



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)

S3 Newsletter



Seville, 12 June 2012

Welcome to the first issue of the S3 Newsletter

S3 PLATFORM - A GROWING COMMUNITY

59 regions/countries are now registered in the S3 Platform

Newcomers:

Bretagne (FR)
Catalunya (ES)
Lower Silesia (PL)
Picardie (FR)
Podkarpackie (PL)
La Rioja (ES)
Umbria (IT)

More info:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-platform-registered-regions>

S3 OVER EUROPE - MAIN EVENTS HELD

Outreach event for the Baltic Sea area (07-08 May, Riga)

The main purpose of the event was to discuss the concept of Smart specialisation in the framework of the Baltic Sea region and the status and possibilities for smart specialisation strategies in the Baltic. The conference was well attended by almost 150 participants mainly from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania; involving policymakers at national and regional level as well as representatives of academia and research.

More info:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/agenda-and-presentations-riga>

OECD workshop on smart specialisation (10-11 May, Paris)

The workshop presented the first outcomes of the smart specialisation OECD-TIP project. In particular, a set of indicators on regional specialisation in science,

technology and economy was illustrated. Moreover, a number of case studies were presented by the countries and regions participating in the project, including some non-EU member States such as Turkey, Australia and Korea. The main objectives of the workshop were: (i) to evaluate the progress made; (ii) to identify the challenging policy questions coming up from the case-studies, and (iii) to agree on the way forward.

More info:

<https://community.oecd.org/community/smartspecialisation?view=discussions>

Country event in Bulgaria (10-11 May, Sofia)

The purpose of this event was to present the views of the European Commission and experts on the smart specialisation concept to decision makers at national and regional levels and to SF managing authorities. The seminar was attended by national and regional decision makers, EU fund Managing Authorities, strategy developers, representatives of ministries as well as representatives of business (associations) and Universities.

More info:

http://www.opcompetitiveness.bg/module6.php?menu_id=114

Country event in the Czech Republic (14 May, Brno)

This smart specialisation seminar was organised in Brno for participants from both the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The seminar was aimed at discussing the conditions for the fulfilment of the ex-ante conditionality "innovation strategy for smart specialisation" foreseen within the proposal of SF regulations for the programming period 2014-2020. For this reason, good practice examples from both the concerned countries and foreign experts were introduced, helping as inspiration and guidance for CZ and SK in the creation of their strategies, should they be national or regional. A legal and political framework was given by EC and international experts to explain why such strategies are essential for achieving the EU 2020 targets.

More info:

<http://www.mmr.cz/Kohezni-politika-EU/Seminare-a-workshopy/MMR-usporadalo-v-Brneseminar--Strategie-inteligen.aspx>

Outreach event for the Danube region (24 May, Stuttgart)

The aim of this event that gathered about 100 participants from all over the Danube region was to inform about Smart Specialisation Strategies, and discuss macro-regional strengths, comparative advantages and potential future growth areas. Four regions (Upper Austria, Flanders, South Moravia and Baden-Württemberg) shared insights into the reasoning and process going into the drafting of their smart specialisation strategies. One of the key messages was that a real "smart" specialisation strategy does not stop to see opportunities at the regional border. In a networked and global world, smart means not just considering your own strengths, but building networks across borders. The Danube Strategy as well as other macro-regional platforms, while not being limited to cooperation on R&I, can facilitate this process.

More info:

http://steinbeis-europa.de/index.php5?file=253&dev_id=1207&def_id=44

S3 PEER-REVIEW

S3 Platform Peer-review workshop (03 May, Seville)

Four regions (Apulia, Northern Ireland, Scania and Wallonia) presented their current work on RIS3. The remaining participants acted as 'critical friends' and discussed the strategies of the regions under review. The workshop was attended by participants from 21 EU countries and regions as well as experts, representatives of the European Commission and the World Bank.

More info:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/peer-review-030512>

S3 Platform Peer-review workshop (05-06 June, Azores)

This workshop focused on the approach to S3 by the EU's outermost regions. The strategy of three of these regions was discussed (Azores, Canary Islands and Réunion) along with Cornwall, another member of the S3 Platform with similar challenges related to its semi-peripheral geographic location. Despite different geographical characteristics, we believe that all participating regions have gained much from the exchanges of experiences that the seminar afforded.

