

# European Alliance Against Coronavirus

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 8:30

## Partnership of Industrial Modernization Platform

Working format is based on “*Gilles Rules*”:

1. conceptual framework
2. needs and disruptions
3. solutions

Speakers:

- Esteban Pelayo, EURADA
- Ilkka Nykänen, Business Joensuu
- Simona Vernon, Tecos
- Mikel Irujo, Government of Navarra
- Zoé Buyle-Bodin, Normandy Region

[Link to session's recording](#)

### 1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

**Esteban Pelayo from EURADA** (European Association of Development Agencies) opened this session on the future of economical and regional development in Europe. He introduced all the speakers and underlined the role of the industrial modernization platforms to facilitate competitiveness and regional cooperation.

#### Mining S3 Thematic Partnership

Ilkka Nykänen, Business Joensuu, presented a **S3 thematic partnership in the mining industry and global value chain**. The alliance of northern and southern regions works on the following **primary thematic areas for the S3P mining industry project**:

- Critical raw material production
- New technologies and sustainable mining
- Industrial circular economy
- Social acceptance of mining through stockholder and involvement
- Education and training in mining and related industries

The project collaborates with Interreg Europe project Remix and H2020 project MIREU works with OECD mining regions and cities.

#### Social economy

Michel Irujo analysed **S3 as a tool for regional growth in the social economy**. The Social Economy S3 Thematic Partnership (<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thematic-platforms>) improves the competitiveness of social economy companies through the increase of added value provided through an interregional cooperation perspective. Moreover, this partnership aims to create a **European value**

**chain of social economy** enterprises, which represent 10% of all business in the EU. The goal is to improve the cooperation between them and to use **S3 act as a link between social economy enterprises all over Europe to make them more resilient.**

### European Network of Centres for Advanced Manufacturing (ENCAM)

ENCAM, as presented by Simona K. Vernon from Tecos, supports the transition to industry 4.0. To be successful, the **digital transformation must involve** not only single companies, but **all the partners across the extended value chain**, including Digital Innovation Hubs. This partnership is built around three strategic areas. One of them is increasing awareness to make SMEs aware of the opportunities offered by the industry 4.0 paradigms and the clear added value of a **reinforced cross-border cooperation in these fields**. ENCAM helps SMEs “to become factories of the future” with a network of laboratories to validate solutions, products, services and prototypes. This laboratory network helps to minimise the risk of valley of death. A challenge they encounter is that the regional institutions work with different operating systems and financial models.

### European Hydrogen Valleys S3 Partnership

The project “European Hydrogen Valleys S3 Partnership” presented by Zoé Buyle-Bodin treats **H2 as a key lever to decarbonise the European economy**. The EU’s ambitious goal is to be the **1<sup>st</sup> climate neutral economy by 2050**. In order to achieve this aim, the European local authorities will play a central role in supporting the development of FCH (Fuel cells and hydrogen) technologies.

**Hydrogen Valleys S3P** involves 13 countries and 35 regions. Its main objective is to strengthen the visibility and influence capacity of European regions **as key users of FCH technologies in order to facilitate joint investments projects**. In November 2019, 12 thematic working groups were launched to cover the whole H2 value chain. There are regular updates on the WG during plenary meetings. The next plenary meeting will be in October 2020.

All projects presented are open for cooperation.

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## 2. IDENTIFICATION OF DISRUPTIONS

### First disruption: differences in infrastructures and resources for industrial partnership

*Source: Esteban Pelayo*

**Evidence:** Europe is very diversified. It boasts an innumerable series of industrial excellences and experiences in various sectors which throughout history have been specialised in specific geographical areas. However, global competition and threats of big non-European players oblige the EU to maximize industrial collaborations between the various regions and sectors. Often, excellences or sectors (both for research and for industry) operating in the same areas, should have the possibility to collaborate, but they have very different infrastructures and resources, both in terms of availability and type. This represents a great barrier to partnerships for obtaining a long-term strategic competitive advantage and developing a common vision. Working together to understand the state of development of the various industrial sectors and to outline European roadmaps to achieve new goals is the key to being stronger and more resilient.

**Geographical impact:** EU

**Stage of value chain:** strategic collaboration and partnership

**Character of the disruption:** lack of infrastructure and resources homogenisation

**Time frame:** mid and long term

**EU actions needed:**

- **Coordination:** more coordination among different institutions
- **Funding:** supporting companies to grow and become international, providing expertise, knowledge and funding

**Recommendation:**

- Clusters' role is to support collaborations between companies and find partnership opportunities. The Covid-19 crisis has created big issues against the synergies identification process, but now it is starting again in this recovery phase.
- Collaborations have to be pushed at local/regional, European and global level.
- Often, the involvement of some clusters in partnerships is critical. Complexity in participating is a barrier.

## Second disruption and solution: Social Economy to foster industrial partnership

*Source: Mikel Irujo*

**Evidence:** Social Economy can represent a very useful economic paradigm for regional collaboration and growth. There are 2 million social economy enterprises in Europe, representing 10% of all business in EU. More than 11 million people – about 6% of EU's employees – work for social economy enterprises. Social Economy fosters respect, democracy, equality, pluralism, non-discrimination and solidarity in order to put human capital before profit. It unifies society and members interests, representing a good solution to boost increase industrial partnership.

**Geographical impact:** EU

**Stage of value chain:** strategic collaboration and partnership

**Character of the disruption:** social economy impact to boost industrial partnership

**Time frame:** mid term

**EU actions needed:**

- **Coordination:** (i) improve the competitiveness of Social Economy companies through the increase of the added value provided, in an interregional cooperation perspective; (ii) create European value chains of social economy enterprises belonging to different regions in Europe and improve the cooperation between them

**Recommendation:**

- Actors may not have enough resources, so it happens that collaborations are always established between those actors with more resources, creating in this way network always stronger than others. In this sense, Social Economy could be the solution.

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## IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

- 1) Homogenisation and standardisation of infrastructures and resources among different regions to improve collaborations and partnerships
- 2) Favour social economy to foster collaboration and partnership between enterprises and societies

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## 3. SOLUTIONS

- 1) Develop social economy clusters and apply more holistic and cohesive approaches to S3 thematic platform
- 2) Foster the ability to attract talent to companies
- 3) Promote the internationalisation
- 4) EU should (i) map capacities, expertise, projects and stakeholder's needs among different regions; and (ii) organize working groups and funding workshops