

Synergies ERDF – EU programmes

The experience of Piemonte

Workshop on Synergies among EU programmes and cohesion policies in the Bioeconomy and Blue Economy domains
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Synergies ERDF – Horizon 2020: The Seal of Excellence

Supporting SoE through ERDF (SMEs Instrument phase II)

- SoE support integrated in the most similar call, under the Innovation cluster regional policy: similar target beneficiaries (SMEs), TRL and size of the projects, but also many differences (timing, coherence with S3 and with ERDF and State Aid rules)
- Type of support: facilitation in the evaluation: 1) SoE projects had to follow rules and procedures established by the call; 2) a copy of the SoE awarded proposal must be annexed, together with a copy of the evaluation; 3) upon verification of the correspondence between the SoE awarded project and the project submitted under the ERDF call, maximum score on quality criteria automatically assigned

Feedback/Lessons learnt

- The scheme was applied under three calls, only 3 SoE funded
- Reasons: different rules (ERDF / State Aid); different timing; different features/objectives of the calls
- In case of replicating support, feedback to be considered (but new framework more favorable)

Synergies
ERDF –
Horizon 2020:
ERA NET
schemes

ERA NET schemes

- Participation in three Era Net schemes: Manunet, Incomera, EMEurope
- Funding of regional partners through ERDF
- Positive feedback on participation of regional SMEs (and RTOs):
 - Manunet: 18 projects and 29 regional partners supported (3 calls)
 - Incomera: 3 projects and 7 regional partners supported
 - EME: 2 projects and 3 regional partners supported
- Some critical points, especially due to disalignment between Countries/regions partners of the network

Synergies ERDF – EAFRD The bioeconomy platform

Aim: connecting Agrifood and Green Chemistry sectors to develop regional circular ecosystems

Technology platform scheme: Focus on strategic S3 priorities; mobilizing relevant R&D investments; large consortia with industrial leaders, SMEs and RTOs (industry driven)

Numbers:

- 9 projects approved (11 submitted)
- ERDF contribution allocated: 29,2 m€ (Total investments: 66 m€)
- Budget dimension: min 5,1 M€ - max 13,2 M€
- Partners involved: 83 SMEs; 43 large companies; 45 RTOs (multiple participation)

Synergy with EAFRD

Dialogue with the Agriculture Dept; an EAFRD scheme dedicated to agricultural companies launched (but not in parallel)

(And synergies with ESF)

Partnerships and synergies based on S3

Strategic and progressive action to “open” the S3 and enhance regional specializations at interregional level

- Involvement in the thematic partnerships under the S3 Platform and active participation in Vanguard Initiative
- Initiatives on Bioeconomy: Vanguard/S3 Platform partnership on Bioeconomy; adesion to the BIC Platform (BBI), collaboration with Spring national cluster in the H2020 project Power4bio

Benefits and criticalities

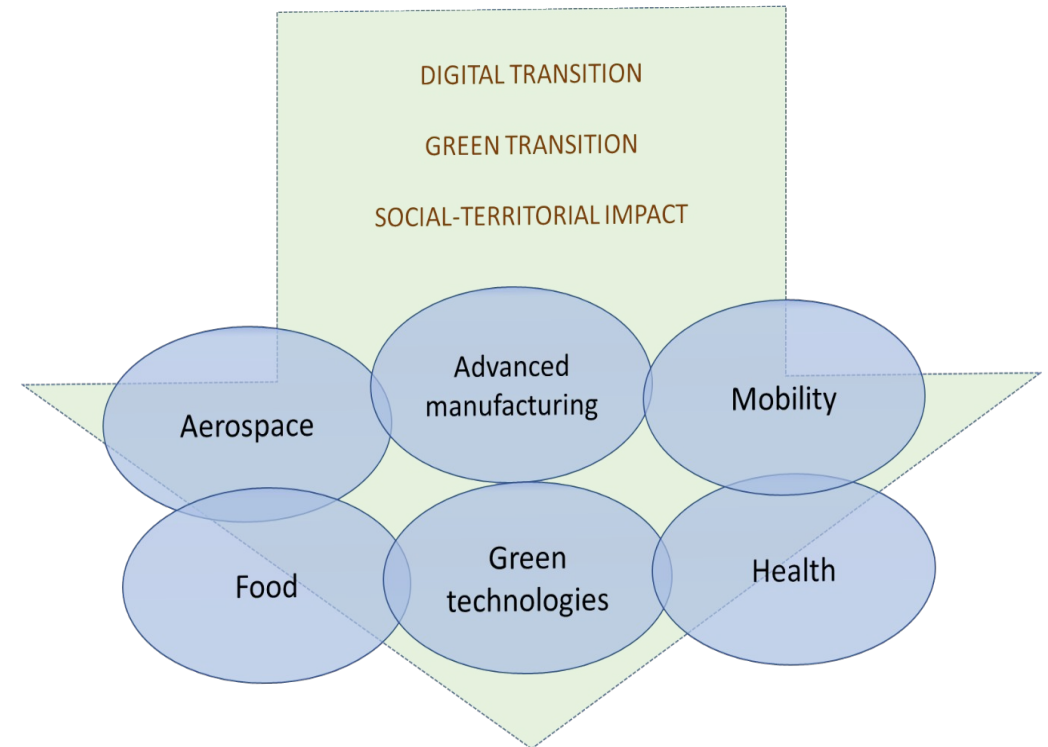
- Complementary action to implement S3
- Time consuming and challenging processes that requires a strong commitment by the Region AND by the stakeholders; if not specific support available, risk of de-commitment
- New programme “Interregional Innovation Investments” to be further developed in order to effectively match with investments needs stemming from S3 partnerships

The revised S3 and the role of innovation ecosystem

Process nurtured by: lessons learnt from 2014-20 experience, stakeholders collaboration, inputs from the EU Pilot Action on Industrial Transition

Key features of the revised S3:

- A more open and cross-sector approach (e.g. identification of cross-topics, skills as a transversal priority)
- A clear focus on the ecosystem: need to strengthen collaboration and commitment, engaging “innovation facilitators” also in implementing synergies at EU level



- ➔ Implementation of synergies is a challenging process for regional ERDF managing authorities, implying a (heavy) extra administrative burden
- ➔ Depending on the synergy needs, simplified mechanisms on one side (like the ones better aligning ERDF and State Aid to facilitate SoE support) and more flexibility and negotiation options on the other side (to help Regions in supporting their strategic objectives) could help
- ➔ Bearing in mind that the Regions are fully engaged in the implementation of the NRRP, the main current programming challenge. This in turn requires a strong effort in coordinating policies and activating synergies, in order to maximise benefits from both RRF and Structural Funds

THANK YOU

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