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## Part I – General information

Project	PGI 00088 SKILLS+
Partner Organisation	VSB – Technical University Ostrava
Country	Czech Republic
NUTS2 Region	Moravian Silesian Region
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## Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact **X Investment for Growth and Jobs programme**

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Operational Programme Enterprise, and Innovations for Competitiveness

### **X Type 1: Implementation of new projects**

- Type 2: Change in the management of the policy instrument (improved governance)
- Type 3: Change in the strategic focus of the policy instrument (structural change)

- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

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## Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### The background

There is a strong need to support economic development in the EU regions that are suffering from the industrial shift away from the heavy mining industry. Therefore, the so called "Mining Platform" was recently established. Besides the Ústí Region, also the Moravian-Silesian Region belongs to this platform. To support the regions undergoing structural change, especially in the former mining and industrial regions such as the Moravian-Silesian and the Ústí Region, the Czech government develops the supporting programmes. The Moravian-Silesian region is currently involved in the RESTART programme that will support competition in the business sector, with focus on regional SME's development. The aim is to launch incentives, and to create an environment that will enable sustainable economical growth and to reduce the share of public funding. The investment in innovation and support of research and development activities will contribute to this development. The Moravian-Silesian region, especially the City of Ostrava and its metropolitan area, disposes with the wide research infrastructure. VSB–The Technical University Ostrava, as the main educational and research institution in the region established several research centres: The IT4Innovations, which belongs to a TOP research centres at the EU level, Centre Energy Units for Utilization of Non-Traditional Energy Sources (ENET); Institute of Environmental Technology (IET) and other.

The VSB–TUO focused on the Policy Instrument Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovations for Competitiveness, Priority Axis 1: Development of research, and development for innovations, Specific objective 1.2: Increase of intensity and effectiveness of cooperation in research, development and innovations for the Czech Republic in the 2014 – 2020 financial period. The OP is managed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic. The desired output is to extend number of well prepared project applications for the committed Policy Instrument by encouraging SMEs from the Moravian- Silesian Region to participate and hereby to increase the impact of the Policy Instrument to the structural change of this region.

The Moravian-Silesian region, like many of the cities and regions of the world, is interesting on "smart", "smart cities" or "smart regions" concepts, and wants to promote the practical implementation of this concept in the region.

The Moravian-Silesian Region intends to commit itself to the implementation of the long-term objectives and the implementation of the proposed measures and projects in five priority areas - Transport, ICT Infrastructure, Healthcare, De-Bureaucracy and Savings.

The aim of the Moravian-Silesian Region is to contribute to the development and use of smart technologies, increase the competitiveness of the region and the quality of life of its inhabitants, while contributing to the goals of the long-term development strategy of the Moravian-Silesian Region and the Czech Republic. One of the offers how to reach it is/was project SKILLS+.

Project SKILLS+ help SMEs better to use the effect of expected long-term benefits from Development Strategy of the Smart Region of the Moravian-Silesian Region, like:

- Increasing the capacity, speed, availability and quality of ICT infrastructure for the inhabitants and business entities in the region. Infrastructure and conditions for the collection, storage and rapid use of data and information of the required quality.
- Usable high-capacity backbone infrastructure for data, audio, graphics and video transmission, which are a prerequisite for delivering innovative solutions for online services and products.
- Higher efficiency of both public and private services through a functional and affordable Internet of Things, Automation, and Extensions to End-User and Developer Deduction.

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The total amount of funds regarding Priority Axis 1 is 1,342,600 EUR. The specific objective 1.2 "Increase of intensity and effectiveness of the cooperation in research, development and innovations" foresees, among other measures, the support of the uptake of ICT and the development of new ICT based products and services by Czech SME's. The key activity of the respective OP priority is to support the innovations and application of research in industries, with the main focus on development of new methods and technologies supporting innovative products, materials and software creation. This is linked with the development of new job positions. Supported activities include joint research and technology transfer projects among several SME's and/or with R&D institutions, as well as innovation within individual SME's. The 1st Priority Axis also provides funding for the IraSME projects, in particular, those projects submitted by two SMEs from eligible countries: (Austria, Germany, Belgium (Flanders, Wallonia), Germany, Russia (MP only) and France (Nord-Pas de Calais region).

The policy instrument works on a national level, so VSB-TUO targeted the Action Plan activities on enhancement of the cooperation between the university and regional SME's, with the specific focus on small companies with less than 50 employees, registered in the Moravian-Silesian Region rural areas. The Action Plan activities shall support new project applications provided in a better quality, submitted by new applicants from SME's targeted to implementation of innovation and new IT solutions. The VSB-TUO also aims to improve the cooperation among regional SME's, and to support the transfer of knowledge among SME's in the educational and research sector, and aims to increase the number of small companies participating in the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovations for Competitiveness in this manner. Consequently, this objective determined the practices that VSB-TUO proposed and discussed with stakeholders firstly in the preparation of Baseline study, secondly during the preparation of the Action Plan.

#### **Action**

**Challenge addressed:** Support of cooperation among regional SME's and the educational and research institutions to prepare projects for funding

Actions:

1. SME's direct support
2. Workshops
3. Projects preparation, Project consultation
4. Reporting

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### 1. **SME's direct support**

VSB-TUO will organize seminars, to provide the regional SME's with updated information and practical advice to support them in development and submission of applications (projects preparation, needs and opportunities). This is new action which can be realised by obtained the knowledge from Skills+ project, we can be more specific and addressed on the regional/rures area need.

