

## Priority 1: Stimulating innovation and competitiveness

ERDF: EUR 62.8 million

This priority will contribute to accelerate intelligent growth by supporting the creation of the right environment to stimulate innovation and promoting interventions in the common sectors identified in the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and in which the area shows comparative competitive advantages. This priority has two objectives:



### Objective 1.1: Enhancing innovation capacity through cooperation to foster competitiveness

Contribute to the creation of an innovation-friendly business (but also public and social) environment, encouraging more clustering, cooperation and skills development mechanisms between complementary sectors linked to the region's smart specialisation and between research and economic, public and social actors in a transnational context.

#### Some examples of actions to be supported:

- ✓ Development of cooperation schemes contributing to organising the development of scientific resource centres, business incubators, clusters, business networks, centres of expertise, research and innovation infrastructures and regional poles of excellence;
- ✓ Development of technology transfer initiatives;
- ✓ Development of innovative based strategies and tools to improve creativity and entrepreneurial mind-sets.

### Objective 1.2: Strengthening the transfer of innovation results to facilitate the emergence of new products, services and processes

Support the exploitation of new ideas and research results and the creation of more knowledge-intensive businesses to generate new products, services and processes, especially for emerging and growth sectors (according to smart specialisation strategies in regions) and also with a view to intensify trade and exports.

#### Some examples of actions to be supported:

- ✓ Development of common mechanisms to ensure cost-efficient exploitation of resources and best use of research results;
- ✓ Development of networking mechanisms and platforms for the generation of business consortia;
- ✓ Supporting the development of different ways of financing innovation such as venture capital mechanisms and other relevant financial instruments.