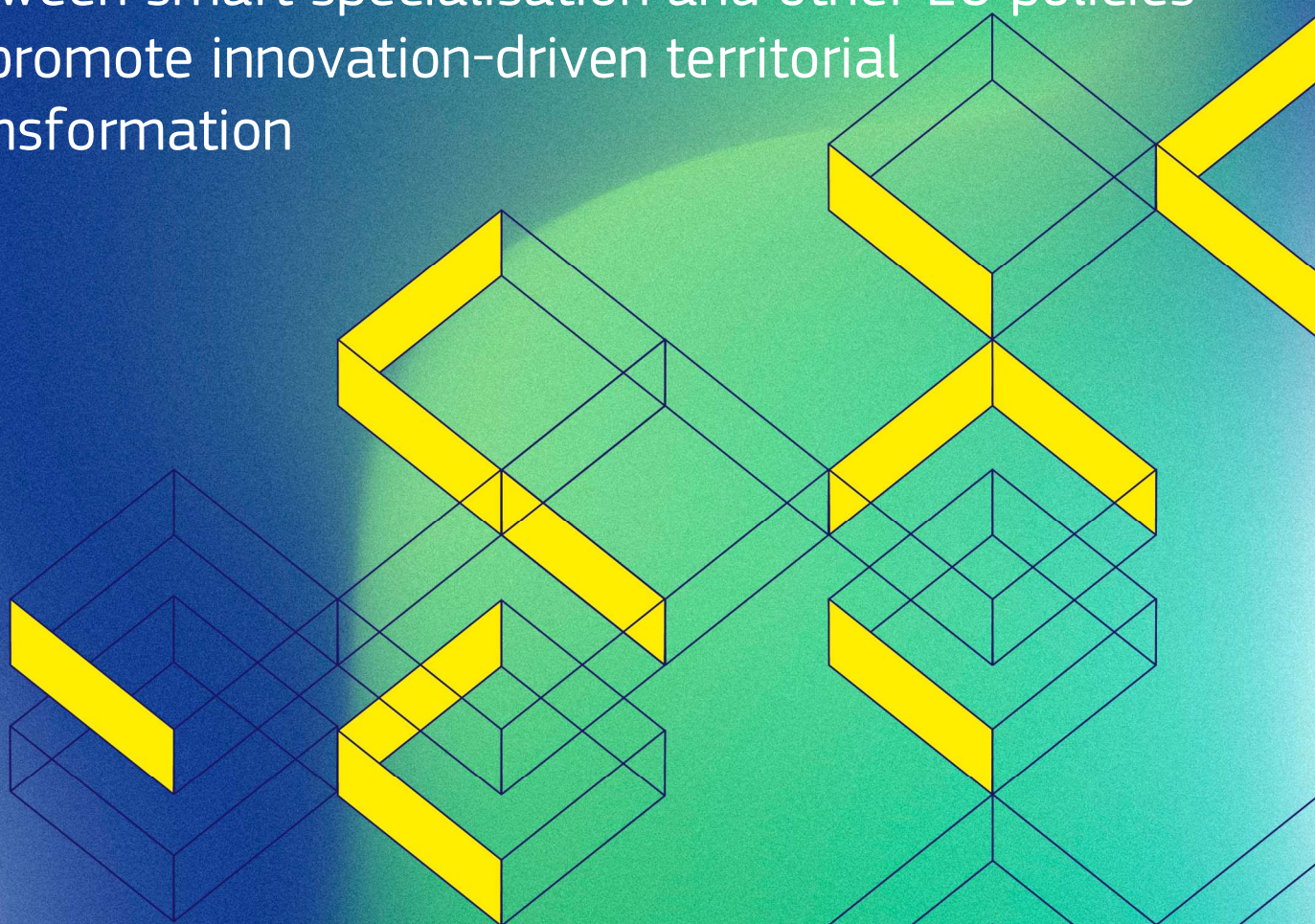


Agenda

“From Playbook to implementation”

