

State of play of the implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategy of the Czech Republic

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What is Smart Specialization Strategy?

- *innovation strategy to determine most promising areas of R&D to efficiently focus investments*
- *based on regional strengths to build competitive advantage*
- *developed through entrepreneurial discovery process: a partnership between businesses, public entities, research community and civil society/users (quadruple helix)*

Why is it important?

- *develop region's potential by matching research and innovation strengths to business needs*
- *address emerging opportunities and market developments, find competitive niches*
- *increase return on investments and improve R&D impact on society (better growth & more jobs)*

And, last but not least:

- *ex ante conditionality for the use of European Structural and Investment Funds to support R&D in 2014-2020 to be fulfilled by end of 2016 at the latest*

Czech Smart Specialization Strategy

- *responsible body: Office of the Government - Section of Deputy Prime Minister for Science, Research and Innovation*
- *prepared on the national level + 14 regional annexes*
- *2 types of measures:*
 - *horizontal (systemic) interventions*
 - *vertical intervention = specialization domains*
- *first version approved in December 2014 but the process continues*
- *ex ante conditionality for 3 Czech operational programmes*

Where are we and what needs to be done?

Specialization domains

- *first proposal based on SWOT and economic analysis and EDP in the regions but too broad to be considered real specialization domains → need to streamline/prioritise*
- *work to be done by the National Innovation Platforms*
- *expected outcome: proposals of streamlined domains by end of June*
- *need to reflect the streamlined domains in the calls of the relevant OPs*

Where are we and what needs to be done?

Monitoring and budget

- *establish effective monitoring mechanism (to evaluate if we are getting what we want)*
- *set budget for the strategy (combining EU, national, regional and private resources)*
- *formal approval by the Government by the end of 2016 and submission to the EC*

For more information

InfoRegio:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy

S3 platform:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>