More info:

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

S3 Platform Peer-review workshop (27-28 September, Pisa)

A peer-review workshop will be organised jointly with the Tuscany region in Pisa, Italy, on 27-28 September. Details on the peer-reviewed regions and on registration will be soon available in the S3 Platform website.

S3 FOCUS

"Europe is not lacking policy support or ideas. In fact, I would suggest that Europe is leading the way in terms of new ideas and policy support. Yes times are extremely difficult. But the important point in terms of EU policy and policy reform is to use these difficult times and challenges to rethink, redesign and refocus policy initiatives towards the long term growth and development challenges.

A reformed Cohesion Policy which is explicitly results-oriented and in which 'smart specialisation' plays a central role, is a major part of Europe's response to the crisis. Smart specialisation is about identifying our competitive advantages, investing in areas of real strength, and building the local networks across all parts of the value-chain to drive the strongest and widest growth agenda possible. This is the smartest way to link all actors - to uncover as many innovation and entrepreneurial opportunities as possible - and to sort out the problems associated with local bottlenecks and missing links.

The priority for Cohesion Policy over the coming years is to use this smart thinking in order to underpin the wider Europe2020 agenda in all countries and in all regions. We must all play our part in this. The current economic challenges are faced by the whole of Europe and the solutions must also come from across Europe. The present redesigning of Cohesion Policy so that it is 'smart' - means that it is intended to foster all aspects of growth and development by being results-oriented and multidimensional, - aiming to provide integrated solutions

(mixing different policy elements) which are appropriate for the context - what we call 'place-based'.

European structural funds are being reorganised in order to allow regions and Member States to bundle different funding streams together in smarter ways. The idea is to unleash a new dynamism on the part of localities, to galvanise the search for solutions, to build a vision of what works locally, to engage all stakeholders in the process, and then to drive the policy processes with this long term vision. However, this also requires urgent, careful and long-term thinking and an absolute commitment to prioritising and concentrating funding on long run results-oriented policies. We need to make explicit right from the beginning what we are trying to achieve, why, and how we plan to get there, and to communicate this widely. We need a clear roadmap and we need to monitor progress, but the roadmap will differ between countries and also between regions within the same country.

My advice to all of the policy-makers, business executives and civil society leaders I meet, is to take this unique opportunity - to grasp it with both hands - and to begin rebuilding the future of our communities."

Philip McCann

Special Adviser to EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn

23 April 2012

(extract from an interview to the Portuguese press)

S3 NEXT

OUTREACH AND COUNTRY EVENTS

June 27-28

Smart investment for smart specialisation (Warsaw, PL)
Jointly organised with the World Bank

June 28

Country event: S3 in the United Kingdom (Cardiff, UK)

September 26

Country event: S3 in Italy (Bari, IT)

EC EVENTS

June 15

Regions for Economic Change Conference (Brussels, BE)

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/strategies2012/index_en.cfm

June 20-21

Digital agenda assembly (Brussels, BE)

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/daa/

October 08-11

OPEN DAYS 2012 (Brussels, BE)

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2012/index.cfm

OTHER EVENTS

June 19

Innovation and smart specialisation in cohesion policy programmes (Tampere, FI)

<http://www.eprc.strath.ac.uk/ignet/default.cfm>

June 21

ECA workshop on clusters and new trends and challenges for implementing RIS3 (Brussels, BE)

<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/eca/news-and-events>

June 25

OECD roundtable on innovative and competitive regions (Novara, IT)

http://www.eco.unipmn.it/pdf-2011/2012/save-the-date%20Innovative%20Competitive%20Regions_25%20june%202012%20Novara.pdf

June 25-26

CECICN 1st congress on smart cooperation (A Coruña, ES)

<http://www.ubc.net/news,2,1028.html>

June 27

Science and innovation driving economic growth (London, UK)

<http://www.scienceinnovation-conference.co.uk/programme.php>

July 12-16

Euroscience open forum (Dublin, IE)

<http://www.esof.eu>

August 21-25

ERSA 2012 congress - Regions in motion: breaking the path (Bratislava, SK)

<http://www.ersa.org/ersa-congress/>

October 03-05

10th EES biennial conference (Helsinki, FI)

<http://www.europeanevaluation.org/conferences/ees-conferences-and-events/upcoming1/10th-ees-biennial-conference.htm>

October 16-19

TCI annual global conference: Constructing place-based competitiveness in times of global change (Basque Country, ES)

<http://www.tci2012.com/>

CONTACT

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