

AGENDAS

**STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE (S2E) SLOVENIA NATIONAL EVENT (06/04/2016)
&
IMPLEMENTATION OF SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGY (07/04/2016)**

VENUE: *Hotel Four Points by Sheraton (Pot za Brdom 4, Ljubljana, Slovenia)*

Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Research and Innovation Funding: The Stairway to Excellence (S2E)

Rationale

The development of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) requires that European regions and Member States identify a limited number of research areas and industrial activities with high innovation potential at the regional or national level. These strategies have to be implemented using European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which can also be combined with other types of funding. Supporting synergies between funding sources (also including COSME, ERASMUS+, and Creative Europe etc.) should deliver additional gains in terms of competitiveness in Horizon 2020 calls, innovation results that could contribute to closing the innovation gap in Europe and therefore promote economic growth, and overall have greater efficiency in the use of public funding.

The "Stairway to Excellence" Project is centred on:

- The provision of assistance to Member States (MS) which joined the European Union since 2004 with the aim of closing the innovation gap, and promoting excellence in all EU regions and Member States;
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Objectives of the Event

The principal objectives of this national event are:

- A better understanding of the national (and regional) innovation ecosystem(s) with a special emphasis on the identification of obstacles, barriers and potentials to innovation.
- Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and other programmes for research and innovation.
- Sharing experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme to improve excellence in R&I systems.
- Drawing lessons for the future and identifying follow-up actions to enhance the potential synergies between different EU funds in Slovenia.



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Who should attend?

- Planned Participants: 120
- Slovenian national and regional managing authorities (of ERDF, ESF, EARDF Operational Programmes) involved in the implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy
- Slovenian National Contact Points from the past Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020 and other EU-funded programmes.
- Slovenian national and regional authorities in charge of Smart Specialisation Strategies.
- Members of the Horizon 2020 programme committee.
- Selected national and international experts on EU funding programmes and regional policy.
- Selected representatives from businesses.
- Selected representatives from universities, research centres and other organizations with experience and/or interest in EU-funded programmes.

Organisers

EUROPEAN COMMISSION (Directorate-General Joint Research Centre - S3 Platform & Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy – REGIO G1); Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy - Republic of Slovenia

Agenda for "Stairway to Excellence" (S2E) Event April 6th, 2016

Hotel Four Points Sheraton (Pot za Brdom 4, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

09:00 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome Speeches Alenka Smerkolj , Minister, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (SVRK) Tomaž Boh , State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZŠ)

OPENING SESSION – POLICY CONTEXT

09:45 – 11:00	Moderator: Aleš Gnamuš (European Commission, DG JRC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy Instruments to Widening Participation - Dimitri Corpakis (European Commission, DG RTD) (via videolink)• Synergies with Research & Innovation Funds: Stairway to Excellence – Andrea Conte (European Commission, DG JRC)• Slovenia's Priorities in Public Research & Innovation Investments – Opportunities for Synergies - Urban Krajcar (Director General, MIZŠ)• Opportunities for Synergies Under the New ESIF Framework – Beate Grajnert (European Commission, DG REGIO)• Questions & Answers
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11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CONTEXT

11:30 – 12:45	Moderator: Gregor Čufer (European Commission, DG REGIO) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Innovation Partnership and SRIP in Slovenia – Marko Hren (Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy)• Slovenia's Profile in terms of FP Participation and Structural Funds – Nida Kamil Özbolat (European Commission, DG JRC)• The Slovenian R&I System and Opportunities Arising from Synergies – Maja Bučar (Stairway to Excellence Slovenia Expert)• How EARTO can Support the Development of Innovation Ecosystems in Europe - Jadran Lenarčič (CEO, Jozef Stefan Institute / EARTO)• Questions & Answers
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12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

SYNERGIES IN PRACTICE

14:00 – 16:30 *Moderator:* Nicholas Harrap (European Commission, DG JRC)

- **Synergies in Funding Sources to Finance R&I Infrastructures** - Louis-Philippe Carrier (EIB-JASPERS)
- **Synergies in Funding Energy and Smart Cities Activities** – Georg Houben (European Commission, DG ENER)
- **Climate-KIC: Boosting climate innovation through the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)** – Mike Cherrett (Director of Operations, EIT Climate-KIC)
- **Synergies in practice: ERRIN network and Smart Specialisation** – Pieter de Jong (EU Liaison Officer for Wetsus)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

16:30 – 16:45 Coffee Break

CONCLUSION & WAYS FORWARD

16:45 – 17:30 *Moderator:* Andrea Conte (European Commission, DG JRC)

- **Lessons Learnt & Concluding Remarks** – Rapporteurs will present the main outcomes of the round table discussion
- **Ways Forward** - Katja Reppel (European Commission, DG REGIO)

NOTE: The bilateral meetings with the Commission experts (e.g. EIB-JASPERS expert on State Aid, Innovative Procurement, DG REGIO on synergies, DG RTD on PSF, and DG ENER on Smart Cities) may take place in the afternoon after the official S2E event.



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Implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) Contribution to the networking of innovation activities on a few S3 areas

The Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) are now reality in Europe. With EU regions and nations having completed the technical fulfilments of the ex-ante conditionality and related action plans, the activities are now moving to the implementation phase. After some initial drawbacks, Slovenia has managed to develop the S3 marked by a fundamental shift in policy design of RTDI policies which enabled a country to set a high benchmark of what should be the driving force behind its RTDI policy setting. It was of particular importance that these bridges between research community and the economy have been developed with a clear market orientation and strong involvement of stakeholders from the private sector. Moreover, a large number of new and also unexpected initiatives appeared which underlined not just the specialisation but also the diversification factor of the S3 process. A solid entrepreneurial discovery process performed in the frame of the S3 process stimulated creation and strengthening of networks on an unprecedented level, which has consequently resulted in forming of strategic partnerships of stakeholders around a few priorities directly linked to the European value chains. This workshop on implementation of the smart specialisation strategies aims at supporting trans-regional collaboration on a few selected fields that can benefit from additional exposure to the important European stakeholders.

