

## **PORA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF KOPRIVNICA KRIŽEVCI COUNTY**

**Project idea:** Innovation Clusters as a part of the regional ecosystem in Industrial Transition

**Policy objective:** 1. Smarter Europe

**Specific objective:** (iv) Skills for smart specialization, industrial transition & entrepreneurship

**Problem:** The process of industrial transition in Republic of Croatia started with the development of Plans for industrial transition for three regions: Pannonian Croatia, Adriatic Croatia and **Northern Croatia**. These regions are significantly below the European Union's development average and have the potential to strengthen regional competitiveness by using the opportunities offered by global megatrends to revive economic growth and increase productivity. PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County as a regional coordinator for the area of Koprivnica Križevci County was part of the team for the Development of the Plan for the Industrial Transition of Northern Croatia for the period from 2021-2027.

Plan for the Industrial Transition of Northern Croatia represents a strategic framework for defining industrial transition activities of priority sectors in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, which aims to enable smart specialization and strengthen the position of the regional economy in global value chains through:

- strengthening the regional ecosystem for entrepreneurs;
- development and strengthening of research and innovation capacities and application of advanced technologies within regional value chains;
- strengthening the sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and creating jobs through productive investments in priority niches;
- developing smart skills for industrial transition.

The result of the specialization of Northern Croatian SMEs in regional value chains and priority niches is the development of new innovative and integrated products that companies will develop through the process of industrial transition, specialization and increasing the competitiveness of the regional economy.

The main role of the PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County in the further process of industrial transition is to support the management of industrial transition and one of the supporting tool is the establishment and development of innovation clusters. Innovation clusters will be the main tool for networking of all key stakeholders in regional value chains (by creating the quadruple helix model). The main problem that arises is how to contribute to a successful ecosystem for entrepreneurs by establishing an innovation cluster, which mechanisms and methodology to use.

PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County wants to exchange experiences with other countries that are familiar with the process of industrial transition in order to be able to adopt new knowledge and experiences and contribute to the regional transformation roadmap.

### **Main goals:**

- 1.) Map and research the main needs of regional innovation ecosystems using the quadruple helix model (small and medium-sized enterprises, academic and research community, public and civil sector);
- 2.) Creating living labs that will transfer methodology for the development of innovation clusters;
- 3.) Based on the transferred methodology, learn how innovation clusters works and how to properly establish them and strengthen the regional ecosystem.

### **Main activities:**

- analysis of support for small and medium-sized enterprises in the establishment of regional innovation ecosystems;
- interregional meetings for the exchange of good practices;
- peer to peer activities;
- study visits and participation in performances of other partners and regional activities with target groups;
- meetings and activities with local stakeholder groups in each partner region;
- creation of action plans;
- Policy Learning Platform contributions and exchanges;
- communication and dissemination of project results;
- monitoring and analysis of the results of Action Plans (phase 2).

PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County wants to participate in the project as a project partner, and since the project idea is still in process of creating, we are ready to coordinate the project idea with the project ideas of other project partners.