying, in the design and delivery of the innovation voucher scheme, on **specific strong points at county level**, such as:

- Availability of **EU Structural Funds soon to be launched**, within the Regional Operational Programmes call for proposals targeting innovative companies, as well as availability of **access to finance through the local Business Angel community, micro-credits from banks**, as well as **crowdfunding or public-private investment**;
- **Strong complementarity effect that can be reached with the well-consolidated Information and Communication Technologies sector of the county**, especially in the areas of e-health and telemedicine;
- Existing **early-stage initiatives which are fostering partnerships** within the local health and entrepreneurship ecosystems, as well as identified “customer-readiness” for the envisaged services of the AP;
- Support from **local experts** that will deliver the value offered by the innovation vouchers;
- Regional context that already attracted major **Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)**.

GOOD PRACTICES CONSIDERED BY THE ACTION PLAN

The TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY is inspired by the **lessons learnt throughout the project debates, twinning meetings and good practices overview**, and it is substantially referring to a **body of knowledge that leads to successful synergies among key players within the local entrepreneurial ecosystem**. Local conditions vary from place to place, nevertheless the **most demanding initiatives are the “soft” ones**, which are creating **new alliances, in a well-structured and measurable way, towards impact**. This is the type of initiative that we are proposing by means of this Action Plan.

- *Innovation and Research Centre Tuttlingen* – key takeaway for our Action Plan consists in the various **tools provided for collaboration among quadruple-helix players**, as well as **customised support** for the increase of innovation activity within companies; learned about during Twinning WS from 29th April 2021 BW-NDK
- *HealthDay.si* – main aspect that we are up taking from this GP is the **level of specialisation to the needs of the health and health-tech segments**. We plan to continue the innovation voucher scheme on an annual basis after the project completion, and to do this with a focus on healthcare and social wellbeing, as we strongly believe that, **in terms of innovation support services, the specialisation is key, and it leads to much more value and impact for the target groups**, rather than generalist / sector agnostic business support services; on-line meeting in summer 2021
- *Flanders Health Innovative Business Network* – following the twinning exercise between us and Flanders region, within the ACSELL project, we are learning from the way of **reaching engagement within the community**, as VLAIO managed to do for their specific good practice. We are equally aiming to create engagement within our local ecosystem, throughout the activities included in the Action Plan; learned about during the GP assessment process of Twinning partners in spring 2021
- *Tehimpuls Scaleup Competition* – even if this is our local GP, we are inspired by the way that **Tehimpuls supported innovative companies throughout the entire innovation cycle**. Thus, it all started around 10 years ago with a voucher scheme provided by Tehimpuls and funded by a cross-border project, by means of which **Tehimpuls selected R&D experts to assist 25 companies with the aim of solving specific product – related innovation challenges**. After the successful voucher scheme, Tehimpuls moved forward with a **regional innovation competition**, and, years later, with a **regional scaleup competition**. It is our intention as well to extend the scope of TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY in the upcoming way.

POLICY INSTRUMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE ACTION PLAN

The main policy instrument to be addressed by the Action Plan is **The Integrated Economic and Social Development Strategy of Timiș County – 2021-2027**, recently adopted, and leading the development roadmap of the county. According to the strategic objective 1, “Timiș European Hub”, aiming at positioning the province as **the most attractive entrepreneurship pole in Romania, as well as a well-known European level hub**, we are directly impacting the measure 1.1.2, referring to “voucher programmes for companies” and “living lab for co-creation”.

More specifically, the Timiș ACSELL Academy – Innovation voucher scheme, will be the **pilot initiative of the county strategy's measure “voucher programmes for companies”**, and it will lead the way for the continuation of the voucher scheme with more services, and even with additional funding. Furthermore, it might act as a **good practice for other actors at local and province level, which are interested in setting up such innovation voucher schemes for other sectors or target groups**. In terms of the way that the Action Plan will contribute to the strategy's measure on “living lab for co-creation”, we envisage to **already engage the living lab approach by means of the partnership with the West University of Timisoara**, which has started a living lab initiative recently, and it will exploit it as part of the innovation voucher scheme mentoring package. **At post-pilot phase, in the upcoming couple of years, the County Council will as well setup a province-level living lab**, for the co-creation of projects and initiatives that will enhance the county's overall entrepreneurial activity. Consequently, **the innovation voucher scheme will become complementary with the county's future living lab endeavour**.

