



# Higher Education for Smart Specialisation (HESS)

**John Edwards**

**S3 Platform, DG Joint Research Centre**



# HESS: What?

*A new project launched by the European Commission's S3 Platform, in cooperation with DG Education and Culture*

*Broad aims in the context of smart specialisation:*

- **Align human capital supply with S3 priorities (regional demand)**
- **Strengthen the contribution of HEIs to regional innovation systems**

*Pilot starts now and lasts for twelve months; limited in scope*

*Launched publicly during the EWRC in October*

## **HESS: Why?**

*The S3 still do not have a sufficient understanding of human capital or how to fully involve HEIs*

*Prioritised domains will not be sustainable without adequate human resources*

*Risk that ESI Funds are not strategically spent in the area of HE*

*Lack of integration / synergies of policies within the 'Knowledge Triangle'*

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## **Perspectives for Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) in the wider context of the Europe 2020 Growth Strategy**

This report was written by the Expert Group established to assess the contribution of "Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation" (RIS3) to the Europe 2020 Growth Strategy



2015

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

## **2.2. Smart Specialisation – a Research and Innovation (and Education) policy approach**

The RIS3 pre-conditionality – having a RIS3 (or existing similar national or regional strategy) in place in order to be eligible for ERDF support for innovation-related measures – applies specifically to two ERDF thematic objectives:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (R&I target)
- Enhancing access to, and use and quality of ICT (ICT target).

This misses, however, the crucial role of (higher) education and foreign direct investments in fostering a major structural change in the industry of the less developed regions, which the 3% R&D intensity target of the Europe 2020 strategy implicitly calls for. A well-developed RIS3 would need to pay sufficient attention to these two mechanisms to augment R&I capabilities.

# HESS: Objectives

- 1. Understand and support HEIs to align their functions of human capital development with S3 priorities.*
- 2. Analyse how the synergetic and strategic use of public funds can allow HEIs to better contribute to implementation of S3*
- 3. Foster change within **selected** HEIs to allow them to take on a boundary spanning role in implementing S3*
- 4. Facilitate external cooperation between the **selected** HEIs and other actors in the quadruple helix.*
- 5. Co-produce knowledge within a Community of Practice and disseminate this knowledge to a large policy audience.*

## HESS: Who?

*S3 Platform is an analytical, advisory and networking hub for EU Member States and regions in the design and implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).*

*Based at DG Joint Research Centre's Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) in Seville, Spain*

*Synergies with other IPTS activities: Lagging regions, Stairway to Excellence, Thematic Platforms (Knowledge for Growth), OpenEdu, EntreComp (Information Society)*

*Synergies with other DG EAC initiatives: UB Forum, Knowledge Alliances, HEInnovate...*

# HESS: How?

*Global analysis of relationship between HE, S3 and the ESI Funds*

- **Analysis of OPs, Surveys and Interviews**

*Action research*

- **Two cases: One in a less developed region (NE Romania), another in a more developed region (Navarre)**

*Dissemination to reach a wider audience*

- **Including cooperation with stakeholders and international organisations**