

The Impact of the ERDF on the Europeanization of Italian Regions

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Summary

This research aims to assess the extent to which the process of Europeanization at the regional level in Italy is influenced by the level of structural funding received from the European Commission (EC). In this context, Europeanization is broadly defined as changes in policies (i.e. laws, regulations, and deliberations) at the regional level in Italy resulting from the interaction with the European Union, whereby the influence may be direct (i.e. compliance with conditions applicable to EU funding received) or indirect (i.e. compliance with voluntary guidelines, *not* directly related to EU funding received).

This assessment is made based on a comparative analysis of eight selected regions in Italy, whereby the focus is on the *Europeanization* process of research and innovation policies, because this is where the largest share of the current European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) budget is spent and for which there is a host of related EU guidelines, not necessarily linked to the receipt of these funds.

To assess the extent of Europeanization in the selected regions of Italy, the analysis is divided in four sections. First, an inductive qualitative content analysis of EU guidelines will provide a set of codes representing the position of the EU on research and innovation. Secondly, using these codes, a deductive content analysis is applied to relevant regional laws, regulations, and deliberations from two different periods, 2011-2012 (i.e. in the 2007-2013 EU budget cycle) and 2015-2016 (i.e. in the 2014-20 EU budget cycle). The third step involves the measurement of compliance, comparing the timeliness of the conditionality compliance with the amount of funding. Finally, a most-similar-case comparative study between pairs of regions is applied, whereby the regions are similar in terms of a set of pre-determined variables but different in terms of the amount of ERDF funds received.

While this analysis has clearly found evidence of Europeanization in most of the selected Italian regions, the amount of ERDF funding received does not appear to play a significant role in this regard. Instead, the results point at several interesting factors that seem to play (or not) a role in the regional Europeanization in Italy: geographical collocation of the region (i.e. North, Center or South); Cohesion Policy's categorization; a Eurosceptic governing party is surprisingly not influential on the level of Europeanization; typical conditions in the region of Puglia. Although the hypothesis on the influence of EU funding is rejected, this thesis confirms Europeanization occurs at the regional level and it paves the way for future studies using the results of the analysis (geography; category; governing party; the case of Puglia).

1. Introduction

Europeanization is a process that describes the influence that the EU exerts on domestic institutions. Most research on Europeanization has focused on the national policies, with only few studies on the regional (Verschraegen et al; 2011) or local authorities (Marshall, 2005). However, the interactions between the regional authorities and the EU have substantially increased with the changes of the EU Cohesion Policy of the last 10 years, especially involving an increased participation in the decision-making process (Hix et al, 2011). Since Europeanization can be very broadly defined as the study of the possible changes occurring due to the interaction between the domestic and EU institutions, the increased communication between the two entities makes the region an interesting unit of analysis. This thesis focuses particularly on one of the tools of the Cohesion Policy, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which accounts for 43% of the total European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF). Each region in Italy receives a certain amount of funding from the ERDF, with the aim of reaching four main thematic objectives: *Research and Innovation, Information, and Communication Technologies (ICT), Small and Medium Enterprises competitiveness and Low Carbon Economy* (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013). The first objective, Research, and Innovation, is very important in the EU. In 2000, in Lisbon the heads of the Member States (MS) decided to make Europe the most dynamic economy based on knowledge by 2010 (Curzio et al., 2005). This switch towards a knowledge-based economy symbolized an important turning point in EU policies for growth and development, in which Research and Innovation became more relevant. Being only mentioned as a sub-section of the Objective 2 in the ERDF 2007-2013, in the new financial framework (2014-2020) it gained importance, becoming an objective on its own (REGULATION (EU) No 1301/2013). Because of its increased relevance, the analysis is focused exclusively on the Thematic Objective 1 of the ERDF: Research and Innovation. Focusing on this specific objective enables to fill a gap in the Europeanization literature and look whether the process of adaptation found at the national level is also traceable in regions.

Most literature on Europeanization looked at the implementation of regulations and directives from the EU (Toller, 2010). It is important to clarify that this research differs consistently from these studies because it does not look at the implementation of Cohesion Policy in Italian regions. The analysis rather focuses on two different aspects. The first relates to an indirect Europeanization effect of the ERDF on the regions. Europeanization can be caused also by a range of non-legally binding measures (soft-laws) (Radaelli, 2008), like guidelines

(Toller, 2010). Since the EU issued guidelines regarding Research and Innovation that are also mentioned in the ERDF regulation, relevant regional documents are compared with those guidelines through a content analysis and a system of coding. As these guidelines do not entail any obligation for regional authorities, it is interesting to see whether some regions align their *own* policy documents without any legal obligations. These policy documents include laws, regulations, and deliberations and all require a voting by the regional assemblies, called “Giunta”, and are all published on the Official Bulletin of the regions. However, because the intention is not to analyze the implementation of ERDF funded Research and Innovation policies, only the regional documents that do not involve actions funded by the EU are considered. This was decided because all actions financed by the EU are likely to be already in line with the EU guidelines, while this research tries to uncover the extent to which the regions adapted their *own* Research and Innovation policies after the new ERDF came into force. “*Own policies*” thus refers to the laws, regulations and deliberations issued by the regional authority that do not involve EU funding or implementation of EU projects, but are independent initiatives of the region. Through this comparison it is possible to evaluate the Europeanization of regional Research and Innovation policies caused indirectly by the ERDF. Nevertheless, some regions might show a stronger Europeanization than others. The causes of Europeanization have been extensively studied, but there are few researches that assess the impact of the amount of funding received on the willingness to adapt. As some regions receive higher amounts of ERDF funds compared to others, this research aims at testing the amount of funding as a variable influencing the level of regional Europeanization.

The second aspect relates to a more direct impact of the ERDF. A conditionality is attached to the selected ERDF objective. This conditionality requires regions to develop a strategy for research and innovation that must follow specific guidelines (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013). Some regions have fulfilled this conditionality earlier than others. Those regions that fulfilled the conditionality the latest show slower and lower levels of Europeanization. In this case, the amount of funding received by each region will be compared to the timeliness of the fulfillment.

At first, the research will focus on assessing if there is any trace of Europeanization of regional Research and Innovation laws, regulations, and deliberations. This allows to evaluate if the study on the impact of funding is relevant, as it is necessary to first confirm that regional Europeanization in the field of Research and Innovation is present in the Italian regions. The second step involves the relevance of funds as an explanatory factor for a indirect impact on regional laws, regulations and deliberations. The third step of the analysis relates to the direct

impact of the ERDF regulation. The fulfillment of the ex-ante conditionality is used as a dependent variable influenced by the amount of funding. As opposed to the content analysis of the regional documents, this aspect gives indication of the level of Europeanization by looking at the time that passed between the ERDF regulation (2014) and the final fulfillment of the conditionality. The research questions guiding the study are:

RQ: Did the ERDF regulation cause an Europeanization of laws, regulations and deliberations related to research and Innovation in Italian regions?

Sub-question 1: Does the amount of ERDF funding to regional authorities impact the level of Europeanization of the Italian regions in the field of Research and Innovation?

Sub-question 2: Does the amount of ERDF funding impact the time needed by the regions to fulfill the ERDF conditionality?

Chapters 2, 3 and 4 define the relevant background information, the relevant previous literature, and a theoretical framework. These will set the foundations for the definition of several hypotheses in Chapter 5, which are in turn tested according to the methodology described in Chapter 6. A content analysis of the selected documents will provide the data used in the comparative analysis of the regions. Finally, the discussion of the results will help to test the hypothesis and draw the consequent conclusions.

2. Background Information

Before approaching the theoretical framework and the analysis it is necessary to clarify some fundamental concepts. Europeanization involves interaction between EU and domestic institutions, which makes it crucial to first highlight the functioning of the European Regional Development Fund to show how regional authorities are involved.

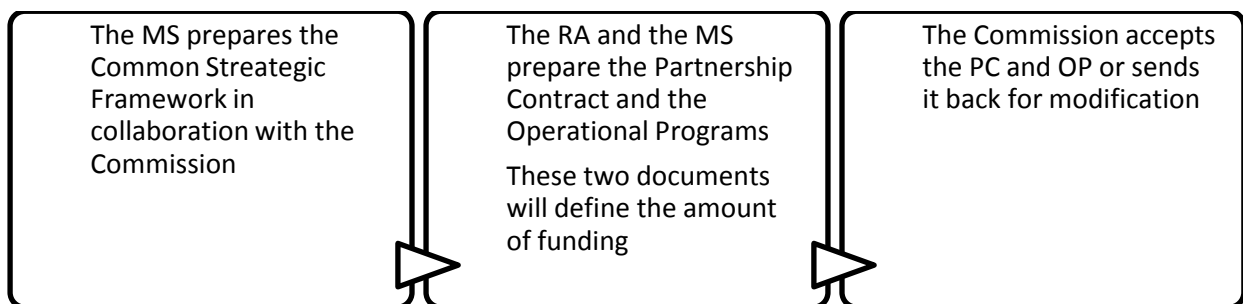
A second major concept is Europeanization. As the study tries to uncover the Europeanization of Italian regions, it is important to properly understand the content and the debate on the topic which also provides the basis for the theoretical framework.

Finally, the content analysis is applied on documents that relate to Research and Innovation. Therefore, a section will provide the general information on the Thematic Objective 1 of the ERDF (*Strengthening Research and Innovation*) and the Smart Specialization Strategy.

2.1 The European Regional Development Fund

The Cohesion Policy budget is still one of the largest of the EU, with more than 454 billion available for the period 2014-2020. Compared to the previous timeframe (2007-2013), regional policies should now be formulated to help reach the Europe 2020 strategy: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. Cohesion Policy is composed of three funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund. These funds should help to achieve the eleven Thematic Objectives (TO), which relate to environment, small and medium enterprises and research and innovation among others (Ambroziak; 2014). The main aim of these funds is to reduce the disparities between regions across the EU.

There is no linear and direct funding from the EU to the regions, as the national governments still play a fundamental role. Member States prepare a Common Strategic Framework (CFS) together with the Commission. When this is approved, the Member States prepare, together with the regional authority, the Partnership Contracts and the Operational Programs and present it to the Commission for approval. These documents define the amount of funding available for each region and the general guidelines and priorities for investment. (Ambroziak; 2014). This system shows that regions, although involved to some extent, are still dependent on the MS when it comes to fund allocation, because there is a collaborative effort in preparing the Partnership Contracts and the Operational Programs. Nevertheless, Regional Authorities are increasingly involved in the process and contacts with the EU are more frequent.



To define the amount of funding and the priorities, regions are divided in: Objective 1 (regions that have a per capita GDP of less than 75% of EU average); Objective 2 (regions that need structural adjustments); Objective 3 (human resource infrastructure). Objective 1 regions are the ones more in need of financial assistance, and thus receiving the largest amounts. The Commission included principles to diminish the power of the national governments in the field of regional policies and increase that of regional authorities (Hix et al., 2011). The regions' power further increased with the inclusion of the subsidiarity principle and the creation of the

Committee of the Regions (CoM) (Eggermont, 2011). The ERDF focuses on four of the eleven Thematic Objectives: Research and Innovation, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), SME Competitiveness, and Low Carbon Economy. The thematic concentration for each region is defined in the Operational Programs, made in collaboration with the Member State and the Commission. Managing Authorities, which are mostly the regional government, are assigned and will control the available funds and assure proper implementation (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013).

2.2 The Europeanization Debate

Europeanization is an extensively studied theory that very generally looks at possible changes occurring due to the interaction between domestic (local, regional, or national) and EU governance. More in detail, it is important to differentiate between different types of Europeanization, defined as “Uploaded” and “Downloaded”. This refers to the different cause and effect possibilities, as the EU influencing the domestic area (Downloaded) or the domestic influence on the EU (Uploaded) (Olsen, 2002). Studies on the download effects of EU policies focus on the EU governance as the cause of domestic change. This occurs because: 1) European integration may produce instruments leading to pressure for adaptation at domestic level; 2) Domestic mediation of adaptation forces, which involves the actors and mediators that enable or resist change. On the other hand, EU governance can also be analyzed as the effect of Member States or sub-national authorities uploading their preferences, and thus changing the EU policies and governance (Upload Europeanization) (Saurugger et al., 2009). Olsen (2002) defines five phenomena implicated in Europeanization: 1) changes in External borders; 2) Institution Building; 3) Penetration of National Systems; 4) Exporting forms of political organization; 5) Political Unification project.

There are two main theories on Europeanization: Rational Choice and the Sociological Perspective. *Rational choice* theory argues according to a logic of consequentialism and sees Europeanization as consequence of the redistribution of resources that empowers different actors at the domestic level (Paraskevopoulos et al., 2004) and treats actors as rational, goal-oriented, and purposeful. Under this logic, the misfit provides societal and political actors with new constraints and opportunities to pursue their interests (Borzell, 2009). There are two important mediating factors that influence the possibility of domestic change: Multiple veto points and existing formal institutions (Paraskevopoulos et al., 2004). Multiple veto points within a country’s institutional structure can give more power to certain actors with different interests and can lead to resistance to adaptational pressure or a push for change. On the other hand,

existing formal institutions can provide actors with ideas and resources that enable the exploitation of opportunities (Borzel, 2009). These two factors are crucial for a change to occur at the domestic level. Whether such changes in the political opportunity structure lead to a domestic redistribution of power, depends on the capacity of actors to exploit these opportunities and avoid the constraints. The *sociological perspective* uses a logic of appropriateness to explain domestic changes (March et al., 1998). EU policies, norms and collective understanding create a certain adaptational pressure, because different than the domestic norms. In this case, the two mediating factors are change agents and political culture/informal institutions. Change agents mobilize to convince others to change their interests. The political culture enables the consensus building that can lead to change or resistance. Europeanization thus causes domestic change through socialization and collective learning (Borzel, 2009). Paraskevopoulos et al, in their study on the adaptational pressure in EU regional Policy, highlights a two-fold impact on the regional level. The first is a direct impact, which is due to the provision of increased resources. The second is indirect, and shapes the interactions between regions and the consequent creation of networks by which some regions influence others (Paraskevopoulos et al., 2004).

These theoretical approaches (i.e. rational choice and sociological) are described within the framework of goodness-of-fit, which defines the adaptation pressure at the domestic level as consequence of a misfit between the EU and domestic processes, policies, and institutions (Borzel, 2009). However, some studies showed that it is not necessary condition (Mastenbroek et al., 2006). The analysis by Mendez et al. (2008) has established that goodness-of-fit has little predicative capacity when it comes to adaptation responses, thus confirming the relevance of other factors.

2.3 Thematic Objective 1: Research and Innovation

The EU sets Research and Innovation as the first Thematic Objective of its regional policy, with a total budget of 43.7 billion euro. Research and Innovation is regarded as a key driver for economic development and transformation. The main problems found through various analyses is that EU countries are not sufficiently able to transform successful basic research into commercial success. The EU is an excellence in research, but is not able to commercialize it as much as the biggest global competitors (US, China, and South Korea). The Smart Specialization concept has been a debated theoretical approach already prior to the official promotion of it by the EU, and with the new ERDF Regulation it has now become an ex-ante condition to access the funds. The concept was developed during the mid and late 2000's,

mainly to tackle the widening productivity gap between the United States (US) and Europe and respond to the challenges that innovation policies were facing. This problem was already described in the 1990s, but now the focus is on the industrial structure, rather than deficiencies in industries (Kroll, 2015). It builds on this literature to provide a clear prioritization of policy logic with a focus on the role of technological linkages and spillovers between sectors and regions (McCann, 2016). A lower technological specialization and a reduced ability to prioritize were found in Europe compared to the US. Therefore, a territorial development model was defined that prioritizes economic activities, technological domains and scientific areas that can create new market opportunities and that constitute potential competitiveness. This has been labeled as *smart specialization* and it focuses on prioritizing a limited number of areas, searching for opportunities through the analysis, exploiting the variety within the territory through entrepreneurial discovery, and the coherence of such approach with the global context (del Castillo et al, 2015).

The Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) is an EU initiative that was created to improve the management of the Structural Funds, particularly the ones targeting the Thematic Objective 1 (Research and Innovation). Member States and Regions need to develop such strategies if they want to use the ERDF funds available for such Thematic Objective. It should be developed around the strengths and competitive advantages as well as support innovation by trying to stimulate private sector investment. Of major importance in these strategies is the full involvement of stakeholders and the making of sound monitoring and evaluation systems (Commission, 2014).

3. Literature Review

The literature on EU regional funds tackles different aspects. One stream has studied the actual effectiveness of the funds. A study by Becker et al. (2010) investigates the growth rates in regions receiving the EU funds and found that the main improvements occurred in those regions labeled as “Less developed”, but not in those categorized as “transition regions” and “more developed regions”. This finding was matched by Mohl and Hagen (2010). On the other hand, a study by P. Martin has revealed that the effects of funds are clearly visible between Member States but if we look at the regions across the EU we see that the funds have not reduced the inequalities between regions (Martin, 2005). These studies differ substantially from this thesis, as the focus is not on effectiveness of the fund to achieve the growth and development objectives, but rather on the effect of the fund on the policy documents of the region.

Other studies focused on the factors influencing the allocation of funds. In these cases, the dependent variable is the amount of funding received, while the aim is to uncover the explanation for the different allocations. Some authors have argued that the political situation within a country and the relation with the various layers of the policy-making process are particularly important (Bouvet & dell' Erba, 2010). On the other hand, a study by Bodenstein and Kemmerling (2011) highlights the different stages at which the regions can participate directly or indirectly: in the Council when total budget is established; when the Commission analyze the regions that were put forward by the MS; and, finally, when states bargain with local authorities for the final allocation. The study concludes that regions with more political power, and those that are more important for electoral support, shape the allocation the most. A very influential study by Chalmers (2013) provides some convincing reasons for EU regional fund allocation. In particular it shows that the regions have indeed a powerful position in the process. As a determinant for success in securing the funds, Chalmers finds that regions that enjoy shared rule (as the power over decision-making at national level) are more likely to gain funds compared to regions that are characterized by self-rule (as strong regional autonomy that focuses on internal issues). Other studies on EU regional funds have criticized the current method for allocation. Iribas and Pavia (2010) propose to include more issues representing the complexity of real society, and group the regions in homogeneous clusters that will then determine the funding. These studies all show that EU fund allocation has been an extensively studied topic. However, the amount of funding was, in all these cases, the dependent variable to be analyzed, as opposed to the use of amount of funding as the independent variable leading to changes at the domestic level.

Although less extensive, there is a stream of studies on the EU regional policies and Europeanization. A study by Mendez et al. (2006) looked at the negotiation of regional policy maps by Member States under the old Cohesion Policy. The authors criticize the distinction between influence by the EU or influence of the Member States, defined as top-down and bottom-up respectively. It is argued that the continuous interaction and the involvement of actors in negotiations at different stages show that both top-down and bottom-up dynamics are in place when it comes to Europeanization (Mendez et al, 2006). The same authors also published a research on the Europeanization pressure of regional aid policies, in which they tried to test the predictive capacity of the goodness-of-fit theory of Europeanization (Mendez et al., 2008). This study showed that such theory does not have a good predictive capacity with respect to domestic responses. Europeanization caused by the European Regional Policies has been studied through a comparative analysis of Cohesion and CEE countries by Paraskevopoulos

and Leonardi (2004). It showed that an authoritarian history has certainly an impact on Europeanization, which increases in countries that had recently experienced authoritarian rule. However, it also specifies that other variables might be more important in explaining Europeanization, such as culture and institutional infrastructure. Instead of looking at the national or regional level, Adam Marshall tried to uncover the effects of Europeanization at the urban level (2005). The research on two cities in the UK (Birmingham and Glasgow) is relevant because the author looks at the possibility of applying methods of Europeanization research on multiple territorial levels. More importantly for this research, it proves that access to the Structural Funds exposes a diverse range of local actors to EU institutions (Marshall, 2005). This exposure to and cooperation with the EU leads regions to choose between adapting or resisting the EU influence. Besides this study by Marshall (2005), most of the described researches focused on the impact of the EU regional policies on the Europeanization of Member States. This study tries to fill a gap by testing whether the EU Regional Policies, or more specifically the ERDF, can also trigger changes at the regional level.

Another important concept of this research relates to the smart specialization. Some literature exists on the concept. This mostly targets the conceptualization of smart specialization and the possible applications in the EU context (Camagni et al. 2013, McCann et al, 2015). Others have evaluated the impact on entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (McCann et al., 2016), or the possible problems that regions can encounter when it comes to developing the strategy and the implementation (Estensoro et al., 2016). However, neither of these studies uses the Smart Specialization approach promoted by the EU as a measurement of adaptation. Del Castillo et al. go as far as analyzing the Smart Specialization Strategies (RIS3) of all the regions in Spain to evaluate to what extent these strategies are reflecting the real research and innovation structures. The authors of this case study found a great deal of incongruence between the real innovation patterns and the ones identified in the strategies. They further point to weaknesses in the strategies and possible improvements (del Castillo et al., 2015). There is a lack of literature that uses the smart specialization as a measurement indicator, as is the case for this study. However, this literature on the topic is important to understand the main implications of such approach to innovation, which is so vehemently promoted by the EU under the ERDF 2014-2020.

