



Coordinating Regional Primary Sector
Policies for Boosting Innovation



Contract no. 030145

Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

CoRiN

Co-ordination Action

Support for the coherent development of policies
Regions of Knowledge 2

D4: RECCOMENDATIONS FOR TRANS-REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION

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TABLE OF CONTENT

TABLE OF CONTENT	2
1 RATIONALE and METHODOLOGY.....	3
1.1 Context	3
1.2 Aims of the study.....	3
1.3 Specific objective.....	3
1.4 Method.....	4
2 IMPROVING TRANS-REGIONAL COORDINATION	5
2.1 Main findings about trans-regional relations.....	5
2.2 Strategic and Operative indications for exploiting the trans-national dimension (in support to Research and Innovation)	7
2.3 The sources of fund.....	8
2.3.1 <i>Interreg IVC</i>	8
2.3.2 <i>South East Europe</i>	10
2.3.3 <i>Other programmes</i>	11
ANNEXES	13
ANNEX 1 – UNIVERZITETNI INKUBATOR PRIMORSKE – UIP.....	14
ANNEX 2 – REGIONE DEL VENETO – RV	17
ANNEX 3 – REGIONE EMILIA ROMAGNA - RER	19
ANNEX 4 – REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA PORIN D.O.O. – Porin	22
ANNEX 5 – ISTARSKA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA – IDA	24
ANNEX 6 – MACEDONIA RESEARCH CENTRE – MARC	26
ANNEX 7 – REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA – FVG	28
ANNEX 8 – NATIONAL AGENCY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – NAFA	31

1 RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY

1.1 Context

This document is the output of the activities carried out in order to identify co-ordination and collaboration fields and modalities at trans-regional level. It was prepared within the CoRiN project as the contractual Deliverable#4 (Recommendations for Trans-regional coordination) and performed by the following partners:

- Euris srl
- Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Regione del Veneto
- Regione Emilia-Romagna
- National Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Istrian Development Agency
- Regional Development Agency Porin
- University Incubator of Primorska Ltd.
- Macedonia Research Centre

1.2 Aims of the study

The general goal of the project is to increase the effectiveness of Regional Primary Sector interventions and the impact on RTD investments.

Toward this end two specific targets were aimed:

- the development of improved know-how and recommendations about Regional Primary Sector interventions and impact on RTD investments;
- the provision of indications for the set-up of a dedicated collaborative Procedures and Instruments aiming to increase trans-regional cooperation capability of relevant actors.

1.3 Specific objective

The overall objective of the task T2.2 – improvement of trans-regional coordination is to identify appropriate cooperation areas at trans-regional level in order to both increase the effectiveness and the impact of the research activities with reference to the primary sector and to strengthen the effectiveness of the regional primary sector policies in boosting the investments in Research and Development.

More in detail, the actual deliverable is a document containing a set of strategic and operational indications that updates what has been already illustrated in the D2. In fact, this report is the next logical step after the Deliverable *D2 – Trans-regional coordination: state of the art* that aimed at analysing the instruments used within the partner's territories as regards the trans-regional and

trans-national cooperation in the primary sector and represents the *trait d'union* between the desk and the field activities to be implemented in the following months.

1.4 Method

This document results from an in-depth analysis performed by each partner and articulated into four different steps:

1. Collection of information on the expertise of both private and public research centres in dealing with international projects
2. Knowledge of different Community sources of fund financing research and innovation in the primary sector
3. Sharing of information with the other partners
4. Identification of the trans-regional pilot actions to be carried out by the partnership during the second half of the project

As regards the data collection (point 1), we decided to include a specific question in the questionnaire (Task 2.1) regarding the interest, capacity and attitude of local stakeholders in taking part to international consortia or network and implementing international cooperation projects.

The exact question was:

Have you participated to research and innovation projects with international partners?		
Yes	No	
-	why?.....	
-	Which financing sources and why that choice?.....	
Were you project leader?	Yes	No

For the complete analysis and elaboration of the related data, please refer to the elaboration of the questionnaires.

2 IMPROVING TRANS-REGIONAL COORDINATION

We decided to produce this report starting from three questions:

1. Which are the objectives to be achieved in improving the trans-regional co-operation?
2. Which are the instruments to be utilised in order to reach them?
3. Which are the most suitable sources of fund to be used for financing project ideas developed by partners coming from our territories?

