

# FVG Obiettivo Europa

PERIODICO DI INFORMAZIONE SULLE OPPORTUNITÀ DEL POR FESR IN FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA



## How near is the 2014-2020 programme?

**The new programme: from the research to an environmentally sustainable economy**

**T**he two objectives “competitiveness” and “employment” during the planning of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2007- 2013 (172 Regions in Europe for a total amount of 55 billion euros) aimed at creating jobs by promoting the competitive-

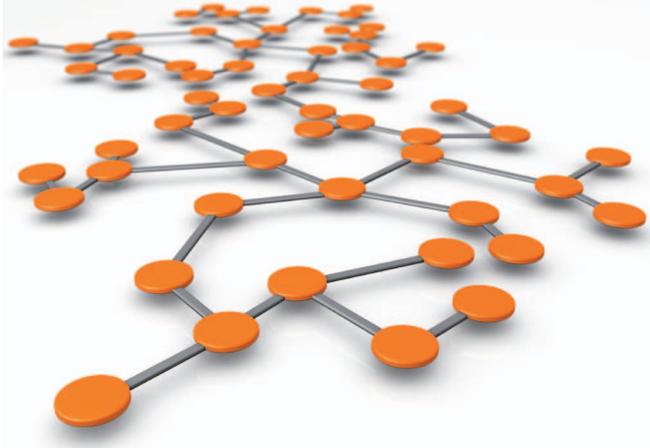
ness and raising the visibility of the Regions for the enterprises and the investors. Some years later, the economic crisis has involved also Italy. The International Monetary Fund in the revision of the forecasts for Italy - January 2013 – estimates a 1% contraction instead of 0.7% for

2013. The result of this reduction is that the “regional competitiveness” and the “employment” become essential even though they are difficult to execute unless supported by macro-economic policies and by structural interventions. The conditions of development are no longer

>>> *Continued on page 2*

# Editorial

## A strategic positioning



The Regional Operational Programme financed from the European Fund for Regional Development - the ROP ERDF – has been designed to increase the competitiveness and the employment. The target for 2012 was achieved and the resources have been spent, thus avoiding an automatic decommitment of the resources by the European Commission. Most of the funds have been used for the small and medium-sized enterprises and for the innovation.

Some years ago, the question was how a further European enlargement could weigh on the Region, by shifting the external borders of the European Union to the East. Nowadays the question is how to handle a newfound strategic importance and how to instill this value to the SMEs and to the sectors in crisis or to the weakest field.

The Baltic-Adriatic Corridor should cross the Region, along with other Corridors. On February 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 the Assembly of EGTC (the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) of the "Euregio Without Borders" was established in Klagenfurt. As history has shown in the recent twentieth century in a more political than economic prospect, this area could be a "Corridor" (now vertical) between the continental Europe and the Adriatic Sea towards the Mediterranean, linked to neighbouring Regions with agreements for cooperation.

In this issue we will talk about the spending reached by the ROP ERDF, about the Continuity Programme 2007 - 2013 and 2014 – 2020, about the credit crunch for the national and regional context, about the Open Government and about the Euroregion.

Just some short information and analysis to examine a territory. Enjoy the reading!

**Maria Missoni**  
 Editor-in-chief

# Sommario



**1** How near is the 2014-2020 programme? The new programme: from the research to an environmentally sustainable economy



**3** The involvement of the ROP ERDF Friuli Venezia Giulia to the PAC (Cohesion Action Plan)



**4** ROP ERDF: The objective of the expenditure 2012



**5** Open Data: tools for the interaction between citizens and Institutions



**6** **COLUMN: Europe and Economy**  
 The small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the *credit crunch*



**7** Dictionary ROP ERDF 2007-2013



**8** "Euregio Without Borders" becomes operational

>>> *Continue from page 1*

those of the second half of the nineties, and yet, paradoxically, there is the possibility of using the Structural Funds in a new context of development that is more environmentally sustainable. For the Friuli Venezia Giulia, the data reveal that the Management Authority of the ROP resources, currently allocated, are related to some investment priorities of the European Fund for Regional Development of the new programme, being prepared in recent months. This means that the territory and the enterprises are already accustomed to a certain type of innovation and to an environmentally sustainable economic growth. Increasing "the research, the technological development and the innovation" are the matters of the next programming and, pursuing the previous matters, they are equal to 69.60% of the ROP ERDF 2007-2013. The resources currently allocated for the next priority 4 (supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors) are very similar to the current Axis 2 (environmental sustainability) and Axis 5 (energy). We must still wait for the new regulations. However there are all the premises for a new context of the sustainable economic and environmental development.