Only few studies have been found that try to uncover the causal relationship between EU funds and Europeanization. Verschraegen et al (2011) assess the impact of the European Social Fund (ESF), one of the structural funds, on domestic activation policies in three Belgian regions (Wallonia, Brussels, and Flanders). They argue that the ESF had a detectable impact

on innovation and activation instruments, the governance of employment policies and finally on policy framing. On the other hand, van Gerven et al. (2014) evaluate the domestic impact of the European Social Fund (ESF) in the Netherlands and Spain. They found that in both cases there is a significant effect of Europeanization triggered by the ESF, particularly in the employment policies of the two countries. Although not related to the ERDF and focused on the national level, the studies show that indeed the EU funds can shape the domestic policies.

The first studies highlighted in this section did not tackle the impact of EU funding directly. However, these researches are important for this study as they still provide an important detail: regions are clearly involved in EU matters, especially because of the financial interests, and EU regional policies have proven to be the cause of Europeanization. Studies on smart specialization strategies are numerous, but none of them uses these strategies as indicators of Europeanization. Regarding the literature on the European Social Fund, the methods used, and the unit of analysis (ERDF instead of ESF) in this paper differ substantially from the studies by Verschraegen et al. (2011) and van Gerven et al. (2014). Nevertheless, these prove that the Structural Funds can have a substantial impact on the domestic public policies.

4. Theoretical Framework

The previous sections showed how the factors influencing Europeanization are intensively debated. EU funding can be a major driver for adaptation at the regional level if the Rational Choice theory is applied. Actors are self-interest utility maximizers (Paraskevopoulos, 2004), and a differential empowerment of actors is supposed to occur due to the availability of ERDF funds. Consequently, the bigger the amount, the more certain actors are empowered at the regional level, and the more these actors will push for change. Institutions are thus seen merely as intervening variables within such logic. This research rejects the idea of a goodness-of-fit as the main cause for adaptation pressure (Mastenbroek et al., 2006; Mendez et al. 2008), but rather sees funding as a cause of the redistribution of resources.

Besides the processes that lead to Europeanization, also the sources of it are not yet well-defined. Most studies have focused on the transposition of EU law, or evaluated the level of compliance with EU demands. However, it was shown that also soft-coordination methods or soft-laws, such as voluntary guidelines, caused the Europeanization of domestic policies (Lopez-Santana, 2006). In these cases, the Europeanization is made possible by policy learning or deliberate adaptation of domestic policies (Toller, 2010). The idea that also guidelines can be a source of Europeanization is fundamental to this research. The guiding logic is that actors are empowered through the allocation of funding, and push for a deliberate adaptation of Research

and Innovation policies based on the guidelines issued by the EU (Toller, 2010). This research focuses exactly on the *soft-laws*, particularly guidelines, as a source of adaptation of regional Research and Innovation policy documents.

Grabbe (2006) defines EU aid as a “hard” pressure, compared to the “soft” pressure exerted by the guidelines. This is because EU aid sets out conditions that must be followed to receive the funding (Bachtler et al., 2014), even if there aren’t compliance obligations. With the same logic, although the fulfillment of the conditionality is at the discretion of the region, it is still regarded as “hard” pressure due to the need for fulfillment to unlock the funds. This means that, regarding the direct impact that funding might have on the regional authority, the level of Europeanization is measured by the fulfillment of the ex-ante conditionality of developing a Regional Smart Specialization Strategy (as described in Chapter 2.3).

5. Hypothesis

Following the research questions, the previous literature and theoretical framework, two hypotheses will be tested in this paper:

H1: Regions with higher levels of ERDF funding show higher levels of Europeanization in policy documents related to Research and Innovation

H2: The more the funding assigned to a region, the faster this region fulfilled the ERDF ex-ante conditionality (develop a Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy).

6. Methodology

6.1 Design

This research is structured as a qualitative case study on the selected regions. Studies on Europeanization have often encountered problems with proving the causality (Haverland, 2005), since isolating the impact of EU policies is a difficult task. Therefore, two different periods are analyzed, one prior to the ERDF 2014 regulation and one after. Because there is the need to isolate the impact of one specific year (2014-start of the ERDF 2014-2020), the years 2013 and 2014 are excluded from the analysis. In 2013, the year prior to the start of the new ERDF, it is likely that the information on the priorities was already circulating. This could influence the results of the study as some regions might have received information before others. It is also crucial to take into account the time needed for regions to adapt their policies, thus leading to the exclusion of the first year of the new ERDF 2014-2020. This leads to the decision to analyze

and compare precisely the years 2011-2012 and 2015-2016.

The next step is to identify the proper method of analysis. Here, the approach that is used is a qualitative content analysis. Qualitative content analysis is one of the numerous methods to analyze text data. It is possible through a content analysis to develop certain codes that relate to part of the text and will function as labels for a certain issue. It is important to highlight that in this study the codes relate to concepts, not to single words. Berg et al. (2014) present different types of unit of analysis. These units can be words, themes or even characters. However, the unit of interest for this research is the “concept”. “*Concepts involve words grouped together into conceptual clusters (ideas) that constitute, in some instances, variables in a typical research hypothesis*” (Berg et al, 2014, p.346). This allows to include different parts of the text under the same label, which in turn helps to identify policy stances. The inductive process of analyzing the text and deriving a certain amount of codes from it, is applied to the analysis of the EC documents. These documents all resemble new EU policies that were not promoted under the previous ERDF (2007-2013) but mentioned in the ERDF regulation of 2014. The main characteristics of the EC innovation policies is thus coded through the labeling of the concepts.

After the coding of the EU position, the regional documents are analyzed. In this case, the process is reversed, as the documents are scanned to look for the presence of the innovation policies promoted by the EU. This deductive method helps in the identification of similarities between the regional authority and the EU. The more codes are found, the more the policies of the region are in line with the policies of the EC. Content analysis of legislative documents is not new in Europeanization studies. Armstrong (2010) applies a content analysis of documents produced within the Open Method of Coordination (OMC), to see whether the OMC is a governance tool to diffuse, reproduce or institutionalize discourses. Brouard et al (2012) uses the content analysis to look if there is any trace of the EU footprint in Swiss legislative documents. Radulova (2011), first applies the content analysis to EU documents and then compares them with the policies of the Netherlands and the party manifestos, to control whether there is any influence of the EU in policy discourse in the field of childcare. This analysis allows to define the dependent variable, since it is necessary to first assess if there is any trace of Europeanization at all, before testing the hypotheses.

To test the first hypothesis, relating to the indirect impact of the ERDF, a most similar case comparison is applied. This qualitative comparative approach involves the selection of cases that are similar regarding other variables, but different in the independent variable that is investigated (Levy, 2008). Regions are compared in couples, and the selection of the combinations is clarified in more detail in the case selection chapter. The second hypothesis

relates to the possible direct impact of the amount of funding on the time it took to fulfill the ex-ante conditionality. Also in this case, to isolate the effect of the amount of funding received, the same pairs are used as for the testing of the first hypothesis.

6.1.1 Measuring Europeanization

An important distinction can be made between policies, politics and polity which helps to define the dimensions along which Europeanization at the domestic level can be analyzed and traced. The characteristics to look at for each of these dimensions are the following (Borzel, 2009):

1. Policies: standards, instruments, problem-solving approaches and policy narratives and discourses
2. Politics: Interest formation, interest aggregation, interest representation, public discourses
3. Polity: political institutions, intergovernmental relations, judicial structure, public administration, state traditions, economic institutions, state society relations and collective identities

Although it would be interesting to analyze whether the ERDF policy can push for changes at the political level (how actors change their discourse or how it motivates certain coalition formation) or leads to changes in the institutional structure and the relations between the different levels, here the focus is exclusively on policies (defined as laws, regulations, and deliberations).

Radaelli (Featherstone et al., 2003) identifies four types of domestic responses that help to measure levels of adaptation:

1) Inertia; 2) Absorption; 3) Transformation; 4) Resistance.

1. *Inertia*: Member states accommodate Europeanization pressure by adapting existing processes, policies and institutions without changing their essential features and the underlying collective understandings attached to them. One way of doing this is by “patching up” new policies and institutions onto existing ones without changing the latter (Héritier 2001). The degree of domestic change is **modest**.

2. *Absorption*: Member states incorporate European policies or ideas into their programs and domestic structures, respectively, but without substantially modifying existing processes, policies, and institutions. The degree of domestic change is **low**.
3. *Transformation*: member states replace existing policies, processes, and institutions by new, substantially different ones, or alter existing ones to the extent that their essential features and/or the underlying collective understandings are fundamentally changed. The degree of domestic change is **high** (Borzel, 2009).
4. *Resistance*: Domestic authorities resist the pressure and avoid adaptation. **No Europeanization** detected.

These categories will be used to classify the level of Europeanization, going from “No Europeanization” (Resistance) to “high” Europeanization (Transformation).

6.2 Measurement

Well defined measurement methods are crucial and these must be sufficiently valid and reliable (Miller, 2007). Two measurement indicators are selected: 1) Date of approval; 2) Effect of the ERDF on regional policies. The first measures the level of Europeanization in terms of the timeliness of the fulfillment of the ex-ante conditionality (develop a Regional Smart Specialization Strategy- RIS3). The second involves the extent to which the regional documents are aligned with the EU position derived from the guidelines. Both aspects are described in detail in the following sections.

6.2.1 Date of Approval

Each region had to send their RIS3 to the Commission to unlock the ERDF funding. This has pushed most regions to prepare such document on a timely manner. However, the strategies were not accepted all on the same date. This difference is assumed to be caused by non-compliance with the requirements set by the Commission. Such delay in compliance is due to a process of resistance from the region. However, some problems arise when such method is used. The small differences with regards to dates cannot be valid. The time needed for administrative procedures can influence the outcome. This can be overcome by applying some thresholds. Differences of date of less than one month will not be considered. This is done to control for administrative process duration.

It is crucial to identify in which way the measurement corresponds to the concept of Europeanization, to assure its validity (Miller, 2007). The date of acceptance by the Commission

directly shows the approval of the strategy, consequently symbolizing the ability of the region to make the strategy in line with the EU demands. Studies on compliance with EU law (Panke, 2007; Sack, 2012) have shown that compliance is a driver and a measurement of Europeanization. This logic leads to the assumption that the region could adapt to the EU pressure, and the delay in acceptance can be caused by the resistance to the EU approach. Therefore, the earlier the strategy was accepted, the more we see Europeanization, or transformation rather than resistance. The amount of time necessary for each region to get the strategy approved is correlated to the amount of funding received, to evaluate whether the amount of funding influences the time necessary to fulfill the conditionality.

6.2.2 Effect of the ERDF on regional policies

A content analysis of the documents published on the Official Regional Bulletin will show all the work that has been done by the regions in research and innovation policies. By comparing the main policies of the EC with the actual work by the region will allow to look at the effect that the ERDF had on regional policies. In this research, regional policies are defined as all the laws, regulation and deliberations related to research and innovation. The EC documents that are selected all refer to new policies promoted under the ERDF 2014 and not in the previous ERDF (2007-2013). The amount of codes present in the acts of a regional authority will help to define the level of Europeanization. As previously explained, the level of Europeanization is categorized based on the response to the EU research and innovation policies promoted under the ERDF 2014-2020. Such response is evaluated through a comparison between the period prior and after 2014. However, simply assuming the region did not transform its policies because one code is found both in 2011-2012 and in 2015-2016 would be misleading. Therefore, codes are contextualized and need to be qualitatively evaluated. As a practical example, if we see that a certain measure promoted by the EU was in place before and after 2014, there is need to assess the actual context in which the text is placed.

If such policy stays the same after 2014 with some minor adaptations, it is a case of absorption, and thus exhibits a low level of Europeanization. However, if some characteristics of the policy adapted to be better aligned with the EC, although keeping the same essential features and collective understanding, the response is defined as Inertia (modest Europeanization). If some of the EC policies are not found in the period before 2014, but present after, then it is a case of Transformation (high level of Europeanization). Resistance is defined as the rejection of any EU policies, with no efforts being taken by the region to align its policies.

6.3 Case Selection

The aim of the research is to evaluate the Europeanization of regional policies in Italy. The decision to focus on one country has been made for several reasons. First, analyzing regions across the whole EU poses some serious limitations. The MS can have different levels of Europeanization at the national level that could influence the tendencies of regional authorities to adaptation. Furthermore, MS have different institutional settings when it comes to regional authorities and their independence and power which is correlated to the ability of the region to ensure higher levels of funding (Bodenstein et al, 2011) and could in turn influence the outcome of the analysis. Moreover, according to the theoretical foundation of this research, besides the differential empowerment of actors, that justifies the amount of funding as independent variable, there are other two enabling factors: multiple veto points and formal institutional structure. Although only an in-depth analysis of each regions could exactly define these two factors, regions in the same country fall under the same national institutional settings and have similar veto points (Borzal, 2009). For these reasons, a single country research seemed more valid. Second, Italy has the highest level of ERDF funding after Poland. Using a country that has high levels of funding might show more interesting results, due to the importance attached to the fund. In fact, a total of 31,6 billion is allocated as ERDF to Italy for the period 2014-2020, accounting for 528 euro per capita (highest of the countries in the EU). Moreover, regional disparities are a major problem in Italy (Davis, 2012; Abramo, 2016; Gonzales, 2014), and the Cohesion policies aim at decreasing the inequalities between regions, making it a valuable income for the country.

Eight regions were selected based on the need for similar cases with different levels of funding. The first step involved the division of the regions in the different EU objectives. This first selection method relates to the level of GDP of the regions. Different GDP levels also lead to different priorities and capacities. Regions that are facing major problems in most sectors, which is the case for the poorest regions in Italy (Davis, 2012), will encounter more difficulties in promoting the same amount of policies in one specific sector compared to the most advanced regions. The three Objectives in which the regions are categorized under the Cohesion Policy are based exactly on the regional GDP as percentage of the EU average. Therefore the selection based on the three different Objectives allows to compare regions that face the same levels of development.

The initial intent was to take two regions for each of the 3 Objectives defined by the EU Cohesion Policy. However, out of the 20 regions in Italy, 13 of them fall under Objective 3 (More

Developed Regions). Moreover, multiple studies have identified major differences in regional capacity of regions of the north, middle and south of the country regarding performance in education health and other societal issues (Davis, 2012; Abramo, 2016; Gonzales, 2014), and lower administrative capacity gives access to a smaller set of policies and reduces ability to promote real changes (Chuaire et al. 2017). Therefore, it was decided to compare two regions from the north and two from the center.

To find the regions that are most similar within the different Objectives, several indicators have been chosen. Some of them (GDP PPP and Population) help to analyze two regions that have similar 'general' characteristics. Because we are dealing with Research and Innovation policies, it is crucial to couple regions that have similar public expenditures for Research and Innovation as a percentage of the annual GDP. Finally, because Europeanization is here defined as the self-interest driven actors' actions to push for adaptation (Paraskevopoulos et al., 2004), it is also important to include the governing party of the region. This process has been particularly easy, as most regions are governed by the Democratic Party (PD). To have some differentiation between parties, in the north two regions under the rule of the *Lega Nord* were selected.

The following table highlights the coupled regions and the characteristics used for the selection. Data was retrieved from the national statistics dataset (www.istat.it). In the table, it might seem that the regions are not similar at all. However, the first important categorization is based on the different Objectives of the Cohesion Policy. The Objective 2 region (Transition regions) are only three in Italy (Sardinia, Abruzzo, and Molise). The two most similar regions according to the other indicators are Sardinia and Abruzzo. The Objective 1 regions (Less Developed) are five (Calabria, Puglia, Basilicata, Campania, and Sicilia). According to the applied indicators Puglia and Calabria are the most similar cases. Finally, Objective 3 regions (More developed) there must be a division between center and northern regions. The regions defined as central are, according to the national institute for statistics (Istat), Lazio, Toscana Umbria and Marche. Of these, the other indicators are the most similar in Lazio and Toscana. In the north, the selection was based also on the political party, and the two most similar cases that also have the same ruling party are Veneto and Lombardy.

Table 1 - Case Selection Indicators

Cohesion policy Objective	Region	GDP (PPP)	Population	Public Expenditure for R&I (% of GDP)	Political Party	Geography
Objective 1 – Less developed regions	Calabria	16.600	15 081 758	0.5	PD	South
	Puglia	17.700	19 358 235	0.7	PD	South
Objective 2 – Transition regions	Abruzzo	24.500	1 322 585	0.7	PD	Center
	Sardinia	19.600	1 654 587	0.8	PD	Center Island
Objective 3(a)	Lazio	31.000	5 893 935	1.6	PD	Center
	Toscana	29.400	3 743 370	1.3	PD	Center
Objective 3(b)	Lombardy	35.700	10 014 304	1.4	Lega Nord	North
	Veneto	30.800	4 907 284	1.2	Lega Nord	North

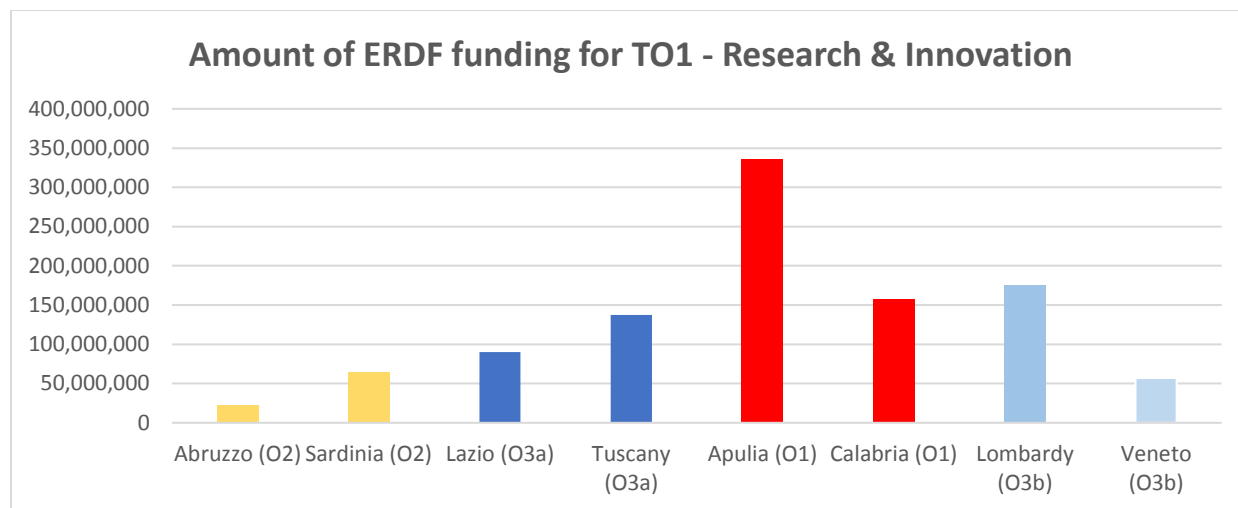
6.4 Data Collection

Clear and adequate documentation on data collection and characteristics is crucial to avoid inaccuracy and problems with interpretation (Thiem, 2007; Leuffen, 2007). Two types of data are necessary for this research, which relate to the independent (Amount of funding) and dependent (Europeanization) variables. For the first the amount of EU funding for research and innovation received by the region is selected. Regarding the data necessary to assess the level (or existence) of Europeanization, it involves two separate types of documents. The first group of documents are the ones issued by the EC, and the second group are the Regional Acts. Each of these units of analysis are presented separately in the next sections.

6.4.1 Amount of Funding

For the amount of funding received by each region, the official dataset of the ERDF is retrieved from the EU website.

Table 2 - Amount of Funding for Research and Innovation (by Region)



6.4.2 Documents

Commission

Because this research involves the analysis of similarities between regional acts and the EC position on certain topics, the first step involves the definition of such position. The initial primary source where the information is gathered from, is the ERDF regulation for the period 2014-2020 (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013). In the regulation, the thematic objectives are defined in Article 5 (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013). For this research, only the first objective is taken, which is:

“strengthening research, technological development and innovation by:

- (a) enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest;*
- (b) promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies”* (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013).

These are the main measures promoted by the ERDF under this regulation. However, these concepts are very broadly defined, making it complicated to trace these concepts back in the regional acts. Therefore, a second document is needed to find more information about the

actual policies and position of the EC with regards to those concepts (e.g. Social innovation, Open Innovation). For this purpose, the “*Thematic Guidance Fiche: Research and Innovation (Thematic Objective 1 - Research and Innovation)*” (2014) gives a more in-depth insight into the separate issues. To make sure that the whole stance of the EC with regards to research and innovation is uncovered, the Thematic Guidance Fiche suggests further readings for each of the concept. These are voluntary guidelines that were officially published by the EC. All these documents together form the dataset for the inductive content analysis, which will in turn lead to a definition of the EC position on research and innovation.

Regional Authority

For this study, there will be no random sample collection, as all the regional laws, regulations and decisions related to Research and Innovation that were officially published on the Regional Bulletin are taken into consideration. This avoidance of sampling is done because of the nature of the measurement method highlighted previously. To look for possible spillover to other related policies and programs, it is important to not overlook any document. The research is thus carried out on the official website of the regions. As already explained in the research design section, two different periods are analyzed, namely: 2011-2012 and 2015-2016.

