

CoRIn – Coordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

Background and Needs

The fundamental base for the “Regions of Knowledge 2” action is that European Regions represent an important actor for the creation of the European Research Area (ERA). They can directly operate to stimulate research actions and innovation demand, contributing to the fulfilment of Barcelona targets of 3 % of GDP for research and development.

It is important to underline that *this process is influenced not only by direct RTD policies, but also by regulations and decisions taken in other contexts, which could contribute to the creation of a more innovation-friendly environment.* This happens, for example, whenever a non-RTD policy has implicit or explicit goals that require the launching of specific R&D activities or that create demand for innovation-based solutions. Similarly, non-RTD policies play a critical role in ensuring the effective transfer of developed knowledge from research performers to enterprises, especially SMEs, fostering a better and faster uptake of research results into competitiveness and economic growth.

Starting from these considerations, the CoRIn project specifically focus on the Primary Sector and on how proper policies definition on this area can contribute to stimulate research investments at regional level.

At present there are a number of key structural weaknesses that influence the effectiveness and the diffusion of research efforts and also attitude towards research and innovation in the Primary Sector. Main weaknesses can be summarised in:

- High fragmentation of research initiatives and of corresponding resources directed to the different research actors (research centres, universities, enterprises, ...), thus difficulties in reaching the critical mass needed for real breakthroughs;
- Little or null diffusion of the research results and insufficient coordination between managing authorities, which brings to useless duplication of research activities and, at the end, waste of resources;
- Insufficient total investment in research, both in comparison to external competitors and in relation to emerging challenges;
- Limited participation of and insufficient resources from private-sector partners in agrifood research, mainly in southern Member States;
- Lack of connections between performed research and concrete application in production context, also for the insufficient involvement of enterprises in research activities.

Result of this situation is that, even in presence of important research actors and centre of excellence for agro-food research, actual benefits of research effort in Primary Sector are still too low, and private investments in research are very far from Commission’s targets.

Project objectives

The final objective of the CoRIn project is to improve Regional Primary Sector policies definition and governance processes, for increasing effectiveness of interventions and impact on RTD investments, through benchmarking, knowledge sharing and improved co-ordination among Regions. To achieve these results it will be necessary:

- 1 To increase knowledge about how non-RTD policies, in particular related to the Primary Sector, impact on research investments and innovation diffusion;

- 2 To improve the dialogue between policy-makers and public and private RTD actors in the concerned area, for a better co-ordination and complementarity of actions;
- 3 To identify implementation strategies and practical indications, of use to policy-makers at regional level, for an effective inclusion of the “research promotion” dimension in the development of Primary Sector Policies;
- 4 To define specific procedures and modalities for effective trans-regional knowledge exchange and trans-regional collaboration in policy making and governance processes;
- 5 To provide involved Regions with proper tools for an effective co-ordination of actions.

Project Activities

CoRin’s activities will be organised in 6 Work Packages, of which: the first two have the aim to develop improved know-how and recommendations about the topic of the project; other two are dedicated to the specific application of proposed solution, to their evaluation and refinement; a fifth WP is specifically dedicated to exploitation and dissemination; the last one is dedicated to the management of the consortium.

WP1 – State-of-the-art Analysis

The WP1 is focused on the analysis of the current situation about Primary Sector policy making and governance processes, at regional and at trans-regional level. It is organised in 2 Tasks:

- *T1.1 – Primary Sector regional policies and research (IDA)*. Objective of the task is to collect data about partner Regions, about Primary Sector policy in these Regions, and cases of Primary Sector policies with impact on RTD investments. These data will then be analysed and used in WP2 to identify recommendations and improved approaches for increasing the impact of regional Primary Sector Policies on RTD investments.
- *T1.2– Trans-Regional co-ordination (Euris)*. Objective of this task is to analyse the opportunities, the instruments, and the needs for trans-Regional cooperation and co-ordination in Primary Sector policy and governance system and, inside this sector, in the field of RTD promotion.

WP2 – Methodology Definition

This WP It deals with the design and share inside the consortium of improved procedures, having the final aim to increase the impact and effectiveness of Regional Primary Sector policy on RTD investments through: (1) “vertical interventions”, i.e. actions on Primary Sector policy system inside each Region; (2) “horizontal interventions”, i.e. actions involving co-ordination and/or collaboration between Regions.

