

DELIVERABLE DT1.1.3

Comparison of strategic programmes
(transnational/national/regional)
with I4.0 relevant SME context

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Introduction

The project “Boost4BSO” is cofinanced under the Central Europe Programme and addresses the 4th Call topic “Industry 4.0/Advanced Manufacturing” resp. Priority 1 / SO 1.1, aiming at improving knowledge build-up and sustainable knowledge transfer linkages among CE BSOs (BSO: Business Support Organisation).

The main objective of Boost4BSO is to build up Industry 4.0-related (I4.0) capacities of CE BSOs enabling them, as key innovation system actors, to provide effective and efficient support services for local companies in I4.0 transformation. To reach this goal, Boost4BSO capitalizes on training contents/methodologies developed by the core projects InnoPeer AVM and Things+ (both Interreg CE) and the upscaling practice experience of IoT4Industry (H2020), with complementary inputs from further EU/nat. I4.0 related initiatives.

Boost4BSO creates a comprehensive capacity building programme for BSOs comprising a Competence Pack and Toolbox for I4.0-related SME support (technology + organisational change + business strategy + product/service innovation) and demonstrates how knowledge transfer among BSOs from different CE regions can be sustainably strengthened and qualitatively enhanced through the innovative Boost4BSO Snowball Mechanism and Awarding Procedure. By targeting CE BSOs and transnational BSO networks for strengthening their knowledge transfer linkages, Boost4BSO will sustainably impact the dynamics of I4.0 transformation of SMEs across CE and open new opportunities for economic growth and job creation in I4.0-related business fields.

Boost4BSO project results will raise the capacities of wide BSO networks across CE regarding all relevant I4.0 aspects to be considered by regional companies for successful I4.0 transformation/upscale and provide BSOs with a toolbox enabling them for demand-driven I4.0 support services for their local company networks. Boost4BSO snowball mechanism for downstreaming project results will spread I4.0-related knowledge and SME support tools among wide BSO networks from different CE regions and put them in the lead of driving digital transformation in local company networks. This will help CE SMEs to cope with different aspects of I4.0-related upscale and develop adequate business strategies. By interlinking a growing number of trained BSOs based on the Boost4BSO downstreaming approach, knowledge gaps on I4.0 implementation will be sustainably reduced in CE regions, consequently leading to a higher level of I4.0 maturity of CE economies. CE SMEs will become capable to enter I4.0-related related business fields, develop innovative I4.0 products/services and start transnational collaboration. Political sustainability shall be secured by addressing the I4.0 focus in existing RIS strategies and forthcoming I4.0 strategy upgrades with 2030- and/or long-term perspective.

This report was prepared in the framework of Thematic Work Package 1 “Development of integrated BSO I4.0 competence pack and implementation toolbox”, Activity A.T1.1 “Integration of challenges and needs”. Based on desk research and partners’ experience and collective knowledge this report includes an overview of the strategic programs (transnational/national/regional) with I4.0 relevant SME context as well as funding instruments supporting SMEs in their digital transformation process.



European I4.0 focused strategic programmes and support instruments

In March 2020 the European Commission published “a New Industrial Strategy for Europe”. The strategy refers to the Green Deal and the Digital Transition process (in accordance with Shaping Europe’s Digital Future) and underlines the need for new business models in industry, new types of jobs and the shift towards a circular economy characterised by a higher level of independence from external resources. Nevertheless, Europe plays an important role in the globalisation of economy and has strong trade relationships with other countries. However, in response to the disruptive processing technologies applied in the Chinese industry and the global online trade platforms, European industry, and especially SMEs, have to take up the challenge and step into the ring to compete by way of applying product innovation, servitisation and information technologies on a wider base. In the near future the European Commission plans to implement an Industrial Strategy Package putting forward a range of actions to facilitate the transformation towards clean, circular, digital and globally competitive EU industries, including SMEs and the reinforcement of single market rules. Already in 2016 the European Commission brought to the attention the need for accelerating the digital transformation of European industry and enterprises calling at that time for¹: new generation security and standard solutions to build trust and reap the full benefits of the Internet of Things, reskilling the workforce and strengthening digital skills, as well as demonstration of disruptive technologies. In its strategy “Digitising European Industry - Reaping the full benefits of a Digital Single Market”² the European Commission refers to three areas of change, that is in:

- **Products:** Driven by the development of the Internet of Things, the further integration of ICT in all types of products and artefacts offers a wide range of opportunities for the growth of new industries including start-ups and is transforming all sectors of the economy;
- **Processes:** the further spread of automation in production and the full integration of simulation and data analytics in processes and supply chains are bringing substantial gains in productivity and resource efficiency over the full cycle from product design to lifecycle management;
- **Business models** by re-shuffling the value chains and blurring boundaries between products and services. Smart connected products create the fundamentals for new services.

Between 2016 and 2020 the European Commission has initiated several programmes to support digital transition in enterprises. Among others, Digital Innovation Hubs have been receiving support to increase their impact on technology adoption by SMEs through demonstrators and living labs, training and advisory services. On the other hand, several initiatives lost their drive somewhere in 2018, like for instance the “Digital transformation monitor” initiated by Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Directorate F: Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing. In the 2021-2027 perspective, the European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy, foresees specific support measures under structural funds, where Smart Specialisation Strategies are expected to incorporate challenges related to industrial transition and digital transformation processes. Since several years the European Commission provides the S3 Platform to serve as a best practice exchange platform for countries and regions on smart specialisation related issues. The Industrial Modernisation platform engages regions in thematic areas such as: advanced manufacturing, 3D printing, SME to Industry 4.0. Also COSME and Interreg have contributed to the industrial modernisation process and digital transformation through financing cross-border initiatives of regions, clusters and key actors in regional ecosystems. Finally, in the next perspective

¹ Accelerating the digital transformation of European industry and enterprises, European Commission, March 2016

² Digitising European Industry - Reaping the full benefits of a Digital Single Market, Communication From the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, April 2016



innovation and digital transformation will be covered in the European Territorial Cooperation policy - several options are being considered and consultations are being provided.

Below one can find an overview of instruments planned for the near future on European level. Since the specific outlines for the European Territorial Cooperation policy are currently under discussion, the description of the framework outlines of this part of the European policy was not included in the list below.

Name	Digital Europe Programme
Link	https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital-europe-programme-proposed-eu92-billion-funding-2021-2027
Level	European
Main aim	The focus is on building the strategic digital capacities of the EU and on facilitating the wide deployment of digital technologies, to be used by Europe's citizens and businesses. The Programme will shape and support the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy.
Target groups	Enterprises, clusters, Digital Innovation Hubs, public administration
Expected impact	The programme will boost investments in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across economy and society. Digital Europe will complement other EU programmes, such as Horizon Europe, as well as the Connecting Europe Facility for digital infrastructure.
Budget	€ 9.2 B (for 2021-2027) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ € 2.7 B for supercomputing, ▪ € 2.5 B for artificial intelligence, ▪ € 2 B for cybersecurity, ▪ € 700 M for advanced digital skills, ▪ € 1.3 B for ensuring the wide use of digital technologies across economy and society
Granting authority	European Commission
Categories of calls	Training and advice, investment, research and development, demonstration Note: Funding foreseen for European Digital Innovation Hubs will be directed towards the hubs, with the objective that they invest in their capacity, i.e. latest equipment and facilities as well as employees to deliver services to their stakeholders. All selected hubs will be networked, in order to obtain European added value, in the form of rationalisation of investments and sharing best practices. The selection process will be partly done together with the Member States, and the objective is to ensure a broad geographical coverage across Europe. ³

³ European Commission, European Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme Draft working document 30-03-2020., p. 12



Name	Horizon Europe
Link	https://ec.europa.eu/info/node/71880
Level	European
Main aim	<p>The new European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe, will run from 2021 to 2027. Horizon Europe will incorporate research and innovation missions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases and the European Research Area (ERA) ▪ boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs ▪ deliver on citizens' priorities and sustain our socio-economic model and values
Target groups	Enterprises, academic institutions, science institutions
Expected impact	<p>Scientific impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating high quality new knowledge ▪ Strengthening human capital in research and innovation (R&I) ▪ Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science <p>Societal impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing EU policy priorities & global challenges through R&I ▪ Delivering benefits & impact via R&I missions ▪ Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society <p>Economic impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generating innovation based growth ▪ Creating more and better jobs ▪ Leveraging investments in R&I
Budget	<p>Total: €100 B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pillar 1: Excellent Science: reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base (€ 25.8 B) ▪ Pillar 2: Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness: boosting key technologies and solutions underpinning EU policies & Sustainable Development Goals (€ 52.7 B) ▪ Pillar 3: Innovative Europe: stimulating market-creating breakthroughs and ecosystems conducive to innovation (€ 13.5 B) ▪ Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area: optimising strengths & potential for a more innovative Europe (€ 2.1 B) ▪ Euratom research and training programme (2021-2025): Research and training activities to increase nuclear safety and security risks, development of safe nuclear technologies and optimal radiation protection (€ 2.1 B) ▪ InvestEU for Research and Innovation (R&I): to stimulate more investment in research and innovation (€ 3.5 B)
Granting authority	European Commission



Name	Horizon Europe
Categories of calls	<p>Research and development</p> <p>Note: It is foreseen to continue activities from Horizon 2020, such as ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs (I4MS). These activities are directed towards companies that work together with Digital Innovation Hubs to experiment and test with novel digital solutions to improve their businesses. Organisations that participate in the test-before-invest experiments will be eligible for funding. European Digital Innovation Hubs may participate to these projects, just like other types of Digital Innovation Hubs or organisations with the appropriate knowledge.⁴</p>
Name	European Regional Development Fund (ERFD) post-2020
Link	https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/
Level	European
M aim	<p>Five main objectives will drive EU investments in 2021-2027. Regional development investments will strongly focus on objectives 1 and 2. 65% to 85% of ERDF and Cohesion Fund resources will be allocated to these priorities, depending on Member States' relative wealth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Smarter Europe, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses ▪ A Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change ▪ A more Connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks ▪ A more Social Europe, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare ▪ A Europe closer to citizens, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU
Target groups	National, regional and local authorities, inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies, academic institutions, civil society, enterprises
Expected impact	Among others: improved cohesion, adoption of new technologies by SMEs including digital transformation, product and business process innovation, job creation
Budget	€373 billion ⁵
Granting authority	European Commission in cooperation with national and regional governments
Categories of calls	<p>Training and advice, investment, research and development, demonstration</p> <p>Note: Through its policy objective “A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation”, ERDF programmes may support Digital Innovation Hubs mainly in four ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ construction and up-grading via investments in infrastructure, equipment, software and intangible assets,

