

# Abruzzo, Italy

POWER YOUR INVESTMENTS



# Why Abruzzo

In the heart of **Italy**, and in the center of the **Mediterranean connections**, Abruzzo is a highly valuable place to invest and start a new business. With competitive advantages, great infrastructures and its highly industrial specialization, we are home for several international companies. Moreover, the **industrialization rate above the national average**, makes the region the perfect place where to boost new investments.

**An excellent place to run your business and to live**





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# That's Abruzzo

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Map

Abruzzo in a nutshell

Logistics, connections, industrial ecosystem

Economic

Skillset context

Workforce

## Map

**A territory rich in history, culture and resources.**

Located in the centre of Italy, Abruzzo is a coastal region, perfectly connected to Rome and to the main Italian cities.

It is the most developed region in the South of Italy, and it has a very diverse production environment within which is possible to identify five main attractive clusters for potential investors:

- ICT
- Agrifood
- Life Science
- Automotive
- Carbon Fiber Industry



# Abruzzo in a nutshell

## Territory & Industrial Clusters

Abruzzo is an increasingly attractive destination, with a great and dynamic economy and market. Boost your investments in ICT, Agrifood, Automotive, Carbon Fiber Industry and Life Science sectors.

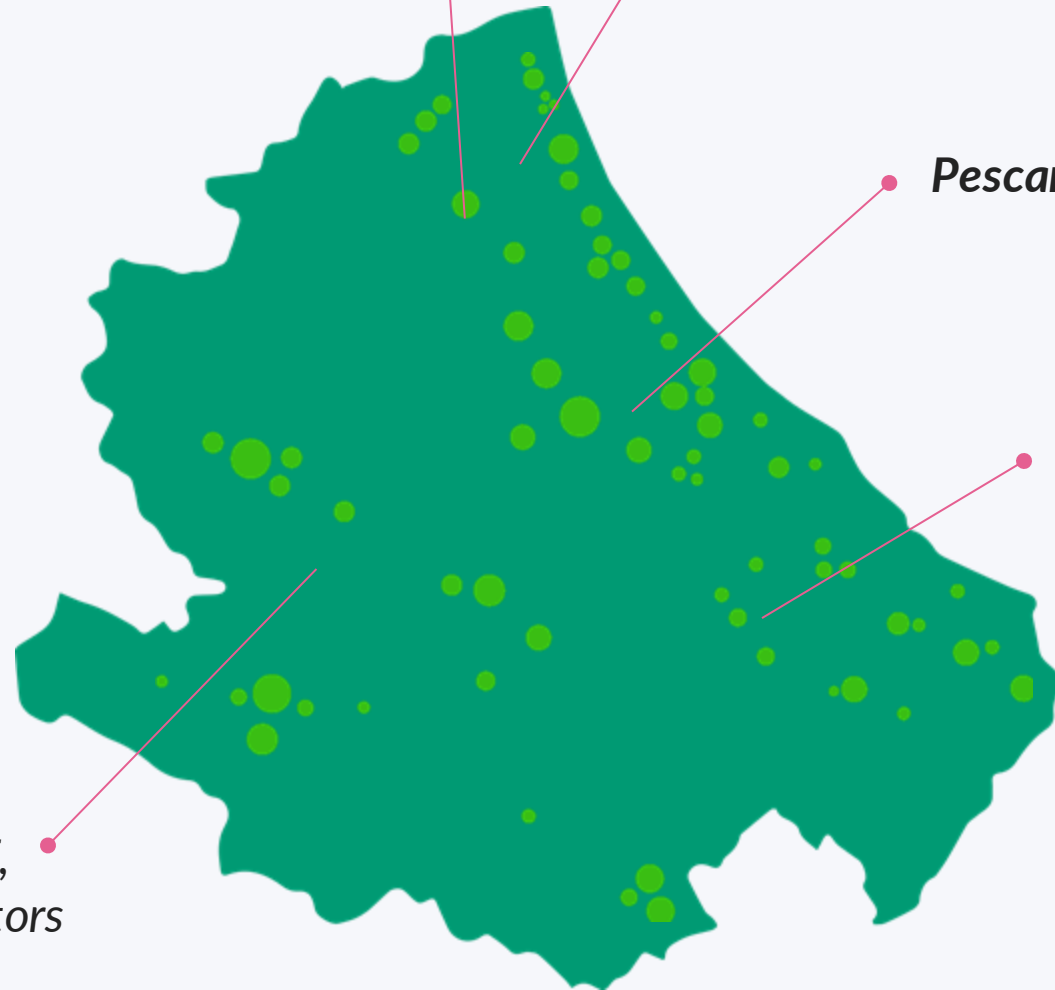
Size	10 862 km <sup>2</sup>
Inhabitants	1.273.660
Provinces	4
Municipalities	305
Established Companies	1560
Occupation	58,0%

