S3 PLATFORM – NEW YEAR – FRESH START

NEW MEMBER STATES AND REGIONS REGISTRED

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

WORKSHOP "THE ROLE OF SCIENCE PARKS IN SMART SPECIALISATION

The workshop will take place on *19 February 2014 in Malaga* (Spain) and is organised by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in cooperation with IASP, the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation. It will engage representatives of science parks and regional policy makers in a dialogue to develop key messages on the role of science parks in smart specialisation.

The intended results of the workshop are:

- A better understanding of the opportunities for regional-science parks collaboration in the future programming period of EU funding.
- A set of key messages for dissemination through the S3 Platform in the form of a policy brief.

More information can be found here.
Please note that *we have a limited number of places available.* Therefore, we encourage you to REGISTER as soon as possible via email.

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

The next S3 Platform PEER REVIEW workshop will be held in the old town of *Riga, Latvia on 25-26 February*.

The increasingly local and global combination and interaction of cross-sectoral and cross-border activities requires a policy mix that combine synergies across policy instruments to ensure its effectiveness, therefore the focus of this peer review will be policy mix and S3 implementation.

Four countries, Czech Republic, England, Estonia and Latvia, will present their RIS3 and focus on implementation and policy mix. Both national and regional RIS3 authorities are welcome to attend the workshop and discussions. Please read more about the event here. Registration is now open.

S3 EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

S3 FOR DANUBE WORKSHOP ON MOBILISING EU INSTRUMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL DESIGN OF TRANSNATIONAL R&I PROJECTS IN THE DANUBE REGION

The DG JRC is inviting representatives of ESIF Managing Authorities from the EU Member State of the Danube Region, as well as to IPA and ENPI authorities in the non-EU Danube countries to discuss which existing and new EU funded instruments could contribute to a more effective cross border and transnational cooperation and how this could be most efficiently done – also by reaching the best possible synergies between the existing sources - in the planning phase of EU funded regional development programmes for the period 2014-2020.

As an outcome of the event, a JRC "S3 policy brief" will be published, highlighting the upcoming possibilities and practices offered by the new EU Cohesion Policy Regulations to enhance the implementation of concrete funding mechanisms supporting cross-border and trans-national cooperation, and the subsequent policy implications. Participation is by invitation only.

PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP ON TRANSNATIONAL ASPECTS OF S3

The S3 platform is co-organising together with BSC Information Centre for Business Standardisation and Certification the first peer review workshop in a non-EU country. It will focus on transnational aspects of smart specialisation and will take place in *Novi Sad, Vojvodina (Serbia) on 10-11 April 2014*.

Further information will be available soon.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

February 19 - Taking advantage of the blue growth potential in European coastal regions - How can marine and maritime research contribute to blue growth? (Brussels, BE)

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

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

DIGITAL AGENDA NEWS – DIGITAL GROWTH WORKSHOP

The 3-4 of December 2013 the S3 Platform together with the Junta de Andalucía and Dg CONNECT arranged a Digital Growth Workshop in Seville addressing the development of Digital Growth aspects in their RIS3s. The themes discussed and the design of the workshop was based on the specific interests of the involved regional authorities, namely the Andalusian Junta, Malopolska's Marshal's Office and the Scottish Government.

The aim of the Digital Growth Peer Review was to provide regions with knowledge on how to:
- Connect RIS3 and Digital Growth Strategies;
- Use ICT as an enabling technology,
- Better understand ICT as a specialisation;
- Design and implement appropriate policy measures.

In this pilot workshop, the three regions Andalucía (ES), Malopolska (PL) and Scotland (UK) presented their Digital Growth Strategies and opened them for reflections from peers. As a result of the discussions during the peer review sessions, specific policy recommendations were formulated for each of the regions under consideration. Furthermore, some general "lessons learnt" were spelled out to the benefit of regional and national authorities, such as:

- Investments in broadband infrastructures are a pre-condition for the development of ICT both as a sector and as an enabler.
- In the context of the Digital Growth strategy everyone is an "agent of change" and it is vital to adopt an inclusive approach.
- The idea of building a common framework in each region in relation to the Digital Growth strategy can bring significant benefits in terms of interoperability, re-use of solutions and, therefore, cost effectiveness.
- Public Administrations can play a key role in the public procurement of public services, acting as "intelligent customers".
- Regional policies concerning the Digital Growth strategy should be aligned with the DAE (Digital Agenda for Europe) and coordinated with the policies defined at the national level and well integrated with the RIS3.
- Regional authorities should promote open access to infrastructures, while guaranteeing net neutrality, hence stimulating competition for services.
- Open Data is a powerful for harnessing the potential of data, e.g. smart city management and through enabling Web-entrepreneurs.
- The concept of "Digital Champions" can be instrumental for the adoption of new ICT technologies

During the workshop, the S3 Platform and DG CONNECT also presented the *Digital Agenda Toolbox*, a policy guidance document providing support to authorities for the development of a thorough understanding of the Digital Growth potential. The report from the workshop will be launched soon on the S3 Platforms Digital Agenda Web.

EXPERTS - If you are registered to the platform and have an interest in getting support from an independent expert informally assessing the DAE components of your RIS3 and (if appropriate) the related sections of your draft OP, we can assist a sample of 20 countries / regions on the basis on the requests we receive. In case of interest, please contact the S3 Platform.