

S3 PLATFORM NEWS

COUNTRIES AND REGIONS REGISTERED

S3 PLATFORM MEMBERSHIP



REGISTERED:

153 EU Regions,
15 EU Countries
2 non- EU Regions
Latest newcomer:

Valle

d'Aosta/Vallée
d'Aoste (IT).

Welcome!

PEER-REVIEWED:

50 Regions
15 Countries

More information [here](#)

INVESTMENTS IN ICT FOR REGIONAL GROWTH WORKSHOP: 17-18/09/2014, LODZ, POLAND

REGISTRATION CLOSED.

With the Lodzkie region, the S3 Platform is organising, in collaboration with the European Commission's DG CONNECT, a workshop on **Investments in ICT for Regional Growth** that will take place in Lodz (Poland) on **17-18 September 2014**. The purpose of the event is to present examples of how digital growth strategies are being developed at regional and national levels including specific policy tools and measures. The event also provides for an opportunity to network and discuss specific issues related to digital growth with policy-makers, experts and representatives from the European Commission.

There will be specific examples of ICT measures from Italian, Spanish, Lithuanian, Estonian and Flemish regions, and also a peer review of the Lodzkie regional strategy. Further information can be found [here](#).

Expert Assessment

If your region is interested in having an independent expert informally assessing the DAE components of your RIS3 and (if appropriate) the related sections of your draft OP, then please contact:

Katerina.Stancova@ec.europa.eu.



S3 GOVERNANCE: ENTREPRENEURIAL DISCOVERY PROCESS: 24-25/9/2014, PISA, ITALY

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN:

On **24-25 September 2014** the S3 Platform together with the region of Tuscany is organising a workshop in Pisa (Italy) on the 'Entrepreneurial discovery process' co-organised with the DG Regional System Competitiveness, Knowledge and Skills Development of the Regional Government of Tuscany. Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

A core element of any Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) is the requirement of an 'entrepreneurial-driven' allocation of public resources. This means that, compared to past industrial policies, prioritisation should be the result of an entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP) through which entrepreneurial actors, from the public and private sector (i.e. companies, research organisations, universities and public society), would guide the allocation of public resources. Nonetheless, the operationalisation of EDP is still a major challenge for many policy makers. EDP requires not only the capacity of entrepreneurs to identify local strengths but also the ability of governments to collect and assess the information received in order to align policy measures to the selected activities.

COHESION POLICY AND THE SYNERGIES WITH THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDS: THE STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE: 02-03/10/2014, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

REGISTRATION CLOSED.

The Smart Specialisation Platform of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and DG REGIO are jointly organising a launch event for the Stairway to Excellence Project (S2E). More information [here](#).

Building excellence in a given area of research and innovation often takes years if not decades of sustained efforts. The development of good national/regional research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) leads regions from targeted EU countries to identify a limited number of research areas and industrial activities with high innovation potential – to be reinforced and developed using European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and thus becoming more excellent and competitive in Horizon2020 calls. Supporting synergies between the two funding sources will deliver additional gains in terms of innovation results, close the innovation gap in Europe and promote economic growth.

The "Stairway to Excellence" European Pilot Project is centred on:

- Providing assistance to countries that joined the European Union since 2004 with the aim of closing the innovation gap, promoting excellence in all regions and EU countries;
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

S3 NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PREPARATORY ACTION: RIS3 IN THE REGION OF EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE (REMTH)

The aims of this recently launched European Parliament Preparatory Action are twofold: first, it seeks to facilitate the refinement and implementation of the RIS3 strategy in a selected region heavily hit by the crisis; and second, it aims to serve as a model for other convergence regions in Greece and Europe.

Led by JRC, the project will complement and reinforce the significant efforts and analysis already carried out in the REMTh. It takes as its starting point the existing capacities in the region (in terms of research and research infrastructure, human resources, areas of specialisation, etc.) as well as the needs of regional stakeholders (business, end-users, etc).

More specifically, the following project outcomes are anticipated:

- An effective entrepreneurial discovery process and governance structure for smart specialisation in the region;
- The identification of barriers and other issues that affect cooperation between regional authorities, enterprises and R&D institutions, and that may adversely affect RIS3 implementation;
- Refinement of a limited set of priorities on which EU financing should concentrate;
- New measures to support implementation of the RIS3, with appropriate output and result indicators;
- Active cooperation between SMEs and the region's research and technology bodies;
- Visible cooperation between REMTh and other regions of Greece and EU; and
- The dissemination of good practices to other regions of Greece and EU.

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Please also visit our S3 Platform link on Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki Region: [here](#).

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NEW S3 PUBLICATIONS

DEVELOPING DANUBE R&I PROJECTS ACROSS BORDERS – HOW TO MAKE THE JOINT USE OF EU-FUNDS A REALITY?

AUTHORS: ALES GNAMUS, FATIME BARBARA HEGYI AND SUSANA ELENA PÉREZ

S3 POLICY BRIEF 10/2014 - Full document accessible via this [link](#)

This Policy Brief analyses the opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed through an integrated approach in order to assure a well-supported and effective transnational cooperation in the Danube macro-region. Cooperation among Danube countries has particular importance as regards to coordination of R&I activities since they contribute significantly to competitiveness and growth and are at the same time the areas where cooperation and knowledge sharing across borders may crucially contribute to achieving best results. This policy brief aims to take stock of the state-of-the-art of the current Danube cooperation activities and provide some guidance to the stakeholders on how to best enhance R&I cooperation in the Danube macro-region. It attempts to highlight some concrete suggestions on how to better implement governance mechanisms of transnational R&I cooperation, to revise the existing financing tools of cross-border and transnational cooperation in support of the project holders, and points out some synergies between EU funding sources that may be exploited to facilitate transnational R&I cooperation in the Danube macro-region.

NEW GUIDES PUBLISHED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION SERVICES

Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes - Guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies

The [guide on synergies](#) between different EU R&I related programmes is an important new addition to the relevant guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies and was prepared on the basis of an extensive work of the inter-service working group co-chaired by DG REGIO and DG Research and Innovation, with participation of the DG ENTR, DG CONNECT, DG EAC, DG EMPL, DG AGRI, DG ENER, DG MARE, DG JRC, the Bureau of European Policy Advisers, the Eureka Secretariat, the REA, and by Dr. Margaretha Mazura, Secretary General of the Forum of e-Excellence. The web-version of the guide will in the course of the financial period 2014-2020 be enriched with good practice examples of synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020, COSME, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, digital services CEF and possibly other EU programmes.

Setting up, managing and evaluating EU Science and Technology Parks - An advice and guidance report on good practice

Science and technology park (STP) activity across the EU has approximately doubled over the last 11-12 years, driven by the growth of the longer standing parks and the emergence of new parks. There is now an estimated 366 STPs in the EU member states that manage about 28 million m² of completed building floor space hosting circa 40,000 organisations that employ approximately 750,000 people, mostly in high value added jobs.

Increasingly, the reasons why STPs are sound investments for public sector support are becoming better understood and articulated. The evidence base shows that better STPs are not simply the landlords of attractive and well specified office style buildings. Rather, they are complex organisations, often with multiple owners having objectives aligned with important elements of economic development public policy as well as an imperative to be financially self-sustaining in the longer term.

The guide is accessible [here](#).