*Teramo: Agrifood, Carbon Fiber Industry*

*Pescara: Life Science*

*Chieti: Automotive*

*L'Aquila: ICT,  
Semiconductors*



# Logistics, connections, industrial ecosystem

## The right synthesis



542 km of RFI railway network, 61% of which is electrified (3kV DC) and 23% double-track. **It has the most important cargo railway in Italy**



Abruzzo Airport, located in Pescara, is strategic and connects the region to major destinations such as London, Brussels, Barcelona, Prague, Milan, Turin, Catania and so on. **1.8km runway extension planned by the end of 2023**



**4 ports:** Ortona, (commercial international port), Vasto (commercial international port), Pescara (tourist port) and Giulianova (fishing port)



**2 interports:** Manoppello, included in the European Comprehensive Network, provides supply chain logistics services; Avezzano, connected to Roma and internal areas **1 lorry parking area in Roseto**, way to the Adriatic and the North



**The Industrial Core is covered with FTTH broadband connection.** Good performance of 4G+ and 5G connections



**Abruzzo wants to invest in people and resources**, by stimulating the construction of new professional figures, producing models of innovative finished products, and promoting the circularity of data-driven services



**Abruzzo is energy self-sufficient**  
26.6% of energy is from renewables, which is above the national average of 17.1%. Annual production from renewables is about 3% of national production



**7400 km of road network** of which 5% are highway category and 20% are roads of national importance under Anas management