⁴ European Commission, European Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme Draft working document 30-03-2020., p. 12

⁵ European Commission: EU budget: Regional Development and Cohesion Policy beyond 2020 Strasbourg, 29 May 2018



Name	European Regional Development Fund (ERFD) post-2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> research and innovation services for SMEs, including transfer of advanced digital technologies, delivering digitalisation services to SMEs and public sector, strengthen the regional and local innovation ecosystems including the participation of DIHs in the entrepreneurial discovery processes for smart specialisation. <p>A prerequisite for investments of ERDF in Digital Innovation Hubs for services under categories “Test before invest (in digital technologies)” and “(Digital) skills and training” is that, these are fully supporting the regional or national smart specialisation strategy.⁶</p>
Name	Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME)
Link	https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/cosme-0
Level	European
Main aim	<p>COSME’s main objective is to support SMEs in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating access to finance, Supporting internationalisation and access to markets, Creating an environment favourable to competitiveness, Encouraging an entrepreneurial culture.
Target groups	Enterprises, clusters
Expected impact	Improved enterprise competitiveness on the European and global markets
Budget	€ 2.3 B
Granting authority	<p>The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EASME) manages the parts of the COSME work programme addressing access to markets, improving conditions for businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship on behalf of the European Commission.</p> <p>Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) Covent Garden Building, Place Charles Rogier 16, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium</p> <p>Financial instruments under access to finance are managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF), 37B, avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-2968 Luxembourg</p>
Categories of calls	Training and advice, investment, research and development, demonstration

⁶ European Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme Draft working document, European Commission, 30-03-2020, p.12-13.



National and regional I4.0 focused strategic programmes and support instruments

Below one can find an overview of national and regional strategic programmes and support instruments in the countries of the respective project partners. In several countries there are dedicated national programmes to support I4.0 transformation in enterprises, especially through awareness raising, demonstration facilities, training and advice. These programmes do not support enterprises directly but by way of financing Digital Innovation Hubs that support the beneficiaries costless. There are also research and development and general investment support instruments on regional and national level. However, in several cases enterprises that want to provide I4.0 investments or for instance cooperation with research organisations on I4.0 related issues have to turn to the regular public support programmes, since specific instruments have not been established yet. However, most countries foresee support measures in the next perspective (2021-2027), since digital transformation is included in the Smart Specialisation Policy. The initiative of the European Commission to establish a European Network of Digital Innovation Hubs in close cooperation with the national governments might create opportunities to revise the national and regional support instruments for digital transformation and to come to more streamlined solutions for all regions and EU countries, as such boosting the uptake of I4.0 solutions by SMEs in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Austria

Name	#Upper Vision 2030
Link	www.uppervision.at
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): AT31
Main aim	<p>Digital transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use data to generate knowledge and create value by raising the innovation potential of new technologies, such as Big Data, Artificial Intelligence (AI) etc. in priority areas of action and transferring new technologies into applications, Achieve a pioneering position in the field of human-centred AI and set quality standards in the classification of AI systems in terms of security and reliability in the way they are used. <p>Efficient and sustainable industry and manufacturing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and expand the technological lead of companies in the region in order to continue to successfully place innovative products and services on national and international markets, Increase the efficiency of Upper Austrian business and industry and position Upper Austria as a region for "Responsible Technologies & Management". <p>Systems and technologies for people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position Upper Austria as an international competence region for applications at the human/machine interface, especially in the fields of automation and robotics, Transfer key Upper Austrian technologies and core competences from production to medical technology, especially in the areas of digital health and medical materials. <p>Connected and efficient mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make positive use of the structural evolution in the Upper Austrian supplier industry and maintain assertive position in existing and new areas of business,



Name	#Upper Vision 2030
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position Upper Austria as an attractive location for practical mobility and logistics solutions by using the latest technologies and system innovations derived from business and research.
Target groups	Industrial enterprises, enterprises in the medical technology sector, research institutions, business support organisations
Expected impact	Development of Upper Austria into an innovative top region
Budget	€ 1 B (in 10 years)
Granting authority	Government of Upper Austria
Categories of calls	Training and advice, investment, research and development, demonstration

Name	Arbeitsplatz OÖ 2030
Link	https://www.arbeitsplatz-oberoesterreich.at/
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): AT31
Main aim	Workplace Upper Austria 2030 (Arbeitsplatz OÖ 2030) is the strategic framework program which underpins the labour market policy in Upper Austria. This strategy has been the long-term framework of action for labour market policy in Upper Austria since 2012. The programme's objectives are to ensure the long-term availability of specialists for the Upper Austrian economy and to prevent unemployment as best as possible, with the aim of ensuring full employment.
Target groups	International employees, SMEs, industrial enterprises, youth, HTL graduates
Expected impact	Ensure the long-term availability of specialists for the Upper Austrian economy and prevention of unemployment as best as possible
Budget	Approx. € 250 M per year
Granting authority	Government of Upper Austria and Chamber of Labour Upper Austria
Categories of calls	Training and advice

Name	Digital Roadmap Austria
Link	https://www.digitalroadmap.gv.at/
Level	National



Main aim	The Roadmap provides an overview of the current challenges and of existing and planned measures and activities. These are based on twelve guiding principles for shaping the digitization process in Austria: everyone should be able to participate in digitisation, Development of digital literacy in education, strengthen the digital individual responsibility; internet access should be granted for citizens and businesses; create more and better jobs through digitisation; Create a modern legal framework for new business and working models; provide business for their digital transformation; Science and research should be helped to develop new digital opportunities; play an active role in shaping the European Digital Single Market.; take responsibility for security in the digital sphere; ensure respectful online discussion and high-quality journalism in the digital world too; easy and accessible electronic communication with public administration for citizens and businesses.
Target groups	General programme to force digitisation in a wide range of areas
Expected impact	Digitisation as a motor in every area of the economy and life
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Bundesministerium für Digitalisierung und Wirtschaftsstandort Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs Stubenring 1, 1010 Wien, Austria
Categories of calls	Training and advice, demonstration

Name	Digitale Strategie für Österreich
Link	https://www.digitalaustria.gv.at/
Level	National
Main aim	Under the umbrella of Digital Austria, the Austrian Federal Government is bundling its plans to lead Austria’s society, economy and public administration into a successful digital future. In a first step, selected services and innovations of the individual departments of the Austrian Federal Administration will show in an exemplary manner the concrete digitization steps with which the services, the framework conditions and the infrastructure for economy and society in Austria will be further expanded in the future.
Target groups	Society, economy, public administration
Expected impact	Make sure that citizens are fit for new technologies in order to improve their quality of life; New opportunities for growth, jobs and prosperity; develop digital, user-friendly administrative services.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Digitalisierungsagentur Digitalisation Agency Bundesministerium für Digitalisierung und Wirtschaftsstandort Stubenring 1, 1010 Wien, Austria Mag. Wolfgang Wisek MBA wolfgang.wisek@bmdw.gv.at



Name	Digitale Strategie für Österreich
Categories of calls	Training and advice, demonstration; research and development
Name	Plattform Industrie 4.0 Österreich
Link	https://plattformindustrie40.at/
Level	National
Main aim	<p>The association “Industrie 4.0 Österreich - die Plattform für intelligente Produktion“ (Industry 4.0 Austria - the platform for intelligent production) was founded 2015. The core task of the Industry 4.0 platform is to facilitate the implementation of Industry 4.0 and to facilitate cooperation between relevant actors, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To accompany the processes of change driven by Industry 4.0, ▪ To leverage interests between industry, science, national and regional policy makers, employers and employees associations, ▪ To provide and diffuse information, knowledge, best practises and services on Industry 4.0 to companies, academia, research organisations and the general public, ▪ To define fields of action, goals, tasks and proposals for practical implementation of measures/ activities to policy makers, ▪ To develop joint strategies with high leverage on Industry 4.0, ▪ To launch initiatives to steer regional, national and international activities.
Target groups	Open to all sectors
Expected impact	A highly innovative industry and quality employment
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	<p>Verein Industrie 4.0 Österreich - die Plattform für intelligente Produktion (Austrian Association Industry 4.0) Mariahilfer Straße 37-39, 1060 Wien, Österreich Telefon: +43 (1) 588 39 75 E-Mail: office@plattformindustrie40.at</p>
Categories of calls	Networking events, initiatives, strategies, inform companies/research institutions/politics and media about new developments in a field of Industry 4.0
Name	AWS
Link	https://www.aws.at/
Level	National
Main aim	<p>The Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH (AWS) is the development bank of the federal government that aims at promoting innovation & growth.</p> <p>By granting low-interest loans, guarantees, grants and equity capital, it supports companies in implementing their innovative projects from the initial idea to international market success. In addition, AWS advises and supports companies with regard to the protection and exploitation of intellectual property. In addition, specific information, consulting, services and other services are offered to prospective, existing and expanding companies.</p>



Name	AWS
Target groups	Enterprises, especially medium-sized enterprises and Start-Ups
Expected impact	With the support of the AWS: companies can be set up easier, companies have access to cheap loans from EUR 10,000 upwards, financing is facilitated/enabled by guarantees, innovation projects are developed and implemented.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	The Federal Ministry for Digitalisation and Business Location (BMDW) and the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), are the owner's representative for the federal government.
Categories of calls	Investment, research and development

