



ERDF ROP 2014-2020
Emilia-Romagna Region

Annual Implementation Report 2018
Summary for the Citizens

Emilia-Romagna ERDF Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020

Strategy and lines of action

The **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** is Europe's instrument for investing in the economic and social growth of territories through the implementation of the [cohesion policy](#). Using the ERDF, Europe allocates resources to EU Member States and Regions to support the development of regional production systems and to reduce disparities between regions.

The cohesion policy framework is established for a period of seven years. For the **2014-2020** programming period, the Emilia-Romagna Region has drawn up its own strategy for programming € **481.8 million** - consisting of European, national and regional resources - that represents an important opportunity for a new phase of development:

- **more inclusive**, because oriented at promoting a high employment rate that fosters social and territorial cohesion;
- **smarter and more dynamic**, because capable of developing an economy based on knowledge, creativity, and innovation;
- **more sustainable**, because promotes a more efficient, greener and more competitive economy.

The strategy of the ERDF Regional Operational Programme is based on:

- undertaking a **path of growth** focused on supporting investments in research and innovation, internationalisation and new enterprises;
- the major role of the **Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation (S3)**, connecting businesses and the regional production system with a broad network of know-how skills;
- **increasing the attractiveness of territories** starting from the urban centres and supporting the territorial cohesion of inland areas;
- the **sustainability of the growth process**, which should guide projects for introducing new technologies and green economy opportunities.

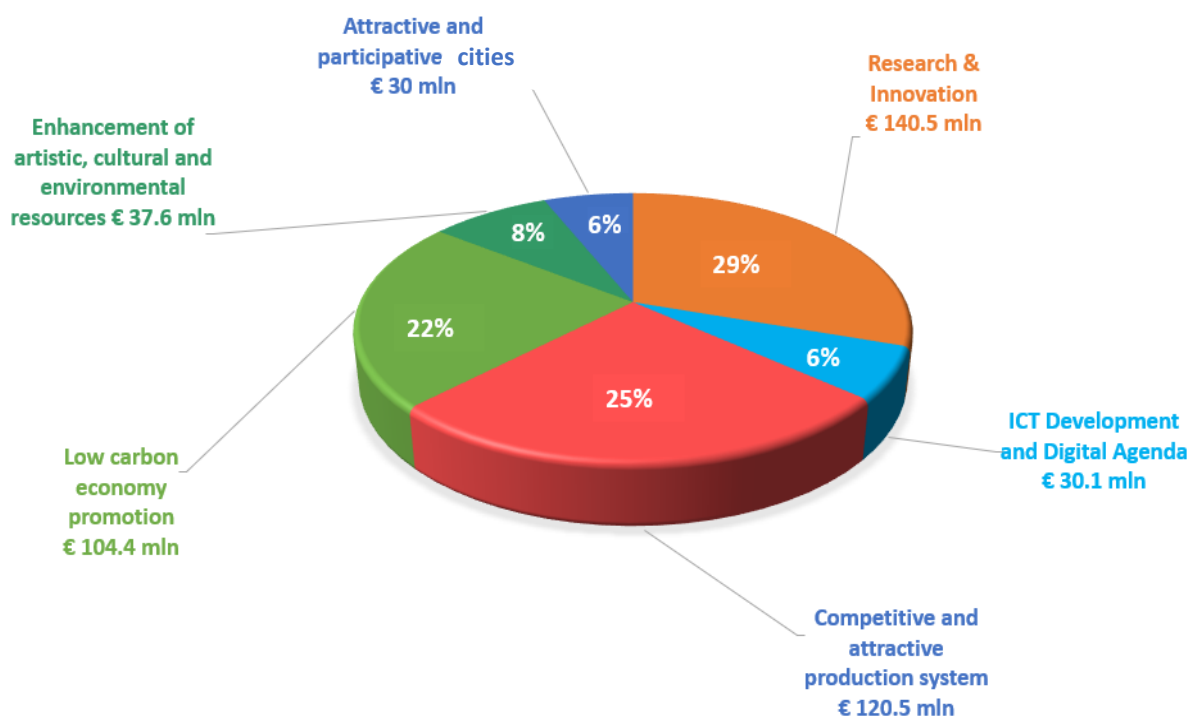
All these elements create solid foundation for an attractive and competitive regional system, with highly specialised productive clusters, good infrastructure, high levels of welfare, social inclusion and participation.

