



COHESION
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

COHESION - Integrating the territorial dimension for cohesive S3

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Sincere thanks to Karen Coughlan
EU Project Officer - Southern Regional Assembly, Waterford, Ireland

About Cohes3ion



- **Interreg Europe Project – Research & Innovation Priority**
- **Total Budget - €1,874,632**
- **Consortium of 10 project partners**



COHES3ION Partners



Led by Beaz, it includes 10 partners from 8 European regions and the advisory support of Orkestra

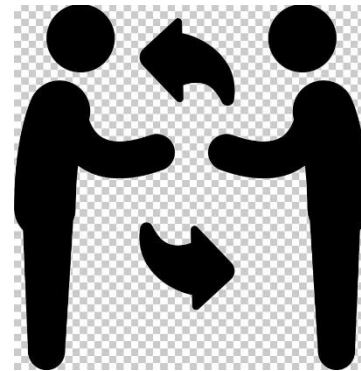


Specific objectives

- ❖ To provide **methodological tools to make a Smart Territorial Map of specialization capabilities** of business, industry and research at territory level (region, county, metropolis, city levels), **aligned with target regional S3**
- ❖ To identify, **exchange and disseminate regional good practices**
- ❖ To carry out a **regional strategic thinking process with all relevant stakeholders**, leading to the adoption of **Regional Action Plans focusing on S3 multi-level governance models**
- ❖ To implement and evaluate the impact of Regional Action Plans leading to **improved governance, new projects and updated S3 considering all territory levels**
- ❖ To **deliver policy recommendations** for the mainstreaming of the territorial dimension into S3 and ERDF OPs.

The Irish Context – Building from Scratch

- Ireland's S3 has no noted recognition of regional specificities and no separate smart specialisation strategies at the 3 NUTS II regions (Southern, Eastern & Midlands and Northern & Western).
-
- However, each region has its own individual strengths and competitive advantage where priority areas are of more importance to the economy in that region.
- The Regional and Spatial Strategies (RSES) sets out ambitious frameworks for the 3 regions and provide a timely opportunity to consider and align S3 strategy in Ireland



Why is the SRA or Managing Authority involved in COHES3ION?

- ✓ Provides an opportunity to learn from other EU Regions
- ✓ Identify good practices
- ✓ Import/adapt elements
- ✓ Make improvements in our own policies i.e. Southern RSES



What do SRA want to achieve



- **Focus the region on recognising and building on its smart priorities**
- **A better coordination between innovation support services at regional and local level and the Regional Structures...multi-level governance..**
- **A further refining of smart priorities at regional level, including city and county level, aligned with national S3**
- **Enhanced place-making for enterprise development**
- **A forum to raise awareness around the benefits of a targeted regional S3 aligned with the national priorities**
- **Improved management & monitoring mechanisms at regional level.**

