

Interreg Europe action plan template

*Produced by each region, the **action plan** is a document providing details on **how** the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument tackled within that region. The minimum information to be provided per action includes the way the action is linked to the project, the nature of the activities to be implemented, their timeframe, the stakeholders involved, the costs and funding sources. If the same policy instrument is addressed by several partners, only one action plan is required. The action plan should also include actions that may have already been initiated in phase 1.*

Part I – General information

Project: Interreg EURE

Partner organisation(s) concerned: ASEV – Agenzia per lo Sviluppo Empolese Valdelsa SpA

Country: Italy

NUTS2 region: Tuscany

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

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

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:

ROP ERDF 2014-2020 – Axis VI “Urban” of Regione Toscana

1. General Information and characterization of the Policy Instrument

Within the ROP ERDF 2014-2020, the Axis VI is addressed to urban policies and combine at this purpose several thematic objectives (TO) and investment priorities, particularly concerning (a) **functional recovery and reuse of buildings** for purposes of social inclusion and employment support and (b) the promotion of **eco-efficiency** and the **reduction of energy consumption in public buildings and public lighting networks**, together with (c) measures to increase **sustainable mobility**. Around 49,2 M€ are addressed on axis VI (6.2% of the whole ROP ERDF).

The specific objectives are:

-Reduction of energy consumption in buildings and public facilities or for public, residential and non-residential use and integration of renewable sources

-Increasing sustainable mobility in urban areas

-Better qualification of socio-educational care services and infrastructures

-Improvement of the urban texture in areas with low lawfulness

Tuscany chooses to combine several Thematic Objectives in a single axis because multiple dimensions (social, environmental, economic, cultural) are strongly intertwined in urban policies which need of an **integrated approach and to ensure a concentration of resources in urban areas**.

The **Urban Innovation Projects (PIU)** represent the tool for implementing the urban strategy: they are an integrated set of actions aimed at solving social, economic and environmental problems in urban areas (at least 35% must be focused on OT4).

During the period 2017-2020, **eleven** PIUs have been approved and financed.

Nevertheless their implementation is difficult and often not well balanced, requiring different skills and expertise within the single municipalities.

2. How the AP can contribute to improve the PI and the future programming period

A review and updating of the key elements that have characterized the construction of the PIUs' experience is needed. Adjustments to the management of funded projects are as well needed in order to include different skills and knowledge in the ex-ante evaluation actions for the PIU requirements and ex-post for monitoring.

Regione Toscana has recently launched and started the implementation of the new programming period ERDF 2021-2027. The first public call named “Expression of Interest” addressed to single Municipalities or Groups of Municipalities with population > 15,000 inhabitants was published last



March 10th 2022 - Specific Objective 5.1. The Specific Objective SO 5.1 foresees the support of territorial development strategies, implemented in accordance with Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, by means of integrated projects in urban areas, aimed at challenges linked to social inclusion, security, combating socio-economic degradation, environmental sustainability socio-economic degradation, environmental sustainability, cooperation between territories, as well as encouraging innovative ways innovative ways of providing community services.

The Call was approved by the Regional Government on February 28th, 2022 Decree n° 204 and officially opened from March 10th, 2022 until March 31st, 2022.

The general objective of the call is "**an expressions of interest**" is to identify areas and territorial strategies to be supported under the specific objective e1) "To promote integrated and inclusive social, economic and development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban areas" of the 2021-2027 ERDF Regional Programme, in parallel with the preparation and definition of the Regional Programme itself, which should contain an initial definition of the substantive first definition of the substantial choices, shared with local partnerships, on the articulation of actions useful for the implementation of the Territorial Strategies, without prejudice to appropriate subsequent adjustments.

The "preliminary" spatial strategy proposal will be articulated on the following types of of infrastructural interventions:

- a) **Urban Renewal and Housing Quality**, that is Rehabilitation of the existing building stock; redevelopment of degraded urban areas; functional reorganisation of brownfield sites; recovery and redevelopment of large buildings or disused building complexes; redevelopment of connections with the urban context
- b) **Culture** (recovery and enhancement of urban spaces for cultural and social purposes, returning them to citizenship+ interventions to restore the historical, artistic and architectural heritage of cities of art, which define the identity of places and convey the values of the community)
- c) **Environment** (all projects must have an integrated green approach)

The call provides fundings for 61 million euros coming from the ERDF 2021-2027: 10 projects have been admitted and officially became part of the global proposal of the Regional Program that is going to be presented to the European Commission by the Regional Government.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1:

Name of the action: **Support to the Managing Authority in the creation of an official Consulting Group among future Beneficiaries of next Urban Renewal Projects for a monitoring activity of all the development and implementation processes.**



1. **Relevance to the project** (please describe how this action derives from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experience. Where does the inspiration for this action come from?)

AS written above, Regione Toscana is currently facing a new stage of programming period 2021-2027.

To the public call recently opened by The Regional Government 46 projects were submitted by 69 Municipalities.

Regione Toscana will support and finance **10 new Urban Renewal Projects** involving 15 Municipalities. All the projects include “processes of urban regeneration and innovation of settlement and housing policies (public heritage, public spaces and brownfield sites) in medium-sized urban areas and territorial systems”.

Additionally to this, at the end of the programming period 2014-2020, most of the project PIUs have reached their pre-final or final stage. The interregional experience has underlined the importance of public involvement of different institutions (local, public and also private) in the development, governance, implementation and management of similar projects proposed by the EURE partners.

A particular inspiration was given by the experience of the Lobzki Park in Pilsen and also the 2 GP concerning the renovation of terminal bus stations proposed by Pilsen and the rehabilitation of the major public transport system in Alba Iulia. In these Good Practices the involvement of final users and local employees and technicians have had a crucial role for the final results and success of the projects.