All in all, the Action Plan will demonstrate a direct contribution to the main county level policy instrument on short and medium term, while at the same time positively impacting those at regional level, on medium and long term.

Action

TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY- INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME

ROMANIAN CONTEXT

With a **strong tissue of small and medium sized companies with stable growth**, as well as a **total entrepreneurial activity (TEA)** is higher than the EU average (**10.8 / 6.7**), Romania boasts a **sound entrepreneurial ethos, coupled with a strong presence of SMEs**, both thriving in **less favourable entrepreneurship conditions** (e.g. consistency in policy support and incentives, business and innovation support services, access to human resources or finance etc.), by comparison with most of the EU countries.

According to the same “*European Innovation Scoreboard 2021*”, the **Turnover share of SME (%)** is higher in Romania than the EU average (**42 / 36.5**). Moreover, Romania marks a very high score on **macro-economic stability** (**90 / 100**) within the “*World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index 2019*”.

Nevertheless, the critical feature of the Romanian innovation ecosystem is **its low ability to generate own high-added value or radical innovative products, based on new knowledge, advanced skills, scientific results, and own research – development**. According to the “*European Innovation Scoreboard 2021*”, Romania is an **emerging innovator**, with an over time (2014-2021) slightly changing performance relative to the EU average (**30-32 / 31-35**), holding the **lowest ranking** within the EU in terms of innovation indicators.

The most critical areas of improvement are “**in-house product innovators with / without market novelties**” (a quarter of EU average, and half of the EU average, respectively), as well as “**in-house business process innovators**” (a third of EU average).

TIMIȘ COUNTY CONTEXT

At province level, there are **31,209 registered companies overall, out of which 1,092 in the field of healthcare and social wellbeing, accounting for 3.5% of total**. From the overall number of enterprises, **SMEs represent 31,133, which is 99.8% of overall companies**. This is a **strong point**, showing a strong SME tissue of companies, and if we add the fact that **more than half of companies (16,584) are micro-enterprises (between 1 and 9 employees)**, then this demonstrates a **vivid entrepreneurial interest**.

The **start-up dynamics represents 28% of overall companies (up to 3 years of age)**, and **8.3% were created in 2020**, which was a difficult year for the setting up of new companies. In terms of number of people working in the **healthcare and social wellbeing**, the sector employs **3,691 people at county level**. The largest majority is represented by the companies within the **healthcare segment – 1,050 enterprises, employing 3,462 professionals**. In terms of the **size of turnover, the structure is diverse**, yet it proves the same stability of the sector:

Size of turnover	Number of companies
Up to 25 KEUR	571
Between 25 – 100 KEUR	309
Over 100 KEUR	212

TIMIŞ ACSELL ACADEMY – INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME

The **vision** of the TIMIŞ ACSELL ACADEMY – INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME is to provide **customised support for start-ups, SMEs, students and spin-offs, in their early-stage phase of product / service / process or business model innovation.**

The Action Plan will be deployed throughout the following **stages**:

Stage 1 – Adoption of the delivery mechanism

Together with the key partners and facilitators / enablers, **we have already discussed the main principles and delivery mechanism of the innovation voucher scheme.** At the inception phase of the Action Plan implementation, we shall refine all these aspects, and agree upon the **practical matters of implementation, via internal procedures of partnership.**

Stage 2 – Promotion of the innovation voucher scheme

The promotion of the innovation voucher scheme will be mainly done throughout an intensive **social media and media campaign, as well as by means of a promotion event,** hosted in hybrid mode, so that to provide the widest audience possible from the target groups.

