

Proposal summary page

Digital Eco Systems in Regional Environments DESIRE

Strategic objective(s) addressed

The aim of the DESIRE project is help promote and embed digital eco-systems within regional environments in Europe. It does this by approaching digital eco-systems within the perspective of “open innovation”, an emerging paradigm that views innovation as an open and collaborative activity where firms freely share knowledge and technologies. The project’s main objective is a better understanding of the open innovation model and of methodologies to tackle its challenges.

DESIRE’s specific objectives are to:

- 1) Develop indicators and models of open innovation practices within European SMEs across a wide range of sectors, regions and innovation types.
- 2) Identify best practices in open innovation within European regions.
- 3) Develop methodologies and toolkits to support European SMEs and regions in deploying open innovation-based approaches, so as to improve their competitiveness.
- 4) Develop metrics and policy recommendations for European and regional policy-makers regarding open innovation, as a basis for building digital ecosystems.

Proposal abstract

DESIRE is positioned at the convergence of two emerging concepts: Open Innovation (OI) and Digital Eco-Systems (DES). OI describes a new paradigm for the management of industrial innovation in which firms work with external partners both to commercialise their internal innovations and leverage external ideas and knowledge. DES posits that firms will operate within a pervasive digital environment which evolves and adapts to local conditions. The project seeks to integrate these two perspectives, and in particular to gain a better understanding of OI as a means of building DES.

DESIRE’s goal is a better understanding of the OI model and of methodologies to tackle its challenges. Its objectives are to:

- Develop indicators and models of OI practices within European SMEs across a wide range of sectors, regions and innovation types.
- Identify best practices in OI within European regions.
- Develop methodologies and toolkits to support European SMEs and regions in deploying OI-based approaches, so as to improve their competitiveness.
- Develop metrics and policy recommendations for European and regional policy-makers regarding OI, as a basis for building digital ecosystems.

DESIRE brings together regional networks and SME support organisations from a wide range of European regions, and is firmly rooted in practical research. It will deliver methodologies, models, tools and policy recommendations to move OI and digital ecosystem concepts firmly into the mainstream of innovation policy within European regions.

The project's innovation lies primarily in:

- A detailed focus on European SMEs from an OI perspective, so as to better understand their functioning within digital eco-systems.
- Analysis of the regional dimension to OI, as a basis for strengthening digital eco-systems at regional level.
- Analysis of the role of digital technologies within OI, as a means of understanding the nature of innovation processes within dynamic collaborative business networks and DES.