

S3 PLATFORM NEWS

S3 PLATFORM MEMBERSHIP AND EYE@RIS3 - S3 SPECIALISATION MAPPING

Welcome to our latest newcomers to register:

Södermanland, (SWEDEN)
and
South-West Oltenia (ROMANIA)



More information and guidelines [here](#).

REMINDER : UPDATE YOUR S3 PAGES !

Please update your national/regional S3 pages with the S3 Related National Website, Related Links and Country News (see the example of Slovenia [here](#) or our contacts on **S3 Energy** (see the example for Andalusia [here](#)).

S3 PLATFORM ON TWITTER – FOLLOW US!



PILOT PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES, 28-29/01/2016, SEVILLE, SPAIN

The City of Seville and the European Commission (**Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Joint Research Centre**) invite urban authorities eligible for ERDF funding under Art. 7 Reg. 1301/2013 to this pilot **peer-review**.

Attendance at the seminar will offer urban authorities an opportunity to discuss and exchange on **Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategies** together with other EU cities, urban experts and the European Commission.

REGISTRATION closed. To see the agenda and more information [here](#).



S3 DESIGN LEARNING WORKSHOP, 18–19/02/2016, CHISINAU, MOLDOVA - REGISTRATION open

The S3 Platform together with the Academy of Sciences of Moldova in the framework Danube-INCO.NET project is organising the first workshop on smart specialisation strategy (S3) design targeted to the EU enlargement and neighbourhood countries. The number of experts from the EU countries/regions will share their experience with their partners from non-EU countries on different steps of the S3 process. The workshop provides unique transnational learning opportunity, the arena for enhanced networking and new partnerships More information [here](#).



UNIVERSITY BUSINESS FORUM, 25-26/02/2016, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

REGISTRATION open

In 2016 the S3 Platform will have a renewed focus on universities and other types of higher education institutions. To stay competitive, Europe must invest in people, their ability to innovate and to adapt to change. Universities are at the heart of the knowledge triangle of research, education and innovation, which drive the knowledge economy. Higher education together with business can provide the necessary skills and create an environment which enables innovation.

One of the initiatives of the European Commission which can help to implement smart specialisation is the *University Business Forum* organised by DG Education and Culture. The next event will be held in Vienna on February 25-26, with the title "Universities. Businesses. Alliances for Innovation". One of the questions this event will discuss is "What is the role for universities when it comes to lifelong learning, knowledge exchange and regional growth?".

Opened by **Tibor Navracsics**, European Commissioner for Education and the Joint Research Centre this forum is being organised together with the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. The two-day forum will bring together representatives from business, public authorities and universities. Around 300 participants from all over Europe will work together on new ideas and collaboration. More information [here](#).

OUR NEW PROJECT: GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS (GVC) IN THE CONTEXT OF SMART SPECIALISATION

Analysis of Agro-food related priorities

Within the context of the Smart Specialisation Platform's new project on Global Value Chains, Agro-food related priorities are in focus due to the potential of food as an industry as well as social, cultural and health commodity. In the eye@RIS3 database, there *more than 270 Agro-food related priorities encoded*. Three in every four regions have selected Agro-food related priorities out of which every fifth priorities focus on new technologies.

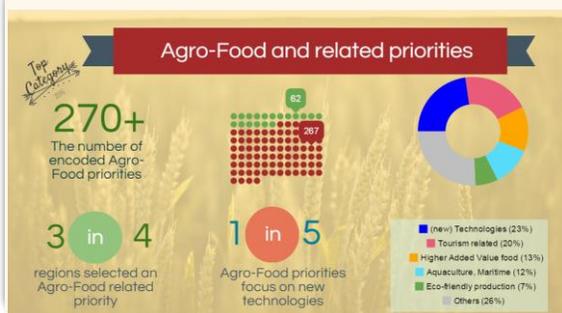
Why Agro-Food?

