



**Regione Puglia**

Joint Research Centre - European Commission;  
Regione Puglia

# Exploiting synergies across EU, regional and national funds for Smart Specialisation: Health and Sustainable Manufacturing in Puglia

**Bari, 11th July 2016**

**Event Report**



# Event Report – Exploiting synergies across EU, regional and national funds for Smart Specialisation: Health and Sustainable Manufacturing in Puglia<sup>1</sup>

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## 1. EVENT SUMMARY

This document highlights the main outcomes of the workshop on ***Synergies between ERDF and other Funds*** held in Bari on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July. The event was co-organised with Regione Puglia under the project "RIS3 Support in Lagging Regions".

The event gathered over 100 participants, exceeding expectations. According to Regione Puglia, this was the first time that the issue of synergies was discussed in depth with local stakeholders as well as national and EC representatives

The unfolding of the event required *ad hoc* modifications to the originally planned [agenda](#). The day ultimately was organised around two plenary sessions in the morning and a condensed participatory exercise in the afternoon.

The first plenary session included the following interventions:

- **Professor Domenico Laforgia**, Director of the Department of Economic Development, Innovation, Education, Training and Work, Regione Puglia, and Rector of the University of Salento, opened the meeting, emphasising its importance for the region and its relationship with need for communication, and for entrepreneurs to "dream."
- **Mark Boden** presented the S3 in Lagging Regions project, framing the event in its broader context.
- **Adriana Agrimi** and **Paolo Casalino** (Regione Puglia) presented the status of RIS3 development in Puglia (SMART PUGLIA 2020) and some of the regional and EU tools the region has been working with. An emphasis was put on the challenges faced in harmonising National and Regional operational programmes as well as on the need for actors to be ready to benefit from EU-related opportunities. Regione Puglia sees synergies in a broad sense, involving not only technical aspects related to harmonisation of rules and reporting, but also a change in mind-set that allows stakeholders and the public sector to think strategically.
- **Luigi Gallo**, from Invitalia, described the national RIS3 and its governance. The presenter raised the importance of an early coordination between national and regional ROP..

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<sup>1</sup> The authors would like to acknowledge all the presenters, rapporteurs and moderators for their support during the day.

<sup>2</sup> For further information about the event please contact Elisabetta Marinelli at [Elisabetta.Marinelli@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Elisabetta.Marinelli@ec.europa.eu)

A second plenary session followed directly, comprising further presentations.

- **Andrea Conte** (DG-JRC) presented the S2E approach, complemented by facts and figures on research and innovation funding received and allocated in Italy and Puglia. The presentation emphasised the opportunity offered by large ERDF funds, which effectively imply that the region has more RDTI resources to invest than many more developed areas of the EU.
- **Annamaria Zonno** (DG-RTD) emphasised the importance of also thinking of synergies in relation to education and human capital. She then proceeded to describe the "Seal of Excellence" tool.
- **Magdalene Haberle**, from the board of Critical Friends of the project, provided a set of concrete examples of synergies in Baden-Wurttemberg, including ERDF-FET(H2020), ERDF-ESF, ERDF-BSR Innovation Express, ERDF-Interreg.
- **Bruno Alves de Oliveira**, of DG CNECT, provided (via skype from Brussels) an overview of the aims and status of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. This presentation was originally intended to set the scene for the parallel working group on Synergies in the Health Sector, but due to timing issues, was included in the second plenary session.
- To conclude this session and prepare for the parallel working groups, **Elisabetta Marinelli** (DG-JRC) presented the methodology of the participatory exercise. This was, in synthesis, based on two steps:
  - Step1: an individual brainstorming on project-ideas (new or already existing), which could benefit from synergies.
  - Step2: a group-reflection on some on those project-ideas and how they could evolve to exploit synergies.The outcomes of such group-work were a series of "synergies project-fiches" which are reported in section 5 below.

For the participatory exercise, the participants divided in three parallel working groups tackling:

- Opportunities from Synergies in the **Health sector**
- Opportunities from Synergies in **Sustainable Manufacturing**
- A **general discussion** on synergies with stakeholders from the 4-ple helix.

The three groups were originally envisaged to pursue the same participatory exercise, however there were variations to the plan. The key outcomes of each group are described below.

