JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)

S3 Newsletter

Seville, 19 April 2013

Welcome to the ninth issue of the S3 Newsletter

S3 PLATFORM - A GROWING COMMUNITY

121 EU regions, 6 EU countries, 2 non-EU regions and 1 non-EU country are now registered in the S3 Platform

Newcomers:

Republika Hrvatska (Republic of Croatia) (HR)

Ἤπειρος (Epirus) (GR)
Lazio (IT)
Molise (IT)
Region Nordjylland (North Denmark Region) (DK)

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

S3 PEER-REVIEW

REGISTRATION OPEN!
S3 Platform 8th Peer-review workshop

14-15 May 2013 in Vaasa (FI)
Organised jointly with Ostrobothnia. Four regions have confirmed their interest in submitting their RIS3 to peer-review. These are: Languedoc-Roussillon (FR), Lubelskie (PL), Ostrobothnia (FI) and Piedmont (IT).
The workshop will include a session on stakeholder involvement.
More info: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/8th-peer-review-14-15-may

In the days before and after the workshop, the University of Vaasa and Botnia-Atlantica Institute will host **two seminars** where member of the S3 Platform are welcome to attend.
On May 13: "Quadruple Helix". Targeted policymakers and researchers, a seminar will be organized around: (i) indicators measuring quadruple helix connectedness; (ii) quadruple helix governance. What are the crucial dimensions - and how can quadruple helixes be improved? (iii) learning transnational learning.
On May 16: "The Nordic Model: something for the rest of Europe?" Key aspects of "the Nordic model" will be presented and discussed: (i) what is worth looking closer at,

seen from the needs of development of other parts of Europe; (ii) how nuts and bolts of "the Nordic model" could be made relevant to other parts of Europe.

The Nordic model is a combination of collective risk sharing through social policy (welfare state) institutions, and openness to competition and globalisation. In order to be able to maintain the welfare state under the pressure of the global market, productivity in the public sector has been a core priority for several decades. At the same time, the Nordic countries have developed well-functioning regional relations between Universities, other institutions of education, and the need for innovation in private industries. In the seminar some examples will be presented, and discussions will take place on whether this model is relevant in other parts of Europe.

More info on these seminars:
http://www.ba-institute.fi/images/stories/BA-institute/invitations_seminarsinmay.pdf

More peer-review workshops will be organised in the coming months.
Provisional dates are as follows:
- 24-25 June 2013 in Budapest (HU), focusing on national-level RIS3
- 4-5 July in Faro (Algarve, PT), including a thematic angle on tourism and RIS3
- 26-27 September 2013 in Crete (GR)
- November 2013 in Berlin (DE), tbc

If your region/country is registered to the Platform and wishes to be peer-reviewed in an upcoming workshop or host one, please contact the S3 Platform at jrc-ipts-s3platform@ec.europa.eu.

RIS3 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A new **FAQ page** has been released in the S3 Platform website, which provides guidance on how to answer to 12 frequently asked questions coming from workshops, discussions, interactions with regional and national policy makers. They refer to the following issues:

The RIS3 approach
1. How should "priorities" be defined in a RIS3?
2. How should RIS3 be designed?
3. How are risk, success and failure perceived in the context of RIS3?
4. Which result/outcome indicators should be considered to monitor and evaluate the strategy?
5. Can other sources of funding, besides EU funds, be included in RIS3?
6. Can actions or policies that are not linked to EU funds be included in a regional RIS3?
7. National or regional RIS3: What is the appropriate administrative/geographical level?
8. What is the role of science and business parks in RIS3?

The S3 Platform
9. Does the S3 Platform provide any kind of financial assistance to regions for RIS3 design? Are any EU funds channelled through the Platform?
10. How can the European Commission and/or S3 Platform support the European regions in their benchmark activity concerning the competitive advantages of other regions?
11. What is the value added of S3Platform registration for a highly developed EU region?
12. Is it possible to use current Technical Assistance (TA) for RIS3 development activities?

More detail: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ris3faq.

