

TUSCANY STRATEGIC AGENDA 2019-2024



REGIONE
TOSCANA



Introduction

The European Council agreed a new [2019-2024 Strategic Agenda](#) that contains a number of guidelines for the coming work programmes of EU Institutions. The strategic agenda focuses on four main priorities:

- protecting citizens and freedoms;
- developing a strong and vibrant economic base;
- building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe;
- promoting European interests and values on the global stage.

The European Council also recalled that for Europe “It will be important to engage with citizens, civil society and social partners, as well as with regional and local actors” thus encouraging all levels of governance to implement this strategy.

The Tuscany Region, therefore:

Protects citizens and freedoms

- Defends society from malicious cyber activities, hybrid threats and disinformation. A [memorandum of understanding](#) for the creation of a regional centre on *cyber security* for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and Public Administration allows to concentrate regional investments on a data / cloud centre which is available to all administrations in the Tuscany Region.
- Carries out actions for urban security, through the use of technological tools that allow territory control, redevelopment and to regain social, cultural and commercial control over historic town centres in line with the [White Paper on integrated urban security regional policies](#). More than 3 million euro were earmarked for projects carried out by local bodies to install and use video surveillance systems. To date, 172 projects have been funded in 228 Tuscan municipalities.
- Launches a governance model for integration, in line with the [White Paper on reception policies](#) of asylum seekers and persons in need of international protection, in which all parties involved can contribute in developing a system inspired by the values of solidarity and sustainability in local communities.



Develops its economic base: the European model for the future



- Promotes, incentivises and disseminates innovation also thanks to its [technological districts](#) that group independent economic and research operators and allow for the technological transfer of innovation with positive impacts on companies and on the competitiveness of the territories involved. To this date, these districts - which include innovative start-ups, SMEs, research and knowledge dissemination centres – often play a role as coordinators in various European projects run under the system of direct management and distinguish themselves for their effective use of structural funds.
- Creates synergies between the public and private sector and Academia. The [Industry 4.0 Platform](#) created within the Regional Strategy called Impresa 4.0 (Enterprise 4.0), makes it possible to provide public support to companies on issues such as the transfer of technological innovation and the promotion of training activities for new specialised professional profiles. The platform is part of the so-called [Digital Innovation Hubs](#) which are recognised by the European Commission's JRC as being an ecosystem able to support enterprises in adapting to new challenges imposed by the new industrial revolution. Furthermore, the Tuscany Region finances a PHD on Impresa 4.0, with courses shared among Tuscany Universities ranging from Industrial to Environmental Engineering, Earth Science to Smart Computing, IT, Biochemistry and Molecular biology, Genomics, Neuroscience and Life Science. For these courses alone, during the current programming phase, more than 280 three-year PHD bursaries were funded.

- Is competitive on foreign markets and reorganises its most relevant economic sectors as planned within the framework of the [Smart Specialisation](#) initiative that was recently renewed. Within the three thematic specialisation platforms (Energy, Industrial Modernisation, Agrifood) launched by the European Commission, the Tuscany Region is co-leader of the [Industry 4.0 Platform](#), participates in the [Medtech Partnership](#) within the framework of the Industrial Modernisation Platform, is leader of the [Precision Agriculture Partnership](#) within the Agrifood Platform and is leader in the [Geothermal Energy 2.0 Partnership](#) within the framework of the Energy Platform.
- Invests in the research sector. [Tour4EU](#) is a non-profit association that brings together the Region and the seven Tuscan Universities/Schools to promote the interests of the Tuscan research system at EU level and helps create links between Academia and industry.
- Supports cross-cutting training alliances between schools, training bodies, enterprises and trade unions that cooperate to establish local training needs and to plan necessary interventions together. The Region also intervenes with a top-down approach by providing funding to training courses for young people with a view to protecting the interests of the most relevant regional economic sectors (agribusiness, paper, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, ICT, marble, mechanical industry, fashion, leisure boats and logistics, tourism and culture). Within the framework of these strategic sectors, the Region also defines the needs for its Technical Higher Education and Higher Education and Training programmes, which focus on post graduate training activities for technical experts required by the most dynamic Tuscan enterprises. These courses have a very high rate of students who have immediate access to the labour market once they have completed their studies.