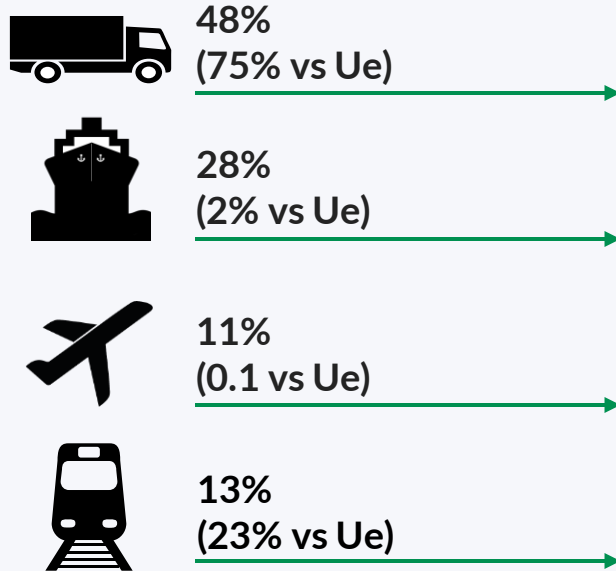


# Logistics, connections, industrial ecosystem

The right synthesis

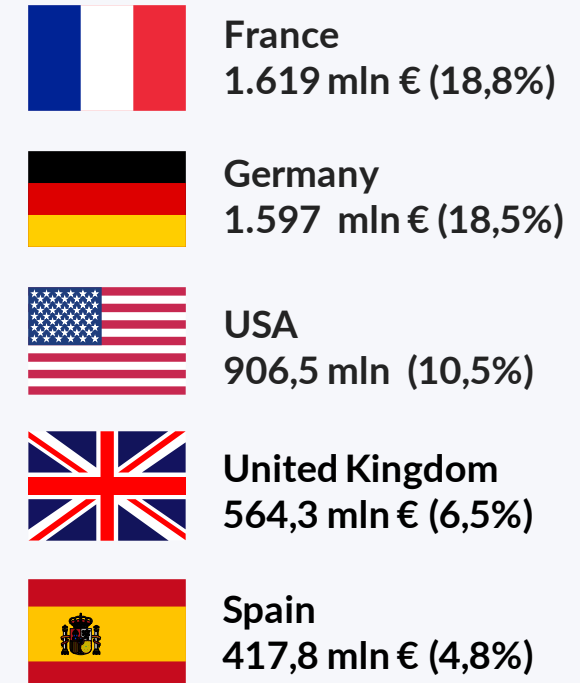
## Transport Ways

Total IMPORT: 1,2 bln euros



## Main Destinations

Total EXPORT: 2 bln euros



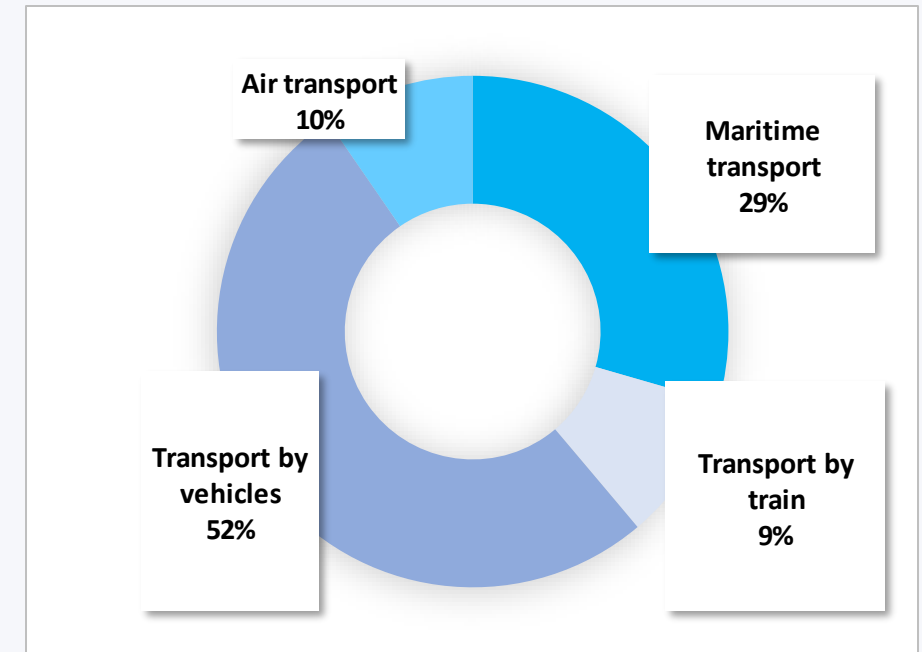


# Economic context

- In 2022, GDP is about 34,8 billion euros, corresponding to 9.1% of the national GDP
- **First region in southern Italy** by GDP per capita
- As of the first three months of 2022, the employment rate is **56.9%**, about 11 points higher than that of the Mezzogiorno area (southern Italy)
- Abruzzo is the first amidst the southern regions for *specialized production in high-tech sectors*
- **Fourth region** in the South by export capacity and the **seventh** most industrialized in Italy
- 52% of enterprises were involved in innovative activities in the three-year period 2018-2020
- Start-ups: 283 innovative start-ups active as of April 2022 (+22% compared to 2021)

## IMPORT & EXPORT

Regional import-export of 2021 worths more than **13 billions euros**. In 2021, sea trade accounted for 3,3 billions euros, which consisted in a **growth of 36%** compared to 2020. The main trade is of course the EU, but Abruzzo has great trades also with North American Countries, Far East countries and South American ones.



# Skilled workforce

## Highly qualified university system

In Abruzzo you will find a highly qualified university system, which guarantees the presence of competent personnel with deep knowledge of the territory: **4 major universities**, several institutes of excellence with high technological specialization and **international schools** which produce skilled and talented figures every year, ready to give an added value to your business.

## Research and innovation at the core of the university system

Abruzzo offers a various set of PHDs and specializations, especially in fields such as:

- Biotechnology
- Informatic engineering
- Management & accounting
- Computer Science
- Astroparticle Physics
- Human science
- Earth systems and built environments

## ITS: institutes of excellence with high technological specialization

They represent a **post-secondary level educational** channel oriented to technical professions; the first Italian experience of professionalizing tertiary training offerings, closely linked to the production system. Just for the automotive ITS, numbers are great:

- **Number of students 652**
- **Employment rate: 90%**

### 5 ITS available in Abruzzo

- ITS Agrifood in Teramo
- ITS Renewable energy in L'Aquila
- ITS Fashion in Pescara
- ITS Mechanics and informatic in Lanciano
- ITS Logistics in Ortona

# Competitive Advantages

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Abruzzo invests in innovation

Research and innovation centers

SEZ: everything you need to know

SEZ: simplification system

SEZ map

European incentives

National incentives

Regional incentives

Your strategic partners to invest in Abruzzo



# Abruzzo invests in innovation

## Innovative ecosystem

- **R&D spending:** more than € 350 million invested by public and private entities in 2019 in Abruzzo
- **R&D employees:** about 8,000 researchers, technicians and auxiliary staff employed in R&D activities
- **High propensity for innovation:** about 52% of enterprises were involved in activities regarding the introduction of innovations in the three-year period 2018-2020
- **Start-ups:** 283 active innovative start-ups as of April 2022 (+22% in 2021)
- **EU Cohesion Policy funds:** regional allocation of about 1.5 billion for 2021-2027 (about 277 million for innovation and digitalization) Additional resources from the **EU Next Generation** instrument





# Abruzzo invests in innovation

**Ecosystem «Innovation, Digitization and Sustainability» for the widespread economy in central Italy**

The Hub, located in Abruzzo (at the University of L'Aquila), will consist of all the 9 public universities located in the centre of Italy. It will enable the development of research on topics such as:

- Health technologies
- Cybersecurity
- Innovative food production: matching sustainability and quality of life
- Innovation and sustainability of technologies and devices
- One-Health telemedicine and environment

