

Interreg Europe action plan template

Action Plan for the region of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

BioCon Valley[®]

Part I – General information

Project: ELISE

Partner organisation(s) concerned: BioCon Valley Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V.

Country: Germany

NUTS2 region: DE80K

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Territorial Cooperation programme
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed: Operational Programme Mecklenburg-Vorpommern ERDF 2014-2020; TO1 – Research and Innovation

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

The OP focusses in regard to research and innovation on efforts of SMEs and their employees to adapt to change and increase their competitiveness. Researchers and other R&D performers will also be supported, both to promote innovation and to ensure the supply of highly skilled workers.

The main funding scheme for SMEs and research organisations is the “Directive on the promotion of research, development and innovation”. The funding scheme includes research and development projects (for single SMEs or as joined research with academic partners), feasibility studies, IPR activities, innovation oriented consultancy services and process innovation. The scheme shall contribute to the very low R&D activity in the business sector (0,68%) compared to national average of 1,9 %.

Comprehensive Objective: Increasing Research, Development and Innovation Activities along the Entire Chain of Innovations


Mecklenburg Vorpommern
Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Bau und Tourismus

Four strategic goals:	Implementation by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Increasing the number of activities for research, development and innovation in the corporate sector ❖ Expanding capacities for applied research and innovation in universities and non-university research institutes ❖ Improving collaborative work of companies and public research institutes for applied research, development and innovation ❖ Profiling locations for research and technology in MV in the topical future investments of the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding operational activities for <i>FuE</i> [research and development] ➤ Funding technology-focused business start-ups ➤ Providing equity and risk capital ➤ Funding application-based research skills ➤ Funding joint research ➤ Funding networks focused on technology ➤ Funding property rights ➤ MV Strategic Advisory Board for Science and Economic Matters ➤ Public relations ➤ Technology and Industrial Policy Conferences ➤ Workshops

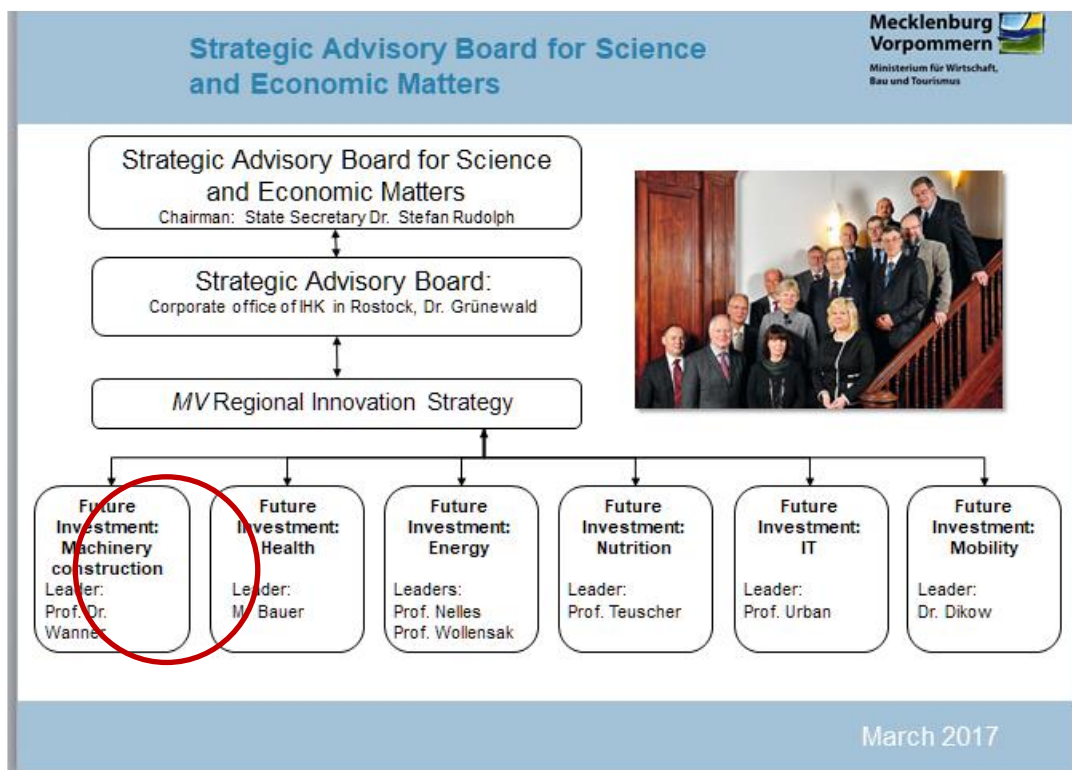
March 2017

Overview of funding objectives from planning the current OP in 2017

This is implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Employment and Health. The health economy sector to which the Life Sciences belong is seen as an important future market for the region. It has by now already a share of about 20% of the overall employment.

