



ORGANISATION	<p><u>Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor / Regionalna razvojna agencija za Podravje - Maribor</u></p>
Profile	<p>Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor (RDAPM) was founded in 1993 as the first Slovenian Development Agency. In 1994 the RDAPM founded the Styrian Technology Park (STP), the first Slovenian technology park Styrian Technology Park that was in 2021 incorporated in the mother organisation. RDAPM is a public non-profit body, a technology, business & research support organization, based in the Podravje region, North-East Slovenia. Besides its headquarter premises in the largest municipality in East Slovenia (NUTS II), the City of Maribor (research & industrial area) it manages also two additional business units (business support centres and incubator).</p> <p>RDAPM is managing the following main scopes of activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) RDAPM, being the Business Support Centre and Accelerator, is focused on provision of comprehensive support for SMEs (more than 200 SMEs supported) in Podravje region (41 municipalities), in different stages of their lifecycle – from the “setting up the business” stage, to the stages of growth, development, internationalization, restructuring activities, etc... In other words, RDAPM/STP operates as a nationally certified business incubator for the development of dynamic, innovative business ideas of micro and small enterprises, with substantial input of knowledge in their products and/or services. As a founding member of the Association of Incubators and Technology Parks of Slovenia, a founding member Coworking Network Maribor, one of the initial members of Smart City Maribor initiative, RDAPM represents an important component of the national support environment for innovative SMEs in the North-East of Slovenia, supported by the national Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.



2) RDAPM is acting as the **Regional Centre for Technology Development** (RCTD), pursuing technology transfer, technological & innovative research and development sphere among/with different target groups and topics. Within RCTD, a Technology Hub of North Slovenia is being set up. Techno Living Lab is a focal point of open innovation R&D&I projects and is to be upgraded/strengthened within own cross-regional Technology Hub and supported by the Orbitala (open innovation) Living Lab. RDAPM TehnoLL priority fields of activity are Advanced (Smart) Technologies, together with KET, ICT, Creativity and SMEs Inno support. It focuses also on the attraction of foreign direct investments to Podravje region. RDAPM acts as regional Business Point (One-stop-shop: SPOT).

3) RDAPM is accredited Regional Development Agency of Podravje region (NUTS III), providing technical support to the Regional Council (Council of 41 municipalities) and Regional Development Council (main regional stakeholders pursuing quadruple helix). As member of the RDAs Association in Slovenia, it is co-creating the Slovenian regional policy. It is providing the expertise in regional planning to the municipalities and creating sustainable urban development strategies, smart and digital strategies as well as the regional development programme. It connects municipalities on different topics: from internationalisation, foreign direct investments to the tourism.

Moreover, RDAPM acts not only within the Podravje region but wider (nationally and internationally), as it represents a **nationally certified component (institution) of the national support environment for innovative SMEs in Slovenia**, supported by the national Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.

Besides that, RDAPM is also:

- a.) Certified EU Digital Innovation Hub
- b.) Member of Strategic Development Innovation Partnership, **Innovation Cluster: SRIP - Circular Economy**;
- c.) Member of Strategic Development Innovation Partnership, **Innovation Cluster: SRIP - Smart buildings and home with a wood chain**;
- d.) Member of Strategic Development Innovation Partnership, **Innovation Cluster: SRIP - Smart Cities and Communities**
- d.) Member of Reference **national network of creative laboratories - FABLABs** for the innovation of Slovenia.



- e.) EU HiPEAC member > Hub for European researchers specializing in High Performance and Embedded Architecture and Compilation
- f.) EU **RobotUnion** member of pan-European acceleration programme fully focused on start-ups and SMEs in the robotics sector
- g.) EU **Danube Strategy – Artificial Intelligence** working group member
- h.) EU Member of the Enterprise Europe Network
- i.) Member of EURADA.

In collaboration with the biggest Slovenian bank (NLB d.d), in March 2015, RDAPM opened a new branch office, **Innovation business centre in Maribor**, under the name "**StartTogether**". This promising and modern space represents a focal point of Techno Living Lab, offering overall support to forthcoming and newly established businesses (supporting them especially with its open innovation/living lab environment, by identification, development, execution and successful marketing of their innovative products or services).

RDAPM supports innovative projects (mostly via/for SMEs) in a form of complex expertise business services (research/development/innovation consultancy, networking, information's, administrative/other support services) on one side, and an **appropriate technical infrastructure** (offices, production space, office appliances, research facilities, laboratories) on the other.

RDAPM supports companies operating in different sectors (e.g. efficient use of energy, ICT with KET, smart technologies, creative industries, tool production, robotics, etc.). Thus, STP is always engaged in the preparation and implementation of efficient technical support and advice services according to different sectors of developing companies.

RDAPM actively participates in the processes of preparation and implementation of various kinds of research–development–innovation projects (funded from international, EU and non-EU, national sources), development plans for the region, participates in national strategic planning etc. It is also active in the processes of regional transfer of knowledge and technologies. It plays an important role as a point for networking and information & contacts exchange for companies as well as for other institutions in the region. Qualitative and on-time implementation of expertise activities, as well as interconnection with various strategic and policy levels, are assured via 30+ RDAPM expertise staff.