2.1 Main findings about trans-regional relations

The questionnaire and the following confrontation and sharing of information made both in Rimini and during other informal meetings among partners have allowed us to identify some objectives to be reached in order to improve the policy-makers' awareness towards Research and Innovation in the primary sector and especially in the fishing sector.

The questionnaire, in particular, has been very useful in order to highlight some aspects common to the whole partnership and to reflect on the differences existing within the partner regions.

Few respondents¹⁾ are familiar with international programmes with the exception of Emilia Romagna and Slovenia where the majority of the respondents has a specific concrete experience in managing international cooperation projects.

Generally speaking, as regards the sources of fund utilized, research institutions deal more with the 6th and 7th Framework Programme while public institutions are more familiar with the CIP Interreg, a programme addressed mainly to public bodies. They have experience in the transnational and cross-border strand. No one of the respondents has carried out interregional projects (Interreg IIIC).

On the basis of the answers collected, research centres and public institutions apply for international calls for tenders more often than private institutions. Research and public institutions have a much more wider network of international partners than private institutions. The reason is that the public sector can participate to more EU programmes and is more stimulated also by the government (political awareness) to participate in EU funded projects. Especially in Friuli Venezia Giulia there is a relevant difference between the agriculture and fishing sector. The agriculture research sector can count on an extended network of partners, a technological and scientific park, the university system and some excellent productions (agro-food, wine). The fishing sector is very little and is divided according to the specific needs represented by each category.

¹ Just to remember, they have been selected among private and public research centres, universities, public administrations, private companies, producers' consortia.

The most common programme is the CIP Interreg; maybe it is perceived as the closest programme to the territory, especially the cross-border strand.

A relevant number of respondents has never been involved in international cooperation projects while some others have tried just once without success and they have not tried again.

The scarce participation in international programmes stems from three main reasons:

- the lack of knowledge and information about financial opportunities, call for tenders and how to apply;
- the scarce knowledge of foreign languages;
- the persuasion that international projects and related application forms are very complicated.

On such a basis, partners have agreed that it is necessary to promote a widespread dissemination on which are the sources of funds to be utilised and to promote the creation of trans-regional and trans-national partnership aimed at creating a wide Primary Sector Research Network.

The main objectives can be summarise as follow:

- to increase the exchange of information on implemented projects in order to avoid research duplication
- to analyse structured tools aimed at transferring research results all over the Europe
- to facilitate the coordination and the creation of integrated projects within common multiannual EU programmes as the EFF programmes, the mainstream programmes (ERDF and ESF) and the Rural Development Plans.

2.2 Strategic and Operative indications for exploiting the trans-national dimension (in support to Research and Innovation)

The confrontation with local stakeholders, the questionnaires and the discussions among partners have allowed CoRin partners to define a set of indications and suggestions to be pointed out.

All the respondents underlined the necessity to establish a local system driven by the public administration in order to strengthen lasting networks and partnerships all over the Europe and deal with other bordering regions.

Hereinafter we set out a short list of the main indications the respondents have provide us:

- to strengthen a **long-term joint programming** between bordering regions;
- to **share information** on research projects already carried out also in other regions to avoid duplication and waste of time ;
- to promote **trans-regional dialogue** and partnerships at both private and public level;
- to favour the relations between the **SMEs – Small and Medium Enterprises and the Universities** or other research centres;
- to **create synergies** between policy-makers of the partner-regions;
- to increase the **information on the sources of fund** to be used for participating in international research and innovation projects;
- to increase the **participation of local actors in international events**, fairs, conferences in order to enlarge the existing network of contacts;
- to increase the presence of researchers capable of **working in English**;

2.3 The sources of fund

In the D2, we have set out all the possible sources of funds and EU programmes addressed to the support of research policy's impact.

We have focused on EU programmes due to the fact that *“the conclusion of understandings between territorial agencies of various States within the communitarian programs of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation is not subordinated to either previous draw, by the State, of bilateral agreements with the adjacent States, nor to previous understanding with the respective Governments.*

This circumstance induces to think that the participation to the political and the programs of the European Union is the main way to strengthen the cooperation between the partners of the "CoRIn" Project in the field of the improvement of the politics and the processes of governance of the primary sector, with particular reference to the activities of research, development and innovation.”