Name	FFG (Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft)
Link	https://www.ffg.at/
Level	National
Main aim	<p>The FFG was founded on 1 September 2004 (pursuant to the FFG Act on establishing a research promotion agency, Federal Law Gazette I No. 73/2004). The FFG is wholly owned by the Republic of Austria, represented by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW).</p> <p>The Austrian Research Promotion agency (FFG) is the national funding agency for industrial R&D in Austria. It offers own funding schemes and coordinates the implementation of funding schemes, which are directly funded by several Austrian ministries. Its aim is to strengthen domestic companies in global competition to assure jobs and wealth sustainably as well as to make a lasting contribution to the strength of the Austrian economy.</p>
Target groups	SMEs, large enterprises, universities of applied science, competence centres, research facilities, start-ups, associations, authorities, multipliers
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A strengthened position of domestic companies in global competition, ▪ Sustainable jobs and wealth.
Budget	<p>Approx. € 400 M per year</p> <p>About half of the budget is dedicated to digitalization projects</p>
Granting authority	<p>The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) https://www.bmk.gv.at/en.html</p> <p>Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) https://www.bmdw.gv.at/en.html</p>
Categories of calls	<p>Around 3.000 projects per year in several 100 calls, on national and European level, involving ca. 1.500 enterprises, 100 R&D institutions and 270 university institutes</p> <p>Main branches: production (24%), ICT (20%), Energy and Climate (16%), Mobility (12%) (specific funding schemes - see below)</p>



Name	Digital Innovation Hub OST
Link	https://dih-ost.at/
Level	National, Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): AT11; AT12
Main aim	Increase the ability and velocity of transformation on the way to digitization in SMEs and medium-sized companies in the following areas of activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness raising ▪ Qualification ▪ Project implementation
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	Increased competitiveness of SMEs and medium-sized enterprises through the development of digital literacy
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Joint project of FFG and Federal State Government of Lower Austria and Burgenland
Categories of calls	Training and advice, research and development, demonstration
Name	KMU.DIGITAL 2.0
Link	https://www.kmudigital.at/
Level	National
Main aim	KMU DIGITAL (KMU=SME) is the digitisation support for small and medium sized enterprises in Austria. With KMU DIGITAL, the Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) in cooperation with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (WKÖ) supports Austrian companies in taking advantage of opportunities and challenges of digitisation.
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	N/A
Budget	Funding of up to € 4.000 in the consulting module and up to € 5.000 in the implementation module.
Granting authority	Bundesministerium Digitalisierung und Wirtschaftsstandort (Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs) Wirtschaftskammer Österreich - Chamber of Commerce Austria
Categories of calls	No calls, support in training, advice, investments, research and development
Name	DIGITAL STARTER UPGRADE
Link	https://www.wko.at/service/ooe/innovation-technologie-digitalisierung/digital-starter-upgrade.html
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): AT31
Main aim	A funding program of the Government of Upper Austria and Upper Austrian Chamber of Commerce to take advantage of the digitization opportunities.



The support programme “DIGITAL STARTER UPGRADE” lasts for the period 04.05.2020 - 01.12 2020 and consist of 2 modules.

- Module 1 - New digital paths. In module 1 a digitization project should be prepared, a concept for the implementation of the digitization project drafted, as well as first implementation steps have been taken and first digitization solutions have been realized.
- Module 2 - showcase solutions. A digitization project (for which a corresponding concept already has been developed) is implemented according to the project plan defined in the process. Within the framework of Module 2, the most innovative digitization projects for efficiency gains (internal digitization) and the most innovative digitization projects to develop market-oriented digital solutions (external digitization) will be supported.

Target groups	SMEs with registered office in Upper Austria
Expected impact	N/A
Budget	Funding up to 24.500 € (Module 1 max. 75% - max 4.500€; Module 2 max. 50% - max 20.000€)
Granting authority	Land OÖ, Abt. Wirtschaft und Forschung, und WKO Oberösterreich Government of Upper Austria and Chamber of Commerce Upper Austria
Categories of calls	Ongoing, within 04.05.2020 - 01.12 2020

Name	Austrian Space Applications Programme
Link	https://austria-in-space.at/en/austria-in-space/national-space-programme.php
Level	National
Main aim	Note: The Austrian Space Applications Programme ASAP was initiated by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK). It is a bottom-up research funding programme targeted at space science, technology and applications. Development of innovative technologies, products and processes. Diffusion of space technologies in other sectors. Utilisation of space technology for further applications like navigation, telecommunication, Earth observation and integrated applications.
Target groups	Enterprises, research institutions, universities
Expected impact	Austrian Space Applications Programme aims at building national and international networks through multi- and bilateral projects and increasing user communities of space technology.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
Categories of calls	No open calls



Name	COIN - Cooperation and Innovation
Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/program/coin-cooperation-and-innovation-0
Level	National
Main aim	<p>Note: COIN contributes towards fostering Austria's innovation performance by the better and broader transposition of knowledge into innovation.</p> <p>The COIN "Network" funding line encourages technology transfer within entrepreneurial cooperation schemes, thus raising the level of innovation within businesses and strengthening their cooperation capacities. It focuses on output-oriented cooperation projects to develop and improve innovative products and processes.</p> <p>COIN "Aufbau" aims at strengthening providers of applied research, who are core partners for enterprises in terms of RDI, and increasing the cooperation between applied sciences and companies, especially SMEs.</p>
Target groups	SMEs, large enterprises, universities, universities of applied sciences, competence centres, research facilities, single researchers, start-ups, (non-profit) associations, multipliers / intermediaries
Expected impact	The focus is on broadening the knowledge base, developing the corresponding human potential and expanding core competencies at providers of application-oriented research, development and innovation skills to optimize the core function for companies. Innovative SMEs should have systematic access to external know-how, so that R&D and cooperation become regular practice for them.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Finance
Categories of calls	No open calls
Name	COMET - Competence Centres for Excellent Technologies
Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/comet-competence-centers-excellent-technologies
Level	National
Main aim	<p>Note: Competence centres revolving around technology policy initiative in Austria.</p> <p>Competence centre programmes have been implemented in 45 centres and networks in Austria in order to build up key research competences through cooperation between science and industry, providing a network of hubs offering high quality research.</p>
Target groups	SMEs, large enterprises, universities, universities of applied sciences, competence centres, research facilities
Expected impact	<p>K1 Centres aim to develop and focus competences through excellent cooperative research with a medium to long term perspective. They conduct research at top international level and stimulate new research ideas in their fields.</p> <p>K2 Centres aim to focus existing competences and develop new competences by collaborating with international researchers of renowned, scientific partners and companies in a joint strategically oriented research programme at the highest level. K2 Centres are characterised by extremely ambitious research programmes.</p> <p>COMET Projects aim to carry out high-quality research in science - industry collaboration. They are characterised by a medium-term perspective and clearly defined topics having</p>



Name	COMET - Competence Centres for Excellent Technologies
	the potential for further development. COMET Projects contribute to initiating product, process and service innovations. COMET Modules are characterised by research of especially high-risk. COMET Modules are thematically defined research areas which carry out excellent top-level research to open up new topics being way beyond the state-of-the-art.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW). The Austrian provinces support COMET with additional funds.
Categories of calls	8th call due 23.6.2020 : COMET Projects -industrial research, experimental development

Name	ECSEL - the Programme
Link	www.ecsel-austria.net/
Level	National
Main aim	Note: ECSEL is combining activities of ENIAC, ARTEMIS as well as EPoS. ECSEL-Austria is an industry-driven national research, development and innovation platform representing the technology areas of micro and nanoelectronics, embedded systems and systems integration. The Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) supports sophisticated innovation and technology development in information and communications technology, in the fields of micro and nanoelectronics, as well as embedded/cyberphysical and intelligent integrated components and systems.
Target groups	Enterprises, research institutions
Expected impact	ECSEL-Austria aims to create synergies along the full value chain toward innovation and leadership in electronic components and systems made in Europe.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
Categories of calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Call 2020-1 IA (INNOVATION ACTION) due 16.9.2020 Experimental Development Projects ▪ Call 2020-2 RIA (RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACTION) due 16.9.2020 Industrial research projects

Name	ICT of the Future
Link	https://www.ffg.at/iktderzukunft
Level	National
Main aim	Note: The Community European Research Area (ERA) provides a frame of reference for this national programme, which will complement over its run-time both existing and new European initiatives within Horizon 2020. ICT of the Future is the funding programme of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) for the promotion



of challenging technology development and innovation in information and communication technology, interlinked with application fields and societal challenges.

