



**MARIE**  
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European Union | European Regional Development Fund

# Action Plan

## BUCHAREST-ILFOV

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# MARIE

**MA**instreaming **R**esponsible **I**nnovation in **E**uropean **S3**

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## Introduction

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- The European Commission states that “research and innovation must respond to the needs and ambitions of society, reflect its values, and be responsible.” This means that while innovation is essential for our enterprises to compete on the global market, it also has the potential to change lives for the better.
- However, there are too many examples of innovations that have reached the market only to reveal negative impacts. We have seen examples of medicine that has had fatal consequences; we have seen the impact that large-scale transport and mass- agricultural production techniques have had on our environment; we are still finding out about the health and safety issues surrounding digitalisation.
- Responsible Innovation (RI) is an attempt to anticipate such negative impacts and to redirect innovation towards a model that reflects on impact from the start of product invention, design and production. RI engages with the public, with the end users of the product, in all development phases. RI encourages innovators to reflect on diversity, on ethics, on openness. It encourages them to anticipate and to govern their innovation.
- RI is a new concept and enterprises, particularly SMEs, are not always aware of it and of its potential benefits or ready to apply it in their innovation processes. Public Authorities have a role here: they can raise awareness and contribute to capacity building; they can provide incentives for its uptake; they can create favourable, collaborative environments for RI; they can provide funding for experiments with tools to integrate RI into innovation processes.

The MARIE project, co-funded by Interreg Europe, was designed to help the public sector implement this. Public Authorities from 8 European regions have worked together to share experiences in RI in the context of their smart specialisation priority sectors. They have developed Action Plans that detail how major innovation funding programmes, including ERDF Regional Operational Programmes, will promote RI across their territories. Their objective is to ensure that regional public policy supports delivery of RI to enterprises’ product, process and service design, production and distribution.

Interregional exchange has helped partners to learn and to design improvements to their own policy. Exchange has included:

- 8 Interregional Learning Events, organised across Europe and using different methods to share ideas, knowledge and challenges;
- Analysis of 11 Good Practices, coming from different areas of Europe and representing different aspects of the RI process;
- An Enterprise Survey carried out with 23 companies from the MARIE regions, to gather feedback from the ground, from the enterprises that can and must drive Responsible Innovation and that represent the beneficiaries of public policy for research, development and innovation;
- RI Maturity Assessment<sup>1</sup> carried out in all MARIE regions and then grouped for an interregional comparison;
- 2 large scale public events, organised in Dublin (October 2018) and Galicia (November 2019) and engaging with other international projects working on RI.

The MARIE Action Plan template<sup>2</sup> was designed to lead partners through various stages of interregional exchange leading to definition of concrete activities for policy improvement. The steps included within the Action Plan template were carefully designed to create a seamless flow between:

- the current (“where are we now?”) and envisaged (“where do we want to be?”) policy situation,

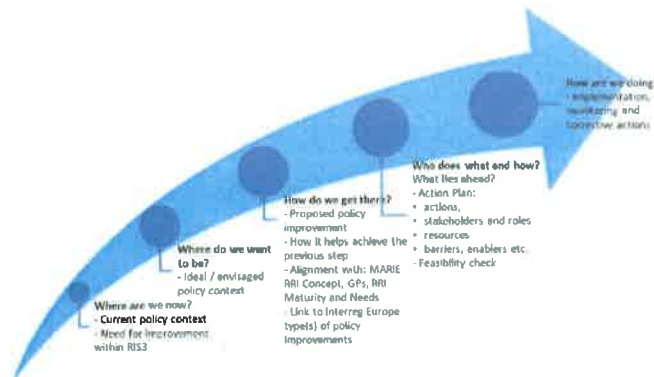
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<sup>1</sup> The templates and methodologies for both the Enterprise Survey and the Maturity Mapping were both designed by MARIE Exchange Manager, Athens University of Economics and Business – RC, who was also responsible for the interregional comparison and preparation of the joint reports.

<sup>2</sup> The methodological flow of the project and the template was designed by MARIE Exchange Manager, Athens University of Economics and Business – RC, with some input used from templates provided by the programme and by previous, successful projects (Interreg Europe Action Plan Template / COGITA Interreg IVC project Road Map Template).

- the description of the policy improvement and its positioning within the MARIE RRI concept,
- the utilisation of the collected GPs, and
- the alignment with the regional RRI maturity level and needs.

The MARIE Action Plan development strategy, showing the relationships between the current policy context, the envisaged policy improvement, the MARIE outputs, and the Action Plan development and implementation, is illustrated in *Figure 1* below.



**Figure 1. MARIE Action Plan development and implementation strategy**

The Action Plan is, as such, divided into three parts:

- Part 1 – Policy Context: this part describes the current policy situation, the need(s) that render necessary its improvement and the envisaged / enhanced policy context.
- Part 2 – Policy improvement(s) and relevance to MARIE: this part describes the proposed policy improvement(s), how it contributes towards the enhancement of the policy context, and its alignment with the MARIE outputs and the Interreg Europe policy improvement classification.
- Part 3 – Actions and feasibility check: this part describes the actions and other dimensions included in the development of the Action Plan and to assess the feasibility of its implementation.



## Part 1: Policy context of Action Plan

### Description of the regional Policy Context

Bucharest-Ilfov performs the best among the eight development regions of Romania, having the largest share of RDI resources in the country. However, at European level, it has a rather poor innovation performance, being a “Moderate - Innovator” region (RIS, 2019) and registering a decrease of the innovation performance over time.

The National Strategy for RDI 2014-2020 and other research related to innovation (e.g. Fitjar, Benneworth and Asheim, 2018) have identified the need to focus the RDI ecosystem on innovations that respond to societal challenges. The National Strategy is coherent with the objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Promoting RRI methodologies and tools is a concrete step in this direction. However, this is a novelty in Romania and the concept of RRI is not yet explicitly stated in the strategy.

The MARIE maturity mapping exercise shows that the level of performance of RRI for Bucharest-Ilfov is rather modest. Generally, there is low understanding of RRI concept, stakeholders incorporating in their activities RRI components without having a clear strategic framework defined. There is a high commitment for incorporating ethics into regional funding of RDI proposals, as well as specific provisions of public engagement in policy making and relatively a good balance between gender of project leaders winning regional RDI projects.

However, there is a low level of public involvement in the policy making process, the focus being more on informing stakeholders and on formally consulting them instead of mutual engagement and collaboration. Moreover, a large challenge for Bucharest-Ilfov is the lack of public information about various RRI components (e.g. no. of regionally funded projects or STEM involvement in research projects or amount invested in RRI projects) due to the centralized RDI public system.

We notice that all triple helix actors are eager to act according to external incentives related to various components of RRI and pay attention to integrate mainly gender equality, open access and ethics in their activities. Furthermore, there is a growing interest and motivation towards science and technology education, but here the same issue of the centralization of education systems hinders its development.