It is necessary to update that information due to the fact that almost all the programmes financed by the EC Structural Funds, at the time of drawing up of D2, were still subject to change. Now the most part of the programmes have been submitted to the European Commission and we may consider them as quasi-definitive versions.

Not all of the programmes included the previous report regard each one of our countries.

The programmes we consider the most appropriate in order to strengthen the cooperation of policy-makers at transnational level are:

- the Interregional Cooperation Programme – Interreg IVC
- the Transnational Cooperation Programme – South East Europe

2.3.1 Interreg IVC

The eligible area of the Interreg IVC (<http://www.interreg3c.net>) covers all our countries except Croatia, which probably will join the European Union during this programming period 2007-2013. It is financed by the ERDF – European Regional Development Fund and is composed of two priorities: 1) Innovation and the knowledge economy and 2) Environment and risk prevention. It will be implemented through two different types of operations: the Regional Initiative Projects and the Capitalisation, including Fast Track Projects.

The Regional Initiative Projects are very similar to the previous Interreg IIIC projects. They will be mainly addressed to the exchange of experience, knowledge and good practice and the transfer of project results. They will be selected on the basis of a call for tender opened by the Monitoring Committee.

These projects could be characterised by different levels of intensity: from the exchange and dissemination of information and experience to higher intensity activities

including the transfer of instruments or projects results or the development of entirely new approaches or tools, including the implementation of **new policy elements as pilot schemes in one or more regions**. The last aspect could be very interesting for us particularly as regards the creation of a Northern Adriatic Fishing District.

The highest degree of cooperation will be represented by projects involving a limited number of partners that intend to develop a common framework that is implemented also through sub-projects developed via calls for proposals in the participating regions.

Regional Initiative Projects must include partners from at least three countries, of which at least two must be EU member states.

The other typology of project, Capitalisation, will be addressed to the transfer of results and tools developed in the framework of previous networking experiences, not necessarily financed by Interreg IIC but also by other programmes as the Innovative Actions.

The characteristic of these projects is the transfer of the good practices into the mainstream programmes (Objective 1 and Objective 2, financed by the ERDF and the ESF) and the partnership have to guarantee a clear connection and inclusion of policy and decision makers.

After the approval of the projects (through a call for tender) the most relevant projects will be appointed "Fast Track Projects" and the EC will provide direct technical assistance for the implementation. The themes for Capitalisation will be taken from the Annex 3 of the Operational Programme.

There is no specification on the partnership: the programme asks for an extended partnership involving several regions with different level of experience.

Further details will be inserted in the Programme Manual, to be published after the approval of the OP.

The eligible partners are public bodies or public equivalent bodies. Private actors can participate at their own cost or as technical assistance for the implementation of specific activities.

The programme sets out some examples of activities to be implemented in the projects. Hereinafter we report the activities we consider more suitable for our purpose.

Priority 1

- *Exchange and transfer of successful regional policies and approaches in support of research and development activities and actors*
- *Identification and development of methods for strengthening creative interaction in the knowledge - businesses - public sector triangle*
- *Strategic cooperation aimed at optimising / enhancing the use of new environmentally friendly technologies*
- *Improving qualifications for innovation*

Priority 2

- *Exchange on regional policies for reaping the benefits of the sea*

- *Exchange of good practices and experiences on integrated coastal management (e.g. related to the Integrated Coastal Zone management Strategy and national coastal strategies)*

2.3.2 South East Europe

This programme (<http://www.cadses.net>) is very interesting because all the CORIN territories are eligible and furthermore, it includes Member States (Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Slovakia and Austria), Candidate Countries (Croatia, Macedonia, and Turkey), Potential Candidate Countries (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania) and Third Countries (Moldova, Ukraine). That means different needs and different development's level.

It is part of the EU transnational cooperation and, as defined within the strategic and political guidelines, its focus is on environment, accessibility, innovation and sustainable urban development (art. 6, EC Reg. 1080/2006).

