

# FVG Obiettivo Europa

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



## Permeability of the economic system and of the research

**To facilitate the interaction between industry and research centres: results and prospects of the ERDF**

**K**nowledge plays an important role for the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region. There's in fact a large presence of Universities, Institutes and Science Parks throughout the territory. The entrepreneurial system is very in-

terested in research, but it has to be supported. The ROP ERDF could be for example one of the sources for funding. The Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund, Regional Com-

petitiveness and Employment Objective of Friuli Venezia Giulia, during the 2007 - 2013 programming has published some call for tenders in order to support the industrial research projects with a high systemic impact for

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# The intelligent reform

(of the European funds in Italy)

It is said that there are some signs of recovery for the North-East. There's a need for reforms concerning the measures which are the subjects of the political debate. A kind of reformism concerning also the EU funds although with a succession of different parliamentary majorities. Then concerning the European resources, there are new provisions due to the conversion into law and due to the amendments of the well-known "Decreto del Fare" and the idea of a National Agency for the EU funds. This kind of agencification will solve many problems, if the objectives are the reduction of bureaucracy, a strategic vision and a moderate centralization. At first Raffaele Fitto, the former Minister for relations with the Regions and later Fabrizio Barca, the Minister for the territorial cohesion, with a continuity abnormal and intelligent, have reprogrammed the funds focusing on a Cohesion Action Plan. Both of them have also included some priorities and some periodic expenditure targets and they have designed a program in favour of the South. Since the policy on European funds (undertaken without any discontinuity of majority since at least 2011) is structural and political and it concerns the South but also the North (and vice versa), extensive room for improvement for the new 2014-2020 programming may be expected.

Editor-in-chief  
 Maria Missoni

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the strengthening of the research and innovation networks and of the technological districts for innovation.

All this concerns the activity 1.1.b.. The potential beneficiaries were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large enterprises (LEs), in collaboration with small and medium-sized enterprises, managing authority of Science and Technology Parks, Research Centres and Universities. The key point was a "close and effective collaboration" on priority areas for specific interventions such as Home Automation, Molecular Biomedicine, Shipbuilding and Boating.

At the end of August 2013, the figures reveal the funding of 14 integrated projects to support the industrial re-

search. 93 projects have been funded, involving 40 enterprises and 16 Research Centers or Universities.

Always related to Axis 1, also the activity 1.1.a has financed projects to foster the industrial research, development and innovation for the enterprises. The funded projects have been 430, of which 188 in collaboration with the Research Centers.

The projects in collaboration with the Research Centers include 174 projects which involve the enterprises. The Axis 1 has funded 886 projects.

The new 2014 - 2020 programming period shall envisage the collaboration between enterprises and Science Parks through the funding from the Structural Funds. The proposal for a

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the "Investments for growth and employment" objective aims at supporting the Public Research & Innovation Institutes and at fostering the investment in technology and in applied research for the enterprises.

The scope of the support from the ERDF for the 2014 - 2020 period should include the Public Research & Innovation Institutes and investments in technology and applied research for the enterprises. The 2014 - 2020 Regional Operational Plan will play an important role.

# "The Good Practices Project": to do well, and make it known

by **Luca Brusati** - Scientific Coordinator of the Laboratory for Research in Economics and Management at University of Udine

In accordance with the logic of the project cycle management, the Regional Operational Programme envisages a set of opportunities to analyze the quality of the individual funded projects and of the Programme as a whole, in order to ensure the monitoring and above all the evaluation - *ex ante*, *in itinere* and *ex post*.

These opportunities are useful to have a feedback, to analyze the way in which the resources have been spent and to guarantee a greater accountability both for the feed-forward and to identify, on the basis of empirical evidence, the scope for improvement of the program and therefore to improve the quality of the programming.

The reports of the evaluators are therefore valuable documents for the "experts". However, they can hardly be used to communicate to the public "the activity of the ROP". For this reason, the idea of the "Best Practices Project" has arisen. This has been conceived, in the context of the multi-year communication plan of the ROP ERDF 2007-2013, as a solid and updated empirical basis to support all the promotional activities of the Program for citizens and entrepreneurs. Although it is not a traditional evaluation activities, it was considered necessary that the analysis of the "best practices" would have been managed according to strict criteria by a third party, different from both the Managing Authority of the Programme and from Pomilio Blumm, the agency that provides a technical support for the implementation of the communication plan concerning the ROP. LAREM has been chosen. It is the Laboratory for Research in Economics and Management, the center of the Udine University that is special-

ized in the study of the all aspects of the corporate communication, which has researchers with over ten-year experience in the evaluation of the European programs and projects.