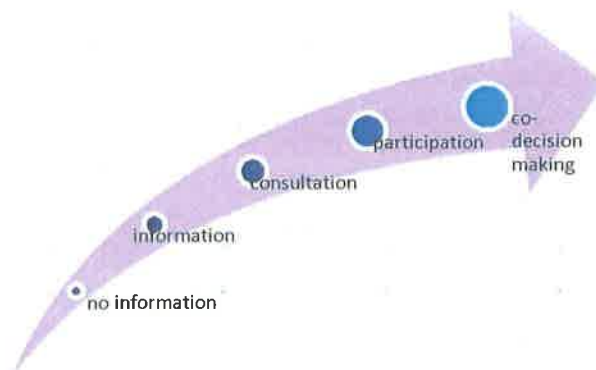
## Description of the need(s) to be addressed through the policy improvement

Studies conducted by UEFISCDI in 2015, welcome high priority actions for innovative and responsible development. To harmonise country development with the concept of RRI, cooperation among actors along the value chain is essential as within the last decade the concept, practice and actuation of innovation have changed. The “traditional” notion of innovation being driven only by science and engineering-led research and the focus on the commercialisation of pure research alone is no longer appropriate nor sustainable in an all-embracing socio-economic setting.

Due to the challenges facing this cooperation, there is a need for institutional change at regional and national levels. Although sustainable development is regarded as a strategic priority, Romania lacks effective policies designed for advancing RRI. There is no direct reference to RRI in the National Strategy or the documents implementing it (e.g. National Plan for RDI and its related funding instruments). Also, there is a weak culture of RRI at the level of public and private sectors which is further impacted by scarce and poor-quality services for innovation development and a weak innovative entrepreneurial culture. There is low trust in public institutions, which could be addressed by approaches based on responsibility.

During the MARIE stakeholder workshops held at regional level, stakeholders underlined the need to engage in intensive dialogue on what RRI is and on how to design and implement innovation projects taking into consideration society needs and ethical issues. As the actual strategic framework for RDI cannot be changed due to bureaucracy constraints, a bottom-up approach should be used to develop concrete measures affecting the implementation of the strategy in a positive way. The focus should be on establish a two-way communication channel addressing how RRI should be utilised when creating and implementing innovation projects.

**Figure 2: Framework for participation in the decision-making process / cooperation**



Thus, considering the framework for participation in the decision-making process / cooperation presented in Figure 1 above (Mainstreaming Social Inclusion [www.europemsi.org](http://www.europemsi.org)) and the actual regional context, the first category of needs addresses the “information” dimension. According to the authors of the framework, information and knowledge sharing is at the heart of participatory involvement as in the absence of comprehensive data on certain topic, it is not feasible to have neither consultation nor participation. This is why, the present Action Plan starts for addressing the need of information and on medium term aspires to reach both consultation and participation dimensions.

A second category of needs to be addressed take into consideration that there is no direct reference to RRI in the National Strategy for RDI or the documents implementing it. Calls within the innovation funding instruments include criteria referring to gender and ethics, but there is no comprehensive approach to RRI in the evaluation process. The need emerging in this context refers to the explicitly inclusion of RRI in the strategic framework for RDI (strategy and/or funding instruments).

## Description of the policy instrument selected for improvement

The National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020 supports the role of research as economic growth engine and it aims to connect Romania to the new priorities of science and technology set by the Europe 2020 and to the Horizon 2020 programme. It established priority areas of smart specialization (Bioeconomy; Information and communication technology, space and security; Energy, environment, climate change; and Eco-nanotechnologies and advanced materials) and public priority (Health; Heritage and cultural identity and New and emerging technologies), which underpin the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2015-2020 (PN III), one of its main tools for implementation. The strategy is based on 3 pillars: regional and global affirmation: enterprises as key innovation actors; excellence through internationalisation; regional leadership in strategic science and technology: breakthroughs.

As the National Strategy for RDI 2014-2020 is part of a multiannual strategic planning being approved by Government decision, updating it in terms of vision and management would require a long and difficult bureaucratic process.

Thus, we focus this Action Plan on the funding instruments, which contribute to the implementation of the strategy. These are launched annually, according to the budget availability, and can be updated or improved based on public consultations results and responses.

In this context, the present Action Plan is focused on:

- the Sub-programme 2.1. Competitiveness through RDI of the Programme 2 – Increasing the competitiveness of the Romanian economy through RDI – which is one of the fourth programmes of PN III. This sub-programme is coordinated by UEFISCDI (MARIE project partner). The funding instruments developed within the Sub-programme 2.1 are: Bridge Grant, Knowledge transfer to the economic agent, Experimental Demonstrative Project, Transfer to the Economic Operator, Innovation Voucher, Solutions, Cluster organisation and development – Innovative Cluster
- the Sub-programme 3.2. Horizon 2020 of the Programme 3 – European and international cooperation – which is also part of the programmes of PN III. This sub-programme is coordinated by UEFISCDI (MARIE project partner). The funding instruments developed within the Sub-programme 3.2 are aimed to support the participation in projects under H2020, to strengthen the national RDI system by fostering cooperation in excellence within the European Research Area, to increase the visibility of Romania in RDI.



### Description of the envisaged / enhanced policy context

The MARIE project and Action Plan implementation legacy is two-folded: along with an increased level of knowledge on RRI and its benefits among innovation communities, RRI would be explicitly integrated in the funding instruments.

The Action Plan will serve as catalysis to advance the empowerment of research practitioners to play an active role in all research-related dimensions, from gender balanced team and gender balanced top management structure to participatory research. This will impact positively the ecosystems they are active in, the spillover effect being reflected at both young and senior researchers' and funding experts' levels.

Specifically, through the Action Plan, the approach toward RRI awareness will be formalised, at least at institutional level, decreasing the risk of the regulatory arbitrage related to RRI issues due to current informality. Therefore, there will be a process of transition pursued as a joint effort among stakeholders which will allow the empowerment of relevant actors in contributing their share to RRI initiatives. The Action Plan will be a practical instrument allowing our region to promote and support RRI implementation in innovative projects. Moreover, it will allow the identification of the extent of informality and will develop a common level of understanding on RRI at both institutional and regional levels.



