

UMBRIA REGION



“TOWARDS A RIS3 STRATEGY”

Crete, 26-27 September 2013

1. CURRENT FOCUS OF REGIONAL INNOVATION SUPPORT MEASURES

The current policy initiative for “development, competitiveness and innovation of the economic and productive system” adopted by the Region of Umbria envisages a strong integration between economic development and employment with focus on green economy, one of the main drivers for the growth of the regional production system.

Within this political framework, the **draft of the Regional Strategic Framework for Umbria**¹ supports to research and innovation to “specialise and innovate the regional manufacturing system” by:

- i) strengthening networks of firms based on manufacturing excellence to better link production value chains, enterprise systems and research organizations;
- ii) improve the competitiveness of the regional manufacturing system also by strengthening infrastructures (industrial areas and ICT services);
- iii) support regional enterprises by making available innovative tools, promoting internationalisation and facilitating access to finance (risk and debt capital).

2. EVALUATIONS COMPLETED AND MAIN EMERGING FINDINGS

In 2011, Region of Umbria produced a study "**Distance between Umbria and the European 2020 Strategy**² " to analyse the position of the region within Europe with regard to the targets and related indicators of the EU 2020 Strategy. In relation to the objective of R&D for smart growth, the study investigates the resources invested, or to be invested, by the Structural Funds and the EAFRD in the programming phase 2007-2013. The analysis includes also an ex-ante evaluation on the contribution of the 2014-2020 investments for research and development. The study highlights the positive effect of EU regional programs on increasing the level of spending on research and development, together with the importance, for the next programming period, to increase the funding earmarked to research and technological development.

To further analyse the contribution of the regional public support for RTDI to the competitiveness and growth of local companies the regional statistic department made a **counterfactual analysis** to assess the impact of such incentives to the businesses performances in the period 2005-2011³. The results of the analysis show that, while a positive effect on R&D outputs can be observed, there is no statistical evidence of an impact on business performances (turnover, ROI, etc.).

Finally, the region has developed a system of indicators called **RUIS** (Umbria Region Innovation Scoreboard) to measure the innovative capacity of regional economic system and to benchmark

¹ <http://www.alleanzaperlosviluppo.regione.umbria.it/documents/11891/15368/Verso+il+QSR+2014-2020/32d8c3f3-b265-4423-b512-db987179d650>

² <http://www.fesr.regione.umbria.it/Mediacenter/FE/media/la-distanza-dellumbria-dagli-obiettivi-di-europa20.html>

³ <http://www.statistica.regione.umbria.it/mediacenter/FE/articoli/la-valutazione-degli-aiuti-alle-imprese-della-regi.html>

the performances of Umbria compared to Italian and other European regions⁴. This system consists of 19 key indicators, periodically updated and divided into three thematic areas (human resources, knowledge creation and financial innovations and product structure of markets). (More info can be provided if needed).

Figure 1 - Analysis of regional context and innovation potential

1. Development policies on Research and Innovation	• Analysis of know how) and production capacity of Umbria regional economic system.
2. Umbria distance to Europe 2020 Strategy	• Study "Distance to Europe 2020 target on R & I" Expenditure in Research and Innovation in % of GDP - : 2 percentage points.
3. Counterfactual evaluation	• Counterfactual evaluation on additionality effects of incentive in terms of outputs and inputs to innovation and R&D as well as enterprises performances
4. SWOT analysis	• Identification of strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats.

3. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN AND BENEFITS RESULTED

The **Axis I of the ROP ERDF 2007-2013** "Innovation and the knowledge economy" has the specific objective to "promote and consolidate the innovation and RTD processes in order to qualify and strengthen the competitiveness of the regional productive system". The resources planned for this Axis absorb about 46% of the total.

For the implementation of this specific axis a series of competitive calls have been published grouped in the so called "Competitiveness Package 2007-2008-2009", a set of support measures for RTDI, composed by:

- i) a **ordinary call for proposals for industrial research and experimental development** (ex l.598/94 art. 11 – National law), to finance investment projects by a single firm;
- ii) **PIA** (Pacchetti Integrati di Agevolazione) (**Integrated Support Package**) to finance a set of different but consistent actions (from competence building, to purchase of services, to tangible and intangible investment), within a specific innovation project by a single company;

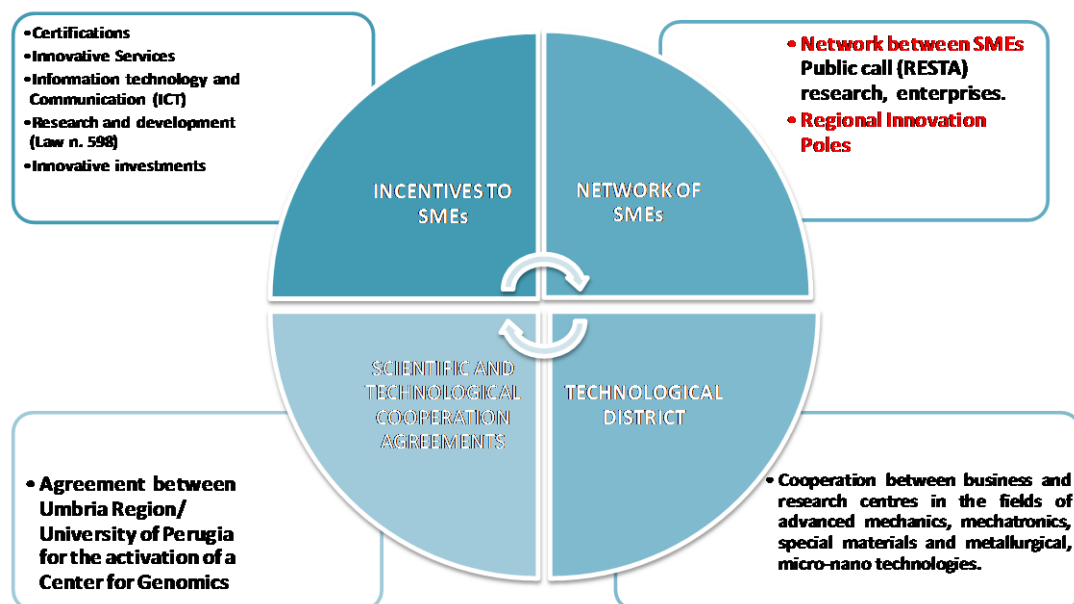
⁴ <http://www.controllostrategico.regione.umbria.it/Mediacycenter/FE/CategoriaMedia.aspx?idc=34&explicit=SI>