The project funding is focussed on projects that contribute to the implementation of RIS3 priorities.

The RIS has a thematic objective to improve Life Sciences in the region. It is one out of six future innovative fields which are guided by a strategic board for science and economy.



Overview of RIS in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The future field of Health / Life Sciences is managed by BCV.

In the framework of this strategy setting the Ministry of Economics, Employment and Health identified a need to invest further in the scale up of production and development processes. Recent studies also showed, that the greatest potential for a successful implementation of the industry 4.0 (digitalisation in production) in the region of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are to be seen in enterprises with objectives from medical technology, shipbuilding and mechanical engineering (Fraunhofer IGD, 2016 Industry 4.0 and digitalization of the economy).

The process to implement such changes goes back to 2018, where several discussions were held. The ministry is continuously evaluating the running scheme and discuss it in regional fora such as the “Economics and Science Strategy Council Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania”. So far the process innovation could only be funded up to TRL 7 (prototype in place) and it’s planning activities. The continuous evaluation of the funding scheme brought up the idea to go a step further and allow for real investments in such innovative processes. At the same time ELISE presented the good practises and exchange possibilities to the regional stakeholders who

gave additional impulse through knowledge exchange on similar tools and programmes.

- Meeting in November 2018 in Greifswald with participants from Ministries (research and economy), SMEs, Technology Innovation consultant (own GP of BCV), University representatives (rector, vice rector and tech transfer unit), cluster partner BCV. The GPs were presented in a structured way to give a quick overview of tools and relevance for the region. The discussion led to ideas for the own staff exchanges and gave input to the MA.
- Visit in Bologna (staff exchange) in January 2019 and discussions with ART-ER colleagues about the funding scenarios and programmes such as SPARK & Start up area, Bioeconomy, Health cluster, SME schemes.
- Partner meeting in April in Kaunas: Intro to action plans and discussion with partners from Val de Loire about SME competitiveness programme and investment schemes.
- Bilateral discussion with the ministry (MA) about the action plan in May 2019 in Greifswald. Evaluation of staff exchange visit, introduction of SME programmes from ART.ER and Val de Loire, discussion on guideline updates and funding scheme details.

As a result of these consultations with stakeholders, it became obvious that more process innovation and investments are needed to build a sustainable SME landscape, meaning the development and investments in machinery, plants, robotic or automatization (sensors, data transfer hard and software) to test and implement on industry alike scale within the current programme period 2014 - 2020. This shall also boost the structural change in terms of digitalisation of complex processes (not just software update but more complex system changes with digital solutions).

This input was taken as important feedback and strengthening the willingness to change the funding guidelines to further develop the scale up part of the funding scheme adapted to the existing programme.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1:

Name of the action: __Widening of existing funding scheme to implement life science projects up to higher TRL level with industry alike equipment though process innovation.

1. Relevance to the project

The following contributions and exchanges with the ELISE partner influenced the development of the action plan:

Staff exchange with ART-ER (Emilia-Romagna) in January 2019 and discussion about practices in SME support at partner meetings, where several support schemes were presented and discussed.

ART-ER partner shared with us besides many good practices the experience of an investment programme called “Regional law 14/2014 for the promotion of investments in Emilia-Romagna” to increase innovation capacity and employment.

This programme covers the full portfolio of RTD & innovation project, environmental protection projects, SME advisory services, IPR support to productive investments similar to our regional RTD funding guidelines. Especially the productive investment projects caught our interest as this has currently been under discussion in our region. See below the major types of the programme of interest:

- Type A: research and development projects aimed at introducing new products or services to the market or improving existing products, services and production systems in companies;
- Type B: research and development projects aimed at introducing new products or services to the market, or changing new production technologies, which envisage new investments and production extensions in the regional territory and impact on new employment within the reference supply chain.

