

# FACTSHEET #6

## The Competitiveness Operational Programme (COP) 2014-2020 Large R&D infrastructures

### 1 Policy context

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are the main source of funding for investment priorities in Romania in many sectors.

Support to increase competitiveness, research, development and innovation (RDI), technology transfer, ICT development in the context of the Digital Agenda, or investments in new technologies or innovative processes are mainly funded through the Competitiveness Operational Programme (COP) 2014-2020. There are complementary national RDI funding programmes but the support they provide is usually lower than that of COP.

The COP 2014-2020 focuses on support for economic competitiveness, addressing two key vectors for this: RDI and ICT investments. The support includes investments in RDI public and private infrastructures, networking and cooperation, development of innovative enterprises, knowledge transfer partnerships. The ICT investments are focused on extending broadband access, adoption of emergent technologies, digitalisation, development of ICT products and services, e-governance.

The strategic framework set by the RDI National Strategy 2014-2020, and the National Competitiveness Strategy 2014-2020 defines the smart specialisation priority domains: (1) bioeconomy, (2) ICT, space and security (3) energy environment and climate change and (4) eco-nano-technologies and advanced materials.

**This factsheet is focused on the support to large Research and Development Infrastructures, funded by the COP, Priority Axis 1, SO (Specific Objective) 1.1 “Increase innovation in enterprises by supporting innovation and technology transfer entities in smart specialisation domains”.**

### 2 Large Research and Development Infrastructures

#### 2.1 Overview – the policy in numbers

##### Introduction

The intervention was designed to support active enterprises in research and development, to extend and modernise the R& D infrastructure, with a view to develop new research activities, research directions, and also to contribute to the creation of economic and scientific added value.

The COP is a national level programme with € 180 M allocation for large R&D infrastructures. The programme does not have pre-allocations of funds at the regional level. At 31 January 2020, 30 projects were contracted with a total public funds value of € 130.2 M.

Table 1: The COP 2014-2020 – implementation data

Romania			Stakeholder territory			
Allocation (ERDF+national)	Contracted (ERDF+national)	No. of contracts	Contracted (ERDF+national)	% in NE-SE	No. of projects	% in NE-SE
€ 180 M	€ 130.2 M	30	€ 26.61 M	98.07	5	83.33

Source: <http://mfe.gov.ro/programe/autoritati-de-management/am-poc/>

At the national level, 30 projects are contracted with a total value of € 130.2 M, which represents 72.2% of the total national programme allocation related to this action. The projects implemented in the stakeholder territory (5) represent 20% of the total number of projects contracted and absorbed and their total amount represents 21.03% of the total amount at national level.

At regional level, the NE region has projects contracted only in Iași (4 projects) with a total value of € 25.68 M (ERDF and national budget), and the SE region has only one in Galați with a total value of € 0.94 M.

## 2.2 Intervention logic

At the programme level, the need addressed by this intervention is to increase the RD capacity in the enterprises, to enable a higher volume and level of innovation in enterprises.

The RD infrastructure requires, in general, large volumes of funding, is an area of market failure, and justifies the public intervention.

### Enterprises Needs

- Financial resources to invest in R&D infrastructure including:
  - Modern buildings and facilities;
  - New, modern technology and equipment.
- Know-how and other intangible assets.

### Actions

The intervention consists of grants awarded to enterprises, up to € 20 M per project. The beneficiary co-financing varies between 30% and 85%, depending on the development region where the project is implemented and on the type of enterprise.

The eligible actions at project level include:

- Acquisition of land or buildings, construction or rehabilitation;
- Acquisition of equipment, know-how, other intangible assets needed in the R&D activity.

### Expected outputs

- Enterprises supported for research and development;
- Improved R&D infrastructures and researchers using the new infrastructure;
- Private investments combined with public funds.

