

## **IN-EUR: Template for Implementation Plan**

### 3.2 Mainstreaming ALBI

Mainstreaming ALBI is a key component of the model's success. As a lead partner in the In-Eur project and as a party that has been applied ALBI within the territory of Galati, SERDA is keen to continue the implementation of innovation initiatives. SERDA has constantly been involved in research projects on innovation, by creating innovation strategies and getting the lead of different EU funded projects. Therefore, it will continue to play an important role in mainstreaming ALBI in South East Region, in partnership with the policy makers interested to improve the competitiveness and support growth through smart specialisation. SERDA will need reliable partners at local level in order to be able to continue to apply the model and its philosophy, but on the medium and long term, the measurement of innovation process should also be a part of the job of other policy makers, as a county statistical office is, as a component of measurement of innovation for Universities interested to develop study programmes correlated with the needs of private business and part of local development strategies or as initiatives of the local councils to have a bigger input in the process of economic development.

- a) *identification of local authorities/ policy makers which are involved in the development of local innovation policies, together with contact details for each of them (names of representatives, departments, etc.);*
- b) *definition of actions needed in order to transfer/adopt the model to/by identified organisations in a): ad-hoc actions need to be foreseen on the basis of the nature and role of organisation identified, therefore specify for each action which organisation will be tackled.*
- c) *identification of other actors to be involved in the transfer of the model: provide names, name of organisations, contact details, etc. of any other local actors that you might wish/ need to involve in the process of transferring the ALBI model at local level.*

<i>a) Local authorities/ policy makers involved in the development of local innovation policies</i>							
<b>Name of Organisation:</b>	<b><i>Galați /BrailaCounty Council</i></b>	<b><i>Galați /Braila Townhall</i></b>	<b><i>"Danubius" University</i></b>	<b><i>"Dunărea de Jos" University</i></b>	<b><i>County Chamber of Commerce</i></b>	<b><i>South East Regional Development Agency –</i></b>	<b><i>National Statistical Institute – County Branch</i></b>
<i>Name of contact person for each organisation:</i>	<i>Regional Development Department – Mrs Valentina Lefter</i>	<i>Mr Mircea Ostache</i>	<i>Mr Viorel Ariton</i>	<i>Mr Gelu Gurguiatu</i>	<i>Mrs Cristina Radovici</i>	<i>Mrs Luminita Mihailov</i>	<i>Mrs Anca Constantin</i>
<i>Position held within the</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Professor</i>	<i>Director DFCTT</i>	<i>Project Officer</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>Director</i>

<i>organisation:</i>							
<i>Contact details:</i>	<u><a href="mailto:directiadezvoltare@yahoo.com">directiadezvoltare@yahoo.com</a></u> 0236413031	<u><a href="mailto:Postmaster@ispagalati.ro">Postmaster@ispagalati.ro</a></u>	<u><a href="mailto:variton@univdanubius.ro">variton@univdanubius.ro</a></u>	<u><a href="mailto:Gelu.gurquiutu@uqal.ro">Gelu.gurquiutu@uqal.ro</a></u>	<u><a href="mailto:Radovicristina@yahoo.com">Radovicristina@yahoo.com</a></u>	<u><a href="mailto:adrse@adrse.ro">adrse@adrse.ro</a></u>	<u><a href="mailto:anca.constantin@braila.insse.ro">anca.constantin@braila.insse.ro</a></u>
<b>b) Proposed actions</b>							
<i>Action 1: Local meetings with stakeholders to update the methodology for ALBI – creation of the WORKING Group for ALBI implementation</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Action 2 – Agree and sign an Partnership Agreement and a Functioning Regulation</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Action 3: Updating ALBI templates and questionnaires</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Action 4: Complete and fill ALBI 1 template</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Action 5: Plan and design ALBI 2 survey – research methodology</i>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
<i>Action 6: Collect data from companies and support centres and finalize the database for the qualitative study – ALBI 2</i>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
<i>Action 7: Workshop – approval of results</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

