

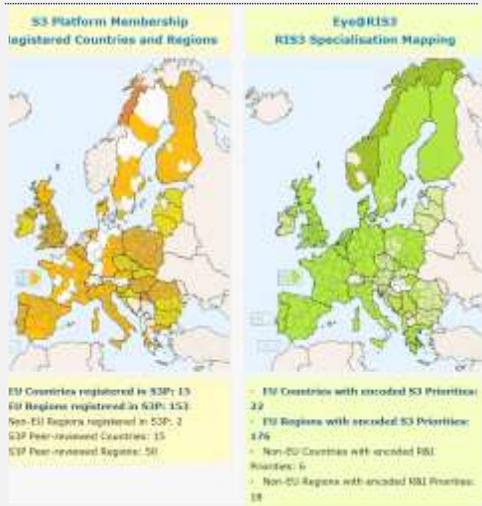


Newsletter

ISSUE No 24 – December 2014

S3 PLATFORM NEWS

S3 PLATFORM MEMBERSHIP AND EYE@RIS3 - S3 SPECIALISATION MAPPING



More information and guidelines [here](#)

S3 ONLINE SURVEY

ON EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL INTER-REGIONAL AND TRANS-NATIONAL R&I PARTNERSHIPS

This survey is intended to gather information on successful and sustainable R&I collaboration partnerships. Following the bottom-up approach, we are looking for examples to set a base for shared learning and to facilitate better connectivity between the R&I partners in different countries and regions.

Your proposals will serve for the establishment of a repository of cases which will then allow discussing practices applied in order to find possible supporting instruments and measures tackling the bottlenecks of trans-national R&I cooperation. The most inspiring and relevant examples will be selected by the S3 Platform to be presented at various upcoming events organised by the S3 Platform and collaborating partners. The S3 Cooperation survey is available [here](#).



LATVIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 2015

On Wednesday, December 3 in Brussels, during a bilateral meeting, Latvian Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma and President of the EC Jean-Claude Juncker discussed the priorities of the Latvian presidency, as well as the action needed to ensure successful implementation of a new Investment Plan for Europe.

During Latvia's Presidency, about 200 events are planned in Latvia, including high-level political meetings. We would like to highlight the following:

- Challenges for the New Cohesion Policy in 2014-2020: An Academic and Policy Debate (4-6 Feb)
- International Conference "Evaluating Smart Specialization Strategy: Dynamics, Challenges, Responsibility and Practice" (12-13 Feb)
- VI Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (15-16 Jun)
- EU Latvian Presidency Conference First Innovative Enterprise week "Access to Finance for Research, Innovation and SMEs 2015" (15-17 Jun)

Check the calendar of the Latvian Presidency events [here](#).

UNECE TO CONSIDER INCORPORATING SMART SPECIALISATION INTO ITS POLICY ADVICE ON INNOVATION

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will incorporate new approaches to innovation at the regional level in its policy advice to Governments. This is one of the outcomes of a recent conference on 'S3 – Strategies for Sustainable Development' held in Geneva on 16-17 October 2014.

Meeting under the auspices of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, participants from 28 countries discussed the potential for S3 as a policy tool for regions. During the seminar, three EU regions (Andalusia, Puglia and Tyrol) and two member States (Bulgaria and Poland) shared their experiences.

The conference discussed what smart specialisation strategies are, how they can be implemented, why they may offer advantages over more traditional approaches to innovation and regional development policy, but also what their limitations are under different political and economic development scenarios.

Further information can be found [here](#).

S3 NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

BRAND-NEW INTERACTIVE TOOL:

S3 INTER-REGIONAL TRADE AND COMPETITION TOOL

The [S3 Tools](#) section of this website now features a fully interactive web-based application for the visualization and the analysis of inter-regional trade flows and the competitive position of regions in Europe. The purpose of the [S3 Inter-regional Trade and Competition Tool](#) is to improve our capacities to assess regional assets and analyse a region's economic position as a first fundamental step in the process of building place-based and evidence-based regional policies and Smart Specialisation Strategies. More information [here](#).

