



European  
Commission

SMART SPECIALISATION WORLDWIDE

08/2018

# COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

#S3Worldwide  
#SmartSpecialisation

-  14<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world (WB, 2016)
-  Population: 24 210 809 (WB, 2016)
-  GDP: 1 204 616 USD million (WB, 2016)
-  Global Innovation Index 2017: 23/127 (WIPO, 2017)
-  Global Competitiveness Index 2017-2018: 22/137 (WEF, 2017-2018)
-  Research and development expenditure: 1.879% of GDP (OECD, 2015)



## Bilateral Framework

- EU-Australia Framework Agreement
- Scientific & Technical Cooperation Agreement
- Framework Participation Agreement (FPA)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Australia-EU Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC)
- Roadmap for EU-Australia Science & Technology cooperation
- Senior Officials meetings
- Trade Policy Dialogue
- High-Level Dialogue on the Environment
- Dialogue on Education Training Policy
- Exchanges between the European Parliament and the Australian Parliament

## EU projects and activities with Australia

EU Centre at the RMIT University of Melbourne and Centre of Excellence on Smart Specialisation and Regional Policy, notably building on the EU Smart Specialisation experience.

## Results so far

The Hunter Valley region (New South Wales) was the first to develop a Smart Specialisation strategy in 2015. The initiative “Innovation in agriculture and regional areas” in the framework of the Australian National Innovation and Science Agenda supports Regional Development Agencies in pursuing economic development opportunities through Smart Specialisation. The main Smart Specialisation instrument for the regions is the Regional Jobs and Investment Package (RJIP).

Current RJIP investment per region is so far (USD million):

- \$30: Bowen Basin
- \$25: New South Wales North Coast; Regional Tasmania
- \$20: New South Wales South Coast; Wide Bay Burnett; Goulburn Valley; Tropical North Queensland; Geelong; Upper Spencer Gulf; Latrobe Valley

## Australia's Experience

Smart Specialisation strategies in Australia have been developed in the framework of the Australian government initiative called Regional Development Australia (RDA), bringing together all government levels. A national network of RDA local committees was established.