



Regione Lombardia

LOMBARDY'S PRESIDENCY OF THE FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE

“Four Motors for Europe: blazing the trail”

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The core of the Presidency programme of the Lombardy Region

By taking over the Presidency of the Four Motors for Europe Association on 11 April 2019, Lombardy aimed at highlighting a number of characteristics inherent in the history and nature of the Four Motors: the four regions are determined to work to maintain the leadership that, in terms of competitiveness and innovation, has so far distinguished them both in their respective countries and in the EU context.

The thematic core that has characterised the work programme proposed by Lombardy focuses on innovation and the ability to project into the future. The four regions, together and through mutual learning, can **anticipate the challenges of the future** and respond adequately to the **emerging needs** of their respective societies.

The theme of the use of **data** and the development of **data analysis tools**, also through the use of artificial intelligence, has been addressed in a transversal way in each area of collaboration. Data is understood as the basis for knowledge, needs

analysis, decision support and the consequent development of innovative responses and strategic choices.

The activities have been focused on the following **six priority areas**: personalised medicine with regard to the quality and future of care services; policies and predictive tools for the efficiency of government action; eco-innovative production chains and Industry 4.0; innovative platforms in the agri-food chains; training for the professions of the future; new forms of relationship with millennials and the fight against bullying.

For each area of collaboration, we tried to organise at least one appointment with the partner regions, with the involvement of experts from the administrations and stakeholders of the Lombardy region and the Four Motors.

Initiatives carried out

The following are the context and results of the initiatives carried out, in chronological order from May 2019 to June 2020.

In continuity with the work started during the Baden Wuerttemberg Presidency, the Lombardy Region decided to create a leading space for the four regions within the 2019 edition of "**Seeds & Chips - The Global Food Innovation Summit**". On 7 May 2019, at Fiera Milano Rho, the Four Motors for Europe animated the conference "**Four Motors for Europe: sharing best practices and policies**", which had as its main themes **Agriculture 4.0** and the role of **innovative platforms in the agri-food chain**. As a global reference event in the field of innovation applied to the agri-food system, Seeds&Chips also offered the Four Motors a platform for discussion and contribution on the evolution of the global debate on the future of the agri-food supply chain, highlighting the very close link among food, innovation, technology and Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, a number of development themes and messages regarding the legacy of Expo 2015, which the four regions had joined in different ways, were also taken up.

In May 2019, the Four Motors for Europe participated in the **public consultation on gender equality** launched by the European Commission. The four regions drew up and transmitted to the Commission a joint document whereby the Four Motors for Europe highlighted the importance of defining forms of enhanced inter-institutional consultation aimed at disseminating in the European debate the virtuous experiences already experienced at a regional level. The regions also highlighted the centrality of the commitment to training and improving the link with business, and proposed a driving role for the regions to apply for funds for actions aimed at expanding and

strengthening the training opportunities of territories with particular attention to the employment and career prospects of women.

The Lombardy Region has considered it essential to ensure continuity of dialogue and collaboration between the network of experts of the respective **Representations in Brussels**, in full compliance with the document "Strategy for an Enhanced Governance" adopted in April 2019 by the Presidents of the four regions. In this perspective, on 17 July 2019, the Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Lombardy Region in charge of the Four Motors for Europe met the members of the Representations of the Four Motors for Europe in Brussels at the Lombardy Region Delegation and presented the vision and salient points of the work programme of the Lombardy Presidency.

Again during the Presidency of the Lombardy Region, the Four Motors for Europe decided to ensure an active presence at the 2019 edition of the **European Week of Regions and Cities** in Brussels. The Lombardy Region Delegation to the EU organised and hosted the event "**Bringing Europe closer to citizens - Four Motors for Europe regional approaches**". During the meeting, each region had the opportunity to present a concrete project that had been implemented in its territory with the final objective of making citizens and local institutions more aware of the institutions and policies of the European Union. The event was also a useful opportunity to share best practices on how to strengthen the capacities of regional administrations in the management of EU structural funds dedicated to urban and regional development. Presentations and debates between institutional and non-institutional representatives of the four regions were preceded by the keynote speech of the Head of the DG Communication of the European Parliament, who shared with the audience the perspective of the EU institutions in an attempt to involve citizens through a strong and efficient communication strategy and also underlined the willingness of the European institutions to work closely at the regional level in order to reach people and spread information across all territories. The representatives of the EU institutions involved in the work appreciated the mission of the Four Motors for Europe and stressed the importance and usefulness of cooperation among the four regions also for the development of effective approaches to directly involve citizens in European policies.