An important innovation is the adoption of an **integrated approach** in programming the **European Funds**, along with other instruments and resources, such as the European Commission's directly managed programmes and other regional programmes.

Objectives and resources

The Operational Programme is centred on **priority objectives**: most of the resources are committed to support investment activities in **research and innovation**, **competitiveness of the production system** and **environmental sustainability**. Among the lines of action, called

Priority Axes, are also the enhancement of artistic, cultural and environmental resources, actions for ICT and implementation of the Digital Agenda, the commitment to make cities more attractive and more participative.



Implementation of the Operational Programme

The management of the Programme and the achievement of the objectives is entrusted to the **Managing Authority**, a regional structure that elaborates the Programme and is responsible for its management and implementation.

The resources are managed with **administrative procedures** aimed at selecting the projects to be funded or at acquiring the services necessary for Programme management such as information systems and communication services.

In detail, these are:

- **Calls for proposals** inviting eligible potential beneficiaries to apply with projects that meet the established criteria;
- Procedures for **goods and services procurement** for the management of the Operational Programme.

To ensure **maximum participation** in the opportunities provided and **transparency on the results**, the procedures and the final **ranking lists** are published on the [ERDF ROP website](#). Those who have proposed eligible projects, the beneficiaries, implement the projects, submit a **report on the costs incurred** and request for **payment**. Before proceeding to reimburse the beneficiaries for the projects carried out, the Managing Authority carries out **control**

procedures to ensure that pre-established requirements, criteria and obligations are respected.

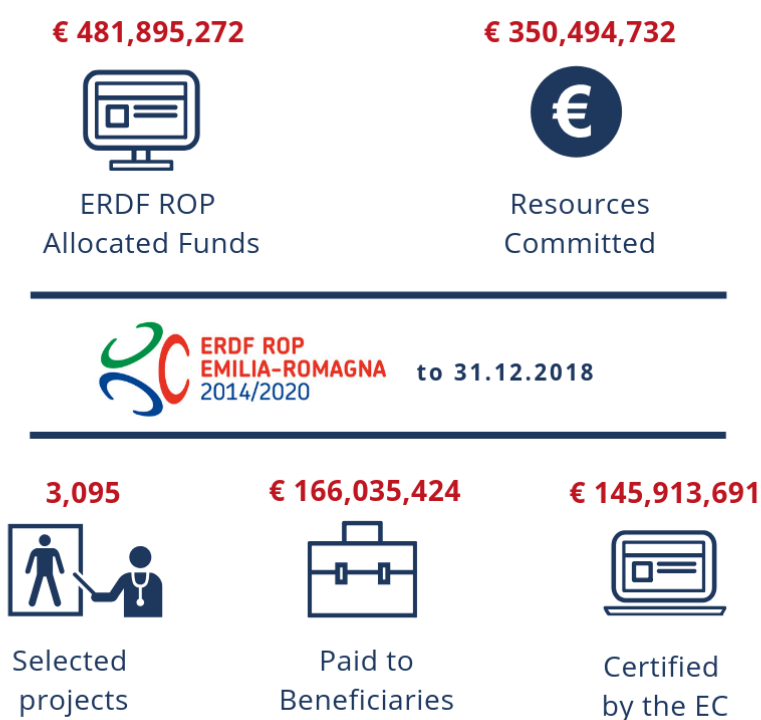
At the end, the **Certifying Authority** has the task - following additional controls - of sending the payment request to the European Commission thereby completing the costs procedure.

Part of the Programme resources is allocated to **financial instruments** to support companies' investments, such as the Regional Multipurpose Revolving Fund for new companies and green economy interventions at industrial level.