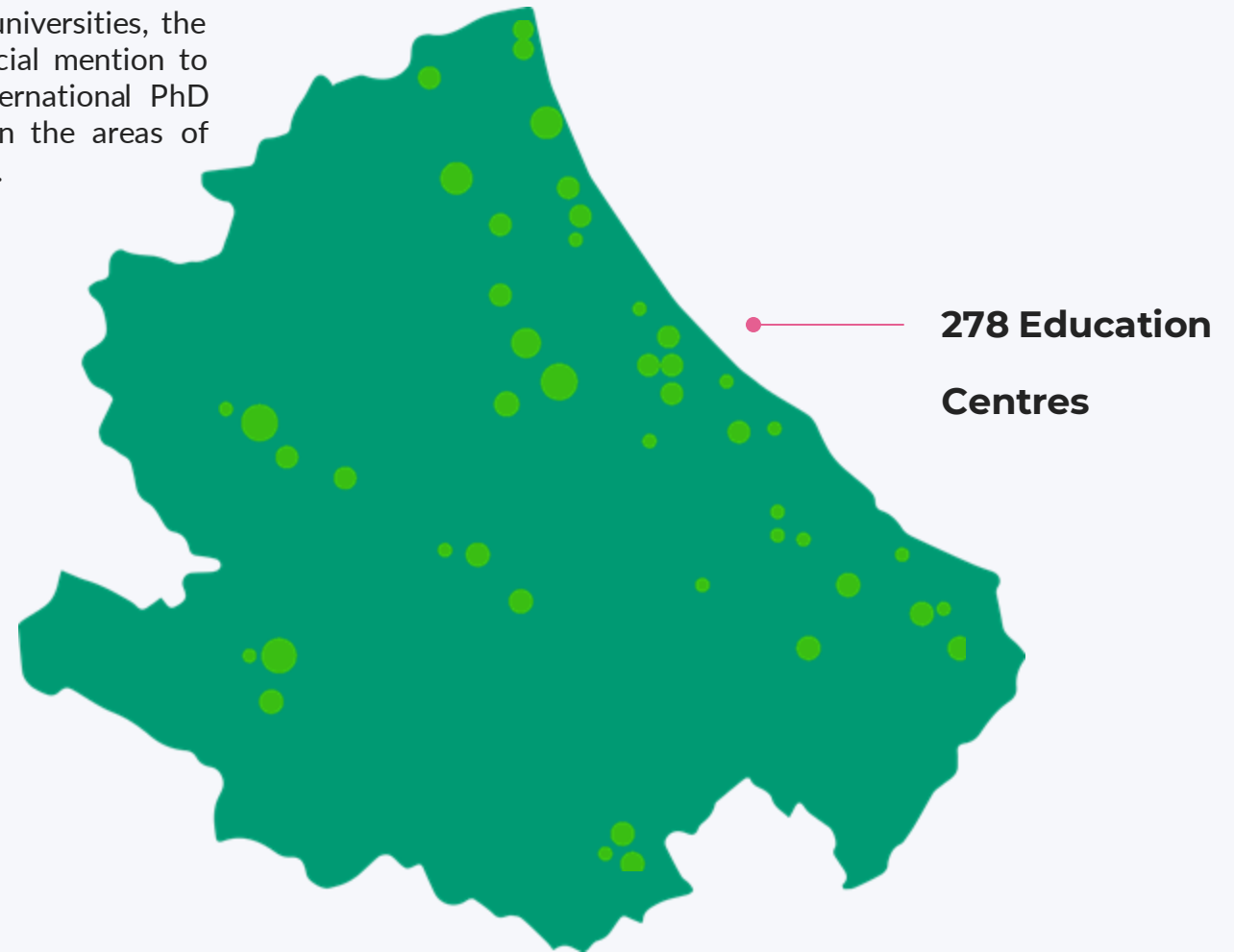


# Research and innovation centers

## Best place to find new ideas

Through many incubators and hubs, research centres and universities, the **innovation ecosystem** in Abruzzo is highly developed. Special mention to The Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), which is an international PhD school and a centre for research and higher education in the areas of Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Social Sciences.

- Education centres 278
- Research 54
- Training 76
- Università degli Studi di L'Aquila
- Università G. D'Annunzio – Chieti - Pescara
- Università degli Studi di Teramo
- Accademia di Belle Arti di L'Aquila
- Conservatorio di Musica "A.Casella" – L'Aquila
- Conservatorio di Musica "L. D'Annunzio" - Pescara
- Accademia Musicale Pescarese
- Università Telematica Leonardo Da Vinci
- Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali G.Braga - Teramo





# Research and innovation centers



LABORATORI NAZIONALI DEL GRAN SASSO

**Gran Sasso National Laboratory (LNGS)** is one of the four national laboratories of INFN (National Institute for Nuclear Physics). The other laboratories of INFN are based in Catania, Frascati (Rome) and Legnaro (Padua).

The whole network of laboratories house large equipment and infrastructures available for use by the national and international scientific community.

**Located between L'Aquila and Teramo**, at about 120 kilometres from Rome, the underground structures are on one side of the 10-kilometre long highway tunnel which crosses the Gran Sasso massif (towards Rome); the underground complex consists of three huge experimental halls (each 100-metre long, 20-metre large and 18-metre high) and bypass tunnels, for a total volume of about 180.000 m<sup>3</sup>.