<i>for both ALBI templates (1 and 2)</i>								
<i>Action 8: Final study and dissemination of results</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<i>Action 9: Lessons learned and transfer of results into policy</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>c) Other Actors to be involved</b>								
<p><i>Name: <b>Commerce Register Braila</b></i></p> <p><i>Organisation: County level – subordinated to the National Commerce Register</i></p> <p><i>Position: Executive Director, Daniela Condruz</i></p> <p><i>Contact details: Brăila, B-dul. Independenței nr.18, Bl.B6 parter, Cod poștal 810003</i></p> <p><i>Tel.: 0239 / 612.388</i></p> <p><i>Fax: 0239 / 612.388</i></p> <p><i>orcbr@br.onrc.ro</i></p>								
<p><i>Name: <b>Software Park Galati</b></i></p> <p><i>Organisation: Business Park for ICT companies</i></p> <p><i>Position: President</i></p> <p><i>Contact details: 0236 306 180</i></p>								

**Description of proposed actions and involvement of different actors:**

Due to a centralized approach of innovation policies, local innovation policies are not very present in Romania. However, local public and regional authorities from Romania's South East Region, have initiated projects and other small initiatives. The involvement of these authorities, universities and private companies /support centres in the activities of IN-EUR, represented a big step forward to assure sustainability for future innovation initiatives at regional level.

Based on the DBLI involvement, the activities needed in order to carry on the implementation of ALBI measurement tool resulted from the abovementioned project, are similar to the activities in the project. The only shortcoming comes from the challenge of managing a project with no pre – committed funds. Second, the partners mentioned as key actors in the process, have other daily duties and projects. Therefore, the activities will be implemented in a flexible manner; the

responsible parties will change according to the needs and each organisation capacity to be part of the process. SERDA will act as a secretariat for the initiatives; Universities will act as the academic consultant, in charge with the final versions of deliverables, while the Chamber of Commerce and Statistics will act as a data provider. Local and county authorities (Local Council and County Council) will act as a driver for the activities, with logistic support and a special attention for the topic of innovation when they issue local regulation concerning the economic environment or reducing administrative burden on businesses and other entrepreneurs.

<i>Action Plan</i>	<i>Description of Actions</i>
<i>Action 1: Local meetings with stakeholders from DBLI to update the methodology for ALBI – creation of the WORKING Group and Action Plan for ALBI implementation</i>	<p><i>The first activity will consist in meeting with key stakeholders at regional and local level, as shown in the table above and decide the creation of an ALBI Working Group, based on the DBLI members. The participants will create agree on an Action Plan for developing the following phase activities. The meetings will focus on main results to be achieved during this new phase, time schedule for various activities and responsible entities.</i></p> <p><i>The actors involved in these actions are the South East Regional Development Agency, Galați County Council, Universities and Chamber of Commerce as well. The implication of National Institute for Statistics – County Division, is a positive thing.</i></p>
Main responsibility	SERDA/Partners/Subcontractor
Frequency	January
Resources	European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects
<i>Action 2 – Agree and sign an Partnership Agreement and a Functioning Regulation</i>	<p><i>The involved parties will sing a Partnership for Innovation and create a very brief Functioning Regulation.</i></p> <p><i>The administrative process will guide the application of ALBI templates, with deadlines, responsible teams, methodologies</i></p>
Main responsibility	SERDA/Partners/Subcontractor
Frequency	February
Resources	European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed

<p><i>Action 3: Updating ALBI templates and questionnaires</i></p>	<p><i>According to European and National Policies, to the available sources of financing, the templates will be piloted again, to check the Relevance of the questions. The ALBI 1 template will be discussed within the Working Group.</i></p> <p><i>Business representatives and the Chamber of Commerce will participate in a second Focus Group to test ALBI 2 relevance and consistency.</i></p>
<p>Main responsibility</p>	<p>Universities (Dunarea de Jos, Danubius)/Subcontractor</p>
<p>Frequency</p>	<p>February- March</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed</p>
<p><i>Action 4: Complete and fill ALBI 1 template</i></p>	<p><i>The ALBI model consists in the completion of 2 stage templates. The first template is a collection of macro and micro territorial indicators, very similar with the Eurostat analyses on innovation, aiming to offer an overview of the degree of innovation at local level. The indicators will be collected from national, regional and local statistics, secondary sources of data, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Universities can act as the academic lead for the completion of the template. All the other actors will contribute with relevant components of the Level 1 indicators. Local authorities and SERDA will aggregate data on the Support Infrastructures and Governance of Innovation chapters, Chamber of Commerce and the business environment representatives.</i></p> <p><i>A subcontractor can be involved if a budget is allocated.</i></p>
<p>Main responsibility</p>	<p>Universities (Dunarea de Jos, Danubius)/SERDA/Subcontractor</p>
<p>Frequency</p>	<p>March-April</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed</p>
<p><i>Action 5: Plan and design ALBI 2 survey – research methodology : database and questionnaire collection methods</i></p>	<p><i>This action will consist in realization of survey methodology and pooling. The partners will decide how the questionnaire will be collected, based on the existent resources. The cheapest way to collect data is to use the already existing</i></p>

	<p><i>database from SERDA, Universities, Local and County Councils and Chamber of Commerce data and apply questionnaires with students from Universities.</i></p> <p><i>ADR SE will develop the survey in collaboration with other institutions, with a major help from Universities. A subcontractor can be involved if a budget is allocated.</i></p>
Main responsibility	Partners/University/Subcontractor
Frequency	April-May
Resources	European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed
<i>Action 6: Collect data from companies and support centres and finalize the database for the qualitative study – ALBI 2</i>	<p><i>An important aspect of developing ALBI methodology consists in distributing a questionnaire to various actors in order to obtain information on innovation policies and degrees in implementing innovative methodologies and techniques. The questionnaire used in ALBI 2 will be disseminated in this phase.</i></p> <p><i>Partners/Subcontractor will distribute and interpret the results of the questionnaire. Resources are needed for the project and partnerships/sponsors can be found for this stage.</i></p> <p><i>The database in excel or other format will allow frequencies and other statistics to be ran. It will be useful for developing the final study.</i></p> <p><i>A subcontractor can be involved if a budget is allocated.</i></p>
Main responsibility	Partners/Universities/SERDA/ Subcontractor
Frequency	<b>April-May</b>
Resources	European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed
<i>Action 7: Workshop – approval of results for both ALBI templates (1 and 2)</i>	<i>The workshop will be a forum for discussion and agreeing on the final results obtained during the research: application of ALBI 1 and 2.</i>
Main responsibility	Partners/Universities/SERDA
Frequency	June

Resources	European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed
<i>Action 8: Final study and dissemination of results</i>	<p><i>The final DLBI report will include the analysis of questionnaires and the results obtained from the completion of ALBI 1 template. The ALBI 1 will show the evolution of macro indicators and key topics of ALBI model (industry, support for innovation, research and education, governance of innovation) and, by using the excel model, will calculate an innovation score.</i></p> <p><i>ALBI 2 results will be part of the qualitative analysis, consisting in the perception of companies regarding their innovation skills, exports, needs, etc.</i></p> <p><i>The results will be published as part of a newsletter, either by SERDA or by Universities or Local Authorities.</i></p> <p><i>A subcontractor can be involved if a budget is allocated.</i></p>
Main responsibility	Partners/Universities/SERDA
Frequency	July
Resources	European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed
<i>Action 9: Lessons learned and transfer of results into policy</i>	<p><i>Transfer of results into local policies is the most important component of the process. Local authorities can be very useful by integrating the results in their local initiatives. In this action the main actor will be ADR SE. A few practical elements can be used here:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Improvement of public services by reducing administrative burden for companies: improve and shorten the process of paying local property taxes, for example</i></li> <li>- <i>Consider what private companies wish when investing in infrastructures: streets, energy, gas, business centres, transport, etc</i></li> <li>- <i>Tackle the issue of consultation by involving private companies</i></li> </ul>