ERDF ROP Implementation Data to December 31, 2018

The resources already committed by ERDF ROP are equal to **73%** of the total financial endowment. **Emilia-Romagna** confirms itself as **one of the most efficient regions** in using EU Funds, emerging in a national scenario where the recurring topic of not sufficient use of European Funds prevails.

Progress of the Programme - updated December 31, 2018.



The effectiveness in using the resources is confirmed by achieving, at the end of 2018, both the agreed **target values** and the **performance indicators** of the Programme. This will allow the Emilia-Romagna Region to maintain the entire endowment and all the resources useful for implementation of the actions planned.

State of Implementation by Priority Axis

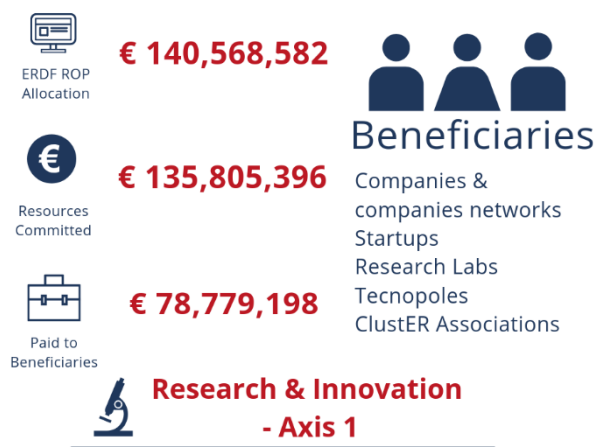
1. Research and Innovation

Over the last decade, the Region has invested significant regional, national and European resources to create an **efficient and dynamic regional innovation ecosystem**. With this Programme, we move from a system strategy to a strategy of **competitive strengthening**, oriented towards knowledge systems capable of **increasing the overall level of research and innovation**. The Region

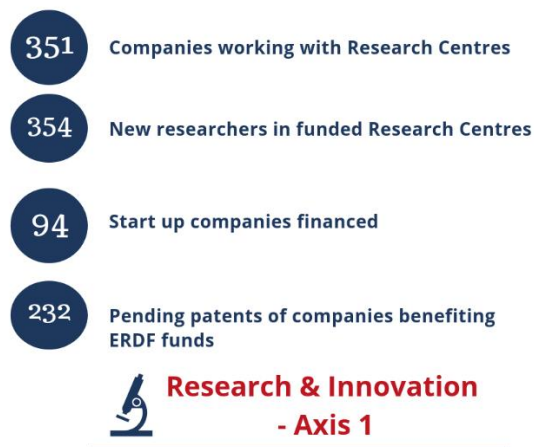
intends to: increase companies' ability to boost research activities, introduce **new solutions and products**, promote effective innovation, reinforce research activities of the **Emilia-Romagna High Technology Network**, increase support for **high-tech startups** and encourage industrial research laboratories and innovation centres to open to international opportunities and participation in European programmes.



Current state of progress



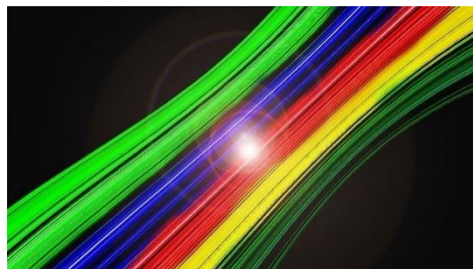
Performance indicators



[More information on Research and Innovation - Priority Axis 1](#)

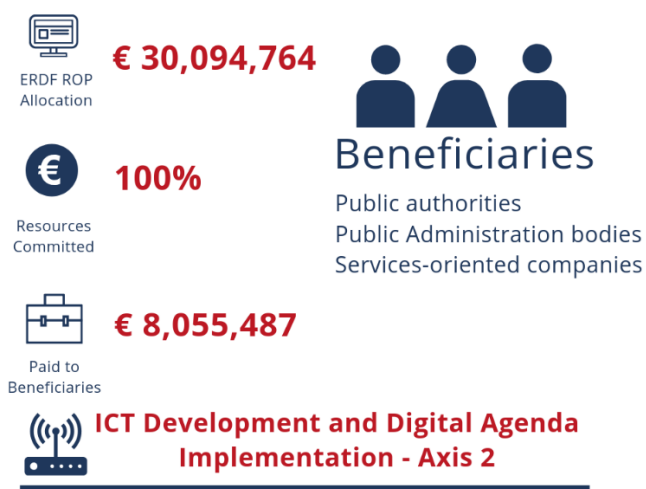
2. ICT Development and Digital Agenda Implementation