The proposed policy improvement	
Title	<p>Enabling RRI in the national research, development and innovation policy and publicly funded practice</p>
Description of policy improvement	<p>The proposed policy improvement refers to enabling the RRI integration in research, development and innovation in Bucharest-Ilfov, but also in the whole Romania, action closely linked with the project's objectives. Under this umbrella, two main complementary actions have been designed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Step 1: To pilot the RRI Regional Contact Point Pilot Framework namely by setting up a novel approach to fill the gap in term of knowledge on RRI.</li> <li>• Step 2: To explicitly integrate RRI in the calls for RDI funding instruments</li> </ul> <p>Together these steps aim to integrate RRI practices at regional level mixing both top-down (Step 2) and bottom-up (Step 1) approaches to support the development of new projects and to foster a culture of responsibility in innovation. This forms the basis of the present Action Plan, focus to shape the regional innovation framework towards RRI and the regional research and innovation ecosystem to reshape the social and community engagement and inclusion at every phase of project development and implementation.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 20px 0;"> <pre>                     graph LR                         A[Need information] --&gt; B[RRI Contact Point]                         C[Need of integration of RRI in funding instruments] --&gt; D[Integrating RRI in the calls for RDI funding instruments]                         B -- "Supporters for integration" --&gt; D                         B -- "Increased knowledge on RRI" --&gt; E[New innovative projects on/including RRI]                         D -- "Good actions &amp; specific actions" --&gt; E                         E --&gt; F[Enabling RRI for changes in policy and practice at regional level]                     </pre> </div>
	<p><b>Figure 3: Logic framework of MARIE Action Plan</b></p>
	<p>The first dimension of the policy improvement, Step 1, refers to piloting the RRI Regional Contact Point Framework. The RRI Regional Contact Point (RRI RCP) will assist regional stakeholders to understand RRI principles and to take appropriate measures to integrate RRI in their daily work. During the Phase 2 of MARIE project, UEFISCDI, the Romanian partner, will appoint the RRI Regional Ambassador to act as RRI Regional Contact Point from its staff members. The RRI Regional Contact point will work to inform actors active in innovation about RRI, to build strategic partnerships and to engage with quadruple helix stakeholders as well as to facilitate the collaboration among them. The long-term objective of the creation of this position is to develop and reinforce regional, national and</p>

interregional frameworks for RRI, in order to define basic common principles of QH involvement in innovation activities and to reinforce their cooperation.

This is a new avenue for dialogue and engaging with innovation actors, its benefits going beyond the organizational levels and altering the way of approaching RRI at regional level. The basis of a regional community of people with knowledge on RRI and able to support RRI implementation and to integrate RRI principles in their work will be in place at the end of the Phase 2.

The second dimension of the policy improvement. Step 2, refers to explicitly integrate RRI in one or more calls (in 2020 or 2021) for the RDI funding instruments. The instruments envisaged are those:

- under the Sub-programme 2.1 of PNCDI III “Increasing the competitiveness of the Romanian economy through RDI: Bridge Grant, Knowledge transfer to the economic agent, Experimental Demonstrative Project, Transfer to the Economic Operator, Innovation Voucher, Solutions and/or Innovative Cluster or Currently, in the calls two dimensions of RRI are requested to be reached by the applicants: gender equality and ethics. Through this action, we aim to broaden the vision about the impact on society for research and innovation project and to incorporate these two dimensions under the umbrella of responsibility and also to complete with the other RRI dimensions suitable for such type of calls: open science, public engagement, and/or participatory governance (referring specific to the project management).
- Under the Sub-programme 3.2 of PNCDI III “Horizon 2020”, through ERA-NET calls. Currently, the following instruments are: GEOTHERMICA, FLAG-ERA-II, QuantERA, MANUNET III, EuroNanoMed III, ERA4CS, ACT, ProSafe, NEURON, FACCE-SURPLUS, CoBioTech, SUSFOOD 2, BIODIVERSA 3, CORE Organic Cofund, ERA-GAS, WaterWorks 2015, ENSUF - ERA-NET cofund Smart Urban Futures, E-rare 3, ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus, WaterWorks 2014, ERA.Net RUS plus, INCOMERA, ERA-MIN2, Chist ERA-III Cofund, BiodivScen, MarTERA, M-ERA.NET, SusCrop, Sustainable Urbanisation Global Initiative, Smart Cities and Communities (ENSCC), PerMed, WaterWorks 2017, ERA-Net SG+ RegSYS - MICall19: Energy Storage Solutions, BiodivHealth, ERA-GAS 2, BlueBio, FLAG-ERA III - Joint Transnational Call (JTC) 2019, BiodivClim, CHIST ERA-IV Cofund, ICT-AGRI FOOD-2019.

By this approach - of regulation, the change of stakeholders’ behaviours is stimulated, as this will establish obligations to stakeholders to promote and to integrate the principles of responsibility in their projects. The proposals for the incorporation of RRI in the funding calls will be conducted by the RRI Ambassador who will also act as a supporter of this action.

This action will be a first step both in aligning funding innovation with RRI principles and in encouraging the embracement of RRI at regional level.

Step 1 will turn into two main effects linked with the dimension of “information” from the framework for participation in the decision-making process and cooperation: in terms of new projects, the capacity of stakeholders to develop RRI-based projects will be increased; in terms of policy management, decision-makers will have direct access to know-how in terms of RRI. Thus, the changes in the operating environment of science and innovation in terms of responsibility will also bring shifts also in the innovation policy system.

Step 2 proposes a new approach for funding innovation as the way in which the projects submitted under the thematic calls will be updated. This action will produce changes for

Improvement over  
current policy  
instrument

	the management of the policy instrument, but will also grant new projects integrating RRI principles.	
	The elements of improvements for both Steps 1 and 2 include four main changes, as following:	
	<b>Change</b>	<b>Elements</b>
	New supportive institutional structures	Apparition of a new position within UEFISCDI, the organisation responsible to implement Sub-programme 2.1 and Sub-programme 3.2 of PNCDI III; Adapting the content of research and innovation communication to the characteristics of RRI.
	Creating a champion at regional level	There is a unique position at regional level that will support the implementation of the Strategy for RDI.
New roles and skills	There will be institutional changes which will attract the development of new skills, firstly at the institutional level, secondly at the level of the personnel working in RDI.	
Fostering new rules and innovation management	There is a growing trend in science and technology policy to accompany decisions with democratic practices and broad precondition and foresight analyses. <sup>3</sup> This position will support the policy makers to integrate RRI in the policy making process.	
<b>Type of policy improvement</b>	<p>In Step 1, the focus is specifically on increasing capacity among innovation actors. Due to the spillover effect, this will contribute in the implementation of new projects driven by RRI principles (improvement Type 1).</p> <p>In Step 2, the focus is on RRI related policies and we aim to provide evidences for changes in the management of the policy instrument (improvement Type 2) which, in turn, will foster the implementation of new projects driven by RRI principles (improvement Type 1).</p>	

Impact of the proposed policy instrument	
<b>Impact of proposed policy improvement on the envisaged / enhanced policy context</b>	<p>The proposed policy improvement will impact the policy context by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Covering the gap related to the lack of inclusion of RRI in the National Strategy or the document implementing it by incorporating RRI in the calls of our funding instruments;</li> <li>- Addressing the low level of knowledge on RRI by setting up the RRI Regional Contact Point Framework.</li> </ul> <p>Thus, the proposed policy improvement will have a direct positive impact on the enhanced policy context, acting as a leverage in fulfilling the vision envisaged. Supporting the development of better projects incorporating RRI will produce not only better science, but also greater benefits for society. In this sense, the benefits of <i>Enabling RRI in the national research, development and innovation policy and publicly funded practice</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Effectiveness</i>: in a Europe focused on “research and innovation [which] must respond to the needs and ambitions of society, reflect its values and be responsible”, Step 1 and Step 2 will favour communication and cooperation around RRI and will better connect stakeholders, some of whom might otherwise never cooperate or take into consideration a societal impact.</li> <li>- <i>Efficiency</i>: Step 1 and 2 reach larger categories of innovation stakeholders, from applicants to policy makers, capturing a range of related benefits associated with the shift from thinking separately of gender and ethics to the broader responsibility approach.</li> <li>- <i>Leverage</i>: Step 1 and 2 can be used by policy makers to promote and integrate RRI, aligning with the European principles, while minimizing the risk reluctance to the introduction of this new topic in innovation strategies, as the level of awareness and knowledge will be already increased.</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> There is a growing trend in science and technology policy to accompany decisions with democratic practices and broad precondition and foresight analyses.