	<i>into local consultation on budgets, etc</i>
Main responsibility	<i>Local authorities/Universities/SERDA</i>
Frequency	Yearly
Resources	Development Strategies Investment plans and projects European Funds: Innovation, Research, Urban Development, Competitiveness Partnership Projects Self financed

### 3.3 Periodic replication and Updating ALBI

*The ALBI methodology itself is based on sharing indicators with local actors, allowing the evaluation and check of indicators through exchange of ideas, discussion groups. Bringing the discussion “in loco” guarantees a general awareness raising on the theme of innovation, but also the suitability of the model, that in this manner will actually reflects the territorial needs and availability of data. This is the reason why, ALBI should be periodically applied, not only for orienting innovation policies and planning but also for updating its base structure made of quantitative and qualitative indicators.*

<i>Replication period (according to territorial government planning):</i>	<b>2 years</b>
<i>Foreseen activities for Updating data</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>All activities foreseen above</i></li> </ul>
<i>Foreseen activities Updating indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Annually, ALBI 1 can be updated</i></li> </ul>

#### 4. Summary and Conclusions: Expected Territorial Effects of Implementation Plan

ALBI is a tool to measure the innovation within a given territory, either this is NUTS 2 or 3. The model has the aim to show how economy and other sectors included in the analysis develop in a period of time, the time foreseen for analysis. The transfer of the model to local stakeholders is very difficult due to the shortages in budgets and human resources in the last years, but the possible effects of the process is a valuable help both for policy makers and companies. SERDA will help the process as much as it can, but Universities and even support centres and companies need to be part of the Partnership, in order to have a relevant representation of stakeholders.

It is therefore easier to target outputs, since outcomes are quite hard to measure.

*a) Indicators of outputs:*

Number of updates of ALBI at local level

*1 update of ALBI 1 – Quantitative Indicators – annually*

*1 update of ALBI (1 and 2) – once at 4 years*

Number of replication of ALBI at local level

*1 replication of ALBI in Braila*

Number of months of activities of the Direction Board of Local Innovation after the end of the project.

*7 months at each 2 years as long as the application of ALBI takes*

Number of policy makers involved in the DBLI

*3 Local councils (Galati, Braila and Tulcea)*

*2 County Councils (Galati, Braila and Tulcea)*

*SERDA*

Number of students involved in the DBLI

*Over 20 students*

Number of private actors involved in the DBLI (SMEs, Banks, Trade Association, etc.)

*Around 10 private actors (Software Park Galati, 3 private companies (Smart Software Tehnologies, Prompt CMP, Loyal Partners) , Chambers of Commerce, IPA)*

Number of exchanges, initiatives, projects, cooperation developed by Universities, Enterprises and Innovation Centres on innovation

*At least 2 Horizon projects*

*EU projects on other R&D priorities*

*1 project SOP Competitiveness*

*b) Indicators of results:*

Number of innovation oriented processes stimulated by ALBI after the end of the project

*At least 1 process innovation – the process of updating / replicating ALBI*

Number of good practices successfully transferred at local level

*1 – ALBI applied in Braila*

Number of local policies and tools improved

*Update Local Development Strategies with elements from ALBI*

*Improve the local decisions on building business infrastructure*

*At least 1 investment in infrastructure correlated with company needs (rehabilitate or extend the powergrid infrastructure, new line of public transportation towards an industrial infrastructure)*

Number of local stakeholders with increased capacity

*2 Universities:*

*6 local authorities: 3 local councils and 3 county councils*

*1 Regional Development Agency*

*7 private companies*

*1 Chamber of Commerce*

Intensity of cooperation among innovation key actors: Universities, Enterprises and Innovation Centres on innovation

*At least 7 months at every 2 years*