Therefore, in June 2019, the Lombardy Region decided to extend to the three partner regions the invitation to take part in the **States General for Research and Innovation** (25 June 2019) and in the restricted meeting with the ten international experts of the Regional Forum for Research and Innovation (24 June) organised in

Palazzo Lombardia. The meeting was proposed as an opportunity to share ongoing experiences at a European level and to engage with an international pool of experts who already support Lombardy in the task of assessing the social impact of innovation and involving citizens in the definition of policies, with a view to Responsible Research & Innovation.

A key event in the programme of Lombardy's presidency of the Association was the **World Manufacturing Forum**, which took place in Cernobbio on 25-27 September 2019. The Forum was an important opportunity to present major objectives, strategies and innovative solutions in the responses implemented by the most dynamic regions of the world in response to the major challenges and developments in the manufacturing sector. On 25 September 2019, the Four Motors for Europe animated the event "**Regional visions and practices responding to global manufacturing challenges**", in which the reflections of institutions and industrial associations were shared. The event, which was attended by political authorities and representatives of the industrial associations of the four regions, was promoted and organised by the Lombardy Region in collaboration with Confindustria Lombardia and the World Manufacturing Foundation, and was aimed at stimulating reflection, both from a political-institutional and business point of view, on the opportunities for interregional collaboration in the field of the industry of the future, with particular reference to the following areas: **manufacturing and the construction of European value chains** in strategic sectors, also in line with the "A vision for European industry in 2030" report presented to the European Commission by the 2030 Industry Round Table; **emerging technologies** and **artificial intelligence** as a driving force for regional investments also integrated in the new 2021-2027 European programming; the **transformation of traditional industries**, with the example of the **automotive sector**; the strengthening of **the digitisation of SMEs** through interregional cooperation.

The side event brought together for the first time representatives of the industrial associations of the four regions (with the President of Confindustria Lombardia, the President of LVI - Landesverband der Baden-Württembergischen Industrie, a representative of the Executive Committee of MEDEF Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, and a member of the Executive Committee of Catalonia's PIMEC).

The four regions then adopted a **joint document** sharing their commitment to strengthening public-private partnerships on the basis of three common priorities: the transformation of traditional industries such as the automotive sector; the digitisation of SMEs; emerging technologies with the case of artificial intelligence. Through this document, the four regions also shared the commitment to promote increasingly close

relations between regional associations and business federations, which can spread industrial culture and have a positive impact on several sectors. At the same time, the Four Motors reaffirmed the importance of strengthening synergies to develop interregional collaboration in the context of post-2020 European programming, as well as ways of supporting synergetic projects with the aim of facilitating the digital transformation of start-ups and SMEs, helping them to become part of an innovation ecosystem with increasing networking opportunities.

On 26 September, the authorities of Lombardy, Catalonia and Auvergne Rhone Alpes spoke at the **opening session of the 2019 World Manufacturing Annual Meeting dedicated to the theme "New Skills for Future Manufacturing"**. In front of a prestigious international audience of over one thousand participants from over fifty countries around the world, the Four Motors for Europe were able to present the results of the "Regional visions and practices responding to global manufacturing challenges" event, highlighting the value and benefits of networked collaboration in platforms such as the Four Motors and EUSALP, as well as the strategies implemented in each region to accompany and support the development of manufacturing and digitisation for businesses across the board. As a significant further result of the Four Motors for Europe's participation in the 2019 World Manufacturing Forum, it should be noted that the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes and Catalonia regions have accepted the invitation to consider joining the World Manufacturing Foundation as institutional partners and have announced a prospect of continuity with regard to participation in future editions of the Forum.

On 23 and 24 September 2019, experts from the four regions took part in the event **"Big Data, electronic health records and health governance"** promoted by the Lombardy Region and organised by the Regional Foundation for Biomedical Research of Lombardy with the aim of fostering understanding and discussion among experts and European public and private sector professionals on how big data and digitisation can support measures to promote health, reform healthcare systems and facilitate the transition to new patient-centred care models. Experts from the Fundació TIC Salut Social de Catalunya, the Steinbeis Transfercenter Social and Technological Innovation of Baden-Württemberg and the Department of Welfare of the Lombardy Region animated the **"Capacity Building. How sharing best practices can strengthen a regional approach to PH, specifically with regard to Big data?"** session, which gave voice to regional and interregional cooperation models and good practices that can support the development of effective big data management systems and advances in personalised medicine.

