

LAND  KÄRNTEN



Memorandum of Understanding
between the Region of Carinthia
and ECSEL Joint Undertaking

2015

Preamble

The Region of Carinthia defined and is implementing policies to stimulate growth and jobs through investments in innovation, in particular increasing the investments towards the goal of 3.6% of GDP by 2020.

Research & Innovation in all its forms is a priority for the EU 2020 Strategy, and therefore it is taken into account in all European funding mechanisms 2014-2020.

Under the Regional Operational Programmes, a significant share of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) is devoted to supporting the competitiveness of SMEs and further innovation actors in clusters and in knowledge and technology parks ("Wissens- und Technologieparks"), in particular through research and innovation actions.

Under the Programme HORIZON 2020 dedicated to research & innovation, the actions shall respond to priorities such as excellent science, leadership in enabling and industrial technologies, and societal challenges.

The European Commission and the Member States are mandated by the Regulations that lay down the rules for ESIF and Horizon 2020 to ensure coordination, facilitate synergies and leverage complementarities. To achieve this, it is crucial to align strategies and implementation modalities with a view to support and complement existing and future roadmaps.

The challenge for the new programming for the years 2014-2020 is to strengthen the overall coherence of public action in favour of innovation, strengthening the competitiveness of the economic actors, especially but not limited to small and medium-sized enterprises. In this respect, in so-called "smart specialization" areas, both ESIF and H2020 allow the mechanisms necessary for convergence within the regional strategies to be articulated with actions which foster excellence and place research and innovation at the heart of public investment.

The Operational Programme approved for the Region of Carinthia foresees in the chapters:

- M1_FTI_IP1a_MN1: Research and Technology Infrastructure:

"The establishment and extension of R&D infrastructure (laboratories, measurements and testing units, necessary building actions etc. including project related activities) are foreseen, in order to boost topics of interest for the region or to further develop the centres in an international context. This will create an advantage when:

- The projects foresee the cooperation among different research organizations, or enable access to the research infrastructure for enterprises.
- The research centres and infrastructures are operating in an international context (e.g. with regard to trans-national strategies like EUSDR), or have international relevance."

- M1_FTI_IP1b: Business investments in Research, Development and Innovation:

- "the aim is to extend the innovation base in Carinthia by integrating more companies to the systematic research, development and innovation activities or by intensifying their research and development activities
- the aim is to strengthen the competitiveness of companies by developing new products, processes or services and transferring them to market solutions, especially in the area of innovations which support the technological leadership of companies"
- M1_FTI_IP3d: Promotion of SMEs for growth and innovation processes:
 - "prepare SMEs in a sustainable way for periods of innovation and growth and support them in their business expansion"

In addition, the Region of Carinthia is very active in the field of research and innovation by driving inter-regional initiatives within Austria, by actively participating in the national ECSEL Austria technology platform, and by actively promoting the inter-regional collaboration in the Alps-Adriatic Area.

Considering the strategic role of the Joint Undertaking on "Electronic Components and Systems for European Leadership" (ECSEL JU) as the major European programme of research and innovation in this area under Horizon 2020;

Considering that the ECSEL JU has the mission to implement a public-private partnership, bridging the gap between research and exploitation, aligning strategies to increase European and national investments, building an advanced ecosystem on manufacturing, design and system engineering to serve key markets addressing societal challenges,

Considering that the Council Regulation no. 561/2014 establishing ECSEL JU provides that it should seek to develop close interactions with the ESIF, which can specifically help to strengthen local, regional and national research and innovation capabilities in the area addressed by ECSEL JU, underpinning smart specialisation efforts,

Considering that the Council Regulation no 561/2014 states that ECSEL JU shall build a dynamic ecosystem involving Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), thereby strengthening existing clusters and nurturing the creation of new clusters in promising new areas,

Considering that ECSEL JU foresees in its proposal submission forms the possibility to include funding from different mechanisms, as highlighted in its Guide for Applicants,

Considering that, in order to respond to the above provisions, ECSEL JU wishes to establish bilateral relations with the interested Regions/Member States while ensuring the respect of its principles and rules on the selection of participants,

Considering the importance for the future of the electronics components and systems industry of using European funds for the financing of research and innovation in this

field through an interaction and combination of Horizon 2020 and ESIF as required by the applicable European regulations;

Considering that the Region of Carinthia, over several years, places innovation and competitiveness at the heart of its economic development policies, as highlighted in the regional innovation strategy for smart specialization and in the Operational Programme OP_IWB_EFRE_Österreich, while also making the regional attribution of the EU2020 Strategy a high priority for growth and jobs,

Considering that the Region of Carinthia wishes to promote and support the complementarity and synergy between the European funds in connection with the regional and European actors,

Considering the level of participation and interest of the SMEs/regional industry/other actors from the Region of Carinthia in the calls launched by ECSEL JU and its predecessors, and the strategic role of the Region in supporting the electronics components and systems supply chain as highlighted in its Regional Innovation Strategy, in particular in the areas of microelectronics, power electronics, sensors and actuators; robotics; the research and innovation topics of the knowledge and technology parks; and the merging of the Internet technologies into traditional manufacturing process technologies (Industry 4.0) adopting Cyber Physical Production Systems (SPPS) etc.