Builds a climate-neutral green, fair and social Europe



- It intends to become “*carbon neutral*” by 2050 thanks to a regional plan that contributes to cutting green-house gas emissions thus fighting against the global threat of climate change and increases the use of renewable energy sources. This plan identifies the energetic potential of renewables for the production of electricity. The goal by 2050 is to produce electricity entirely from renewables.
- Promotes the use of the tremendous geothermal potential of the Region, which is also a strategic productive asset for the Region and the whole country. 39% of electricity produced in the Region comes from geothermal sources and amounts to 73,2% of production from renewables (6.185 GWh). This strategy intends to promote a more widespread use of geothermal heat, promote energy efficiency and encourage technological innovation in this sector.
- Fosters the development of a circular economy to manage waste as a “source” to obtain raw materials to manufacture new products. Following the adoption of the European Parliament’s Circular Economy Package, the Tuscany Region has been chairing a number of thematic groups with the involvement of the main regional stakeholders in sectors of industry with a high environmental impact, concentrated in specific geographical areas (*Paper/Lucca, Marble/Carrara, Leather/Santa Croce, Textiles/Prato*), where a problem exists in terms of the completion of the production cycle. Today, the Region recovers about 56% of waste created and aims at reaching 80% of separate collection (with 65% recycled) by 2023. New bio-digesters will be built by 2022 and specific measures have been taken to ban single use plastics in Tuscany, starting from all beach establishments in line with [EU Directive 2019/904](#) on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment.



- Protects the marine environment, which is an inexhaustible source of life for all living beings on our planet Earth. The “*Clean Archipelago*” project on waste recovery and disposal at sea, in its first six months of experimentation has allowed to collect over 1800 kilograms of waste, and helps clean up the sea from plastics and waste of all kinds. Thanks to this initiative, Tuscany inspired the [National Law called "Save the Sea"](#) of 2019 and [EU Directive 2019/883](#) on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships, which allows fishermen to bring passively fished waste back to shore, without being considered as the ones who produced it and without obliging them to sustain disposal costs.
- Reduces inequalities and discrimination, by allocating 20% of the Operational Programme of the European Social Fund (ESF) to interventions in favour of social inclusion, promotion of equal opportunities and social cohesion. The objectives are labour inclusion of disabled and disadvantaged persons, support in favour of those who require early childhood education services and strengthening the provision of health and social services at home.
- Promotes the transition of young people to full autonomy. The Region has placed its focus on the [GiovaniSi](#) project which is financed by regional, national and European funds, with the objective of enhancing opportunities linked to the right to education and to training, support to actions that help young people find their place on the labour market and facilities to help them establish start-ups. This initiative, apart from inspiring the European initiative called “Youth Guarantee”, helped reach over 300.000 young people with total resources committed in excess of 1 billion euro.
- Reduces internal territorial disparities. The Region intends to boost the economy of its coastal areas – those most adversely affected by the crisis – by strengthening its logistics potential and tourism. The Region also focuses its attention on inland areas – those most affected by depopulation and ageing – promoting projects whose objectives are to strengthen services and create new job opportunities.

¹ Article 8, para 2, letter d:

“in order to avoid that the costs of collection and treatment of passively fished waste are borne exclusively by port users, Member States shall cover, where appropriate, those costs from the revenues generated by alternative financing systems, including by waste management schemes and by Union, national or regional funding available”

Promoting the interests and values of Europe in the world



- Supports dynamic and high-growth companies that are often driven by international markets. These companies have, in the long and medium term, experienced high growth in terms of turnover and job creation. Despite the economic slowdown in the euro area and the instability of certain extra-European markets, Tuscan exports have increased more than the Italian average. In particular, exports towards the USA have grown considerably.
- Promote relations with many global strategic partners, including our transatlantic partners and emerging powers. The Tuscany Region cooperates with China on the basis of [a framework cooperation agreement](#) on the development of human resources and health research with the Health Human Resources Development Centre (Hhrdc) of the Popular Republic of China. This collaboration includes many medical and health domains and a number of different activities, such as the implementation of research programmes, training exchanges between experts in Traditional Chinese Medicine and the organisation of workshops and seminars.
- Promotes tourism, which constitutes 10% of its GDP, through international cooperation programmes and partnerships. The Region is a member of the European Commission's Joint Promotion Platform that was launched during the [Europe-China](#) Tourism Year (2018) whose objective is to increase tourist flows from China to Tuscany by at least 10% through tourist promotion initiatives.

Let's accomplish our priorities together

In order to implement the 2019-24 Strategic Agenda, The European Council recalled that *“the talents of regional and local actors should be harnessed for the benefit of the overall effort”* and it also stressed that *“The EU must give itself the means to match its ambitions, attain its objectives and carry through its policies”*.

The implementation of the 2019-24 Strategic Agenda in the various European territories is possible thanks to cohesion policy which needs to retain its high strategic connotation and pursue long-term objectives. Tuscany's ambition is to implement all four priorities established by the European Council in the whole Region. Even though its allocated structural funds amount to only 1.5 billion euro over a seven-year period, these resources are a fundamental tool to steer economic and social policy in the Region. Structural funds steer programming strategies by channelling extra investments that have a strong impact on Tuscany's territory. These funds translate into investments, support to enterprises, the fight against youth unemployment and environmental and climate change targets as well as many other policies for our territory.

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