Target groups	SMEs, Large enterprises, Universities, Universities of applied sciences, Competence centres, Research facilities, Consortia, Start-up, Non-profit organisations, Regional administrative bodies
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed lead technologies, sustained technological leadership, ▪ Strengthened innovation capacities of enterprises, ▪ Lead positions in competitive markets, ▪ Improved Austria's visibility in the international context in the area of ICT research and development, ▪ Improved availability of a sufficient number of trained researchers as the backbone of excellent ICT-research and development.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
Categories of calls	No open calls

Name **Impact Innovation - Funding, Guidelines**

Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/programme/impactinnovation
Level	National
Main aim	Note: Innovation funding programme The FFG's Impact Innovation funding scheme encourages you to find or test your ideas using innovation methods.
Target groups	Start-ups, profit and non-profit oriented enterprises or partnerships (e.g. limited liability company (GmbH), general partnership (OG) etc.), natural persons/sole traders, associations, non-profit organisations
Expected impact	All topics and all sectors are eligible for funding under the Impact Innovation programme. Aim is to solve problems through innovation.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development (AT), Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Categories of calls	Continually ongoing call - innovation development

Name **Innovation Voucher - Funding, Guidelines**

Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/programme/innovation-voucher
Level	National
Main aim	Note: Consultancy services from research institutions funding programme. The Innovation Voucher is a funding instrument designed to help SMEs in Austria to start ongoing research and innovation activities.
Target groups	SMEs, start-ups



Expected impact	The Innovation Voucher is designed to encourage SME to co-operate with research institutes. It should make it easier for small and medium-sized companies to overcome inhibition thresholds regarding cooperation with research institutions.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (AT), Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
Categories of calls	Continually ongoing call - training and advice

Name **Markt.Start - Funding, Guidelines**

Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/programme/marktstart
Level	National
Main aim	Note: FFG programme - product launch funding programme Markt.Start is a substantial funding instrument addressing small-sized companies only. The funding goal is to support small companies for the market entrance and therefore launch of product innovations, service innovations and process development after successful driven R&D.
Target groups	Start-ups, small-sized enterprises and meeting the Start-up-SE definition
Expected impact	Markt.Start comes in and supports the leap into the market after the successful completion of a FFG-supported R&D project for experimental development (e.g. basic program company project).
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Categories of calls	Continually ongoing call - supporting market introduction of an innovative product

Name **Patent.Voucher - Funding, Guidelines**

Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/programme/patentvoucher
Level	National
Main aim	Note: FFG programme - patent registration funding programme. The Patent.Voucher supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as start-ups and founders to check the patentability of their innovation idea and furthermore to speed up preparation and submission of the application for a patent.
Target groups	SMEs, Start-ups
Expected impact	Support with patent registration (nationally and internationally) and with patent monitoring in direct connection with the result of the patent search for SMEs and start-ups.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Research Promotion Agency (FFG)



Name	Patent.Voucher - Funding, Guidelines
Categories of calls	Continually ongoing call - support with patent registration
Name	Production of the Future - the Calls
Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/program/migriert-production-future-calls
Level	National
Main aim	Note: Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology economic funding programme The ability to manufacture internationally competitive products and to increase productivity is key to the economic growth of Austria as a highly industrialised and knowledge based country. And innovations in the manufacturing sector will continue to be an indispensable basis for added value and employment in the future.
Target groups	Enterprises, research and technology organisations, universities, universities of applied sciences and secondary technical colleges based in Austria. Participation of international partners is possible and encouraged.
Expected impact	The RTI initiative "Production of the Future" deals with key issues of the manufacturing industry as part of innovative RTD projects. The focus is on manufacturing competitive products and on enhancing productivity with the aim of fostering economic growth in Austria.
Budget	€ 17 M
Granting authority	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Categories of calls	35th call due 20.11.2020 : research and development
Name	Projekt.Start - Funding, Guidelines
Link	https://www.ffg.at/en/programme/projektstart
Level	National
Main aim	Note: FFG programme - research preparation funding programme Projekt.Start is an attractive SME funding instrument for the support of preparatory work for a concrete research project. Both internal preparation costs and external expenses and specialist, project-specific support can be funded.
Target groups	Start-ups, SMEs
Expected impact	Definition of project aims, assessment of the state of the art and literature and patent research regarding the quantitative limitation of the new invention and the benefits of the R&D plan on a national and international basis. Execution of well-founded market and competitor analyses, preparation of the project organization with search or selection of project partners, definition of approaches and assessments of technical risks, preparation of detailed work schedules (project must be described clearly and in a differentiated way, work packages etc.), Preparation of a well-founded cost plan with obtainment of offers.
Budget	N/A



Granting authority Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Categories of calls Continually ongoing call - support with research preparation

Name R&D Competences for Industry

Link <https://www.ffg.at/en/program/migriert-rd-competences-industry>

Level National

Main aim Note: Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs training funding programme
 This initiative of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) supports measures in companies for the systematic development and qualification of their research and innovation staff. The programme also aims to promote cooperation between companies and tertiary education and research institutions as well as to enhance the integration of industrially relevant research fields.

Target groups SMEs

- Expected impact**
- Expertise increase: Qualification seminars - short-term; customized training of employees in Austrian companies; focus on SME; enabling access to new technology fields,
 - Expertise development: Qualification networks - medium-term; networks providing customized training for Austrian companies with universities, universities of applied sciences and other educational and research institutions located in Austria; increase innovation skills of companies in future relevant technology,
 - Expertise enhancement in applied research: Tertiary level courses - long-term; customized training networks between companies and universities, universities of applied sciences and other educational and research institutions located in Austria; emphasize industry driven topics at a high scientific level.

Budget N/A

Granting authority Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (AT)

Categories of calls 5th call - Competence deepening due 15.9.2020 : training
 7th call - Educational seminars due 16.10.2020 : training

Name R&D Infrastructure Funding

Link <https://www.ffg.at/en/program/migriert-rd-infrastructure-funding>

Level National

Main aim Note: Research and development infrastructure funding programme.
 The R&D Infrastructure Funding Programme supports projects designed to acquire and develop high quality R&D infrastructure for use in both basic and applied research.

Target groups Institutions for research and knowledge dissemination (universities, universities of applied sciences, non-university research institutions), other non-commercial institutions, enterprises



- Expected impact**
- Supporting universities and research establishments in profile building and development planning, and establishing new and promising fields of research,
 - Supporting companies in establishing and extending industrial R&D infrastructures,
 - Creating incentives for the coordinated joint acquisition and use of R&D infrastructure by research establishments and businesses.

Budget N/A

Granting authority National Foundation for Research Technology and Development (AT),
Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

Categories of calls 3rd call due 14.10.2020 : funding for development and expansion of R&D infrastructures

Name SME Funding

Link <https://www.ffg.at/en/programme/sme-funding>

Level National

Main aim Note: A funding bundle helping SMEs with several processes
SMEs play a central role in Austria's economy. In order to facilitate the entry into a continuous research and development activity and to raise the quality of the research projects, BMK and BMDW bundle together with the FFG coordinated SME subsidies.

Target groups SMEs, start-ups

Expected impact Comprehensive package for research and development projects of SMEs.

Budget N/A

Granting authority Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (AT)
Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (AT)
National Foundation for Research Technology and Development (AT),
Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

- Categories of calls**
- Continually ongoing call - research & development
 - Continually ongoing call - research preparation support
 - Continually ongoing call - innovation development
 - Continually ongoing call - training and advice
 - Continually ongoing call - development of commercial products, processes, and services
 - Continually ongoing call - supporting market introduction of an innovative product
 - Continually ongoing call - support with patent registration

Name Start-up - Funding, Guidelines

Link <https://www.ffg.at/en/programme/startup>

Level National

Main aim Note: FFG programme - start-up market introduction funding



The FFG supports Start-up companies substantially in their medium-term liquidity situation, as it is only 5 years after the project end that they have to repay them. Until then, they were able to lay the foundation for a successful market entry and achieve their first concrete sales. Supported is the innovative product and service development - starting with the idea to a near-series prototype.

Target groups	Start-ups, small and medium-sized companies
Expected impact	The aim of Start-up funding is to enable an improved type of project financing or funding, thereby further increasing the number of Start-up companies in the high-tech sector.
Budget	€ 70 M
Granting authority	Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Categories of calls	Continually ongoing call - product, process, and service funding

Croatia

Name	Smart Specialization Strategy and Action Plan
Link	https://www.obzor2020.hr/userfiles/obzor2020/pdfs/Strategija_pametne_specijalizacije_RH_2016_2020.pdf
Level	National
Main aim	Economic development based on support to research and development activities and innovation.
Target groups	Entire national innovation chain: education, research and development infrastructure, business support infrastructure, industry, SMEs, policy stakeholders.
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthening the capacities of the science-research sector to conduct top class research meeting the needs of the economy, ■ Overcoming fragmentation of the innovation value chain and the gap between the science-research and the business sector, ■ Modernization and diversification of the Croatian economy through business R&D&I investments, ■ Upgrade in the global value chain and promoting internationalization of the Croatian economy, ■ Smart skills development - upgrading qualifications of the existing and new work force for smart specialization.
Budget	Total available allocation from the ESI fund: 1.042,4 million EUR In 2019 total allocated funds for the 3 instruments supporting SMEs was 175 million EUR.
Granting authority	HAMAG-BICRO - Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments Ksaver 208, Zagreb, Croatia Phone: +385 1 488 10 43
Categories of calls	Clusters of implementation instruments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establishment of efficient innovation system (3 instruments),



- Development of globally competitive and economically relevant science and research system (7 instruments),
- Integration into global value chain and promotion of internationalization of Croatian economy (1 instrument),
- Smart skills development (3 instruments).

Name	Innovation in S3 fields
Link	https://efondovi.mrrfeu.hr/MISCms/Pozivi/Poziv?id=f06e5874-b387-43a6-b487-d8367d3250f4
Level	National
Main aim	Note: An instrument of the Smart Specialization Strategy Program supports the investment of SMEs in their business activities focused on the production and commercialization of innovative products and services that are new to the market and that can be applied and classified in one or more S3 thematic priority areas. Prerequisite for applying to this program is a finalized prototype tested in real surroundings (TRL 8).
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	Instrument aims at commercialization of innovative products and services that are in line with the identified priority thematic areas and cross-cutting themes of the Smart Specialization Strategy (S3). It will support innovative SMEs that will focus on the production and marketing of innovative products/services on the market, and consequently contribute to increasing exports and competitiveness of the Croatian economy in the global market.
Budget	€ 83 M (50% co-financing)
Granting authority	HAMAG-BICRO - Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments Ksaver 208, Zagreb, Croatia Phone: +385 1 488 10 43
Categories of calls	The program finances following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Innovation of organization/business processes of SMEs with aim of commercialization of innovative products and services, ▪ Investment in material and non-material assets, allowing capacity building aiming at commercialization of innovative products and services, ▪ Activities related to the project implementation (de minimis).