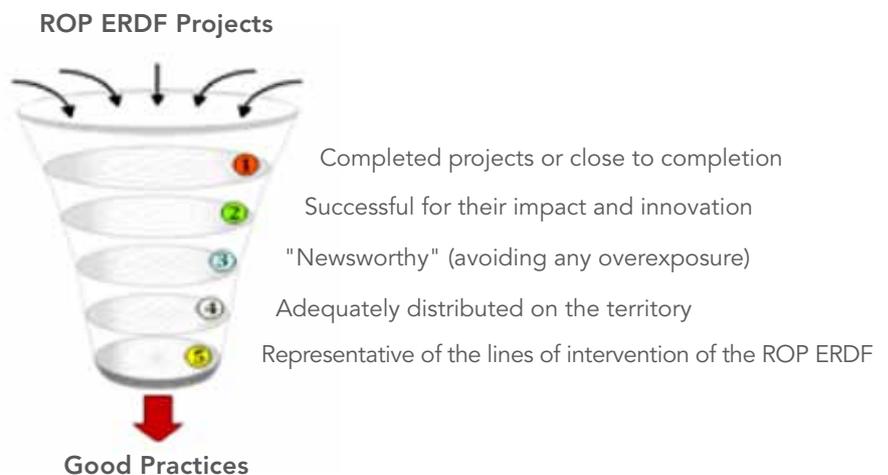
The expected result from the "Good Practices Project" is an evidence-based catalog concerning projects deemed "successful", used to explain to a non-specialist audience "the activity of the ROP".

What are the criteria to be included in this catalog?

Researchers at the LAREM, in agreement with the representatives of the axis, have established five useful cri-

teria. First of all, in order to reliably judge a project as a "good practice", it must be completed or close to the completion.

It must be a project that stands out for its results, for example in terms of the relevance of the results, of the relationship between cost and effectiveness or for the innovation of the partnership or of the working methods. The third criterion explains the difference between the "Best Practices Project" and the traditional assessments. In order to be effectively accessible in support of the communication of the program, the best practices should cover initiatives sufficiently appealing to the "general public" (where possible avoiding to present always the same projects). This is not obviously a requirement for the objective quality of the project. However it is important if the goal is the promotion of the ROP. The last criteria, namely the balanced distribution of the good practices in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region and among the different lines of action, meet again the communication needs rather than the rigorous evaluation process.



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The short list of "best practices" to be analyzed was defined during the summer, and the work of the information collection is currently underway. The results of the analysis will be presented during an event, scheduled for early 2014, and then they will be used as a starting point for the promotion activities of the ROP in the coming months.

The key rule of the effective communication is simple but it's often forgotten: "to do well, and make it known".

# The Monitoring Committee of the ROP ERDF 2007- 2013: progress report

110 jobs created in R&D and the analysis of the EU spending targets are only two of the several achieved results

EU and national officials, regional representatives analyze and verify the work of the Regional Operational Programme (ROP), co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund "Regional competitiveness and employment Objective" for the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. The goal is to monitor the financial progress of the Programme, the use of the funds, the quality of interventions with respect to the parameters defined during its programming for the period 2007-2013. The topics on the agenda have been the change of the program and the Cohesion Action Plan.

The 2013 Monitoring Committee took place in Trieste on June 12<sup>th</sup>. In terms of the financial progress, compared to the payments monitored at the end of December 2012 (amounting equal to 123,69 millions of euros), there was an increase of one million euro (last update: 30 April 2013). In the first months of 2013, the procedure of modifying the Program for joining the solidarity financial contribution of the earth-