### Expected results (defined at the sector level) as:

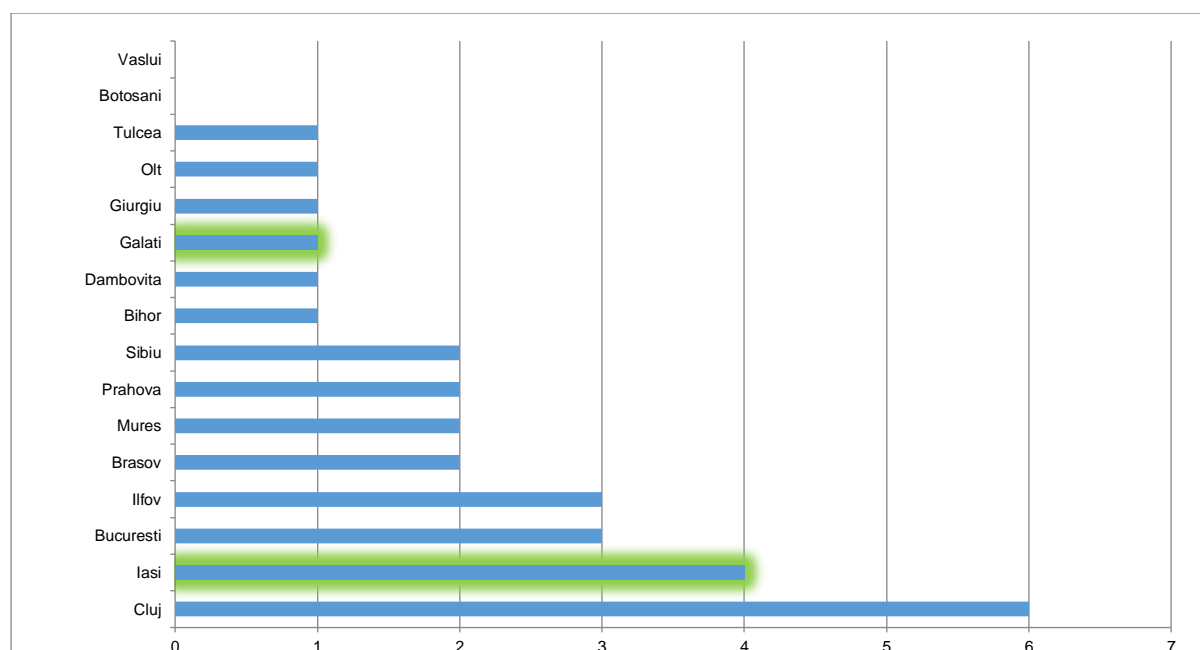
- Increased volume of research development and innovation in enterprises;
- Increased number of scientific publication activity.

## 2.3 Results achieved in the region

A significant amount of funding is absorbed in the stakeholder territory. With four projects contracted in Iași and one in Galați, € 3 M were attracted in the stakeholder territory (mainly in Iași). At opposite poles

are the counties of Botoșani and Vaslui which have no contracted project under the COP Priority Axis 1, SO 1.1.

Figure 2.1: Number of contracted projects (only counties with projects and counties in the stakeholder territory)



Source: <http://mfe.gov.ro/programe/autoritati-de-management/am-poc/>, 31.01.2020

Only 14 counties out of the 41 attracted funds from this funding scheme. In the stakeholder territory, 5 projects are implemented, in the two university centers Iasi (4) and Galati (1). Iasi ranks second after Cluj with 6 projects funded.

Table 2.2: Achievements of COP 2014-2020

no	Programme indicators	National Target value (2023)	Achieved National level		Achieved In the territory and % at the national level	
			Nr	%	Nr	%
1	Number of enterprises receiving support	52	21	40.38	5	23.8
2	Number of new researchers in the supported entities	130	369.47	284.20	Not available	Not available
3	Research, innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructures	276	464	168.12	Not available	Not available
4	Research, innovation: Private investment combined with public support for innovation or R&D projects	51.01 M€	47.026 M€	92.19	Not available	Not available

Source: <http://mfe.gov.ro/programe/autoritati-de-management/am-poc/>, Annual Implementation Report 31.12.2018

From the analysis of the indicators at the level of 31.12.2018, it can be concluded that until the end of the programme implementation, based on the contracted projects, they can be fulfilled. To date, two indicators are met, even exceeding the number of new researchers in the supported entities in the proportion of 284.20% and research, innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructures in the proportion of 168.12%. The indicator Research, innovation: Private investment combined with public support for innovation or R&D projects is fulfilled in the proportion of 92.19% based on the projects contracted at the end of 2018.

## 2.4 The programme result indicators

The programme results indicators are defined at the national level and are not calculated at NUTS 3 level. Therefore, an assessment of the programme outcomes at the stakeholder territory level, based

on the programme results indicators is not possible. However, a further assessment of the outcomes of the projects implemented could be performed at a later stage after the projects' finalisation.

*Table 2.3: Programme results indicators targets and achievements (at the national level)*

<b>Programme result indicator</b>	<b>Baseline 2011</b>	<b>Target 2023</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Public, private, scientific co-publications (per 1 million inhabitants)	8.3	18	4.9	3.7

*Source: COP Annual Implementation Report 2017, 2018.*