Name	IRI 2 - New products and services that are a result of R&D activities (Phase 2)
Link	https://efondovi.mrrfeu.hr/MISCms/Pozivi/Poziv?id=367d3301-f50e-496f-80be-2ca140403b5a
Level	National
Main aim	Notes: An instrument of the Smart Specialization Strategy Co-financing development of new products and services, technologies and business processes through raising private investment in R&D, capacity building for research,



Name	IRI 2 - New products and services that are a result of R&D activities (Phase 2) development and innovation among enterprises, including collaboration with research and education organizations.
Target groups	SMEs and large enterprises
Expected impact	Development of new products and services within one or more selected R&D topics within the S3 identified by thematic priority and sub-thematic areas, by enhancing the R&D and innovation capacity of enterprises and encouraging cooperation between entrepreneurs and R&D institutions.
Budget	€ 72 M (85% co-financing)
Granting authority	HAMAG-BICRO - Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments Ksaver 208, Zagreb, Croatia Phone: +385 1 488 10 43
Categories of calls	Subsidies for research and development projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industrial research, ▪ Experimental development, ▪ Feasibility studies; Regional subsidies for investments

Name	Integrator
Link	https://efondovi.mrrfeu.hr/MISCms/Pozivi/Poziv?id=794c3479-6a76-40a0-bf6c-1da3a33ed8f8
Level	National
Main aim	Note: An instrument of the Smart Specialization Strategy Main aim is co-financing of innovation of processes and business organization of a consortium of SMEs in order to establish long term supplier relationships and value chains with so-called Integrator companies. Consortium of at least 3 SMEs is eligible for this program.
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	Program supports the cooperation of SMEs in creating new innovative products and services by establishing supplier relationships with Integrator companies and becoming part of their value chain in the target strategic segment. Integrators are medium to large companies that are present in multiple markets, have a structured supply chain and value chain and provide their products and services to end users.
Budget	20 MM EUR (50% co-financing)
Granting authority	HAMAG-BICRO - Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments Ksaver 208, Zagreb, Croatia Phone: +385 1 488 10 43
Categories of calls	The program finances following activities:



Name	Integrator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Innovation of organization/business processes of SMEs with aim of commercialization of innovative products and services, ■ Activities related to the project implementation (de minimis).
Name	HR-ZOO Croatian scientific and educational cloud
Link	https://www.srce.unizg.hr/en/hr-zoo https://efondovi.mrrfeu.hr/MISCms/Pozivi/Poziv?id=9fb5be7b-e37b-4109-adf8-b2077d133869
Level	National
Main aim	<p>Note: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Croatia Competitiveness and Cohesion Operational Programme 2014 - 2020, investment Priority 1.1. Enhancing research and innovation infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence.</p> <p>Direct award of the strategic project - Main aim is to build a distributed national e-infrastructure consisting of computing, storage and network resources for the purpose of building the RDI capacity of the Croatian A&R community.</p>
Target groups	Higher education and research
Expected impact	<p>The programme impacts are two-ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Direct impact on scientific and educational community: the programme will provide sufficient long-term, advanced, reliable, efficient, flexible and sustainable computing resources, storage resources, and network connectivity, necessary for modern science and education systems and advanced international studies; Encourage the creation of specialized teams of superbly qualified professionals to ensure not only the development and maintenance of an infrastructure, but also a wide range of customer support for all users of the HR-ZOO, ■ Impact on cooperation of science and industry: Provide long-term cooperation between the scientific and educational communities and economies in joint collaborative projects, enable the emergence of new products and services, the development of innovative solutions and increases the competitiveness of the Croatian economy; Encourage the development of the Croatian research and higher education area as a basis for the development of Croatian economy and society.
Budget	€ 25.89 M (85% co-financing)
Granting authority	<p>Central Finance and Contracting Agency Ulica grada Vukovara 284 (building C), 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia Phone: +385 1 6042 400 E-mail: info@safu.hr</p>
Categories of calls	Information and communication technologies (ICTs) research, technological development and innovation (RTD and innovation)
Name	PoC - State aid program for the proof of innovative concept
Link	https://hamagbicro.hr/bespovratne-potpore/programi-podrske-inovacijskom-procesu/poc/



Name	PoC - State aid program for the proof of innovative concept
Level	National
Main aim	Note: The program is not specifically targeting Industry 4.0 actors The PoC program supports innovation at the earliest stage of research to provide pre-commercial capital for technical and commercial verification of the innovative concept. A test of the innovative concept is needed to provide evidence that the new process or technology is feasible and can potentially have a commercial application. Through the implementation of the PoC project, an answer is given as to whether the idea / proposed solution can be developed and whether it will function as such.
Target groups	Natural persons who have a serious intention to establish a company, MMSEs
Expected impact	After the completion of funding under the PoC program and the successful confirmation of the concept, the Beneficiaries continue to develop an innovative product, service or technological solution and enter the commercialization phase. The programme is supporting specific goals of Operational Program Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020.
Budget	Not known for 2020. In 2019: € 2.9 M
Granting authority	HAMAG-BICRO - Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments Ksaver 208, Zagreb, Croatia Phone: +385 1 488 10 43
Categories of calls	Eligible funding activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ verification and protection of intellectual property, ▪ development of a functional prototype, ▪ demonstration of technical feasibility, ▪ additional activities (market analysis or feasibility study, development of concepts and strategies for product development or commercialization). Eligible co-funding amounts: € 13,300 - 67,000 Micro and small enterprises - the program finances up to 70% of the total eligible costs Medium enterprises - the program finances up to 60% of the total eligible costs

Name	Fil Rouge Capital
Link	https://filrougecapital.com/
Level	National
Main aim	Note: Venture Capital fund supported by European Investment Fund Fil Rouge Capital is a venture capital investment fund whose primary goal is to invest in young entrepreneurs, start-up and scale-up companies, as well as establishing a local entrepreneurial eco-system in Croatia. Fil Rouge Capital focuses on early stage businesses from pre-seed, seed, and Series A rounds of investment. It is not an Industry 4.0 specific fund.
Target groups	Young entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-ups



Expected impact	FLC will support innovative young entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-ups through Incubation, acceleration and growth funding schemes that include support programs, mentorship and coaching. It is planned to invest into approx. 250 companies by 2023. Fil Rouge will invest in a variety of sectors, including software, fintech, marketplace, manufacturing, hardware, IOT and logistics.
Budget	€ 42 M
Granting authority	Fil Rouge Capital Vukasovićeva ulica 1, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Categories of calls	The VC fund offers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incubation + seed investment of up to € 10,000, ▪ Acceleration + seed investment of up to € 50,000, ▪ Scale-up + investment up to € 1 M.

Czech Republic

Name	TREND
Link	https://www.tacr.cz/program/program-trend/
Level	National
Main aim	Note: national program of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic Program focused on research and development activities that are delivering results with potential for competitiveness - new products, production processes and services. The program will support research and development project that will demonstrate a link to the technology knowledge domains in accordance with the principles of intelligent specializations. The following areas are above others included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital technology: Artificial intelligence ▪ Cyber technologies: Security and connectivity
Target groups	Research organisations, Enterprises
Expected impact	The purpose of this program is to increase the international competitiveness of enterprises, in particular through enlarging their markets abroad, penetrating new markets or moving up the global value chains.
Budget	€ 337 M
Granting authority	The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
Categories of calls	The 3rd call is being prepared, project focused on Industry 4.0, automotive, 5G technology will get support.

Name	ICT and Strategic Services
Link	https://www.agentura-api.org/cs/programy-podpory/ict-a-sdilene-sluzby/
Level	National
Main aim	Note: ERDF OP BUSINESS AND INNOVATION FOR COMPETITIVENESS 2014-2020



Specific Objective 4.2. Increasing the use of the ICT sector 's potential competitiveness of the economy.

The project must be implemented in the Czech Republic outside Prague the capital. Program is focused on the development of the information and knowledge society and is designed for software solutions or strategic services development.

Target groups

Enterprises

Expected impact

The aim of the program is to increase the supply of new information systems, ICT solutions and highly sophisticated ICT tools enabling efficient use of information bases (big data) and mobile sharing information, cloud solutions and services, and new modern digital software products and services, including related implementation. The support is focused on a support of Czech IT products companies on the global market, development of knowledge and skills of IT professionals.

Budget

€ 222 M

Granting authority

The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Categories of calls

There is no open call at the moment

Name	Application
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Link

<https://www.agentura-api.org/cs/programy-podpory/aplikace/>

Level

National

Main aim

Notes: ERDF: OP BUSINESS AND INNOVATION FOR COMPETITIVENESS 2014-2020
 Specific Objective 1. Research and Development for Innovations

The project must be implemented in the Czech Republic outside the capital city of Prague. Program supports acquiring new knowledge to develop new products, materials, technologies and services through the implementation of research projects. This program supports implementation of breakthrough innovations to enhance competitiveness on the global market. This program gives a specific attention to research and development in the Key Technologies (KETs) with a potential for accelerating new application areas.

Target groups

Enterprises, partnership research organisation and enterprise

Expected impact

This program promotes business investment in research and innovation and synergies emerging from the cooperation between industry, enterprises, R&D centres. The program enhance technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, networking, clusters and open innovation, smart specialization and technical support and applied research, advanced production and primary production, especially in the area key technologies.

Budget

€ 378 M

Granting authority

The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Categories of calls

Last call: May 2020



Name	Country 4 the Future
Link	https://www.countryforfuture.com/
Level	National
Main aim	Note: national program of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic Program supporting innovative solutions concerning process or management with a focus on automatic devices or sensors working in real time, automatization and digitalisation.
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	The only financial measure of the new Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019 - 2030 is the innovation support program The Country For The Future, which will focus on the national start-up and spin-off environment, digitization and smart investment and will, among other things, support robotics, automation and promoting innovation in companies with advantages in small and medium-sized enterprises in accordance with the standards of Industry 4.0 and available trends of promising industries.
Budget	€ 357 M
Granting authority	the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
Categories of calls	The program aims at three basic areas of activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ creation of innovative firefighters (high-tech start-ups), their subsequent development and internationalization, ■ building innovative infrastructures with a risk on digital services and artificial intelligence, ■ putting innovations into practice (especially the use of existing R&D results).