The programme is structured along three one overall objective (*Development of transnational partnerships on matters of strategic importance to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and to contribute to cohesion, stability and competitiveness*) and 3 specific objectives. Two of them are very consistent with our aims:

- facilitation of innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge economy and information society by transnational action
- foster integration by supporting balanced capacities for transnational territorial cooperation at all levels

They will be implemented through five axes, 3 of them more related to our areas of interest.

More in detail, the **Priority Axis 1 – Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship** contains an area of intervention called ***Develop Technology & innovation networks in specific fields*** that includes a list of possible activities to be financed by the programme:

A selection of the activities more addressed towards our objectives is set out below:

- Preparing activities that support the development of technology and innovation-oriented networks in specific technology fields (e.g. feasibility studies, set up of databases)
- Developing transnational partnerships around Research, Technology and Innovation centres and agencies in sectors with high technology contents
- Creating or reinforcing cooperation networks between companies and Research, Technology and Innovation facilities of different countries
- Transnational partnerships promoting the inclusion of innovative aspects in the public procurement regarding the application of technologies of common interest
- Increasing the internationalisation level of Research, Technology and Innovation facilities, especially in universities and in those areas, where the international rating for high educational level and research offer is still inadequate

- Fostering policies to support access to and link between Research, Technology and innovation facilities.

Another area of intervention, called **Develop the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship**, foresees the following possible activities:

- Exchanging of practice and experience among innovative SME (managed by SME-support facility)
- Increasing the SMEs awareness of innovation and technology approaching better roads to market

The third area, Enhance the framework conditions and pave the way for innovation, aims at supporting a modern system for promoting innovation with activities such as:

- setting up exchange and coordination mechanisms for research, technology and innovation approaches and policies across South East Europe between key players of the innovation system
- improving the common governance at regional and local level with respect to innovative entrepreneurship. Activities can support the development of “innovation management”, “innovation support”, and “innovation governance” through analysis and monitoring of innovation performance and the development and coordination of innovation policy

Within the Priority Axis 2 – Protection and Improvement of the Environment, with reference to the fishing sector, that we have chosen for implementing CORIN pilot actions, there is a specific area named **Integrated water management and Transnational Flood Risk Prevention** with a potential activity that could suggest us to develop other complementary projects in order to strengthen the transnational governance and to carry out joint operations.

The activity is: **Elaborating integrated development and management plans of river basins, catchments areas and coastal areas, seas, lakes and fresh-water resources including sustainable land use policies, agriculture and forest development supporting and intensifying an integrated approach of landscape and land use management.**

As regards the partnerships to be established, they have to contain partners from at least three participating countries, of which at least one shall come from an EU member state.

2.3.3 Other programmes

It is important to underline also the opportunities offered by the new European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013 that, for the first time, foresees the possibility of promoting international cooperation projects.

In fact, the EC Reg. 1098/2006 art. 43, states that the EFF is aimed also at promoting national and transnational cooperation between fisheries areas.

A fisheries area selected for assistance shall be limited in size and, as a general rule, shall be smaller than NUTS level 3 of the common classification of territorial units for statistics within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of 26 May 2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (1). The area should be sufficiently coherent from a geographical, economic and social point of view.

More in detail, the potentiality of the programme are represented by:

- the establishment of trans-national networks of actors involved in the local development of their regions with the purpose of stimulating exchange of experience and best practice among European fisheries regions;
- the networking and exchange of best practice among organisations promoting equal opportunities between men and women;
- building partnerships between scientists and fishermen.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – UNIVERZITETNI INKUBATOR PRIMORSKE – UIP

Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

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WP2– Methodology definition

Task 2.2 Improvement of Trans-regional co-ordination

Deliverable D4 – Recommendations for trans- regional co-ordination – Slovenia's note



Partner:

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Prepared by:

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1 Respondents' knowledge of international programmes

a) General

The general impression about the knowledge of international programmes is that most of the respondents are familiar with at least one programme they could use. Research institutions are more familiar with the 6th and 7th Framework Programme possibilities; public institutions are more familiar with the Interreg programmes. Through the interviews we could state that the subjects that have the least familiarity with the EU international programmes are private operators, they are acquainted with Interreg programmes at which unfortunately they cannot apply. *The situation in the fisheries sector does not vary from the general knowledge, although we have to stress that one of the respondents took part in a 6th Framework Programme project.*

b) Situation in the fisheries sector in Slovenia

Fishing has little importance in Slovenia's economy (0,01% of GDP in 2004) and is the smallest of all activities in the primary sector. It is nevertheless significant in the coastal area. Sea fishing has a larger, although declining share, while fresh water fishing has a smaller share, but it is gaining importance. The opportunities for development of this activity are enormous.