Partnerships for Regional innovation as a bridge between smart specialisation and other EU policies to promote innovation-driven territorial transformation



Brussels, Berlaymont Building,
Rue de la Loi 200, Piazza

28 March 2023



European Committee
of the Regions



Objective of the event

Budgets of unprecedented sizes are available today in the EU to support a transition towards sustainability. However, money alone will not be enough for the change. The **Partnerships for Regional Innovation** high-level event emphasises that the fast and systemic transformation required to face today's challenges and to drive the twin transitions can only be met by working better together in different ways than before. This is the paradigm of the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) initiative.

The speed and extent of global change required call for systemic transformation and therefore systemic collaboration. The EU has the opportunity to lead globally in testing and promoting governance for systemic change. To do so, engaging territories at all governance levels is essential. By bringing territories and communities together for aligning efforts, by promoting cooperation across government levels, policy domains and sectors to interconnect needs, demands, solutions and ecosystems, the EU can speed up the sustainable innovation race while leaving no one behind.

In this context, the PRI framework, as a bridge between smart specialisation and other EU policies to promote innovation-driven territorial transformation, contributes to:

1. the strengthening of innovation ecosystems in Europe;
2. the creation of regional innovation valleys around strategic areas of common interest for territories, including on Deep Tech;
3. advancing the transformation towards European competitive sustainability.

The event will bring together thought leaders in the field of place-based innovation and high-level policy makers at European and territorial level to

- debate on how to turn theory on systemic territorial transformation into policy practice by operationalising scientific findings in a clear methodological approach that can serve local needs while contributing to European goals;
- discuss the need to mobilise all levels of government to foster system level innovations to build thriving regional innovation ecosystems in line with the implementation of the New European Innovation Agenda, in partnership with civil society, academia and industry;
- Renew the commitment of territories to identify areas, technologies, value chains and local missions of common interest, to rally all available resources, create synergies among existing mechanisms, and to cooperate across borders to pursue our common objectives.

The event is structured in three blocks, followed by a space for informal networking and trust building.

The first block in the morning - "**From Science to Policy**" will enable high-level political leaders to get to know the main scientific and operational advantages of the Partnerships for Regional Innovation. It is divided in two parts, as follows:

- 1) The first part, or political frame as per agenda below, frames the Partnerships for Regional Innovation in the European policy context focusing on innovation and territorial cohesion. High-level addresses by Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner Elisa Ferreira and the Chair of the European Committee of the Regions Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research

and Culture, Tanya Hristova, are followed by the announcement of the call for expression of interest to develop regional innovation valleys.

- 2) The second part, or scientific frame as per agenda below, aims to set the debate linking transformative innovation and place-based innovation theory with the methodological approach formulated within the PRI initiative and the PRI Playbook published in May 2022. This part stages the JRC, PRI Scientific Committee and the Scientific Coordinators of PRI Pilot territories.

The second block - **"The New European Innovation Agenda at territorial level"** - starts with a presentation of the role that the New European Bauhaus plays in imagining and building together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for our eyes, minds, and souls. It is followed by a panel involving political leaders of the territories participating in the PRI pilot action in discussing the interest of PRI for territorial development.

The third block - **"Interregional cooperation in PRI supporting the New European Innovation Agenda"** brings together representative of PRI Pilot Action territories to discuss the contribution of the Partnerships for Regional innovation as a bridge between smart specialisation and other EU policies to promote innovation-driven territorial transformation to the implementation of the New European Innovation Agenda, focussing on interregional cooperation.

Date and Place of the high-level event

The high-level event will take place on 28 March 2023 at the European Commission Berlaymont Building.

Organisers of the Event

The event will be co-organised with the European Committee of the Region, partnering with the JRC in the PRI Pilot Action.

Participants

The participants will be the Authorities of the 74 territories, who will accompany Commissioner Gabriel, Commissioner Ferreira and the Chair of the European Committee of the Regions Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture, Tanya Hristova, in this daylong event.