Stage 3 – Selection of the beneficiaries

The selection of the beneficiaries – **up to 3 innovators in the pilot phase** – will be done by the TIMIŞ ACSELL ACADEMY Board, where representatives of the key partners will be involved. **The Timiș County Council will ensure the entire management of the innovation voucher scheme.**

Stage 4 – Needs assessment

This step is a crucial one in achieving the optimal impact with the innovation voucher scheme, thus we shall envisage several **key aspects to be covered by the needs analysis,** such as:

- What type of solution do you have in mind? **Product / service / process / business model?**
- What is the **purpose** of your innovation?
- Describe the **problem** to be solved or the need(s) to be satisfied
- In the case that your solution is based on technology, indicate your current TRL (Technology Readiness Level)
 - o Basic research – basic principles observed
 - o Technology formulation – technology concept formulation
 - o Needs validation – experimental proof of concept
 - o Small scale prototype – technology validated in lab
 - o Large scale prototype – technology validated in relevant environment
 - o Prototype system – technology demonstrated in relevant environment
 - o Demonstration system – system prototype demonstration in operational environment
 - o First of a kind commercial system – system complete and qualified
 - o Full commercial application – actual system proven in operational environment
- Indicate your current **BRL (Business Readiness Level)**
 - o Basic research – you can describe the need(s) but have no evidence
 - o Needs formulation – you articulate the need(s) using a customer / user story
 - o Needs validation – you have a initial “offering”, stakeholders like your slideware
 - o Small scale stakeholder campaign – run a campaign with stakeholders (“closed” beta – a number of friendly stakeholders that is relevant according to specificities of your market)
 - o Large scale early adopter campaign – run a campaign with early adopters (“open” beta – a number of intended customers that is relevant according to specificities of your market)

- Proof of traction – sales match a number of paying customers that is relevant according to specificities of your market
- Proof of satisfaction – a happy team and happy customers give evidence to progress
- Proof of scalability – a stable sale pipeline and strong understanding of the market allow revenue projections)
- Proof of stability – KPIs surpassed and predictable growth
- **Risks** of failure – technological, financial, commercial, regulatory, societal acceptance etc.
- Your **winning team** (members and positions); do you need additional competencies?
- Describe your **targeted market**; B2B / B2C
- Who is the **competition**?
- **Cost and revenue model**
- **Type of support** prioritised within the innovation voucher scheme: tick from below and explain the choice:
 - Business plan
 - Prototyping
 - Go2market
 - IPR – Intellectual Property Rights
 - Access to finance
 - Partnership for innovation
 - Other - specify
- How do you see **your company in 5 years**?

Stage 5 – Roadmap

According to the Needs assessment, an **individual roadmap will be designed and deployed for each beneficiary**. The roadmap will include the **description of the support package**, as well as the main **Key Performance Indicators for each beneficiary**, such as **Technology Readiness Level advancement, go2market target, partnerships, EU funding / private investment attracted etc.**

Stage 6 – Implementation

Throughout the 3 months dedicated to the innovation voucher scheme implementation, the **estimated number of hours of coaching / mentoring provided per beneficiary is at least 50**, and it will be shared among the providers of support. As per now, the key partners will be the main service providers within the innovation voucher scheme, nevertheless, we are aiming at bringing in as well the facilitators / enablers.

Furthermore, and with a high relevance for the target groups, we aim to add the **expertise from 2 managers into the innovation voucher scheme, one of the who will be Health Entrepreneurship Ambassador for the ACSELL Academy** (e.g. Ștefan Iarca, CEO of the successful startup XVision), and the other one, a **Business Mentor coming from another sector, yet with extensive experience in scaling innovative products or services.**

Stage 7 – Mid-term assessment and improvement measures

At 1.5 months after start of the innovation voucher scheme implementation, **each roadmap will be assessed at mid-term, based on degree of achievement of coaching / mentoring, as well as of KPIs**. Deemed corrections will be brought to the roadmap, so that the impact should be reached in due time, until the completion of the 3 months.

