Smart Specialization process overview in Vojvodina/Serbia

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Position: Vojvodina
Region in Europe

- **Location**
- The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina covers a surface of 21,506 km²:
  - half of Netherlands
  - 24.4% of the total surface of the country
- Represents a part of the eastern border of European Union.
Reality

- What is going on in Vojvodina?
Reality

- Vojvodina was **first non EU region** that developed RIS!
Actually

This was a **pioneer step of creation of innovation system of Vojvodina**

Strategic vision for the future of Vojvodina region:

Vojvodina region creates sustainable innovation system which will make it recognizable European region in area of innovation.
Main achievements of RIS3

- Smart Specialization Strategy of the Vojvodina region:

  Identified:
  - **Innovation principles** at strategic (decision making) level
  - **Key sectors** with potential of smart specialization at regional level
  - Processes to reach the goals
  - Processes to monitor, evaluate and correct
Key sectors at regional level:

- **Agricultural production and food industry**
- **Information communication technology**

And:
- Metal industry
- Tourism
Key sectors at regional level:

Agriculture

Priority sector in Vojvodina.
Fertile agricultural land - 84% of its territory. Share of agribusiness:
- in the total industrial production is 40%,
- that is 30% in the total exports of Vojvodina.
Key sectors at regional level:

IKT

- Serbian IT market generated €467 million in 2017, which a yearly growth of 6.0%
- Domestic IT industry comprised 2,048 active enterprises in 2016. Its 21,514 employees are 1.4% of the total workforce.

  Its employment rose by 10% compared to the previous year.

- Source: Vojvodina IKT cluster
Key horizontal principles:

- Ecology and environment protection
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy resources (geothermal resources, biomass/biogas, biodiesel, mini hydropower, wind turbines, solar energy)
- Innovation centers and clusters: organizations for commercialization of innovation potential.
How to reach goals:

- To establish a system to **commercialize potential innovation** and R & D projects.
- To establish conditions for **mobility** of highly educated professionals.
- To intensify **applied research** and to connect science and industry.
- To provide permanent and secure **funding** for innovation process.
- To **strengthen self-confidence** of potential entrepreneurs.
- To raise awareness about creativity and innovation.
Next steps, not taken yet

- Vojvodina lost almost 3 years
- No political understanding
- Still: NO Smart Specialization Regional Council
- NO: monitoring, evaluation, correction system
- Must start to renew RIS3
- Must develop financing system
- Development of national RIS3 is in the process
Next steps, not taken yet

- Increase of awareness of decision makers
- Promote Serbia as a good place for innovative entrepreneurship and create an eco system for this.
Thank you for your attention!

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