Elements of improvement of the current policy context	<p>The elements of improvement of the current policy context are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up and test an environment for institutional change integrating RRI practices at regional level.</li> <li>- Developing and implementing a framework for science engagement with society as a way to promote RRI through the new projects funded under national instruments.</li> <li>- A concrete incorporation of RRI in the regional innovation practices, through both Steps 1 and 2.</li> </ul> <p>All in all, it can be said that the policy improvement proposed in this Action Plan put the basis for a further RRI-related governance mechanism within research-funding and performing organizations.</p> <p>During the Action Plan implementation, the institutional changes set up in Step 1 will be nurtured by professionalization of regional specialists -staff of MARIE regional project partner- and stakeholders (<i>normative isomorphism</i><sup>4</sup>), the novel approach helping to create a common knowledge on RRI at regional level. Along with this, the “external pressure” of the calls for funding instruments requesting RRI (<i>coercive isomorphism</i><sup>5</sup>) will support the spillover of these institutional changes after the implementation period of the current Action Plan ends.</p>										
	Impact assessment indicators	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicator</th> <th>Measurement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Awareness on responsible innovation culture</td> <td>Survey – qualitative approach People reached (number of people interacting with the RRI Ambassador/ attending events)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public debate on responsible innovation</td> <td>Number of articles/ spots/ events</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Incorporation of responsible innovation in new projects</td> <td>Number of projects submitted under the national calls</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Funding calls incorporating responsible innovation</td> <td>Number of funding calls new or updated</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Indicator	Measurement	Awareness on responsible innovation culture	Survey – qualitative approach People reached (number of people interacting with the RRI Ambassador/ attending events)	Public debate on responsible innovation	Number of articles/ spots/ events	Incorporation of responsible innovation in new projects	Number of projects submitted under the national calls	Funding calls incorporating responsible innovation
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Components of RRI dimension	How this is addressed in the Policy Improvement
Public Engagement	<p>First of all, the RRI Ambassador will work with a large number of innovation actors both in Step 1 and 2. It will seek ongoing input and feedback from stakeholders for its RRI activity, it will seek collaboration of diverse stakeholders through co-creation methods and it will leverage social media to promote reflection and get different voices involved in increasing the knowledge on RRI.</p> <p>Secondly, the incorporation of RRI in the calls of the funding instruments will foster the engagement of stakeholders in the research and innovation processes and projects.</p>
Gender Equality	Gender equality is one of the principles included in the framework of the calls for funding instruments.
Ethics	Ethics is one of the principles included in the framework of the calls of the funding instruments.
Science Education	Through Step 1, stakeholders will benefit from informal education on RRI
Open Access	Open Access is one of the principles which will be considered in the calls of the funding instruments.
Quadruple Helix	The activities conducted under the umbrella of the RRI Regional Contact Point will take into consideration the quadruple helix approach.
Information and Tools	The RRI Regional Contact Point is a concrete tool for increasing the level of information on RRI at regional level.

<sup>4</sup> DiMaggio, P.M. and Powell, W.W., 1983, The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields American Sociological Review, Vol. 48, No. 2 pp. 147-160

<sup>5</sup> Idem

Innovation Delivery	The introducing of RRI in the funding calls will improve the quality of the projects submitted and implemented.
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Good Practice used to define the Policy Improvement (I)	
Title of Good Practice	Innovation & Technology Forum Schleswig-Holstein
GP owner (region)	Schleswig-Holstein
Can this GP address the policy need(s) identified in the previous section? If yes, how?	Yes - The Innovation & Technology Forum Schleswig-Holstein offers a framework for mutual learning about various innovation topics and stimulates cooperation between QH actors. Thus, it addresses the need of raising awareness about RRI (offers a tested framework for knowledge exchange) and the need to develop a community of innovation actors informed on RRI.
What elements of this GP are included in the policy improvement presented in Table 4-1?	<p><b>Overview of the GP</b> The main goal of the Innovation &amp; Technology Forum is the public engagement in the innovation process which is linked with the improvement of aligning the innovation outcomes to societal values and expectations. The good practices refer to the action of bringing research institutes and companies closer together and of facilitating the innovation processes. The initiative started once the regional government decided in 2015 to set up an inter-ministerial working group of all the actors in the ministries who have responsibilities in innovation processes, to establish a steering committee for technology transfer and innovation that includes stakeholders from e. g. scientific institutions, enterprises and environmental associations, trade unions and to organize an annual Innovation &amp; Technology Forum event. The fora themselves are an integrated part of the whole participation process. The format is consistently adapted and modified related to the specific topic and goal of the event. Keynote speeches, impulse speeches, several discussion platforms or workshop settings are the varying parts of the events.</p> <p><b>Elements included in the policy improvement</b> This GP is a case study for developing frameworks for encouraging cooperation and networking among relevant stakeholders from the innovation ecosystem. This is the starting point in designing the methodology of developing the RRI Regional Contact Point Framework. Moreover, in developing Step 1, we started from the rationale and objectives of the Forum and we adapted it to the local needs, taking into consideration also the requirements for concrete action in the context of administrative constraints (e.g. lack of funding to organise an annual Forum in Bucharest, lack of possibility to organise specific trainings for RRI, lack of specialists in RRI). Thus, instead of putting in place an event, we adapted the concept and decided to implement institutional changes. The approach used in Schleswig-Holstein of bringing research institutes and companies closer together and of facilitating the innovation processes will be considered through the activities implemented by the RRI Ambassador.</p>
Exchange / Transfer process	<p>The good practice sessions and workshops on action plan development held during the MARIE Interregional learning events and project activities stand at the basis of gathering more information on this good practice and use it as source of inspiration. The topic was addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The poster session in Athens (30-31 May 2017).</li> <li>- In-depth discussion in the Tampere meeting (29-30 May 2018), where we divided into small groups</li> <li>- A bilateral exchange during the ILE / Event in Dublin (15-16 October 2018)</li> <li>- Discussion during the ILE in Bucharest (6<sup>th</sup> February 2019)</li> </ul>
Match between Regional RRI Maturity and selection of GP	The actual level of regional RRI maturity (for Bucharest-Ilfov) is modest and the good practice is in line with this status.