The 1400 metre-rock thickness above the Laboratory represents a natural coverage that provides a cosmic ray flux reduction by one million times; moreover, the flux of neutrons in the underground halls is about thousand times less than on the surface due to the very small amount of uranium and thorium of the Dolomite calcareous rock of the mountain.



# SEZ : everything you need to know

SEZ is a geographically delimited and clearly identified zone that can be accessed by companies that start an **entrepreneurial economic activity** within it.

The **Abruzzo SEZ** is characterized by **advantageous taxation** and an articulated system of **administrative simplifications**, which can be accessed by companies for the extension of production facilities located in the SEZ territories or that start a new entrepreneurial economic activity within it. The facilities are available to **all companies** both newly established and already established within the area.





# SEZ Simplification System

**Why investing in sez areas is convenient**

## Administrative & logistic simplifications

- Reduced timeframe for obtaining benefits and permissions
- Strengthening of the infrastructure network
- Possibility of establishing duty-free zones
- Support & specific help desk from the Bank

## Reduced costs

- Financial and tax incentives
- up to 100 million euros for the purchase of real estate and new capital goods, including through leasing contracts, intended for production facilities located in S.E.Z. territories
- Dedicated credit ceiling for S.E.Z.





# SEZ Map

Where to locate your investment

## Legend

● SEZ municipalities



# European Incentives

Find out how you can benefit if you set up in Abruzzo. A whole set of European, national and regional aids will help you to boost your activity and make your business grow.

## Horizon Europe

European Union framework program for research and innovation for the period 2021-2027. The Program is implemented directly by the European Commission. Research and innovation activities funded by Horizon Europe must focus exclusively on civil applications. The overall objective of Horizon Europe is to achieve scientific, technological, economic and social impact from EU investments in research and innovation

## Euratom Research and Training Programme

Euratom aims to pursue nuclear research and training activities with an emphasis on continually improving nuclear safety, security and radiation protection

## Life program for environment and climate action

Program that finances projects of various sizes that aim to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of effective solutions (techniques, methods and approaches) to different and complex environmental and climate change problems



# European Incentives

## Single Market Programme

The €4.2 billion Single Market Programme will strengthen the governance of the EU single market. It will help to make the internal market work better with measures including improved market surveillance, problem-solving support to citizens and business, and enhanced competition policy; to boost the competitiveness of businesses, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); to give even higher protection to consumers; to maintain a high level of food safety etc.

## European Space Programme

EU space policy aims to tackle some of the most pressing challenges today, such as fighting climate change, helping to stimulate technological innovation, and providing socio-economic benefits to citizens

## Iter

Ambitious international project to build the world's biggest fusion machine, advance fusion energy technology for a greener and more sustainable energy mix. For the period 2021-2027, an additional €5 billion is expected for the signing of R&D contracts and industrial contracts for the completion of the ITER project and the start of its operations





# National Incentives

- **R&D for circular economy**

It supports the transition of economic activities towards a circular economy model, supporting **R&D projects** aimed at a more efficient and sustainable use of resources

- **Development contract**

The R&D&I projects for companies and research and knowledge-dissemination organizations. The investment size is about € 20 MLN and € 50 MLN for high-impact projects

- **IPCEI**

The abbreviation of ***Important Project of Common European Interest***, which allows the possibility of public funding to be granted at a national level. IPCEI features projects with a dedicated focus on R&D as well as First Industrial Deployment (FID)

- **Innovation Agreement**

The Innovation Agreement is aimed at projects concerning **industrial research and experimental development** activities with eligible costs at least equal to **€ 5 MLN** for the development of new products, processes or their improvements

- **Law 181/89**

**Strategic national incentive scheme** of at least € 10 MLN that foresees a relevant workforce increase. It is a Mix of grant and soft loan, up to **75%** of the total eligible investments

- **Tax credits for tangible/intangible assets**

Companies investing in tangible and intangible capital goods in line with the Transition 4.0 national strategy, or in “ordinary” tangible and intangible assets can benefit from tax reductions up to 50% of total investments

# National Incentives

- Tax Credits for R&I

Companies investing in **research, development and technological innovation** can benefit from tax reductions up to **45%** of total investments

- Patent box

**Total 210% deduction** (normal 100% + an extra 110% deduction) for **R&D expenses** associated to qualified intangible assets, i.e., software protected by copyright, industrial patents, designs, and models

- Industry 4.0 training

Companies of all sizes investing in **training of employees and entrepreneurs** for the acquisition or consolidation of skills in technologies relevant to the Industry 4.0 national plan, can benefit from **tax reductions up to 70%** of total investments

- Smart & Start

Initiative to foster the birth and growth of **innovative startups** in Italy, through the development and/or improvement of innovative technological solutions on the national territory

- Employment Bonuses

**Reduction, or total exemptions**, in social security contributions which, by law, must be paid by employers. This financial support has the aim to encourage the hiring of certain categories of people: women, under 36, over 50 etc.