Stage 8 – Promotion of success stories and lessons learnt

Once the innovation voucher scheme is finalised, **main lessons learnt will be documented and shared with all the key partners and facilitators / enablers**. Equally, there will be organised a brief promotion campaign, via social media, and a dedicated event, in order to showcase **the beneficiaries’ success stories**, as well as the impact achieved in terms of partnership delivery mechanism for the innovation voucher scheme.

Stage 9 – Monitoring of the innovation voucher scheme

This activity will entail the **start of a regular monitoring exercise related to the innovation voucher scheme planning and implementation**. Besides the KPIs set at beneficiary level, there will be annual KPIs to be monitored as well at the level of the overall scheme. Alongside the lessons learnt, there will be a **continuous improvement and extension of the innovation voucher scheme, on a year2year basis.**

SUSTAINABILITY

The TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY – INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME for the health and social wellbeing sector will be **replicated and extended, as an annual voucher scheme to be managed by Timiș County Council**. Moreover, **starting with 2024, the TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY will lobby for the integration of the voucher scheme into the participatory budget exercise on innovation, so that grants could be provided in addition to the coaching / mentoring**. The sector specialisation will be continued, and, based on lessons learnt, there will be further improvements brought to the innovation voucher scheme, including a **potential acceleration package**.

With relevance for the overall **ACSELL international partnership**, we aim to demonstrate a **viable methodology, success stories and measurable impact for such an innovation voucher scheme**, from inception to evaluation, **across the entire cycle of its implementation**.

In terms of the commitment of stakeholders at local, county, and regional level, first and foremost there is a **high level of interest at this point in getting engaged in the implementation of the innovation voucher scheme, from already a critical mass of partners**. We shall **capitalise on this advantage** and keep close track of the agreements with each partner, as well as we shall seek to invite new partners to get onboard, based on showing the first examples of success.

Players involved

KEY PARTNERS

- **West University of Timișoara** is an active entrepreneurial university, currently hosting a newly established **Living Lab**. Throughout EU funded projects, it provides **grants and business mentoring for students that are starting a company**. The UVT Living Lab mission is to contribute to meaningful digital & green transformation for a true sense of community wellbeing, via three main pillars: digital transformation (AI, ML, big data), green transition (circular economy, renewable energy, sustainable development) and health & wellbeing. Cross-cutting priorities of the UVT Living Lab refer to S3 relevant entrepreneurship and culture and creativity, as a vector for open innovation values stimulating citizen engagement.
- **Politehnica University of Timișoara** is a strong player in **tech-based entrepreneurship, as well as a partner for corporates located in Timișoara**. UPT is involved in a European Universities Alliance, called *Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions (E3UDRES2)*, with 7 other partners from the EU, having the main focus on sustainable regional development through entrepreneurship in smart specialisation fields. With relevance to this Action Plan, UPT developed in partnership with other European universities in the alliance a number of 16 iLivingLabs in the field of **wellbeing and active ageing, circular economy, Human contribution to Artificial Intelligence**. Since September 2022, other 18 iLivingLabs are already planned. UPT is also active in supporting start-ups and spin-off companies in innovative areas. It actively promotes Open Science, Open Innovation and Open Education principles, being already involved in partnership with Tehimpuls in a innovation voucher scheme. UPT will be able to provide high added value mentoring for prototyping within start-ups, SMEs, and spin-offs.
- **West Regional Development Agency** is the **Enterprise Europe Network hub for West and South-West regions of Romania**, thus delivering business and innovation support services to SMEs, with a strong focus on **internationalisation (finding partners, networking etc.)**, **improvement of the innovation management performance, open innovation, scaleup support, business model innovation, market intelligence and building up of partnerships**.