Previous experience in European projects

Within 28 years of its operation, RDAPM has developed a long-term collaboration with a wide pool of external experts, organizations and networks, competent for and capable of implementing all the needed support services as well as effective project work on a regional, national, EU and wider international level.

RDAPM staff members have been involved in the design and implementation of numerous R&D&I EU projects in the capacity of project leader, project manager as well as provider of external expertise. RDAPM was involved in more than 120 projects, financed through different EU programmes (Interreg Europe, Interreg - CE, Danube, Alpine Space, SEE, MED, EEA, FP7, Horizon2020, ERASMUS+, CBC SI-AT, CBC SI-HR, Intelligent Energy Europe, Enlargement Europe, etc).

Some of the EU funded R&D&I project references:

- **CHAIN REACTIONS** – Driving smart industrial growth through value chain innovation
- **3D4KIDS** – Secondary Education for and through the 3D Printing
- **E3D+VET** – Erasmus+ for the immersion in 3D printing of VET centres
- **INSIGHT** – Fostering Industrial Symbiosis through the development of a novel and innovative training approach
- **HAePPI** – Fostering the innovation in the European habitat and e-health sectors through the Public Procurement of Innovative solutions to improve the European SMEs competitiveness
- **CrowdStream** – CROWDfunding to mainSTREAM innovation in Interreg Danube area
- **eNEET Rural** – Facilitating entrepreneurship and improving skills of NEETs living in rural areas
- **OPEN ALPS** - Open Innovation in Alpine SMEs
- **INNO CBC** – Innovation ecosystem for cross-border co-operation SI-AT
- **INTRA** - Internationalisation of Regional SMEs
- **INNOLINK** - Fostering Innovation Capacities of the SMEs
- **CREA.RE** - Creative and Cultural Industries in regions
- **ADC** - Adriatic Danubian Clustering
- **Central Markets** - Revitalising and promoting traditional markets in Central Europe
- **ClusterPoliSEE** - Smarter Cluster Policies for South East Europe
- **CMC** - Clusters Meet Culture
- **DesAlps** - Design Thinking for a Smart Innovation ecosystem in Alpine Space
- **ECO4B** - Environment Cooperation for Business



EU INDUSTRY WEEK 2021

Local event organised in partnership with the European Commission.

#EUIndustryWeek



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edecon - EcoDEsign for the CONstruction industry • HEALTH4GROWTH - Developing regional actions to promote SMEs in health sector and stimulate economic growth • YOUNIG - Improving institutional capacities and fostering cooperation to tackle the impacts of transnational youth migration • WiB - Supporting young women entrepreneurs in the Danube region • Erasmus • NO-BLE IDEAS – Young Innovators Network for Sustainable Ideas in the Agro-Food Sector • ERASMUS3D+ – Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships / Training material for developing 3D printers • CENTRALAB – Central European Living Lab for Territorial Innovation • PVSP – “Enterprising in the world of entrepreneurship” • OPEN ALPS – Open Innovation Labs in Alpine Space area • INNO-RURAL Network – Innovation and entrepreneurship in rural areas • EU REGIO BILATERAL STRUCTURE OF NE SLOVENIA – STYRIA AUSTRIA • IPT SME – Innovation, Promotion and Transfer of SME technology • BRIDGE – Regional Impulse Centres and Incubators as hubs between economic regions • SCMB – Smart City Maribor initiative • ROBOTICS COMPETENCE CENTER – Setup of the competence centre for human resources training in the robotics sector • E-ENTREPRENEUR – Setup of a business support system for promotion of entrepreneurship in Maribor region • TECHNOLOGY AXIS MARIBOR – GRAZ – Synergy of technology, knowledge and innovation between Maribor (Slovenia) and Graz (Austria) – Cross-border business co-operation in specific sectors • En.Tra.Re – Enlargement Training Regions« - Promotion and implementation of training for vulnerable categories as a factor of competitive advantage for the socioeconomic systems • INO Mechanism – National system of support to innovation - Implementation of business support activities for regional start-ups and SMEs in the field of innovation, development and internationalization • SciPARK – Conceptual planning for establishment and development of science parks in Maribor and Osijek
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INNOVIN – Network of cross-border innovative incubators for the benefit of regional entrepreneurial ecosystem and promotion of start-ups • CRAFT GOES DIGITAL – Development and promotion of ICT tools, implementation of ICT training & e-promotion in regional crafts sector.
Interests for future projects proposals	<p>RDAPM team is keen to design and co-create the project proposal as well as implement them in the capacity of project leader or trustful and responsible partner in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - smart specialisation and sustainable development of regions, cities and communities - digitalisation as a vertical theme in regional development and planning - research, development and innovation in SMEs, including start-ups - internationalisation and FDI of SMEs (including development and refinement of methodologies) - circular economy, smart tourism
Project ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - joint research and application of smart specialisation in regions: cooperation with quadruple helix across Europe and beyond - digitalisation of cities, towns and communities, including joint project with DIH - cooperation of smart cities with the pilot projects in AI, big data, sensors etc.
3 key words	Digitalisation, Smart cities and regions, Circular economy
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