



**TRANSFORM**  
LOMBARDY



**Regione Lombardia**



Fondazione Giannino Bassetti  
per la Responsabilità nell'Innovazione



**FINLOMBARDA**  
FINANZIAMO SVILUPPO



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Territories as Responsive and accountable Networks of S3 through new Forms of Open and Responsible decision-Making



**Strategic roadmap for the implementation and support of territorial RRI through Participatory Research Agenda Setting within S3 priorities - Executive Summary**

*This executive summary of the “Strategic roadmap for the implementation and support of territorial RRI through Participatory Research Agenda Setting” aims at helping regional public administrations who wish to enable citizens’ and R&I stakeholder engagement actions in their local policymaking.*

*The roadmap has been developed within the framework of **TRANSFORM**, an EU H2020 project, committed to transforming territorial research and innovation governance and opening up regional R&I policymaking so as to better align territorial research and innovation with citizens’ views, needs, and expectations.*

*TRANSFORM provides regional public authorities and other interested R&I actors with inspiring examples and practical suggestions, emerging from real regional settings and experimentations, on how to implement RRI principles through sound methodologies to engage citizens and multiple stakeholders.*

**METHODOLOGY**

In Lombardy, three partners ([Bassetti Foundation](#) – cluster leader -, [Lombardy Region](#) and [Finlombarda](#)) worked together to implement a participatory research agenda setting exercise whose primary purpose is to identify, together with the community involved (participatory), the priorities that should guide the policy planning (agenda setting) in the field of research and innovation (research). TRANSFORM in Lombardy has structured its process mainly using deliberative methods. In public deliberation for policy making a small group of citizens, typically selected through a random selection plus stratification, meet, learn, discuss and elaborate collective recommendations on a specific pre-selected issue to be delivered to the decision-makers who commissioned the deliberative process.

**EXPECTED BENEFITS**

**The expected benefits of TRANSFORM in Lombardy are:**



- Making R&I governance more open and inclusive by giving citizens a role in the definition of regional priorities in the field
- Better aligning R&I policies to societal needs and values by engaging citizens through sound participatory approaches
- Empowering citizens and increasing their sense of political efficacy by giving them a seat at the table in regional public decision-making processes
- Enhancing mutual trust between citizens and the regional authority by respectively delivering and implementing considered public recommendations based on informed discussion and collective deliberation
- Informing citizens on key R&I topics and fostering dialogue between researchers, innovators, and citizens
- Contributing to the diffusion of the deliberative culture and practices in Lombardy and beyond.



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## ACTIONS



In Spring 2021 around 1020 people living in Lombardy contributed to shaping regional R&I through a structured participatory research and innovation agenda setting pilot. The process was held entirely online (due to the COVID-19 restrictions), combining a **survey** administered to a representative sample of Lombardy population (targeting personal and territorial needs) and a **deliberative workshop** on just energy transition for all in Lombardy.

In June 2022, a face-to-face **Citizens' Jury** engaged 24 Lombardy citizens - selected according to specific socio-demographics criteria - to learn, discuss and deliberate about regional Responsible Smart Mobility, a key theme of [Lombardy Smart Specialization Strategy \(S3\)](#). Jurors provided Lombardy Region with recommendations on how insert responsibility issues like privacy and profiling, digital and economic inclusion, and accessibility when designing regional policies in this field.

The actions and the outcomes of the entire process were described in the regional portal [Open Innovation](#) and presented in a public event.



## IMPACT



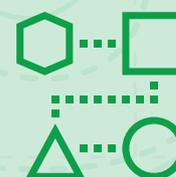
Thanks to TRANSFORM, regional S3 (2021-2027) has set participatory governance as one of the main challenges for the region. The strategy explicitly mentions TRANSFORM experience and dedicates a full chapter to RRI principles.

Outcomes from the survey and the deliberative workshop supported Lombardy Region in identifying territorial and citizens' needs that are at the basis of the regional [Three Years Strategic Program on Research, Innovation and Technological Transfer \(2021-2023\)](#).

Collective recommendations stemming from the Citizens' Jury informed a call for funding to develop smart data-driven mobility services. Citizens' recommendations have been inserted as requirements on which applicants are asked to reflect and act in designing their proposals. Lombardy Region committed to taking into account the Jurors' suggestions also in the second stage of the call (in 2023), as well as in its strategic documents and actions on smart mobility in the near future.

## KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- High-quality deliberative processes require time and a clear focus. A careful plan is important to guarantee the effectiveness and actionability of the outcomes.
- Civic lottery is the golden standard to recruit citizens, but public authorities need to have procedures in place to implement it. Before embarking on such processes, explore what is implementable, taking into account relevant features of citizens' engagement (i.e., rewarding citizens taking part).
- Communications before, in between, and after the events in person with citizens are fundamental for a transparent process and for building trust between the public and commissioning institutions. Setting up a virtual space as a repository of all the material used, practical information and then results is important like the process in itself.
- Collective recommendations can also be a way to read regional societal perceptions, attitudes, and awareness about specific issues and can help to prevent potential innovation controversies.



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