# The involvement of the ROP ERDF Friuli Venezia Giulia to the PAC (Cohesion Action Plan)

Some interventions of the regional programme should be directed to strategic issues

In 2011, the Government launched, in cooperation with the European Commission, a process to hasten the implementation of the programmes co-financed by the Structural Funds 2007-2013. In this context the PAC (Cohesion Action Plan) developed. The Cohesion Action Plan allows you to enhance the effectiveness of the Structural Fund interventions on issues of strategic interest, thus hastening its expenditure. The Friuli Venezia Giulia proposed the accession to this plan through the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund (ROP ERDF) 2007-2013, Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective.

The involvement of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region to the PAC (the Cohesion Action Plan) is the result of a series of decisions at national and EU level and it's also the result of the European summit on 28th and 29th June 2012 and negotiations among the Region, the Central Government and the European Commission. The programme among different levels of decision-making allowed, in addition to the development of the PAC, also the approach of the Regional Operational Programme to the "Europe 2020" strategy. The proposed involvement to the PAC affects about 44 million of resources that will be allocated for interventions of strategic interest. 56% of these funds covers innovative and priority issues such as companies and young people, digital agenda, areas of cultural attraction, energy efficiency. The 42% of these funds will be used, pursuing the current

ROP, for the transport and networks, for the urban development, for the industrial archaeology and for the technical assistance.

The aim is to allocate the resources in the project "enterprises / young people" in order to increase the competitiveness and the innovation of the enterprises. The objective is in tune with the ROP ERDF 2007-2013 Friuli Venezia Giulia, that is, "the creation of a durable competitive advantage for the entire regional context". The proposed involvement to the PAC provides some resources for the issues related to the Digital Agenda. The goal is to start a project of *cloud computing* in the mountain areas for the establishment of new enterprises and to

*puting*. The public *procurement* - the supply contract that governs the transfer of goods and services from the private to the public sector - will support instead, in its various forms, the public demand for research through new tools.

The resources to be allocated to the "areas of cultural attraction" relate to the financing of interventions in urban areas, for the creation and the development of thematic tours and also of museums tours, aimed at promoting the knowledge and the tourist destination.

Further resources could include the promotion of interventions in urban areas aimed at increasing the energy efficiency to decrease the emis-

## Europe 2020 Strategy

Europe 2020 is the ten-year strategy promoted by the European Commission that will try to achieve five goals by the end of the decade such as the increase in employment of at least 75% (for those aged between 20 and 64 years), the increase in the resources invested in research and development, more attention to the climate change and to the energy sustainability and the fight against poverty and immigration.

support the research and the business innovation through the public *procurement*.

The *cloud computing* refers to a set of technologies that allow you to store, save and process the data through hardware and software resources in internet. The enterprises will be competitive in the market thanks to a strong reduction of costs through the use of the *cloud com-*

sions to atmosphere by aiming at a productive eco-system. Other interventions pursuing the regional ROP ERDF concern the transport and the networks, the urban development, the industrial archaeology and the technical assistance.

