

# 18<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

05>09 OCTOBER 2020

12>16 OCTOBER 2020

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# ***COVID-19 policy responses adopted by Tuscany Region to support the regional innovation ecosystem***

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## *COVID 19 outbreak, elements conditioning the effectiveness of regional response, recovery and resilience:*

- Worldwide **symmetric shock** with strong asymmetric impacts on all aspects of socio-economic life;
- **Simultaneity** with other public interventions, leading to a high level of complexity and uncertainty;
- High level of **social costs** and high risk for the preservation of social and territorial cohesion.

## *Main cornerstones of any regional response (hopefully effective):*

- Strong **multi-level governance** able to enhance vertical and horizontal coordination;
- **Place + Evidence** based approach;
- Effective **leadership** and institutional **promptness**.



Since the beginning of the outbreak, Tuscany Region set-up the «**COVID-19 Observatory**» managed by IRPET, with the aim of:

- simulate the macroeconomic effects;
- describe the propagation mechanisms of the pandemic both on supply and demand side;
- monitor the economic impact on sectors and territories;
- monitor the impact on the labour market;
- analyse the effects on income distribution and poverty;
- analyse the economic effects of the interventions implemented.



<http://www.irpet.it/osservatorio-covid-19>

<https://www.santannapisa.it/en/news/covid-reopening-and-risk-new-lockdown-policy-brief-faculty-members-santanna-iuss-pavia-sciences>

## *Multilevel governance response interventions*

As part of an **agreement between the National Ministry for Territorial Cohesion and the Tuscany Region**, most of the interventions in favour of the **regional innovation ecosystem** have been activated through ERDF ROP 2014-2020 resources.

The agreement has allowed to amend the ROP and:

- intervene immediately and within an existing programming governance;
- concentrate a large amount of Regional, National and ERDF resources in specific interventions fields (economic system, labour, health sector, education);
- move the amended interventions in a corresponding programme co-funded with national resources.

For the ERDF ROP the agreement amounts to approx. 155M€



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## *Institutional promptness and differentiated interventions*

On the basis of complementarities with National interventions, main regional economic **recovery initiatives**:

- Call for export investments – approx. 3M€;
- Call for productive investments – approx. 120M€.

Added to the main **S3 initiatives for the resilience of the regional innovation ecosystem**:

- Call for research and innovation for all S3 priorities – approx. 31M€;
- Call for research and innovation «COVID» - approx. 6M€;
- «Unlock Toscana» - technical assistance for FDI;
- Early stage fund for hi-tech start-ups - approx. 2M€;
- Call for KIBS and digital services to SMEs – approx. 10M€.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/italian-regional-sme-policy-responses-aa0eebbc/#section-d1e8601>

## *Territorial engagement through intermediate organisations*

In the Tuscan innovation ecosystem, one of the main “tech-transfer infrastructures” is represented by the system of **Technological Districts**, as strategic intermediate organisations, actively engaged in the S3 EDP and governance, and able to:

- Facilitate KIBS and research&innovation investments among enterprises;
- Rationalise the demand for innovation, systemise research results;
- Provide a prompt response in terms of strategic intelligence and territorial networking;
- Facilitate interregional cooperation;
- Enhance the effective agency of the Region and the multilevel governance.

An important contribution has been provided by the "**Regional Centre for Precision Medicine**" financed by the Tuscany Region and managed by the TD “Toscana Life Sciences”, with results related to monoclonal antibodies neutralizing the virus.

[https://www.adnkronos.com/salute/medicina/2020/05/13/studio-tls-spallanzani-isolati-anticorpi-neutralizzanti\\_HMc1fz9iGx0ibEB5rlrbDM.html](https://www.adnkronos.com/salute/medicina/2020/05/13/studio-tls-spallanzani-isolati-anticorpi-neutralizzanti_HMc1fz9iGx0ibEB5rlrbDM.html)



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## *Take home messages*

- The importance of **investing on data**, not only when an emergency occurs, but always. This requires competences, infrastructures, resources;
- The importance of **investing on institutional capacity**. Regions can act as pivots among several level of governance and must be capable to exploit all the opportunities at the right time. This requires competences, but also commitment, effort and legitimacy;
- The importance of **investing on territorial engagement**, useful for strategic intelligence and for innovation delivery at territorial level. This requires a long term strategy and a strong institutional commitment;
- **S3 paradigm can play an important role** in such a context. The ongoing EDP and the S3 governance can facilitate the adaptability of plans and programmes in response to main exogenous shocks and in targeting new challenges.