A further step was taken for the Four Motors for Europe in enhancing the role that the main European regions play in the **governance of health data** and in **the evolution towards increasingly patient-centred care systems**. The aim of the event was to give impetus to, and enhance, the relationships and collaboration process initiated during the Baden Wuerttemberg Presidency with the creation of the E-health and care working group. The September works sought to integrate the focus of the activities already developed by the working group during the Baden Wuerttemberg Presidency, i.e. the role of digital tools with regard to health and care systems, with particular attention to equity aspects, and the themes highlighted by Lombardy's Presidency of the Association, with an emphasis on the importance of building **project partnerships** and the **exchange of experiences related to health ecosystem innovations** (with a focus on personalised medicine in which aspects of big data management, genome analysis tools, quality of health systems and services, chronicity and fragility, management and technological innovation aimed at generating social value for citizens and economic value for the regional territory are incorporated). The main topics discussed during the two days of work in Milan are related to the creation of institutional frameworks allowing interoperability and cooperation with stakeholders, the role of semantics and standardisation for data integration, the most effective ways to bring personalised medicine closer to citizens, the analysis of how to jointly invest in enabling infrastructures, the best experiences of patient involvement and support to welfare professionals, as well as the potential for co-investment by governments and industry for the creation of real value for patients.

On 31 January 2020, institutional delegations from the Four Motors for Europe took part in the event “**Addressing children and youth digital-related distresses: the role of regional policies and territorial alliances**”, an initiative dedicated to the theme of new forms of relationship with **young people** and in particular bullying and cyberbullying. This is a theme that the four regions have dealt with together for the first time and that Lombardy decided to include in the programme of the Association's Presidency precisely in order to share the attention and leading experiences that the territories address to young people, **forms of hardship and risks also arising from the use of digital and social media**. The event was structured as a **round table-meeting** to present and discuss policy experiences and projects developed in the territories of the four regions on the basis of inputs of/with the contribution of regional governments. The meeting was organised by the Lombardy Region in collaboration with the Paediatric Home of the Fatebenefratelli Sacco ASST, a multidisciplinary centre dedicated to teenage discomfort that stands out in

Italy and Europe as an avant-garde entity. The round table highlighted the attention that all four regions **devote to combating bullying and cyberbullying**, both in their respective government strategies and through support for programmes and projects with the territories. All four regions have taken the issue of the benefits and risks that digital and social networks imply for young people seriously; all four regions have put in place programmes and initiatives aimed mainly at schools and the development of innovative communication tools also supported by virtual and augmented reality. In Lombardy, representatives of numerous organisations – Health Protection Agencies, the Juvenile Court, the Police, the Association of Journalists, educationalists, Third Sector Associations operating at a regional and national level to combat bullying and disseminate the culture of legality – took part in the round table, as proof of the networked collaboration model that brings together institutions and non-governmental entities in Lombardy. The four regions shared the willingness to begin closer cooperation in this new area of dialogue, working to facilitate the creation of a network of experts and the construction of partnerships for projects that can be funded through European programmes.

The round table meeting was then followed by a **guided tour of the Paediatric Home**, which opened its wards to the delegations of the four regions for a path of knowledge and exchange on peculiarities and working models for the prevention and fight against the discomfort and diseases of children and teenagers. The Four Motors for Europe delegations came into contact with experts who illustrated aims, technologies and projects that integrate the medical-clinical sphere with social and artistic activities.

Starting from the end of February 2020, the spread of the first cases of Covid-19 first in Lombardy and then progressively in the partner regions and the measures taken by the Authorities to contain and manage the spread of the pandemic have also had a direct impact on the programme of events already scheduled by Lombardy's Presidency of the Four Motors for Europe.

In particular, at the end of February, the Lombardy Region decided to postpone to a date to be defined the event **World Remanufacturing Summit 2020**, which had been organised for 2 March 2020 and had already been joined by the institutional representatives of Baden-Württemberg, Catalunya and Auvergne Rhône-Alpes. The event, promoted and organised by the Lombardy Region with the Milan Polytechnic, is dedicated to the theme of "**Towards Smart and Advanced Remanufacturing for a Sustainable Future**". The Summit takes place in the United States, Asia and Europe alternatively, and the 2020 edition will be held for the first time in Italy, in Lombardy, with an inaugural plenary session hosted at the Region's institutional

headquarters followed by thematic sessions at the Milan Polytechnic. Lombardy's Councillorships for the Environment and Climate and for Research, Innovation, University, Export and Internationalisation, which are the project leaders, seized the Summit as a valuable opportunity to foster debate between the Four Motors and representatives of the industrial and scientific world on the role of remanufacturing as a factor of smart and sustainable growth. Indeed, in manufacturing regions par excellence such as the Four Motors, the potential of remanufacturing has already been understood, and good practices, to be shared and implemented in the relationship with important international players (in particular the USA and Japan) are growing.