The selection of relevant documents for the analysis is done through several stages. The first step implies selecting the documents that might contain any useful information. To do so, a set of keywords is prepared in advance. Because we are looking at the Europeanization effect of the ERDF regulation in the field of Research and Innovation, these will be the main driving keywords for the search. They will be searched together (as “Research and Innovation”) and separately (as “Research”; “Innovation”) with the necessary translation into Italian. This leads to the second step of data collection, which involves the exclusion of all documents that are not relevant to answer the research question(s). Some of the regional acts are just financial statements, as assignment of positions or decisions that do not involve any action. In some cases, a look at the object (or title) of the document is enough to exclude the document. In some other cases, a qualitative assessment of the purpose of the document was needed. The following questions helped to assess the purpose of the regional act:

Does the document involve any decisions that lead to future action?

Does the document provide a strategic planning for the future?

Does the document involve any specific measures to be implemented?

Does the document include any changes to existing laws/regulations?

Is the document a Law?

If the answer was positive to one of these questions, the document was put in the dataset. The final step is the content analysis. Of the selected documents, those that include references to any of the coded themes derived from the EU document analysis are the ones used to assess the level of Europeanization.

Table 3 - Data Collection Process

Thematic Objective	Step 1 - Keywords	Step 2 - Questions to assess relevance	Step 3 – Content analysis
TO1 – Research and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Research and innovation- Research- Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Does the document involve any decisions that lead to future action?</i>- <i>Does the document provide a strategic planning for the future?</i>- <i>Does the document involve any specific measures to be implemented?</i>- <i>Does the document include any changes to existing laws/regulations?</i>- <i>Is the document a Law?</i>	Look for matches between EU content analysis and regional document content analysis.

6.5 Operationalization

The next step is to operationalize the concept of Europeanization. “Operational definitions concretize the intended meaning of a concept in relation to a particular study and provide some criteria for measuring the empirical existence of that concept” (Berg et al, 2014, p.39). Following this definition of operationalization, the concept of Europeanization has already been explained, as well as the data collection method. The next stage requires clarification on the way in which the collected data will serve to answer the research question.

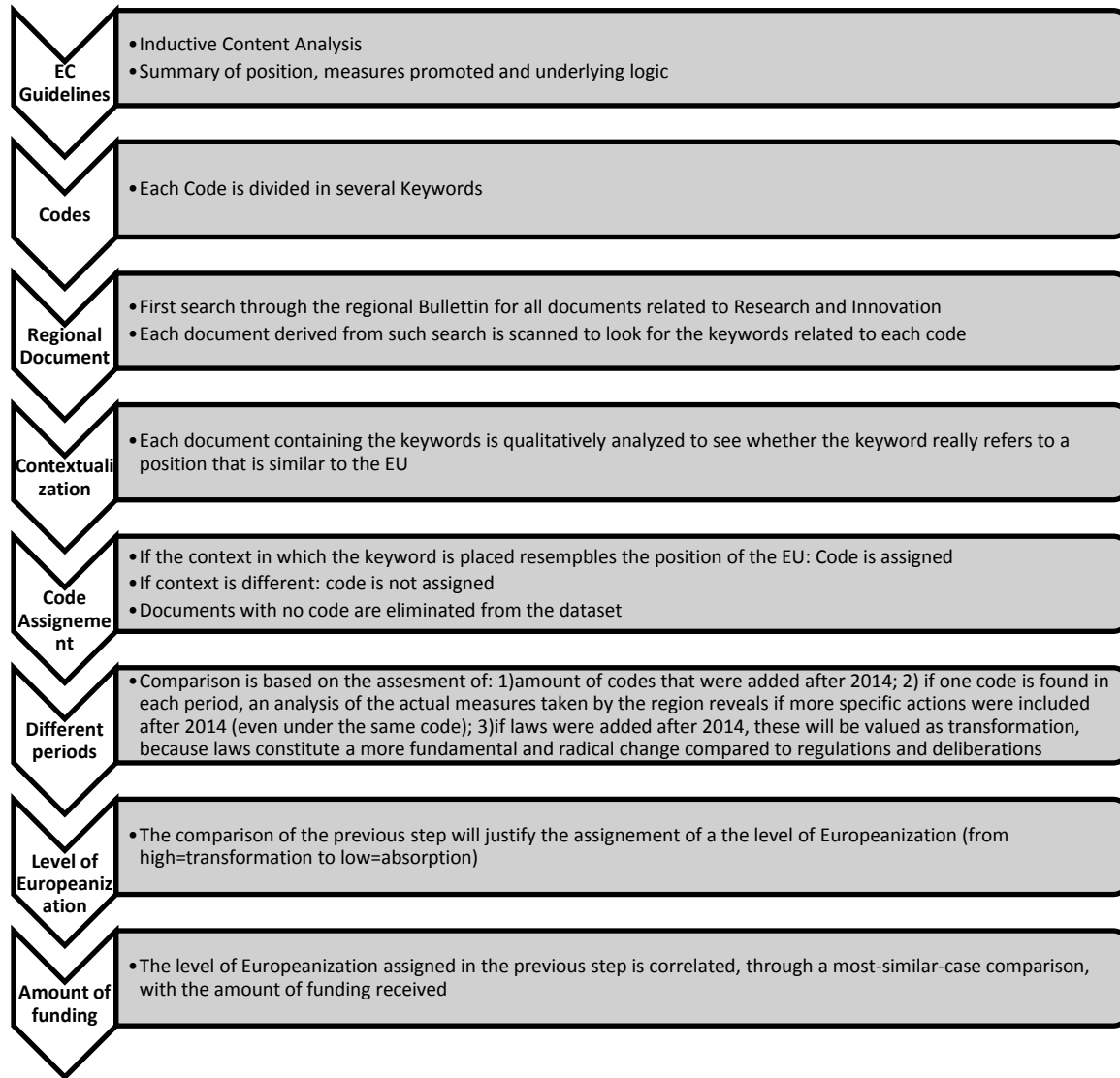
In the previous section, the data collection method already highlighted the process by which the position of the EC is defined. The content analysis of the selected guidelines, which

refer to the specific measures promoted under the ERDF regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013), will lead to a definition of codes. This first coding method will be of the interpretative kind (Olsen, 2012). This means that “*we are setting up the code to summarise the meaning of a sentence or phrase*” (Olsen, 2012, p.3). The sentences and phrases are selected based on the inductive qualitative content analysis of the EU guidelines, in which the attention is directed towards the position of the EU. “Position” means, in this case, the stance that the EU takes with regards to the issues mentioned in the ERDF.

After such procedure is carried out, some keywords are linked to the codes. These keywords are necessary to make sure that a “Europeanized” document is not overlooked because there is no direct reference to the word of the code. Keywords are defined based on the content analysis of EC in the guidelines. The next step involves the analysis of the regional documents. Here the content analysis approach is more deductive. The documents are scanned by looking for the keywords associated with the codes. If the document contains any of the keywords, a process of contextualization starts. Instead of just taking for granted that the presence of keyword symbolizes a similarity with the EC position, the qualitative analysis of those sections will increase the validity of the claims. It is important to notice that the amount of codes found is not a sufficient evidence for a certain category of Europeanization (e.g transformation, inertia, absorption). It is the content of the documents that will define the changes and the alignment with the EC position. Moreover, some regions issue more documents than others, but this does not mean they have more likeliness of showing Europeanization. If a region shows major changes in their research and innovation policies in only one document, this is sufficient to highlight a certain level of Europeanization. It is not as much about the quantity of keywords, as much as it is about the content of the document. In the analysis of the regional documents, some practical examples are given to show the process of the analysis, including references to the text of the regional document.

When all the documents have been coded and analyzed, the comparison between the period before and after 2014 is applied to each region. This comparison will define the response by the regional authority to the ERDF regulation, according to the classification of Radaelli (Featherstone et al, 2003): Resistance (No-Europeanization); Absorption (Low); Inertia (Moderate); Transformation (High). After all regions have been put into a category, the comparative analysis will help to evaluate the impact of the level of funding. To confirm the hypothesis, the more the funding received by the region, the more it should respond with higher levels of Europeanization.

Table 4-Process of Analysis



The second measurement unit (date of approval of the regional Smart Specialization Strategy) is operationalized by looking for a correlation between the months it took the region to fulfill the conditionality and the amount of funding received. The comparison is carried out by pairing the most likely cases.

7. Analysis

7.1 EC Documents

In Article 5 of the ERDF regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013), there is a definition of the 10 thematic objectives of the European Structural Investment Fund 2014-2020. Here the only

relevant objective is the Thematic Objective 1 - strengthening research, technological development, and innovation. Several measures are mentioned that should help to achieve such objective. These relate to: Research and innovation infrastructure and capacity; the promotion of business investment; technology transfer and open innovation; social innovation; eco-innovation; public sector innovation; networks and clustering. These are described separately in the next sections. Some quotes are added to the parts, but the full parts are included in the Annex II. However, it must be noted that more parts of these very extensive documents had an influence on the keyword selection and of the understanding of the EC position. The text highlighted in Annex II are used as an example.

Research and Innovation infrastructure and Capacity

In the Thematic Guidance Fiche, Research and Innovation infrastructure and capacity refer to “facilities used by private or public researchers to conduct research, development and testing”. These are crucial for the EC to strengthen research. In a guide document called “Connecting Universities to regional Growth: A Practical Guide” the EC highlights its policy with regards to this priority. *Innovation Vouchers* are suggested to enable SMEs to acquire specialist support from knowledge-based institutions. It also suggests the creation of *knowledge transfer partnerships* (KTP) that would give the opportunity to businesses to access expertise from universities. This is valued as a possibility to improve productivity, competitiveness and performance through the involvement of a KTP associate (a high calibre graduate) in the work of a company under academic supervision. Finally, initiatives for development of *Networks and Clusters* are advised.

With regards to infrastructure, the EC pushes for the creation of *Science and Technology Parks and Research Centers* with certain characteristics. For this theme the EC issued “*An advice and guidance report on good practice: “Setting up, Managing and Evaluating EU Science and Technology Parks”* (2013). Advices include:

“*Setting out the strategy and objectives*” (European Commission, 2013, p.3)

“*Engagement of the knowledge base – an active, effective and multi-dimensional relationship with a university or other public sector research organisation is often seen as crucial*” (European Commission, 2013, p.3)

“*Interaction with the public sector at local/regional, national and European level*” (European

Commission, 2013, p.3)

Promoting Business Investment in R&I

The EC promotes measures that lead to increased investment by businesses in R&I. In the “Smart Specialization Strategy for Research and Innovation Guide”, the EC lists several measures that can lead to such outcome. Mainly it pushes for Technology Audits, research and innovation vouchers, incubators and design innovation support with the purpose of:

- *“awareness-raising, information and advice to access FP7 and its successor,*
- *creation of sectoral or cross-sectoral interest groups,*
- *promotion of local academia-industry cooperation and their cross-border networking,*
- *aid for international partner search,*
- *grants for exploring project feasibility and validation of project ideas,*
- *provision of training to potential project managers,*
- *provision of mentoring and coaching to EU project partners (from the conception phase, through implementation and management to commercialisation of project results) as part of the regional innovation support services,*
- *use of financial engineering instruments to promote commercialisation of promising EU research and innovation results by regional actors”* (European Commission, 2012, p.72)

Technology Transfer and Open Innovation

In the document “Boosting Open Innovation and Knowledge Transfer in the EU” (2014) the Commission highlights what is meant by Open Innovation and which are the priorities. The document focuses on the collaboration between businesses, the importance of universities, the civil society (fourth helix) and the natural environment (fifth helix). The following extract functions as an example:

“In particular, we will recommend policy actions that promote businesses and universities collaborating as co-creators to solve socio-economic and business challenges.

Enhance the role of universities as co-creators and as interactive partners in innovation systems. There are challenges to universities’ co-creation capabilities, to the design of incentives for academics when working with users and to the absorptive capacity of academic knowledge within firms. This requires enhancing the skills for OI and KT across the industry–

science spectrum. It involves challenges to the management and leadership skills within the KT profession as well as the support of 'good' governance practices of universities

Despite its clear benefits, the Triple Helix model does not include all the drivers for knowledge production, innovation and growth. This is where the civil society (fourth helix) and natural environment (fifth helix) come into play. Those two novel dimensions are increasingly needed to provide incentives to the 'Triple Helix actors' to engage." (Commission, 2014)

Social Innovation

By social innovation, the EC refers to the development and implementation of new ideas to meet social needs. These types of innovations are social both in means and in ends. In the "Guide to Social Innovation" three measures are proposed. Social Policy Experimentation is the experimentation of small scale projects to test policy innovations (or reforms) before adopting them. These are: 1) policy interventions bringing innovative answers to social needs; 2) implemented on small scale because not sure about the impact; 3) made in conditions that allow for measurement of the impact; can be repeated on a wider scale if convincing. A second measure relates to the creation of Social Innovation Clusters and Parks. Third, an Incubation Trajectory that specifically targets social innovation.

"Social policy experiments are:

- Policy interventions bringing innovative answers to social needs,*
- Implemented on a small scale because of existing uncertainty as to their impact,*
- In conditions which ensure the possibility of measuring their impact,*
- In order to be repeated on a wider scale if the results prove convincing." (European Commission, 2013)*

"Incubation Trajectory specifically targeted at Social Innovation" (European Commission, 2013)

Eco-Innovation

The main EC policy with regards to eco-innovation is summarized in the "Eco-innovation Action Plan (EcoAP)". In general, it tries to boost innovation that results in or aims at reducing environmental degradation. It also focuses on the reduction of the gap between the innovation and the market, which regarded as a major obstacle for eco-innovation. Therefore, the main

position of the EC with regards to this issue can be summarized as the need for policy and regulation that promotes eco-innovation. The focus is on setting new and ambitious standards and performance targets.

“Eco-Innovation is any form of innovation resulting in or aiming at significant and demonstrable progress towards the goal of sustainable development, through reducing impacts on the environment, enhancing resilience to environmental pressures, or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources.” (COM(2011) 899 final)

Public Sector Innovation

With regards to public sector innovation, the EC has published the “European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard” (2013). Here the EC highlights the main trends at EU level with regards to public sector innovation, but also provides insights into the drivers and barriers to innovation in this sector. Two main characteristics that are found relate to the impact of regulation and financial means. Although intuitive, this shows the position of the EC as pushing for regulation (laws in particular) in the field of public sector innovation, or the official increase of funds. The document defines public sector innovation as “a new or significantly improved service, communication method, process or organisational method” (EC, 2013, p.9). Therefore, for the purpose of this research the position of the EC is summarized as improved service and communication by the authority through innovation (e-Government). Moreover, such improvement should be achieved through laws and increase of funding.

“e-Government: By 2020, public administrations and public institutions in the European Union should be open, efficient and inclusive, providing borderless, personalised, user-friendly, end-to-end digital public services to all citizens and businesses in the EU. Innovative approaches are used to design and deliver better services in line with the needs and demands of citizens and businesses. Public administrations use the opportunities offered by the new digital environment to facilitate their interactions with stakeholders and with each other.” (COM(2016) 179 final)

“- Design innovation clinics

- Living Labs

- Facilitating access to finance” (European Commission, 2014)

Networks and Clustering

Clusters are a major tool for innovation. The support should target clusters to work closely with research infrastructures, science parks and incubators. Moreover, they should help to stimulate internationalization, especially through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform. A second important networking effort should target universities, and particularly their connection with regional growth. These characteristics are taken from the “Guide to Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS 3)” (2012).

7.2 Coding

Table 5 - Coding

Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening Research and Innovation			
Field	Issue	Position/Keywords	Code
Research and Innovation	Infrastructure and Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovation Vouchers - Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) - Science Parks - Technology Parks - Research Centers 	Ric
	Business Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and Innovation Vouchers - Incubators - Design Innovation Support 	Rbi
	Open Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User Participation - Civil society - Natural environments 	Roi
	Social Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Policy Experimentation - Social Innovation Clusters - Social Innovation Parks - Social Innovation Incubation 	Rsi
	Eco-Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ambitious targets - Innovation against environmental degradation 	Rei
	Public Sector Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication Innovation - Service Innovation - E-Government 	Rpsi
	Networks and Clustering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Collaboration - Internationalization - Clusters increasing collaboration between research institutions, science parks and incubators 	Rnc

In this section, the outcome of the coding of EC documents is explained. In the table, it is possible to follow the “tree” that leads to a certain number of keywords. Starting with research and innovation, the second step was the disassembling of the EC research and innovation policies into different categories, called “issues”. These categories are further divided in several keywords that represent the EC position. All keywords are grouped under one label. By doing so

it was possible to analyze the regional documents without referring to entire concepts, but just by assigning a label to a certain part of the text. This process is showed in detail in the ANNEX II, where each of parts of the regional documents that referred to one of the EC positions is included in the tables. It is important to remind that this content analysis is not a word count, but the text of the regional document needs to refer to a “concept” identified in the EC documents to be included in the analysis.

7.3 Regional Documents

Each region is analyzed separately. The process of code identification is explained and justified, and for each region a separate section is dedicated to the assessment of the level of Europeanization. This assessment is based on the content analysis and the comparison between the two selected periods.

Lombardy

Lombardy shows some interesting results. The region is the only selected case that has implemented two laws after 2014 in the field of innovation. Not only is the interest in developing a law in such field a sign of increased importance by itself (especially because the last law on such topic was signed in 2007), also the content resembles clearly the position expressed by the EC in the selected guidelines and in the ERDF regulation. Four of the codes were found in the laws: Infrastructure and Capacity (Ric), Networks and Clusters (Rnc) and Social Innovation (Rsi) in “Law n. 29 from 23.11.2016”; and Networks and Clusters (Rnc) in “Law n. 28 from 5.10.2015”. As no laws were signed for research and innovation in the period 2011-2012, there is no possible comparison. However, the fact that after 2014 the region became proactive in changing the laws regulating research and innovation, and that such laws are in line with many of the positions of the EC, shows a certain level of Europeanization. Moreover, because the changes compared to the previous laws are clear, it is possible to argue that there has been a process of “transformation”, rather than adaptation.

Regarding the second type of document that was researched, deliberations also saw a steady increase in alignment with EC positions. For the period 2011-2012, five documents were found through the applied keyword research. Of these, only three were relevant policies for research and innovation. One of these (DGR 2549 from 24.11.2011) shows strategic actions taken by the region in 2011. However, these actions refer to very different priorities, measures and targets. In this deliberation, the focus is on innovation of SMEs (also included in the latest EC guidelines), but with different approaches. These approaches relate to boosting

collaborations between businesses, rather than increasing partnerships with research institutions, universities, public and private innovators and businesses. Therefore, no code was found in the document. The other two deliberations that were selected had some characteristics that were also found in the EC guidelines. Particularly, one had a clear reference to innovation vouchers (DGR 4393 from 14.11.2012), and the purpose of them was as described in the EC guidelines (to boost business investment in the field of innovation). This shows that those initiatives were not new to the regional policies for research and innovation. The second deliberation mainly focused on pre-commercial procurement for innovation. This is an approach that has been promoted vehemently by the EC, especially under the Smart Specialization policy.

As this might lead to think that Lombardy was already using these methods, if we look at the deliberations of the period 2014-2015, we see that: number of deliberations related to research and innovation that are in line with the EC positions increased; more policies promoted by the EU were found in these documents. Policies after 2014 show a more “Europeanized” approach regarding social innovation. In the Deliberation “DGR 5817 from 28.11.2016” the regional authority promotes those innovations that serve for social purposes. This is done through financing for innovation activities that increase the wellbeing of society and tackle societal problems. This is an approach promoted by the EC in the guide document called “Guide to Social Innovation”, and found on the EC website section “Innovation”. This support for social innovation was not found in previous deliberation, thus symbolizing the influence that the EC exerted through the definition of priorities in the ERDF.

Table 6 - Content Analysis Lombardy

2011-2012				2015-2016			
TO	Type	Name	Code	TO	Type	Name	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 4393 from 14.11.2012	Rbi	TO1	Law	Law n. 28 from 5.10.2015	Rnc
None	Deliberation	DGR 2549 from 24.11.2011	None	TO1	Deliberation	DGR 5817 from 28.11.2016	Rsi
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 2379 from 20.10.2011	Rss	TO1	Law	Law n. 29 from 23.11.2016	Ric Rnc Rsi

Europeanization

In Lombardy, we see that the influence from the EC position on Research and Innovation is present. Although some issues like increasing business investment through innovation vouchers (Rbi) and the use of pre-commercial public procurement for innovation (Rss) were already in place prior to 2014, most other codes were not found. On the other hand, we see that after 2014 two laws and two deliberations promoted policies that resemble the EC position (6 codes were found in total). If the four types of responses defined by Radaelli are applied, the outcome of the document analysis shows a process of “Transformation”, as policies are substantially changed. The two new laws, when the last laws regulating research and innovation was designed in 2007, and the absence of the coded issues in the period prior to 2014 highlight transformation rather than adaptation of old policies. Inertia and resistance are also excluded, as there is no sign of simply adding new concepts to old policies (inertia) or the total indifference towards the EC position (resistance).

