



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)



S3 Newsletter

Seville, 9 November 2012

Welcome to the fifth issue of the S3 Newsletter

S3 PLATFORM - A GROWING COMMUNITY

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

Newcomers:

Algarve (PT)

Ανατολική Μακεδονία και Θράκη (Eastern Macedonia and Thrace) (GR)

Campania (IT)

Etelä-Pohjanmaa (South Ostrobothnia) (FI)

Kujawsko-Pomorskie (Kujawy-Pomerania) (PL)

Lapland (FI)

Lisboa e Vale do Tejo (Lisbon and Tagus Valley) (PT)

Łódzkie (PL)

Região Autónoma da Madeira (PT)

Rhône-Alpes (FR)

Warmińsko-Mazurskie (Warmia Mazury) (PL)

More info:

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

S3 PEER-REVIEW

S3 Platform 5th Peer-review workshop

3-4 December 2012 in Strasbourg (FR)

Organised jointly with the Alsace region. The following four regions will have their strategy peer-reviewed: Alsace (FR), Attica (GR), Bratislava (SK) and Emilia-Romagna (IT). They have also put forward their wish to focus discussions on the following themes:

- clusters for regional growth;
- innovation-friendly business environments for SMEs;
- research infrastructure/centres of competence.

Registered participants so far come from 26 EU regions representing 12 Member States.

More info: <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:

- 7-8 February 2013 in Palma de Mallorca (ES)
- mid March 2013 in Brno (CZ)
- May 2013 in Vaasa (FI)

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 – "A VIEW ON THE REVIEW"

Comments and suggestions from the French region of Centre following the S3 Platform peer-review workshop in Pisa.

A delegation from the Centre region took the opportunity to submit its approach to RIS3 at the peer-review workshop held in Pisa (Italy) on 28 September.

This was considered an essential step in the roadmap approved in March 2012 by the highest regional authorities. We think that it is now useful to comment on the concrete benefits that we were able to get from the exercise.

First, peer-review requires a solid preparation and definition of clear objectives. For the Centre region this meant focusing on:

- the assessment of the methodology we chose in order to transform our RIS into RIS3;
- the concept of smart specialisation;
- the search for partnerships and co-operation with our peers.

This work was greatly facilitated by the prior-assistance we received from the S3 Platform team (specific template to follow, interaction with a "dedicated" team member, and preliminary "one to one" friendly feedback)

The participation of senior administrative officials of the Regional Council and the services of the French Government at the workshop has deepened their understanding of the process and their involvement in RIS3.

This point was particularly useful because, according to our analysis, smart specialisation cannot be implemented effectively without having worked from the beginning of the process on its acceptance by regional actors, including politicians. This allowed saving much time in the context of a time-consuming process.

The format of the peer review proved very effective when the approach suggested by the Platform was closely followed, since this allowed a comparison with other regions (e.g. analysing the presentations of the 15 regions that have already gone through the peer review).

Similarly, we had to prepare answers on specific territorial related critical questions in order to be able to discuss with representatives from other regions or from the Commission.

If we had not prepared, the discussions would have probably been difficult and we would not have been able to cover all fields of interest, such as: how to imagine the future of clusters in our territory? What criteria should we focus on for identifying our future potential areas of specialization? What role should be given to basic research considering the region's profile? How to use the entrepreneurial process of discovery to identify European value chains?

Peer review, we believe, is very complementary to the expert assessment we went through as a pilot region: benchmark and interaction on one side and detailed analysis on the other. In fact, both tools are needed to ultimately establish the profile of the region on the self-assessment "wheel", whose educational value is remarkable (all related documents are available on <http://www.arittcentre.fr/s3>).

We also observed a real value added in the possibilities to establish co-operation with other regions during the peer-review.

For regions that are less well-known such as Centre, the peer review provides effective identification and facilitates future contacts, especially beyond national borders. In our opinion, it would be worth building on this experience through an active role of the S3 Platform in brokering cooperation.

In conclusion, the results of the peer-review were judged very positive by all participants and facilitated discussions with the actors of the quadruple helix in our region.

This was particularly timely since only a month after the peer review there was a regional conference on innovation, bringing together nearly 650 people (of which 43% were from the business world).

Last but not least, we wish to thank Tuscany for the quality of its reception in Pisa.