FACILITATORS / ENABLERS

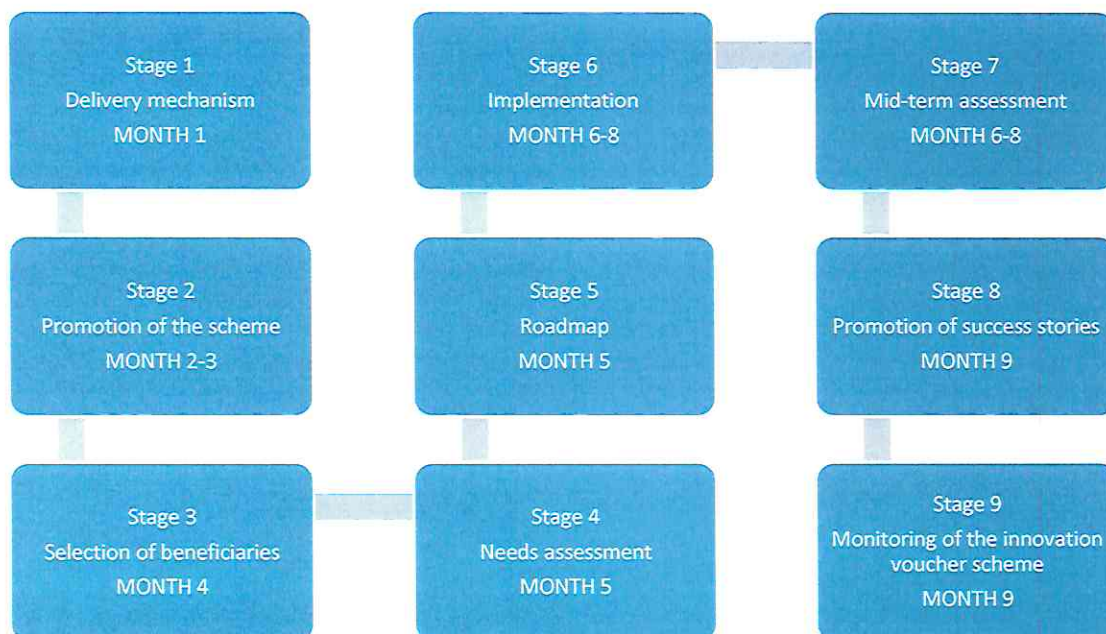
- **Co-Work Timișoara** provides community building and hosting for various startups within the local ecosystem. The organisation is **well connected to the trends and dynamics of entrepreneurship in Timișoara**.
- **Helixconnect Europe** is a Romanian association focused on supporting the growth of **research and innovation-based companies**, as well as to build bridges among key stakeholders in the ecosystem.

- **BanatIT** is a long-lasting and very dynamic association which acts as a **hub for the ICT industry**, organiser of well-known **hackathons**, as well as provider of **hands-on support for digital startups**.
- **Digital Innovation Hub of West Region Romania**, newly created consortium that is seeking funding from the EC in order to become a European DIH, and which will be a **key player in providing the “test before invest” service for digital innovation**;
- Other potentially relevant organisations that might provide **direct business support services in the future** (e.g. intermediaries, managers' clubs, technology transfer offices etc.).

The **Timiș County Council envisages to sign individual collaboration agreements with the above partners**, with the aim of **formalising the roles within the delivery process** of the innovation voucher schemes. A favourable context in this sense is provided by the **Timișoara University Alliance**, which established already a first pillar of collaboration between the main academic partners within the local ecosystem. Furthermore, within the scope of our **TIMIȘ ACSELL ACADEMY's** sector focus, we shall seek **new partnerships with the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, as well as with the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine from Timișoara**.

Timeframe

We are envisaging a timeframe of **9 months for the Action Plan implementation**, tentatively starting with August 2022, and following the below sequence:



Costs

The main estimated costs attached to the implementation of the pilot phase of the Innovation Voucher Scheme for health and social wellbeing startups, SMEs, spin-offs and students, are presented below. They consist in human resources – 1-2 part time roles within the Timiș County Council team, adding up to 1 Full time equivalent, promotion costs and organisation of events.

