



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – ACTION PLAN 2019

INTRODUCTION

In November 2018 the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the Tuscany Region (Italy) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of common interest, in particular in the area of the evidence-informed policy/decision making at regional level and in the development of the regional innovation ecosystem, particularly in the context of regional smart specialisation strategies, in order to benefit from their complementary activities and share knowledge.

The MoU constitutes the framework document of collaboration with the Tuscany Region and the basis for subsequent cooperation, and/or bilateral collaboration agreements between the JRC and the research institutions and infrastructures of the Tuscan scientific and innovation system.

With the signature of the MoU, a Steering Committee was established to identify specific fields of cooperation and oversee the activities under this MoU. The Steering Committee will meet at least once a year to evaluate past activities, identify new activities of common interest and discuss any matter concerning the implementation of the MoU. To this end each Party has designated one person to serve as its coordinator. The coordinators can designate other suitable persons to represent them or to attend meetings. The meetings are prepared by the coordinators.

The coordinator for the JRC is Emanuela Bellan, Head of Inter-Institutional, International Relations and Outreach Unit.

The coordinator for the Tuscany Region is Roberto Ferrari, Director for Research and Culture.

The Action Plan is approved and adopted during the kick-off meeting of the Steering Committee, which takes place in Ispra (Italy) on 28 February 2019. The present Action Plan can be modified and amended with the approval of the two coordinators.

ACTIVITIES 2019

Kick-Off meeting of the Steering Committee and Study Visit to JRC Ispra site - of Tuscany Region's delegation and representatives from the Tuscan research institutions and centres

The JRC and Tuscany Region organise a Study visit to the JRC Ispra site, in the first quarter of 2019, which includes the kick-off meeting of the Steering Committee with the launch of the Action Plan 2019. Besides launching the collaboration formalised by the MoU, the event aims to present the JRC activities on the one hand and research and project activities of the Tuscany Region and the Tuscan universities and research institutions on the other hand, primarily in the three priority areas of the 2019 Action Plan identified here below.

This event will establish a joint screening exercise to identify scientific areas of collaboration and concrete actions for their implementation, to be further expanded in following visits and events.

Through parallel sessions and bilateral meetings this first visit will offer the opportunity to:

- analyse the current on-going informal cooperation between the two Parties
- examine possible further synergies and initiatives
- identify activities to be implemented in the areas of mutual interest, starting primarily from the key areas identified below.

AREA 1

Digital platforms and open government data: exploring methodologies and practises for the use of predictive models to improve research and innovation policies

Based on the first exchange and the results of the Conference, held in Brussels on 27th November 2018 on 'Open Government Data for research and innovation policy', a follow up workshop/event will be specifically organised by JRC and the Tuscany Region to:

1. share JRC experience in developing the Research and Innovation Observatory (RIO) with the Regional Observatory for Research and Innovation in Tuscany (Toscana Open Research);
2. increase interoperability in the use of data and web-based tools and platforms, with particular attention to public APIs (Application Programming Interfaces). Introduce a commonly agreed framework for the dissemination of data collected at the local - urban and regional - level, following a harmonised approach that ensures the integrity and reliability of the information provided and its reusability (participation to workshop on Territorial Indicators in the first quarter of 2019);
3. identify the potential for the Tuscany Region to be included in existing networks of relevant actors in the area of open government data to ensure an operational follow-up to the exchanges of regional and national experiences at the above mentioned Conference;

4. explore ways to create synergies for the use of new computing architectures (e.g. edge, fog, and memory computing) to support learning-based models and provide Citizens with a richer experience with digital platforms and open government data;
5. investigate the use of data platforms and monitoring tools for the implementation of SDGs locally (urban/rural).

AREA 2

Science advice to policy-making: support the development of strategies and policies able to identify and meet territorial communities' needs

In the third quarter of 2019 the JRC and Tuscany Region will explore the potential of research and innovation in cultural heritage and creative industries through evidence-informed policy-making in a dedicated co-organised event, in the format of '**Science meets Regions**'. This event will involve experts from the Tuscan scientific and innovation system, the JRC and policy-makers and will be developed in coherence with the regional specialization roadmap "**Technologies – Cultural Heritage and Culture**" (and will target especially those areas identified by regional S3 and industry 4.0 paradigm).

The event will aim to promote the following:

1. analysis of trends and **paths to encourage the modernisation of the actors operating in cultural and creative sectors**, focusing on more sustainable management systems conservation/preservation practices, promotion/fruition models;
2. discussion on common **strategies to support policy-making to ensure better access to culture through innovative methodologies and applications** (e.g. the application of the JRC city-lab methodology to address specific urban-led innovation challenges in the identified domain);
3. opportunities to strengthen the **relationship between researchers, academia and cultural and creative operators with a view to design applied-research paths** and technology-oriented solutions;
4. contribution to the **ongoing works on the risks and impact of climate change and disasters to the cultural heritage**, in the framework of the **European Commission's Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre**, and of the **Risk map of Italian Cultural Heritage**.

AREA3

Innovation ecosystems and Smart governance in Agriculture

This area will focus on the **Smart Specialisation Strategy** as a leverage to improve the delivery of CAP, on one side, and to increase the competitiveness of the regional innovation ecosystem within the sector, on the other.

It will also potentially serve as a 'case-study' for synergies with the implementation of regional S3 in the wider spectrum of Tuscany's participation to the Smart Specialisation thematic Platforms

related partnerships (such as, in particular, Industry 4.0 /Industrial Modernisation Platform, and High Tech farming /Agrifood Platform and other ones).

Under this area, the actions will include:

1. envisaged accession in April/May 2019 of the Tuscany Region to the JRC-INRA Collaboration Agreement;
2. assessing, through mutual expertise, monitoring methods and technologies that help collecting data about agricultural policies performance (delivery model) to support agricultural activities (precision farming) and that facilitate experimentation of business practises towards simplification of CAP related mechanisms.

Adopted at Ispra (Varese) on 28/02/2019