At the scientific level, the event will gather world-leading experts in place-based innovation and territorial development through the PRI Scientific Committee.

To operationalise the outcomes of the event, the regional policy makers responsible for PRI in the 74 territories will also be invited, accompanied by one scientific adviser from each territory.

In total, the Event will cover 150 persons.



Draft agenda for the PRI high-level event

“From Playbook to implementation”

◆ The event will be [web streamed](#) ◆

09:15-09:50 Registration

PART I From Science to Policy

10:00 - 11:00 The political frame, chaired by *Stephen Quest, Director-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

10:00 – 10:10 High-level political address
Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

10:10 – 10:20 High-level political address
Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

10:20 – 10:30 High-level political address
Tanya Hristova, Chair of the European Committee of the Regions SEDEC Commission (Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture)

10:30 – 11:00 Announcement of the “Call for Expression of interest to become regional innovation valleys across the EU”, *Markku Markkula, European Committee of the Regions, Vice-President*

11:00 – 12:20 The scientific frame, chaired by *Luc Soete, PRI Scientific Committee Chair*

11:00 – 11:15 Place-based innovation - from theory to policymaking practice
Sylvia Schwaag Serger, PRI Scientific Committee Chair

11:15 – 12:20 Panel discussion:

- *Bogdan Chelariu, President of the European Association of Development Agencies (EURADA)*
- *Christophe Clergeau, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, CoR rapporteur on European research Area*
- *Florence Hennart, Vanguard Initiative, economist with the Department of Economic Policy in the Region of Wallonia, Belgium*
- *Philippe Larrue, OECD*
- *Alessandro Minello, scientific coordinator in the PRI Pilot Action, Veneto, Italy*
- *Dimitrios Pontikakis, Joint Research Centre, European Commission*
- *Sylvia Schwaag Serger, PRI Scientific Committee Chair*
- *Allen Walker, National Science Foundation (NSF), USA*

12:20 – 12:30 Keynote address
Ricardo Hausmann, Harvard University

12:30– 13:20 Lunch hosted by the Commission

PART II: The New European Innovation Agenda at territorial level, chaired by *Birgitta Sacrédeus, Member of the European Committee of the Regions*

13:20 – 13:40 Designing sustainability - The New European Bauhaus approach.
Ruth Reichstein, European Commission's I.D.E.A. Advisory Board to the President on the European Green Deal and New European Bauhaus

13:40 – 15:00 Panel of political leaders, chaired by *Birgitta Sacrédeus, Member of the European Committee of the Regions*

- *Ana Abrunhosa, Minister for Territorial Cohesion, Portugal*
- *Rocío Albert López-Ibor, Deputy Regional Minister of Educational Policy, Madrid, Spain*
- *Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca Municipality and President of COTER (Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget), Romania*
- *Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament, Portugal*
- *François Decoster, Vice-President of Regional Council of Hauts-de-France, France*
- *Veerle Lories, Project Leader at the Government of Flanders, Belgium*

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

PART III: Interregional cooperation in PRI supporting the New European Innovation Agenda, chaired by *Normunds Popenis, Acting Director General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission*

15:30 –16:40 Panel discussion:

- *Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission*
- *Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Member of the European Parliament, Spain*
- *Hubert Gambs, Deputy Director-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission*
- *Pirita Lindholm, Director of the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)*
- *Eva Lundin, Director Strategic Innovation and Research at Dalarna, Sweden*
- *Maša Tomašić, Head of Department for Economy Projects Public Institution for the Development of the Međimurje County REDEA, Croatia*
- *Cristina Uriarte Toledo, Commissioner for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Basque Government, Spain*

16:40 –17:00 Conclusions and Next Steps

- *Teresa Riesgo Alcaide, Secretary General for Innovation at Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain*
- *Apostolos Tzitzikostas, First-Vice President of the European Committee of the Regions*

NETWORKING COCKTAIL

17:00 -19.00 Cocktail hosted by the Commission