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Agenda - Workshop on Implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) April 7th, 2016

Hotel Four Points Sheraton (Pot za Brdom 4, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Introductory Session

- 09:00 – 10:00 *Moderator:* Aleš Gnamuš (S3 Platform, European Commission)
- 09:00 – 09:25 **Strategic Research & Innovation Partnerships in S4** -*Peter Wostner, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, SVRK, SI;*
- 09:25 – 09:50 **Value Chains and the New European Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms** - *Katja Reppel, European Commission, DG REGIO/G1 (via videolink);*
- Questions & Answers**

Theme 1: Smart Buildings and Homes incl. Wood Chain

- 10:00 – 11:30 *Moderator:* Peter Wostner (SVRK, Slovenia)
- **European dimension – Overview:** European strategies and policies - role of wood products industries - *Patrick Pammer, Wood-K Plus, Austria; & Climate-KIC's flagship programme "The Building Technologies Accelerator" (BTA) - Zeno Winkels, EIT Climate-KIC;*
 - **Case EU:** Smart Buildings - A Sustainable Energy Future for Europe -*Guy Vekemans, Energyville / EIT KIC Inno-Energy, Belgium;*
 - **Slovenian dimension – Overview:** The InnoRenew CoE as a facilitator of Slovenian Smart Specialization Goals - *Andreja Kutnar, CoE "INNO-Renew" Teamming, University of Primorska, SI; & PV Integration in the Public Buildings and Homes - Franko Nemas, ApE, SI;*
 - **Case Slovenia:** Innovative Activities of Slovenian Companies in the Field of Smart Buildings and Wood Chain - *Sašo Groznik, RIKO / Barbara Šubic, M-Sora & Bruno Dujič, CBD d.o.o., SI;*

Discussion

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

Theme 2: Networks for the Transition to Circular Economy

- 12:00 – 13:30 *Moderator:* Aleš Gnamuš (S3 Platform, European Commission)
- **European dimension– Overview:** Hydrogen in Sustainable Public Transport and Stationary Fuel Cell Hydrogen Applications in Europe - *Mirela Atanasiu, FCH-JU Programme Office, Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking, European Commission (via videolink);*
 - **Case EU:** RIS3 Enabling the Transition Towards a Circular Economy - Water & Blue Energy - *Pieter de Jong, Wetsus/ERRIN, Belgium;*
 - **Slovenian dimension – Overview:** Fuel Cell Hydrogen Mobile and Stationary Applications in Energy Supply - *Mihael Sekavčnik, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, UNI-Ljubljana, SI & Stanko Hočevar, National Institute of Chemistry, SI;*
 - **Case Slovenia:** Alternative Sources in Dispersed Energy Supply – *Zoran Marinšek, TN ACT – Technology Network Advanced Control Technologies & CE-NOT Centre of Excellence, SI;*

Discussion

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

Theme 3: Smart Cities and Communities

14:30 – 16:00 *Moderator: Erik Potočar (Directorate of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure, SI)*

- **European dimension – Overview: Overview of the European Smart Cities' Dimension** - *Georg Houben, European Commission, DG ENER;*
- **Case EU: Smart City Wien** - *Waltraud Schmid, Energy Centre Wien, Austria; & Open & Agile Smart Cities-Dalibor Baškovč, OASC and Euro Cloud Europe;*
- **Slovenian dimension – Overview: Towards Smart Cities and Communities in Slovenia** - *Milena Črnilogar Radež, Directorate of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure, SI;*
- **Case Slovenia: Ljubljana - The European Green Capital 2016** - *Kristina Novak, Municipality of the City of Ljubljana, SI / SINCRO.GRID project H2020 -Saša Jamšek, ELES, SI & The New FLAPAX Project - Mitja Jermol, Jožef Stefan Institute, SI;*

Discussion

BILATERAL MEETINGS on SPECIFIC ISSUES

15:30 – 17:30 **NOTE: Informal Parallel Meetings/Sessions!**
SYNERGIES (*on invitation*):
- Synergies: MIZŠ/MGRT/SVRK - EC, DG REGIO;

SMART SPECIALISATION and S3 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

- **Smart Buildings and Homes:** SI Experts & State and City authorities – EC Experts (EIT-KIC Inno-Energy, Wood-K Plus); **facilitated by:** *Andreja Kutnar, CoE "INNO-Renew" Teaming & Franko Nemac, ApE;*
- **Networks for the Transition to Circular Economy:** SI Experts & State and City authorities – EC Experts (EIT-KIC Climate Change, FCH JU, Wetsus/ERRIN...) **facilitated by:** *Aleš Gnamuš (European Commission, DG JRC);*
- **Smart Cities & Innovative Urban Development:** SI State and City authorities – EC Experts (DG ENER, EIT-KIC Climate Change, KIC Inno Energy, Vanguard Initiative); **facilitated by:** *Milena Črnilogar Radež (Directorate of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure, SI).*

NOTE! Some bilateral meetings regarding Synergies may take place also during the 7/4/2016 morning sessions!

Slots for bilateral meetings with the DG ENER expert *Georg Houben* and Smart City Wien expert *Waltraud Schmid* on the Smart Cities and Communities are available for the 6 April 2016 after the official programme or for the 7th April during the morning sessions. Similarly the EIT Climate-KIC experts *Mike Cherrett* and *Zeno Winkels* will be available on the 6th and 7th April afternoon.