The European Commission’s science and knowledge service

"Smart Specialisation and Innovation Ecosystems as a Value Adding Tool for Regional & National Economies"

EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking Event

Zagreb, 22 November 2018

Dr. Ales Gnamus

JRC-Growth & Innovation, Territorial Development, Seville, ES

https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/
Creating Innovation Eco-Systems ➔ Boosting Capacity Building for Innovation...
Smart Specialisation:
A place-based policy approach

Key concept of EC Cohesion Policy for place-based reg. innovation

- National or regional research and innovation strategies
- Setting priorities to build competitive advantage through a bottom-up Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
- Better match of R&I strengths to business needs
- Address emerging market opportunities, market niches
- More effective use of EU Structural Funds

EU Regulation 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17/12/2013
...and an ongoing process involving Quadruple Helix stakeholders...

- **Businesses** are best placed to lead the identification of new opportunities for growth in a rapidly globalising economy.

- The process of discovery of the new niches/markets inspire public policies on innovation.
Continuous Entrepreneurial Discovery for S3 Priority Setting

Operational committee
Territorial intelligence unit

Societal challenges
Market opportunities

Key enabling technologies
Technical and industrial opportunities

Definition of potential specialisation domain
Current assets identification

Entrepreneurial Discovery Process

Innovation ecosystem overview
Other regions benchmarking
Regional current assets characterization

Proposition of priorities

SwOT for priority domains

Filtering according to four criteria: choice, competitive advantage, critical mass, cooperation

Decision

Regional Strategic Innovation Committee

Priorities and scenarios proposed

Debates

IMPLEMENTATION BY PILOTS FOR EACH SPECIALISATION DOMAIN

Priorities and scenarios adopted

Source: Centre Region, Frédéric Pinna, 2017.
S3: The Notion of Specialisation

S3 is about developing new specialities based on regional concentration of knowledge, competence and market potentials (dynamic)

S3 is NOT to be understood as a sector specialised or relative to other regions (passive)
Smart Specialisation in Europe: EU Cohesion Policy

REGULATION (EU) 1303/2013
Applies to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Ex-ante conditionality

"...
A national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that:

• is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities

• outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment

• contains a monitoring mechanism

..."

Eligibility map 2014-20

- Less developed region (GDP/head: less than 75%)
- Transition regions (GDP/head between 75% and 90%)
- More developed region (GDP/head: more than 90%)
S3 Platform

- EU: Assessed over 120 smart specialisation strategies
- Wide membership: 195 regions (incl. 16 Non-EU)
  24 countries (incl. 6 Non-EU)
- Strong endorsement by national / regional policy-makers: average 4.5/5 satisfaction rankings + 2017 JRC Award for excellence & 2017 EPSA best practice recognition
- Implementation: 40% of ERDF spending on Smart Specialisation categories - 36 billions € (Jan. 2017)
- Technology transfer, SME business development, Public R&D and Infrastructure
- Thematic concentration through S3 partnerships supported by **Thematic S3 Platforms**: Agri-food, Energy, Industrial Modernisation + Digital Growth, and potential new TSSPs
Created in 2011 to provide science-based advice to EU national and regional policy-makers for the establishment and implementation of their Research & Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3), more than 190 regions registered.

Making better use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and thus contribute to the Europe goals of a smarter, greener and more inclusive European economy.

Promotes Transnational learning, Interregional collaboration & partnerships via:

**Guidance:** RIS3 Guide, Implementation Handbook, Digital Agenda Toolbox, Good Practice Examples, FAQs...

**Supporting tools:** Regional priorities (Eye@RIS3), Regional Benchmarking, ICT Monitoring, Digital Innovation Hubs...

**Analysis:** Conceptual and empirical developments, Policy Briefs, Peer Reviews, Working Papers…
S3P Guidance in Developing & Implementing RIS3

S3P Supporting the RIS3 Process

from RIS3 Guide

through streamlined “easy-to-use” (Self-)Assessment Tool & benchmarking tools
to RIS3 Peer-Reviews & Mutual Learning exercises & Encoding of the S3 priorities
RIS3 Assessments... Western Balkan Countries...

