

Flexible use of measures and coordination between implementing bodies

The case of the Food-Chain Integrated
Projects in Italy
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The Food-chain Integrated Project

FIP

A FIP is the set of organic and coordinated operations / interventions referable to multiple measures / actions of the RDP (mainly Axis 1) to which an aggregation of individuals (firms and institutions) operating in different segments of a specific food-chain contributes through an integrated approach promoted by a promoter / leader.

The FIP is finalized to increase the competitiveness of the specific food chain and of the participants

FIP in Italian Regions

Objectives and procedures vary widely due to two different strategies:

1. Reorganization of the various forms of aggregation and chain-producers,
(Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Umbria, Puglia, Calabria)
2. Creation and innovation of the agri-food supply chains
(Liguria, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Marche, Lazio, Campania and Basilica)

The requirements of the procedures design

- To accompany and encourage partnership processes;
- To meet the obligations imposed by EU regulations;
- To guarantee the needed simplification and speed in the activation of combined measures

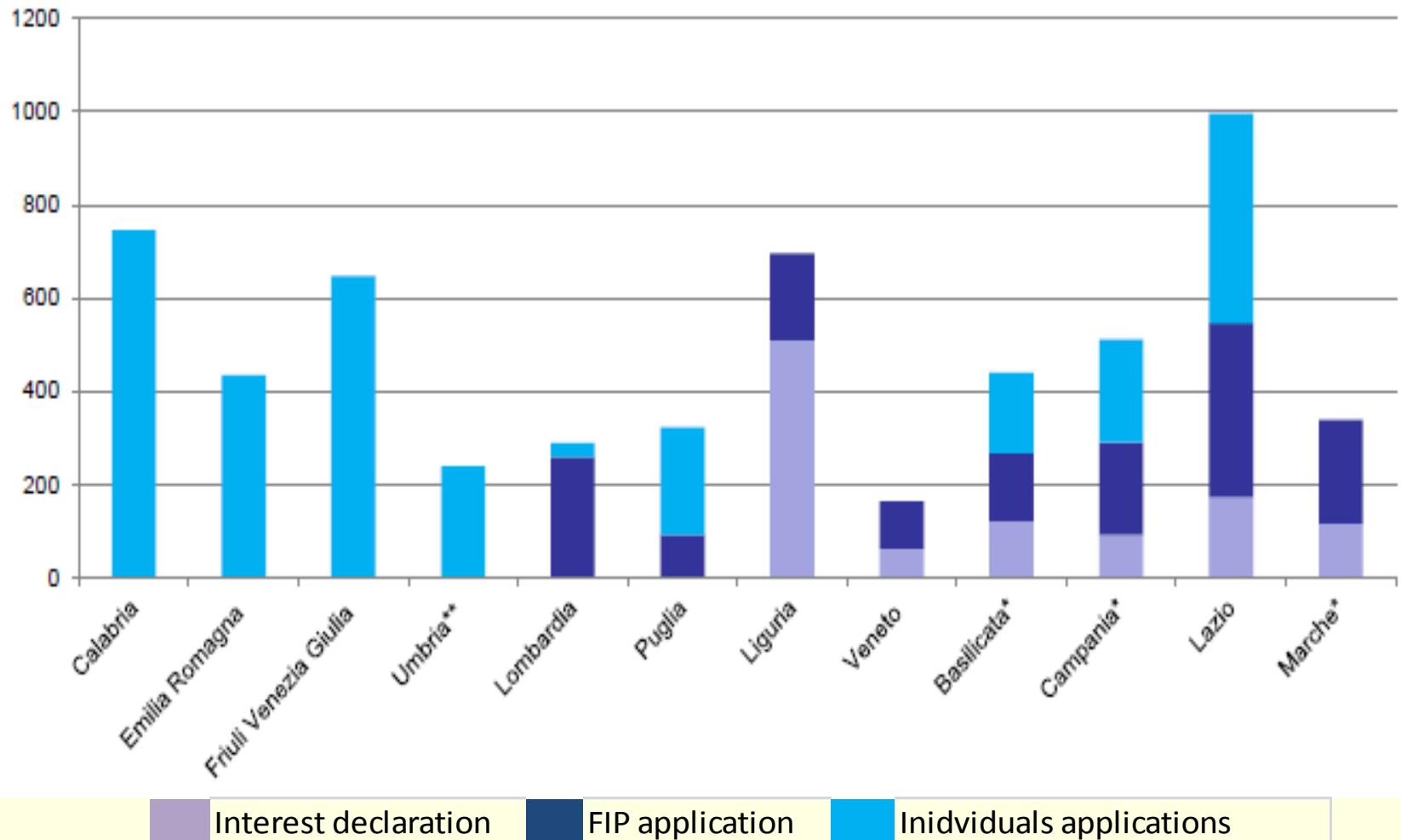
STANDARD STEPS



Measures mix in the Italian FIP

	111	112	114	115	121	122	123	124	125	126	131	132	133	Asse 2	Asse 3
Basilicata	x				x	x	x	x	x				x		x
Calabria	x			x			x	x					x		
Campania	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Emilia Romagna	x		x		x	x	x	x				x	x		
Friuli V. G.					x	x	x	x	x				x	x	
Lazio	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		
Liguria	x		x			x	x	x	x	x			x	x	
Lombardia	x	x			x	x	x	x	x					x	x
Marche	x				x		x	x				x	x		311
Puglia					x		x	x				x	x	x	
Toscana			x		x		x	x	x			x	x		311
Umbria	x		x		x		x	x	x			x	x	214	311
Veneto	x		x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x		

Procedures and implementing time for the FIP in different Regions



Emilia Romagna

The operational approach of FIP requires :

1. **A formal agreement** signed between actors in the food- chain ("beneficiaries direct "and" indirect beneficiaries "), which identifies the promoter / leader, the objectives to be achieved, the obligations and responsibilities towards one another;
2. **A project** aimed at achieving specific objectives and measurable - consists of a set of operations / interventions, which are identified "Direct beneficiaries" and the actions that each of them has.