- *T2.1 – Improvement of Policy-related processes at Regional level*. Starting from the as-is situation and benchmarking data collected in Task 1.1, the goal of this task is to produce strategic indications and operational recommendations for a better and more effective inclusion of the “research promotion” dimension in Regional Primary Sector policy-making and governance processes.
- *T2.2 – Improvement of Trans-Regional co-ordination*. Purpose of this task is to identify co-ordination and collaboration fields and modalities at trans-Regional level, able to: (1) increase the efficacy and the impact of RTD actions on primary sector performances; and (2) improve the efficacy of Regional Primary Sector policy in boosting RTD investments.
- *T2.3 – IT tools specification*. Within this task, involved partners (i.e. RER with minor data input from other partners) will detail the architectural and technical specification

of a common knowledge management and collaboration platform to be used within the WP3 (Pilot Actions).

WP3 – Pilot Actions

The improved methodologies developed in WP2 will be implemented and tested by project partner through an extensive joint Pilot Action. The purpose is to test and refine the solutions and the strategic indications developed in the previous phases of the project.

From implementation point of view, the WP is divided in the following tasks:

- *T3.1 Shared Action Plan.* Starting from results of WP1 and WP2, T3.1 aims at stimulating commitments of involved policy-makers in each partner region towards specific actions. The list of pilot actions to be carried out will be subject to approval by the Commission Services prior to their implementation.
- *T3.2 Regional mainstreaming actions.* The objective is to transfer, into Regional policy-making and governance activities listed in T3.1, best practices and solutions identified in WP2 for a better and more effective inclusion of the “research promotion” dimension into ordinary policy making processes of Primary Sector. This will be done by each partner in its own Region, networking with other regional policy and research actors.
- *T3.3 Trans-Regional joint initiatives.* This means to use and test the improved modalities for trans-regional co-ordination and collaboration developed within WP2:
 - Implementation of a trans-regional networking system between policy-makers in order to improve their competence by exchanging know-how / experiences / solutions;
 - Set-up of a trans-national work group among project partners on strategies and opportunities for a better and more efficient use of new Structural Funds for fishery (period 2007/2013) in supporting RTD investments;
 - Creation and usage of a common data-base of research projects on fishery, aquaculture and related issues, funded in the different partners regions;
 - Implementation, by means of the common project website, of joint communication and awareness activities addressed to the wide public, for promoting research investments within Primary Sector.

WP4 – Evaluation and Refinement

This WP permits to assess the progress of the project against the target achievements and to ensure that project outcomes are validated by users in each project phase.

It will include:

- a continuous monitoring of problems, users' satisfaction and performances during the period of Pilot Actions and the monitoring of the context progress;
- the refinement of proposed methodologies and supporting tools on the base of the feed-back deriving from the Pilot Actions.

WP5 – Dissemination and Exploitation

Goal of this WP is to ensure the prosecution of started activities after the project end in the Regions directly involved in the project (exploitation), and to provide for the formal codification and diffusion of the CoRIn experience in other industrial sectors and/or geographical areas (dissemination).

The first aspect will be ensured through the individual exploitation activities of partners and through the lasting, after the project end, of the common co-operation platform. In this WP a common “use plan” will be defined and agreed among partners. It will include specific indications for the maintenance of the common procedures and infrastructures after the project end, and the individual exploitation plans of partners.

Concerning dissemination, the following activities will be implemented:

- organisation of one public workshop on project topic in each involved country;

- submission of at least 10 interventions/articles, related to the project and its results, in national or international newspapers;
- set-up of a specific, public project web-site, that will be included in the common CoRin portal;
- diffusion of project results through the Internet, by means of project web-site, partners' web-sites, and thematic web-sites;
- presence in at least 2 sector International conferences/exhibitions.

WP6 – Project management and quality assurance

Co-ordination and Management Activities include all tasks necessary to ensure the correct achievement of desired results during the project and to comply with the EC contractual obligations. Overall project coordination will be ensured by Euris.

General Information

Project Duration: 18 months	Total Funding: Euro 493.975
<p>Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Euris S.r.l. (Euris) – Italy 7 Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) – Italy 8 Regione del Veneto (RV) – Italy 9 Regione Emilia-Romagna (RER) – Italy 10 National Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA) – Bulgaria 11 Istrian Development Agency Ltd (IDA) – Croatia 12 Regional Development Agency Porin Ltd (Porin) – Croatia 13 University Incubator of Primorska Ltd (UIP) – Slovenia 14 Macedonia Research Center (MARC) – Greece 	