- Italian green new deal

This incentive scheme is aimed at projects concerning **industrial research, experimental development** and – only for SMEs – industrialization activities with eligible costs between **€ 3 MLN and € 40 MLN**

# National Incentives

- ON - Beyond New Zero-Interest Enterprises

The incentive is for young people and women who want to become entrepreneurs. The concessions are valid throughout Italy and provide for a mix of zero-interest financing and non-repayable grants for business projects with expenses of up to 3 million euros, which can cover up to 90% of the total eligible expenses

- Hard to abate

The measure supports investment projects and research and development projects for the decarbonisation of industrial processes, mainly through the use of low-carbon hydrogen, in sectors that are today more polluting and difficult to convert, and which use fossil fuels as a source of energy (cement, paper mills, ceramics, glass industries, etc.). The incentive is promoted by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security. The financial envelope, drawing on the resources made available by Mission 2, Component 2 of the PNRR for the implementation of Investment 3.2 "Use of hydrogen in hard-to-abate sectors", is equal to 1 billion euros.

- Development contracts – Production chains

The concessions will be paid to companies that present industrial programs including productive investment projects and possibly research and development projects, with the exclusion, therefore, of programs for environmental protection

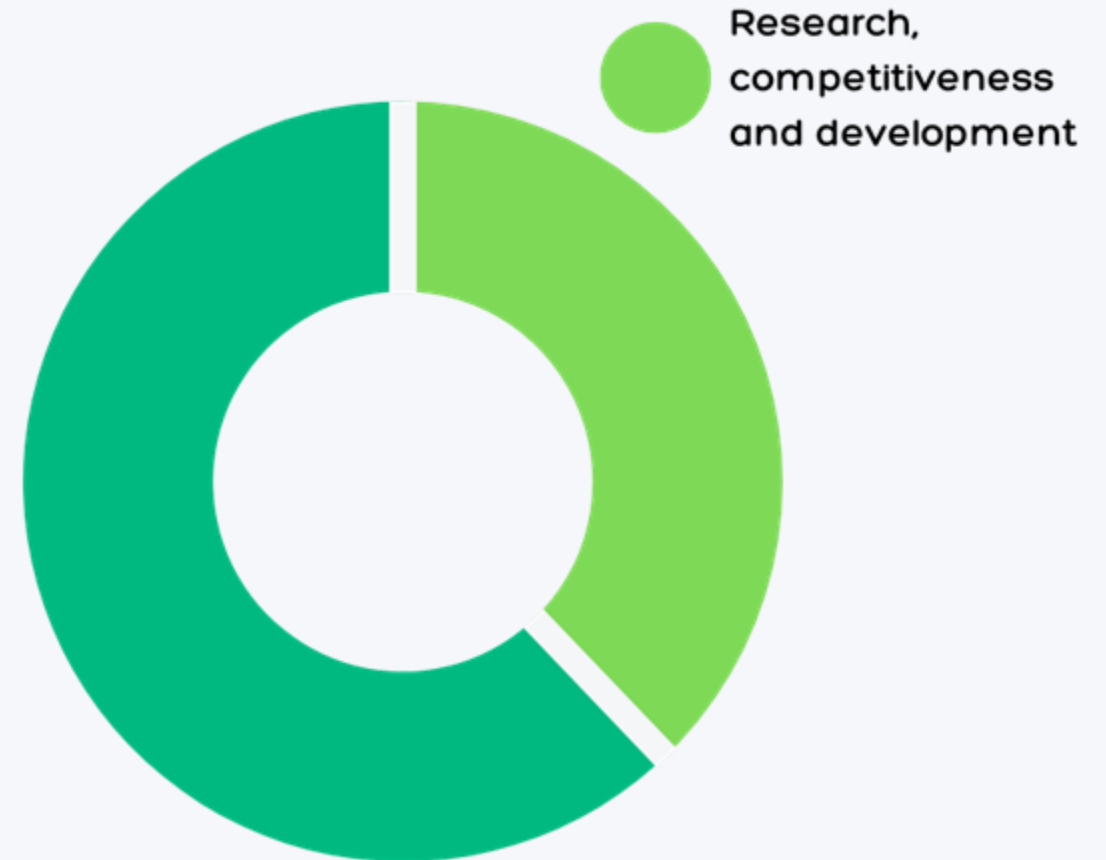


# Regional incentives ESF & ERDF 2021-2027 Abruzzo

- Total amount: €1,08 Billions

The first priority concerns **research, competitiveness and development** and it entails the 37,4% of the total budget. The first policy objective promotes **investments for a smarter Europe** (PO1) and the Abruzzo Region carries out many actions to this in its regional plan, because it is our priority to establish an **innovative, greener and smarter framework** in the region in order to boost economic growth.

Let's check out which actions can fit your business.