Emilia Romagna

The agreement goals:

- to create / build horizontal relationships (aggregation of producers) and vertically between the actors of the food chain to define shared goals and to foster the development of processes aimed at rebalancing the redistribution of added value between the different actors

Contractual obligations

- origin of the total volumes processed by companies in the sector (75% of the total annual quantity of the raw material must come from farms involved in production participants)
- commitment to the provision / sale by the farms at least 20% of its annual production.

EMILIA ROMAGNA: FIP PROCEDURES

PHASE	SUBJECT		SCHEDULE	NUMBERS OF APPLICATION /PROJECTS
PUBLIC NOTICE	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION		18 MAY 2009	
FIP APPLICATIONS	PROMOTERS	Formally Delegated by single participants	16 OCTOER 2009	70
ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS/INVESTMENTS	REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	Measures Services	1 FEBRUARY 2010	
ELEGIBILITY OF FIP FORMAL AGREEMENTS AND PROJEST ITSELF	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION	Aid for enterprices Service	15 APRIL 2010	
FIP RANKING AND SELECTION	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION	Dedicated Evaluation Committee	16 JULY 2010	67
FINANCING ACT	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION		26 JULY 2010	

Emilia: First considerations

(Mid- term Evaluation Report)

- High participations of farm to the Projects (in numbers 1233 on 1956 and investments 74% are on farm)
- Very good finalization of individuals activities to the Regional strategy and good partners integration due to the formal Project contract explicitating the Project goals and containing individuals responsibility.
- Important role of non beneficiary partners (non eligible for sector or dimensions) in the definition of Project goals and priority interventions

Emilia: First considerations

(Mid- term Evaluation Report)

Higher efficiency compared with single implementation of measures:

- adeguating firms to new norms, standards and technics in the all food-chain;
- firms integration for new activities (bionergy production from by products);

Competitiveness of food-chain finalised more at local and national markets (all local food.chain advantages).

Lazio

The operational approach of FIP requires :

1. An **interest declaration** by a promoter (firm or institutions) and the adhesions by the interest participants (firm or institutions eligible in the different measures);
2. A **Preliminary Project** presented by the promoter indicating FIP goals, potential beneficiaries and their proposed activities and total cost of intervention;
3. A **Final Project** presented by the promoter formally authorized by all partners that have signed a formal agreement defining the commitments and obligations of each partner / Beneficiary and the exact identification of roles and related responsibility-

Lazio FIP Procedures

PHASE	SUBJECT	SCHEDULE	NUMBERS OF APPLICATION /PROJECTS
PUBLIC NOTICE	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION	30 MAY 2008	
INTEREST DECLARATION	PROMOTERS	20 DAYS	166
PUBBLICATION OF THE INTEREST DECLARATION ON REGIONAL THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION	20 DAYS	
APPLICATION TO THE Food-chain Integrated Project	SINGLE BENEFICIARIES (Farms and others economic and institutional actors)	20 DAYS or until Preliminary project Presentation	
PRELIMINARY FIP PROJECTS	PROMOTERS	60 DAYS FROM THE INTEREST DECLARATION	46
SELECTION OF PRELIMINARY PROJECTS	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION	19 NOVEMBER 2008	43
FIP FINAL VERSION	PROMOTERS	90 DAYS FROM ADMISSION POSTPONED TO 24 APRIL 2009	27
SELECTION OF FINAL PROJECTS	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION	STARTING FROM MAY 2009	Dedicated Commettee
FINANCING ACTS	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION	Departing from May 2010 and	22

Lazio: first considerations

(Mid- term Evaluation Report)

- High number of interest declarations due to simplicity of procedure (on line application)
- Regional intervention to merge different proposals in the same food-chain (mainly livestock)
- Very good selection of the project (from 166 to 27 eligible and 22 financed)
- Intense cooperation activities between promoters and individual firms to define the project and to select the participants.
- Very articulated procedures for the final project (formal agreement among participants, supply contracts, constitution of a new collective legal figure presenting the project)

Lazio :main critical points

(Mid- term Evaluation Report)

Single Eligibility verification for individual applications caused very different situations in the FIP:

- beneficiaries of the FIP received the formal granting act in very different time;
- Different eligibility procedures for the different Measure caused different time in the granting act time (es. Measure 114);
- Beneficiaries are in very different phases of the financing procedures (granting act, advance payment, final payment etc)



Difficulties in coordination of investments and activities and on integration and complementarity among FIP actors and activities.

High complexity for the promoter to coordinate physical and financial FIP monitoring and control

Final considerations

1. Complex procedure that determines the reorganization of the regional structures to increase the efficiency;
2. Long timeframe;
3. Need to define more standardized procedures that can facilitate the implementation
4. Facilitated by an already existing food-chain coordination (Emilia);
5. Effective in creating new and innovative food-chain (Lazio)

Final considerations

1. Scarse use of measure 114 compared with the numbers of participating farms although very effective in diffusing in the food-chain new process or rules (Emilia, Veneto).
2. Complex coordination for the high number of participants in particular farms: for many farms the FIP is the only financial instrument considering the priority of measure 121 (young farmers, disadvantaged area etc).
3. Need to increase skills of the FIP leaders in terms of coordination, monitoring and control during project implementation.
4. Need to simplify procedures for variations