The range of development goes up to TRL 8 (production technologies). There is a max of 0.5 million per enterprise and project of funding available, similar to the planned focus and funding level of the action plan.

Discussion about GP Innovation support ecosystem management - Services and Tools provided to SMEs - Centre-Val de Loire. In order to better meet the needs of companies, the Centre-Val de Loire Region acquired in 2006 a complete range of tools (CAPs, project support contracts) to support all phases of a company's life, namely creation, development, innovation, international development and transmission. 1 of these are of particular interest for BCV, namely “Prêt "Industrie du Futur Centre-Val de Loire". That call aimed at supporting businesses – particularly small and mid-sized industrial firms – as to modernise their processes and production tools and their organization. A minimum amount of eligible expenditures of 50 000 € is needed and a maximum level of regional aid of 400.000 € for a 3 year period can be allocated. It is an interest free loan mixed with a grant (maximum grant of €50,000). The programme focus and budget range for such investments projects is again similar to the planned action plan.

Thus these SME competitiveness programmes gave relevant input and strengthening the willingness to implement it in similar way in our region.

2. Nature of the action

The existing funding scheme “Directive on the promotion of research, development and innovation” of the Ministry of Economy, Employment and Health has been adapted and extended. The new funding status allows to apply for investments as follow up of process innovations e.g. for machinery, plants, robotic or automatization (sensors, data transfer hard and software). These new rules are implemented from 07.2019 to the end of the current OP period (12-2020). This new funding status is now part of the existing funding scheme and funding formalities. This new programme part will allow to continue developments beyond prototype and demonstrations to a higher TRL level (~8 = Qualified system with proof of functional capability in the field of application) as testing and implementation can be done on real equipment. Moreover process

innovation projects will close the gap to substantially improved methods of production or supply of services (including significant changes in techniques, equipment or software) and using innovative digital solutions. Each project can be funded between 50 T-200 T € (no small scale projects like software implementation) with an own contribution of min 50%.

So far process innovation projects have also been financed in the field of Life Sciences such as for diagnostics, downstream processes or new production elements. About ¼ of the funded project are related to Life Sciences developments.

As a follow up every 6 month a monitoring will take place together with the project agency and ministry. I will be evaluated, how many projects under the new programme part are funded, which kinds of projects and applicants and in which fields (esp. Life Sciences). On an annually base a meeting with the MA will be planned, starting from spring 2020 as the action plan implementation needs a while to put forward first results.

Funding schemes

The support measures for research, development and innovation comprises the following programmes:

- Research and development projects
- Feasibility studies
- Applying for intellectual property rights
- Consultancy and supporting innovation services
- Process innovation projects
- Investments as follow up of process innovation projects

Overview of current funding programmes (translated from the website of project agency TBI)

3. Stakeholders involved

- Ministry of Economics, Employment and Health of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Providing the funding regulations and grants
- Project Agency “Technologie-Beratungs-Institut TBI” (Technology consultancy agency): running the application, evaluation and project implementation support
- Cluster organisation BioCon Valley: Monitor the process for Life Sciences related projects in terms of number of projects, funding amounts and involvement of SMEs
- General network in the region (Life Sciences ecosystem with research, industry, health sector and support organisations): Distributing the funding information and support SMEs and RTD actors in applying for funding, support partner identification and branch information

4. Timeframe

The action will be implemented in the timeframe from 7 / 2019 until the end of the OP period in 12/2020. The monitoring through BCV will start in 2020 and last until 6. 2021 to evaluate the results of the action plan in terms of number and size of projects, relation to Life Sciences, hindrances or problems in the application phase, cooperation of involved stakeholders and possible lessons learnt to adapt the funding scheme in the next OP.

5. Costs

No additional costs are foreseen on the level of stakeholders involved as the funding scheme, the agency and the networks are established.

6. Funding sources

The action is part of the OP implementation. The overall budget for this RTD guideline for the running EFRE period is about 168 Mio €. With the new funding status the overall budget has not changed. So far no specific budget allocation to this part of the programme is foreseen. All approved applications from all parts of the programme could so far be funded. So far no details on budget allocation to the new part of the guidelines are known. BCV will check until end of 2019, how much money is left or what does the MA expect to spend on this.

Date: _____

Name of the organisation(s) :

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s): _____