The maritime fishery fleet is old and small, the number of fishermen concessions is appointed and there are no young qualified fishermen. The 3 year secondary school program fishery that was held in Portorož was not performed since 1988. Last three years the school is trying to revitalize the program fishery, but they are still negotiating with the authoritative ministry. In the last decade aquaculture activities are gaining importance and are the one that could benefit the most from young qualified fisherman.

2 Experience in international projects

According to the respondents research and public institutions apply for international calls for tenders more often than private institutions. Research and public institutions have a much more wider network of international partners than private institutions. The reason is that the public sector can participate to more EU programmes and is more stimulated also by the government to participate in EU funded projects.

3 Main cooperation programmes utilized and why

Research institutions and universities mostly utilized the EU 6th framework programme, because those subjects are involved in the research sector. Public institutions mostly utilized Interreg IIIA and IIIB programmes because they were the only ones that could apply for Interreg calls. Only one private operator was involved in a 6th framework programme project (fisheries sector).

4 results of question 12

From a total of 12 respondents 9 (75%) answered that they participated to research and innovation project with international partners. The most common reason for their participation was the exchange of experiences between partners (7/9 = 87%). The respondents also mentioned two other answers: to gain new financial source for a better research level (2/9) and to conduct a state of the art analysis (2/9).

The three respondents that did not participate to research and innovation project with international partners were two private operators (one agri one fishery) and a public institution (fishery). The two private operators did not participate to primary sector's RTD projects because of lack of knowledge about research and innovation projects possibilities in the primary sector.

Out of the 6 respondents involved in the fishery sector 4 participated to research and innovation project. The exchange of experience and the nature of their research were the reasons why they cooperated in such projects.

All of 9 respondents that participated to research and innovation projects with international partners received EU funds. The respondents most commonly participated in projects of Interreg IIIA (3/9) and IIIB (3/9) programmes.

All 4 respondents from the fishery sector received EU funds when participating at such projects.

Out of 9 respondents that participated at the discussed projects 3 were project leaders. *Out of those three only one was involved in the fishery sector.*

5 UIP Suggestions

On the basis of the findings mentioned above we suggest the following for the trans-national pilot action:

- Creation of a database of potential partners for international research and innovation projects in the primary sector in local language with special emphasis on involvement of private sector. The database will represent a share of best practice and exchange of knowledge for better participation of private actors in EU funded RTD projects.
- Creation of an international task group which would be present on the field (each member in his own region) informing potential participants about possibilities and acting as partner search facilitators.

Why? The task group would act as an informational tool and catalyst for potential project applicants. On the other hand by being present on the field this task group could bring useful information about the needs of the subject who could be involved in primary sector RTD projects. The task group should meet regularly and be constantly in touch among them.

- Realization of a yearly seminar including lectures and workshops about primary sector RTD possibilities and orientations.

This way the potential applicants would be regularly informed about the possibilities for primary sector RTD projects and would have a chance to enlarge the network, exchange opinions and knowledge and get in touch with policy makers and other subjects involved in the process.

ANNEX 2 – REGIONE DEL VENETO – RV

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WP2 – Methodology definition

D4

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

Partner:



CORIN- material collection

- what is the experience/knowledge/attitude/interest of local research in international projects?
- If they do not have international experience, why?
- which programmes do they know or use?
- the results of QUESTION 12 of the questionnaire

- The subjects that have international projects experience declare that the principal motivations were represented by the advantage given by the sharing of common interests of search, and from the possibility to compare the different experiences.
- The subjects that, contrarily, have not international projects experience of search declare that the principal cause has been the missed selection, following call of assignment.

