

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Pilot actions (including investment, if applicable)

Version 3

Project index number and acronym	CE1393 - ECOS4IN
Output number and title	Output O.T3.1 Contact point/information hub for regional ecosystem model for Industry 4.0 implementation
Investment number and title (if applicable)	
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	PP6 Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/ECOS4IN.html
Delivery date	09/2021

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

The pilot project consisted in the design and realization of an InfoHub 4.0 located at Milano Luiss Hub for Makers and Students : the physical space would be the framework in which capacity building programs, networking events and activities would have taken place, particularly targeting SMEs in food&hospitality sector and students

SMEs focus program

SMEs were one of the main targets of the pilot project. The key goal was to identify potential challenges the selected companies might face related to digital transformation and generate innovative solutions that could solve those challenges.

It was designed and implemented a program divided into three phases: the first one was dedicated to education, the second was focused on assessing the skills and the last one consisted in a serie of co-design activities that saw SMEs working together with students in the design and implementation of solutions.

Under 30 focus program

Human Capital Hub ECOS4IN pilot project involved a second target together with SMEs: students and under 30. On March 2021 it was designed and launched a call that allowed the project team to select 6 students with different aged and background,

5 classes were delivered between March and April 2021 about Industry 4.0, digitalization and new technologies and in March students were matched with SMEs to start co-designing innovative solutions that could answer SMEs needs.

Community's focus program

The community of digital makers and people interest in Industry 4.0 around Milan area was also involved in the pilot project activities as some actions were directed to engage with a broader public.

In order to interact with the community, some key actions were implemented. Firstly, between February and March 2021 the physical space of Milano Luiss Hub for Makers and Students was dressed and adapted to host pilot project activities.

Online webinars were designed and implemented targeting specifically the community and tackling several topics – such as tourism and industry 4.0, design thinking and the impact of digitalization.

Disability and Industry 4.0

In order to further engage and sensibilize the community, it was launched a set of co-design activities to develop innovative solutions through digital manufactories' tools that can help solve daily challenges that people with disability encounter.

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

NUTS 2 Lombardia ITC4

Project's objectives and results - expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the target groups and leverage of additional funds (if applicable)

Having the constitution of the InfoHub as main objective, three other key activities were set as goals to reach.

The first goal of the project was to design and implement a capacity building program that could strengthen and reinforce the necessary skills to face digital revolution and it was targeting specifically SMEs and students. The program was designed together with experts in the areas of innovation and digitalization and it consisted in educational calls around industry 4.0 and digitalization, delivered first to SMEs and then also to students, followed by digital and soft skills assessments.

The second objective of the pilot project was to develop innovative solutions based on the needs emerged from SMEs with the support of the students applied to the project. The projects' ideas were supposed to be based on the assessments' results and SMEs were to work together with students on developing the solutions.

The third objective of the pilot project was to facilitate contamination and sinergies between different actors and stakeholders: having engaged in the project several targets, Human Capital hub ECOS4In reached its goal. 6 SMEs, six students and 4 external experts were actively engaged in the project and the amount of participants to the webinars delivered online was of 30 people on average. Lastly, with the involvement of the non profit organization Hackability, the pilot proeject managed to integrate third sector too into the project.

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

The pilot managed not only to achieve its targets, involving overall almost 300 people between SMEs, students and citizens, in the program's activities, but it also generated several processes of co-design and open innovation, it created and strengthened a network of experts, companies and curious people around the theme of Industry 4.0 and it made the participants discover new opportunities related to digitalization for their businesses that could disruptively make them grow.

The final outcome of the project will consist result in an Action Plan that will be incorporated in the regional innovation and digitalization strategy for Lombardy Region. It will support more and more SMEs in adopting and implementing innovative solutions to better run their businesses and it will impact even more all the local realities where they operate.

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

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 pilot project Human Capital Hub ECOS4IN aimed to provide a space in which knowledge and skills related to Industry 4.0, digital revolution and new technologies could be easily transferred to relevant sectors of the society: SMEs and students.

Particularly, it wanted to deliver a capacity building program for stakeholders operating in one of the most important productive sector in Italy, food&hospitality, with the objective of producing innovative solutions that could be replicated and adapted to several other contexts.

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Based on the feedback form that was sent between April and May, the program supported SMEs in sharpening their skills and it was evaluated positively by over 80% of the participants.