Good Practice used to define the Policy Improvement (II)	
Title of Good Practice	<i>Broadening the Scope of Impact</i>



GP owner (region)	Southern Ireland
Can this GP address the policy need(s) identified in the previous section? If yes, how?	Yes. The <i>Broadening the Scope of Impact</i> Good Practice is in line with the need of taking into consideration societal needs and ethical issues in the process of developing innovation projects. This GP offers a workable model for linking innovation projects with societal impact.
What elements of this GP are included in the policy improvement presented in Table 4-1?	<p><b>Overview of the GP</b>  By reviewing purely scientific outputs, broader impact is not assessed. Impact is measured to overcome the following challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability &amp; Advocacy</li> <li>• To better understand the transfer of scientific knowledge into practice to maximise the use &amp; benefits of publicly funded research.</li> <li>• To stimulate researchers to consider how best to maximise the engagement of users of their research.</li> <li>• Allocation &amp; Analysis</li> </ul> <p>In addition to focusing on scientific excellence, now an equal focus is applied on impact across a portfolio of programmes. Impact is defined as the “demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy”. They are classified according to 8 pillars (types of impact), which are underpinned by 3 thematic areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. creating new products, processes policies &amp; behaviour,</li> <li>2. improving efficiency &amp; efficacy of existing practise;</li> <li>3. research to improve resilience &amp; sustainability.</li> </ol> <p>The 8 pillars / type of impacts include: Economic, Societal, International engagement, Policy &amp; public service, Health &amp; wellbeing, Environmental, Professional Services and Human Capacity.</p> <p><b>Elements included in the policy improvement</b>  The actual Irish example represents a source of information for the proposal of including RRI principles in the calls for the RDI funding instruments. This GP was used to choose the vision for the Step 2. Following the description of the GP linkage with RRI, we notice similarities with the possible requests for the Romanian applicants to prove they act in line with the RRI principles (after the updates of the calls as a result of this Action Plan implementation). Thus, in the Irish description it is mentioned that “<i>Researchers submitting proposals are required to prepare Impact Statements both at pre-and full proposal stages of review and are asked to consider the potential impact of their research to areas such as societal impact, population, health &amp; wellbeing, food &amp; energy security issues, environmental protection, supporting Government Policy etc.</i>” This kind of request is a model which will be proposed to be included in calls for the national funding instruments.</p>
Exchange / Transfer process	<p>The good practice sessions and workshops on action plan development held during the MARIE Interregional learning events stand at the basis of gathering more information on this good practice and use it as source of inspiration. The topic was addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The poster session in Athens (30-31 May 2017).</li> <li>- In-depth discussion in the Tampere meeting (29-30 May 2018), where we divided into small groups</li> <li>- Bilateral exchange online meeting on 19 December 2018</li> <li>- Discussion during the ILE in Bucharest (6<sup>th</sup> February 2019)</li> </ul>
Match between Regional RRI Maturity and selection of GP	The actual level of regional RRI maturity (for Bucharest-Ilfov) is modest and the good practice is in line with this status.

## Other elements of the MARIE Interregional Exchange process used to define the Policy Improvement

At the level of Bucharest-Ilfov region, along with the regional stakeholders workshops and the good practice sessions and workshops on action plan development held during the MARIE Interregional learning events, the process of defining the Policy improvement was facilitated by:

### **a. MARIE Bilateral Exchange Meeting Bucharest-Ilfov - Tampere and the ILE in Bucharest**

This session, held on 19 December 2018, was dedicated to learn more on the funding scheme including RRI assessment component developed at the level of Tampere region as a result of the MARIE project implementation. The topic addressed referred to: why the scheme was created; how was the process of developing it; who were the stakeholders involved; possibilities for transfer. The novelty is that the evaluation scheme in the calls on Artificial intelligence includes Responsibility among the 10 criteria for evaluation.

Also, during the ILE held in Bucharest on 6 February 2019, the representative of Tampere region, Ms. Tiina Ramstedt-Sen, presented the work going on in Tampere in relation with the new funding scheme including RRI assessment component.

These exchanges helped us at regional level to better understand the scheme and to design Step 2 of the present Action Plan. The framework of the funding scheme, including RRI assessment component developed in Tampere is a model which we envisage to adapt and integrate in the RDI funding calls in Bucharest-Ilfov.

### **b. Capitalisation of MARIE Maturity Mapping Exercise**

As the level of RRI maturity is low at regional level (according to the Maturity Mapping), we observed from consultations with stakeholders the need to adopt a comprehensive approach and to introduce the concept of RRI in various initiatives in order to increase the awareness and the knowledge around it. Thus, the input gathered from our regional stakeholders in bilateral meetings and during the regional workshop contributed to develop the connections between the MARIE project and the application for a new national project managed by the former Ministry of Research and Innovation. This is dedicated to the increase the capacity of public administration to develop comprehensive public policies. The input received from MARIE project in terms of regional challenges and responsible research and innovation was added starting with the application phase. This will be implemented parallel with the Action Plan Implementation and this a way to support changes from various perspectives, having the same starting point: in our case, MARIE's results.

### **c. The attendance at the Responsible Innovation SUMMIT in Dublin, Ireland in October 2018**

UEFISCDI attended the Responsible Innovation SUMMIT in held in Dublin, Ireland in October 2018. Being focused on identifying key factors which are shaping the next generation of innovations and investments, the Summit was a good opportunity to inspire the development of Step 1. It provided the opportunity to identify and to have a model for developing the content of the messages to be transmitted by the RRI Ambassadors to the local stakeholders in Bucharest-Ilfov.

### **d. The attendance at the Responsible Innovation SUMMIT in Dublin, Ireland in October 2019**

UEFISCDI attended the Responsible Innovation SUMMIT in held in Dublin, Ireland in October 2019. The summit was a good opportunity to validate the proposals included in the Action Plan and to identify new messages on RRI helping the activity of the RRI Ambassador (e.g. there is a trend towards incorporating responsibility in private funding).



