



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)



S3 Newsletter

Seville, 9 October 2012

Welcome to the fourth issue of the S3 Newsletter

S3 PLATFORM - A GROWING COMMUNITY

87 regions and 1 country are now registered in the S3 Platform

We warmly welcome Slovakia as the first country to register in the S3 Platform.

Newcomers:

Slovenská Republika (Slovak Republic) (SK)

Basilicata (IT)

Észak-Alföld (HU)

Extremadura (ES)

Hlavní město Praha (Capital City of Prague) (CZ)

Sicilia (Sicily) (IT)

Veneto (IT)

Wales (UK)

More info:

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

NEWS! - S3 THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

As announced in the 3rd issue of this Newsletter, the S3 Platform with DG REGIO and partners launch the **S3 thematic workshops**, a new tool for mutual learning and exchange on smart specialisation methods and practice. The workshops are addressed at national/regional policy-makers and partners and tackle S3 issues focussing thematically on specific actors, sectors, or methodology.

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

8 November 2012 in Brussels (BE)

Thematic workshop on "SMEs and smart specialisation"

Promoted by DG REGIO, DG ENTR, UEAPME, EURADA and the S3 Platform

The event will inform on and discuss possibilities for SME involvement in smart specialisation strategy development (RIS3) and their implementation. Target audience: SME representatives (intermediaries) and representatives from regional agencies in charge of SME involvement in RIS3.

More info and registration:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/smes-and-smart-specialisation>

SAVE THE DATE!

24-25 January 2013 in Groningen (NL)

Thematic workshop on indicators for smart specialisation strategies

Promoted by the S3 Platform, Noord Nederland, University of Groningen and DG REGIO

More detailed information will be available on the S3 Platform website in the coming weeks and in the next issues of this newsletter.

S3 PEER-REVIEW – OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

S3 Platform **UPCOMING** Peer-review workshop (3-4 December 2012, Strasbourg, FR)

Organised jointly with the Alsace region. Four regions, including host Alsace, will have their strategy peer-reviewed.

More info and registration: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/5th-peer-review-3-4-dec>

More peer-review workshops will be organised in the coming months. Provisional dates are as follows:

- 4-5 February 2013 in Palma de Mallorca (ES)
- mid March 2013
- end April / beginning May 2013

More detailed information will be available on the S3 Platform website in the coming weeks and in the next issues of this newsletter.

S3 FOCUS

The S3 Platform and DG REGIO organised a **"mutual learning" session** on 13-14 September in Brussels for **the experts who are assisting DG REGIO on the informal assessment of RIS3 developments in regions and Member States.**

The aim was to provide the experts with information on the novelties in the Structural Fund regulations compared to the current regulations and on latest developments in the Council and EP negotiations on the regulations. The event also aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences among the experts to compare their methodologies and put their findings in perspective. Moreover, it informed the experts on the range of different support tools put into place by the Commission to help Member States and regions develop their smart specialization strategies.

Normunds Popens (Deputy Director-General of DG REGIO) and Mikel Landabaso (Head of the DG REGIO Unit in charge of smart and sustainable growth) underlined that the role of the experts in assessing regional/national RIS3 will be:

- to discuss with the national and regional officials on how they should ensure stakeholders' involvement in the entrepreneurial discovery process, how to identify possible fields for specialisation ... or give advice on fields where they should rather not specialise or on implementation mistakes that should not be repeated,
- to convey and share the usefulness of smart specialisation strategies beyond the mere purpose of fulfilling a Commission administrative requirement to access to Structural Fund budgets,
- to give policy-makers and officials in the member states hands-on support and inspiration to go successfully through the RIS3 'entrepreneurial discovery process' in a true partnership with the stakeholders.

The role of the experts is to provide analytical results on the innovation policy and systems and to provide recommendations on further steps in the RIS3 strategy development. Besides this, the Commission sees the experts as "ambassadors" for Smart Specialisation to regions and Member States. Some of the challenges to be faced by the experts, emerging from dialogue being carried out with regional policy-makers, are: i) difficult communication between the different parts of the Public Administration involved in the process; ii) different levels of government with responsibilities in regional development; iii) incentives of different actors to collaborate with each other may be not completely aligned.

