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Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

# Regional innovation policy to increase the adoption of Reinwaste solutions

The packaging of the future in the proposals of the S3 Forums

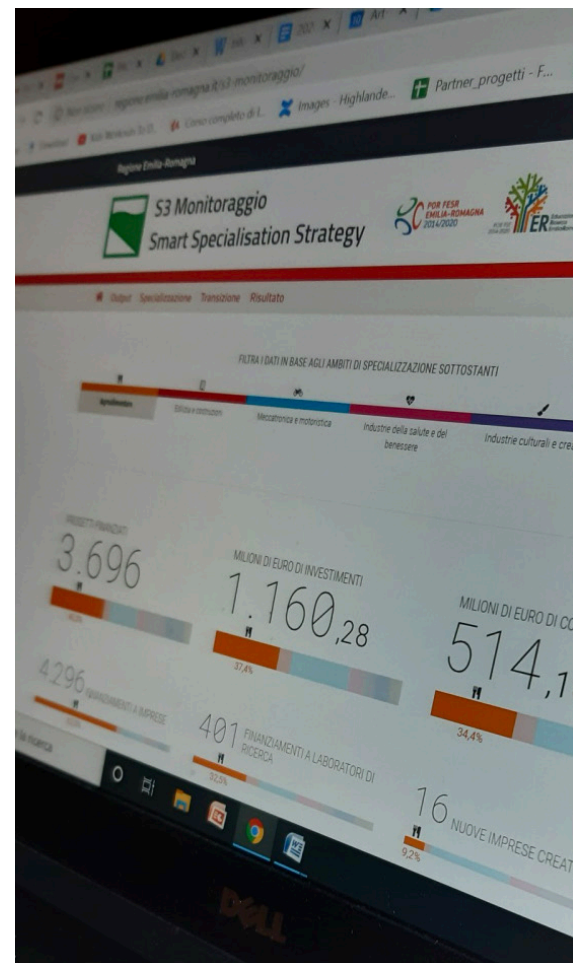
## THE S3 MONITORING SYSTEM

In Emilia-Romagna, a monitoring system has been developed which provides information on the outputs of the actions and projects, and on the observable changes in the regional system towards the specialization described in the strategy. The monitoring data are available through an interactive dashboard that can be consulted online (<https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/s3-monitoraggio/>) and through synthetic reports updated every six months.

At the end of April 2019, after four years from the Regional S3 approval, almost 7,000 monitored projects contributed to the implementation of the strategy. Consistent with the S3 approach, both research, development and innovation projects are considered, including support for innovative start-ups and research infrastructures and other system actions, as well as interventions for the formation of human capital, interventions for cultural industries and creative and some other business investment.

The value of the projects monitored exceeds 2.76 billion euros (a larger amount than the target indicated in the strategy) of which over 1.28 billion euros in public grants.

The monitoring system also allows to observe alongside the implementation phase, some relevant outputs for the achievement of the S3 objectives.



## THE S3 FORUM

The S3 Forums are open discussions within the Emilia-Romagna regional innovation system, created with the aim of constantly and continuously suggesting intervention policies and tools for a more effective implementation of the Smart Specialization (S3) of Emilia-Romagna. In the S3 Forums the Clust-ER Associations, as references of the Emilia-Romagna Region on issues related to research, innovation and high skills, assume an important role as subjects capable of aggregating the research laboratories on the various areas of specialization of the S3, businesses

and higher education institutions. The first S3 Forums were held between the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 as a participatory path aimed at reviewing the S3 strategy. The coordinated process involved all the actors of the regional research and innovation system, coordinated by ART-ER, and led to the creation of seven Thematic Forums in May 2018. The objective was to propose an update of the thematic guidelines envisaged by the Smart Specialization Strategy and to suggest policies and intervention tools for a more effective implementation of the Strategy itself.

## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA: THE PACKAGING OF THE FUTURE IN THE PROPOSALS OF THE S3 FORUMS

The process ended on June 8, during the R2B - Research to Business 2018 fair, with the delivery of the revision proposals put forward by the Clust-ERs. The results of this extensive and complex participatory audit work were incorporated into the «Call for strategic industrial research projects aimed at priority areas S3» of 2018.

### THE 2019 EDITION OF THE S3 FORUMS: «CLUST-ERS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT»

The S3 Forums of 2019 aimed at providing indications for research and innovation policies based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by means of a cross-cutting analysis of innovation trends and needs in the region according to the goals of Agenda 2030.

The 2030 Agenda is in fact considered a working document for the Emilia-Romagna Region which, starting from 2016, has brought all the actions envisaged by the Regional Law n.14 of 2014 in support of corporate social responsibility, in the integrated dimension of sustainable development promoted by Agenda 2030, by launching a series of new initiatives aimed at promoting awareness of the «Sustainable Development Goals» (SDGs) among businesses, associations and local authorities and expanding partnerships with public entities and private individuals more committed to the objectives indicated in the Agenda.

Within the forum «Resources of today, a value for tomorrow» packaging was addressed in the parallel session «New solutions for packaging». The theme of innovation for packaging is crucial at this time of transition in the sector that requires attention to environmental sustainability.

The innovative experiences presented by companies and laboratories belonging to the regional system of Clust-ERs concerned areas from design, to materials, to a focus on plastics and the new European directive on disposable plastics. After the sharing of these experiences, the debate began aimed at collecting proposals to be addressed to the Emilia-Romagna Region.

### NEW PROPOSALS FOR THE EMILIA- ROMAGNA REGION «NEW PACKAGING SOLUTIONS»

In the S3 monitoring system almost 1,500 projects over a total of 2,600 are related to the theme of new packaging solutions. The strong element of novelty for the sector was represented by the legislation, the new Disposable Plastics Directive, Directive no. 904/2019, which determines a big impact. The proposals collected by regional stakeholders particularly concerned regulation, training and innovation support.

Firstly, the need for regulatory clarity and harmonization with the European and national levels emerged clearly during the discussion.

The management of this transition phase also requires a clear regulatory direction, agreed with companies and research, to clarify the scope of intervention for innovation and to transmit the right information about it to the final consumer.

With respect to training, adequate professional figures are needed to manage a transition towards biodegradable and biocompostable materials.

The Region has already supported a VET course for packaging technicians, but the need for these intermediate figures in companies is still present and is projected to increase, therefore the need for a combined investment with the participation of companies in this sector.

IFTTS and ITS, devoted to Vocational Training, can guarantee that didactic and experiential flexibility to more easily approach the needs of the industrial fabric.



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