



# Firms support scheme for Research and Development in the Health sector

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## **Regional policies for research and innovation**

### **Key objectives**

- **Connecting clusters with scientific knowledge**
- **Stimulating the growth of emerging sectors**
- **Reinforcing the knowledge community**



## **The relevance of the health cluster in the regional economy**

- **Multisector/Multidisciplinary cluster**
- **Complex stakeholders relationships**
- **Several highly specialised and sophisticated products/services/technologies**
- **Response to basic needs for quality of life**
- **Pervasive technological impact**



## Individuation of industrial research and technology transfer fields

	Mechanical and Engineering Clusters	Multimedia	Construction	Food	Traditional clusters	Energy, Environment	Health	Management, labour, organisation
Microelectronics	X						X	
Sensoristics, Optoelectronics	X						X	
Nanotechnologies	X		X	X				
Advanced materials	X		X				X	
Advanced engineering	X						X	
Informatics, Software	X	X		X		X	X	
Industrial chemistry	X		X		X	X		
Chemistry			X		X	X	X	
Biotechnologies				X		X	X	
Food technologies				X				
<i>Humanistic and Social Sciences</i>		X			X			X



## The Health Cluster in Emilia-Romagna

- Biomedical equipments **94** Research Units
- Artificial organs **1,100** Researchers
- Ortopedic prothesis
- Software
- Pharmaceuticals and biotech

**13,151** employees in health industries

**2,381** employees in specialised trade activities

**32,104** employees in private health services

**65,056** employees in public health services

**21,841** employees in the no profit sector

**133,840** in total (7% of total employment)





## **The first experience with the RPIA**

**Joint projects of SMEs, together with research centres and health units**

**R&D Projects**

**ICT Projects**





## The results of the application of the RPIA scheme

### Industrial Research and Development

**12** projects

**27** SMEs

**18** research centers

**12** health units





## The results of the application of the RPIA scheme

### ICT for health projects

**19** projects involving:

**49** SMEs

**11** research centers

**20** health units







## **From PRAI experience to a new regional scheme for R&D**

### **Industrial Research and Development projects including:**

- Activation of contracts with research centres**
- Employment of young graduates in technological fields**
- Use of external laboratories**
- Patents registration**





## General results

**Out of 529 projects approved, 112 have been already finished:**

- **212 new young graduates in scientific fields, of which 50% with long term contracts**
- **131 contracts with Universities and research centres**
- **58 patents registered, ...**





## Results in the health sector

**Out of 36 projects approved, 7 have been already finished:**

- **13 new young graduates in scientific fields, of which 6 with long term contracts**
- **8 contracts with Universities and research centres**
- **4 patents registered, ....**





## **General considerations**

**The PRAI experience was essential to define the regional strategy for Research and Technology Transfer**

**The health cluster implies the construction of multiactor, multisector, multidisciplinary linkages and collaborations**

**Regional policies obtained a relevant network effect**



## Lessons

From a research program we can expect not only:

- good quality of research
- good management of the program
- good technology transfer and spin-off initiatives

but also:

- activation of connections among the business sector, research centres and the other stakeholders;
- generation of new ideas/projects;
- activation of further initiatives and collaborations among actors;
- a system of governance of the relationships



## Knowledge community - Cluster effect

Formal co-operation, linkages, exchanges and casual contacts can favour:

- easier generation of ideas for new research projects to develop;
- better chances for the industrial use of research;
- increasing chances of success, motivation, etc.



## The Regional Dimension of Research

The role of regions to achieve the Lisbon objectives is:

- to promote better territorial conditions for research diffusion and technology transfer, especially to SMEs
- to increase the productivity of research by generating cluster effects and external economies for knowledge diffusion and innovation



**Thank you!**

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