The development of the action plan also benefits from the work of the Joint Report, and in particular from the section related to Social Inclusion which include a series of EU best practices of great interest for the implementing phase, once the realization of the PIUs will be completed - as for example, the best practice “Supporting growth in Madrid’s social economy” (ES)

- ASEV proposes the creation of a informal **consulting group** among the new beneficiaries with the objective to take into better and higher consideration their needs and to monitor all the implementation processes with particular regards to the involvement of the public participation debate. This action also takes inspiration from the past experiences of the PIUs financed by the last programming period 2014-20.

The interregional work has produced several documents, among which the Opinion Report that contains 10 *Political Recommendations* addressed to EC for the next programming period aiming to improve the presence and role of small and medium cities in the definition of next European Urban Policies.

Recommendation n.2 contained in the Opinion Report expressly insists on the importance of social and public participation in the decision making process of the future of small and medium cities.

This point is still worth being monitored and analysed also for the forthcoming projects since the aim of the Action fully responds to the above mentioned recommendation n.2 of Eure Opinion Report.

02. Empower public and social participation of the local administration in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of urban strategies and, in general, urban policy

2. **Nature of the action** (please describe precisely the content of action 1. What are the specific activities to be implemented?)

ASEV proposes the creation of a temporary **Consulting Group** addressed to all technicians and local administrators among the future 10 beneficiaries admitted to the call launched by Regione Toscana on last March 10th and closed for calls on March 31st.



Some considerations coming from the past experience:

- Most of the Municipalities applying for ERDF Funding for PIUs Projects in 2015 were facing for the very first time a new and more complex way to respond to this kind of public call.
- Many technicians and public officials were asked to work together to respond to the complexity of the PIU Call and to share ideas, solutions and strategies.
- Besides this, many PIU Projects have insisted on Urban Renewal Actions and have therefore involved different offices and department of public local and central administration, such as e.g. the Government Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape Superintendency and also Regional and local Agencies for Environment.
- Due to the complexity of this process, it seems interesting to collect the opinions and suggestions coming from different professional profiles who have been involved in the process itself at different stages.

Most of the past PIU projects are in their final stages. Taking into consideration the above points, this FG should aim to:

- ⇒ create a formal consulting group among the new 10 beneficiaries with a particular focus on the governance and implementation tools.
- ⇒ offer to all beneficiaries the opportunity to discuss the different stages of the development of the projects;
- ⇒ Introduce potential models of public services, modes of participatory management;

The recent decision n.38 dated 26/07/2021 taken by Regione Toscana in fact insists on the subject of public participation (above all of citizens) to the decision making processes.

The Consulting Group proposed by ASEV fully respects this idea: the involvement of those who are directly involved in the new 10 Urban Renewal Projects experience could give important and crucial information for the new and already launched programming period.

Steps: to be developed.

- S1 – Short SWOT analysis summarizing on the experience of the PIUs' financed by the last programming period
- S2 – Presentation of the results of the above analysis and also of the main conclusions of the Eure Project International experience
- S3 – Creation of the Working Group and definition of the methodology
- S4 - Creation of a on line questionnaire for the 10th local administrations beneficiary of the last call "Expression of Interest" Regional Decree n° 4142 dated March 10th on the public participation processes promoted by the beneficiaries
- S5 – Organization of a cycle of public meetings to exchange and compare different models of management of the services and collective goods realized in order to offer a platform for the discussion and monitoring of the new Urban Renewal projects
- S6 Elaboration of the results of the monitoring process
- S7 Presentation of the results

3. **Stakeholders involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the implementation of the action1 and explain their role)

The main stakeholders involved could be the following:

- the Managing Authority of Regione Toscana. Role: collecting information, opinions and suggestions useful for the monitoring process of the new Urban Renewal projects.
- the 10 Municipalities beneficiaries of the Call **n.4142 dated 10-03-2022** of Urban Renewal Project. Role: story-telling, sharing ideas, problems, solutions.
- Regional and local politicians (Mayors, Adjonts, members of the City Councils). Role: sharing



problems and suggest possible solutions and political strategies.

- Regional and local public officers and Managers/Technicians: sharing problems and suggest possible solutions and political strategies.

4. **Timeframe** (please specify the timing envisaged for action 1)

The time frame for the implementation of the Actions covers the second phase of the EURE Project that is 2022-2023. The Action will be developed in one year, from July 2022 to June 2023.

Step	Support to the Managing Authority in the creation of an official Consulting Group among future Beneficiaries of next Urban Renewal Projects for a monitoring activity of all the development and implementation processes.	Timing
Step 1	SWOT Analysis on the experience of PIUs 2014-2020	July-October 2022
Step 2	Public presentation of the results and of the main conclusions coming from the transnational experience of EURE Project	October 2022
Step 3	Creation of the Focus group and definition of the Methodology	September 2022
Step 4	Creation of the on-line questionnaire	October 2022
Step 5	Organization of the cycle of public meetings	November February 2022
Step 6	Elaboration of the results of the monitoring process	March 2023
Step 7	Public event for the presentation of the results	May 2023

5. **Costs** (please estimate the costs related to the implementation of action 1)

Management and Coordination of the AP: 5,000€

Organization of the public events: 1,500€

6. **Funding sources** (please describe how action 1 will be financed. Is it through the policy instrument(s) indicated in part II)?

The Action Plan will be implemented with internal resources



Date: June 28th, 2022

Name of the organisation(s):

Regione Toscana – Direzione Urbanistica, Casa e Politiche Abitative
Agenzia per lo Sviluppo Empolese Valdelsa Spa

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s): _____