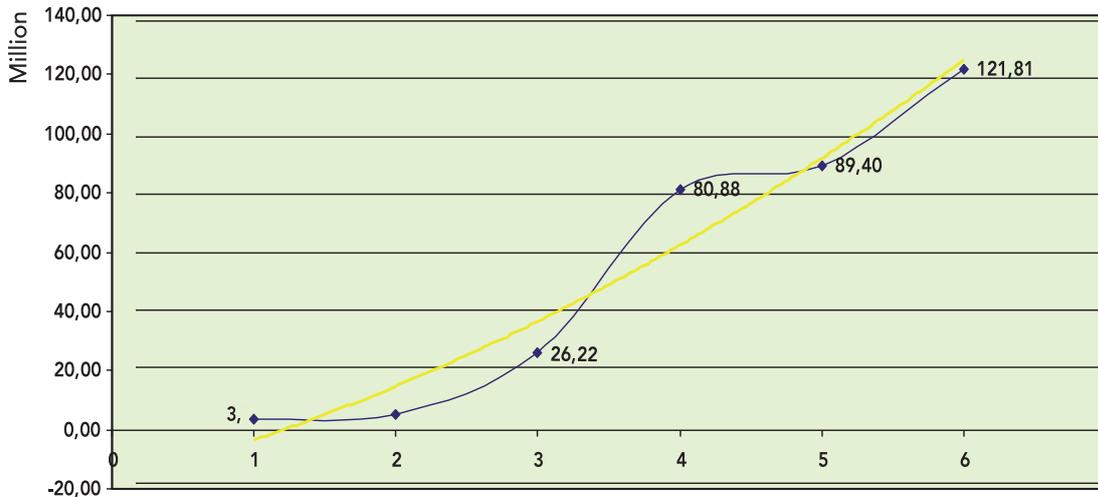
Pac (1) on FVG Obiettivo Europa no. 13<sup>th</sup>, published in November 2012.

# ROP ERDF: The objective of the expenditure 2012

More innovation, research, technology transfer and entrepreneurship

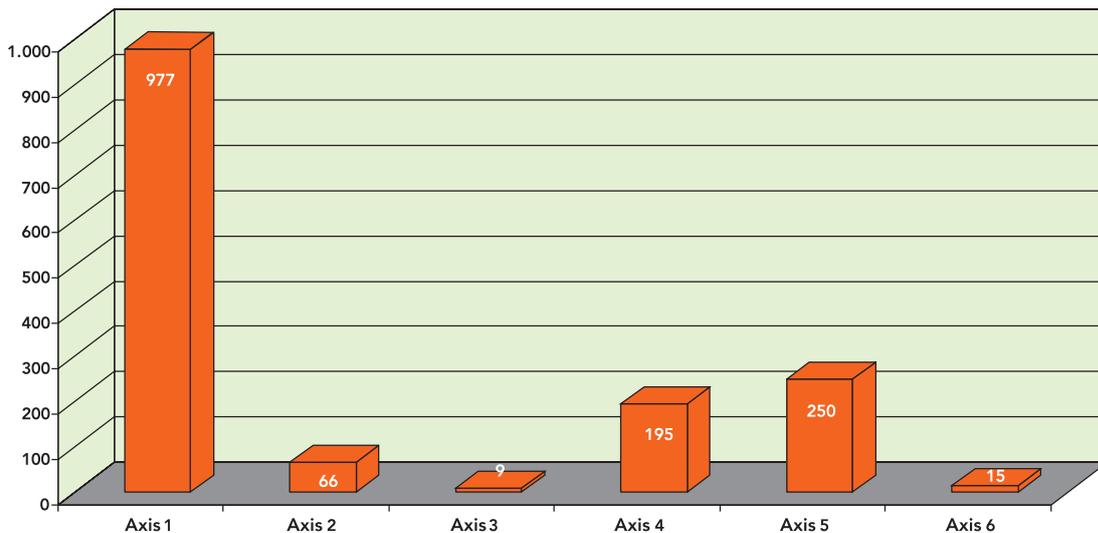
The figures analyzed by Francesco Forte, the Managing Authority ROP ERDF (Regional Operational Programme of the European Fund for Regional Development) reveal that compared to a target of annual expenditure of Euro 116,749,220.67 (at the end of December 2012), the expenditure achieved and pending certification is equal to Euro 121,805,590.03.