Germany

Name	ERDF Operational Programme for the "Investments in Growth and Employment" Objective Bavaria 2014-2020
Link	https://www.efre-bayern.de/fileadmin/user_upload/efre/themen/IWB/Programmdokumente/Operationelles_Programm_2014DE16RFOP002_2_0_de.pdf
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Bavaria
Main aim	The Free State of Bavaria wants to further expand its innovative strength. In order to improve the international competitiveness of Bavarian industry, it is necessary to further increase the share of R&D spending in GDP while at the same time reducing existing regional weaknesses. Due to the weak contribution of non-university research, there is a great need for the establishment and expansion of correspondingly forward-looking infrastructure for applied research, especially outside the Munich conurbation. Knowledge must increasingly be transferred from research into marketable products. SMEs have size-related disadvantages in this process, which are to be compensated for by promoting efficient knowledge and technology transfer. SMEs are too rarely in a position to build up their own research capacities and thus knowledge "in-house". Research institutions and technology transfer give SMEs access to innovation capacities, knowledge and know-how.
Target groups	Bavarian enterprises



Expected impact	Securing Bavaria's leading position in the competition for innovation leadership in Germany and Europe in the long term.
Budget	€ 495 M (2014-2020)
Granting authority	Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology
Categories of calls	Research and development

Name **BAYERN DIGITAL**

Link <https://www.bayern.de/bericht-aus-der-kabinettsitzung-vom-2-april-2019/?seite=1617>

Level Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Bavaria

Main aim Note: Strategy of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy
The aim is to secure jobs and sustainable prosperity for the Free State of Bavaria and make Bavaria the leading region for the digital revolution.

Target groups Bavarian companies which would like to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitisation

- Expected impact**
- Bavaria should become a leading location for artificial intelligence,
 - Bavaria becomes a top location for additive manufacturing (3D printing),
 - Bavaria makes targeted use of block chain technology,
 - Bavarian schools go digital,
 - Bavaria promotes data-based medicine,
 - Bavaria pushes the digital administration,
 - Bavaria is the safest state - also in cyberspace,
 - Bavaria invests in digital patrol cars,
 - Bavaria's justice system goes digital.

Budget € 6 B

Granting authority Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy

Categories of calls N/A

Name **Digitalbonus**

Link <https://www.digitalbonus.bayern/>

Level Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Bavaria

Main aim The digital bonus as a simple, fast and low-bureaucratic support helps small and medium-sized enterprises to digitally transform their products, processes and services while improving their IT security.

Target groups Bavarian SMEs

Expected impact Maintaining the competitiveness of SMEs and exploiting growth potential



Budget	Varies from year to year depending on the government's available budget (it was € 101 M in the period 2016-2018)
Granting authority	The Bavarian district governments have been commissioned by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs to manage the digital bonus program.
Categories of calls	Investment, research and development, demonstration

Name	BayTP+
Link	true">https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayVV_7071_W_10425>true
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Bavaria
Main aim	Support is intended to enable firms to develop technologically new products and processes and to facilitate the application of modern technologies in products and production. The development, accelerated introduction and dissemination of modern technologies in the economy and society are necessary to maintain the competitiveness of the economy in the face of rapid technological change and thereby ensure adequate economic growth and a high level of employment. The funding is intended to contribute to the further development of a modern economic structure in Bavaria.
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	Economic growth through innovation; competitiveness of Bavarian SMEs
Budget	Varies from year to year depending on the government's available budget
Granting authority	Bayern Innovativ Gesellschaft für Innovation und Wissenstransfer mbH On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy
Categories of calls	Investment, research and development, demonstration

Name	BayTOU
Link	true">https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayVV_7071_W_10501>true
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Bavaria
Main aim	With the program for the promotion of technology-oriented start-ups, the Bavarian State Government supports company founders and young technology companies in the development of new products, processes and technical services as well as in the development of a business concept. The aim of the support is to encourage the establishment of companies in promising technology areas and thus contribute to the creation of highly qualified jobs and to strengthening the competitiveness of the Bavarian economy.
Target groups	Start-ups, SMEs
Expected impact	Economic growth through innovation; competitiveness of Bavarian SMEs
Budget	Varies from year to year depending on the government's available budget
Granting authority	Bayern Innovativ Gesellschaft für Innovation und Wissenstransfer mbH On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy



Categories of calls Investment, research and development, demonstration

Name Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM)

Link <https://www.zim.de/ZIM/Navigation/DE/Home/home.html>

Level National

Main aim The "Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM)" aims to strengthen the innovative power and thus the competitiveness of SMEs, including the skilled trades and entrepreneurially active liberal professions, in the long term. It aims to contribute to economic growth, in particular by tapping value-added potential and raising the level of application-oriented knowledge.

Target groups SMEs as well as cooperating research institutions and innovation networks.

Expected impact Sustainable innovative strength and competitiveness of companies

Budget € 559 M in 2019

Granting authority On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy: Euronorm GmbH, AiF Projekt GmbH, VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH

Categories of calls Research and development

Name Go-digital

Link <https://www.innovation-beratung-foerderung.de/INNO/Navigation/DE/go-digital/go-digital.html>

Level National

Main aim The go-digital funding programme supports SMEs and handcraft enterprises that want to optimise their business processes with the help of digital solutions - service and customer-oriented, efficient and secure.

Target groups SMEs

Expected impact Optimization of processes and development of additional market shares through digitalization; competitiveness of Bavarian SMEs

Budget Varies from year to year depending on the government's available budget

Granting authority Euronorm GmbH - On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy

Categories of calls Training and advice

Name Go-Inno

Link <https://www.innovation-beratung-foerderung.de/INNO/Navigation/DE/go-Inno/go-inno.html>

Level National



Name	Go-Inno
Main aim	The aim of the program is to increase the innovative strength and competitiveness of the enterprises receiving advice and thus to make an effective contribution to maintaining and, where appropriate, creating jobs. The funding is intended to help enterprises to reduce the technical and economic risk associated with product and technical process innovations and to create or improve the internal conditions for the successful implementation of innovation projects within the enterprise.
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	Economic growth through innovation; competitiveness of Bavarian SMEs
Budget	Varies from year to year depending on the government's available budget
Granting authority	Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy
Categories of calls	Training and advice

Italy

Name	4.0 Transition
Link	https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/transizione40
Level	National
Main aim	Support the transformation of Italian enterprises towards I4.0 providing greater competitiveness, tending to reward those who invest the most in sustainable innovation, research, development and training.
Target groups	Italian enterprises
Expected impact	Widening of the audience of the enterprises that will benefit from the measure (+40%)
Budget	€ 7 B (for the three measures: Tax credit for investments in new capital goods; R&D&I tax credit; 4.0 training tax credit)
Granting authority	Ministry of Economic Development, Directorate-General for Industrial Policy, Innovation and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises General Manager: Avv. FIORENTINO Mario Via Molise, 2 00187 Roma, Italy (+39) 06 4705 2867; (+39) 06 4705 2013 E-mail dgpicpmi.segreteria@mise.gov.it ; Pec dgpicpmi.dg@pec.mise.gov.it
Categories of calls	R&D, Investments, Training

Name	Tax credit for investments in new capital goods (formerly: iper ammortamento)
Link	https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/incentivi/impresa/credito-d-imposta-benistrumentali



Name	Tax credit for investments in new capital goods (formerly: iper ammortamento)
Level	National
Main aim	Support and stimulate companies that invest in new, tangible and intangible capital goods, functional to the technological and digital transformation of production processes destined to production structures located in Italy.
Target groups	All enterprises resident in the territory of the State, including permanent organizations of non-resident subjects, regardless of the legal nature, the economic sector to which they belong, the size, the accounting regime and the system for determining income for tax purposes.
Expected impact	Widening of the audience of the enterprises that will benefit from the measure (+40%)
Budget	€ 7 B (for the three measures: Tax credit for investments in new capital goods; R&D&I tax credit; 4.0 training tax credit)
Granting authority	Ministry of Economic Development, Directorate-General for Industrial Policy, Innovation and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises General Manager: Avv. FIORENTINO Mario Via Molise, 2 00187 Roma, Italy (+39) 06 4705 2867; (+39) 06 4705 2013 E-mail dgpipmi.segreteria@mise.gov.it; Pec dgpipmi.dg@pec.mise.gov.it
Categories of calls	The program does not provide calls as the measure is automatic.

Name	R&D&I tax credit (formerly: R&D tax credit)
Link	https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/incentivi/impresa/credito-d-imposta-r-s
Level	National
Main aim	Boost private spending on Research, Development and Technological Innovation to support the competitiveness of companies and to encourage their digital transition processes especially towards circular economy and environmental sustainability.
Target groups	All enterprises resident in the territory of the State, including permanent organizations of non-resident subjects, regardless of the legal nature, the economic sector to which they belong, the size, the accounting regime and the system for determining income for tax purposes.
Expected impact	Widening of the audience of the enterprises that will benefit from the measure (+40%)
Budget	€ 7 B (for the three measures: Tax credit for investments in new capital goods; R&D&I tax credit; 4.0 training tax credit)
Granting authority	Ministry of Economic Development, Directorate-General for Industrial Policy, Innovation and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises General Manager: Avv. FIORENTINO Mario Via Molise, 2 00187 Roma, Italy (+39) 06 4705 2867; (+39) 06 4705 2013 E-mail dgpipmi.segreteria@mise.gov.it; Pec dgpipmi.dg@pec.mise.gov.it
Categories of calls	The program does not provide calls as the measure is automatic.