## 2. HEALTH

The working table completed the two parts of the exercise, with 14 individual ideas being proposed and three of them being developed further. Namely:

- **Assisted living for patients with dementia**
- The creation of **paediatric infrastructure** building on a previous FP6 project and two current INTERREG.
- **Paediatric pharmaceutical research platform.**

### 3. SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING

The group began with a presentation from **Nicoletta Picone**, CNR, IITA, on the Vanguard Initiative. As well as outlining the initiative in general, it examined the role of the Lombardy region of Italy in the pilot project on Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing. This aims to create a network of demo-sites and pilot-lines at regional level that will enable manufacturing companies in different sectors, including SMEs, to develop and introduce highly efficient and sustainable processes, technologies, systems and methods. Its implementation is based on the cooperation and synergy between public and private sectors.

The subsequent participatory exercise collected several individual ideas, however, differences between participants made it difficult to move to part 2 of the exercise. It was thus decided that the whole group would discuss in more detail only 1 project idea, namely: **a shared managerial approach to the management of research infrastructure**.

The discussion also highlighted that regional stakeholders need to improve the links between university and industry in this sector, as there is a shortage of human capital as well as a difficulty to communicate between the two. The rapporteur suggested creating a working-group to improve this situation and to increase the integration of local stakeholders in national and international networks (interestingly, this is in line with the aims of the working-group on human resources in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace conducted by the JRC and described in Marinelli et al., 2016)<sup>3</sup>.

The rapporteur also expressed the need to think of synergies not only in financial and administrative terms, but also in terms of competences.

Also supporting this group was a NCP from APRE (Ms **Serena Borgna**). Her role was to comment on the ideas proposed by stakeholders and guide them in relation to H2020 opportunities during the discussion. Her support was highly appreciated and similar approaches should be considered for future events.

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<sup>3</sup> Marinelli, E., Boden, M., Amanatidou, E. and Tolias Y. (2016) *Stakeholders' engagement beyond the EDP The working-groups on governance and human resources in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace*. Smart Specialisation Policy Brief. Available online at: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/20182/154989/Stakeholders%E2%80%99+engagement+beyond+the+EDP+The+working-groups+on+governance+and+human+resources+in+Eastern+Macedonia+and+Thrace/fe96aa58-aa78-4b9a-a98c-f58a3087fedc>

#### 4. GENERAL GROUP

The table started with presentation by Luigi Gallo. The talk covered the RIS3 instruments, namely: NOP Ricerca & Innovazione, NOP Imprese e competitività, Programma Nazionale Ricerca, Programma Nazionale Infrastrutture e Ricerca.

This presentation spurred remarkable interest and generated a set of comments, which made it less compelling to pursue the originally planned participatory exercise, and preferable to let the open debate go on.

The table benefitted from a good mix of stakeholders, including Nicoletta Amodio from Confindustria (a representative body for the private sector), local academics and representatives from the region.

The following points were raised:

- Whilst everyone agrees that the National and Regional OPs need to be coordinated, the work is yet to be done. A specific working group between the regions and the central government was suggested. Reference was made to previous conflicting strategies between national/regional clusters and districts.
- Avoiding duplication between the national and regional OPs is critical. To this aim it was highlighted that, whilst the national OP would use the Seal of Excellence to pursue some forthcoming calls, evaluating only the financial sustainability of the applications, rather than the scientific one, the ROP would avoid that.
- An important complaint concerned the fact that the EC does not provide the list of firms/projects that received the Seal of Excellence. This makes it difficult for a region to make the most of the Seal itself. Indeed, this information could be interesting to study also other financial and fiscal instruments in support to research and innovation. Banks themselves have shown an interest in the SoE.
- It was re-iterated that synergies should become a "state of mind", rather than an exclusively technical search of funding. The region is committed to supporting stakeholders in the best way.
- It is critical to break the vicious cycle whereby stakeholders first identify the funding available and then try and fit their project proposal to whatever is available. Stakeholders need to be confident in their ideas.
- It is critical for Italian stakeholder, from different regions, to act in unity when pursuing international opportunities. In this respect, it was noted that in recent EIT calls for KICs (food and smart factories), interested Italian actors have organised themselves and sent a joint application.
- Opportunities for synergies with Innovative Public Procurement should also be explored.
- Confindustria has developed an interested simulation tool to support firms involved in innovation. The tool, which shall be officially presented this Friday 15th of July, is a partnership with Sole24ore and CNR. Innovative entities can insert key information on an given project (i.e. costs, nature) and on their organisation (size, etc.) and the software provides information on suitable calls at the EC and National and Regional level as well as other instruments (credits, patent box, etc.). It could be interesting for the S3 platform to explore this tool in more depth and see if something similar could be done at the EU level.
- Finally, albeit the working-table did not pursue the participatory exercise as such, an idea for synergies was shared. Some representatives of local universities highlighted the

need to use synergies also for human capital. Different sources of funds are needed to cover for researchers' salaries, research costs as well as management. The region and local universities are thus planning to apply for a CO-FUND Marie-Curie call ending in September.