No.	Type of cost	Amount (EUR)	Explanation
1	Human resources	2,300*9= 20,700	Up to 1 FTE within the Timiș County Council
2	Promotion	2,000	Social media campaign
3	Organisation of events	1,500	2 promotion events
	TOTAL	24,200	

- Funding sources

The Action Plan will be implemented with **own funds of the Timiș County Council**, as the pilot phase of the Innovation Voucher Scheme for health and social wellbeing startups, SMEs, spin-offs and students. Throughout the coming years, as the scheme will be gradually enriched, we shall seek **EU funding for at least some of its components**. At the same time, for the same pilot action stage, **the partner organisations will cover the costs of their experts** who will be engaged in the delivery of the services comprised by the innovation voucher scheme.

ACTION 2 – SETUP OF A TRANS-REGIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY ON HOW TO SET UP A LIVING LAB

The background

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN

This action has been agreed to be embedded into the action plans of most of the **ACSELL international, including our organisation**, as a **Type 2 policy change action – “Improvement of governance”**.

As shown by the **University of Tübingen, the partner who proposed the action and brought inspiration to the entire consortium**, “regions are increasingly realizing the value of effective multi-stakeholder and especially user-centric approaches as well as strategies to match different kinds of organization, such as SMEs with academic institutions, to expand their reach and foster their growth within open innovation ecosystems and networks”. Thus, **we would like to be an active partner in the continuation of the learning between the partners**, outside the life span of the ACSELL project.

Regions are increasingly realizing the value of effective **multi-stakeholder and specifically user-centric approaches**, as well as strategies to match different kinds of organization, such as SMEs with academic institutions, to expand their reach and foster their growth within **open innovation ecosystems and networks**.

The living lab approach allows 1) a better understanding of the actual demands and needs of end users, 2) a better match of demand and supply and 3) an increase in efficiency and effectiveness of the innovation process. This approach will not only inspire policy makers to apply a similar collaborative approach in developing policy, but also help them **better understand the innovation process** as such. In this way, policy

decision-makers will be able to **provide better framework conditions inter alia to SMEs**. Within the ACSELL project, several partners are considering integrating the development of a living lab in their policy instrument.

With this joint action we want to support this plan. In essence, the pilot action was the perfect preparation for this joint action to where the direct knowledge gained by two partners in a smaller scale will be shared with and transferred to the other regions. For setting up a living lab or an open innovation ecosystem, it is on the one hand essential to have access to a **trusted network of stakeholders**, and on the other hand have a **profound expertise of living lab methods and methodologies**.

While both requirements will be initiated through this action, the ACSELL partnership would like to see this exchange continue **beyond the lifespan of the project**.

Similarly, to Action 1, we are relying on several key outcomes of the SCIROCCO Maturity Model, and we are targeting the following objectives, based on the OSAT self-assessment:

- (a) To commit to a **learning process at international level**, and to **make the resulting knowledge available to our innovation ecosystem**;
- (b) To **engage several key local partners, as well as enablers, in a structured and coordinated way**, by Timiș County Council.

According to the OSAT conclusions, we are relying, in the design and delivery of the innovation voucher scheme, on **specific strong points at county level**, such as:

- ✓ Availability of **EU Structural Funds soon to be launched**, within the Regional Operational Programmes call for proposals targeting innovative companies;
- ✓ **Strong complementarity effect that can be reached with the well-consolidated Information and Communication Technologies sector of the county**, especially in the areas of e-health and telemedicine;
- ✓ Already available **critical mass of local stakeholders** interested to team up for a short- and medium-term learning process on living labs and beyond.

POLICY INSTRUMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE ACTION PLAN

The main policy instrument to be addressed by the Action Plan is **The Integrated Economic and Social Development Strategy of Timiș County – 2021-2027**, recently adopted, and leading the development roadmap of the county. With Action 2, we are as well directly impacting the strategic objective 1, "Timiș European Hub", aiming at positioning the province as **the most attractive entrepreneurship pole in Romania, as well as a well-known European level hub**.