S3 THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

As it was mentioned in the previous issue of this Newsletter, the S3 Platform has developed a concept around thematic workshops in order to **support regions and countries with their work in the prioritised areas**. The concept is modular in the

sense that it can be the basis for a complete workshop or part of another workshop as a specific session.
More info: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thematic-workshops
Please contact us at: jrc-ipts-s3events@ec.europa.eu

S3 FOCUS – PILOT WORKSHOP ON PRIORITY SETTING AND COLLABORATION IN ICT

The S3 Platform and DG CONNECT organised on 9 April in Seville a pilot workshop on priority setting and collaboration within the thematic area of ICT. The objective was to identify good practices in priority setting and collaboration, to facilitate bench-learning as well as to enhance our understanding of the challenges in the process of developing the digital agenda (DAE) component of a RIS3 and to propose solutions.
The group of participants was a broad mix of representatives from EU-wide regional development authorities, agencies, universities, industries, cluster organisations, EIT ICT Labs, and European Commission representatives from JRC, DG REGIO and DG CONNECT. The pilot workshop featured presentations of cases from the Netherlands (North Holland/Amsterdam, Utrecht & Flevoland/Almere) which focused on open and big data, and from Lombardy (IT) with a specialisation in open government and interoperability. After the presentations, participants identified priorities and possible areas of collaboration, as well as challenges in developing the DAE component of a RIS3.
We will publish on our website a workshop report with the main findings. In brief, six general themes were discussed: (i) inter-regional collaboration (discussions on specific projects like open data collaboration and quadruple helix networks in mobile telephone industry, as well as inter-regional policy learning); (ii) governance of RIS3 (how different mechanisms can be designed and possibility to involve cluster platforms); (iii) how to balance DAE supply components with horizontal aspects and specialisations; (iv) involving the knowledge triangle in RIS3; (v) identifying all elements of the ICT value chain; and (vi) understanding how regions and the EC can support the development of specific ICT applications.
More info: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pilot-workshop

S3 FOCUS – THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON KET FOR RIS3 IN AGRI-FOOD

The S3 Platform together with the Region of Murcia organised a pilot workshop on Key Enabling Technologies for RIS3 on Agri-food on 11/12 April 2013. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the role of KETs in the process of developing and implementing RIS3. As a number of EU regions have identified agri-food activities to be focused on in their RIS3 exercises, the event specifically addressed the role and importance of KETs in this agri-food sector understood from a cluster approach, comprising inter alia agriculture, the food industry, logistics, or environmental aspects.
The participants were a mix of representatives from regional development authorities, agencies, industries, and EC representatives. In particular, the workshop featured presentations from Emilia Romagna (IT), Murcia (ES) and Northern Ireland (UK).
Discussions focused on four themes: 1) How to map KETs on agri-food in the Regions and addressing the issue if it should be a priority for regions; 2) Industry and Academia addressing and challenging the 'KETs Discovery Process'; 2) Regions presenting their RIS3 strategy in relation to their agri-food priority and 4) Instruments to promote a KETs Market and collaboration in Regions, including the use of networks.
More info: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ketfors3inagro

S3 FOCUS – INNOVATION UNION SCOREBOARD 2013

Innovation performance in the EU has improved year on year in spite of the continuing economic crisis, but the innovation divide between Member States is widening. This is the result of the **European Commission Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013**, a ranking of EU Member States. While the most innovative countries have further improved their performance, others have shown a lack of progress. The overall ranking within the EU

remains relatively stable, with Sweden at the top, followed by Germany, Denmark and Finland. Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia are the countries that have most improved since last year. Drivers of innovation growth in the EU include SMEs and the commercialisation of innovations, together with excellent research systems. However the fall in business and venture capital investment over the years 2008-2012 has negatively influenced innovation performance.
More info:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/facts-figures-analysis/innovation-scoreboard/

S3 NEXT

EC LARGE EVENTS

June 05-07
Week of innovative regions of Europe - WIRE IV (Cork, IE)
http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=66E6AF2A-D56A-2DC0-23EB10615C995197

June 19-20
Digital agenda assembly (Dublin, IE)
http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/

OTHER EVENTS

May 05-08
RSA European Conference 2013 - Shape and be Shaped: The Future Dynamics of Regional Development (Tampere, FI)
http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-european-conference-2013

May 14
ECA workshop: The role of clusters in supporting the development and implementation of RIS3 (Brussels, BE)
http://www.eca-tactics.eu/eca/newsroom/eca-workshop-brussels-14th-may-role-clusters-supporting-development-and-implementation-

May 21-22
European maritime day (Valletta, MT)
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/index_en.htm

May 23-24
UNECE International Conference Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Making Things Work Better (Dubrovink, HR)
http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32036

May 23-24
EARTO Annual Conference 2013 (Dubrovnik, HR)
http://www.earto.eu/earto-events/events/1369260000/detail/earto-annual-conference-2013-dubrovnik.html

Info on past events related to S3: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/past-events

CONTACT

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