## 5. SYNERGIES PROJECT-FICHES

The participatory exercise produced 4 project fiches, one for the Sustainable manufacturing Sector and one for the health sector. These are reported below.

Sustainable Manufacturing 1 – Synergies project-fiche
<p><b>Title of the project (existing or potential) and foreseen project funds</b></p> <p>A shared managerial approach for the sustainability of research infrastructure.</p> <p>Potentially funded with FEDER (National and Regional OP) and H2020.</p>
<p><b>How could the project be extended to benefit from other funding source?</b></p> <p>The project could benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Marie-Curie programme for reversing brain drain;</li> <li>• Training programmes</li> <li>• Making research infrastructure available to international researchers</li> <li>• Being available for industrial research consultancy</li> <li>• Being part of networks of excellence</li> </ul>
<p><b>Please identify the next steps and the main obstacles to implement such project?</b></p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Get in touch with the region and with the NCP for H2020 (Apré) Analyse sustainability, replicability and scalability of the project</p> <p><b>Main obstacles</b> Bureaucracy Difficult private-public interaction</p>
<p><b>Which other EU initiatives could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?</b></p> <p>Not Answered</p>
<p><b>Which other funds could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?</b></p> <p>Not Answered</p>

**Title of the project (existing or potential) and foreseen project funds**

- Assisted living for patients with dementia- **The project (already existing and funded through H2020) foresees the development of a robot to support patients with dementia.**

**How could the project be extended to benefit from other funding source?**

- The project could be combined with another robot to support in hospital wards funded by regional funds.
- Creation of an eco-system with three components (virtual coaching agents):
  - 1) Measurement instruments (health sensors/smart city sensors)
  - 2) Artificial Intelligence (patient stratification/personalisation)
  - 3) Actuators (social, physical mental)

**Please identify the next steps and the main obstacles to implement such project?**

**Next steps:**

Attend the Brussels Info-days

Patients' segmentation (i.e. women)

**Main obstacles:**

Difficulties with nationally managed funds.

**Opportunities:**

The project has good business potential.

**Which other EU initiatives could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?**

- Clusters
- Key enabling technologies
- European Innovation Partnerships
- Living Labs

Next steps include getting in touch with the EU and the region for funding information and becoming more active in key networks.

**Which other funds could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?**

National Operational Programme, H2020.

**Title of the project (existing or potential) and foreseen project funds**

Creation of paediatric infrastructure building on a previous FP6 project and two current INTERREG and the participation to the TEDDY Network (Task-force in Europe for Drug Development for the Young).

**How could the project be extended to benefit from other funding source?**

- Training through Marie-Curie and European Social Funds
- Technological development through H2020 and National/Regional OPs
- Best practice transfer
- Capacity building in research and innovation for less innovative countries/regions.

**Please identify the next steps and the main obstacles to implement such project?**

**Next steps:**

Get in touch with NCP, Ministries, Regions, other infrastructure and networks.

**Main obstacles:**

Lack of funding

Achieving a sustainable governance

**Which other EU initiatives could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?**

- Clusters – the proposed infrastructure could offer specific services to the clusters.
- Key enabling technologies – they can provide new competences
- Lead Market initiatives – to interact with key businesses engaged with the infrastructure

**Which other funds could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?**

- CO-FUND – to transfer Know-How
- National OP – For synergies with the programme on Technological Districts
- H202 – For infrastructure-related projects
- ESIF – For competence development

The next steps include developing relationships for collaborations with other research networks; identifying the conditions for sustainability of the project; ensuring that an appropriate governance is in place.

The main obstacles derive from the difficulties in funding (lengthy decision making, cash flow management, etc.)

**Title of the project (existing or potential) and foreseen project funds**

- **Paediatric pharmaceutical research platform.** Create expertise in pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, etc. with an already financed H2020 project and then repositioning drugs to the paediatric field, through synergies with ECREL funds (from ERDF).

**How could the project be extended to benefit from other funding source?**

- Create expertise in the field
- Support innovation in SMEs that adhere to the platform
- Apply innovative methodologies in chemical research
- Share the quality control and regulatory experience
- Create public/private synergies and multidisciplinary

**Please identify the next steps and the main obstacles to implement such project?**

**Next steps:**

The region should develop an appropriate research activity with a reference point with whom to discuss this project and the appropriate funding opportunities.

**Which other EU initiatives could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?**

See above

**Which other funds could benefit the project/how? Which are the next steps?**

See above