

# **Il sistema della ricerca e dell'innovazione di Trieste: l'esempio di Area Science Park**

## **The Trieste research and innovation system: the case of Area Science Park**

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### **Abstract**

Research Infrastructures are a recognized instrument to produce and support excellent science in diverse research areas by serving large communities of users, attracting young talents, promoting international mobility and collaborations, and developing frontier methods and technologies which have an impact on the science-based entrepreneurial capability and the industrial productivity. Research Infrastructures are therefore a primary stimulus for the competitiveness and the growth of local territories and economies. Hosting a European Research Infrastructure can produce a multiplication of the investment due to the long-lasting socio-economic impact both in the place where it is built and in the country that promotes its development. The European strategy in Research Infrastructures is regularly updated by ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) which provides, with its Roadmap document, an analysis of the priorities and a long-term vision for the Union. The Italian *Piano Nazionale delle Infrastrutture di Ricerca (PNIR)*, prepared by the Ministry of Research and Education, identifies the primary investments for the national strategy in Research Infrastructures and the national recovery plan (PNRR) has allocated 1.58 BEuros to fund selected projects of research and technology infrastructures.

This funding programme constitutes a real opportunity to link the world of research, technology transfer and business especially if the initiative is strengthened by an alignment with regional funding. Smart Specialization Strategies, the tool adopted by regions and Member States to maximize investments in research and innovation in areas of specialization of territories, can indeed amplify the scope of integration of the industrial sector with that of research, enhancing the technologies that infrastructures put at the service of industries and businesses. This is a crucial element for accelerating the processes of deep-tech innovation - the paths for generating innovative solutions that arise from frontier research and that find best expression in physical environments of co-location and integration of highly specialized infrastructures, national and international research, university and higher education institutes and laboratories, technology parks, start-up business incubators and innovative companies.

Trieste, with its system of research and innovation, and Area Science Park, with almost 50 years of operation in research and technology transfer, represent a notable example of this paradigmatic model.