Information and communication technologies are key elements for the **structural change** of the entire productive system and the local territories. The goal is to pursue the ambitious objectives set out in the [European Digital Agenda](#), integrated into the [Italian Digital Agenda](#). The intervention includes the spread of

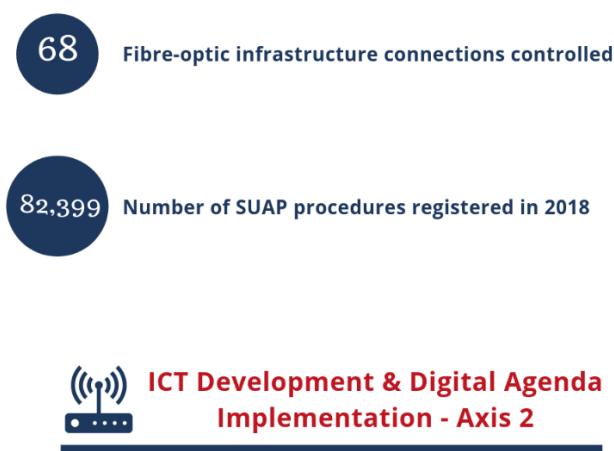


ultra broadband and advanced interoperable digital services. **Territorial infrastructures** allow for achieving objectives of **growth**, by improving companies productivity and PA efficiency, thus increasing the attractiveness of the production system. The actions concern: diffusion of **ultra broadband connectivity through optical fibre infrastructure** interventions in **161 disadvantaged productive areas** of the regional territory and unique access for companies to public administration services through the **SUAP Platform, a one-stop-shop for enterprises**.

Current state of progress



Performance indicators



[More information on ICT Development and Digital Agenda Implementation – Priority Axis 2](#)

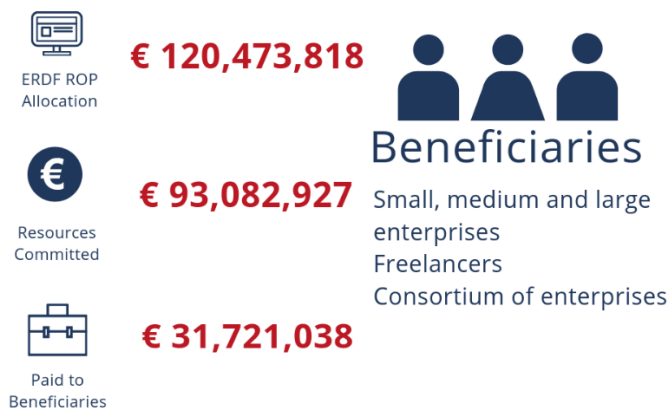
3. Competitive and Attractive Production System

The Region's growth is closely linked to **improving the international competitiveness** of the production system through innovation. The objective is to trigger an **innovative and attractive** process for investments and new initiatives for entrepreneurs and talents. To increase competitiveness and attractiveness, this Priority Axis focuses on supporting the **growth of productive investments**, on the **internationalisation** of companies and on **creating** new ones, particularly in sectors with important growth potential. Therefore, the Region is also promoting **direct incentives** and **financial instruments**, such as **Starter**, a revolving fund for new businesses, **Eureca Fund** and the **SME Guarantee Fund**, aimed at strengthening enterprises' credit guarantee.



To stimulate tourism flows, the Region intends to increase the **sustainable and innovative qualification** of the companies, improving facilities and services.