### Part 3: Definition of actions and feasibility check

#### Stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of the policy improvement

Name of stakeholder	<b>General Department for Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation</b>
Type of stakeholder	Policy-making department
Responsibilities / role within the development and implementation of the policy improvement	The Department is the former Ministry for Research and Innovation (following a change in its status in October 2019) which supported the implementation of MARIE project and the development and implementation of the Action Plan. The Department will act as receiver of the knowledge shared in Step 1 and the model of integrating RRI in the funding calls which will be proposed in Step 2.
Does this organisation provide political backing to the implementation of the policy improvement? If yes, how?	Yes. The Department has the role of synthesis and coordination in the implementation of the Strategy and Governance Program in the field of scientific research, technological development and innovation.
Name of stakeholder	<b>The Institute</b>
Type of stakeholder	Both business and civil society
Responsibilities / role within the development and implementation of the policy improvement	The Institute, one of the MARIE project's stakeholders, works in the field of creative industries which was identified at regional level as one domain with potential to integrate RRI dimensions due to its specificities. They are supporters of our endeavour to raise awareness and to educate relevant actors in the field of RRI. Moreover, they have access to a community of potential applicants for new projects and they can play an active role themselves in the design of new projects.
Does this organisation provide political backing to the implementation of the policy improvement? If yes, how?	No
Name of stakeholder	<b>FashionUp!</b>
Type of stakeholder	Business
Responsibilities / role within the development and implementation of the policy improvement	FashionUp is one of our interviewed stakeholders, working to make the change from CSR to RRI. This approach serves as a good practice in sharing knowledge, through the RRI Regional Contact Point, about the differences between CSR and RRI and on how to make this transition in approach.
Does this organisation provide political backing to the implementation of the policy improvement? If yes, how?	No
Name of stakeholder	<b>Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency (ADRBI)</b>
Type of stakeholder	Other – NGO for public utility
Responsibilities / role within the development and implementation of the policy improvement	They support us in our endeavour to raise awareness and to educate relevant actors in the field of RRI. Moreover, they have access to a community of potential applicants for new projects and also they can be an actor which designs new projects.
Does this organisation provide political backing to the implementation of the policy improvement? If yes, how?	Partially. They can inform the policy makers responsible for the strategic framework for RDI at national level about the importance of RRI for regional development. Moreover, they can integrate RRI in the priorities for development of the Bucharest-Ilfov region in terms of competitiveness, social cohesion and sustainable development.
Name of stakeholder	<b>Impact Hub</b>

Type of stakeholder	Civil society
Responsibilities / role within the development and implementation of the policy improvement	Impact Hub Bucharest is the organisation supporting entrepreneurial development of initiatives with positive impact on society within a global society. It is one of the most active members of MARIE regional stakeholders group which act in the spirit of RRI principles. It will be involved in the implementation of Step 1, supporting the design and validation of the work plan of the RRI Regional Contact Point, as well as its promotion among the Impact Hub community.
Does this organisation provide political backing to the implementation of the policy improvement? If yes, how?	No.
Name of stakeholder	<b>University Politehnica of Bucharest</b>
Type of stakeholder	Academia / Research
Responsibilities / role within the development and implementation of the policy improvement	The University Politehnica of Bucharest is the largest tech university in Romania. It is in the target group of the RRI Regional Contact Point action. It will support the Regional Ambassador to reach a large group of researchers and academics which works to develop innovative projects funded under national RDI funding instruments.
Does this organisation provide political backing to the implementation of the policy improvement? If yes, how?	No
Name of stakeholder	<b>National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)</b>
Type of stakeholder	Academia / Research
Responsibilities / role within the development and implementation of the policy improvement	SNSPA is a national university providing high education programmes in humanities. It will support the RRI Ambassador to prepare the content to be shared at regional level and will also disseminate the information among the communities of researchers, professors, students and alumni.
Does this organisation provide political backing to the implementation of the policy improvement? If yes, how?	No.

### Specific tasks and timing

Specific tasks and timing		
Task number	Task description	Timing
Step 1		
1	Appointment of the Regional RRI Ambassador	01.01.2020-30.03.2020
2	Elaboration of the Regional RRI Ambassador work plan (including timeline, concrete activities, communication plan, content for communication)	01.04.2020-01.06.2020
3	Documentation and learning on RRI: increasing the knowledge of the Ambassador on RRI and preparing learning materials on what RRI means	01.04.2020-30.09.2021
4	Setting up the social pages of the RRI Regional Contact Point	01.04.2020 - 30.04.2020
5	Ongoing dialogue and cooperation with stakeholders via email conversation, online and face-to-face meetings	15.04.2020-31.09.2021

6	Attending events related to innovation at regional level to present RRI and to find synergies and activities where RRI can be applied to	15.04.2020-31.09.2021
7	Trainings on RRI for UEFISCDI staff and regional stakeholders	01.04.2020-31.09.2021
<b>Step 2</b>		
1	Consultations with the policy officers managing and implementing the funding calls	01.01.2020-31.09.2021
2	Developing the proposal for updating the calls of the RDI funding instruments by integrating RRI (documentation, drafting, consultations and validation with stakeholders, elaboration of the final proposal,	01.03.2020-30.09.2021
3	Forward and submit the proposal on how to update the calls to the responsible organisations	30.04.2020-30.09.2021
4	Monitoring how the submitted proposals integrate RRI	After the approval of the calls till 30.09.2021

### PESTL analysis of the external environment

PESTL analysis				
Factor type	Factor title	Description of factor	Scope (international, national, regional)	Importance
Political	Funding	The budget for research and innovation is established annually and this is a challenge as it causes unpredictability.	national	high
	Strategic framework for RDI	The current strategic framework for RDI is specific to 2014-2020 period. Thus, one of the year in which the Action Plan will be implemented will enter in the next strategic period.	national	high
	Election period	In short time, Romania will pass through three rounds of elections. First, in autumn 2019, corresponds to presidential elections. The second, in summer 2020, refers to local election. The third, in autumn 2020 is dedicated to parliamentary elections. The changes in the governing structures are a source of unpredictability in terms of vision and decisions.	national and local	high
	Prioritisation of RRI at European level	The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission is determined to bridge the gap between the scientific community and society at large.	international	high
Economic	Funding	Research and development expenditure (% of GDP) at national level is under 0.5%.	national	high
	Regional GDP	The GDP of the Bucharest-Ilfov region is the highest of the country.	regional	high
	RDI expenditure in Bucharest-Ilfov	RDI expenditure in the region amounted approx. 54-57% of national RDI funds (2007-2014).	regional	high

	Employment in high-tech	Employment share in high-tech industries and knowledge-intensive services over 2008-2014 is low in comparison to EU28, but it is around three times more than the national average (Eurostat)	regional	medium
	Innovation performance	Bucharest has had a relatively low innovation performance, in spite of absorbing the largest share of RDI resources.	regional	high
Social / cultural	Cooperation	At both national and regional level, there is a lack of trust for cooperation between science and industry. In other words, at the regional level, we find a reluctance of academia and industry to cooperate.	National and regional	high
	The emergence of Bucharest as an innovation hub	Bucharest-Ilfov is rich in communities of tech and creative people. In this respect, important international conferences in the field of RDI or entrepreneurship are organized in Bucharest, for example: How to Web, Internet & Mobile World, Innovation Labs, etc.	regional	high
	Education	Bucharest-Ilfov is the biggest academic center in Romania. It has the most developed university environment in Romania and concentrates the largest number of students registered in the higher education system among the regions of Romania.	regional	high
	Entrepreneurship culture	The entrepreneurship culture is rather poor in Romania which hinders new business development and grants for a poor innovation system.	national	medium
	RTDI profile	Bucharest-Ilfov's RDI potential is by far the strongest of the country, as the capital city is Romania's largest university centre.	regional	high
Technological	Technological orientation	At the regional level, the technological orientation is towards ICT. Despite the potential offered by the existing ICT infrastructure, which is a strong point both at regional and national level, the development of the information society is still weak.	regional	medium
	Level of digitalization	Comparing the level of digitization at European level, Romania has low scores, being a poor performing country (DESI, 2017). At the regional level, the situation shows a better dynamic, the regional data showing an increased performance compared to other regions in Romania in terms of digital development.	National and regional	high
Legal / regulatory	Governance	Romania has no regional RDI policy, and the regions have no role in RDI policy-making. RDI policies are nationally designed and coordinated mainly at national level without regional focus.	regional	medium