ENTREPRENEURIAL DISCOVERY FOCUS GROUP ON WINE IN EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE 18-19 18-19 NOVEMBER 2014, DRAMA, GREECE

Organised under the aegis of the European Parliament Preparatory Action "Actual and desired state of the economic potential in regions outside the Greek capital Athens," this event focused on the wine sector in the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (REMTh). Bringing together more than 70 stakeholders in the sector, it sought to explore and catalyse the dynamics of the entrepreneurial process of discovery, to support the identification and subsequent pursuit of relevant projects for the region. Over the course of two days, through plenary and parallel sessions, with interventions by regional, national, and international experts, there were a number of positive outcomes, with several concrete ideas actively explored and linkages between stakeholders forged and reinforced. **Further details:** [here](#).

THE STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE PROJECT (S2E):

Members of the S2E team attended national events to increase the visibility of the project, including the Regional Innovation Fair on Nov. 12 in Arad (RO), the Intellectual Capital & Education: Business-Education Relationships on Dec. 04 in Warsaw (PL), as well as the High level meeting between DG JRC and the Committee of Regions (CoR) on Nov. 17 in Brussels (BE).

More information on S2E project [here](#).

S3 PLATFORM ON TWITTER – FOLLOW US!



[NEW S3 PUBLICATIONS – You can download all documents here](#)

TAKING STOCK AFTER TWO YEARS OF S3 PEER REVIEW WORKSHOPS

AUTHORS: INGER MIDTKANDAL AND FATIME BARBARA HEGYI

S3 WORKING PAPER 07/2014

While advocating that the Smart Specialisation is a process in which the bottom up involvement of stakeholders is crucial, the S3 Platform has from 2012 organised a number of informal Peer Review workshops in which peers from all across Europe, experts and Commission Staff have given feedback and policy advice to regions and countries that have presented their ongoing process of designing and developing RIS3. This paper is a technical report of experiences and perceived impact from the regions and countries which were reviewed in the first twelve Peer Review Workshops during 2012 and 2013. The findings and reflections presented were produced in a survey and a stock-taking event being organised in November and December 2013 and are discussed in relation to further development of the work of the S3 Platform.

[OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND MATERIAL](#)

KETs OBSERVATORY IS ONLINE

The objective of the KETs Observatory is to provide EU, national and regional policymakers with information on the deployment of Key Enabling Technologies both within the EU-28 and in comparison to other world regions (East Asia, North America). The Kets Observatory is online, see [here](#).

KNOW-HUB HANDBOOK: EFFECTIVE POLICY MIX AND INSTRUMENTS FOR SMART SPECIALISATION

ENHANCING REGIONAL COMPETENCES IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF INNOVATION POLICIES

The handbook on "[Effective policy mix and instruments for smart specialisation](#)" advises to establish a suitable policy mix for smart specialisation. Besides the RIS3 diversity, the legal, technical and economic circumstances can be very different from one European region to another. Hence, the selection of an effective set of instruments to foster and to enhance innovation is critical for achieving the RIS3 objectives. This handbook aims at supporting regional policy practitioners in implementing their strategies. For that purpose, guidelines are provided by three European experts, who took part in the KNOW-HUB Mutual Learning Circles. The contributions are also illustrated by articles from experts appointed by the different project partners.

GUIDANCE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS AND RELATED EU INSTRUMENTS

This new guide explains how to effectively access and use the European Structural and Investment Funds and on how to exploit complementarities with other instruments of relevant Union policies. The links provided throughout the document will allow potential beneficiaries to find their way in the maze of material available online, leading them to the most immediate and useful websites and documents. An online check-list is also available.

Guidance for Beneficiaries of European Structural and Investment Funds and related EU instruments: [Guide](#) and [Online check-list](#).

EU INDUSTRIAL R&D INVESTMENT SCOREBOARD 2014

The [EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#) is published annually by the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation and DG Joint Research Centre). The 2014 Scoreboard is based on a sample of 2500 companies. The research collects companies' key R&D and economic indicators corresponding to the companies' latest published accounts.