Lazio

Lazio already had policies aligned with the position of the EC before the start of the new ERDF (2014). Compared to the region of Lombardy, Lazio had more policies that used the same approaches proposed by the EU. Out of the 17 deliberations and laws that were found through the keyword research, two of them included the selected codes. The DGR 287 from 17.06.2011 (Strategic Program for Research Innovation and Technological Transfer 2011-2013) included four of the codes derived from the EU documents analysis. Regarding Business Investment (Rbi) the deliberation defines measures to assist companies in the design of innovation products. Open Innovation (Roi) is included as a fundamental principle for developing the regional innovation programs. This characteristic has not been found in any other selected region. The same deliberation also introduces innovation vouchers as a main support mechanism (Ric) and designs a measure to increase cohesiveness of networks and cluster in the field of innovation (Rnc). The second deliberation that showed similarities with the EC position is the DGR 403 from 09.09.2011. For the second time, a system of innovation vouchers and consultancy for companies that want to increase their design capabilities, to enhance investment in innovation, is put in place (Rbi and Rnc). This analysis shows that four codes were already present in documents related to research and innovation.

In the period after 2014, Lazio showed an increase in the amount of policies that contained some of the codes. Out of the 20 documents that contained the selected keywords,

five had similarities with EC approaches. A first interesting document is the review of the strategic plan for the years 2011-2013 (DGR 224 from 05.05.2016). This evaluation reconfirms what was already described in the previous paragraph, that many of the EC approaches promoted under the ERDF 2014-2020 were already in place in the region. However, it also has another interesting characteristic: it concludes by referring to the new Smart Specialization approach of the EU at the end of the document. Here it states that the new strategies should continue the good work of the previous ones, but should also refer more to the Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3). In the Deliberation DEC46 from 18.11.2016, an annual strategic plan for the year 2016 is stipulated. It contains the code of Social Innovation (Rsi). Social Innovation is promoted in this strategy through the collaboration between the region of Lazio and the National Council for research. This collaboration should focus on developing innovations to tackle the social needs of the region. In the DGR 560 from 04.10.2016, actions are taken by the region in the field of eco-innovation (Rei) and the creation of an eco-system for innovation that increases investment in innovation by businesses. On the other hand, DGR 454 from 26.07.2016 includes actions to support collaborations between different networks and clusters (Rnc), mainly private-public, research institutions and universities and technological districts and innovation clusters.

Finally, a more in-depth analysis is required for the Strategic Plan for Research, Innovation and Technological Transfer 2016-2018 (DGR DEC25 from 19.07.2016). This is a very important document, as it provides the possibility to compare the evolution from the previous strategic plan (discussed previously). In the previous strategy we found four codes, and these were also found back in the new strategy (Roi, Ric, Rbi and Rnc). The previous approach was not totally neglected, but was rather adapted to the new guidelines of the EC. One issue was added and not found in the earlier strategy, namely Social Innovation. All other issues (Business Investment, Open Innovation, Infrastructure and Capacity and Networks and Clustering) were adapted, but still showed a continuation from the previous regional policy. In the next table and section an example is given on how the content analysis was approached. It compares two deliberations, one from 2011 and one from 2016. First, it shows how the two documents refer to different measures under the same code (Rbi), showing how some new issues were added after the ERDF 2014. Second, it highlights another code found in both documents (Roi) that is approached identically, showing how the document of 2016 also represents a continuation of previous policies.

Example of content analysis (Contextualization):

EC Code-Position (Rbi)	DGR 287 17.06.2011	DGR DEC25 19.07.2016
<p>Business Investment (Rbi):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and Innovation Vouchers - Incubators - Design Innovation Support <p>Mainly it pushes for Technology Audits, research and innovation vouchers, incubators and design innovation support with the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“awareness-raising, information and advice...</i> - <i>creation of sectoral or cross-sectoral interest groups,</i> - <i>promotion of local academia-industry cooperation and their cross-border networking,</i> - <i>provision of mentoring and coaching to EU project partners (from the conception phase, through implementation and management to commercialization of project results) as part of the regional innovation support services” (European Commission, 2012, p.72)</i> 	<p>Technological Audit for structures and production processes of SMEs both in the industrial and service sector. This through marketing innovation, intended as the execution of a new marketing method that includes significant changes in the design of the product and its promotion and activity extension. (Own translation-see ANNEX II for original)</p>	<p>Such objective includes the support for the activity of the university incubators or University partners (Own translation-see ANNEX II for original)</p>
EC Code-Position (Roi)	DGR 287 17.06.2011	DGR DEC25 19.07.2016
<p>Open Innovation: (Roi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User Participation - Civil Society - Natural environment - University Participation <p>Enhance the role of universities as co-creators and as interactive partners in innovation systems. There are challenges to universities' co-creation capabilities, to the design of incentives for academics when working with users and to the absorptive capacity of academic knowledge within firms. This requires enhancing the skills for OI and KT across the industry–science spectrum. It involves challenges to the management and leadership skills within the KT profession as well as the support of 'good' governance practices of universities</p>	<p>The program takes into account the fundamental principles recognized as critical for the development of research and innovation. The first is the so called “Open Innovation”, according to which the generation and diffusion of innovation do not solely result from the quantity and quality of the research and innovation activity carried out internally in the research centers and businesses, but also from the relationship, the networks and the interaction capacities created both between businesses themselves and between businesses and research centers and Universities. (Own Translation-see ANNEX II for original)</p>	<p>Another inspiring principle for the program is the so called Open Innovation, according to which the generation and diffusion of innovation do not solely result from the quantity and quality of the research and innovation activity carried out internally in the research centers and businesses, but also from the relationship, the networks and the interaction capacities created both between businesses themselves and between businesses and research centers and universities (Own Translation-see ANNEX II for original)</p>

The keywords “design” and “innovation” were found in the text. However, this is, following the chosen methodology, not sufficient. The analysis also involves the contextualization of those keywords, by looking at the purpose for which the actions are taken or the means that are used. In the Deliberation, we see reference to the Design Innovation Support through technology audits to improve the “product packaging, promotion and extension”. This is close to one of the aims of the EC where “*provision of mentoring and coaching (from the conception phase, through implementation and management to commercialisation of project results) as part of the regional innovation support services*” is mentioned. In this case, the code is confirmed. Regarding the position of the EU on Open Innovation (Roi), this code is confirmed because both documents include the keyword “Open Innovation” and describe such approach in a similar way as the EU does in its guidelines. The Rbi (Business Investment) code was found in both periods. However, these relate to different aspects of the content of the code. Where in 2011 the Rbi code related to the Design innovation support, in 2016 it relates to the university incubators and the business-university partnerships.

The two deliberations also provide a second important finding. Both documents relate to Open Innovation as “critical for the development of research and innovation”. However, in this

case the paragraphs referring to Open Innovation are identical, symbolizing a continuation of pre-existing policies rather than a change.

In these deliberations signed by the Giunta of Lazio, we see that the region did not radically transform its approach. Some of the policies, like open innovation, were already in use at the regional level before the ERDF 2014-2020, and were re-stated in the exact same way. This shows that the start of the new ERDF was not the influencing factor. However, also in the case of the Rbi (Business Investment) the code was found in both periods, but the deliberation of 2011 included different specific issues that fall under the Rbi code compared to the one from 2016. This shows that the ERDF 2014 brought some change in the document with regards to that aspect.

Table 7 - Content Analysis Lazio

2011-2012				2015-2016			
TO	Type	Name	Code	TO	Type	Name	Code
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR 403 from 09.09.2011	Rbi Rnc	TO1	Deliberazione	DGR DEC46 from 18.11.2016	Rsi
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR 287 17.06.2011	Rbi Ric Roi Rnc	TO1	Deliberazione	DGR DEC25 from 19.07.2016	Roi Ric Rbi Rsi Rnc
				TO1	Deliberazione	DGR 454 from 26.07.2016	Rnc
				TO1	Deliberazione	DGR n. 560 from 4.10.2016	Rei Rbi

Europeanization

In this case we see a slightly different dynamic compared to Lombardy. The regional authority of Lazio has rather adapted existing policies, instead of transforming its approach towards

research and innovation. As is shown in table most codes were found already in policies prior to 2014 (Rbi, Rnc, Ric and Roi). However, from the example used in the previous section, we see that under the Roi (Open Innovation) code there has been a continuation of policies, but the Rbi (Business Investment) code was different for the two documents. Where the document from 2011 showed some of the specific measures that fall under the Rbi, the one from 2014 showed others. A second change between the two periods is shown by the amount of codes found in 2015-2016 documents compared to the ones prior to 2014, like the Rsi (Social Innovation) and the Rei (eco-innovation) codes. This shows that for the region has decided to continue with its existing policies (as these were already in line with the EC) but adapted them and included some new issues, such as Social innovation (Rsi), or adapt the existing ones, such as the Business Investment (Rbi). This process falls under the definition of Absorption used in this research “*Absorption*: Member states incorporate European policies or ideas into their programs and domestic structures, respectively, but without substantially modifying existing processes, policies, and institutions. The degree of domestic change is **low**”

Veneto

The regional authority of Veneto has increased the amount of research and innovation policy documents after 2014 consistently. Although 43 documents resulted from the keyword search, only one showed some similarities with the EC position. All the others showed a very different approach compared to the policy documents issued after 2014. The DGR 2744 from 24 December 2012 had some actions included, relating to the creation of a network with foreign innovation centers through a public fund (Rnc). There is also reference to the Smart Specialization Strategy (Rss) and the need for funding to support the development of such strategy. Finally, it dedicates a part of public funding to support regional innovation structures to help SMEs and increase the innovation capacity of the private sector (Ric). However, it must be clarified that there was no specific mentioning of any measure promoted by the EC.

In the years 2015-2016 the outcome of the document analysis has been substantially different. For this year the keyword search provided a total of 51 documents. These were analyzed using the coding system and the results show a clear transformation of research and innovation policies after 2014. Four documents had references to the EC policies, and will be discussed individually. The DCR 74 from 2.03.2016 is the approval of the Regional Strategic Plan for 2016-2018. In total, it contained five codes and showed great similarity with EC

positions. Innovation vouchers to trigger applied research and improve the cooperation between research institutions and businesses are one example. Vouchers are also included to increase the capacity of businesses to innovate and create a proper infrastructure (Rnc). Incubators are supported to allow businesses to properly invest in innovation without risking failures (Rbi). Moreover, the strategy also includes guidelines for the prioritization of social innovation (Rsi) and Eco-innovation (Rei). Finally, it identifies four major clusters in the region and explains the potential and the way these should be used (Rnc). All these characteristics are far more specific than the document found prior to 2014. The “DGR 1215 from 15.09.2016” focuses also on the smart specialization strategy. Specifically, it mentions that the actions proposed in the deliberation should be aligned with the RIS3. This is an important characteristic as it aligns the actions to a clear EC policy (Rss). Some of the actions include: the support for and creation of new incubators to increase the regional network for innovation and boost business investment (Rbi); actions leading to increased cooperation and learning on how to efficiently use the existing networks and clusters (Rnc). A third deliberation (DGR 65 27.01.2015) promotes the support and advisory system to increase the design capacity. This is promoted to reduce the gap between innovation and commercialization, which is seen (as for the EC) as a major obstacle for innovation (Rbi). Finally, a deliberation (DGR 2609 23.01.2015) regulating the relationship between the regional authority and VenetoInnova (publicly owned but independent agency managing innovation issues in the region) was found. Particularly, it focuses on the objectives that the agency should pursue, which include: The management and creation of new incubators to boost business investment in innovation (Rbi) and the improvement and coordination of the biggest clusters and innovation/technology parks, which are specifically mentioned (Rnc).

Example of content analysis (Contextualization):

EC Code-Position (Rnc)	DGR 2744 14.12.2012	DGR 74 1.3.2016
<p>Clusters are a major tool for innovation. The support should target clusters to work closely with research infrastructures, science parks and incubators. Moreover, they should help to stimulate internationalization, especially through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform. A second important networking effort should target universities, and in particular their connection with regional growth. (Rnc)</p>	<p>Creation of networks with the foreign innovation and technological transfer centers (Own translation- See ANNEX II for original)</p>	<p>The regional administration supports 4 national technological clusters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green chemistry: cluster with the objective to encourage the development of bio-industries in Italy... 2. Smart factories: cluster with the objective to propose, develop and activate a innovative strategy to transform the manufacturing sector to new products and services... 3. Life science: cluster with the objective to be the reference for the competitive growth of the life sciences and to the public human health 4. Technologies for the smart communities: cluster with the objective to create innovative models to solve urban and metropolitan problems through integration and inclusion technologies <p>(Own translation- see ANNEX II for original)</p>

EC Code-Position (Ric)	DGR 2744 14.12.2012	DGR 74 1.3.2016
<p><i>Innovation Vouchers</i> are suggested to enable SMEs to acquire specialist support from knowledge-based institutions. It also suggests the creation of <i>knowledge transfer partnerships</i> (KTP) that would give the opportunity to businesses to access expertise from universities. This is seen as a possibility to improve productivity, competitiveness and performance through the involvement of a KTP associate (a high calibre graduate) in the work of a company under academic supervision. Finally, initiatives for development of <i>Networks and Clusters</i> are advised.</p> <p>With regards to infrastructure, the EC pushes for the creation of <i>Science and Technology Parks and Research Centers</i> with certain characteristics. For this theme the EC issued "<i>An advice and guidance report on good practice (Ric)</i>"</p>	Support for regional infrastructure that help SMEs for innovation (Own translation- see ANNEX II for original)	A direct use of financial instruments from the regions, such as vouchers..., to improve productivity and capacity(Own translation- see ANNEX II for original)

The two documents issued by the region of Veneto show how some codes were present both before and after 2014. Both the Networks and Cluster (Rnc) and the Infrastructure and Capacity (Ric) recurred in both documents, but in 2016 a different approach was used to increase infrastructure and capacity (Ric). The vouchers were mentioned in such context only in 2016, while in 2012 there was only reference to the need and efforts to support infrastructure for SMEs in the innovation sector. On the other hand, in both years the Clusters were mentioned and referred to the same concepts as promoted by the EC. However, in 2016 the specific clusters supported by the region are mentioned, which is not the case for the deliberation of 2012.

Table 8 - Content Analysis Veneto

2011-2012				2015-2016			
TO	Type	Name	Code	TO	Type	Name	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR n. 2744 from 24.12.2012	Rnc Rss Ric	TO1	Deliberation	DCR n. 74 from 2.3.2016	Ric Rbi Rsi Rei Rnc
				TO1	Deliberation	DGR 1215 15.09.2016	Rbi Rss Rnc
				TO1	Deliberation	DGR 65 27.01.2015	Rbi
				TO1	Deliberation	DGR 2609 23.01.2015	Rbi Rnc

Europeanization

If the analysis would focus only on the two documents used as example, the situation in Veneto would be defined as absorption, because minor changes are implemented on already existing policies. However, prior to 2014 only one document was found that contained the keywords and also related to the same approaches promoted by the EC. After 2014 this number increased to four, and these four documents included several codes that were not found in 2011-2012. Three codes were found in the first period (2011-2012) compared to the eleven of the second period (2015-2016). Of these, three codes were not found even once prior to 2014. Because there is no adaptation from existing policies, it is possible to affirm that there has been a transformation in the analyzed policy area. The actions that are taken are in line with the EC position and constitute a change from previous approaches. Moreover, Veneto is an interesting case, as the amount of actions taken for research and innovation is extensive. The regional strategy for the period 2016-2018, shows remarkable resemblance with the content of the EC documents used to define the EC position. This case is defined as transformation, as many new codes were added after 2014 and because those few codes that occurred in both periods were expanded and made more specific after 2014. There is no sign of resistance to EU policies and there are no cases of small adaptation.

Tuscany

The case of Tuscany is particularly interesting because it provides a different outcome compared to the other regions. As will be shown from the description of the content analysis that was carried out, the region did already have policies in line with the EC position prior to 2014. Out of 20 documents from the period 2015-2016, only one had some similarities with the EC position. On the other hand, in the period 2011-2012, it is two of the 15 documents.

The DGR 803 from 10.09.2012 approved the start of an innovation voucher scheme for boosting business investment (Rbi). This action was the first of the Strategic Plan 2012-2015, approved by the deliberation DGR 59 11.07.2012. This strategic plan needs a more comprehensive analysis, as it surprisingly contains many of the policy measures promoted by the EC after the new ERDF 2014-2020. Four codes were found in the document. The first is the promotion of Infrastructure and Capacity (Ric). The innovation/technology/science parks are described as the fundamental infrastructure to improve innovation, and therefore they need to be renewed and maintained. The second, relates to incubators and a voucher system that need to be improved or put in place to promote Business Investment (Rbi). Third, a system for

increasing the collaboration, networks and clusters (Rnc) is planned to strengthen the innovation eco-system. Finally, one of the actions (in the document “Azione 1.2”) is to dedicate part of the financing for innovation to Social Innovation (Rsi). In 2011 the DGR 46 from 6.07.2011 was signed, which included the “*Atto di indirizzo pluriennale in materia di ricerca e innovazione 2011 – 2015*” which translates into the *Indicative Act for research and Innovation 2011-2015*. This is slightly different than a strategic plan, as instead of defining precise actions, it highlights the “guidelines” for action. Two codes were found here. The region states that actions should include vouchers to increase innovation capacity, and increase the collaboration between science parks, universities and businesses (Ric). Secondly, it clearly stresses the need for strengthening the networks and existing clusters, also through internationalization efforts (Rnc).

For the years 2015-2016 the search in the official bulletin resulted in 15 deliberations and zero laws. One out of the 15 documents showed some sort of adaptation to the EC position with regards to research and innovation. The DGR 957 from 12.10.2016 included references to infrastructure and capacity, which according to the document should be improved through a system of vouchers that can be used to increase the innovation capacity of businesses (Rnc). Incubators were also mentioned as a strong tool to increase business investment (Rbi). However, it must be noted that these two codes were already present in the documents described in the previous paragraph. The only new codes that resulted from the content analysis were the social innovation (Rsi) priority and the mentioning of the smart specialization strategy (Rss), highlighting the importance of the alignment with between the smart specialization strategy and the actions proposed in the deliberation.

Table 9 - Content Analysis Tuscany

2011-2012				2015-2016			
TO	Type	Name	Code	TO	Type	Name	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 59 11.07.2012	Ric Rbi Rnc Rsi	TO1	Deliberation	DGR 957 2016	Rnc Rbi Rsi Rss
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 46 6.07.2011	Ric Rnc				

Europeanization

In this case we see a regional authority that was already applying many of the actions promoted by the EC with regards to research and innovation. The content analysis was done on two strategic plans that included many of the selected codes. The period after 2014 saw only the inclusion of the smart specialization (Rss). The other codes (especially the Network and Clusters Rnc and the Business Investment Rbi) experienced a slight adaptation, but the approach stayed fundamentally unchanged from the previous period. When the categorization of Radaelli is applied (Featherstone et al, 2003), this process can be defined as “Absorption” and the level of Europeanization is Low. The region encountered a situation where many of the research and innovation policies promoted by the EC were already in place prior to the ERDF objectives.

Sardinia

In the official bulletin of Sardinia, the search for the period 2011-2012 led to 12 documents, but none of them included any actions that were relatable to the EC position. Even more than that, most of those documents were simply financial statements and official assignments of positions. In the second analyzed period, only one document was found that related to the innovation of the public sector (Rpsi), but even in that case, the approach was not including any of the major measures proposed by the EC in the guidelines thus not justifying the confirmation of the code.

Europeanization

This is a typical case of resistance. There is no continuation of policies that were already in line with the EC and neither some consistent transformations with regards to research and innovation policies.

Abruzzo

For the period 2011-2012 a total of six deliberations were selected from the official bulletin. None of these conformed to EU standards and policies. All the documents referred the previous ERDF regulation (2007-2013) and did not match with any of the codes. In the period after 2014, one document matched with two of the codes. Measures to increase the business investment are proposed (Rbi), although without defining specific actions. There is also reference to the importance of clusters and international networks (Rnc), while focusing on the consolidation of the partnership between public-private entities and international networks and cluster.

Table 10 - Content Analysis Abruzzo

2011-2012				2015-2016			
TO	Type	Name	Code	TO	Type	Name	Code
-	-	-	-	TO1	Deliberation	BURA n. 136 Speciale 7.11.2016	Rnc Rbi

Europeanization

As for the case of Sardinia, also here there is no case of Europeanization. Although the analysis led to some codes being identified, this document is relating continuously to EU funding. It also involves the EC in the project evaluation and identifies actions and targets based on the ERDF. Therefore, also in this case the regional “adaptation” is inexistent and there are no significant actions taken prior to 2014 to justify the categorization as “inertia”. This a clear case of resistance.

Puglia

The search on the official bulletin of Puglia resulted in the selection of 9 documents. After the content analysis was carried out, two deliberations were found that promoted actions close to the EC position. The DGR 239 from 22.02.2011 is a partnership agreement between the regional authority and the Minister of Public Administration and Innovation. The agreement is to collaborate in the creation of a program of interventions to develop the public administration and achieve the objective of e-government (Rpsi). In the deliberation e-government is intended exactly as also promoted by the EC, for example the simplification of digital access to the public administration, digitalization of health services and administrative simplification. The second selected document is the DGR 1468 from 17.07.2012, which is a decision to start developing the regional smart specialization strategy (Rss). Although all regions submitted the smart specialization strategy, none of the other regions signed a deliberation to take such action in the years 2011-2012.