12. Have you participated to research and innovation projects with international partners?

Recurrent concepts, suggestions, observations, factors,	Number of respondents who mentioned the concept/total number of respondents
1. Yes	5/10
2. why? For better promotion of project	3/10
For sharing of experience	2/10
	4/10
3. Which financing sources and why that choice?	
INTERREG	2/10
4. European Union because it is more effective	3/10
5. Were you project leader?	
No	2/10
6. No why? for missed opportunity	3/10

ANNEX 3 – REGIONE EMILIA ROMAGNA - RER

Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

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WP2 – Methodology definition

D4

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

Partner:



Assessorato alle Attività Produttive,
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Prepared by:

Prof. Giulio MALORGIO
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Attitude of RER respondents towards research

The opinion leaders interviewed in Emilia Romagna showed a good knowledge of international programs and all of them are particularly interested in the development of EU policy funds and programs in the primary sector.

Almost the whole (90%) of the respondents have participated in research and innovation projects with international partners, mostly in Europe.

The main reasons mentioned are the opportunity to expand research horizons, to exchange knowledge with foreign partners, as well as to have access to larger funds, such as those offered by the European Union.

For this reason, each of them have applied for international call for tenders at least once, and many of them can count on a valid network of partners for possible future projects. Further, the majority of respondents (60%) affirmed to have been project leader in one or more international programs.

The main resources exploited in the fishery sector come from the EU fishery structural policy, in particular the FIFG (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance) in the last 6 years, and most respondents are looking forward with interest for the EFF (European Fisheries Fund) for the 2007-2013 period.

As for the specific trans-regional programs, the most frequently used are Adri Blu and Adri Fish, in the framework of the EU INTERREG program, and the Connect and Fish Log projects, funded by Italian law n.84/2001. However all these come into consideration mostly because the Emilia Romagna Regional Authority called for tenders in these areas.

The main partners of RER operators are public and private institutions coming from Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia and other regions in northern Europe.

Have you participated to research and innovation projects with international partners?

Recurrent concepts, factors, suggestions, observations	N. of respondents who mentioned the concept	Total number of respondents	% of respondents who mentioned the concept
NO	1	10	10%
YES	9	10	90%
In order to expand research	4	10	40%
In order to get more funds	2	10	20%
Which financing sources and why that choice?			
European Union (because funds are larger)	9	10	90%
Were you project leader?			
YES	6	10	60%
NO	3	10	30%

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

On the basis of the interviews carried out in Emilia Romagna region, we find that there is a strong need for resources to be specifically allocated to research and innovation in the fishery sector, as well as a strong need for an efficient management of such resources.

For this reason we believe that it is necessary to bring together the policy makers of different regions that share the common objective to boost innovation and research in the fishery sector. We suggest the creation of a **working table**, aimed at coordinating regional initiatives in the fisheries with the objectives to:

- form a critical mass sufficient to have access to international projects and to dedicate adequate resources to issues considered of common strategic interest
- implement a system approach, by the exploitation of synergy potentials,
- orientate the needs of the sector (companies' and citizens' demands and latent needs), in order to achieve sustainable policies over a long time period,

The working table should be implemented through a permanent communication network connecting all the regional policy makers interested, a frequent exchange of documents and periodical meetings.

Moreover we suggest the creation of a tool capable of improving the dissemination and management of information related to funding opportunities and research projects already carried out or planned. A possible instrument could be a **database** containing funding opportunities, research actors and research projects related to the fisheries in the regions that participate in the project.

**ANNEX 4 – REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA PORIN D.O.O. –
Porin**

**Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies
for Boosting Innovation**

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WP2 – Methodology definition

D4

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

Partner:

**Regionalna Razvojna Agencija Porin
(Regional Development Agency) – PORIN**

12. Have you participated to research and innovation projects with international Partners?

Answers on this question among interviewed institutions in Primorsko goranska county were 30% yes and 70% no.

Those who participated in research and innovation projects with international partners are very satisfied and they said to me that they found completely new way of thinking and open minded people. All of them said that they will participate in the international R&D projects in the future, too. What is the most interesting no one of them thinking about leading the project. They were partners and they want to stay it in future, because they are aware that they haven't enough knowledge and experience to do that.

Regarding the financial resources use in this actions, all of them use different kind of European funds or the funds of country who is memeber of EU.