Thus, we envisage that this joint action will provide an excellent opportunity for Timiș County Council to **scale its internal capabilities to act as an active entrepreneurial ecosystem player**. By means of advanced policy learning and capacity building, our aim is to **consolidate and expand the business and innovation support services** that the Timiș County Council is currently providing and / or designing, for the benefit of companies. Furthermore, Action 2 will present the valuable opportunity to both become part as an international governance platform on Living Labs, and to create corresponding **governance mechanisms at county level** for business and innovation support, throughout the learning community.

Action

SETUP OF A TRANS-REGIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY ON HOW TO SET UP A LIVING LAB

- **Workshop on establishing a learning community** at the ENOLL OLLD and sharing pilot action experience (20-23 September 2022, Torino IT)
- 2-day workshop on **operationalising pilot action results paper** on how to set up a LL / each ACSELL partner will conduct landscaping & next steps to set up LL will be defined. (October 2022, Edinburgh?)

- Identification of **additional contributors / benefactors** from, e.g., NWE.CHANCE Interreg project and Vitalize project (<https://vitalise-project.eu>) (October-December 2022)
(e.g., DHI will work with ASCCELL partners to explore potential for adaptation of the Living Lab Innovation Hub that was developed for the NWE-CHANCE Interreg project.)
- 2-day workshop: **status update on implementation & sharing of successes and challenges** (March 2022, Aalborg?)
- 1-day workshop on defining continued frame for learning, **network mode of operation** before the final high—profile dissemination event in Brussels (May 2022, Brussels)

Players involved

- **West University of Timișoara** is an active entrepreneurial university, currently hosting a newly established **Living Lab**. Throughout EU funded projects, it provides **grants and business mentoring for students that are starting a company**. The UVT Living Lab mission is to contribute to meaningful digital & green transformation for a true sense of community wellbeing, via three main pillars: digital transformation (AI, ML, big data), green transition (circular economy, renewable energy, sustainable development) and health & wellbeing. Cross-cutting priorities of the UVT Living Lab refer to S3 relevant entrepreneurship and culture and creativity, as a vector for open innovation values stimulating citizen engagement.
- **Politehnica University of Timișoara** is a strong player in **tech-based entrepreneurship, as well as a partner for corporates located in Timișoara**. UPT is involved in a European Universities Alliance, called *Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions (E3UDRES2)*, with 7 other partners from the EU, having the main focus on sustainable regional development through entrepreneurship in smart specialisation fields. With relevance to this Action Plan, UPT developed in partnership with other European universities in the alliance a number of 16 iLivingLabs in the field of **wellbeing and active ageing, circular economy, Human contribution to Artificial Intelligence**. Since September 2022, other 18 iLivingLabs are already planned. UPT is also active in supporting start-ups and spin-off companies in innovative areas. It actively promotes Open Science, Open Innovation and Open Education principles, being already involved in partnership with Tehimpuls in a innovation voucher scheme. UPT will be able to provide high added value mentoring for prototyping within start-ups, SMEs, and spin-offs.
- **West Regional Development Agency** is the **Enterprise Europe Network hub for West and South-West regions of Romania**, thus delivering business and innovation support services to SMEs, with a strong focus on **internationalisation (finding partners, networking etc.), improvement of the innovation management performance, open innovation, scaleup support, business model innovation, market intelligence and building up of partnerships**.

Timeframe

August 2022 – July 2023

Costs

The main estimated costs attached to the implementation of Action 2 are presented below. They consist in human resources – up to 0.25 Full time equivalent, promotion costs and travel costs.

No.	Type of cost	Amount (EUR)	Explanation
1	Human resources	575*12= 6,900	Up to 1 FTE within the Timiș County Council
2	Promotion	500	Social media campaign and 1 event
3	Travel	3,000	International travel
	TOTAL	10,400	

Funding sources

The Action Plan will be implemented with **own funds of the Timiș County Council**.

Place and date: Timișoara, May 9, 2022

Title of the institution: Timiș County Council

Name and function of the signatory: Alin-Adrian NICA, President

Signature:  _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____