Name	4.0 training tax credit
Link	https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/incentivi/impresa/credito-d-imposta-formazione
Level	National
Main aim	Boost business investment in staff training on relevant subjects relating to technologies for the technological and digital transformation of the enterprises.
Target groups	All enterprises resident in the territory of the State, including permanent organizations of non-resident subjects, regardless of the legal nature, the economic sector to which they belong, the size, the accounting regime and the system for determining income for tax purposes.
Expected impact	Widening of the audience of the enterprises that will benefit from the measure (+40%)
Budget	€ 7 B (for the three measures: Tax credit for investments in new capital goods; R&D&I tax credit; 4.0 training tax credit)
Granting authority	Ministry of Economic Development Directorate-General for Industrial Policy, Innovation and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises General Manager: Avv. FIORENTINO Mario Via Molise, 2 00187 Roma, Italy (+39) 06 4705 2867; (+39) 06 4705 2013 E-mail dgpicpmi.segreteria@mise.gov.it ; Pec dgpicpmi.dg@pec.mise.gov.it
Categories of calls	The program does not provide calls as the measure is automatic.

Name	Voucher Innovation Manager
Link	https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/incentivi/impresa/voucher-consulenza-innovazione
Level	National
Main aim	Support the technological and digital transformation of SMEs introducing managers able to implement the enabling technologies foreseen by the National Plan I4.0.
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	Improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem by the uptaking of I4.0 technologies.
Budget	€ 50 M (grants)
Granting authority	MISE (Ministry of Economic Development) Dott.ssa Alessandra De Angelis alessandra.deangelis@mise.gov.it
Categories of calls	Consultancy



Name	COMPETENCE CENTER I4.0 - CIM4.0 (Torino) - PMTI 4.0 - Technology maturity projects on industry 4.0
Link	https://cim40.com/bandi/pmti40/
Level	National
Main aim	Support demonstration activities to develop solutions/products/ processes in I4.0 starting from TRL 6 and reaching TRL 8 at the end of the project.
Target groups	SMEs, start-ups
Expected impact	The expected impact is the improvement of industrial know how and value chains. Improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem by the uptaking of I4.0 technologies.
Budget	€ 0.4 M
Granting authority	Cascading grants managed by the Competence Centre with MISE (Ministry of Economic Development) funds.
Categories of calls	Demonstration
Name	COMPETENCE CENTER I4.0 - CIM4.0 (Torino) - PRIA 4.0 - Applied Research projects on industry 4.0
Link	N/A
Level	National
Main aim	Optimization of production processes, product improvement & innovation, innovation of business models and organization, to improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem.
Target groups	SMEs, large enterprises with SMEs, start-ups
Expected impact	Improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem by the uptaking of I4.0 technologies.
Budget	€ 3.04 M
Granting authority	Cascading grants managed by the Competence Centre with MISE (Ministry of Economic Development) funds.
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration
Name	COMPETENCE CENTER I4.0 - MADE4.0 (Milano) - Progetti di innovazione, ricerca industriale e sviluppo sperimentale
Link	https://www.made-cc.eu/bandi
Level	National
Main aim	Projects regarding innovation (product, process and organization), applied research in I4.0.
Target groups	SMEs, start-ups, large enterprises in collaboration with SMEs



Name COMPETENCE CENTER I4.0 - MADE4.0 (Milano) - Progetti di innovazione, ricerca industriale e sviluppo sperimentale

Expected impact Improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem by the uptaking of I4.0 technologies.

Budget € 5 M

Granting authority Cascading grants managed by the Competence Centre with MISE (Ministry of Economic Development) funds.

Categories of calls Research & Development

Name COMPETENCE CENTER I4.0 - START4.0 (Genova) - Progetti di ricerca industriale e sviluppo sperimentale basati sulle tecnologie abilitanti I4.0

Link <https://www.start4-0.it/bandi-scaduti/>

Level National

Main aim Projects regarding innovation (product, process and organization), applied research in I4.0.

Target groups SMEs, large enterprises in collaboration with SMEs

Expected impact Improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem by the uptaking of I4.0 technologies.

Budget € 1.6 M

Granting authority Cascading grants managed by the Competence Center with MISE (Ministry of Economic Development) funds.

Categories of calls Research & Development

Name COMPETENCE CENTER I4.0 - BIREX4.0 (Bologna) - Progetti di innovazione tecnologica

Link <https://bi-rer.it/progetti-innovativi/#bandi>

Level National

Main aim R&D and innovation projects for testing, prototyping and adoption of technology and organizational solutions based on I4.0 enabling technologies with the use of Big Data.

Target groups SMEs, Large Enterprises, RTOs

Expected impact Improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem by the uptaking of I4.0 technologies.

Budget € 3.2 +1.2 M (2 Calls)

Granting authority Cascading grants managed by the Competence Centre with MISE (Ministry of Economic Development) funds.

Categories of calls Research & Development, demonstration



Name	COMPETENCE CENTER I4.0 - SMACT (Venezia) - PIRISS - Progetti di Innovazione, Ricerca Industriale e Sviluppo Sperimentale
Link	https://www.smact.cc/progetti-di-innovazione
Level	National
Main aim	R&D and innovation projects leveraging on the SMACT technologies portfolio (Social networks, Mobile Platforms & Apps, Advanced Analytics and Big Data, Cloud computing, Internet of Things) to improve products, production processes, business models and organizations.
Target groups	SMEs, Large Enterprises in collaboration with SMEs
Expected impact	Improve the competitiveness of the whole Italian industrial ecosystem by the uptaking of I4.0 technologies.
Budget	€ 1.8 M
Granting authority	Cascading grants managed by the Competence Centre with MISE (Ministry of Economic Development) funds.
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration
Name	Subsidies in the form of tax credit for companies operating on the FVG regional territory
Link	https://www.regione.fvg.it/rafvfg/cms/RAFVFG/economia-imprese/industria/FOGLIA13/
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Friuli Venezia Giulia
Main aim	Supporting investments in research and development, cyber security, big data and digital skills development and for business mergers and acquisitions through a measure in the form of tax credit to offset taxes, social security and welfare contributions, and insurance premiums.
Target groups	The companies that have their registered office or at least an operating unit active in the Friuli Venezia Giulia territory can benefit from the measure.
Expected impact	N/A
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Friuli Venezia Giulia Region Directorate for Productive activities TRIESTE - via Trento 2 Antonio Bravo, Deputy Central Director tel. 040 3772496 mail: antonio.bravo@regione.fvg.it; pec: economy@certregione.it
Categories of calls	Research & Development, investments



Name	Progetti collaborativi di ricerca e innovazione realizzati dalle imprese associate ai Poli di Innovazione - Linea A Collaborative research and innovation projects carried out by companies associated with the Innovation Clusters - Part A
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/poli-di-innovazione-agenda-strategica-linea-a
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Facilitate the implementation of research and development projects, also in a cooperative way, between companies associated with the Innovation Clusters
Target groups	SMEs; Large Enterprises in collaboration with SMEs RTOs and/or Innovative SMEs in subcontracting (minimum 20% of project budget)
Expected impact	Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory. Improvement of collaboration among firms and RTOs, increase of Innovative SMEs.
Budget	€ 35 M (grants)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration

Name	Progetti collaborativi di ricerca e innovazione realizzati dalle imprese mai associate ai Poli di Innovazione - Linea B Collaborative research and innovation projects carried out by companies never being associated with the Innovation Clusters - Part B
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/poli-di-innovazione-agenda-strategica-ricerca-linea-b
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Facilitate the implementation of research and development projects, also in a cooperative way, between companies not associated with the Innovation Clusters
Target groups	SMEs, large enterprises and end-users RTOs and/or innovative SMEs in subcontracting (minimum 20% of project budget)
Expected impact	Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory. Improvement of collaboration among firms and RTOs, increase of Innovative SMEs.
Budget	€ 15 M (grants)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration

Name	PRISM-E
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/por-fesr-14-20-prism-e



Name	PRISM-E
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	The measure intends to promote investments in research and innovation activities (including the acquisition of qualified personnel services in support of research and innovation) carried out by associated companies or which intend to join the Innovation Clusters of Innovation. Research and innovation activities can be integrated with training achievable within the framework of the training and research apprenticeship contract and in the apprenticeship for graduation from upper secondary education.
Target groups	SMEs, large enterprises in collaboration with SMEs. RTOs in subcontracting (minimum 20% of the project budget)
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory, ▪ Improvement of collaboration among firms and RTOs, ▪ Education, training & hiring.
Budget	€ 65 M (grants + loans)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration, education, training & hiring

Name	PASS
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/por-fesr-14-20-poli-innovazione-bando-pass
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Support the realization of technical feasibility studies and of industrial research and development projects, including the collaborative ones, as well as the acquisition of innovative services by Piedmontese companies already associated with the Innovation Clusters or that intend to join.
Target groups	SMEs, large enterprises in collaboration with SMEs
Expected impact	Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory.
Budget	€ 6.5 M (grants)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development. demonstration, advice (services for innovation)

Name	IR2 - Industrialization of research results
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/por-fesr-14-20-Industrializzazione-risultati-ricerca



Name	IR2 - Industrialization of research results
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Promote business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between businesses, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular investment in the development of products and services, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, applications in public services, stimulation of demand, networks, clusters and open innovation through intelligent specialization, as well as supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production especially of key enabling technologies and the diffusion of technologies.
Target groups	Large enterprises, SMEs
Expected impact	Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory. Education, training & hiring.
Budget	83,637 M€ (grants)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration, education, training & hiring

Name	PITEF - Value chain technology platforms
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/piattaforme-tecnologiche-di-filiera
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Support projects of collaboration between companies and their supply chain partners, able to reorganize the supply chains of design and production or to reconfigure business processes within dynamic and integrated value chains concepts
Target groups	SMEs and large enterprises, RTOs
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory, ■ Supporting the creation of new value chains, and the re-industrialisation of traditional industrial sectors, ■ Education, training & hiring.
Budget	16,063 M € (grants)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration, education, training & hiring



Name	V- IR - Vouchers for research infrastructures
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/v-ir-voucher-acquisizione-servizi-per-ricerca-innovazione
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Encouraging the matching of research and innovation offer and request by promoting access to public and private research infrastructures capable of providing research and technology transfer services to SMEs.
Target groups	SMEs
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of collaboration among SMEs and RTOs, Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory.
Budget	€ 10 M (grants)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration, advice