We remind you that the experts have been identified through a **call for expression of interest** issued by DG REGIO, which is open until March 2015 (see notice 88796-2012 on <http://ted.europa.eu/>). If you are a national and regional policy-maker and interested in receiving RIS3 expert assistance for your country or region, please contact regio-cei-ami-experts@ec.europa.eu or the relevant DG REGIO country desks.

S3 OVER EUROPE – MAIN EVENTS HELD

Italian country event on RIS3. Bari (IT), 25-26 September 2012

The Italian country event on RIS3 was hosted by the Apulia Region in Bari and gathered representatives from all Italian regions, the Ministry for Economic Development and the Ministry for Research, University and Education. Two EU regions were invited to illustrate their experience on smart specialisation strategies: Upper Austria and Castilla y León.

The discussion was intense and fruitful, firmly moderated by DG REGIO Director Raoul Prado. Following presentations by the Commission services on the economic fundamentals and methodology of smart specialisation, and its role in the digital agenda for Europe, the questions focused on a number of concrete issues such as: (i) the balance between promoting new sectors vs modernising existing ones, (ii) how smart specialisation is appropriate to promote diversification of regional economies through innovation, (iii) co-ordination between the regional and national level in drafting and implementing RIS3, and (iv) how to choose and use the appropriate indicators for monitoring and review. The outcomes of the meeting include the establishment of a working group on RIS3 at national level with the participation of the regions and a widespread expression of interest of Italian regions towards registration in the S3 Platform.

More info:

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

Workshop for the design and preparation of the National Development Plan for the period 2014 to 2020 in Greece, Athens (GR), 4 September 2012

Aiming to foster an effective participation of the regions in a research and innovation strategy for smart specialisation, the Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology organised a kick-off information workshop.

Most issues discussed during the workshop focused on the following topics: (i) the RIS3 strategy building process (how to engage relevant national/regional stakeholders, etc.); (ii) the role of educational/academic institutions in RIS3 (and related issues such as the 'human capital flight' problem); (iii) the links between Structural Funds, Horizon 2020 and the EU Agricultural Policy.

More info:

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

S3 NEXT

OUTREACH AND COUNTRY EVENTS

November 20-21

Outreach event for the Atlantic Arc (Bordeaux, FR)

EC EVENTS

October 08-11

OPEN DAYS 2012 (Brussels, BE)

www.opendays.europa.eu

October 23-24

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

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

OTHER EVENTS

October 10

The role of smart specialisation and regional policy in developing the innovativeness of regions in Europe (INTERREG IV C) (Krakow, PL)

<http://www.smartplusinnovations.eu/>

October 11-12

How clusters can support industrial transformation and entrepreneurship in Europe (Modena, IT)

<http://www.clusterobservatory.eu/index.html#!view=aboutobservatory;url=/about-observatory/news/;page=1>

October 16-19

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

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

October 18-19

AGORADA 2012+: Adoption of a Regional Strategy: The Day After (Samsun, TR)

<http://www.eurada.org/>

October 25

Knowledge Transfer in Action! Instruments for Interregional Learning (INTERREG IV C) (Berlin, DE)

<http://www.know-man.eu/>

November 5-6

"Brain flow" annual conference and thematic exchange of experience meeting (INTERREG IV C) (Arnhem, NL)

<http://www.brain-flow.eu/news-events/news-articles/2nd-AC.html>

November 12

Smart Specialisation and Key Enabling Technologies: photonics and micro / nano-electronics (Brussels, BE)

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/components/documents/smart-specialisation-workshop.pdf>

November 28

Mapping smart specialisation: do rural regions count? (Paris, FR)

<http://www.ersa.org/events/ersa-workshops/>

CONTACT

<p>http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu jrc-ipts-s3platform@ec.europa.eu</p>
