



NORTH-EAST REGION'S SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY
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through TAOP 2007 – 2013”*

IMPLEMENTATION AND REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

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Implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategy

The partnership structure proposed for ensuring the implementation of the strategy in 2014-2020 period will be named Smart Specialization Regional Consortium and will include all the organizations that hold the capacity to animate, facilitate, provide technical assistance, coordinate and monitor the projects within the Regional Portfolio. It will be composed of:

- North-East RDA – as president of the Consortium;
- Clusters in smart specialization priority areas;
- Employers' associations (general or specialized, constituted in priority sectors);
- Chambers of Commerce, industry and agricultura within the Region's counties;
- Universities within the Region;
- Research Institutes within the Region;
- County Boards of Education;
- Representatives of business support structures within the Region;
- County Councils;
- Urban poles for growth and development;
- LAGs.

The Consortium will have a consultative Commission with the role to suggest possible funding opportunities for projects within the regional portfolio, composed of the following invited stakeholders:

- Representatives of the Intermediate Bodies of the Operational Programmes implemented in the North-East Region;
- Representatives of the directorates within the Ministries that implement national funding programmes;
- Representatives of the main banks and venture capital funds within the Region;
- Representatives of other regional relevant donors.

THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

Acethis strategy aims to guide regional actors' efforts towards common goals and to generate synergies between their actions; consequently, a smart specialization will be realized through generated projects, submitted and implemented by a range of organizations within the North-East Region that act in a coordinated manner.

To this end, the Consortium will establish teams of responsible agents to stimulate the implementation of each measure of the strategy. These teams will have as main tasks:

- The dissemination of information – communication of the priorities of the strategy to all the potentially interested organizations;

- Technical assistance – supporting the organizations that have project ideas relevant for implementing the strategy in proper funding opportunities identification and project drafting;
- Networking brokerage – animating and facilitating partnership creation in order to generate relevant projects;
- Best practices transfer – dissemination of information regarding regional successful projects, in order to multiply similar initiatives.

The analysis of the smart specialization strategy's measures reveal that:

- All measures can be implemented simultaneously, as no precedence relationship exists;
- All measures are necessary on the duration of the strategy implementation (2014-2020), as no prioritization order exists.

In this context, the implementation of the strategy has to contain 4 types of interventions:

Type of intervention	Timeframe	Responsible	Observations
Pilot-projects, funded with the own budget of the involved organizations	Ongoing activity in 2014-2020 period	Organizations that can implement projects relevant for the measures of the strategy	e.g. Organization of a Knitting Club through the initiative of dedicated professors in partnership with a regional specialized company.
Generation of mature projects portfolio	Ongoing activity in 2014-2020 period	Smart Specialization Regional Consortium	Experience gained during the implementation of pilot-projects can substantiate large scale regional project ideas to transfer best practices within sectors
Promotion of the funding opportunities for the projects within the portfolio	Ongoing activity in 2014-2020 period	Smart Specialization Regional Consortium	Actions will start at the same time with the publication of the national and European funding schemes launching schedule
Assistance for writing, submitting and implementing the projects within the portfolio	Ongoing activity in 2014-2020 period	Smart Specialization Regional Consortium	To this end, existing expertise within the consortium member organizations will be exploited

The implementation of the strategy will be realized based on the following **Regional Action Plan**:

Priorities and measures	Target group	Eligible beneficiaries	Funding source	Monitoring indicators (results and output)
Horizontal Priority 1: Developing innovation competences for future generations				Satisfaction degree (%) of the enterprises acting within the smart specialization areas regarding the innovation competences of regional education system's graduates (secondary and tertiary)
Measure 1.1. Synchronizing training supply of the regional education institutions with innovation's current level within the priority areas	Teachers within the regional education system	Schools, high-schools and universities in partnership with companies within the smart specialization areas	European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of functional "curricula partnerships" within the North-East Region • Number of professors, that have participated to study visits, fairs and exhibitions on innovation in the areas of smart specialization
Measure 1.2. Establishing contacts among students and innovative companies in priority sectors	Pupils, students and master students within the regional education system	Schools, high-schools and universities in partnership with companies within the smart specialization areas	European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children and students that have participated to study visits organized in enterprises; • Number of pupils, students and master students that participate to internships/apprenticeships in enterprises acting within the regional specialization sectors.
Measure 1.3. Increase the role of extracurricular activities in promoting creativity and innovative attitudes	Pupils, students and master students within the regional education system	Schools, high-schools and universities in partnership with companies within the smart specialization areas	European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of pupils and students attracted in technical extracurricular activities carried out in children's clubs and other types of pupils' and students' associations; • Number of pupils, students and master students that participate to regional innovative projects and ideas competitions.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of pupils, students and master students that participate to national and international innovative projects and ideas competitions.
Horizontal priority 2: Supporting innovative enterprises within the North-East Region				Number of innovative companies within the smart specialization sectors of the North-East Region
Measure 2.1: Support services to transform innovative ideas into business ideas	Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Spin-offs and start-ups Pupils and students	SMEs Spin-offs and start-ups Schools, high-schools and universities	European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of companies attracted in business support structures within the North-East Region; Number of "simulated companies" that transpose in practice pupils' and students' innovative ideas.
Measure 2.2: Implementing financial instruments to support creation and development of innovative companies within the region	Entrepreneurs SMEs	Business angels networks Venture capital funds Banks that operate micro-loans schemes	European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of innovative companies within the North-East Region that have benefited of financial assistance from business angels organizations, venture capital funds, micro-loans schemes, innovative business ideas' financial assistance programmes.

Horizontal priority 3: Supporting the existing and emerging cluster initiatives, as support for the development of the regional innovation system				Number of regional business and clusters networks Number of functional innovation systems
Measure 3.1: Creation and consolidation of business and cluster networks	Companies from the Region Business and clusters regional networks		European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of companies integrated in business and clusters regional networks; Number of inter-clusters and inter-networks cooperation actions
Measure 3.2: Increase the integrated action capacity	Member organizations of	Member organizations of business and	European funds National public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organizations that requested the services offered to their members by the business and clusters

of business and existing clusters regional networks	business and clusters regional networks Persons (managers included) within the business and clusters regional networks	clusters regional networks Business and clusters regional networks	funds Beneficiaries' own funds	regional networks; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of persons (managers included) within the business and clusters regional networks that participate to management improvement projects.
Measure 3.3: Supporting the business and consolidated clusters networks to further develop as innovation systems	Member organizations of business and clusters regional networks	Member organizations of business and clusters regional networks Business and clusters regional networks	European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment volume in applied research projects, extension and modernization of the infrastructure for research, development, innovation and technology, know-how and best practices transfer at business and clusters regional networks level.
Horizontal Priority 4: Technical Assistance				Number of reports to monitor the elaborated Strategy.
Measure 4.1: Developing the implementation, monitoring and evaluation systems for the Smart Specialization Strategy	Smart Specialization Regional Consortium	Smart Specialization Regional Consortium member organizations	European funds National public funds Beneficiaries' own funds	Number of monitoring reports of the Strategy elaborated.