INTERREG EUROPE – IV CALL FOR PROPOSAL

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – UMBRIA REGION

Theme: Research and innovation

Topic : *Open innovation, social innovation, Living Labs*

General policy - Regional Operational Programme (AXIS I)

The themes of research, development and innovation, within the framework of the Regional Strategy of smart specialisation for research and innovation – Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3), represent the cornerstones of the Programme. The financial budget of thematic objective 1 (Axis I), with resources amounting to nearly 1/3 of the total cost of the OP (28.6%), was set in order to close the distance between Umbria and the Europe 2020 target, and that of the PNR target as regards the regional reference framework: though not a leader in innovation, Umbria does exhibit certain qualities that – as part of a strategy for smart growth – require support in order to innovate and project itself into a broader context.

Specific policy instrument:

In the framework of the objective "Promotion of new markets for innovation", a specific action aims at supporting the generation of innovative solutions to specific problems of social relevance, including the use of open innovative environments such as Living Labs.

In particular, the measure will be implemented following a double approach: on one hand , the fab lab model addresses directly enterprises interested in exploring innovative business models and markets; on the other hand the action aims at developing citizens participative initiatives, able to promote the development of living lab as "innovation hub", facilitating at the same time social innovation processes.

Interested in joining a project idea, in order to:

- ✓ improve the capability of regional innovation policy instruments to promote and support innovation processes in sectors whose competitiveness do not rely mainly in technology and R&D;
- ✓ share, review, learn more about methods and tools for assessing the impact of regional innovation policies, with a focus on open and social innovation;
- ✓ better understand non-tech innovation dynamics in order to implement specific initiatives (such as Living labs) aiming at fostering open innovation and social innovation dynamics, through the involvement of citizens in the development of innovative solutions and services.