The following two parties,

the ECSEL Joint Undertaking (the "ECSEL JU"), represented by its Executive Director, Dr. Andreas Wild,

And

the Region of Carinthia, represented by Governor Dr. Peter Kaiser, Vice-Governor Dr. Gaby Schaunig-Kandut and Regional Minister DI Christian Benger

are determined to establish an active cooperation framework with consideration to their respective legislation,

And therefore have agreed to:

Work together for the identification of common priorities to both entities through:

- ✓ The regular exchange of information;
- ✓ The participation of the Region of Carinthia in the public activities organized by ECSEL JU
- ✓ The participation of ECSEL JU, or a designated representative, to the events organized by the Region of Carinthia under the theme of electronic components and systems and their applications, in particular events designed

to promote the participation of actors from the Region of Carinthia to European programmes, and in meetings/working groups focused on the themes of smart specialization in combination with R&I in electronic components and systems and their applications.

Work together for the identification of potential synergies between their funding instruments and respective frameworks through:

- ✓ Identify complementary areas of support and procedures in support of the activities initiated and foreseen under the competences of ECSEL JU (for example in the Multi Annual Strategic Plan) and the activities covered by the Operational Programme OP_IWB_EFRE_Österreich
- ✓ Bringing together ECSEL JU and ESIF funds, when this will maximise the impact on the Region of Carinthia strategies,
 - in the **same project** (with separate work packages or separate participants) in view of achieving greater impact and efficiency;
 - in **successive/sequential projects** that build on each other or;
 - in **parallel projects** that complement each other.
- ✓ Consider the possibility to design and implement ESIF programmes to support infrastructural investments combined with R&I project activities also supported through the ECSEL JU mechanisms.

Explore the possibility to establish a monitoring and follow-up system for the actions carried out under the framework of the Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization coordinated with ECSEL JU monitoring procedures

- ✓ By establishing a working group on smart specialization related to electronic components and systems including the ECSEL JU, or a representative designated by it to assess procedures and convergence possibilities
- ✓ By working together to clarify such opportunities with other actors in the field and the federal level in Austria or in the European institutions.

Promote their respective mechanisms through an information policy to increase the engagement of the economic and industrial actors

- ✓ Including relevant information on the website of the Region of Carinthia and the website of involved actors managed by or collaborating with the Region with regard to the launching of calls for proposals by ECSEL JU; and reciprocally, referring on the website of ECSEL JU the regional policy of the Region of Carinthia in favour of electronics components and systems;
- ✓ By a mutual enhancement of the mechanisms of both structures for the support of communication through Newsletters and other publications-

Actively seek the collaboration with the National Funding Authority representing Austria in the ECSEL JU decision bodies in order to assure the alignment of the regional initiatives with the national strategies and priorities.

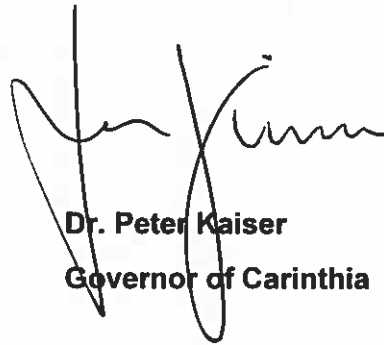
The Region of Carinthia and ECSEL JU will ensure a joint monitoring and follow-up of the present agreement during a first "pilot phase" (2015-2016) on the technical, legal and administrative mechanisms put in place under the present agreement, in particular the optimal use of the existing procedures in preparation of project proposals with coordinated funding in response to the ECSEL JU Calls and the Region of Carinthia ESIF/ERDF Calls. They will also foresee, in the course of the year 2016, an interim evaluation of the first phase of implementation of the present Protocol.

The parties will ensure the protection of any sensitive information and the confidentiality of any internal document and information related to the parties or the participants to the technical activities under the present agreement.

Signed in Klagenfurt on 16 September 2015



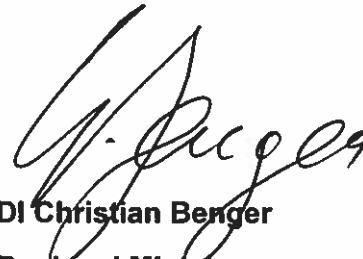
M. Andreas Wild
Executive Director ECSEL JU



Dr. Peter Kaiser
Governor of Carinthia



Dr. Gaby Schaunig-Kandut
Vice-Governor



DI Christian Benger
Regional Minister