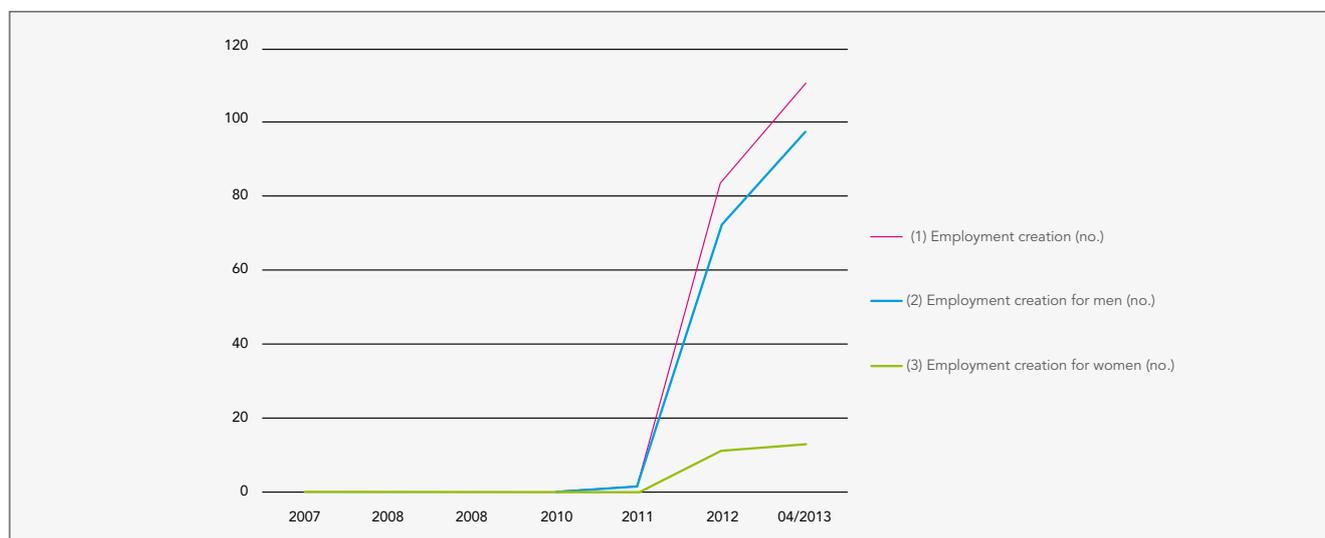
quake-stricken regions started, diminishing the activity 5.1b (concerning the exploitation of renewable energy sources "biomass") with a reduction in the financial plan of the Program: from €303 million to €300.75 million. With regard to the Cohesion Action Plan (CAP), the Management Authority, in collaboration with the regional authorities involved in ROP, has carried out an analysis on the progress of the individual lines of activity in order to establish the amount of resources and to plan actions concerning the CAP. The financial evaluation analyzes this type of progress, while a more European interpretation of the program, through the earmarking, allows to understand if the expenditure is consistent with EU objectives, established in 2007. During the Monitoring Committee, for example, the percentage of the funding for research, innovation and entrepreneurship and financial engineering has been presented. 66.05% is the percentage of the granted payments (of the percentage of EU funding) of the envisaged total amount concern-

ing measures to facilitate and support research and innovation and entrepreneurship for SMEs. The goal of the program is not only the competitiveness, but also the employment. The jobs created at the end of April 2013 for the projects of research and development (R&D) were 110. They had been 83 at the end of 2012. The 88% of the jobs are held by men. The projects realized - always in R&D - at the end of April 2013 were 333 (they had been 259 up to 2012). On average, an employment every three projects has been created.

**Earmarking: the term meant the financial resources that the Member States had to assign in order to achieve specific objectives linked to the priority themes of the European Development Policy (Lisbon Agenda).**

For any further information on the 2013 modified Operational Program: [www.regione.fvg.it](http://www.regione.fvg.it) - homepage of the ROP ERDF

## EMPLOYMENT CREATION



# Forecasts to speed up the use of the European funds

The conversion into law with amendments of the "Decreto del Fare" has been published: priority in the use of the funds.

Speeding up the use of European funds, making the interventions priorities and achieving the goals on regular spending, not to incur the penalties required by the European Union in cases of

supplement no. 63). This Decree-Law (i.e. the "Decreto del Fare") has been modified after a decision by Parliament.

