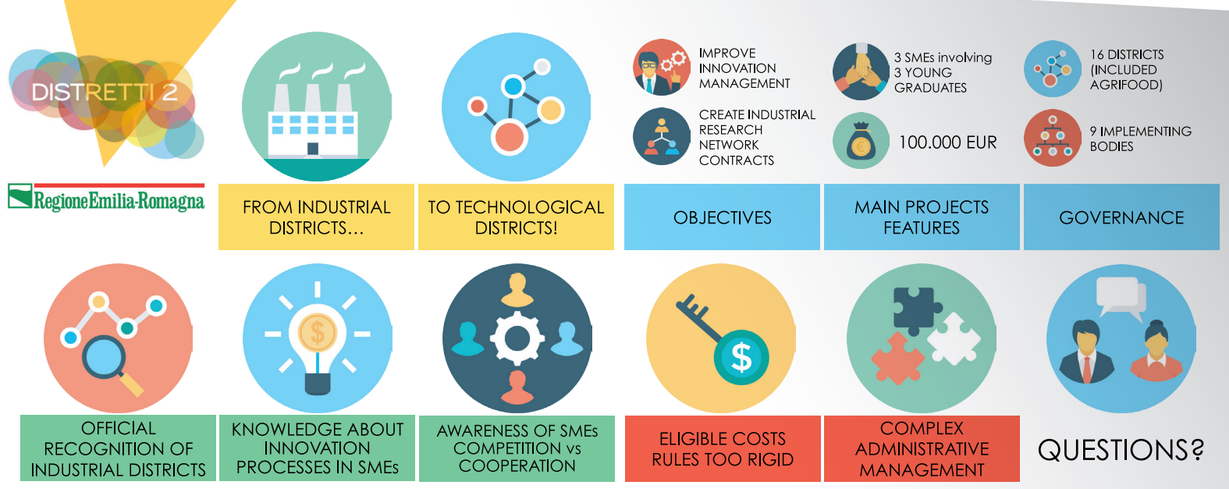
STRING

Interreg Europe



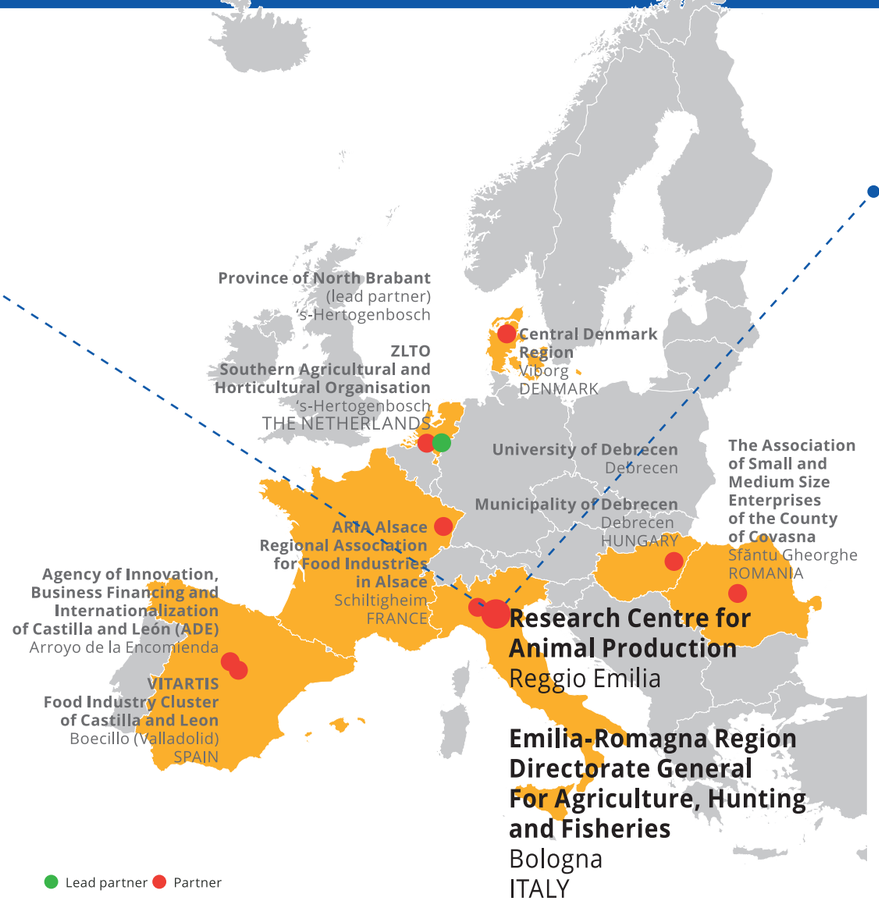
Regione Emilia Romagna (Italy)

Innovation of tradition

KEY POINTS OF THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

EMILIA-ROMAGNA AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM		
GDP per inhabitant (EUR)	33.562	
Export of agri-food as % of total production	30,6% (5.936 mln)	
Number of employees in agri-food sector ('000)	116,5	
Percentage population aged 30-34 having completed tertiary education (%)	28,7%	

INDICATOR	EMILIA-ROMAGNA	NATIONAL LEVEL
% of agriculture in GDP	2,6%	,6%
% of food & beverages production in GDP	3,0%	,6%
R&D as percentage of GDP	1,8%	,6%



MAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

- Dairy
- Vegetables
- Fruits

A FAVOURABLE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM WITH

- **six regional universities** - Bologna, Ferrara, Modena and Reggio Emilia, Parma and Piacenza;
- two research organisations focused on agriculture: **CRPA** (animal production) and **CRPV** (plant production)
- the **High Technological Network**, which includes the agri-food platform, coordinated by ASTER;
- the **Technopoles**, infrastructures of research and technological transfer located near the main cities in the whole regional territory;
- the **regional training system**, specifically the polytechnic network of tertiary specialist training, centered on Higher Technical Institutes, and the regional system of agricultural and forestry education

Focus on agro-food **sector** in the ERDF programme

Targeted policy instrument: investment priority 1b included in the priority Axis 1 of the ERDF Regional Operational Programme "research & innovation" (140,5 Millions eur).

The agri-food sector is one of the regional specialization area identified by the 3S strategy, therefore is directly relevant for the targeted policy instrument. It has been estimated that the 15% of the ERDF resources allocated to the regional specialization strategy should be appointed to the agri-food sector.

Engines for Change!

STRING topic	Learning needs	Good practices
1. Food industry innovation ecosystem frames	To compare with other regions in order to support the implementation of the regional future strategy.	Regional Network of Technopoles: the CRPA LAB research unit
2. Cross-sectoral cooperation able to favour cross fertilization	To understand how the other regions are addressing the research on functional foods.	
3. Harmonizing policy instruments	To improve the cooperation between regional directorates.	Operational groups for innovation in the agri-food sector
4. Promote added value by linking innovation and production to real consumer needs	To understand how to tailor policy instruments	Geographical indication (GI) products: competitive advantages
5.Integration of SMEs in clusters and intercluster cooperation	To promote a "cluster culture", increasing the level of awareness of SMEs about clusters.	From Productive Districts to Technological Districts

Research & Innovation

€ 1.72 M ERDF

Jan 2017 Jun 2021

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

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