Frédéric Pinna

Directeur, ARITT - Agence régionale Innovation et Transfert de Technologie région Centre.

S3 OVER EUROPE – MAIN EVENTS HELD

OPEN DAYS 2012 for regions and cities, Brussels (BE), 08-11 October 2012

Smart specialisation was one of the key topics of the Open Days this year, and a significant number of workshops and events were related to RIS3.

At the workshop on "**Smart specialisation and entrepreneurial discovery - The role of the business community**" there was a number of interesting messages. The panel stressed the involvement of entrepreneurs in S3 processes and how they need to be central actors. There was agreement on the importance of involving entrepreneurs in decision making processes and of listening to their critical knowledge of markets in order to build a good basis for deciding on priorities.

At the same time a number of the entrepreneurs insisted on the importance of the public sector in the collection of market intelligence. The business community made a number of suggestions for the role of policy makers, the most important being supporting the development of skilled labour and market creation as well as reducing risks. The public sector can support the transformation further by financing pilots, research and demonstrations. Furthermore it can participate as a buyer in this process, to support demand for innovations, and also to provide input through selected procurement of specific products and services.

The Open Days Universities workshop "**Smart specialisation: The processes and institutions that drive the concept**", organised by the S3 Platform jointly with the Regional Studies Association, gathered high level academics to discuss issues of relevance for Smart Specialisation. The abstracts and slides of these presentations are available on the RSA website: <http://www.regionalstudies.org/events/2012/opendays>.

The S3 Platform presented the outcomes of the peer-review held in Azores in June at the workshop "**Innovation Union for the European outermost regions**", organised by DG REGIO. The presentation was well received and the current President of the Outermost Regions grouping (La Réunion) proposed a second peer-review opportunity in 2013 for those outermost regions which were not reviewed in the Azores.

In the workshop "**Smart specialisation strategies from a research and innovation perspective in maritime regions**", organised by DG RTD, two presentations were particularly worth mentioning: one about the RIS3 of the region Pays de la Loire, and one by Marine South East, a group of researchers and business advisors currently involved in a FP7 funded project on marine innovation and regional development.

More info:

www.opendays.europa.eu

The role of smart specialisation and regional policy in developing the innovativeness of regions in Europe, Krakow (PL), 10 October 2012

The workshop was organised by Małopolskie Voivodeship within the SMART+ INTERREG IVC project. The aim of the event was to exchange of experiences and good practices on:

- policy support of innovativeness of SMEs;
- creation of favourable business environment for innovative undertakings;
- fostering the regional potential by R&D activities.

In the discussion, the importance of SME involvement in the RIS3 setting-up process was highlighted, in order to nurture the entrepreneurial discovery process which would eventually lead to identify the areas of future regional specialisation. More info:

<http://www.smartplusinnovations.eu/?act=news&id=182>

España 2020 en una Europa de innovación, Zaragoza (ES), 30 October 2012

The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), acting as Technical Secretariat of the Public Policy Network on R&D+I, held a forum on smart specialisation in the framework of a meeting on "España 2020" organized by the Government of Aragón in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO).

At the meeting, one of the aspects that generated most expectations was the discussion on the timetable for the implementation of regional RIS3 and the links with the approval by the European Parliament and the Council, of the new cohesion policy legislation and the financial perspectives for 2014-2020.

Additional items discussed were the availability and combination of policy support tools (namely the S3 Platform and the expert assessment facilities provided by DG REGIO) and co-operation between regions in developing RIS3.

More info, summary and presentations (in ES):

<http://www.redidi.es/Publico/RED-IDI/ES/Noticias/Paginas/II-Foro-sobre-Especializaci%C3%B3n-Inteligente.aspx>

S3 NEXT

S3 EVENTS

November 20-21

Smart specialisation in the Atlantic Arc regions (Bordeaux, FR)

<http://www.arcatlantique.org/index.php?act=1,4,2>

January 24-25

Thematic workshop on indicators for smart specialisation strategies (Groningen, NL)

(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.

OTHER EVENTS

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 15

Regional Innovation and Competitiveness Policy Workshop (Cambridge, UK)

<http://www.ukirc.ac.uk/newsandevents/news/article/?objid=8002>

November 28

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

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

December 05-07

Seventh Session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (Geneva, CH)

<http://www.unece.org/ceci/documents/2012/cecisession7.html>

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