- iii) **RE.Sta** (REti STAbili d'impresa - **stable company networks**) a set of incentives designed to provide contributions to groups of SMEs from the manufacturing and service sectors for innovation related investments resulting in a long term co-operation (network)
- iv) a call for the establishment of **Innovation Poles** (clusters of SMEs, research centres and other support organizations) to develop innovation projects by clusters in selected fields of priority for the regional development (special materials, renewable energy, life sciences and advanced mechanics and mechatronics).

In addition to the above mentioned instruments, under **the Axis III** "Energy efficiency and development of renewable sources" **of the ROP ERDF 2007-2013**, specific research activities applied in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources have been funded.

The following figure illustrates the instruments set up by the Region of Umbria to support research and innovation, including the four Innovation Poles (special materials, renewable energy, life sciences and advanced mechanics and mechatronics).

Figure 2 - State of the art for the RTDI policies in Umbria



4. INITIATIVES IN PLACE IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC-, SOCIAL-, DEMAND-SIDE, AND DESIGN FOR INNOVATION

So far the RTDI support policy did not have a specific focus on public-, social-, demand-side, and design type of actions. The approach privileged actions targeting the manufacturing sector rather than services or social related, demand based, initiatives. In the programming period 2007-2013, within the measures for financial engineering, a specific action was made available to provide guarantees to Cooperative firms in the social sector. No information are available on the impact of the measure.

In 2012 the Region of Umbria participated in the notice of the National Ministry of Education for proposals in the field of “Smart Cities and communities and social innovation” by presenting a proposal concerning Smart Grids.

The **RIS3** is addressing a wider vision of innovation. To achieve this purpose the strategy defines a set of objectives and actions in order to activate local potentials i) leveraging on regional assets and talents, ii) accessing R&D results and promoting their use and exploitation at international level and iii) fostering knowledge intensive entrepreneurship.

5. SPECIFIC GOVERNANCE REGIONAL CHALLENGES

All the regional development policies are defined ensuring the involvement of all the concerned stakeholders by the specific consensus building initiatives. To achieve such important objective, in the October 2010 a specific agreement was signed, the “**New Alliance for Umbria**” among the Region, local authorities, economic and social representatives, chambers of commerce and academia.

The New Alliance For Umbria is the platform through which the regional administration promotes and enhances the participation of citizens, their social groups, representative bodies, territorial and functional autonomies, to programming and identification of objectives and priorities for policy intervention. This in line with the principle of subsidiarity as defined by art. 118 of the Constitution and art. 16 of the Regional Statute.

Figure 3 - RIS3 Stakeholders engagement process



6. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TERMS OF PREPARING RIS3

The process for the preparation of the RIS3 for Umbria was initiated by a **Resolution of the Regional Council dated the 27th of December 2012**. This programmatic document identifies the path to be developed within the regional administration and states that the institutional platform for the engagement of all the regional actors and stakeholders in the preparation of the S3 strategy is "**Umbria 2015 - A New Alliance for development**".

On the **6th of March 2013** Umbria Region, Basilicata and Sicily, participated in a meeting organized by the Platform of Seville (S3 Platform) to discuss some aspects of the strategy under preparation. Following the meeting a follow-up report was received with strengths / weaknesses of the strategies presented, the opportunities to further develop and practical suggestions for the definition of the RIS3.

On the **30th of July 2013**: presentation of the draft strategy to the regional stakeholders (Umbria 2015 - A New Alliance for development).

7. BALANCE BETWEEN CONCENTRATING THE FUNDING ON PRIORITY AREAS VS. HORIZONTAL MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

The identification of priorities and the definition of intervention areas implementation measures is under discussion within the regional offices and the New Alliance for development.

Figure 4 –S3 Umbria Objectives and priorities



8. OUTWARD ORIENTATION OF FUTURE COOPERATION

This component has not been analysed yet. Umbria Region participated to several meetings at national level, but the discussion is still at the initial stage. Actions are on technical assistance on past activities and not yet aiming at creating co-operation and synergies both at the horizontal (cross regional) and vertical level (national – International – EU Commission).

9. MAIN NEXT STEPS FOR THE NEXT FUTURE

- 1)** Finalisation of intervention modalities and tools and earmarking of resources
- 2)** Design of the monitoring system and of the performance and implementation indicators;
- 3)** Approval of the Umbria RIS3 Strategy .