Expert assessment

National Self-assessments?

Source: S3 Platform
The Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms, a key vehicle for the implementation of Smart Specialisation

Three Thematic Platforms

Smart Specialisation priorities in the EU

- Urban
- Energy
- Education
- Water
- Health
- Food

Source: DG JRC
S3 Linking Public Admin.& Businesses at the EU level

S3 Strategic Developments - EU

Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

Regional authorities

- Energy
- Agro-Food
- Industrial Modernisation

+ Blue Growth?
+ Digital Innovation Hubs
+ Health
+ Circular Economy etc.

Business

Value chain

Joint actions and investments

Value chain

Value chain

Value chain

Cluster organisations

European Strategic Cluster Partnerships

for Smart Specialisation Investment

DG GROW

REGIO, JRC & Lead policy DGs
Three steps of the 'Entrepreneurial Discovery Process' at the EU-level

1. Thematic Smart Specialisation Platform
   - Lead Policy DGs & Lead Regions
   - Identifying potential synergies in regional S3 priorities

2. European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for S3 investments
   - Lead Clusters & Regions
   - Intercluster cooperation network for specific value chains/domains

3. Consortia for co-investments / joint demonstration
   - Lead Companies & innovation actors in clusters accross regions
   - Projects and investment cases in particular value chains
Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2017

Participation in the Thematic S3 Platforms 2017

South East Europe
S3 & Place-based Innovation Ecosystems

Quadruple helix perspective (government, business, academia and civil society)

- **University-driven** → e.g. Aalto University in Espoo (FI)
- **Civil society-driven** → e.g. Digital Social Innovation in Barcelona (ES)
- **Business-driven** → e.g. Volvo in Göteborg (SE)
- **RTO-driven** → e.g. Technology Park in Ljubljana (SI)
- **American way:**
  - University-driven → US (MIT) & UK (Cambridge)
  - Local self-government-driven → Innovation Districts in Boston (US)
Espoo Innovation Garden & Aalto University

Key success factors:
1) concentration of highly skilled human capital and research infrastructure
2) vision, political commitment and collaborative culture of Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and Espoo City;
3) a strong orchestrating actor, Aalto University, who stimulated the synergistic activities of the various actors, coupled with
4) the leadership, strategic and cross-disciplinary thinking of the university’s management;
5) a local culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, cultivated through the active support to bottom-up innovative activities in the university and the wider ecosystem;
6) a focus on the potential and capability of people to inform policies and programmes;
7) financial and policy support from the central government, including the innovation agency Tekes and private firms;
8) the successful involvement of serial entrepreneurs in financing and mentoring further start-up activities.
Digital Social Innovation (DSI) in Barcelona and its Metropolitan Area

- **Citizen innovation** based on diffused & emerging digital technologies (i.e. internet and social media, but also 3D printing and robotics)

- **Strong associative culture** expressed in a myriad of nonprofits using digital means for social good

- **Regional policy commitment** to build over territory's assets

→ **CatLabs**, a RIS3CAT initiative to boost the DSI ecosystem and connect it to the broader R&I system
Technology Park Ljubljana (TPL) & Ljubljana start-ups ecosystem

• **Initial condition: Lack of a coherent national innovation ecosystem**, fragmented landscape, limited collaboration with the society (weak quadruple helix)
• **Since 2015 RIS3 as a palliative**, EDP structured in 9 formal SRIP partnerships
• **Technology Park Ljubljana:**
  • started by the biggest research centre (IJS) to support its spin-outs, partially owned by the municipality
  • pursues a public goal but its budget is dependent on competitive funds
• **From spin-outs and spin-offs to start-ups and scale-ups, an articulated trajectory**
  • supported with space, mentorship, networking and access to opportunities
  • experience codified in a model that is inspirational for Western Balkan countries!
Thank you!

Contact details:
ales.gnamus@ec.europa.eu

Smart specialisation platform: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu

Twitter: @S3Platform