Current state of progress



**Competitive and attractive
production system - Axis 3**

Performance indicators



**Competitive and attractive
production system - Axis 3**

[More information on Competitive and attractive production system – Priority Axis 3](#)

4. Promotion of the Low Carbon Economy throughout the Region and in the Production System

In line with the new European policies on **climate change** and on **competitive, sustainable and safe energy**, the Region implements different measures for **energy efficiency** and development of **renewable sources**. The activities include the right ratio between the energy produced, its rational use and the environmental capacity of the local territory. These interventions are integrated with the **Regional Energy Plan** and the activities for sustainable mobility and air quality restoration.



The results to be pursued concern 20% **reduction of energy consumption** in the manufacturing processes of industrial companies and in **public buildings**. Using the financial instrument named **Energy Fund**, the goal is to **increase the production of renewable sources energy** by 20% in private companies and by 25% of energy for self-consumption needs.

To support sustainable mobility, targeted measures are planned for the **local public transport**, such as acquisition of vehicles with low environmental impact, digital services for better travel plans, electronic purchase of tickets on-board as well as introducing video-surveillance systems at public transport stops.

Current state of progress



ERDF ROP
Allocation

€ 104,379,054



Resources
Committed

€ 25,974,243



Paid to
Beneficiaries

€ 19,559,008



Beneficiaries

Public authorities and
State companies
Enterprises
Local public transport
companies



**Low carbon economy
promotion - Axis 4**

Performance indicators

262

Public buildings with improvements in the
Energy Performance Certification

80

Low-emission public transport vehicles

44.16

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
(equals to CO2 tons)



**Low carbon economy
promotion - Axis 4**

[More information on the Promotion of low carbon economy – Priority Axis 4](#)

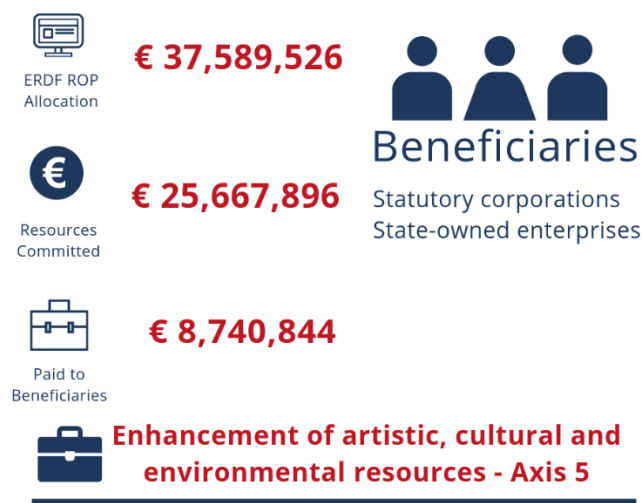
5. Enhancement of Artistic, Cultural and Environmental Resources

The territorial development is a key element identified by the Programme's strategy to contribute to strengthening the regional economic system.

The Emilia-Romagna Region promotes integrated **enhancement and requalification of cultural, artistic and environmental resources** that are relevant to **improve destinations competitiveness** and **attract new tourism flows**. The valorisation process starts with the **qualification** of natural and cultural heritage areas. Strategic interventions are planned in the: coastal district, Apennines, Po Delta, cities of art and areas affected by the earthquake. Moreover, for better **promotion** of the qualified cultural and environmental heritage areas, advertising activities are planned, both on national and international level.



Current state of progress



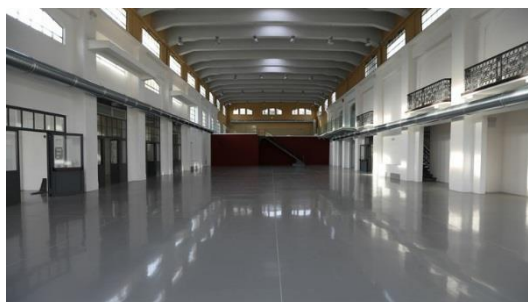
Performance indicators



[More information on the Enhancement of artistic, cultural and environmental resources – Priority Axis 5](#)

6. Attractive and Participative Cities

The Programme contributes to the implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU, which gives **cities a central role** to trigger useful effects leading to achievement of the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#) targets. The Emilia-Romagna Region, therefore, places a new emphasis on the **urban policies**, acting on qualification and promotion of the cultural heritage, but above all on the development and provision of **new technologies for the citizens**. This will result in broader **digital inclusion** and creation of a collaborative and participatory urban system, taking place in the premises of **Open Laboratories** (*in the photo, the first Open Laboratory opened 2018 in Modena*).