Those who did not participate in R&D projects are mostly out of informations. From some reason they expect that someone give them information and learn them how to prepare application, how to find partners etc. I was very suprised because all of this informations are available on internet and they are high educated people, but they convince me that they haven't time to search internet and that is most usefull for them to visit some short seminar about using EU funds.

Private companies are very interested in this topic and they are looking forward to cooperation that could be realised through participation in EU funded projects. They didn't participate in research and development projects but they want to do that.

Fishery sector except R&D institutes owned by government have informations about EU funds but they didn't try to send application for some specific program. They haven't potential international partners and enough knowledege how to do application, where to search informations etc.

So RDA Porin suggest portal or web site with informations of special interest for fishery sector, with instructions how to find financial sources, partners etc. We are suggesting common trans regional project in the fishery sector topics.

ANNEX 5 – ISTARSKA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA – IDA

Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

CoRin

WP2 – Methodology definition

D4

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

Partner:



12. Have you participated to research and innovation projects with international partners?

Answers on this question among interviewed institutions in Istrian region were 40% yes and 60% no.

- A. Those who participated in research and innovation projects with international partners were divided in their answers why on two groups: 1. researches that had special development interests mostly addressed to their own knowledge and experience, and 2. private subjects trying to find their own chance for gaining experience. Regarding the financial resources used in these actions, two of them used government funds because the other were not available, one of them used joint venture capital and one of them used EU funds. Three interviewed institutions were not project leaders and one interviewed was project leader for its country.

- B. Those who did not participate in research and innovation projects with international partners explained this fact with following statements: 1. I did not get opportunity to join international research projects, and 2. I don't know.

While listening to the interviewed people I got the feeling that all of them are really open-minded towards co-operation in R&D projects with international partners but they are really not well informed on opportunities and ways how to reach the partners (two R&D institutions are excluded from this statement because scientists are well connected at national and international level).

Also, they are all looking forward to co-operation that could be realised through participation in EU funded projects.

ANNEX 6 – MACEDONIA RESEARCH CENTRE – MARC

Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

CoRin

WP2 – Methodology definition

D4

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

Partner:

MACEDONIA RESEARCH CENTRE

Most of the respondents have a good knowledge of international programs and what profits they can offer. However only a very small number deals in-depth with them.

The reason of the very little attendance, as they claim, is the insufficient briefing with regard to this subject, the big bureaucracy that exists with result less of them can apply such programs as well as the danger of non satisfactory results because of the small or non-existent experience which potentially have most in the primary sector.

Nevertheless, toward certain steps of collaboration with international institutions began, aiming mainly at better promotion of products and naturally a bigger economic profit, because what the biggest percentage of respondents was claimed was that all wish the collaboration with other institutions for more satisfactory results, but no one negotiates his personal profit.

The program that was used was INTERREG and the reason was that the product was promoted with the best possible way with result the important increase of sales in Greece and abroad.

As long as the 12 question of questionnaire is concerned, only one answered that collaborated with international institutions for better promotion of product, with source of financing the European Union because that was more effective.

The attendance in international programs may be very little, for this reason therefore the partners propose certain pilot actions that would differentiate the situation. There could become seminars for better and righter briefing with regard to the international programs and their profits, also concrete teams of individuals could be fixed that would deal exclusively with the international collaboration, to be created databases with the inquiring priorities or, finally, to be facilitated the networks and the relations for the application and the joint growth of programs, perhaps with alleviation of bureaucracy so this application becomes simpler. The pilot action that is proposed by MARC is the creation of a database with research results in order to help specify the current situation, its difficulties and perspectives in Western Macedonia and to be used as a future tool for boosting the Research & Investments in the primary sector.

ANNEX 7 – REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA – FVG

Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

CoRin

WP2– Methodology definition

Task 2.2 Improvement of Trans-regional co-ordination

Deliverable D4

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

Partner:

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1 Respondents' knowledge of international programmes

There is a difference between agriculture and fishery. Regional agriculture research is more oriented towards international research also due to the presence of the University of Udine and other public research centres as:

- Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
- Centre for Theoretical and Applied Ecology
- Department of Animal Breeding Sciences
- Regional Agency for Rural Development
- Institute for Applied Genomics

They have established good and lasting relationships and networks all over the world and can count on specific high quality products especially in the wine sector.