THE TREND OF THE CERTIFICATION 2009-2012



This is the analysis emerged during the annual meeting of the ROP ERDF that took place last December in Udine. Most of the resources have been allocated to the SMEs (Axis 1 - innovation, research, technology transfer and entrepreneurship). During that meeting there was also the thematic session entitled "Progress

THE FUNDED PROJECTS UP TO 2012



for the Axes and the Best Practices" supervised by the representatives of the different axes with the collaboration of external experts. The new programme 2014 - 2020 will be grounded on the results achieved so far and it will implement the efficiency, the synthesis and the attention to exploit all the available resources and achieve the planned results.

# Open Data:

## Tools of interaction between citizens and Institutions

The Member States and the Managing Authorities of the Operational Programmes have to provide all the information related to the projects that are funded in order to inform citizens about the policies of cohesion, so that they can also be conscious of the allocation for themes and territories of the available resources and the status of the implementation of the projects. The strategy of the Open data (accessible data without restrictions and data which can be processed

by a computer application) is part of the Open Government (a section of the Digital Agenda for Italy) and it gives transparency and accessibility to the administrative actions. Visiting the website of the Open Cohesion ([www.opencoesione.gov.it](http://www.opencoesione.gov.it)), the website on the implementation of the planned investments in the 2007-2013 period by the Regions and by the Italian Central Governments, it is possible to read, for example, that the total expenditure certified to EU 31st December 2012 increased

significantly compared to 2011 and amounted to 18.294 billion euro. Furthermore at the same date, also the progress of expenditure certified to the EU programs financed by EU Structural Funds is equal to 31.5 % while the target of certified expenditure was reached by 51 compared with the 52 operational programmes. The aim of the Law on transparency in Public Administration is to guarantee the flow of information to build up confidence between Institutions and citizens.



## What's the Open Cohesion?

This is the first web portal on the implementation of planned investments in the period 2007-2013 by Regions and by Central Governments with the resources to cohesion. It was created with the aim to inform citizens, Italian and European administrations, researchers, media, policy analysts. This project focuses on the need to encourage the active participation of citizens in the activities concerning the use of the collective resources.

Open Cohesion allows anyone to check on the one hand, the correct use of the available funds and on the other hand, to contribute to an improvement of the processes concerning planning and implementation. The citizens beneficiaries of the interventions, in fact, may be an active part of the process of the social control of the results.

## COLUMN: Europe and Economy

# The small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the credit crunch

Rearrange, cut the costs and regain the support of the banking system

by Marco della Mora <sup>1</sup>

**The Credit in Italy** - Requests for the return of capital almost doubled in the past two years and the denied funding to 35% of the small companies which had required it. The relationship between the Banks and the Enterprises is deteriorating more and more according to the analysis carried out from the National Observatory on the credit of SMEs. The results show, for the small enterprises, an increasing difficulty of access to credit and, therefore, less chance to cope with their financial needs. The Observatory also highlights the increase in the loans to maintain the company's ordinary business and a simultaneous reduction of credit.

pared to 36.5% in the previous quarter. 13.7% received a lower amount than requested, against the previous 25.3%. For the 22.1% (compared to the previous 11.1%) their demand for credit was rejected.

The loans decrease. Up to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012, bank loans to the domestic productive sectors amounted to 978.492 million euros, with a decrease of 2.5% on an annual basis (- 24.925 million euros), with a slight increase in the loans to medium / long term compared to the short-term debt. Consequently, the ability of the operators to cope with its financial needs, got worse. The firms in



The access to the credit decreased during the third quarter of 2012, compared to the previous quarter. The percentage of the small enterprises which asked banks for a new loan or a renegotiation of an existing loan is equal to 15.4% compared to 21.7%. This trend is also confirmed for the artisan businesses (13.1% compared to 19.2%).

Furthermore, 30.8% of the small enterprises obtained an amount equal to or greater than that required, com-

difficulty in making their payments (- 41% from -33.7% in the 2nd quarter) have increased. Above all the individual companies have the greatest difficulties, but also other types of business have resulted in a significant deterioration.