The search for the period 2015-2016 resulted in four deliberations that started the implementation of the triennial and annual strategic plans for research and innovation. The region of Puglia has, however, an independent but publicly owned agency that deals with the planning for research and innovation called A.R.T.I. By analyzing the strategic plans developed by A.R.T.I, it is possible to compare period before and after 2014 in a more consistent manner. Because the agency implements decision from the regional authority, the comparison between

the triennial strategic plan for 2010-2012 and 2014-2016 allows to assess the change that occurred in the research and innovation regional policies. The annual plan of 2010 is also compared with the plan of 2016, to provide an even greater analysis tool. All the plans were approved through a deliberation and then put on the official bulletin, thus avoiding methodological problems for this research.

In the strategic plan for 2010-2012 there is a clear reference to improving the supply and demand of innovation. It deals with increasing the leverage of networks and creating incentives for innovation by businesses. Therefore, already in 2010, Puglia showed actions in the field of “boosting business investment” (Rbi). Although important to mention, the precise measures that are proposed in the action plan do not resemble the ones collected from the analysis of the EC positions. No other codes were found in the document. On the other hand, in the strategic plan for 2014-2016, we see much influence of the EC. Especially because there are clear references to the smart specialization strategy (a full section is dedicated to the match between the ARTI strategy and the Smart Specialization). The structure of the document is consistently different from the previous one. In detail, there is a section dedicated to the SWOT analysis. SWOT is not an exclusive approach of the EC, but the previous plan did not include it, and the Smart Specialization Guide of the EC clearly highlights the importance of including a proper SWOT analysis in the strategic plans for innovation. Five different codes were found in the document. As already mentioned, there is a whole section dedicated to the need of the strategic plan and all the consequent actions to be aligned with the smart specialization (Rss). A second important action that is included is the restructuring and reinforcement of the existing infrastructure for research and innovation, both public and private. The objective of this action is to increase the capacity of these innovation centers and parks to influence the regional innovation eco-system (Ric). Third, the region plans to put emphasis on technologies and innovation that contribute to societal problems (Rsi). Fourth, institutional efforts also in the form of collaboration with other European regions are directed towards the consolidation of networks and clusters, and the creation of new ones were necessary (Rnc). Finally, there is clear reference to the open innovation policies and the specific measures that were found in the EC documents (e.g. LivingLabs) (Roi).

The annual plans of 2010 and 2016 show the same differences. In the annual strategic plan for 2010 the region promoted: a system of innovation vouchers to increase capacity of actors in the innovation field (Ric); the importance of business investment is highlighted (Rbi); the improvement of networks and clusters are included. However, in the plan for 2016 these same approaches were continued. In addition, references were found to smart specialization

follow-up actions (Rss), specifically the implementation of the monitoring system, the identification of the modalities to acquire necessary information and data, and the sharing of information derived from the monitoring with the governance system of the S3 (S3 platform of the EU). A Memorandum of Understanding with the European Regions research and Innovation Networks is proposed to improve the networking of the region (Rnc). Interventions are included that should all be user-driven. This means that the user should be included in the innovation and research process to assure that there is also demand for the products. This is a major part of the EU promoted Open Innovation approach (Roi). One of the actions included in the plan is the Futureinresearch, which is a regional program to support social innovations (Rsi).

Example of content analysis (Contextualization)

EC Code-Position (Ric)	ARTI Piano Annuale 2011	ART Piano Annuale 2016
<p><i>Innovation Vouchers</i> are suggested to enable SMEs to acquire specialist support from knowledge-based institutions. It also suggests the creation of <i>knowledge transfer partnerships</i> (KTP) that would give the opportunity to businesses to access expertise from universities. This is seen as a possibility to improve productivity, competitiveness and performance through the involvement of a KTP associate (a high calibre graduate) in the work of a company under academic supervision. Finally, initiatives for development of <i>Networks and Clusters</i> are advised.</p> <p>With regards to infrastructure, the EC pushes for the creation of <i>Science and Technology Parks and Research Centers</i> with certain characteristics. For this theme the EC issued "An advice and guidance report on good practice (Ric)</p>	<p>Voucher for development and consolidation of innovation spinoffs... a measure to support the spinoff of innovation public research, where experts are made available for support... (Own translation- see ANNEX II for original)</p>	<p>The project includes the creation and proposal of innovative models to support, through a bottom-up approach, the innovation and competitiveness of SMEs found by the youth. The interventions will aim at increasing the entrepreneurial capacity of young innovators and increase the network opportunities. (Own translation- see ANNEX II for original)</p>
EC Code-Position (Rnc)	ARTI Piano Annuale 2011	ART Piano Annuale 2016
<p>Clusters are a major tool for innovation. The support should target clusters to work closely with research infrastructures, science parks and incubators. Moreover, they should help to stimulate internationalization. A second important networking effort should target universities, and their connection with regional growth.</p>	<p>Attivazione del network "Rete delle Reti". Realization of the Laboratory Network. Activation of the network called "Rete delle reti" focused on networks between research and entrepreneurs. (Own translation-see ANNEX II for original)</p>	<p>ARTI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the region and the European Research and Innovation Network. The aim is to boost the internationalization of regional innovation networks (Own translation-see ANNEX II for original)</p>

The codes are confirmed by the presence of the keywords and through the context in which those keywords are placed, which are similar to the actions promoted by the EU. However, we can detect some minor differences between the document from 2011 and the one from 2016. In the first case, under the code for Infrastructure and Capacity (Ric) we see references mainly to the Voucher scheme to promote innovation capacity. In 2016, on the other hand, we see reference to efforts to increase capacity of young innovators, but the voucher scheme is not found. Regarding the second code used as an example, the Network and Clusters (Rnc), in 2011 the region promoted specific regional networks, while in 2016 it targeted the

internationalization of its regional networks, thus aligning its position further with the EU position.

Table 11 - Content Analysis Puglia

2011-2012				2015-2016			
TO	Type	Name	Code	TO	Type	Name	Code
TO 1	Deliberation/strategic plan	Piano Triennale di Attività 2010 - 2012	Rbi Ric	TO 1	Deliberation/strategic plan	PIANO TRIENNALE 2014-2016	Rss Ric Rsi Rnc Roi
TO 1	Deliberation	DGR 239 from 22.02.2011	Rpsi	TO 1	Deliberation/strategic plan	PIANO ANNUALE 2016	Rss Rnc Roi Rsi
TO 1	Deliberation	DGR 1468 from 17.07.2012	Rss				
TO 1	Deliberation/Strategic plan	Piano Annuale di Attività 2010	Ric Rbi				

Europeanization

Although not many deliberations were found after 2014, the content analysis of the strategic plans gave a good insight in the development of policies in Puglia. If we compare the Strategic Plans before and after 2014 we see that the number of codes consistently increased. Besides some policies being continued (such as the support for infrastructure and capacity and the promotion of business investment), many other issues were added only in the annual plan of 2016 and the triennial plan for the period 2014-2016. Moreover, the contextualization of these codes gives the picture of a regional authority that clearly took information from the EC to adapt the research and innovation policies. The actions envisioned in these strategies are specific and similar to the EC position. Moreover, the structure of the strategy itself (e.g. chapters, priorities, strategy development approach) clearly resembles the guidelines for the making of the regional smart specialization strategies (Smart Specialization Strategy for Research and Innovation Guide, 2011). For these reasons, this region is categorized as “absorption”, as the policies were already in line with the EU, but changes have been applied by still maintaining the “old” approaches. Transformation is excluded, as the content analysis showed a certain level of alignment also prior to 2014. Inertia and resistance are also excluded, because the amount of codes found in the documents after 2014 is consistent.

Calabria

The region of Calabria showed a strong increase of documents where the EU footprint was present. In the period before 2014, the qualitative content analysis led to only two deliberations containing any of the codes. On the other hand, such number rose to 3 documents containing nine codes. The content of the deliberations is briefly explained in the next paragraph.

In 2011, one deliberation was found that signed a partnership agreement between the Minister of Innovation and Public Administration and the Region of Calabria (DGR 181 from 04.11.2011). This partnership was signed to innovate the regional public administration (Rpsi). The second deliberation included an intervention to support businesses in acquire innovation services (Rbi). On the other hand, the search through the acts of 2015-2016 showed three deliberations containing many references to the EU position. In the DGR 249 from 12.07.2016 the following codes are present: Support for acquiring innovation services to increase the capacity of businesses (Ric); Support for investments of businesses for innovation (Rbi); Support innovation through LivingLabs and open Innovation (Roi); reinvigorate the collaboration between research centers and producers through networks and existing clusters (Rnc); Part of the financing should be directed to projects that involve social innovation (Rsi). The DGR 334 from 30.08.2016 relates to follow-up actions to implement the Smarty Specialization (Rss). Finally, the DGR 469 from 24.11.2016 includes: a project to better exploit research through the reinforcement of networks (Rnc); a project to introduce innovation processes in businesses that do not yet participate in the innovation field through the alleviation of the costs (Rbi); incentives to realize innovation with societal relevance (Rsi).

Table 12 - Content Analysis Calabria

2011-2012				2015-2016			
TO	Type	Name	Code	TO	Type	Name	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 181 from 4.11.2011	Rpsi	TO1	Deliberation	DGR n. 249 12.07.2016	Ric Rbi Roi Rnc Rsi
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 176 27.04.2011	Rbi	TO1	Deliberation	DGR 334 30.08.2016	Rss
				TO1	Deliberation	DGR n. 469 24.11.2016	Rnc Rbi Rsi

Europeanization

There is proof for an Europeanization trend in Innovation policies in Calabria. The region clearly adapted to the EU policies, and issued three deliberations that contained almost all the codes. Although in 2011 two actions were taken that had some EU influence, most actions were taken after 2014. This is a case of transformation, as the new deliberations were not adding minor things to already existing policies (inertia), they did also not adapt existing policies (adaptation) as they are all new for the region. Finally, also resistance is excluded, as there is a clear sign of EU footprint in the regional documents.

7.3.1 Summary of findings

The regions have shown a variety of responses to the ERDF regulation. Lombardy has experienced a real transformation in research and innovation policies after 2014. The transformation is proven by the policies that were designed in the period 2015-2016. Five codes were found in three documents, which compared to 2011-2012 have introduced new approaches and measures that were not present at the regional level before. Particularly important is the signing of the law “Lombardia è Ricerca e Innovazione”. The last law in this field was signed in 2007, and the differences between the two are relatable to the EC position on preferred policies. This high level of Europeanization was also found in the region of Veneto. Here the transformation can already be explained by only looking at the codes found in the two periods. For 2015-2016 the codes were eleven, in four different documents. This is remarkable if it is considered that all these documents involve actions, not simply administrative communications. These actions have a great impact on all the research and innovation ecosystem.

Tuscany, on the other hand, shows a different pattern. First of all, combining both periods the region did not have many documents that included specific actions and also had similarities with EU approaches (only three in total). However, the majority of codes were already present before 2014, with some minor changes applied through one deliberation in 2016. The approaches to research and innovation were not fundamentally changed, it rather “absorbed” some of the minor differences. This is also the case in Lazio, where the documents issued after 2014 added some minor changes without substantially changing the policies. Both the Objective 2 regions (Abruzzo and Sardinia) responded with resistance to the EC research and innovation approaches. Almost no relevant documents were found, and there is no sign of reaction to the ERDF regulation: No Europeanization at all.

In Puglia, many research and innovation policies were already in line with the EC position before 2014. Three documents and 6 codes were found in 2011-2012. It must be noted that some issues were adapted in 2015-2016. In Calabria, the response was different. The codes found rose from two to nine after the ERDF regulation. Calabria really started implementing policies promoted by the EC only after 2014, thus responding with a fundamental transformation.

Table 13 - Summary of Findings

Region	Response	Europeanization	Documents			Codes		
			2011-2012	2015-2016	Total	2011-2012	2015-2016	Total
Lombardy	Transformation	<i>High</i>	2	3	5	2	5	7
Veneto	Transformation	<i>High</i>	1	4	5	3	11	14
Lazio	Absorption	<i>Low</i>	2	4	6	6	9	15
Tuscany	Absorption	<i>Low</i>	2	1	3	6	4	10
Abruzzo	Resistance	<i>None</i>	0	1	1	0	0	0
Sardinia	Resistance	<i>None</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puglia	Inertia	<i>Modest</i>	3	2	5	6	9	15
Calabria	Transformation	<i>High</i>	2	3	5	2	9	11

7.3 Date of Approval

RIS3 Strategy

The submission of a regional Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) is included as an ex-ante conditionality to access ERDF funds for research and Innovation (Thematic Objective 1). This conditionality gives the opportunity to include one more measurement of Europeanization. If a region responded to the conditionality in a quick and proper manner, this means that the region has responded to the EU pressure with more acceptance. Table n.13 shows the exact date of approval.

Table 14 - Date of Approval and level of Europeanization

Region	Date of Approval
Lazio (O3a)	12-03-2016
Toscana (O3a)	12-02-2015
Veneto (O3b)	03-07-2015
Lombardy (O3b)	24-04-2015
Calabria (O1)	15-08-2015
Puglia (O1)	01-08-2014
Abruzzo (O2)	11-03-2015
Sardinia (O2)	01-07-2016

7.4 Comparative Analysis

Each of the regions that were coupled together are analyzed through a most likely case comparison to isolate the effect that ERDF funding has on the region's response. The analysis is structured as follows: first the main differences and similarities with regards to Europeanization are highlighted; second, the level of Europeanization of the two different measurements (date of approval and Impact on policies) is compared separately to the amount of funding; finally, a table is presented for each of the "couples" to give a visual overview.

7.4.1 Lazio – Toscana (Objective 3a)

The amount of funding received by the two regions differ substantially. For the first objective of the ERDF (Research and Innovation), Toscana receives 137.5 million for the period 2014-2020. Lazio, on the other hand, receives 90 million for the same period. This difference is compared to the different level of Europeanization that were found.

Lazio exhibited a rather modest Europeanization. The response was to include some new elements in existing policies. At the same time, it is one of the selected regions that provided an acceptable RIS3 strategy the latest. The strategy was approved only in 2016 (March 12th). As two years are not necessary for a region to develop a strategy, for which a very precise guide has been issued by the EC already in 2012, this is interpreted as a lack of willingness to adapt the regional research and innovation policies to such a structure and purpose. Tuscany had already many policies in place before 2014 that implemented many of the research and

innovation policies of the EU. After 2014 only minor changes were detected, but also in those changes there was a clear continuation of previous policies.

The comparison shows that the amount of funding differs consistently (Tuscany receives 65% more funding) but the levels of Europeanization do not follow that trend if we look at the first measurement, impact on regional policies. However, with regards to the date of approval, Tuscany was indeed faster in providing an acceptable strategy (13 months before Lazio).

Table 15 - Comparative Analysis Lazio - Tuscany

Region	GDP PPP	Expenditure on R&I (%of GDP)	Political Party	Geography	Europeanization (Impact on regional Policies)	Europeanization (Date of Approval)	Amount of funding (Million euro)
Lazio	31.000	1.6	PD	Center	Low	12-03-2016	90.00
Tuscany	29.400	1.3	PD	Center	Low	12-02-2015	137,55

7.4.2 Lombardy – Veneto (Objective 3b)

The difference between levels of funding between these two regions is even more significant. Veneto receives 57 million euro for the ERDF 2014-2020, while Lombardy receives more than three times as much (174.6 million euro).

In both regions, we saw a transformation in the research and innovation policies. Lombardy introduced two laws (Law n. 28 - 5.10.2015; Law n. 29 - 23.11.2016) which substantially changed the whole approach of the regional authority regarding research and innovation. There is a high level of Europeanization as the main changes occurred after 2014, while prior to it there were only few references to EU approaches. Veneto is the second of the selected regions in amount of codes found in total (second after Puglia and Lazio). Furthermore, in the documents from Veneto there has been the greatest increase of codes compared to the period 2011-2012. The number of codes raised from three to eleven, while the number of documents increased from one to four. These numbers show how more important some issues became in research and innovation policy-making in Veneto.

The analysis has shown that in both cases the impact of the EU has been high. The EU position on research and innovation was implemented in both regions, only after 2014. Some measures were already in place, but there has been a clear transformation in the policies. With

regards to the date of approval, Lombardy and Veneto got the strategy accepted in the same year (2015) with only three months in between.

Table 16 - Comparative Analysis Lombardy - Veneto

Region	GDP PPP	Expenditure on R&I (%of GDP)	Political Party	Geography	Europeanization (Impact on regional Policies)	Europeanization (Date of Approval)	Amount of funding (Million euro)
Lombardy	35.700	1.4	Lega Nord	North	High	24-04-2015	174.6
Veneto	30.800	1.2	Lega Nord	North	High	03-07-2015	57.0

7.4.3 Abruzzo – Sardinia (Objective 2)

Abruzzo received the lowest amount of funding of all the selected regions (22.5 million euro), while Sardinia got almost three times as much (64.3 million euro). According to the hypothesis that was developed for this research, this difference should be reflected also in the impact that research and innovation policies had on regional policies and on the date of approval of the RIS3.

These two regions are the only ones to show no sign of Europeanization. The search for documents delivered zero results for Sardinia, while in Abruzzo one documents was found. However, that document does not constitute sufficient proof of any influence by the EU. Both regions were categorized as resistant to EU adaptational pressure. If we look at the date of approval, some differences between the regions are detected. Abruzzo submitted an acceptable strategy in 2015, while Sardinia in 2016. Therefore, with regards to the second measurement indicator (date of approval), Abruzzo showed a moderate level of Europeanization, and Sardinia a low level.

Table 174 - Comparative Analysis Abruzzo - Sardinia

Region	GDP PPP	Expenditure on R&I (%of GDP)	Political Party	Geography	Europeanization (Impact on regional Policies)	Europeanization (Date of Approval)	Amount of funding (Million euro)
Abruzzo	24.500	0.7	PD	Center	None	11-03-2015	22,5
Sardinia	19.600	0.8	PD	Center Island	None	01-07-2016	64,3

7.4.4 Puglia – Calabria (Objective 1)

As these two regions are both under Objective 1 of the Cohesion policy (Less Developed Regions), they both receive high levels of ERDF funding. However, there is a major difference between the two, as Calabria receives 157.6 million euro, while Puglia more than double (336.1 million euro).

Puglia had a quite substantial amount of policies in place already before 2014 that resembled the EU position. Six codes were found in the period 2011-2012 and nine in 2015-2016. Puglia had developed more concrete strategies, both annual and triennial, before and after the ERDF regulation of 2014. This allowed a more comprehensive study, that lead to the conclusion that the region did not really transform its approach, but instead revised some of the measures included in the strategies to make them match better with the EU position. This is a case of inertia, and the level of Europeanization is moderate. On the other hand, Calabria showed a real transformation. Most of the policies were not in place prior to 2014, and the comparison between the two different periods highlighted an increase of identified codes from two to nine. The region exhibits a real transformation in its policies for research and innovation, and because of the drastic increase the level of Europeanization is high.

The RIS3 strategy of Calabria was approved in 2015 (Moderate Europeanization) and the strategy of Puglia already in 2014 (High Europeanization), which is the only region of the eight selected to have achieved this.

Table 18 - Comparative Analysis Calabria - Puglia

Region	GDP PPP	Expenditure on R&I (%of GDP)	Political Party	Geography	Europeanization (Impact on regional Policies)	Europeanization (Date of Approval)	Amount of funding (Million euro)
Calabria	16.600	0.5	PD	South	High	15-08-2015	157,66
Puglia	17.700	0.7	PD	South	Moderate	01-08-2014	336,18

8. Discussion

This section will discuss the outcomes of the analysis. The first section defines if traces of Europeanization were found at the regional level, to justify and give a value to the dependent variable (Europeanization). The two hypotheses are then tested, to see whether the amount of funding influences the level of Europeanization. A final discussion will summarize these findings.

8.1 Europeanization of Regions: Defining the Dependent Variable

Europeanization is a broad concept. Different researchers have approached it differently, making it crucial to first define properly which of these approaches applies here. From the two “directions” of Europeanization described in the theoretical framework, this paper focuses mainly on the influence the EU has on domestic policies (top-down), rather than the influence exerted by domestic institutions on the EU (bottom-up) (Olsen, 2002). This differentiation is very important to be clarified again, as the research question focuses solely on this type of Europeanization. The ERDF regulation has shown to be a factor influencing the regional policies. Besides obviously changing the regional investment priorities through funding for certain projects, such regulation was found to have also an impact on research and innovation regional policies that were not financed by the EU. This change is attributed to the EU thanks to a comparison between different time periods. Some regions have shown that certain issues were not a priority for the region, until in 2014 the ERDF regulation came out, with its priorities and promoted measures. If we look at the outcome of the content analysis, many regions have shown a certain level of Europeanization. First, we will turn to the indirect impact on regional policies, and discuss how this measurement confirms or rejects the hypothesis. Secondly, the date of approval is considered (Measurement 2). Finally, the two are combined to see if there really is an impact of the funding on regional Europeanization.