• Enablers and barriers of Action Plan development and implementation

Enablers		
Enabler title	Description of enabler	Importance of enabler and potential impact on development and implementation of policy improvement
1	Bucharest-Ilfov is the most developed region of Romania and has the strongest RDI potential.	This good position grants for interest in developing and conducting RDI projects.
2	Existing communities of actors active in innovation	The existing communities' grants for trust among their members, which is a first step in developing new projects. Also, these is a critical mass necessary to be reached through the work of the RRI Ambassador.
3	International RDI events organized at regional level	These offer the opportunity to stakeholders to know each other and to learn about different topics of interest. Also, for the RRI Ambassador, these are opportunities to reach large number of people and to introduce RRI topic on the agenda for discussion.
4	Prioritisation of RDI at European level	This could be considered a top-down approach requesting and alignment of the national strategies and initiatives with this priority.
5	Electoral changes	The elections could be an enabler in terms of new vision for the development of the RDI system.
Barriers		
Barrier title	Description of barrier	Importance of barrier and potential impact on development and implementation of policy improvement
1	Centralized legal framework	Due to the centralized legal framework, the decision for allocating the funds and the priorities are established at national level. UEFISCDI, partner in MARIE, even if it is responsible with managing part of the programmes of the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation III which implements the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020 (the policy instrument addressed within MARIE), has no decision rights in relation to the strategic vision for the Romanian RDI sector (which was defined by the Ministry of Research and Innovation – currently General Department for Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation). Therefore, the success of this Action and the approval of the policy recommendations submitted depend on and the administrative decisions of the committee approving the instruments. To mitigate this risk, the General Department for Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation is engaged with MARIE and is part of the stakeholders involved.
2	Electoral changes	This is a barrier as it grants for a period of unpredictability.
3	Poor innovation and entrepreneurial culture	This turns in a challenge for making regional actors committed to the principles of RRI.
4	Funding	The annual budget approval grants for unpredictability in terms of availability of resources for opening new calls.

## Resources required for the development and implementation of the policy improvement

Resources for the development and implementation of policy improvement				
Type of resource	Name of resource	Associated tasks	Timeframe of use	Financial cost
Physical (e.g., facilities, buildings)	Office rent and facilities	Step 1 and Step 2	01.01.2020-30.09.2021	2100 eur (100 eur/month * 21 months)
Human (types of personnel)	RRI Ambassador	Step 1 and Step 2	01.01.2020-30.09.2021	16800 eur (800 eur/month * 21 months)
	Support expert 1	Step 1 and Step 2	01.01.2020-30.09.2021	8400 eur (400 eur/month * 21 months)
	Support expert 2	Step 1 and Step 2	01.01.2020-30.09.2021	8400 eur (400 eur/month * 24 months)
Intellectual (e.g., patents, proprietary knowledge)	Open access			
Technological (e.g., equipment)	Laptops	Step 1 and Step 2	01.01.2020-30.09.2021	900 eur (300 eur/laptop * 3 laptops)
Other	Costs with specific services for training/event (e.g. facilities, catering)	Step 1 and Step 2	01.01.2020-30.09.2021	3000 eur
	Communication campaign (e.g. branding, visuals, adds, press releases)	Step 1 and Step 2	01.01.2020-30.09.2021	3000 eur

## Funding sources

Funding sources	
Source	Description
1	In-kind contribution of UEFISCDI (e.g.: personnel costs, office, equipment etc.)
2	Stakeholder support (e.g.: providing spaces for meetings, visuals etc.)

Even if the Action is dedicated to influence the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020, there are no funds available under the instrument implementing the strategy, i.e. the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2015-2020, for supporting Step 1 and 2. The implementation of these Actions will not benefit from a dedicated budget, but the costs for their proper implementation will be assured, as was mentioned above, by in-kind contribution of UEFISCDI and with the stakeholders support.

The Step 1 has impact on new calls. Our target is to have at least 1 funding instrument integrating RRI. As the amounts offered through the funding instruments vary between EUR 10.000 (e.g. Innovation Vouchers) and EUR 350.000 (Project for transfer to economic operator), we estimated to influence around EUR 200.000 (e.g. this is the budget for a Romanian Consortium in an ERA-NET project).

## Risks and mitigating actions

Risks and Mitigating Actions			
Title of risk	Description of risk	Level of probability (High, Medium, Low)	Description of mitigating action(s)
<b>RRI is still an unfamiliar term at regional level</b>	There is a low level of knowledge on RRI at regional level and there is a risk to be perceived by the stakeholders as an obligation coming from the European level.	Medium	The framework chosen to increase the level of knowledge, the RRI Regional Contact Point is flexible and allows multiple forms of communication for a better understanding of the concept of RRI, using case studies / storytelling to engage all stakeholders.
<b>Difficulty engaging relevant stakeholders with RRI</b>	Reduced contact of stakeholders with the RRI Ambassador	Low	The stakeholders supporting this action plan (mentioned above) will help in disseminating the information on RRI. Moreover, through BrainMap platform, (brainmap.ro), developed by UEFISCDI, we have access to almost 30.000 researchers, innovators, technicians and entrepreneurs.
<b>Difficulty in changing stakeholders' behaviour</b>	No success in changing mindsets and behaviour of key stakeholders and to make the transition towards RRI	Medium	It is challenging to get all stakeholders to embed RRI in their new innovation projects. However, we will focus on communicating the value of RRI in a 'real' and understandable way to all stakeholders from the beginning of Action Plan implementation and will engage at senior levels with each organisation to ensure that behaviours, mindset and organisational approaches will be successfully influenced and changed. Moreover, the top-down approach of integrating RRI in the calls for funding instruments will foster the change.
<b>Funding sources</b>	Lack of funds for implementing the action	Medium	The actions were developed taking into consideration the "in-kind" and "sponsorship" approach which will allow the implementation of the Action Plan.

## Feasibility check

### Transfer and implementation team (Internal staff members and stakeholders)

Feasibility check items	Response	Comments / details:
Have you identified what skills are necessary to design and implement this policy improvement?	YES	We need basic skills for funding programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, communication and organizational skills and specific knowledge on: RRI and Policy design and implementation.
Have you checked which staff members / stakeholders were involved in the original GP?	YES	There are different stakeholders involved in the process at regional level.