**The Credit in Friuli Venezia Giulia** - The updated analysis of the Bank of Italy in November 2012 reveals that the economic framework, already deficit, has deteriorated further, because of the decline in domestic de-

1. Consortium Responsible "Competitiveness and Development of the Friuli Venezia Giulia"

mand and above all because of the decline in foreign demand. In fact, the decline in exports goes against the trend of the other Regions of the North, and it has involved mostly the main fields of specialization. *Last but not least*, there's also a weakening demand for the construction industry both private and public, with a reduction in the number of sales that shrank by nearly a third from the previous surveys. In consequence of this, there is a worsening of the labour market and an increase in the employment rate. The enterprises don't succeed any more in investing and as a results there is first of all a decline of the fundings and secondly a stagnation of the demand from the consuming families.

In regards to the request of the loan, there is a generalized increased need of the current assets needs on the one hand and the debt restructuring on the other hand, to the detriment of the investment needs. The purpose of the Credit Interventions is to enable the simple and ordinary management of the activities.

**Credit crunch.** There are two possible reasons for the credit crunch: it could originate from the spontaneous economic trends or from the decisions of the monetary authorities. The spontaneous economic trend occurs when the banks are worried about the solvency of those who lend money and then make loans to restricted conditions. The decisions of the monetary authorities instead concern the reduction of the loans by the side of the banks. The actions are different and go by the increase in interest rates to the raising of the reserve requirement. After the recent decision by the Governors

of the central Banks which are a part of the Banking Supervision Committee, the period within which the banks will have to identify the liquidity parameters imposed by Basel III has been extended.

**Liquidity coverage ratio** - Essentially, banks will have more time to build up their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) so that some available resources could be used to support the real economy. The Group of Governors has agreed that, since the deposits at the central banks are the most (in some cases the only) reliable forms of liquidity, the interaction between the LCR and the provisions of the central Banks is significantly important. For this reason the Committee will continue over the next few years working on this issue. Compared to the original text, lower liquidity requirements allow the banks to put into circulation 500 billion Euros in the economy. This agreement is very significant because it will ensure that the new liquidity *standard* will not hinder in any way the ability of the global banking system to finance its recovery.

And this is certainly a good news in the long term. On the other hand it is useless to deny, however, that the credit crunch is not the only evil of the Italian companies, including the high proportion of fixed costs, the limited capitalization or the lack of propensity for internationalization.

Reorganize, cut costs and innovate are the only choices to react - together with the support of the banking system.

## Dictionary ROP ERDF 2007-2013

**MANAGING AUTHORITY:** it's the body of the Management Service of the Central Directorate Culture, Sport, European and International Relations. It manages the Programme and ensures its implementation (pursuant to Regulation EC No 1083/2006 and to the implementing regulation ROP).

**ERDF:** the acronym stands for European Regional Development Fund.

It's the Structural Fund involved in the EU cohesion policy through the provision of the Operational Programme financial contributions (pursuant to the EC Regulation No 1083/2006).

**SPECIAL FUND ROP-ERDF:** is the Fund of the 2007-2013 programme. This Fund is managed by the payer beyond the regional balance sheet (established by LR 7/2008 article 24).

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE:** indicates the fields in which the actions must be taken in order to achieve the specific objective.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:** identifies the sectors to be supported through the ERDF in order to enhance the competitiveness and the interest of the regional system.

# “Euregio without borders” becomes operational

On February 19<sup>th</sup> 2013, there was the establishment of the Assembly in Klagenfurt

After a period of work - November 2012 – subsequent to the signing of the Articles of Association and of the Articles of Incorporation of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), the organization of cooperation between Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and Carinzia (Euregio) created in order to strengthen the cohesion and the territorial competitiveness, presented the project “Euregio Without borders”. On February 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 the inaugural session of the Assembly of Euroregion was held in Klagenfurt. There were present at this event: **Renzo Tondo**, President of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, **Gerhard Doerfler**, President of Carinzia and **Luca Zaia**, President of the Veneto Region. The project will represent a growth opportunity for the Regions involved, aimed at promoting focused actions through a concrete message of renewal and collaboration. Luca Zaia was elected as the first president of “Euregio With-

out Borders”, while the operational headquarters will be in Trieste. Zaia told that one of the next objectives

of this project will be the extension of the boundaries of the Euroregion to Slovenia and to Croatian Istria.



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