

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Pilot actions (including investment, if applicable)

Version 3

Project index number and acronym	ECOS4IN
Output number and title	O.T3.1Contact point / information hub for regional ecosystem model for Industry 4.0 implementation
Investment number and title (if applicable)	-
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	MARR S.A.
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/ECOS4IN.html
Delivery date	March 2022

Summary description of the pilot action (including investment, if applicable) explaining its experimental nature, demonstration character and transnational added value

Dynamic technological, social and economic changes force decision-makers to take decisions aimed at creating conditions for business development. In the face of dynamic changes the challenge is to prepare conditions for the development of Industry 4.0 and to build an innovation support ecosystem in the region. An important role in this process in the region is played by the Malopolska Regional Development Agency, whose main objective is to support the region's economic development in a broad sense.

The pilot action allowed to test possible solutions for promotion and popularization of Industry 4.0 in Malopolska. Activities that are key to building, development and effectiveness of the Industry 4.0 ecosystem in the Malopolska region were identified. The GAP analysis of Małopolska revealed a number of issues that are far from the desired state and which require development.

The first of such issues is the level of knowledge about Industry 4.0, and more broadly about the possibilities of using modern technologies and the benefits associated with it. It is necessary to take action to popularize the idea of Industry 4.0 among entrepreneurs. It should be focused on the benefits of the solutions it offers. This promotion should take place through as many channels as possible and with the use of

many tools, starting with social media, and ending with direct contact of Contact Point employees with entrepreneurs and pointing out specific possibilities and tools to them.

Another issue is the inadequacy of the education system to the needs of modern economy. Therefore, it seems necessary to undertake educational activities addressed to young people, which will help to familiarise them with the concept of Industry 4.0 and everything related to it. It is important to test which tools are the most effective.

The third issue is the lack of a significant regional event focused on the idea of Industry 4.0. Therefore, it is necessary to take a number of actions as a result of which an event/conference will be organised which will bring together representatives of companies, institutions and organisations operating in the area of Industry 4.0, as well as companies or persons interested in these issues.

NUTS region(s) concerned by the pilot action (relevant NUTS level)

NUTS PL21 Malopolska Voivodship

Investment costs (EUR), if applicable

Non-applicable - the pilot action does not include an investment.

Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups and leverage of additional funds (if applicable)

The expected result of the pilot actions are:

Contact point activities enabled the introduction of the idea of Industry 4.0 to SMEs; for many SMEs, this was the first contact with the concept of Industry 4.0. The main aim of the Contact Point was to provide comprehensive information tailored to the needs of individual companies.

Pilot workshops and lessons scenarios enabled to recognize the potential of primary school teachers to introduce the idea of Industry 4.0 to their students during regular classes and the potential of workshops as a form of presenting new technologies for students.

Regional event focused on the idea of Industry 4.0, enabled to bring together representatives of companies, institutions, and organizations operating in the area of Industry 4.0 and companies or persons interested in these issues.

Pilot actions were aimed at SMEs and primary schools students and teachers from Małopolska, and those groups benefited from them.

The main aim of the actions was to test the possible activities to promote and popularize Industry 4.0 and create Action Plan which will be considered when regional innovation strategies like RIS3 strategy will be revised in forthcoming years.

It has not yet led to an uptake at policy or institutional level.

Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders

An Action Plan that includes the list of the most important regional activities to promote and popularize Industry 4.0 by MARR S.A. has been developed. The document identifies areas of MARR S.A. activity that are key to the construction, development and effectiveness of the Industry 4.0 ecosystem in Malopolska.

Action Plan will be considered when regional innovation strategies like RIS3 strategy will be revised in forthcoming years.

The output can be used in other territories by copying it. It would be important to implement the recommendations.

The group of stakeholders that could benefit from this output and use it in the future is wide: Business Support Organizations, NGOs, Scientific units, Public administration and local government

Following lessons learned from the development/implementation process should be considered:

- **Information services - according to consultants the benefits from direct and face to face contact with entrepreneurs would be more effective, so in the future this type face to face contact is recommended.** it is recommended to maintain constant contact with companies that have expressed an interest in the topic of Industry 4.0. This can be done, for example, by providing information on a regular basis, e.g. in the form of a newsletter.

- **Educational activities** - having proper tools and highly qualified trainer enables students to get interested in the topic and explore it. The program of the workshops should be modified by adding more multimedia tools. Teaching Industry 4.0 in schools requires training teachers or outsourcing it to an external company
- **Regional event** - Similar to contact point and information services, face to face meetings would bring better benefits. On the other hand, the virtual conference allowed inviting more participants (we assume that an onsite conference wouldn't have so many participants). It is recommended to consider a hybrid form of the conference for the future.

If applicable, contribution to/ compliance with:

- relevant regulatory requirements
- sustainable development - environmental effects. In case of risk of negative effects, mitigation measures introduced
- horizontal principles such as equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Non-applicable

References to relevant deliverables (e.g. pilot action report, studies), investment factsheet and web-links

If applicable, additional documentation, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The main relevant related project deliverables:

D.T3.3.3 REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY OF CONTACT POINTS/INFORMATION HUBS

D.T3.1.4 Pilot testing of the normal operation of contact points/information hubs in each partner country

D.T4.2.3 Action Plan for Małopolska

Web-link: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/ECOS4IN.html>