Agro-food sector represents a breeding ground for regional stakeholders and business investments. It *attracts large international investments from private financial actors, commercial banks, and private foundations that search continuously for new investment opportunities*. Also new actors are increasingly involved in emerging agro-food supply chains: new farmers' organisations, new co-operatives, start-up companies as well as multinational enterprises and state-owned companies.

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S3 NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

OUR NEW PROJECT: GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS (GVC) IN THE CONTEXT OF SMART SPECIALISATION



Within this context, innovation and knowledge creation across agro-food related sectors and the food supply chains became a necessity for regional stakeholders that search for new production and business opportunities. *New emerging processes create new relevant contexts for regional development paths and challenges for policy-makers.* Policy-makers, influenced by modern consumers' lifestyles, socio-economic megatrends, business needs and new technologies, face a number of issues related to development and implementation of relevant policy measures and instruments. This is particularly evident in EU countries and regions that have strong interest in agro-food and have identified agro-food as one of their smart specialisation priorities.

[DOWNLOAD S3-PUBLICATIONS AND EU S3 GUIDES](#)

REGION OF EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE (REMTH), COMPLETED IN 2015

Led by JRC-IPTS, the European Parliament Preparatory Action in the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (REMTh) was completed in November 2015.

Aimed at facilitating the refinement and implementation of the RIS3 strategy in the region, this action also serves as a model for other convergence regions and as a test bed for theories on smart specialisation. The [final report](#) is now available.

The [full version with annexes](#) details all the activities that have been conducted throughout a 15 month period, and include a series of [extended case studies](#) based on the ideas developed by local stakeholders.

More on REMth [here](#).

STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE (S2E)

"[Stairway to Excellence](#)" (S2E) webpages are available as part of the re-designed [Smart Specialisation Platform](#) (S3P) website.

The activities of the S2E project include:



- [National policy events](#)
- [National and Regional Fact & Figures](#)
- [S2E Country Reports](#)
- Practical [Synergies Examples](#) between different innovation-related EU funding
- Fiches on a selection of [European Instruments/ Platforms/ Concepts](#)

The [S2E webpages](#) also provide links to Contacts, Publications, [Relevant Initiatives](#), [Reference Documents](#) and [FAQs](#).

ASSESSMENT OF STRATEGIES FOR ICT INVESTMENTS USING EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS: REFLECTIONS FROM EXPERTS AND PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

Authors: **KATERINA CIAMPI STANCOVA, JENS SÖRVIK**



DG Connect and DG JRC have been supporting MSs and regions in fostering the ICT dimension of planned investments under ESIF. As part of this activity assistance has been given to seven EU regions. This paper provides a systematic summary of the experts' findings and discusses critical issues pointed out in the expert reports and at an expert workshop. The final report is available [here](#).

TOWARDS A MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS, 03/12/2015, SEVILLE, SPAIN

Presentations are now available [here](#). The conference served as a forum for exchanging experiences between the participating European regions, around three basic pillars that should underpin the new model of sustainable construction, such as innovation, improving the competitiveness of businesses and activation of demand through alternative financing schemes and greater awareness on the part of European citizens. This event was also part of activities organised by the Smart Specialisation on Energy's to promote strategic cooperation between European regions aimed at increasing their capacity for innovation and the development of a strategic market for Europe, such as energy.

S3 PLATFORM SEMINAR ON TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, 18/01/2016, SEVILLE, SPAIN

The S3Platform has started 2016 with a new **S3 Platform Seminar Series on Territorial Development**. The Seminar Series is intended to provide inputs from different disciplines in order to advance our understanding on Smart Specialisation and its contribution in the field of territorial development and territorial policy by looking at it through other conceptual lenses and traditions.

The first seminar took place at the IPTS/JRC in Seville on 18 January 2016 and we had the pleasure of hosting the first lecture by Professor Gioacchino Garofoli (Faculty of Economics, Insubria University, Varese, Italy). In his lecture Professor Gioacchino Garofoli addressed the topic of **Territorial economic development policy: the tricky interaction between reality and theory**.

The full presentation will be available soon on [our website](#).

More seminars are planned in the next months.