None of the respondents has an in-depth knowledge of different sources of fund and opportunities and they monitor web sites and newsletters by themselves, without being supported by consulting firms.

The fishing sector is characterised by a lower participation in international projects. The main reasons are the lack of personnel for the administrative management of the projects, the scarce knowledge of foreign languages and the persuasion that international projects and related application forms are very complicated. If fishing sector's operators work in Interreg projects, they have been involved or subcontracted by the Region or other public government bodies that act as final beneficiary.

Someone has submitted a project proposal in the past but he did not succeeded and has not tried again.

2 Experience in international projects

There is not a strategic choice of taking part in international projects but the centres that have submitted a project (with or without success) decided it because there was an open call for tenders.

Nevertheless all of them underline the importance of working in international contexts, in order to share information and learn on best practices carried out elsewhere.

Especially in the fishing sector, respondents stressed the importance of working towards the full establishment of the Northern Adriatic Fishing Sector.

3 Main cooperation programmes utilized and why

They mainly deal with EU programmes such as the Framework Programmes, the LIFE Programme and sometimes are involving, as scientific implementing bodies, in Interreg projects.

Out of 9 respondents that participated at the discussed projects 3 were project leaders. *Out of those three only one was involved in the fishery sector.*

4 Friuli Venezia Giulia proposal for the Trans-regional pilot actions

On the basis of the information collected during the interviews and the briefings inside the Service for Fishing and Aquaculture, it is deemed highly important to concentrate our efforts also on the international dimension of the pilot actions.

We proposed three hypotheses during the 3rd Technical and Management Meeting held in Rimini.

- A Database to Collect R&S projects in fishing sector. Only projects with a clear involvement of the private sector will be included
- A Corin Interregional Working Table, to coordinate regional activities involving civil servants (sharing of information on FIG and FEF programming, local laws on fisheries etc.
- The organisation of a seminar for creating partnerships and to enhance match-making between research and private sector

**ANNEX 8 – NATIONAL AGENCY OF FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE – NAFA**

**Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies
for Boosting Innovation**

CoRiN

WP2 – Methodology definition

D4

Recommendations for trans-regional co-ordination

Partner:



NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

12. Have you participated to research and innovation projects with international partners?

Recurrent concepts, factors, suggestions, observations	Number of respondents who mentioned the concept/total number of respondents
1. YES	5/15
2. NO	10/15
3. Why?	7/15
- lack of financing, lack of information about research projects, non-admission to a project	
Main type of financing used:	
- international programmes	5/15
- projects of the EU	3/15
- own resources	4/15

2/3 of all respondents have never participated in international research projects mainly due to the lack of information about existing programmes and possibilities for international co-financing. Only 5 respondents have taken part in international programmes and these are exclusively representatives of the research institutes in the primary sector. In this sense scientists are much more aware of the possibilities for research activities, while the producers are not so well acquainted with them. Unfortunately even less respondents – only 3, have worked for projects financed by the EU. Probably this is a result of the fact that Bulgaria joined the EU just 6 months ago. All respondents express great interest especially in EU funds, in which they see real chances for future development.

The interviewed research and scientific institutes mentioned that it is a rare practice to participate in calls for tenders. The most of the programmes and projects they undertake are directly offered by the state or are realized in mutual co-operation with international research bodies.

Unfortunately our respondents pointed out that they do not take part in international or trans-regional networks for exchange of research data, results and existing project possibilities.

That's why they expressed strong will to collaborate with NAFA and participate in the future data base of research projects planned as one of the most important pilot actions in CoRin. They regard this as a chance for establishing international ties with partners abroad.

According to NAFA the implementation of the suggested trans-regional pilot actions by Bulgaria /Measures for the recovery of the stock of the European Eel in the basins of the Struma, Mesta, Arda and Maritsa rivers implemented in co-operation with Greece; Evaluation of the biological diversity of the Black Sea/ will be useful for the establishment of further positive co-operation among the stake-holders in the fisheries sector in the Black sea zone. Moreover these pilot actions will not only help initiating trans-regional exchange of research data and results among Bulgaria and its regional partners, but they will also have practical value that will contribute to the development of the primary sector and innovation in the Black sea zone and the Balkan region.