#### **Output: Project applications submitted by regional SME's min. 3**

The purpose of this activity is to enhance collaboration between the different stakeholders in Moravian Silesian Region with the focus being on the implementation of innovation and technology transfer as well as maximizing opportunities arising from the cooperative projects between SMEs and research organisations.

#### 1.1. **Players involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

VSB – TUO – SKILLS+ project partner, main coordinator and provider of the activity

#### 1.2. Stakeholders

- Ministry of Industry and Trade Association of Research Organisations – participate on seminars, providing consultations
- Business Chamber – participate on seminars, providing consultations
- Enterprise Europe Network
- SMEs – Beneficiaries, Clusters

#### 1.3. Timeframe

4/2019 – 3/2021

#### 1.4. **Costs** (if relevant)

Personal costs – own sources

#### 1.5. Funding sources (if relevant):

Partly paid by the running and new prepared projects

10 % of the involved personal cost will be paid by the university, calculation will be provided yearly

Expected Future sources of new projects, already delivered e.g.

- TAČR Théta - Model strategy for managing the "outlook" of the municipality using local energy sources with respect to the ecological stability of the region, **1 M€** from 2019-2023
- MŠMT Inform - Mobilizing research potential in energy and the environment in 2 Re: Start regions, **0,5 M€** from 2019-2022
- H2020 – Twinning, Etc.

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## 2. **Courses**

Support education of regional SME's at the field IT knowledge, courses will be innovated by the knowledge of project Skills+. The courses will be upgraded by integration of the need to use the IT knowledge gained from the project. It will be served also by project's good practices.

We will open also new course **Skills+** for SME's – based on the good practise exchange

<http://kurzy.vsb.cz/>

### **Output: running courses – 5**

The purpose of this activity is to provide trainings to improve capacity and support the implementation of the innovation in SME's in the Moravian Silesian Region that will enhance the economical development of this region and help with the new orientation to Industry 4.0.

#### 2.1. **Players involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

VSB – TUO – SKILLS+ project partner, provider of the activity

#### 2.2. **Timeframe**

Continually, but in the campaigns

#### 2.3. **Costs** (if relevant)

Personal costs – own sources

#### 2.4. **Funding sources** (if relevant): n/a

Paid by the participants and/or by the government.

When ordering the second and other courses for the same participant is a 10% discount (not applicable for retraining courses).

Unemployed, seniors, full-time students and women (men) on RD have a 50% discount (not for retraining and online courses).

Education employees have a 25% discount (unless stated otherwise).

For holders of VŠB-TUO graduate card discount 10%

Repeating the course within one year is free of charge.

If someone is not sure whether the course is suitable for him / her, he / she can attend the first day of the first training for free (applies to most 3-day and longer courses).

First preparation of the courses was made by the previous projects, added courses by Skills+ knowledge.

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### 3. **Projects preparation, Projects consultation**

The close cooperation and support of the Cluster operating in e-mobility in development and submission of project application under respective OP Axis and Priority. Communication with the stakeholders

<https://cpi.vsb.cz/cs/sluzby/projektova-podpora/> - support of proposal preparation, project's running

<https://cpi.vsb.cz/cs/sluzby/projektova-podpora/konzultace-a-priprava-projektu/> - support of proposal preparation, project's running

**Output: Number of developed applications** – min. 2

**Output: Number of consulting projects** – min. 2

The purpose of this activity is to improve the quality of the projects application and their impact to the competitiveness of the SMEs from the Moravian Silesian Region. Individual project consultation will assist in the whole process of project preparation from networking, logical frame consultation and also advisory services providing marketing and financial analysis. Hereby the capacity obstacles SMEs faces will be eliminated, SMEs will be able to work with new partners on the improvement of their products, technology or knowledge. Innovations will inevitably support the economical growth of SMEs and also the Moravian Silesian Region.

Improvement of SME competitiveness by providing IT tools to facilitate international trade, promotion of IT Supercomputing VSB – TUO Centre

Increase of IT tools utilisation by regional SME's to support their competitiveness

<http://industry.it4i.cz/en/>

<https://www.it4i.cz/2018/10/15-kolo-verejne-grantove-souteze/>

<https://www.it4i.cz/2018/10/8-vyzva-prace-shape-vypocetni-cas-pro-male-a-stredni-podniky/>

**Output: Number of supported SME's – 2**

#### 3.1. **Players involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

VSB – TUO – SKILLS+ project partner, provider of the activity

#### 3.2. **Timeframe**

4/2019 – 3/2020

#### 3.3. **Costs** (if relevant)

Personal costs – own sources

#### 3.4. **Funding sources** (if relevant):

Partly paid by the running projects, in the future we will prepare new project according the obtained knowledges from project Skills+, e.g for the agency MŠMT Inter-Excellence, or TAČR, or MPO, etc.



Expected min. budgeted **100 T€**

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#### 4. **Reporting**

Fulfilling the action plan depends on the planned and coordinated process of implementing individual activities. For these purposes, the time and content framework for the implementation of the individual activities mentioned above was created.

The individual activities will then be reported according the program/project rules.

Date:	<u>29. 01. 2019</u>
Signature:	<u></u> Prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., rector of VŠB-TU Ostrava
Stamp of the organisation (if available):	<u></u>

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