

PRIORITY AXIS 1 "BLUE INNOVATION"

Investment priority 1b: Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies.

Specific objective 1.1: Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area.

Expected result: to improve the performance of the Programme area in the field of innovation by establishing and developing mechanisms which contribute to a better exploitation of the existing potential.

Result indicator 1.1: Number of EPO applications.

Types of actions:

- Joint projects and actions aimed at creating platforms, networks and at supporting exchange of good practices in order to enhance the knowledge transfer and capitalization of achieved results in the field of blue economy;
- Actions aimed at cluster cooperation, joint pilot initiatives in order to boost the creation of marketable innovative processes and products, in the field of blue economy.

Output indicators:

CO01 – Number of enterprises receiving support;
CO02 – Number of enterprises receiving grants;
CO04 – Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support;
CO42 - Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects;
CO44 – Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training.

Examples of Actions

- Joint development of cross-border supply chains by investing in research and innovation;
- Establishment of cross-border clusters in complementary areas of smart specialization;
- Joint development of links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres, education and the public sector, which shall facilitate the transfer of knowledge between them, shall disseminate the results of previous initiatives in the field of R&D, and shall facilitate the development of new initiatives in this field;
- Joint development of human capital, increasing skills regarding novel technologies (e.g. eco-innovation, low-carbon technologies, ICT, key enabling technologies, etc.), common development of innovative products, services or processes particularly for SMEs;
- Joint design / testing of innovative processes in the relevant sectors of the blue economy including aquaculture and sustainable fisheries with special reference to species, management techniques and breeding, fish welfare and disease control, seafood processing also to reduce the environmental impact of these activities;
- Joint development and piloting of eco-innovative tools and processes in the blue economy relevant sectors;
- Joint development and piloting of social innovation actions in the blue economy relevant sectors including awareness rising actions (i.e. e-health, education, digital divide, start up, labour market change, intellectual property rights);
- Joint actions aimed at improving the access to financing for R&D activities through trainings, information, awareness raising campaigns related to different opportunities.

Target Groups:

- general public;
- local, regional and national public authorities;
- regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organisations;
- SMEs;
- universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions;
- centers of R&D excellence;
- NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks;
- education and training organisations as well as social partners and labor-market institutions.