Name	Piattaforma Tecnologica Fabbrica Intelligente (4.0 FOCUS 100%) Smart Factory Technology Platform
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/fabbrica-intelligente
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting industrial research and innovation in the technologies that enable the factory intelligent of the future encouraging the collaboration between companies and the research system, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and skills between industry, and between industry and research organizations, encouraging the creation of aggregations, facilitating the creation of positive effects on the territory in terms of impact on employment and on the competitiveness of the Piedmontese productive system, encouraging the training of new industrial researchers in the field of the intelligent factory, through the experimentation of High Apprenticeship projects for higher education and research.
Target groups	SMEs and Large Enterprises, RTOs
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory, Education, training & hiring.
Budget	€ 39.2 M (grants)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)



Name	Piattaforma Tecnologica Fabbrica Intelligente (4.0 FOCUS 100%) Smart Factory Technology Platform
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration, education, training & hiring
Name	Efficienza energetica ed energia rinnovabile nelle imprese Energy efficiency and renewable energy in the industry
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/por-fesr-14-20-efficienza-energetica-energia-rinnovabile-nelle-imprese
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvement of the energy efficiency ▪ Reduction of the energy consumption and emissions ▪ Integration with renewable sources
Target groups	SMEs and Large Enterprises
Expected impact	Improvement of energy efficiency also through the use of energy from renewable sources. Improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory.
Budget	€ 95.806 M (grants + loans)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration
Name	Sostegno agli investimenti per lo sviluppo delle imprese e per l'ammodernamento e innovazione dei processi produttivi (Support to Investment for business development and for the modernization and innovation of production processes)
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/investimenti-sviluppo-imprese
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Support investments and the access to credit for SMEs and large companies Piedmontese aimed at carrying out investment, development and consolidation projects
Target groups	SMEs and large enterprises
Expected impact	Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory
Budget	€ 80.07 M (grants + loans)
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Investment



Name	MANUNET (ERANET Programme)
Link	https://www.finpiemonte.it/bandi/dettaglio-bando/por-fesr-14-20-manUNET2019
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3): Piedmont
Main aim	Support the industrial research and the experimental development in the manufacturing sector
Target groups	SMEs and research organisations
Expected impact	Reinforcement of the competences of the Beneficiaries, improvement of the competitiveness of the Beneficiaries and of the territory.
Budget	€ 8 M (grants) - € 2 M for each yearly call from 2016 to 2019
Granting authority	Finpiemonte (Fabrizio Gramaglia -fabrizio.gramaglia@finpiemonte.it, Filippo Marzucchi - filippo.marzucchi@finpiemonte.it)
Categories of calls	Research & Development, demonstration

Poland

Name	Minister's Program for 2019-2021 "Industry 4.0."
Link	https://www.gov.pl/attachment/dc515808-5706-48d9-a8c7-228d6a9ffea4
Level	National
Main aim	The goal of the program is to select, develop and supplement the potential of centres that have the ability to act as Digital Innovation Hubs, develop good practices and standardize their services, and support entrepreneurs in the field of product, service and organizational transformation using the most modern technological solutions, such as: communication in 5G technology, learning algorithms (Artificial Intelligence), including autonomous systems, Internet of Things (IoT), BIM (Building Information Modelling), cloud computing, quantum technologies (Quantum Computing), augmented and virtual reality (AR and VR), automation and robotics (Computer Integrated Manufacturing), cyber security, additive manufacturing (3D printing) and microelectronics.
Target groups	Enterprises, Business Support Organisations, innovation clusters, social and economic partners
Expected impact	Increased awareness among SMEs about the advantages of I4.0 solutions. Increased knowledge, skills and competencies in I4.0 areas among employees.
Budget	30 M PLN
Granting authority	Ministry of Development Pl. Trzech Krzyży 3/5, 00-507 Warszawa, Poland
Categories of calls	Training and advice, investment, research and development, demonstration "Standardization of Digital Innovation Hub services to support the digital transformation of enterprises" (released in 2019)



Name	Foundation: Industry of the Future Platform (Platforma Przemysłu Przyszłości)
Link	https://przemyslprzyszlosci.gov.pl/ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/dem/monitor/sites/default/files/DTM_Poland%20_vf.pdf
Level	National
Main aim	FPPP is the result of the implementation of the Polish Industry Platform 4.0 project, included in the Strategy for Responsible Development. The purpose of the Platform is to act to increase the competitiveness of entrepreneurs by supporting their digital transformation in the field of processes, products and business models, using the latest achievements in the field of automation, artificial intelligence, ICT and communication between machines and human and machines with an appropriate level of security of these solutions. The platform provides non-financial support in the form of: training, consultancy, projects integrating entrepreneurs in the area of digital transformation
Target groups	Enterprises, business support organisations, innovation clusters, social and economic partners
Expected impact	The Platform aims to create critical mass for an effective implementation of the digital transformation strategy.
Budget	N/A
Granting authority	Ministry of Development Pl. Trzech Krzyży 3/5, 00-507 Warszawa, Poland
Categories of calls	Training and advice
Name	Operational Program “Smart Growth”
Link	www.poir.gov.pl
Level	National
Main aim	Strengthening the innovation potential of Polish economy through, among others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support of SMEs and research institutions in innovative growth through research and development projects, equity funding of start-ups and scale-ups ■ Support of SMEs in internationalisation ■ Support of enterprises and research institutions in R&D infrastructure
Target groups	Enterprises, research institutions, academic institutions, Business Support Organisations, clusters, social and economic partners
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved cooperation between enterprises and research institutions ■ Commercialisation of research and development projects ■ Improved innovation potential in enterprises
Budget	€ 12.86 B
Granting authority	Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy Polish Development Fund Group, including: National Centre for Research and Development, Polish Agency for Entrepreneurship Development, Industrial Development Agency
Categories of calls	Training and advice, investment, research and development, demonstration



Name	Operational Program Knowledge Education Development
Link	www.power.gov.pl
Level	National
Main aim	The program contains the following measures to support I4.0 related skill development: Support for strategic management of enterprises and building competitive advantage on the market, improvement of management, development of human capital and support for innovative processes in enterprises.
Target groups	Enterprises and their employees
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adaptation of the workforce to new trends in economy and enterprise requirements, ▪ Improved cooperation between vocational schools, universities and enterprises in youth skill development, ▪ Improved knowledge at enterprise management level to take strategic and operational decisions in innovation and digital transformation.
Budget	€ 5.46 B
Granting authority	Polish Agency for Entrepreneurship Development
Categories of calls	Training and advice
Name	Regional Operational Programme in 16 regions
Link	General entrance to all programmes: https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/wszystkie-serwisy-programow/
Level	Regional (NUTS 2 or 3)
Main aim	From the economy point of view: strengthening competitiveness and innovation of the regional economy through support of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ research and development projects, ▪ innovation oriented investment projects, ▪ training and advice, ▪ internationalisation.
Target groups	SMEs, research institutions, Business Support Organisations
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved take-up of research and development in SMEs, ▪ Strengthened innovation capacities in SMEs, ▪ Improved competitiveness of SMEs on national and international markets, ▪ Adaptation of the workforce to new trends in economy and enterprise requirements.
Budget	All Regional Operational Programmes: € 38.49 B
Granting authority	Regional self-governments and selected implementing bodies
Categories of calls	Training and advice, investment, research and development, demonstration



Recommendations for effective Boost4BSO deployment

National and regional governments as well as the European Commission have initiated programmes and specific financial measures to support I4.0 uptake by SMEs. Many initiatives have been launched between 2015 and 2017, of which most of them were financed through European funds, but also regional and national funds, in line with the 2014-2020 perspective and operational programmes under the Cohesion Policy. Among the presented support measures, one can find tax reduction measures, investment support, research and development support, as well as for instance vouchers for specialised services.

Governments initiated cooperation platforms to promote networking among key-actors in the national and regional I4.0 ecosystem. Under call for proposals a number of Digital Innovation Hubs were selected to play an important role in awareness raising, in delivering training and advice and preparing road maps for digital transformation. These hubs are often represented by an individual or coordinated action of academic institutions, research institutions, innovation agencies, clusters and specialised business support organisations. They follow a technological approach, cooperate with SMEs in testing new solutions and are partners in joint research and development projects. **Business support organisations, as the ones involved in this Boost4BSO consortium, are supporting SMEs in business model transformation with a specific focus on applying a wide range of technologies in the servitisation of their product portfolio.**

Taking into account the ERDF support for smart specialisation in the 2021-2027 perspective with specific focus on digitalisation and industrial transition, and considering that business support organisations are supporting SMEs in business model transformation, it is recommended to **closely follow-up the actions of the European Commission concerning the creation of a European network of digital innovation hubs** (almost similar to the Enterprise Europe Network) that will include hubs that are recommended by the national/regional governments and that will provide a set of support services for SMEs. **These DIHs could be addressed by the Boost4BSO consortium in the second part of the project.**

At the same time, it is worth following the discussions ongoing in the Boost4BSO targeted countries for **the set of financial measures currently being considered for the years to come**. The overview of programmes and financial measures shows that **it is necessary to maintain a mixed approach of tax relieves, funding for training and advice and funding for investments**. Insights in the financial incentives in the specific countries give BSOs the opportunity to show that after the training, visioning, testing and planning, there are concrete possibilities for the companies to co-finance the implementation of the I4.0 change process and to diminish the financial risk of the whole operation. However, one should not forget that although the financial means theoretically are at reach, **the most difficult step is that of convincing the board of directors / SME owners to consider starting the discussion on digital transformation**. Practice still shows that, although the fourth industrial revolution is entering its ninth year, for many enterprises it still is a huge step to question the current status-quo and to consider leaving the comfort zone. The toolbox prepared under the Boost4BSO should help BSOs to overcome these hurdles at the beginning of the process.