JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)

S3 Newsletter

Seville, 3 September 2012

Welcome to the third issue of the S3 Newsletter

S3 PLATFORM - A GROWING COMMUNITY

80 regions/countries are now registered in the S3 Platform

Newcomers:
Alentejo (Alto, Baixo, Central e Litoral) (PT)
Asturias (ES)
Αττική / Attiki (GR)
Cantabria (ES)
Castilla – La Mancha (ES)
Centro (PT)
Észak-Magyarország – Miskolc (HU)
Galicia (ES)
Languedoc-Roussillon (FR)
Norte (PT)
Oulu (FI)
Pomorskie (PL)

More info:
http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-platform-registered-regions

NEWS! - S3 THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

The S3 Platform with DG REGIO and partners launch the **S3 thematic workshops**, a new tool for mutual learning and exchange on smart specialisation methods and practice. The workshops are addressed at national/regional policy-makers and partners and tackle S3 issues focussing thematically on specific actors, sectors, or methodology. The provisional schedule for the 2012 autumn season is as follows:

November in Brussels (BE) (exact date tbd)
Thematic workshop on smart specialisation and SMEs
Promoted by DG REGIO, DG ENTR, UEAPME, EURADA and the S3 Platform

December in Groningen (NL) (exact date tbd)
Thematic workshop on indicators for smart specialisation strategies
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.

NEWS! – "MUTUAL LEARNING" SESSION FOR EXPERTS

The S3 Platform and DG REGIO organise a "mutual learning" session on 13-14 September in Brussels. The session is aimed at **developing a common understanding of smart specialisation and the RIS3 concept and process** with the first group of experts contracted to assist countries and regions in their process of developing and assessing research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (*participation on invitation only*). The experts have been identified through a **call for expression of interest** issued by DG REGIO, which is open until March 2015 (see notice 88796-2012 on http://ted.europa.eu/). If you are a national and regional policy-maker and interested in receiving RIS3 expert assistance for your country or region, please contact regio-cei-ami-experts@ec.europa.eu or the relevant DG REGIO country desks.

S3 PEER-REVIEW

S3 Platform **UPCOMING** Peer-review workshop (27-28 September, Pisa, IT)
Organised jointly with the Tuscany region. Details on the peer-reviewed regions and on registration are available in the S3 Platform website. **OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!**
More info: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/peer-review-27280912

More peer-review workshops will be organised in the coming months. Provisional dates are as follows:
- end November / beginning December 2012
- end January 2013
- mid March 2013

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

The European Commission (DG REGIO) and the Committee of the Regions organise the OPEN DAYS 2012 – 10TH EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES on 8 – 11 October in Brussels

Under the heading **'Europe's regions and cities: Making a difference'**, the OPEN DAYS 2012 seminars and workshops are structured around three thematic priorities:
- **Smart and green growth for all** – How does cohesion policy contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth?
- **Territorial cooperation: an asset for Europe** – How can cooperation be used as a tool for regional development and better exploitation of regional potential? What is the added value of co-operation both within cooperation programmes and regional programmes, the European Grouping on Territorial Cooperation and macro-regional strategies? How to make best use of these instruments?
- **Delivering results** – What are the main achievements of the EU cohesion policy? And how can the intentions of the new regulatory framework proposed by the European Commission for 2014-2020 be best implemented?

More than 100 events will take place in Brussels on those days (the full programme is available at www.opendays.europa.eu). In this context, **smart specialisation** is at the centre of a substantial number of workshops including the following:
- **Smart specialisation and entrepreneurial discovery – the role of the business community**
  Organised by DG REGIO, the Committee of the Regions and the JRC - S3 Platform