Three of the eight selected regions showed a high level of Europeanization. These regions are Calabria, Lombardy and Veneto. All these regions have adapted their policies substantially to the EU position. Prior to the ERDF these three regions had very few research and innovation policies that reflected the EU position. This is especially relevant if we look at the fact that the EU position was already known before 2014, with some of the guidelines that helped to define the position being issued prior to such date. The concept of Europeanization that is applied to this research also considers the main cause of Europeanization being the contact between the two institutions (regional authority and EU). Therefore, regions that really take into consideration what the EU sees a proper research and innovation policies could have already applied these before the ERDF regulation.

One region, Puglia, had a more moderate response to EU pressures. This does not mean that the EU is not related to the research and innovation policies of the region, but rather that the effect of the ERDF regulation is not as high. The region contained the highest amount of codes, together with Lazio, with 15 codes (total of the two periods together) in five documents. It is difficult to assess whether the policies were implemented before the 2014 ERDF regulation because of a certain EU influence. However, it is possible to say that the region adapted some of the characteristics of its policies after the ERDF 2014-2020. A moderate response, is still considered as a correlation between the ERDF and the regional policies, but on a smaller scale. Tuscany and Lazio, on the other hand, exhibited very little changes. They absorbed some particular issues, but it mainly continued its own policies. Also in this case many of the policies before 2014 were already close to the EU position, and the ERDF 2014 brought little changes to this.

Finally, two regions showed zero responses to the ERDF regulation. Both regions are part of the same Objective 2 (Transition regions). In this case, not only did the ERDF regulation have no effect at all, the regions did also not show any interest in implementing any of the EU research and innovation policy approaches. This resistance shows that the effect of the EU on regional policies can also be totally absent.

In conclusion, there is sign of Europeanization at the regional level, and this is attributable, in some of the cases, to the ERDF regulation of 2014. However, we must be careful in affirming that the ERDF regulation impact *all* regional policies. That is not the case, because the degrees of Europeanization differ consistently, with some of the cases showing no response at all. This leads to the second research question and first hypothesis.

8.2 Hypothesis 1 - Regions with higher levels of ERDF funding show higher levels of Europeanization in public policies related to Research and Innovation

To answer the second research question (*Does the amount of ERDF funding to Italian regions constitute a relevant factor to explain the level of Europeanization of regional Research and innovation policies?*), a comparative analysis between the most likely cases was carried out. In previous chapters it has been explained how the most likely case comparison can help to answer the question. The comparison led to very different outcomes. However, one trend was detected for all the pairs, which is that none of the levels of Europeanization resembled the amount of funding. If we take the Objective 1 regions (Puglia and Calabria) we see that the ERDF had a higher Europeanization effect on Calabria (High) compared to Puglia (moderate) while the latter receives more than double of the funding. Abruzzo and Sardinia (Objective 2 regions) both resisted any change (no Europeanization), but the amount of funding they receive differs substantially, with Sardinia receiving almost three times the amount of Abruzzo. Lazio and Tuscany have different levels of Europeanization. However, the comparison between the two shows that Lazio experienced a higher Europeanization of regional policies (Moderate) compared to Tuscany (Low), even though the amount of funding is 65% more in Tuscany. Finally, Veneto and Lombardy both transformed their research and innovation policies after the ERDF regulation. Even if the response to EU adaptational pressure is similar, the amount of funding is not, with Lombardy receiving 174 million euro compared to the 57 million of Tuscany.

The hypothesis is proven wrong by the empirical data, as there is no correlation between amount of funding and Europeanization of regional policies within the different Objectives of the Cohesion Policy.

8.4 Hypothesis 2 – The more the funding assigned to a region, the faster this region fulfilled the ERDF ex-ante conditionality

In Table n.20 the date of approval is changed into a number symbolizing the months that passed between 1-01-2014 (Start of the new ERDF) and the date of approval. If the hypothesis is right, the classification should match the amount of funding. However, the table shows that regions that enjoy the lowest levels of funding (Veneto and Abruzzo) did not submit an acceptable strategy the latest. Abruzzo had even the second fastest approved strategy, together with Tuscany. The only region that matches both the amount of funding and the timeliness of approval is Puglia, which receives the largest amount and got the strategy approved as first.

Besides the regions under Objective 2, all other pairs show that of the two regions, the

one receiving the highest amount of funding is also the one fulfilling the conditionality the earliest. However, some considerations need to be made. Lombardy receives more than three times the amount of funding compared to Veneto, but the fulfillment differs only of three months. This is very different than the pairs Puglia-Calabria and Lazio-Tuscany. Puglia receives more than double of the funding than Calabria, and it also fulfilled the conditionality after 8 months, compared to the 20 months of Calabria. In this case, the difference in funding matches the difference in months. Lazio and Tuscany also show more correlation than Veneto and Lombardy, but less than Puglia-Calabria. In this case Tuscany receives 50% more funding than Lazio (90 million against 137.5), but it took Lazio more than double of the time to fulfill the conditionality (Lazio=27 months; Tuscany=14 months).

Abruzzo and Sardinia even show opposite results, as the region that receives the most funding (Sardinia) fulfilled the conditionality 17 months after the one receiving less (Abruzzo). The hypothesis is rejected, as only one of the pairs shows a significant correlation between the amount of funding and the time necessary for fulfillment.

Table 19 - Date of Approval - Amount of Funding

Objective	Region	Date of Approval	Months	Amount of Funding (Million euro)
Objective 1	Puglia	08-2014	8	336.1
	Calabria	08-2015	20	157.6
Objective 2	Abruzzo	03-2015	14	22.5
	Sardinia	07-2016	31	64.3
Objective 3a	Veneto	07-2015	19	57.0
	Lombardy	04-2015	16	174.6
Objective 3b	Lazio	03-2016	27	90.0
	Toscana	02-2015	14	137.5

8.5 Final Considerations and Future Directions

Both hypothesis developed in this research are rejected. The amount of funding shows no significant correlation with the Europeanization of regional documents, nor with the fulfillment of the ERDF conditionality. However, the data derived from the analysis shows some interesting results that deserve some attention.

The first consideration that needs to be made regards the actual influence of the ERDF on regions. Although the variable influencing the level of Europeanization was not found in this research, the ERDF 2014-2020 triggered some extent of Europeanization in most of the cases. In all but one pair, regions showed Europeanization. This is an important finding per se, as it proves that the start of the ERDF 2014-2020 has pushed some regions to adapt their *own* research and innovation policies voluntarily.

The second important result is that some correlation is found between the Objective category and the level of Europeanization. The Objective 3 b pair (Lombardy and Veneto) both showed a transformation of research and innovation policies after 2014. Objective 3a (Lazio and Tuscany) both had low levels of Europeanization as they rather slightly adapted their previous approaches by introducing minor changes. Objective 2 regions (Abruzzo and Sardinia) showed no Europeanization at all. Only Objective 1 regions showed differences as Calabria substantially transformed its approach while Puglia applied quite some changes, but without substantially changing its approach to research and innovation.

It is exactly the issue of Puglia that needs some further clarification. This region was the only one fulfilling the ex-ante conditionality in the first year (8 months after the start of 2014) and the analysis of the documents showed a high level of Europeanization before 2014 with 6 codes found between 2011-2012 (as is also the case in Lazio and Tuscany). However, the region did not just “patch-up” old policies without substantially changing them (e.g. Tuscany and Lazio), as it also put effort in changing its approaches to align more with the EU position. It is, therefore, the only region falling under the category of “Inertia”. All these results show: 1) a bigger effort in meeting the conditionality; 2) a higher level of Europeanization before the ERDF 2014; 3) a greater effort in changing those policies that were not in line with the EC.

The regions of Lombardy and Veneto both experienced a high level of Europeanization after 2014, where research and innovation policies were transformed to adapt to the EC position. They also showed less difference than other pairs regarding the months necessary to fulfill the conditionality. This result is remarkable as these two regions differ from all the other selected cases for one reason: they both have a regional government from the “Lega Nord” party. This party has been usually defined as more “eurosceptic” than the PD (leading party in all other selected regions) as: “In Italy, Matteo Salvini, the leader of the anti-immigration, xenophobic Northern League party, congratulated Britain on voting to leave the EU and called for Italy to be given the same opportunity” (Foster et al., 2016). This shows that the political orientation of the governing party does not really influence the process of regional Europeanization in this study.

All these results do not provide any clear finding. However, they help to pose some new challenging questions about regional Europeanization in Italy. Future studies should target the influence of the belonging to a certain Cohesion Policy Objective, the reasons why Puglia has shown such a high level of Europeanization and investigate whether regions in the North of the country have similar processes of Europeanization and hypothetically influence each other's behavior. The following Table (Table 19) shows all the results of the analysis.

Table 20 - Overview of Data

Objective	Region	Europeanization of regional Policies	Europeanization (Compliance)- Date of Approval	Amount of Funding (Million euro)
Objective 1 – Less developed regions	Calabria	High	20	157.6
	Puglia	Moderate	8	336.1
Objective 2 – Transition regions	Abruzzo	None	14	22.5
	Sardinia	None	31	64.3
Objective 3(a) – More developed regions (Central)	Lazio	Low	27	90.0
	Tuscany	Low	14	137.5
Objective 3(b) – More developed regions (North)	Lombardy	High	16	174.6
	Veneto	High	19	57.0

The EU does not solely promote its policies through the implementation of projects. This research found that there is a spillover effect on Italian regions. Research and Innovation policies of the EU influenced the behavior of the regions, which adapted to the EU priorities without any obligation. This result can be useful to evaluate the role that the EU institutions have with regards to shaping the policy orientation of regions. Although the factor influencing the Europeanization of regional policies is not found, it is crucial for the EU to discover these through further research. Finding such causality would empower the EU with more leverage on regional policies. Being able to spread the objectives in the Member States' regions voluntarily would make a more cohesive common approach possible and increase the effectiveness of the EU policies.

9. Conclusion

This study aimed at defining whether the amount of funding received by the EU influences the policies of regions in Italy. Previous literature on Europeanization has focused on Member States, and only few studies have assessed the impact of EU funding on such Europeanization. However, the communication between regions and the EU bodies has increased substantially, rendering the research on regional Europeanization more relevant. This thesis assessed the influence exerted by the ERDF on regional Research and Innovation policies. The restriction to only one very specific policy area enabled a more detailed analysis of the policy documents (i.e. laws, regulation and deliberations). Regions in Italy are dependent on these funds, and it was assumed that high amounts of funding would lead to more Europeanized Research and Innovation policies. Besides the influence on regional documents, this thesis also tested the effect the amount of funding has on the fulfilment of a conditionality. The ERDF 2014 included a conditionality that required regions to develop a specific strategy, which was necessary to access the funds allocated to the region. The correlation between the timeliness of fulfilment of the conditionality and the amount of funding received is also tested.

The assessment of the level of Europeanization was based on the comparison between the EU voluntary guidelines and the selected regional documents. Through a content analysis of the text and a system of coding, it was possible to evaluate the alignment of the regional documents with those from the EU. Although it is difficult to really prove the causality of a certain event, one method, used in this study, involves the comparison between two different time periods, one before and one after the event that needs to be isolated. This process helped to identify which regions transformed the policies because of the start of the new ERDF, and which regions resisted or slightly adapted their already existing approaches. To test the second hypothesis, relating to the fulfilment of the conditionality, the correlation between the amount of funding received and the months needed for each region to comply with the conditionality is tested.

After a most-similar-case comparative study, the results showed no correlation between the amount of funding received by the region and the level of Europeanization of the regional documents. Moreover, there is also not correlation between the amount of funding and the compliance. Both the hypotheses that guided the research are thus rejected. Nevertheless, the results still provide interesting insights into the Europeanization of regions. Most of all, it is found that with the start of the new ERDF many regions adapted their policies. Although it is not the amount of funding that explains the extent of Europeanization, such finding highlights the

importance of the EU guidelines mentioned in the ERDF for regional policies. More research is needed to understand why some regions are more influenced by the guidelines. Another interesting result relates to the high level of Europeanization experienced in two regions with a governing party that is openly “Eurosceptic”. The ideological orientation of the regional government is therefore not so relevant for the Europeanization level in Italy. It is also found that regions under the same Objective of the Cohesion Policy show some similarities. It would be interesting to study the difference in Europeanization between regions categorized under different Objectives.

Most attention is given to the coercive measures implemented by the EU, without considering the voluntary alignment of domestic institutions. This is a miscalculation also by the EU institutions, which would benefit greatly from a bigger voluntary collaboration by regions. Moreover, regions deserve more consideration within the Europeanization literature, as they might be more influenced (or influential) than thought so far. This research clarified that the amount of funding has no impact on the Europeanization of regions, paving the way for future studies on regional Europeanization.

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ANNEX I

Document	Text	Keywords	Code
<i>An advice and guidance report on good practice: SETTING UP, MANAGING AND EVALUATING EU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARKS'</i> (2013)	<p>key success factors for STPs that are now recognised as essential components in the planning and development of any new STP venture are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting out the strategy and objectives of the new park and deciding on the best model for implementation – STPs are involved with places, many complex processes, diverse relationships and they must be able to understand this agenda and manage it well • Engagement of the knowledge base – an active, effective and multi-dimensional relationship with a university or other public sector research organisation is often seen as crucial – usually working best where the university sector also has a remit to transfer knowledge and technology to industry • Interaction with the public sector at local/regional, national and European level – STPs are not stand-alone organisations, they are closely connected with the development of the innovation ecosystem • Securing the land, capital and revenue to establish the STP and ensure its on-going growth is often a critical and time-consuming stage – STPs should not lose sight of the objective to create a working environment that stimulates innovation and knowledge-based business growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Science Parks - Technology Parks - Research Centers 	Ric
Connecting Universities to Regional Growth: A Practical Guide (2011)	<p>Innovation Vouchers enable small and medium-sized businesses to buy specialist support from knowledge-based institutions. They differ from consultancy services as they are aimed at helping the development of new products, services and processes rather than solving existing problems in the business. In order to stimulate demand they are often heavily subsidised.</p> <p>Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are a tool primarily employed in the UK, where they have attracted significant national government investment. KTPs enable businesses with a strategic need to access a University's expertise and knowledge to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance. The scheme involves a high calibre graduate (KTP Associate) working in a company with academic supervision. This often results in strategic advantages for the company; academic benefits to the University and valuable industrial experience to the Associate. Depending on the needs of the organisation and the desired outcomes, KTPs can vary in length from one to three years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovation voucher - Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) 	Ric
Guide to Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS 3) (2012)	<p>For endogenous firms typical instruments are: research/innovation vouchers, technology audits, design innovation, incubators to:</p> <p>awareness-raising, information and advice to access FP7 and its successor,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creation of sectoral or cross-sectoral interest groups, • promotion of local academia-industry cooperation and their cross-border networking, • aid for international partner search, • grants for exploring project feasibility and validation of project ideas, • provision of training to potential project managers, • provision of mentoring and coaching to EU project partners (from the conception phase, through implementation and management to commercialisation of project results) as part of the regional innovation support services, • use of financial engineering instruments to promote commercialisation of Promising EU research and innovation results by regional actors, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and Innovation Vouchers - Incubators - Design Innovation Support 	Rbi

<p>Boosting Open Innovation and Knowledge Transfer in the EU (2014)</p>	<p>Finally, user involvement and engagement are keys to successful innovation processes. The way in which these users can actively be drawn into innovation activities is in and of itself a form of social innovation. User-driven innovation and social innovation therefore often co-evolve.</p> <p>Despite its clear benefits, the Triple Helix model does not include all the drivers for knowledge production, innovation and growth. This is where the civil society (fourth helix) and natural environment (fifth helix) come into play. Those two novel dimensions are increasingly needed to provide incentives to the 'Triple Helix actors' to engage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User Participation - Civil Society - Natural environment 	<p>Roi</p>
<p>GUIDE TO SOCIAL INNOVATION (2013)</p>	<p>Social policy experiments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - policy interventions bringing innovative answers to social needs, - implemented on a small scale because of existing uncertainty as to their impact, - in conditions which ensure the possibility of measuring their impact, - in order to be repeated on a wider scale if the results prove convincing. <p>Incubation Trajectory specifically targeted at Social Innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Policy Experimentation - Social Innovation Clusters - Social Innovation Parks - Social Innovation Incubation 	<p>Rsi</p>
<p>Innovation for a sustainable Future - The Eco-innovation Action Plan (Eco-AP) Brussels, 15.12.2011 COM(2011) 899 final</p>	<p>Eco-Innovation⁷ is any form of innovation resulting in or aiming at significant and demonstrable progress towards the goal of sustainable development, through reducing impacts on the environment, enhancing resilience to environmental pressures, or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ambitious targets - Innovation against environmental degradation 	<p>Rei</p>
<p>Guide to Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS 3) (2012)</p>	<p><i>Using cluster mapping to identify regional competences and assets:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify specialisation patterns in the region through cluster mapping analysis, in particular, by using the European Cluster Observatory tool⁴⁰; • Perform benchmarking activities to better understand the position of the region in a particular sector in comparison to other EU regions. The European Cluster Observatory tool offers such benchmarking opportunities; • Collect, if necessary, more detailed statistical data and perform qualitative based surveys to better understand the dynamics of regional clusters to be used for implementing smart specialisation strategies. • <i>Support clusters to meet the objectives of smart specialisation:</i> • Launch, if necessary, new cluster initiatives or strengthen existing ones, and ensure appropriate budgetary provisions by streamlining regional, national and EU funding support including the European Regional Development Fund, Research and Innovation funds (FP7, and the future Horizon 2020), the Rural Development fund (EAFRD) and funding possibilities provided under the Knowledge Innovation Communities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology; • Support existing clusters to work more closely with research infrastructures, incubators⁴¹ and science parks and other knowledge institutions as well as integrate large scale demonstrators for promoting Key Enabling Technologies and better involving user communities; • Promote cluster management excellence by using the European Cluster Excellence initiative⁴² to develop competent clusters that are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Cluster Collaboration Platform - Internationalization - Clusters increasing collaboration between research institutions, science parks and incubators 	<p>Rnc</p>

	<p>able to sustain regional growth in the long run.</p> <p><i>Strengthen local and international cluster cooperation, in particular for addressing emerging industries:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline funding resources to support joint projects between clusters working in different industries with a view to creating new competitive advantages under the smart specialisation strategy; • Identify and create optimal cluster-specific conditions to facilitate the emergence of new industries through clusters in the context of the smart specialisation strategy; • Promote internationalisation, including trans-national cooperation, in particular by making use of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform 		
<p>EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020 Accelerating the digital transformation of government</p> <p>Brussels, 19.4.2016 COM(2016) 179 final</p> <p>The Smart Guide to Service Innovation (2014)</p>	<p>e-Government: By 2020, public administrations and public institutions in the European Union should be open, efficient and inclusive, providing borderless, personalised, user-friendly, end-to-end digital public services to all citizens and businesses in the EU. Innovative approaches are used to design and deliver better services in line with the needs and demands of citizens and businesses. Public administrations use the opportunities offered by the new digital environment to facilitate their interactions with stakeholders and with each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design innovation clinics - Living Labs - Facilitating access to finance 	<p>Communication Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service Innovation - E-Government 	Rpsi

ANNEX II

Lombardy

2011-2012

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 4393 from 14.11.2012	Innovation voucher, investment	L'intenzione del Sistema Camerale Lombardo di mettere a disposizione ulteriori risorse e la richiesta a Regione Lombardia di affiancare un intervento finanziario, il rifinanziamento delle linee d'intervento voucher A, B, C e D del bando «Voucher ricerca e innovazione e contributi per i processi di brevettazione», di cui al decreto n. 7125 del 3 agosto 2012 e successive modifiche e integrazioni.	Rbi
None	Deliberation	DGR 2549 from 24.11.2011	None	Il Programma Regionale di Sviluppo della IX legislatura (d.c.r. n IX/56 del 28 settembre 10) individua tra le linee strategiche dell'azione di governo regionale quella a sostegno della competitività delle imprese. In particolare promuove l'innovazione e favorisce investimenti per interventi in infrastrutture, in beni materiali e immateriali nonché in nuove tecnologie destinate allo sviluppo delle imprese. Inoltre, con l'approvazione della legge regionale n. 1 del 2 febbraio 2007 «Strumenti per la competitività delle imprese e per il territorio della Lombardia» Regione Lombardia ha delineato gli obiettivi generali e le azioni di supporto	None