The law provisions include also an article concerning the European

[...] are required to give priority, in the discussion of business, to the competence, to the proceedings, to the measures and to the actions, also without any measure concerning the activities in any way related



non-implementation of programs and projects co-funded by the European Structural Funds. What above mentioned are only some elements of the Law no 98 of 9 August 2013: "Conversione in legge, con modificazioni, del decreto legge 21 giugno 2013, n. 69, recante disposizioni urgenti per il rilancio dell'economia", published on August 20<sup>th</sup> on the Official Journal 194 (ordinary

Structural Fund (such as the ERDF). The article 9, paragraph 1 provides as follows: "The Governments and the state enterprises, including the autonomous enterprises, the Institutes, the Schools of all levels and the educational Institutes, the Universities, the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture, the non-economic public bodies, and the agencies referred to the decree

to the use of European structural funds, including those concerning the rural development, fishing and to the realization of projects carried out with the very same funds".

*On - line in the web section "normativa" (legislation) of the ROP ERDF.*

# Ports and interports: a system for the coordination of the cargo in transit

ROP ERDF finances a system to improve the efficiency of the regional logistics hubs

An innovative plan to improve the system of the regional transportation and to offer more services to the domestic and international operators: the implementation of the Safe and Efficient Cargo (SEC) project. This is Friuli Venezia Giulia Region entrusted the implementation of the SEC to the in-house company INSIEL S.p.a. with the aim of integrating and organizing the cargo flows on land and at sea, through the computerisation of the practices and the traceability of heavy-duty vehicles. This activity, through the project "Implementation of the SEC Project" is one of the intangible interventions for the infrastructure of the transport. It is included in the 2007-2013 ROP ERDF (Priority Axis 3 - Accessibility) and it allows to carry on the intervention al-

ready developed by the Region from 2008, due to the agreement already in place between the regional administration and Insiel S.p.A.

The budget amounts to €5 million, for the implementation of initiatives in favour of the "Intelligent Transport" system. The areas of intervention affect the whole region, included the ports of Trieste and Monfalcone.

In particular, the SEC manages the transit cargo in ports and in interports, thus reducing the waiting times for boarding and simplifying the bureaucratic procedures. Furthermore, the project also aims at fostering the relationship between the Institutions and the workers in the sector, at creating an integration system and at coordinating the regional logistic hubs.

The implementation of the project is

ensured by an automatic system concerning the monitoring, management and the traceability of goods and vehicles as well as by a security system to control the access of the vehicles and of the pedestrians in the port and logistic areas. The management of the procedures and of the documents is computerized.

Many activities have been planned in order to monitor, to control and to manage the transport of dangerous goods. There is also a control centre of the regional logistics system, that is very important in order to support the decision-making and the planning.

Info - mobility services on the condition and on the availability of the infrastructures are guaranteed.

- A recent study carried out by The European House Ambrosetti: "Il rilancio della portualità e della logistica italiana come leva strategica per la crescita e la competitività del Paese - Documento di indirizzo strategico" ("Relaunching the port system and logistics in Italy as a strategic driver for national growth and competitiveness - Strategy Document") highlights the key role that plays the efficiency of the port structure and not the number of the ports to draw the attention and to manage the traffic of the Country.
- The document entitled "Infrastrutture e mobilità 2013" ("Infrastructures and Mobility 2013"), presented last July in Rome and promoted by ResPublica Foundation, Italiadecide and Astrid proposes the definition of "competitive market", namely: "the area in which the price differential for the shipping of the goods by ports in the North or in the South is less than 20%. The re-establishment of the balances at the European level develops on this segment of the market, which lies over the Alps and that includes some of the most vibrant economic areas".



## From the ports of the High Adriatic Sea to the Continental area

Background analysis in order to make the system more flexible

The Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, thanks to its production system, belongs to a geopolitical context that aims at developing the cross-border economic relations and at strengthening the logistic networks. There are some European policies which highlight the potential to be exploited and to be realized in the medium-term by the territories. This is a perspective that illustrates one of the (maritime) strategies promoted by the European Commission and it outlines the intermodality towards the continental area.

### Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas

As regards the Adriatic Sea, at the end of December 2012, the European Commission presented the Communication entitled "Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas". It is included in the scope of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and it might constitute the starting point for a wider Macro-Regional Strategy.

The geographical scope of the Maritime Strategy of the Commission - this is a hypothesis - considers the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea as a link among the following seven Countries: four EU Member States (Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia), a candidate Country (Montenegro) and two potential candidate Countries (Albania, Bosnia - Herzegovina). Serbia, inter alia, is participating in the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative, a regional cooperation that was formally established at the conference held in Ancona, Italy in May 2000. Seven Countries cooperate within the framework of the above mentioned Initiative: Albania, Bosnia - Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia. In fact, in addition to the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, this area has already developed programs and it is adopting cooperation instruments such as IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance).