- **Smart specialisation: the processes and institutions that drive the concept**
  Organised by the JRC - S3 Platform and the Regional Studies Association
- **How can the regional level learn from each other on innovation? How can the regional context contribute to smart specialisation?**
  Organised by the Partnership of European Regional Innovation Agencies
- **Smart specialisation strategies from a research and innovation perspective in maritime regions**
  Organised by DG RTD and DG REGIO
- **Delivering regional growth through innovation: past, present and future**
  Organised by the Innovative Regions Partnership
- **Local and regional internationalisation initiatives for smart growth**
  Organised by the Partnership "Internationalisation strategies for smart growth"
- **Achieving smart specialisation via territorial co-operation**
  Organised by the Partnership "Advanced cooperation in the North Sea - English Channel area"

S3 ACADEMY

On 21-25 August the S3 Platform participated to the **52nd Congress of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) "Regions in motion: breaking the path"** in Bratislava (SK) and presented two papers currently under development: "Exploring interregional trade networks in Europe. Towards a new tool for supporting regional strategies for smart specialisation" and "Worker diversity and firm performance in regional labour markets. Evidence from linked employer-employee data". The papers were included in special sessions on smart specialisation chaired by Raquel Ortega-Argilés (University of Groningen, NL).

In the same sessions, Donato Iacobucci (Polytechnic University of Marche, IT) presented the paper "Developing a methodology for the identification of the smart specialization strategy. An application to the Marche region (Italy)". In particular, Iacobucci argued that it seems quite difficult in practice to set priorities based on a process of entrepreneurial discovery that is inherently bottom-up and very uncertain in nature. He proposed in alternative a two-step procedure where first the regional authorities select a few priority domains based on the analysis of regional context and positioning, and in the second step, projects within domains are selected according to entrepreneurial discoveries.

Indeed, as explained by Philip McCann (University of Groningen, NL) in the paper "Practical elements in the design of an integrated and territorial place-based approach to EU cohesion policy: the case of smart specialisation", smart specialisation is really about differentiation of the existing regional knowledge base and not about deepening specialisation tout-court. McCann also stressed the importance of regional connectedness and related variety: these are precisely the principles that inspire the works presented by the S3 Platform. Jaime del Castillo (Infyde, ES) also presented an interesting work titled "The competitive evolution of regions: towards smart specialisation strategies" where he made a systematic comparison between RIS and RIS3 in time, scope and content.

Details on the ERSA congress are available at http://www.ersa.org/ersa-congress/.

S3 NEXT

OUTREACH AND COUNTRY EVENTS

September 04
Country event: S3 in Greece (Athens, GR)

September 25-26
Country event: S3 in Italy (Bari, IT)

November 27-28 (tbc)
Outreach event for the Atlantic Arc (Bordeaux, FR)

October 08-11
OPEN DAYS 2012 (Brussels, BE)
www.opendays.europa.eu

October 23-24
Europe INNOVA 2012 – Stress test of European innovation policy (Copenhagen, DK)
http://www.conferencemanager.dk/EuropeINNOVA2012-Copenhagen

September 05
Planning on smart specialisation (Stockholm, SE)
http://www.nordregio.se/

September 19
OECD roundtable: Universities for skills, entrepreneurship, innovation and growth (Paris, FR)
http://www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/regionalandcitydevelopmentroundtable2012.htm

September 20
Universities and Regional Innovation: Building Capacity for Collaborative Partnerships (Brussels, BE)
http://www.eu-drivers.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90

October 03-05
10th EES biennial conference (Helsinki, FI)
http://www.europeanevaluation.org/conferences/ees-conferences-and-events/upcoming1/10th-ees-biennial-conference.htm

October 10
The role of smart specialisation and regional policy in developing the innovativeness of regions in Europe (INTERREG IV C) (Krakow, PL)
http://www.smartplusinnovations.eu/

October 11-12
How clusters can support industrial transformation and entrepreneurship in Europe (Modena, IT)
http://www.clusterobservatory.eu/index.html#!view=aboutobservatory;url=/about-observatory/news/;page=1

October 16-19
TCI annual global conference: Constructing place-based competitiveness in times of global change (Basque Country, ES)
http://www.tci2012.com/

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