				<p>alla crescita del sistema delle imprese, individuando strumenti e modalità di perseguimento. Tra gli obiettivi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • l'imprenditorialità, rispetto alla quale la Regione promuove e sostiene la creazione di nuove imprese, contestualmente alla difesa, al consolidamento e all'innovazione del tessuto produttivo; • la competitività del territorio, rispetto alla quale la Regione sostiene l'attrazione di investimenti ed iniziative imprenditoriali atte, da un lato, a consolidare i sistemi territoriali e il loro sviluppo, dall'altro a rafforzare la crescita dell'impresa e la sua attività economica. In considerazione quindi dell'opportunità di introdurre nuove misure volte a favorire il consolidamento e lo sviluppo del sistema delle imprese lombardo sia a livello locale che internazionale, la Regione individua una nuova linea di intervento diretta alle micro, piccole e medie imprese nei settori del commercio, del turismo e dei servizi. La misura di agevolazione in esame promuove in particolare interventi di innovazione di processo, di prodotto e di organizzazione aziendale intendendo per innovativo un intervento che dota l'impresa di un sistema di gestione e/o di organizzazione di natura avanzata. 	
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 2379 from 20.10.2011	Pre-commercial procurement	<p>di approvare, per le motivazioni riportate in premessa, l'attivazione in Regione Lombardia di un percorso procedurale per l'affidamento di appalti pre-commerciali o appalti di innovazione di servizi di ricerca e sviluppo, da parte della Regione Lombardia, in relazione a determinati temi strategici, finalizzati allo sviluppo di prodotti innovativi, da utilizzare in specifici settori strategici, rinviando a un successivo apposito atto esecutivo di attuazione l'avvio del percorso procedurale che presuppone l'attivazione di un dialogo tecnico con il mercato e la messa a punto di un modello operativo, o linee guida regionali di attuazione dell'appalto pre-commerciale, che deriveranno dalla definizione dello schema di un appalto pre-commerciale pilota e di un modello operativo regionale di programmazione, gestione e valutazione degli appalti pubblici pre-commerciali che saranno perfezionati anche con il supporto di Eupolis Lombardia;</p>	Rss

2015-2016

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Law	Law n. 28 from 5.10.2015	Collaboration between research institutions and public private Cluster	<p>Art1 → Le Parti favoriscono la collaborazione tra gli attori economici pubblici e privati e tra gli organismi pubblici e privati operanti in tutti gli ambiti della ricerca e dell'innovazione nei loro rispettivi territori privilegiando, ma senza limitarsi, il settore delle tecnologie manifatturiere avanzate al fine di stimolare lo sviluppo di tecnologie innovative applicabili a svariati settori</p> <p>Art 2 → Facilitare i contatti tra gli organismi pubblici e privati di entrambi i lati; incoraggiare lo scambio delle migliori pratiche in materia di creazione e di gestione dei cluster tecnologici</p>	Rnc

TO2	Deliberation	DGR 3039 From 23.01.2015	Digital Service; Access; Digital Administration	Articolo 2 (Ambiti di collaborazione) 1. Gli ambiti di collaborazione sono finalizzati allo sviluppo dei seguenti servizi per i comuni lombardi: – Razionalizzazione data center; – Valorizzazione del patrimonio informativo, sia in chiave di disponibilità e di condivisione di dati e informazioni per la cooperazione inter-istituzionale, che di pubblicazione in formato aperto; – Diffusione della Fatturazione elettronica; – Diffusione dei Pagamenti elettronici; – Diffusione di servizi di conservazione sostitutiva; – Incremento del livello di competenze digitali dei cittadini e dei comuni, con particolare riferimento alle competenze in ambito data governance.	Deg
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 5817 from 28.11.2016	Social Innovation	Sostegno per la realizzazione di progetti che presentino innovazione di servizi, processi e metodi nuovi ideati per risolvere in modo efficace un problema della comunità di riferimento , con l'obiettivo di interessare la popolazione locale verso una problematica comune, mobilitare risorse, attirare investimenti e stimolare soluzioni "scalabili"	Rsi
TO1	Law	Law n. 29 from 23.11.2016	Infrastructure /parks.	Costituzione di reti interregionali dei parchi scientifici e tecnologici; Contribuisce ad alimentare il dibattito pubblico sull'impatto sul tessuto socio-economico degli avanzamenti tecnoscientifici, attraverso il coinvolgimento della società civile, della comunità scientifica e degli attori del sistema regionale della ricerca e dell'innovazione compresi i cluster, i parchi tecnologici e gli IRCCS , favorendo lo scambio di opinioni anche tra portatori di differenti interessi;	Ric
			Cluster; network	Per il raggiungimento delle finalità di cui al comma 1 la Regione integra le politiche in materia di ricerca, innovazione, trasferimento tecnologico e alta formazione, promuovendo, in sinergia con soggetti pubblici e privati e, in particolare, con Università, istituti di ricerca , parchi tecnologici, cluster , distretti, istituti di ricovero e cura a carattere scientifico (IRCCS), istituti tecnici superiori e associazioni di rappresentanza delle imprese, dei lavoratori e degli enti locali; Contribuisce ad alimentare il dibattito pubblico sull'impatto sul tessuto socio-economico degli avanzamenti tecnoscientifici, attraverso il coinvolgimento della società civile, della comunità scientifica e degli attori del sistema regionale della ricerca e dell'innovazione compresi i cluster, i parchi tecnologici e gli IRCCS, favorendo lo scambio di opinioni anche tra portatori di differenti interessi	Rnc
			Social Innovation	La presente legge reca disposizioni volte a potenziare, anche attraverso la leva della domanda pubblica di innovazione, l'investimento regionale in ricerca e innovazione, al fine di favorire la competitività del sistema economico-produttivo, la crescita del capitale umano, lo sviluppo sostenibile e di contribuire a elevare il benessere sociale e la qualità dei servizi erogati ai cittadini e alle imprese. L'individuazione e lo sviluppo di settori strategici emergenti ad alto potenziale di innovazione tecnologica e con riflessi positivi sulla crescita economica e occupazionale del sistema produttivo lombardo, anche nel contesto dell'innovazione sociale;	Rsi

Lazio

2011-2012

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR 403 from 09.09.2011	Support design capacity to increase Business Investment	Si tratta di attività di analisi, consulenza e progettazione finalizzate a promuovere e valorizzare l'uso strategico del design e della creatività nell'ambito dell'attività produttiva delle imprese.	Rbi
			Innovation Voucher	Voucher per l'innovazione	Rnc
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR 287 17.06.2011	Technological audit, design innovation support	Audit tecnologico di strutture e processi produttivi di PMI sia del settore industriale che dei servizi Innovazione di marketing intesa come esecuzione di un nuovo metodo di vendita che coinvolge significativi cambiamenti nel design e packaging del prodotto, nella sua promozione ed estensione delle attività anche a livello	Rbi
			Innovation Voucher	Sostegno all'attività innovativa delle imprese attraverso voucher a favore delle PMI L'azione prevede la realizzazione di progetti di innovazione delle piccole e medie imprese interessate ad avviare processi di rinnovamento e/o miglioramento tecnologico.	(Ric)
			Open Innovation	La stesura del programma tiene conto dei principi fondamentali universalmente riconosciuti come critici per lo sviluppo della ricerca e dell'innovazione. Il primo di questi è la cosiddetta "Innovazione aperta (Open Innovation)", secondo cui la generazione e la diffusione dell'innovazione risultano non solo dalla quantità e qualità dell'attività di R&S svolta internamente ai centri di ricerca e alle imprese, ma anche dai rapporti, dalle reti e dalla capacità di interazione che si creano sia tra le imprese stesse sia tra le imprese e i centri di ricerca.	Roi
			Networks and clustering	Reti di impresa, networking interregionale e transnazionale – creare un sistema di collaborazione permanente tra imprese e tra imprese e operatori della ricerca attraverso partenariati nazionali ed esteri, cluster interregionali e di imprese e business/research social networking;	(Rnc)

2015-2016

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR DEC46 from 18.11.2016	Social Innovation	L'intervento ha come obiettivo la cooperazione tra la Regione Lazio e il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche per l'attuazione di progetti, programmi di ricerca, sviluppo e innovazione finalizzati ai bisogni economici e sociali della Regione	Rsi
TO2			E-culture	Intervento per Tecnologie legate alla valorizzazione , la tutela,	Dcu

				la fruizione, la conservazione e il recupero di siti culturali;	
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR DEC25 from 19.07.2016	Open Innovation	Altro principio ispiratore del programma è la cosiddetta "Innovazione aperta (Open Innovation)", secondo cui la generazione e la diffusione dell'innovazione risultano non solo dalla quantità e qualità dell'attività di R&S svolta internamente ai centri di ricerca e alle imprese, ma anche dai rapporti, dalle reti e dalla capacità di interazione che si creano sia tra le imprese stesse sia tra le imprese e i centri di ricerca.	Roi
			Research centers, Capacity, diffusion	lo sviluppo della competitività del sistema produttivo regionale, mediante il trasferimento, all'interno dei processi industriali, di competenze e risultati scientifici e tecnologici sviluppati nelle università e nei centri di ricerca, incentivando la diffusione dell'innovazione nonché la nascita e lo sviluppo di imprese innovative;	Ric
			Business investment, incubators	Tale obiettivo prevede il sostegno: ♣ all'attività di incubatori universitari o partecipati dalle Università;	Rbi
			Social Innovation	Il presente programma nasce dalla consapevolezza del Ruolo Sociale della Ricerca come leva per lo sviluppo e la crescita economica, attraverso la trasformazione della conoscenza prodotta dalla ricerca (knowledge driven) in conoscenza utile ai fini produttivi. Il sistema della ricerca, cioè, e il sistema economico costituiscono un continuum capace di generare ricadute economiche ed occupazionali indispensabili per creare una crescita diffusa di benessere sociale.	Rsi
			Network and clustering	il sostegno alle politiche regionali in materia di ricerca, innovazione e trasferimento tecnologico verso i settori prioritari per l'economia regionale mediante la promozione dei Distretti tecnologici del Lazio e la loro partecipazione ai Cluster nazionali /OBS 3 – Sostegno ai settori prioritari, Distretti tecnologici, Cluster e Smart Specialisation: 3.1 - Rafforzamento e sviluppo del DTA 3.2 - Rafforzamento e sviluppo del DTB 3.3 - Rafforzamento e sviluppo del DTC 3.4 - Partecipazione ai Cluster Nazionali 3.5 - Interventi a favore della Smart Specialisation Strategy regionale.	Rnc
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR 454 26.07.2016	Networks and Clusters	Sostegno alle attività collaborative di R&S per lo sviluppo di nuove tecnologie sostenibili, di nuovi prodotti e servizi (realizzate dalle imprese in collegamento con altri soggetti dell'industria, della ricerca e dell'università, e dalle aggregazioni pubblico-private già esistenti, come i Distretti Tecnologici, i Laboratori Pubblico-Privati e i Poli di Innovazione)	Rnc
TO1	Deliberazione	DGR n. 560 from 4.10.2016	Eco-Innovation, Environment, incubators, access, Innovation	La creazione di una rete regionale di centri per le innovazioni tecnologiche in materia di ambiente e sviluppo sostenibile con laboratori di incubazione, dimostrazione e collaudo, aperti alle imprese ed ai consumatori La realizzazione di studi per individuare le principali filiere produttive strategiche nonché gli strumenti tecnologici e normativi più idonei per favorire lo sviluppo della "green economy" e dell'occupazione "verde" a supporto della sostenibilità e competitività del sistema produttivo della Regione Lazio 'accesso di PMI a servizi specialistici, alla ricerca e all'innovazione in materia di fonti rinnovabili, efficienza energetica, ambiente, ed altre tecnologie innovative	Rei

			Investment; eco-system; SME investment in innovation	Accesso di PMI a servizi specialistici, alla ricerca e all'innovazione in materia di fonti rinnovabili, efficienza energetica, ambiente, ed altre tecnologie innovative La creazione di una rete regionale di centri per le innovazioni tecnologiche in materia di ambiente e sviluppo sostenibile con laboratori di incubazione, dimostrazione e collaudo, aperti alle imprese ed ai consumatori	Rbi
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Veneto

2011-2012

TO1	Deliberation	DGR n. 2744 del 24 dicembre 2012	Network and clustering	Creazione di un network con I centri di competenza, innovazione e trasferimento tecnologico esteri	Rnc
			Smart specialization	Supporto alla regione nell'individuazione dei contenuti tematici per la piattaforma per lo sviluppo delle smart specialization strategies	Rss
			Infrastructure and capacity	Approfondimento e support alle strutture regionali in tema di aiuti alle PMI, aiuti sotto forma di capitale di rischio, aiuti a favore della ricerca, sviluppo e innovazione, aiuti alla nuova imprenditorialità e aiuti alla formazione	Ric

2015-2016

TO1	Deliberation	DCR n. 74 from 2.3.2016	Innovation Voucher	Un utilizzo diretto di specifici strumenti finanziari veicolati dalla Regione, come ad esempio i voucher per l'avvio di studi di fattibilità, ricerca applicata e, più in generale, di rapporti virtuosi tra mondo delle imprese e della produzione tecnico/scientifica . La realizzazione delle azioni mediante diverse modalità di intervento come, ad esempio: bando valutativo, valutativo a sportello, con modalità a voucher . La Regione ha inteso promuovere e favorire la realizzazione di parchi scientifici e tecnologici	Ric
			Incubator, business investment	Gli incubatori mettono a disposizione di queste imprese un sistema complesso di competenze, da quelle più tradizionali di gestione aziendale alla ricerca di potenziali finanziatori o partner, e le assistono nell'esplorazione di possibili mercati di destinazione. L'incubatore sostiene queste giovani imprese nella risoluzione di una molteplicità di problemi che potrebbero soffocare la nuova idea economica e distogliere l'attenzione dallo sviluppo del prodotto alle difficoltà di gestione.	Rbi
			Social investment	l'innovazione è un fattore essenziale per sostenere non solo la competitività del sistema territoriale, ma anche per migliorare la qualità della vita dei propri cittadini; Chimica verde: cluster il cui obiettivo è di incoraggiare lo sviluppo delle bioindustrie in Italia per lanciare un modello di chimica italiana ispirato alla sostenibilità ambientale, sociale ed economica.	Rsi
			Eco-innovation	La sostenibilità ambientale ed energetica sono elementi	Rei

				<p>riconosciuti di una priorità necessaria per conseguire una crescita sostenibile</p>	
			Networking and cluster	<p>Dei 9 cluster identificati dal MIUR, con DDGR n. 1907 del 18 settembre 2012, n. 1812 del 3 ottobre 2013 e n. 694 del 13 maggio 2014, l'Amministrazione regionale ha sostenuto, attraverso specifici Accordi di Programma, la propria partecipazione a 4 Cluster Tecnologici Nazionali: 1. Chimica verde: cluster il cui obiettivo è di incoraggiare lo sviluppo delle bioindustrie in Italia per lanciare un modello di chimica italiana ispirato alla sostenibilità ambientale, sociale ed economica. 2. Fabbrica Intelligente: cluster il cui obiettivo è di proporre, sviluppare e attuare una strategia innovativa, funzionale ad indirizzare la trasformazione del settore manifatturiero italiano verso nuovi prodotti e servizi, processi e tecnologie in grado di creare competenze industriali forti per lo sviluppo di attività di ricerca ad alto valore aggiunto. 3. Scienze della Vita: cluster il cui obiettivo è di porsi come soggetto di riferimento per la crescita competitiva del sistema nazionale legato alle scienze della vita e, in particolare, alle applicazioni per salute umana. 4. Tecnologie per le Smart Communities: cluster il cui obiettivo è di sviluppare modelli innovativi finalizzati a dare soluzione a problemi di scala urbana e/o metropolitana tramite un insieme di tecnologie, applicazioni, modelli di integrazione e inclusione</p>	Rnc
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 1215 15.09.2016	Incubators, support for business investment in innovation	<p>Realizzazione e coordinamento di una rete di incubatori di idee con lo scopo di rispondere alle esigenze riscontrate nel territorio veneto di supportare la nascita e lo sviluppo di imprese innovative prevalentemente sviluppate da competenze e filoni di Ricerca dell'Università.</p>	Rbi
			Smart Specialization, Internationalization	<p>Attività di monitoraggio sugli strumenti e sulle attività di ricerca, innovazione e internazionalizzazione delle imprese e dei centri di ricerca della Regione Veneto con particolare riferimento alla verifica e al raccordo delle attività regionali con la Strategia di Specializzazione Intelligente e il Piano Strategico Regionale per la ricerca scientifica, lo sviluppo tecnologico e l'innovazione.</p>	Rss
			Collaboration, network, clusters	<p>Azioni volte a favorire l'incontro tra domanda e offerta. Raccolta e "smistamento" delle richieste dei ricercatori finalizzate ad attività di ricerca di base e delle richieste di ricerca applicata delle imprese, dei distretti industriali e delle reti innovative regionali, favorendo la collaborazione e i contatti di questi soggetti con i centri di ricerca e le Università presenti sul territorio regionale.</p> <p>Inserimento di professionalità d'elevata competenza nei settori coinvolti, con particolare riferimento agli ambiti di specializzazione intelligente, con finalità specialistiche di supporto alle attività di networking e pianificazione dei programmi di sviluppo delle reti innovative regionali riconosciute dalla Regione.</p> <p>Promozione e diffusione delle attività svolte coinvolgendo le imprese anche attraverso un sistema periodico di pubblicazioni e approfondimenti (utilizzando, ad esempio, il già esistente http://www.venetoclusters.it e la newsletter Clusterspeople) e organizzando momenti creativi di conoscenza.</p>	Rnc
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 65 27.01.2015	Business investment, design, advisory,	<p>Tra gli obiettivi specifici della presente convenzione vi è quello di dare vita ad un programma che coinvolga istituzioni pubbliche e private, per affrontare il crescente divario tra i settori pubblico e privato nell'uso efficace della tecnologia e del design digitale, mediante:</p> <p>1. istituzione di un programma di accelerazione di impresa che</p>	Rbi

				<p>assista le imprese - in particolare le PMI - nell'identificazione e nello sviluppo delle e-skills (c.d. competenze digitali) e dei processi di business necessari per affrontare con successo l'interazione con l'innovazione dell'ecosistema pubblico e privato;</p> <p>2. istituzione di un servizio di advisory per supportare gli enti pubblici nell'identificazione delle e-skills e delle best e-practices diffuse nell'amministrazione pubblica;</p> <p>3. realizzazione di una piattaforma integrata per lo sviluppo di applicazioni mobili e soluzioni di cloud computing per la gestione dei processi nelle imprese e negli enti pubblici nonché per la creazione di tecnologie digitali in grado di: a) supportare l'innovazione nell'impresa e nella pubblica amministrazione; b) migliorare la capacità delle imprese nella realizzazione delle proprie strategie di mercato; c) migliorare l'efficacia dell'amministrazione pubblica nella gestione dei propri processi e dei servizi al cittadino.</p>	
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 2609 23.01.2015	Business investment, incubators	Accanto alle Reti Innovative Regionali, Veneto Innovazione può occuparsi della realizzazione e del coordinamento di una rete di incubatori di idee con lo scopo di rispondere alle esigenze riscontrate nel territorio veneto di supportare la nascita e lo sviluppo di imprese innovative prevalentemente sviluppate da competenze e filoni di Ricerca dell'Università	Rbi
			Clusters, Network	<p>Partecipazione alle iniziative ministeriali e comunitarie quale soggetto di supporto e, ove necessario e/o opportuno, di rappresentanza della Regione, con eventuale ruolo di coordinamento o monitoraggio delle attività svolte da altri soggetti coinvolti come, ad esempio, nei Cluster Tecnologici Nazionali.</p> <p>Fornire servizi di supporto organizzativo e consulenziale, anche attraverso l'avvio di tavoli di lavoro specifici su proposta regionale, per l'implementazione e il riconoscimento di Reti Innovative Regionali e il coordinamento tra di esse attraverso la raccolta di informazioni sui progetti in fase di sviluppo e di supporto all'internazionalizzazione di imprese, distretti e Reti Innovative Regionali, grazie all'esperienza e al network di contatti già avviato nell'ambito della divisione Politiche europee, spendendo anche il proprio "peso" istituzionale a livello comunitario nella ricerca e nel suggerimento di partner europei che possano concorrere e dare ulteriore valore aggiunto ad attività progettuali di particolare interesse su scala regionale. A complemento di tali attività vi è quella di accreditamento delle Reti Innovative Regionali, riconosciute dalla Regione, da inserire in un "Catalogo regionale della ricerca", suddiviso per ambiti settoriali, nel quale la rete è iscritta e registrata sulla base delle diverse specializzazioni.</p>	Rnc