The Four Motors for Europe political-institutional mission project in Israel was also suspended. The goal identified for the mission was fully consistent with the meaning and priorities for collaboration proposed by Lombardy for its year as President of the Association. The four regions adhered both to the presence model for the mission (with the political-institutional component at its centre for all four regions) and to the idea that the mission could offer opportunities for further development of international connections between the Association and the individual regions in areas such as **personalised medicine and the future of care services, sustainable agriculture and innovation in the agri-food chains, innovation policies and technology transfer**. The four regions shared interest in the choice of Israel as the destination of an institutional Four Motors mission. The regions have fairly well-established relations with the country, which has never been a joint mission destination. The Four Motors for Europe believe that Israel's innovative policies can be a source of inspiration for the four European regions, and the insights gained by the institutional delegations can then also be channelled back to the interlocutors of each region in its own territory, as well as to the supra-regional and supra-state levels of government. The assets that Israel's technological ecosystem, largely based on start-ups, can bring to the traditional fabric of medium and small enterprises in the European regions, also to support them in the **processes of digital transformation** and based on **artificial intelligence**, are of particular interest to the four regions.

When the mission, due to the objective restrictions and uncertainty arising from the spread of Covid-19, was suspended, the project-mission was in an advanced stage of organisation. As the proposing region, Lombardy had worked in close collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Tel Aviv for the development of a programme of meetings and visits that was to take place from 29 March to 1 April 2020. Numerous appointments had already been obtained and confirmed with interlocutors in Tel

Aviv, Jerusalem, Rehovot, and the Negev. Among these are the Innovation Authority of the Israeli government, the Israeli Ministries of Health and Agriculture with their related research centres, the JVP Jerusalem Venture Partner, the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation, the Weizmann Institute of Science with YEDA Research & Development Co., Netafim in the Negev. Part of the programme would have had a cultural dimension, in particular with the joint visit of the four institutional delegations to Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre.

Despite the emergency context that all four regions had to face, the Four Motors considered it important not to stop dialogue and collaboration and agreed that, precisely in the light of the great changes brought about by the pandemic, the exchange of knowledge, practices and virtuous tools is essential to seek and implement joint solutions and adequate responses to new and evolving needs. On the initiative of Lombardy's Presidency, **the authorities of the four regions** (Alan Christian Rizzi, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Lombardy Region; Theresa Schopper, Minister of State of Baden-Württemberg; Etienne Blanc, First Vice-President of the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region; Alfonso González, Director General for European and Mediterranean Affairs representing Elisabet Nebreda, newly appointed Secretary for Foreign Action and the EU of Catalonia) **met via videoconference on 9 April 2020 to discuss the policies and measures put in place to manage the emergency and prepare exit strategies from the crisis.** In addition to the investments and actions that the regions have put in place to safeguard public safety and human life, the governments of the Four Motors for Europe shared the concern for the industrial future of the driving forces of their economies and for all the companies that have always been at the heart of regional development and competitiveness.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, each region has immediately implemented wide-ranging measures to both contain the spread of the virus and support patients, families, students, workers and companies of all types and sizes. Technological and digital innovation has played an important role in helping to monitor and contain the spread of the virus, in supporting hospitals in providing care and in enabling citizens to easily access services and continue to perform their activities to the best of their ability.

The Four Motors for Europe also share concern about the social impact the pandemic has had on the population and have considered it important to engage in social collaboration with those in the most vulnerable situations. In this regard, the challenges arising from the pandemic are an opportunity for the four regions, which

will be able to relaunch their priority economic sectors with renewed energy and creativity.

The dialogue process launched on the priorities and policies developed by the regions to cope with the emergency and prepare strategies for recovery from the crisis inaugurated **in-depth analyses for policy areas** that were promoted and animated by the **thematic working groups**. The contribution of the working groups was essential to ensure a comprehensive and integrated vision of the whole process and to encourage the widest participation of stakeholders.