### Intermodality of the High Adriatic Sea

From the economic point of view, considering that the Northern Adriatic ports such as Trieste, Venice, Ravenna, Fiume, Capodistria are very important for the import of the goods of some Countries of the North, it's necessary taking into account an integrated and logistic system, an intermodal and functional system, whose goal are the Central European Transport Corridors. The Commission clearly indicates that the competitiveness of the Adriatic and Ionian ports depends on the ability to enhance the

## Dai porti dell'Alto-Adriatico all'area continentale

Analisi di contesto per rendere il sistema elastico e competitivo

La Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, con il suo sistema produttivo, è inserita in un contesto geopolitico favorevole allo sviluppo di relazioni economiche transfrontaliere ed al rafforzamento di reti logistiche. Esistono delle politiche europee che permettono la comprensione di un potenziale immediatamente spendibile o realizzabile nel medio termine da parte dei territori. Si tratta di una prospettiva che illustra a brevi cenni una delle strategie (marittime) lanciate dalla Commissione Europea e delinea l'intermodalità verso l'area continentale.

### Strategia marittima per il Mare Adriatico ed il Mar Ionio

Per il mar Adriatico c'è un suggerimento della Commissione europea: la "Strategia marittima per il Mare Adriatico ed il Mar Ionio" presentata a fine dicembre 2012. Rientra nell'ambito della politica marittima integrata dell'Unione e potrebbe costituire il punto di partenza per una più ampia strategia macroregionale. Il campo di applicazione geografico della strategia marittima della Commissione - si tratta di un'ipotesi - considera il Mare Adriatico e il Mar Ionio come collegamento tra sette paesi: quattro Stati membri dell'UE (Grecia, Italia, Slovenia e Croazia), un paese candidato (Montenegro) e due paesi candidati potenziali (Albania e Bosnia - Erzegovina). La Serbia, tra l'altro, rientra già nell'iniziativa adriatico - ionica, una cooperazione regionale avviata con la dichiarazione di Ancona nel 2000 e che comprende altri sette membri (Albania, Bosnia - Erzegovina, Croazia, Grecia, Italia, Montenegro, Slovenia). Quest'area infatti oltre all'iniziativa adriatico - ionica ha già sviluppato programmi o sta utilizzando strumenti di cooperazione come IPA (Instrument for Pre - accession Assistance, cioè lo strumento di assistenza pre - adesione).

### Intermodalità dell'Alto Adriatico

Dal punto di vista economico, considerando che alcuni Paesi del Nord dipendono per le importazioni di merci dai porti dell'Alto Adriatico (Trieste ma anche Venezia, Ravenna, Fiume, Capodistria) non si può non pensare ad un sistema logistico integrato, un sistema intermodale funzionale e proiettato verso i corridoi centro - europei. La Commissione indica chiaramente che la competitività dei porti adriatici e ionici dipende da elementi quali la capacità di

intermodality through the integration of land and sea transport and the ability to work effectively, paying attention to the problems concerning the environmental pollution.

*potenziare l'intermodalità grazie all'integrazione dei trasporti terrestri e marittimi e la capacità di funzionare efficacemente con attenzione alle problematiche di inquinamento ambientale.*



## 2014-2020: New financial instruments to support SMEs

Brussels - On July 15th, 2013, a videoconference took place at the Regional Council with the regional office in Brussels for the exchange of knowledge between the regional territory and the officials of the European Institutions and of the executive Agencies which promote the competitiveness for the enterprises concerning innovation.

The topics discussed during the videoconference were the interventions of the European Union in favour of a growth of SMEs, referring to the future "Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs – COSME". With a planned budget of about 2.3 billion euro, COSME aims at increasing the competitiveness and sustainability of the enterprises, at encouraging an entrepreneurial culture and at facilitating access to finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and at improving their access to the markets. It's worth mentioning also the Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020.

During the meeting, in videoconference from Luxembourg, a session focused on the presentation of the credit lines launched by the European Investment Bank (EIB - [www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)). Massimo Baldinato, cabinet member of Antonio Tajani, the Vice President of the European Commission closed the session by presenting the "mission for growth".

### For any further information:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/cip/cosme/>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm)
- <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/>

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