



Governance of the NOP for Research and Competitiveness

The integration of research and innovation policies also entails a unity of government action. This is why in the new Structural Fund programming, the Ministry for Education, University and Research (Managing Authority) and the Ministry for Economic Development (Intermediate Body) are called on to work side-by-side, sharing responsibility for action programming and implementation with other central administrations and regions. They thereby become the primary public players of a real, concrete multi-level governance of the service of lasting, sustainable development in the south and throughout the country. Sharing the programming and implementation also means aligning interventions by the various Administrations, in order to maximise resources and increase the impact of investments in research and innovation on the economic system of the Convergence territories. The measures envisaged by the National Programmes must be integrated with those to be taken under Regional Programmes.



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NATIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS
2007-2013 FOR THE CONVERGENCE REGIONS:
CAMPANIA, CALABRIA, PUGLIA AND SICILIA
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Research and Innovation united to increase company competitiveness

The 2007-2013 NOP for Research and Competitiveness uses Community (European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) and national resources to fund research and innovation works to promote economic growth in the Convergence Regions (Campania, Calabria, Puglia and Sicilia). The focus is on allowing these regions to approach the average development figures reported for European Union countries. The idea is to help businesses become more competitive, strengthening their position on national and export markets. This will be done by taking action where the development of the abilities to produce quality research goes hand-in-hand with increased abilities to industrialise scientific results. We therefore obtain a new strategy in which research and innovation are closely integrated with a view to jointly attaining the great objective of sustainable development, for which the European Union strives.



NOP for Research and Competitiveness: financial resources

6,205.4 million euros have been allocated to supporting implementation of the 2007-2013 NOP for Research and Competitiveness. Of these, 3,102.7 million euros are co-funded by the European Union.

68.6% of resources, amounting to a Community contribution of 2,217 million euros, have been set aside to develop actions in support of structural changes (AXIS I), 27.2%, making for a Community contribution of 860,696.8 million euros, will go towards developing actions to support innovation (AXIS II). The remaining financial framework will ensure the integration of national and regional actions, in addition to providing support and complementary actions to NOP management and the implementation of its interventions (AXIS III).

Who is concerned by the NOP for Research and Competitiveness

The opportunities provided by the NOP mainly concern producers of knowledge (Universities, Research Centres, Technological Districts, Centres of Competence, other research bodies) and the users of research results (Companies). The NOP can intervene in the structural change and economic development processes of the Convergence Regions, making it an extraordinary tool for progress for society as a whole. The society is thus allowed to take a lead role and kept constantly informed about Programme developments, later being called to evaluate the results.

A focus on research and innovation to strengthen company competitiveness

The results obtained in previous Structural Fund programmes have shown that investing in research and innovation is an efficient response to meeting the demands for growth and competitive development of companies and local economic systems. We therefore have every intention of continuing to apply this strategy, using the NOP to promote actions that can guide the production systems of Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicilia towards new manufacturing specialisations with a high technological scientific content and with the potential for lasting development.

Actions envisaged

- Scientific-technological areas of strategic value
- Actions supporting industrial research
- Industrial innovation projects and related actions
- Innovation projects to optimise the specific potential of the Convergence areas

Networking scientific and technological excellence

Bringing demand into line with a quality supply of research and innovation forms the basis of NOP actions aimed at creating and strengthening scientific and productive concentrations in Convergence territories, in addition to strengthening research centres and developing inter-regional cooperation. We aim to strengthen integration of public and private technological-scientific systems in the Convergence territories and in other national and European contexts. We want to optimise existing scientific excellence, making it available to local productive systems, and to promote internationally-valuable industrial innovation and research.

Actions envisaged

- High technology districts and related networks
- Public-private laboratories and related networks
- Structural strengthening
- Inter-regional cooperation in scientific and production sectors
- North/south osmosis initiatives

Supporting company demand for innovation

SMEs often find it difficult to express a capacity for independent innovation and face up to a continuously and rapidly evolving technological and economic scenario. With a view to supporting the abandonment of isolation by smaller companies, to help them grow in size and to promote aggregation and concentration, the NOP provides tools for sectoral requalification, encouraging the investment of private capital to create new companies or benefit the more innovative, expanding companies. We make it easier to access credit.

Actions envisaged

- Actions aimed at competitively repositioning the production system
- Capitalisation of SMEs and credit access

Promoting qualified employment

To become more competitive, we also need to be able to rely on qualified professionals that will encourage investment in research and innovation. We also need to develop actions in line with company strategies, to benefit from the results of activities developed in both the medium and long-term. To keep the effects of the policy for research and innovation lasting, we use the NOP to support qualified employment through training events. These aim to increase the managerial and technical skills of research staff with a view to their inclusion in the workforce of companies and scientific structures. The thus-trained staff will thereby provide an added resource available to companies in the development of NOP-funded projects, in which they will be called to play an active part.

Actions envisaged

- Training events aimed at attaining the specific objectives of NOP-funded research and innovation projects



Investing in your future