The strategy is based on **strengthening the urban areas' identity** thereby promoting participation of both citizens and companies in strategic decisions for the cities and creating new opportunities for employment and inclusion.

Current state of progress



ERDF ROP
Allocation

€ 30,013,716



Resources
Committed

€ 27,994,938



Paid to
Beneficiaries

€ 8,129,303



Beneficiaries

9 Local Administrative
Centres of the Region
and the City of Cesena



**Attractive and participative
cities - Axis 6**

Performance indicators

10

Cultural and environmental resources financed

81

Promotional activities

10

Applications and IT systems



**Attractive and participative
cities - Axis 6**

[More information on the Attractive and participative cities – Priority Axis 6](#)

Evaluation

The European Structural and Investment Funds foresee independent assessments to verify the achievement of the ROP objectives and the effectiveness of the measures undertaken, for the purpose of carrying out corrective and improvement actions within the programming cycle.

The **independent assessment of ERDF ROP 2014-2020** will take place in **2019** and will be entrusted to an external body. The activity will focus on:

- the effects that the Emilia-Romagna High Technology Network activities and the interventions carried out in collaborative research projects had on the production system (Priority Axis 1)
- the effectiveness of the activities to support startups and their growth (ex post) (Priority Axis 1)
- the impact that the ultra-wideband infrastructure had on enterprises (Priority Axis 2).

In the second half of 2019, **field surveys** will be carried out and later included in the final reports to be completed in early 2020.

Communication

Communication has a fundamental role in making people understand how European funds are used for the territory and the community. At the beginning of the Programming period, the Region has prepared a Strategy that defines priorities and objectives of the communication activities for the ERDF ROP 2014-2020. This Strategy illustrates the communication actions regarding the opportunities available and the results achieved, to different targets: potential and effective beneficiaries and citizens.

Tools, events, information campaigns

News, opportunities, communication guidelines and multimedia content related to the Programme can be found at the ERDF ROP website <http://fesr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/erdf> by citizens, beneficiaries, institutional partners and stakeholders. In addition to the website, responsive and accessible to people with disabilities, the social profiles **Twitter @PorFesrER** and **Youtube Fesremiliaromagna**, provide for real-time updates, together with the communication activity provided by the social profiles/channels of the Emilia-Romagna Region.

Key reference point for potential and effective beneficiaries is the **Regional Helpdesk for Enterprises**, a service providing assistance and support that can be contacted by telephone and email. The same service is widely accessible on the territory, due to its territorial branches at the local Chambers of Commerce.

Information about the Programme is disseminated with **press releases** on opportunities, events, projects and results, thus reaching the public opinion by means of printed press, radio, web and TV.

Opportunities, projects and results of the Programme are also communicated by organising conferences, general public events, workshops for beneficiaries as well as by participation at relevant exhibitions such as **Ecomondo** and **Research to Business** (*in the photo, R2B 2018 edition*).



Information campaigns are essential for better communication of the Programme and the achievements made possible due to EU funding. Every year, they focus on opportunities and results achieved by the Programme. The first campaign was about the launch of the ERDF Programme 2014-2020. It was followed by an **integrated campaign of both ERDF ROP and ESF ROP** aimed at young people and businesses on the attractiveness of the Region in terms of growth and employment. The **spot video competition** represents a turning point in the



Programme's communication activities: beneficiaries were asked to story-tell the projects realised in a short 90-seconds video. The competition's first edition I Invest HERE (Io Investo QUI) was launched in 2018, receiving **103 applications** and awarding 11 video spots (*in the photo: the award ceremony held during R2B 2018*).

The communication of the Programme is reinforced with the **relaunch** of news and updates by the **Partners Network** including representatives of public administrations, institutions, trade associations. The network is involved starting from the **planning** phase of communication activities, contributing to the effectiveness of the communication.