In this perspective, **on 23 April 2020, the Environment Group met at political level** on the initiative of Lombardy, which coordinates the work of the group, with the participation of the **Ministers / Councillors of Lombardy, Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia** and also with the interest and support of **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes**. By giving a further strong impetus to a dialogue that the Environment Group has continuously fostered, both at political and technical level, the four regions shared the urgency for sustainability and climate action to become an integral part of a wider recovery, so as to achieve different economic and social objectives both in the perspective of short-term aid and in the search for a resilient future. The Four Motors are willing to act in a cohesive and strengthened manner to bring the vision and experience of highly industrialised regions, capable of leadership in innovation, including in the environmental field, to Europe and within the international platforms in which the Four Motors participate together. The Four Motors have agreed that the recovery must be consolidated in a long-term perspective with new investments in infrastructure and services, while maintaining sustainability, decarbonisation and the circular economy as levers for competitiveness. As economically developed and dynamic regions, the Four Motors are committed to supporting the European Commission in the development of the Green Deal initiatives, calling for a way of implementing them that will truly provide new momentum. The Environment group has worked to present to the European Union institutions concrete proposals to strengthen recovery strategies through ecological measures and collaboration with the respective stakeholders. In this sense, the four partner regions have renewed their hope that the Four Motors will be considered as key players in the overall recovery effort, within which the acceleration of the mobility decarbonisation processes, the energy transition and the development of the circular economy will act as a driving force for economic recovery.

The exchange of information on measures, in particular those for **public safety** and the **economy**, progressively implemented by the various regions to accompany the

phases of gradual emergence from the crisis and relaunch of economic and social activities continued. The Lombardy Region also decided to present to the partner regions a number of strategic documents and open collaboration tools that were made available for joint reflection and as opportunities to give visibility to successful experiences developed in each territory to cope with the emergency. Particular mention should be made of the sharing of the **Mondo post-covid project with Open Lombardia**, launched by the Lombardy Region during the emergency and aimed at encouraging, according to an international debate perspective, the identification of priorities, proposals and lines of action useful to build adequate responses to the new economic, social, environmental and technological context. The project makes use of the **Open Innovation platform**, which operates according to the paradigm of open innovation, and is aimed at all those involved in innovation processes within businesses, research centres, public administrations, civil society and all citizens who want to play an active role in research and innovation policies. Since its creation, the Open Innovation platform has been presented to partner regions at technical meetings and constitutes a further tool for direct project interaction and collaboration at all levels (regional, national, European and international), for discussion among experts, as well as inspiration for policy making based on good practices and excellent research and innovation models on a global scale.

Lombardy has also brought to the attention of its partner regions the **Roadmap for research and innovation on the circular economy**, which the Lombardy regional government approved in early May 2020 at the end of an intense process of sharing and consultation with public and private entities. A solid strategy for the circular economy is an important lever for the transition of regional systems towards greater resilience and speed even in the phase of overcoming the pandemic emergency. The goal of sharing the roadmap with the main partners in Europe has been to stimulate the identification of complementarities and synergies useful to strengthen interregional cooperation for the creation of new European value chains. Still in a global perspective, the roadmap also constitutes a concrete action by the Lombardy Region with regard to the climate and environmental challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and was therefore a further starting point for interregional analyses and comparisons that the individual thematic working groups can continue to develop.

A particular focus was therefore dedicated, again during the emergency phase, to **culture**. A meeting among the experts of the culture group took place via videoconference on 29 June 2020. The cultural sector was one of the first to be heavily affected by the health emergency, and each of the four partner regions

intervened with specific short and medium-term measures and resources to support the survival of cultural enterprises and the safe enjoyment of different forms of culture. In the Four Motors for Europe regions, the emergency was also an opportunity for the cultural sector to review organisational and management models and for regional governments to reflect with stakeholders on the **new priorities of the cultural world** in terms of production, supply and consumption of culture. The emergency has accelerated some processes that, in different forms and to different degrees, were already underway in the regions: **the innovation of cultural places and times, the integration between digital and physical experiences, the enhancement of the role and creativity of local communities in the definition of new forms of cultural activities**. The experts who took part in the meeting at the end of June on behalf of the four regions shared an update on the actions implemented by their respective administrations and focused on interests and possible paths for collaboration. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of **intensifying relations with EU institutions** and facilitating those among the cultural actors of the four territories, with a view to presenting regional competences and bodies in Europe and seizing the **opportunities deriving from EU funding instruments**, also aiming at enhancing the transversal nature of culture and the potential of digitisation. In the four regions, digital tools played a key role during the emergency; the sharing of digital tools developed in the different regions could strengthen the offer of innovative ways of distributing artistic content and bringing artists closer to a wider audience. The June working session also confirmed the interest in the continuation of forms of meeting and exchange between performing arts and music companies.