S3 SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM *Newsletter*

S3 PLATFORM – A GROWING COMMUNITY

NEW MEMBER STATES AND REGIONS REGISTRED

145 EU regions, 14 EU countries and 2 non-EU regions are now registered in the S3 Platform.

Newcomers:
Περιφέρεια Ιονίων Νήσων
(Ionian Islands) (EL)
Stockholmsregionen
(Stockholm Region) (SE)
Zachodnio-Pomorskie
(West Pomerania) (PL)

More info here.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEXT PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP IN RIGA

The next **peer review workshop** of the S3 Platform will be organised in Riga, Latvia on 25-26 February 2014.
Four national strategies will be peer reviewed: Latvia, Estonia, England and Czech Republic.
More information is available here.
Registration will open soon.

WE ARE CURRENTLY FINALISING THE CALENDAR OF PEER-REVIEW WORKSHOPS FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2014!

If your region/country is registered to the Platform and wishes to be peer-reviewed in an upcoming workshop or host one, please contact us at
jrc-ipts-s3platform@ec.europa.eu.
Please do not forget that we can organise specific peer-review workshops on **ICT / digital growth or digital agenda chapters of your RIS3, as well as thematically focussed peer-reviews** following requests from registered regions and countries.

S3 WEBSITE HAS CHANGED ITS DESIGN!

There are new features and elements on the S3 Platform website to be able to better assist the EU countries and regions for the design of their research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation with a more visitor friendly site and through a better structured information base for policy makers.

Please click on the image to play the video on Smart Specialisation: to guide you to the Kingdom of Smart.

FIRST DIGITAL PEER-REVIEW WORKSHOP

The S3 Platform has conducted its first Digital Growth Peer-review Workshop that was hosted by the Regional Government of Andalusia on 3-4 December 2013.

The three regions of Andalucía, Malopolska and Scotland have submitted their Digital Growth Strategy to peers for discussion and feedback.

The event provided regions with knowledge on how to:
• connect RIS3 and Digital Growth Strategies;
• use ICT as an enabling technology, with the specific case of broadband in rural areas;
• better understand ICT as a specialisation and an application area;
• examples of policies to enable ICT diffusion.

Thank you for your participation!

More information here.

S3 EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

EVENT ON THE SYNERGIES BETWEEN RIS3 STRATEGIES WITHIN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

The objective of the event was to link and maximize **synergies between the Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) within the Baltic Sea Region.** The workshop was very successful with close to 200 participants from all the 10 countries linked to the Baltic Sea cooperation.
The event will be followed by a second workshop on "Connecting RIS3 in the Baltic Sea Region" in Tallinn in April 2014. Please find presentation and more info here.

12TH PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP IN POTSDAM FOCUSING ON INNOVATION POTENTIALS OF METROPOLIS AND THEIR PERIPHERIES

The workshop was co-organised by the S3 Platform and the German Federal State of Brandenburg on 5-6 November 2013.
During this workshop, the following five regions presented their current work on RIS3 (Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation): Berlin-Brandenburg (Germany), Greater Manchester (United Kingdom), Mazovia (Poland) and Prague (Czech Republic). More info and presentations are available here.

HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON REGIONS AS MOTORS OF NEW GROWTH THROUGH SMART SPECIALISATION

The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission and the Flemish Government discussed the new growth opportunities and transformation powers of regional smart specialisation, in particular in view of the multi-level governance challenges of the European growth and re-industrialisation agendas.
Please see further info here.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

January 16 - Conferencia Horizonte 2020: Programa Marco de Investigación e Innovación (Seville, ES)

February 25-26 – S3 Platform national peer review workshop (Riga, LV)

February 27-28 - Space, a driver for competitiveness and growth (Bari, IT)

EVALUATION GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

The evaluation unit of DG REGIO published a revised version of the Evalsed Guidance on Evaluation our website and a new Sourcebook on Methods and Techniques. The Guidance takes account of the changes in the regulations for Cohesion Policy in the 2014-2020 period. The Sourcebook has new sections on Impact Evaluation - theory based and counterfactual - as well as new material on beneficiary surveys and regression analysis. Out of date elements have been deleted. More info here.

PUBLICATION OF THE 2013 EU INDUSTRIAL R&D INVESTMENT SCOREBOARD AND 2013 SURVEY ON R&D INVESTMENT BUSINESS TRENDS

The 2013 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard contains economic and financial data for the world's top 2000 companies ranked by their investments in research and development. The sample consists of 527 companies based in the EU and 1473 companies based elsewhere. An additional sample comprising the top 1000 R&D investing companies based in the EU is included. Please find the scoreboard here.

The 2013 Survey on R&D Investment Business Trends presents the findings of trends in industrial R&D investment. It analyses the 172 responses of mainly large firms from a subsample of 1000 EU-based companies in the 2012 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard. These companies are responsible for R&D investment worth € 62 billion, constituting around 41% of the total R&D investment by the 1000 EU Scoreboard companies. Please find the report here.

RIS3 GUIDE – UPDATED FAQ PAGE

The FAQ page of the RIS3 Guide section has been updated in the S3 Platform website adding a few more questions and adjusting the text of some of the existing ones following inputs and discussions with policy-makers, experts and Commission services. The RIS3 approach is currently dealt with in the following 12 questions:

1. What are the key elements of a "good" smart specialisation strategy?
2. How should "priorities" be defined in a RIS3?
3. What is the difference between "niche" and "domain" of specialisation?
4. How should RIS3 be designed?
5. What is the "entrepreneurial discovery process"?
6. How are risk, success and failure perceived in the context of RIS3?
7. What result/outcome indicators should be considered to monitor and evaluate the strategy?
8. Can other sources of funding, besides EU funds, be included in RIS3?
9. Can actions or policies that are not linked to EU funds be included in a regional RIS3?
10. National or regional RIS3: What is the appropriate administrative/geographical level?
11. What is the role of science and business parks in RIS3?
12. Does a RIS3 need to contain information on the policy mix for its implementation?