## PRIORITY I

# Research, competitiveness and development

PRIORITY	PO	SO		
I	1	1.1	Develop and strengthen research and innovation capabilities and the introduction of advanced technology	154.000.000,00

**ACTION 1.1.1: Support for research, innovation, development and technology transfer processes** (also carried out collaboratively between companies of different sizes, universities, research organizations)

**ACTION 1.1.2: Support for companies' research projects involving the employment of researchers at the companies** Target: Companies, Citizens, Public Administration

Forms of Aid: Grants

PRIORITY	PO	SO		
I	1	1.2	Enable citizens, businesses, research organizations and public authorities to reap the benefits of digitization	32.000.000,00

**ACTION 1.2.1: Improved provision of secure digital services for citizens, PA and businesses** (data center upgrades, cloud solutions for local PAs, digital interoperability systems, accessibility of essential public services delivered online, etc.).

**ACTION 1.2.2: Business support for diversification of marketing strategies and sales channels and strengthening of e-commerce** Target Audience: Businesses, Citizens, Public Administration

Forms of Aid: Grants

## PRIORITY I

# Research, competitiveness and development

PRIORITY	PO	SO	SO Description	So value
I	1	1.3	Strengthening sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, also through productive investment	61.000.000,00

**ACTION 1.3.1: Supporting the growth of competitiveness of the local production system (SMEs)** through investment projects that promote the transition to new business and production structures

**ACTION 1.3.2: Support for the establishment of new innovative enterprises, for identified technological solutions or business models**, with special emphasis on those that will be located in the "areas of specialization" of S3

Beneficiaries: Micro enterprises, SMEs, Innovative start-ups

Forms of aid: Grants and financial instruments in the form of guarantees and loans

PRIORITY	PO	SO	SO Description	SO value
I	1	1.4	Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	8.000.000,00

**ACTION 1.4.1: Advanced training paths oriented to the technological needs of the territory**, upgrading/retraining for areas of intelligent specialization, aimed at every level of the company

**ACTION 1.4.2: Doctorates with an industrial vocation, through a three-year pathway that contemplates a research project** carried out by the enterprise and a training pathway carried out thanks to the collaboration between the enterprise itself, an industrial doctoral student and an accredited university or research body

Beneficiaries: Enterprises

Forms of aid: Grants



# Your strategic partners to invest in Abruzzo

Here you will have a whole and highly professional institutional network ready to support and help you in establishing your business, find the partners, and benefit from the competitive advantages.

For any questions please contact us at [sez.abruzzo@agenziacoesione.gov.it](mailto:sez.abruzzo@agenziacoesione.gov.it)



## Abruzzo Region

The public authority of the Region, which will support the investor in the administrative procedure.



## Fira Abruzzo

Fira Abruzzo promotes business culture, supports territorial growth programs, encourages innovation and internationalization of the economic system.



## SEZ Abruzzo

Body established to promote the development of the area through the establishment of new enterprises.



CAMERA DI COMMERCIO  
INDUSTRIA ARTIGIANATO E AGRICOLTURA  
CHIETI PESCARA

## The Chambers of Commerce Abruzzo

The promotion of companies on international markets and the valorisation of local production through numerous actions.



# Cluster & Key Actors

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Regional attractive clusters

Key players

Successful stories

# Regional Attractive Clusters



## Chieti - Automotive

9,700 employees with a production value exceeding € 5 billion



## Pescara - Life Science & Pharma

values more than 3 billion euros in revenue and 2,500 employees in the industry



## Teramo – Carbon Fiber Industry

350 companies and 200 suppliers, developing a turnover of 250 million, which rises to 400 if the companies in the supply chain are also counted.



## L'Aquila – ICT

the supply chain includes 25,000 employees and a revenue of 8.0 billion euros



## Teramo - Agrifood

9,000 employees and a planned investment of about 100 million euros over the next 3 years

**Teramo**  
Agrifood  
Carbon  
Fiber Industry

**L'Aquila**  
ICT  
Semiconductors

**Pescara**  
Life Science

**Chieti**  
Automotive





# Automotive Innovation Hub

Transportation equipment manufacturing registers a coefficient of specialization **11 times higher** than average, a sign of characterization of the district. There is a significant presence of **SMEs** and **Large Enterprises** in the area.

27% industrial rate

55% of the total regional export

15% of the regional GDP

- More R&D investments
- Highly developed business organization
- Mechanic innovative system made in Italy
- Long history of investments through European and national funds



# Agrifood

The province of Teramo and Marsica are confirmed as two privileged clusters for attracting agroindustrial investments with a strong presence of major industrial groups.

Highly specialized sector:

- Processing and preservation
- livestock green biotechnology
- precision farming
- Nutraceuticals
- novel foods
- food traceability
- food delivery and services
- internet of farm
- vertical farming



# Life science & Pharmaceutical

The area of Pescara, in Abruzzo, it is characterized by an important industrial area, with the presence of industrial plants for the production of sanitary products.

