

FAQ

Pilot Action – Industrial transition regions

What is the definition of "industrial transition regions"? Who can apply to this call?

Characteristics of industrial transition regions are set out under point 1.6 of the call for expression of interest. The focus of should be on "more developed" and "transition" categories of regions as defined under article 90.2 of the Common Provisions Regulation (point 4.1 of the call):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013R1303>

Are less-developed regions eligible to this call? Will the Commission open a similar call opened in the future for such categories of regions?

As mentioned under 4.1 of the call for expression of interest the focus of this call will be on "more developed" and "transition" categories of regions. The Commission will proceed with an assessment of the results of this call with a view to future calls, taking account of the other possibilities to support this type of activities in less developed regions.

What is the definition of "statutory regional authorities"? Are only administrative regions eligible? Can a regional development agency apply?

A statutory regional authority is a regional authority established in accordance with national law. The expression of interest should be submitted by a regional authority (constituted at, at least NUTS 2 i.e. NUTS1 or NUTS2 level) or by a body falling under the responsibility and accountable to such a regional authority.

An application can be submitted by a regional authority on behalf of a partnership which covers several smart specialisation strategies.

Can other kinds of public body (e.g. city authorities) be involved in the expression of interest ?

Yes. All relevant partners (public or private) to be involved should be mentioned in the indicative list under point 1.5 of the application form.

Should regional stakeholders/players engaged in and supporting the industrial transition process be considered and listed under point 1.5 of the application form ?

Stakeholders playing an active role in the partnership should be listed.

Is the pilot action designed to support one thematic area of a RIS3 impacted by globalization, or to support innovation in a region regarding the implementation of its RIS3 globally impacted by globalization ?

As laid out in points 2.1 and 3.1 of the call, the objective is to work on the basis of the existing smart specialisation strategies, in order to foster comprehensive regional economic transformation.

Should the "declaration of a strong political commitment and appointment of a dedicated institutional interlocutor" specified under section 2 of the application form result in a written and signed decision from the regional authority ?

The declaration of commitment and appointment should be included **in the text** of the response under section 2.

What should be the level of responsibility of the dedicated institutional interlocutor to be mentioned under section 2 of the application form ?

The institutional interlocutor should represent the broad partnership for industrial transition with regional actors and have the capacity to coordinate the actions foreseen in the pilot action.

Investment barriers are explicitly mentioned under section 5 of the application form, but are also mentioned in the eligibility criteria related to section 3: does it mean that they have to be listed in both sections?

There is no need to repeat the explanations on investment barriers in section 3 if they are provided in section 5.

By who will be composed the “regional support groups in the Commission”?

The regional support groups in the Commission will be composed by representatives of different DGs of the European Commission.

What is behind the idea of "mutual learning and sharing of good practices" as stated at point 1.7 of the call?

The call will promote a learning process within and between EU regions.

Can a regional authority submit more than one expression of interest covering different sectors?

As laid out in point 3.1 of the call, each selected region will have to define a comprehensive strategy. However, there is no limitation to the number of expressions of interest which can be submitted by a regional authority.

What kind of partners need to be involved from the start?

As laid out in point 4.2 of the call, the interested regions are expected to establish a broad partnership for industrial transition with regional actors (research, business, social partners and civil society).

How exactly will the counselling by the European Commission look like?

As laid out in section 2 of the call, the Commission will offer selected regions technical assistance through a dedicated facility for the development of a comprehensive strategy for regional or national economic transformation, building on their smart specialisation strategy. The Commission services will also provide analytical support and expertise on the use of various EU instruments for industrial transition. There will be regular meetings with the Commission services.

Can the strategy for regional economic transformation be established for a subregion or does it need to address the whole region?

Each selected region (constituted at, at least, NUTS2 level) will have to define a comprehensive strategy.

Can the strategy be established by a public authority as “lead partner” or should an actor from the economic sector be prevailing?

As laid out in point 4.2 of the call, the interested regions are expected to demonstrate their strong political commitment and to appoint a dedicated institutional interlocutor who should represent the broad partnership with regional actors (including business) and have the capacity to coordinate the actions foreseen in the pilot action.

Will a specific contribution be required from the region participating in the pilot?

The call does not require the applicants to specify the resources or funding they intend to use. However, as laid out in point 2.3 of the call, interested regions are expected to demonstrate their readiness to dedicate administrative resources to work closely with the European Commission.

Will the ERDF resources mentioned in section 2 of the call be used only for expert support? Will it be possible to finance the costs of possible participation or organisation of peer reviews, study visits, analysis, etc. with these resources?

As explained in the online factsheet:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/calls-for-expressions-of-interest/#2

The advisory services (up to a value of 200 000 Euro for each selected region) will include peer learning and foresight activities organised in partnership with the OECD. These resources will cover the costs linked to the provision of the related activities.

Will the industrial transition strategy have to be a formal 'development strategy' within the meaning of national law? Can it be an implementation document for the smart specialisation strategy ? Will the smart specialisation strategies be replaced with the industrial transition strategies?

As laid out in point 3.1 of the call, the selected regions should define a comprehensive strategy for economic transformation, building inter alia on their smart specialisation strategies. At this stage, there is no specific requirement on what form the comprehensive strategy should take. The pilot action does not require changes in the implementation process of the current smart specialisation strategies.

Is it planned to create more a detailed framework (e.g. in the form of agreement or contract) detailing actions and responsibilities during the pilot after the call?

The European Commission and the dedicated teams of the selected regions will have to work closely together. As highlighted in the call, the possibility of further support through a grant is foreseen for the implementation of the strategy.