

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 1.5 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 is 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 1.6 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.