Toscana

2011-2012

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Delibe	DGR 59	Infrastructur	Beneficiario finale (A) Poli di innovazione come definiti dalla	Ric

	ration	from 11.07.2012	e and capacity, Innovation/s cience/techn ology parks and centers,	Disciplina comunitaria in materia di Aiuto di Stato a favore di Ricerca, Sviluppo e Innovazione (2006/C 323/01) Per polo di innovazione si fa riferimento: distretti tecnologici, poli di innovazione, parchi scientificitecnologici, incubatori di impresa. Promuovere la realizzazione, il recupero e la riqualificazione di aree da destinare ad insediamenti produttivi e potenziare la dotazione regionale di infrastrutture per servizi	
				Per promuovere e facilitare l'innovazione nel sistema delle imprese, la linea di intervento è destinata a promuovere e qualificare il sistema dei servizi per l'innovazione ed il sistema del trasferimento tecnologico attraverso il rafforzamento e consolidamento delle attività di incubazione di impresa e di trasferimento tecnologico promosse dai soggetti gestori degli Incubatori di impresa e dei Poli di Innovazione. In particolare, tale attività è diretta a rafforzare la domanda di servizi qualificati da parte delle imprese, favorendo la qualificazione del sistema delle competenze nei processi di trasferimento mediante l'attivazione di processi di innovazione da parte degli incubatori di impresa e poli di innovazione. Per incubatori di impresa, in coerenza con la definizione di Poli di Innovazione, si intendono i soggetti localizzati nella Regione Toscana che, indipendentemente dalla forma giuridica, presentano le seguenti caratteristiche: a) dispongono e gestiscono, a qualunque titolo, spazi attrezzati per ospitare attività produttive di nuove imprese innovative; b) rendano disponibile, a qualunque titolo, tali superfici, a nuove imprese innovative, per un periodo limitato; c) forniscono, direttamente o indirettamente, alle imprese insediate negli spazi servizi avanzati di supporto alla crescita imprenditoriale debitamente documentati; d) individuano le imprese e le idee imprenditoriali da insediare nell'incubatore mediante procedure selettive di valutazione dei requisiti dell'impresa innovativa.	Rbi
				Rafforzare le relazioni fra le imprese e il sistema della ricerca pubblico e privato supportando lo sviluppo di cluster innovativi e le misure tese ad incoraggiare l'interazione dei poli di competitività con i sistemi produttivi locali. Potenziamento del sistema e dei processi di trasferimento tecnologico	Rnc
				1.2. Sostenere i processi di integrazione e artigiane e cooperative cooperazione tra imprese, attraverso processi di riorganizzazione e sviluppo di reti, programmi di sostegno agli investimenti per l'innovazione 1.2.b" Sostegno alle pratiche di responsabilità sociale delle imprese	Rsi
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 803 from 10.09.2012	Voucher for innovation	Azione per implementare il piano strategico 2012-2015: completare il sistema di offerta qualificata al sistema delle imprese valorizzando la presenza di laboratori di ricerca industriale e applicata, pubblici e privati, con l'individuazione di un sistema di incentivi anche nel quadro del catalogo dei servizi qualificati e sperimentando il meccanismo del voucher.	Rbi

TO1	Deliberation	DGR 46 from 6.07.2011	Infrastructures and capacity, innovation voucher	Per favorire il raccordo fra imprese e mondo della ricerca si utilizzeranno inoltre anche altri strumenti che realizzano la trasmissione di conoscenze attraverso la mobilità degli studenti, dei laureati e dei ricercatori. Il finanziamento di stages e di tirocini in azienda, attraverso voucher o nell'ambito di partenariati e progetti congiunti, mira alla creazione di relazioni collaborative e allo sviluppo delle capacità di assorbimento di conoscenza delle imprese, anche tramite l'assunzione di laureati e ricercatori; anche questi interventi dovranno tener conto delle politiche di genere. Migliorare e promuovere il trasferimento tecnologico. Nella loro evoluzione le policy per il trasferimento di conoscenze e tecnologia si sono orientate verso la creazione di strutture variamente denominate (centri servizi; centri per il trasferimento tecnologico; parchi tecnologici, consorzi di ricerca, poli tecnologici, agenzie di sviluppo) diffuse sul territorio regionale in parte orientate al sostegno delle specializzazioni settoriali distrettuali in parte meno orientate a specifici settori ma con una vocazione più generica. Il PRS 2011-2015 avrà, tra i suoi elementi di novità, una forte focalizzazione progettuale. Quest'approccio sarà attuato con un numero selezionato di PIS (Progetti Integrati di Sviluppo) funzionali al consolidamento e rilancio delle realtà produttive esistenti, nonché alla creazione delle condizioni per la nascita di nuove attività economiche, sociali e culturali e alla valorizzazione delle giovani generazioni. Questi progetti saranno interrelati con linee trasversali di modernizzazione nell'ambito dei piani e programmi regionali, quali, ad esempio, le infrastrutture, l'ambiente, nonché la formazione, la ricerca, i beni culturali e la promozione internazionale. E proprio nell'applicazione di questo modello di sviluppo che i temi della ricerca, del trasferimento tecnologico e dell'innovazione, passano trasversalmente in tutte le iniziative regionali e nei loro strumenti attuativi.	Ric
			Networks and cluster, improve collaboration through stronger clusters and cooperation	promuovere la valorizzazione dei risultati dell'attività di ricerca, sia attraverso forme di protezione della proprietà intellettuale, sia promuovendo la nascita di imprese spinoff attraverso l'offerta di spazi adeguati e di servizi di supporto manageriale. A tal fine sarà incentivata l'attività e il coordinamento dei Liaison Office (e dei dipartimenti interistituzionali), e sarà incoraggiata la partecipazione delle università e dei centri di ricerca a parchi scientifici e tecnologici, incubatori e poli di innovazione; Le politiche per potenziare le attività di trasferimento delle infrastrutture regionali preposte mirano a razionalizzare, coordinare e sistematizzare le specificità di queste strutture in stretta connessione con i poli industriali della regione siano essi distretti tradizionali o cluster tecnologici	Rnc

2015-2016

TO1	Deliberation	DGR 957 12.10.2016	Network and clustering	collaborazione tra imprese ed organismi di ricerca mediante attivazione di contratti di ricerca per dottorati industriali, ricercatori a tempo determinato, assegni di ricerca	Rnc
			Voucher, incubators, business investment	incubazione nelle strutture riconosciute a livello regionale accompagnamento e consolidamento di particolari categorie di imprese o di componenti di filiera di produzione o di ambiti tecnologici e consiste nella concessione di agevolazioni sotto	Rbi

				forma di sovvenzione di cui all'art. 66 del Reg. (UE) n. 1303/2013, erogate nella forma di voucher. Attività innovative di ACCOMPAGNAMENTO E CONSOLIDAMENTO - audit tecnologico e industriale, assunzione di temporary manager, potenziamento sistemi di raccordo tra supply chain e committenza, tutoraggi industriali (accordi impresa committente/microimpresa- start up)	
			Prioritize social innovation	particolare attenzione verrà data alla capacità di rispondere alla crescente domanda a livello europeo di incentivare la produzione di innovazioni che abbiano un chiaro, positivo ed evidente impatto sociale e ambientale, misurandone i risultati in un forma monitorabile ed aggregabile.	Rsi
			Smart Specialization	In linea con la strategia di Ricerca e Innovazione per la "Smart Specialisation in Toscana", che richiede di incentrare il sostegno della politica e gli investimenti su fondamentali priorità, sfide ed esigenze basate sulla conoscenza, saranno finanziati progetti di innovazione legati alle seguenti priorità tecnologiche orizzontali indicate dalla stessa Smart Specialisation e articolate in: ICT e FOTONICA FABBRICA INTELLIGENTE CHIMICA e NANOTECNOLOGIA	Rss

Puglia

2011-2012

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 239 from 22.02.2011	e-government	Con la presente Intesa le parti intendono collaborare per realizzare un programma di interventi volto a sviluppare l'innovazione dell'azione amministrative nella regione Puglia, finalizzato a incrementare l'accessibilità dei sistemi di e-government	Rpsi
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 1468 from 17.07.2012	Smart Specialization	DELIBERA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • di prendere atto delle premesse che formano parte integrante del presente provvedimento; • di approvare le prime linee di indirizzo per la definizione della Strategia regionale per la ricerca e l'innovazione basata sulla smart specialization come descritte in narrativa; 	Rss
TO1	Deliberation /strategic plan	ARTI - Piano Triennale 2010-2012	Boosting Business Investment	There is a clear reference to an improvement of the supply and demand of innovation. There is a reference to increasing the leverage of networks and creating incentives for innovation by businesses. Therefore, it is arguably so that already in 2010, Puglia showed actions in the field of "boosting business investment". Although important to mention, the precise measures that are proposed in the action plan do not resemble the once collected from the analysis of the EC positions.	Rnc, Rbi
TO1	Deliberation	ARTI -	Voucher, Capacity	Voucher a sportello per lo sviluppo e il consolidamento delle Spin Off". Con la pubblicazione di tale Avviso sul	Ric

	e/strategic plan	Piano Annuale 2010		Bollettino Ufficiale della Regione Puglia (BURP) n. 82 del 06-05- 2010, quindi, si è avviata una misura di sostegno alle Spin Off della ricerca pubblica pugliese con cui si mettono a loro disposizione degli Esperti qualificati (iscritti obbligatoriamente all’Albo degli Esperti del Progetto ILO il cui all’Avviso è stato pubblicato anch’esso sul BURP n. 82 del 06-05-2010) per l’erogazione di uno o più servizi reali riguardanti attività essenziali per l’avvio e lo sviluppo delle imprese Spin Off.	
			Business Investment	Azioni di sensibilizzazione rivolte alle imprese per investimenti in ricerca ed innovazione tecnologica e/o di processo	Rbi
			Network and clustering	Realizzazione del network delle Reti dei Laboratori Attivazione del network “Rete delle Reti”. In particolare, l’ARTI implementerà le azioni di raccordo fra: o le Unità di Ricerca costituenti i singoli nodi nell’ambito di ciascuna Rete finanziata; o le Reti di laboratori finanziate (favorendo particolarmente il raccordo nei casi di Reti aventi contiguità tematica di carattere tecnico-scientifico); o le Reti di laboratori finanziate ed il sistema produttivo locale (favorendo la rilevazione della domanda di innovazione tecnologica espressa dal sistema produttivo regionale da parte delle stesse Reti);	Rnc

2015-2016

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Deliberation /strategic plan	ART – Piano Annuale 2016	Smart specializ ation follow-up	Articolazione ed implementazione del sistema di monitoraggio della S3 – Ricognizione delle politiche di attuazione della S3 oggetto di monitoraggio, identificazione delle metodologie e indicatori per il monitoraggio delle misure – Identificazione delle modalità di acquisizione dei dati e informazioni necessari – Elaborazione dei dati disponibili sull’attuazione della S3 – Condivisione con la struttura di governance della S3 dei risultati derivanti dall’attività di monitoraggio	Rss
			Capacity, infrastru cture	Il progetto prevede la creazione congiunta di proposte per uno o più modelli innovativi di interventi pubblici mirati a supportare, attraverso approcci dal basso, l’innovatività e competitività di PMI fondate da giovani. Gli interventi da delineare saranno mirati a incrementare le capacità imprenditoriali di giovani imprenditori/innovatori europei, a migliorare le opportunità di networking per giovani start-up europee e a incentivare innovazioni dal basso.	Ric
			Europea n research and Innovati on Network	ARTI ha elaborato una bozza di Memorandum of Understanding tra OiEau, in qualità di rappresentante del consorzio di partner del progetto WaterPiPP ed ERRIN (European Regions Research and Innovation Network), in qualità di ente incaricato del coordinamento del Gruppo d’Azione Finnowater dell’EIP Water. I termini del Memorandum of Understanding sono stati discussi e validati dalle parti sono stati sottoscritti durante un workshop organizzato da ARTI presso la sede di rappresentanza Regione Puglia a Bruxelles a settembre 2015.	Rnc
			User driven	individuare interventi in grado di garantire ricerca e innovazione user driven, considerando la sostenibilità e il mercato e premiando gli attori in grado di integrare le competenze scientifiche e	Roi

				tecnologiche con quelle umanistiche in un'ottica interdisciplinare	
			Social innovation	Futureinresearch: "Programma regionale a sostegno della specializzazione intelligente e della sostenibilità sociale ed ambientale". APQ per l'attuazione degli interventi regionali afferenti al settore Ricerca	Rsi
TO1	Deliberation /strategic plan	ARTI piano Triennale 2014-2016	Smart Specialization, KET,	Come ampiamente dettagliato nel complesso della documentazione europea che illustra come adeguare le politiche regionali alla Strategia di Specializzazione Intelligente9 , il processo di costruzione della S3 passa per una serie di step che prevedono, nel dettaglio: un'analisi del contesto regionale e del potenziale di innovazione; un'attenzione specifica alla governance, che assicuri partecipazione e livelli di controllo; l'elaborazione di una visione complessiva del futuro della Regione; l'identificazione di priorità; la definizione di mix di policy, roadmap e piani di azione coerenti; l'integrazione di meccanismi di monitoraggio e valutazione. Si tratta, in effetti, di altrettante linee di sviluppo della strategia, rispetto alle quali si ravvisa una indubbia coerenza di buona parte delle linee di intervento dell'ARTI, come individuate nei precedenti paragrafi. Tale coerenza è particolarmente evidente con riferimento alle attività di: mappatura delle masse critiche di competenze scientifiche e tecnologiche (attraverso le attività condotte nell'ambito del Progetto ILO, di Reti di Laboratori e dell'indagine sulle KETs) e dei fabbisogni di competenze innovative espresse dal sistema d'impresa (anche attraverso l'azione Innovazione per l'Occupabilità); identificazione di priorità tematiche (attraverso l'indagine condotta sulle KETs); la definizione di piani d'azione coerenti con una nuova generazione di politiche (attraverso la realizzazione di attività di assistenza tecnica e di progetti complessi di che hanno nell'innovazione il fattore di caratterizzazione e di coesione); l'affinamento di competenze di monitoraggio e valutazione, che consentano di predisporre ed esercitare valutazioni tanto di singoli attori e cluster di attori del SIR, quanto su procedure, progetti e politiche. Lo schema riportato in Figura 5 si propone di evidenziare il livello di coerenza tra le linee di sviluppo della S3 e gli obiettivi e le linee di attività dell'ARTI, così come individuati e descritti nei paragrafi precedenti.	Rss
			Infrastrutture and capacity	L'intervento mira a portare ai livelli della frontiera tecnologica internazionale la dotazione infrastrutturale dei laboratori pubblici di Università ed Enti Pubblici di Ricerca pugliesi; l'obiettivo è quello di creare "nodi" distribuiti sul territorio di elevata specializzazione tecnologica a disposizione delle attività di ricerca delle imprese pugliesi, per favorire il riposizionamento dei settori tradizionali e lo sviluppo dei settori innovativi strategici.	Ric
			Social Innovation	l'Agenzia dispiegherà la propria azione ponendo particolare enfasi tanto sulle tecnologie, in connessione sia con il mondo produttivo sia con quello dell'industria culturale e creativa, quanto sull'innovazione sociale	Rsi
			Sinergies , networks , clusterin g	relazioni istituzionali, finalizzate al presidio e al consolidamento di network con i referenti delle diverse strutture regionali (Presidenza, Aree, Assessorati, Agenzie, Società partecipate)	Rnc
			Open Innovation	definizione della metodologia di individuazione degli indicatori di monitoraggio dei singoli strumenti regionali (come aggregazioni pubblico-private, Distretti Tecnologici, Living Labs) L'apprendimento e la specializzazione sono le attività preliminari	Roi

				che l’Agenzia perseguirà, caratterizzandosi come Amministrazione che apprende. Si tratta di un processo permanente che si connota per continuità nel tempo e pervasività rispetto a tutte le risorse che operano all’ARTI	
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Calabria

2011-2012

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 181 from 4.11.2011	Administrative innovation	Protocollo d’intesa tra il Ministero per la P.A. e l’Innovazione e la Regione Calabria, per la realizzazione di un programma di innovazione dell’azione amministrativa.	Rpsi
		DGR 176 27.04.2011	Support for business investment	L'intervento è finalizzato a sostenere le imprese nell'acquisizione di servizi per innovazioni tecnologiche, di processo, organizzative e gestionali. Gli awisi a sostegno dell'acquisizione di servizi innovativi da parte delle imprese emanati ai sensi delle presenti Direttive, dovranno essere strettamente collegati con le finalità e i contenuti del PISR - Progetto Integrato di Sviluppo Regionale «Calabrialnnova - Creazione di un Sistema Regionale per l'Innovazione in Calabria», approvato con Deliberazione della Giunta Regionale del 20 maggio 2011 n. 22B e dei relativi sotto progetti esecutivi. Le agevolazioni previste sono finalizzate alla realizzazione di Piani di Innovazione Aziendali e/o Interaziendali, finalizzati ad incrementare la capacità delle imprese di adottare innovazioni di processo e di prodotto per migliorare il loro livello di competitività (in conformità a quanto previsto dalla comunicazione quadro sugli aiuti alla RSI 2006/c 323/01). In particolare, i Piani di Innovazione, in conformità a quanto disciplinato dal Reg. (CE) n. 800/2006, artt. 3D, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 e 36, prevedono: 1. la realizzazione di Studi di Fattibilità Tecnica propedeutici alla realizzazione di Progetti di Ricerca e Sviluppo Tecnologico relativi ad attività di ricerca industriale o ad attività di sviluppo sperimentale; 2. la realizzazione di Progetti di Ricerca e Sviluppo Tecnologico relativi ad attività di ricerca industriale e/o ad attività di sviluppo sperimentale, da attuare anche in cooperazione con centri di ricerca, università, laboratori tecnologici; 3. l'acquisizione di Servizi per l'Innovazione e il Trasferimento Tecnologico.	Rbi

2015-2016

TO	Type	Name	Position	Text	Code
TO1	Deliberation	DGR n. 249 12.07.2016	Infrastructure and capacity, Voucher	Sostegno per l'acquisto di servizi per l'innovazione tecnologica, strategica, organizzativa e commerciale delle imprese [l'azione si attua preferibilmente attraverso voucher, che raggiungano un elevato numero di imprese anche grazie ai bassi oneri amministrativi che impongono e ha come target preferenziale le imprese di modesta dimensione	Ric
			Business investment, vouchers, investment support	Si prevede di sostenere gli investimenti delle imprese in innovazione e la creazione di nuove imprese associate a spin off della ricerca, start up e microimprese innovative.	Rbi
			Open Innovation	Sostegno alla generazione di soluzioni innovative a specifici problemi di rilevanza sociale, anche attraverso l'utilizzo di ambienti di innovazione aperta come i Living Labs	Roi
			Network and clustering, collaboration, support for existing networks and cluster, collaboration between research parks, incubators and cluster	Si punta inoltre a rinsaldare i collegamenti fra ricerca e mondo produttivo attraverso il rafforzamento della Rete Regionale dell'innovazione, composta dalle Università e dagli Enti di Ricerca pubblici, dai laboratori di ricerca industriale, dai Distretti Tecnologici, dai Laboratori Pubblici Privati, dagli Sportelli per l'Innovazione e dai Poli di Innovazione Regionali.	Rnc
			Social Innovation, Social Policy experimentation	Sostegno alla generazione di soluzioni innovative a specifici problemi di rilevanza sociale, anche attraverso l'utilizzo di ambienti di innovazione aperta come i Living Labs Infine, ci si attende il conseguimento di risultati rilevanti anche dallo sviluppo di nuovi mercati afferenti a settori di rilevanza sociale (sanità, istruzione, ambiente, cultura, ecc.); questo permetterà di rafforzare le filiere produttive regionali in settori ad alta intensità di conoscenza. Sostegno all'avanzamento tecnologico delle imprese attraverso il finanziamento di linee pilota e azioni di validazione precoce dei prodotti e di dimostrazione su larga scala	Rsi
TO1	Deliberation	DGR 334 30.08.2016	Smart Specialization follow-up	di istituire il Comitato di Pilotaggio della "Strategia Regionale per l'Innovazione e la Specializzazione Intelligente – 2014/2020" (di seguito S3) composto dal Presidente della Giunta regionale o suo delegato, che lo presiede, dagli Assessori dei Dipartimenti interessati: 1) Assessore allo Sviluppo Economico e Attività produttive, 2) Assessore alle Infrastrutture, 3) Assessore alla Tutela dell'Ambiente, 4) Assessore alla Scuola, lavoro, welfare e politiche giovanili, 5) Assessore alla Pianificazione territoriale ed urbanistica e 6) Assessore al Sistema della logistica, sistema portuale regionale e "sistema Gioia Tauro" nonché dall'Autorità di Gestione del PO Calabria 2014/2020;	Rss
TO1	Deliberation	DGR n. 469 24.11.2016	Networks and cluster	progetti di R&S realizzati in modalità cooperativa tra imprese e soggetti del sistema della ricerca e dell'innovazione (Poli d'innovazione, centri di ricerca pubblici e privati). La progettualità sarà orientata selettivamente verso: la collocazione su traiettorie tecnologiche maggiormente di	Rnc

				frontiera; l'impiego di giovani ricercatori (dottori di ricerca e laureati magistrali con profili tecnico-scientifici); il potenziale sfruttamento industriale dei risultati della ricerca;	
			Business Investment	<p>L'obiettivo di favorire l'introduzione di processi di innovazione nelle imprese regionali al fine di favorirne la competitività sui mercati extraregionali. A tal fine, l'Amministrazione regionale emana specifici avvisi pubblici per la concessione di incentivi finalizzati all'acquisizione di servizi per l'adozione di innovazione tecnologica.</p> <p>L'intervento è finalizzato ad incrementare la capacità delle imprese di adottare innovazioni di processo e di prodotto per migliorarne il livello di competitività sui mercati extraregionali. Per raggiungere tale obiettivo il modello di intervento di CalabriaInnova intende favorire la collaborazione tra imprese e con le strutture di ricerca, valorizzandone i prodotti e i servizi.</p>	Rbi
			Social Innovation, Socia Policy Experimentation	Operazione 1.3.2.b – Incentivi per la realizzazione dei progetti di prototipazione e sperimentazione dei nuovi prodotti/servizi rispondenti a fabbisogni di rilevanza sociale	Rsi