- More than 30 companies established in Abruzzo - **Joint ventures** with major multinational companies and plants located abroad
- The industry worths more than **3 bln euros** in revenue
- **2,500 employees** in the sector
- More than **60 years** of experience in the sector

Within the Abruzzo's Life science & Pharmaceutical industry can be identified three sub-sectors:

- **Industries** (pharmaceutical ingredients, biotech research services, Hygiene products manufacturing)
- **Commerce** (wholesale and retail commerce of pharmaceutical products, medical devices and other healthcare items)
- **Health and social-health services** (hospital, dental and assistance services, private nursing homes)





# ICT: Information, technology & semiconductors production hub

## LEADER IN ICT PRODUCTION

Manufacturing of **electronic boards** and **semiconductors** takes a dominant role in Abruzzo. Within services, information technology sectors employ more than **40%** of total ICT employment, while about **15%** belongs to telecommunications, in line with what is observed nationally.

## ABRUZZO IS PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN THE SECTOR

- Established presence of companies in the **aerospace sector** (Thales Alenia, Telespazio, ELITAL) with orders for **NASA** and **ESA**
- Presence of the **largest data center** in Europe by computing power (SELEX)
- Unique presence in Italy of a production site LFoundry, world leader in the manufacturing of **silicon electronic components and semiconductors**



# Carbon Fiber Industry – Valle del Tronto

Between Ascoli and Teramo there is a very rich and innovative hub where **chemistry, raw materials, polymers and molecules are transformed into cutting-edge nanomaterials**, increasingly light, performing and sustainable from both economic and environmental point of view.

Their applications are wide:

- aerospace sector
- race sector (Formula 1)
- nautical world
- sport
- innovative plastics for design objects
- electric vehicles



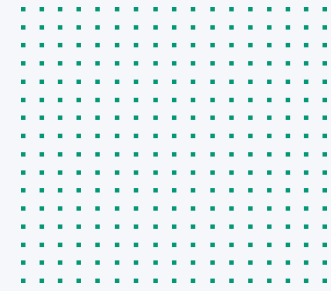
# Some Key Players in Abruzzo

YOU WILL HAVE EXTREMELY VALUABLE PARTNERS IN EVERY FIELD





## Successful Stories



Leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of luxury and sports eyewear, **Luxottica group** carried out the acquisition of Barberini S.p.A., based in Abruzzo, the world's leading optical glass sun lens manufacturer.

The acquisition allows the Group to strengthen its "made in Italy" production and its know-how in glass sun and prescription lenses, always considered a success factor for the iconic models of Ray-Ban and Persol. Luxottica adds to its excellent manufacturing presence in Italy the Barberini industrial site in Abruzzo.



**Valagro** is a leader in the development, production and marketing of biostimulant and advanced nutrient solutions for cash and row crops. Founded in 1980 and with its headquarters in Atessa (Italy), Valagro is committed to providing innovative and effective solutions for plant nutrition and health. Its mission is to increase the quantity and quality of plants and harvested crops while enhancing productivity and reducing the environmental impact of cultivation.

## Successful Stories



**Dompé** is a privately owned biopharmaceutical company with 130 years of experience. Present in Abruzzo with 160,000 square meter production hub in L'Aquila that contains research laboratories, development and manufacturing facilities (for pharma and biotech drugs), warehousing, administrative offices and other facilities. It is committed to medical and scientific advancement, through own research and open innovation ecosystem. Dompé conduct research activities as part of a network of over 300 centers and universities across the world that has performed 27 clinical trials for more than 2000 patients.



**Teramo as the vital center of the Carbon sector.** Within the Teramo area there is a virtuous example of how the interactions among industries, associations, local bodies and stakeholders is crucial to the development of a valuable and productive supply chain. **compositesportal.com** it's the first website dedicated to industry and academia of composite materials in Italy, and it was born in this area. Composites Portal is indispensable for any entrepreneur who wants to have a complete view of the news in this area, a meeting point between supply and demand.



An aerial photograph of a serene landscape. A large, calm lake with deep blue water is the central focus, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The lake is nestled in a valley, with steep, forested mountains rising on all sides. The trees are in various shades of green, suggesting a lush environment. A few small buildings and a winding road are visible along the shoreline, particularly on the right side. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and idyllic. Overlaid on the center of the lake is the text "Quality of life" in a large, white, sans-serif font. A short horizontal white line is positioned directly beneath the word "Quality".

Quality of life

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# Abruzzo is the Region of well-being

Abruzzo is the **Green Region of Europe** and it also has an **intensive nightlife on Adriatic coast**. With 3 national parks, a regional park, numerous protected reserves and an extremely varied territory, from the 2,912 meters of Gran Sasso, to the 133 kilometers of the Adriatic coast, Abruzzo has a very **high quality of life**. Here you will enjoy great landscapes, mountains, beaches, beautiful villages full of history, many UNESCO sites. Moreover, the livability is excellent: L'Aquila is the **third safest** city in Italy.





# Thank you

SEZ ABRUZZO

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