Are these the same in your local context?		
Have you identified who is going to work on this measure from within the partner organisation?	YES	The MARIE implementation team will work on the measure on behalf of UEFISCDI and we will have the support of our colleagues in the departments responsible with the funding instruments.
Have you identified the most relevant stakeholders to work on the measure from outside the partners' organisation (stakeholders)?	YES	The most relevant stakeholders were mentioned above, in the beginning of Part 3.
Have you contacted all the necessary stakeholders (internal and external) and involved them in the measure?	YES	We had discussions with the stakeholders in order to design the action plan.
Have you discussed and allocated the role of each stakeholder?	YES	We discussed with regional stakeholders, and decided that their roles would be flexible according to the needs identified during the implementation of the Action Plan.
Have you made agreements (formal / informal) with each stakeholders, defining their responsibilities and eventual compensation?	YES	The agreements were informal.

### Technical feasibility check

Feasibility check items	Response	Comments / details:
Have you checked which facilities and equipment have been used in the original GP?	YES	As we combined various experiences in developing the two Actions included in the Action Plan, we took these into consideration when we approximated the costs needed for the implementation of the Action Plan.
Have you identified what kind of facilities and equipment you need according to your local context?	YES	These are mentioned in the table related to the costs needed for the implementation of the Action Plan.
Have you checked if these facilities and equipment are available either within your structure or stakeholders' structures?	YES	Some of these facilities are available in our institution; some will be provided with the stakeholders' support.
Have you prepared a list of facilities and equipment you need to buy or rent?	YES	All of the needed facilities will be assured through in-kind contribution or sponsorships.
Are you aware of / have you checked the necessary procedures to buy or rent these facilities and equipment?	N/A	

### Financial feasibility check

Feasibility check items	Response	Comments / details:
Have you checked the provisional budget and financing plan of the GPs considered in the proposed policy improvement?	YES	We used information extracted from the good practices description documents.





Feasibility check items	Response	Comments / details:
Have you prepared a provisional budget for the policy improvement (proposed Implementation budget)?	YES	It is presented in the table related to the costs needed for the implementation of the Action Plan.
If needed, have you contacted an expert to assess global costs of the policy improvement (Implementation budget)?	N/A	
Have you validated the implementation budget with the transfer and implementation team?	Partially	We will conduct additional check until the end of phase 1 of MARIE project.
Have you identified all possible funding sources and created a financing plan?	YES	All of the needed facilities will be assured through in-kind contribution or sponsorships.
Have you determined cost distribution between partners and other funders?	N/A	

### Legal /regulatory feasibility check

Feasibility check items	Response	Comments / details:
Have you checked the laws and regulations (local / regional / national) that could affect implementation of the policy improvement in your policy context?	YES	We are permanently informed about the laws and regulations related to R&D as we are a national funding agency for RDI.
Have you checked if the policy improvement complies with these laws and regulations?	YES	The policy improvement is in line with the laws and regulations.
If needed, have you identified which adjustments have to be made to the policy improvement? Are they workable?	YES	Step 2 has to be in line with the procedures for the opening of new calls.
Have you checked if these changes lead to additional costs? What are these costs?	YES	No additional costs.
If applicable, have you determined who will cover these additional costs?	N/A	
Have you checked if changes require the involvement of stakeholders that were not originally involved in the transfer and implementation team?	YES	The changes will not require the involvement of additional stakeholders.
Have these stakeholders been contacted and involved?	N/A	

## Political and socio-cultural feasibility check

Feasibility check items	Response	Comments / details:
Have you analysed the social / cultural / political context in which the policy improvement will be implemented?	YES	We are aware of the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats of the local context.
Have you identified political risks and any necessary mitigating actions?	YES	Mentioned in PESTL analysis and Risks and mitigating actions table above.
Have you identified social or cultural risks and any necessary mitigating actions?	YES	Mentioned in PESTL analysis and Risks and mitigating actions table above.
Have you met local / regional politicians to explain and validate the project, if necessary?	YES	We are in contact with the representative of the General Department for Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation.
Have you planned / carried out a consultation phase with interested actors (e.g. beneficiaries, companies, local politicians, civil society representatives)?	YES	We already had meetings with local stakeholders to design the action plan together and we plan to continue this kind of engagement. Moreover, we work to identify similar initiatives and to capitalize on previous results or to cooperate with ongoing projects in order to obtain the best results in our works.

## Implementation schedule

Feasibility check items	Response	Comments / details:
Are you aware of the schedule / timing of the planning and implementation of the GPs considered in the proposed policy improvement?	YES	We used the information from the good practices' description documents.
Have you set deadlines for the planning of the policy improvement with the transfer and implementation team?	YES	We had regular meetings to update and finalise the action plan.
Have you built a schedule of implementation actions?	YES	These are presented in the table related to the implementation timing.
Have you planned meetings of the transfer and implementation team?	YES	We have regular meetings to update and finalise the action plan
Have you checked if there are any political constraints to take into account in the schedule?	YES	In Romania there will be elections that might politically affect, slow down or shift the activity of the whole country.
Have you checked if there are any other significant events that could have an impact (positive or negative) on the implementation of the policy improvement?	YES	The current National Strategy for Innovation is designed until 2020, so in the next period (2019-2020) the process to develop the Strategy for the next programming period will be started. This is a chance to integrate RRI in the next strategic framework.

## References

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- MARIE project website, <https://www.interregeurope.eu/marie/>
- National Plan for RDI 2015-2020, [http://old.uefiscdi.ro/userfiles/file/legislatie/2015/HOT%C4%82R%C3%82RE%20nr\\_%20583%20din%2022%20iulie%202015.pdf](http://old.uefiscdi.ro/userfiles/file/legislatie/2015/HOT%C4%82R%C3%82RE%20nr_%20583%20din%2022%20iulie%202015.pdf)
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## Official Signatures

### Context

In October 2014, the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020 was approved by the Government Decision No. 929/21.10.2014. The main instrument implementing the Strategy is the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2015-2021 (PN III), approved by the Government Decision No. 583/22.07.2015

Programmes of PN III coordinated by UEFISCDI:

Program 1: Development of the national R&D system (1.1. Human Resources (full); 1.2. Institutional Performance (partially); 1.3. Infrastructures R&D (partially); 1.4. Support (partially));

Program 2: Increasing the competitiveness of the Romanian economy through research, development and innovation (2.1. Competitively through research, development and innovation (partially));

Program 3: European and international cooperation (3.1. Bilateral / multilateral (excluding the bilateral program with AUF); 3.2. Horizon 2020 (full); 3.5. Other European and international initiatives and programs (full); 3.6. Support (partially));

Program 4: Basic research and frontier (full).

Date: 06.02.2020

Organisation: Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Name: Adrian Curaj

Position: General Director

Signature:

