



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)



S3 Newsletter

Seville, 4 July 2012

Welcome to the second issue of the S3 Newsletter

S3 PLATFORM - A GROWING COMMUNITY

68 regions/countries are now registered in the S3 Platform

Newcomers:

Berlin (DE)
Brandenburg (DE)
Bratislavský kraj (SK)
Buckinghamshire (UK)
Champagne-Ardenne (FR)
Mazowieckie (PL)
Satakunta (FI)
Wielkopolska (PL)

More info:

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

S3 OVER EUROPE - MAIN EVENTS HELD

Week of Innovative Regions in Europe Conference (04-05 June, Krakow, PL)

The WIRE 2012 conference was planned as a flagship forum centred on the formulation of a process of smart and sustainable development based on knowledge and innovation with particular attention to the regional dimension.

The conference addressed in particular three main thematic pillars:

- Innovative regions in Horizon 2020 - investigating the role of regions in smart specialisation, the role of cities as innovation hubs, and regional innovation ecosystems within Horizon 2020;
- Stairway to Excellence - focusing on the future of research and innovation at the regional level, Centres of Excellence and on synergies between Horizon 2020 and the Cohesion Policy, as well as on smart specialisation in convergence regions;
- Networking for ERA at Regional Level - discussing the European Territorial Cooperation, networks of clusters, European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation, networks of research infrastructure and Multiregional Knowledge Partnerships (e.g. Danube, Baltic).

More info:

<http://www.wire2012.eu>

Regions for Economic Change Conference (15 June, Brussels, BE)

More than 600 participants gathered to discuss the challenges, benefits and possible limitations of implementing the smart specialisation conditionality through EU Structural Funds and how to best tailor smart specialisation to different national/regional frameworks and contexts.

Commissioner Hahn highlighted the key importance of smart specialisation to deliver Europe 2020, as well as the role of RIS3 in the new cohesion framework. The morning session focused on the concept and its implementation, as well as on the role of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) in the process. The afternoon session was devoted to the issue of how to tailor smart specialisation to different national/regional frameworks and contexts and the preparatory phase of RIS3. The session hosted presentations from France, Styria (AT), Scotland (UK) and Podkarpackie (PL).

More info:

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

Innovation and smart specialisation in cohesion policy programmes (19 June, Tampere, FI)

IQ-Net enables programme managers and their partnerships to exchange experience and share good practice on specific themes relating to the design, delivery, management and evaluation of the Structural Funds programmes.

The theme of Innovation and Smart Specialisation received particular attention and provided an opportunity to review progress as well as the strategic orientation of innovation in 2007-2013 programmes and post-2013. During the session on Smart Specialisation, participants focused their discussions on the following areas: (i) the need for RIS3; (ii) strategic issues – identification/ prioritisation /etc.; (iii) spatial dimension (regional vs. national; alignment of ERDF and ESF; capacity building); (iv) implementation issues (targeted approach; management of interests); (v) support available from the European Commission.

More info:

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

Smart Investment for Smart Specialisation (27-28 June, Warsaw, PL)

The Polish Ministry of Economy and the World Bank in coordination with the European Commission organised a joint workshop with the aim to support Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Poland in realizing smart specialisation strategies. The main focus of the workshop was on operationalising the idea of smart specialisation, concentrating on finding the best ways of specialising given existing innovation ecosystems, finding and measuring smart specialisation priorities in regional-national context, and incentivising national delivery processes around smart specialisation targets.

The participants were well aware of existing challenges of internal coordination between governmental bodies and the bottlenecks for increasing private R&D investments.

Discussions both within and across country groups were valuable. The role and behaviour of public service versus private enterprises and entrepreneurs were also discussed.

More info:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/past-events>

Smart Specialisation in the UK (28 June, Cardiff, UK)

Cardiff University hosted the first workshop on Smart Specialisation in the UK, in partnership with the S3 Platform. Attended by a range of stakeholders from the scientific and business sectors in the UK, the workshop aimed to: (i) raise awareness of Smart Specialisation; (ii) highlight what support is available to the nations and regions of the UK as they prepare their strategies; and (iii) explore and compare the diverse approaches being adopted in different parts of the UK.

The focus was on strengthening the development of Smart Specialisation Strategies across the UK and helping practitioners to think more creatively about their approach and process. Speakers provided a mix of policy perspectives and practical experience. They included representatives from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS),

European Commission, the Scottish and Northern Ireland devolved administrations and an English Local Authority (Kent).

More info will soon be available at <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/past-events>.

S3 PEER-REVIEW

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

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 are available in the S3 Platform website. **OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!**

More info:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/peer-review-27280912>

S3 FOCUS

Peer-review – results of a survey among the participants at the S3 Platform workshop on 03 May

Has the workshop overall met your expectations?

The workshop has met expectations (44 percent of respondents) or exceeded / greatly exceeded expectations (52 percent) of all participants.

What was your main reason for attending?

Answers by newcomers:

- to *learn* more about the S3 concept;
- to *hear the reactions and comments* from the academic experts and the European Commission;
- to *develop (informal) contacts* with other regions, to engage in networking and exchange of experiences between regions.

Answers by regions having attended a previous peer-review workshop:

- to learn about the methodology and the results that have been obtained by other regions up to now;
- to discuss different aspects of the operational methodology for EU-2020 cohesion, structural and innovation policy together;
- to learn *which challenges* (i.e. problems and difficulties) are currently faced by other regions in their RIS3 process;
- to learn about the 4 reviewed regions.

Answers by regions under peer-review:

- to *get an endorsement* that their current and future policies and programmes were aligned with the RIS3 process.

Which aspect of the workshop programme was the most useful and why?

Below are some comments by those who marked the peer-review session as the most useful aspect of the workshop.

Region under Peer Review 1:

"...Useful to make connections and get some validation that our policy is 'on the right track'..."

Region under Peer Review 2:

"...The peer-review session on our region confirmed that we are on the right track, it also provided us with some advice as to what we could improve and clarify..."

Critical friend 1:

"...The final discussion with the summary of all presentations and the comparison among them..."

Critical friend 2:

"...Listening to the review by the 'experts' of the region's RIS3..."

Critical friend 3: "...One important aspect of the workshop was the regions presentations and the discussions which followed. As most European regions, we are currently

rethinking our strategy, however, if the idea of Smart Specialisation seems at first sight to be just a common sense, some of its implementation and its concrete implications for the local stakeholders were still somewhat unclear. In that sense the examples we heard during the workshops and the variety of the regions profiles, of the situations and of the strategies adopted (vertical / clustering approach, horizontal / global enabling approach) were useful and will help us to figure out the best approach that our region needs...”

S3 NEXT

OUTREACH AND COUNTRY EVENTS

September 26

Country event: S3 in Italy (Bari, IT)

EC EVENTS

October 08-11

OPEN DAYS 2012 (Brussels, BE)

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

OTHER EVENTS

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/>

September 05

Planning on smart specialisation (Stockholm, SE)

<http://www.nordregio.se/>

September 20

Universities and Regional Innovation: Building Capacity for Collaborative Partnerships (Brussels, BE)

http://www.eu-drivers.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90

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/>

October 23-24

Europe INNOVA 2012 – Stress test of European innovation policy (Copenhagen, DK)

<http://www.conferencemanager.dk/EuropeINNOVA2012-Copenhagen>

CONTACT

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