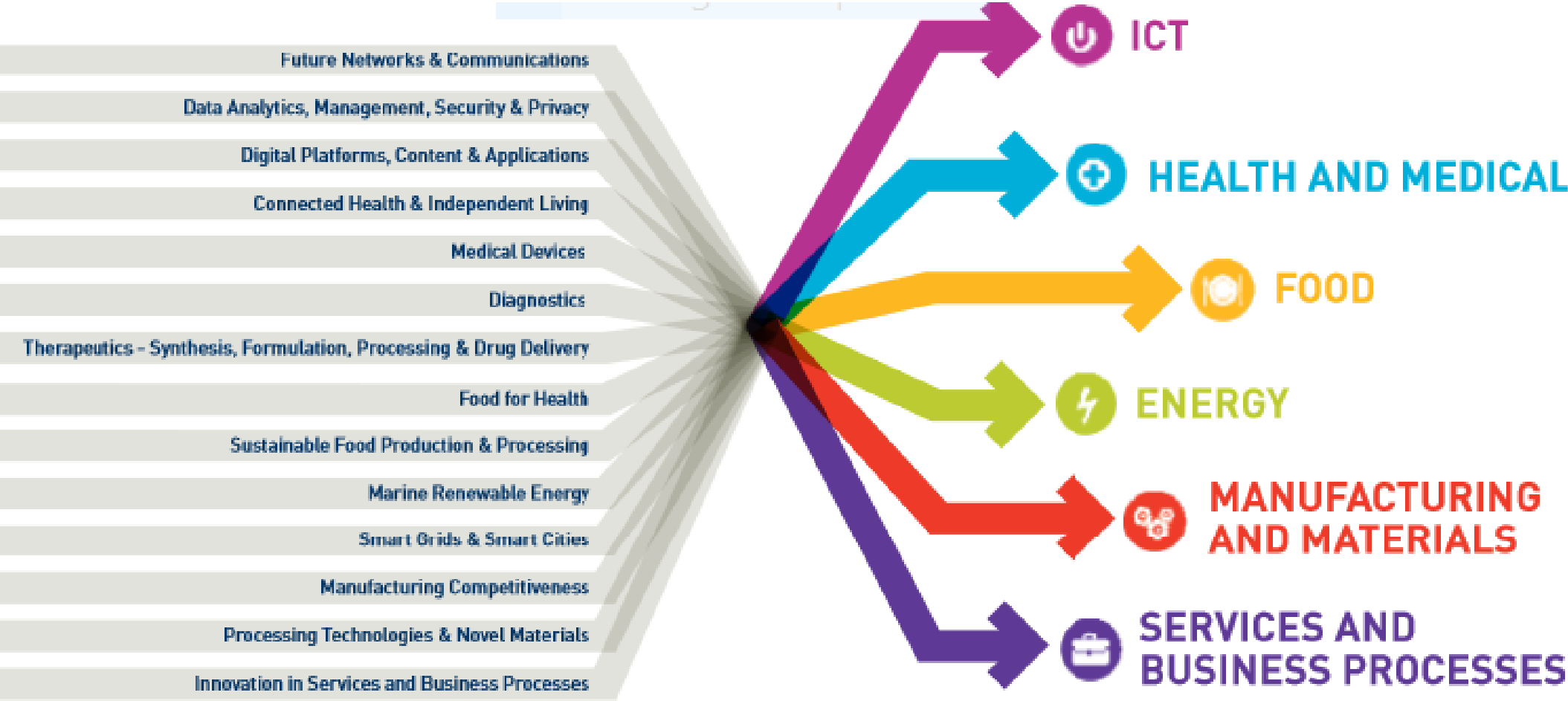


Ireland & ERDF - 14 Priority Areas



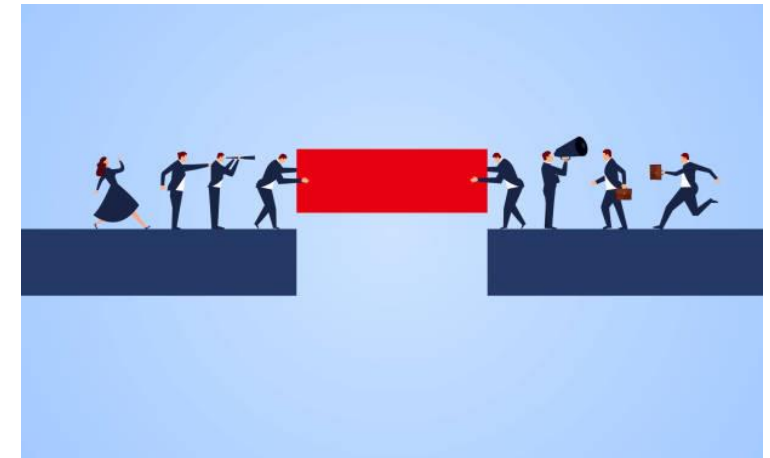
A Future Networks & Communications	H Food for Health
B Data Analytics, Management, Security & Privacy	I Sustainable Food Production & Processing
C Digital Platforms, Content & Applications	J Marine Renewable Energy
D Connected Health & Independent Living	K Smart Grids & Smart Cities
E Medical Devices	L Manufacturing Competitiveness
F Diagnostics	M Processing Technologies & Novel Materials
G Therapeutics – Synthesis, Formulation, Processing & Drug Delivery	N Innovation in Services & Business Processes

Further refinement in past years...



Stagnation Gaps to be addressed

- Post 2021 Ireland needs to address key areas:
 - Governance
 - Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) and
 - Monitoring and evaluation (M&E).



- Need to develop clear place-based smart priorities which are not just Research priorities
- Support the more strategic approach to clustering
- Build a regional collaborative approach via the three RSES
- Tackle the lack of monitoring and evaluation – develop and report on regional KPI's.

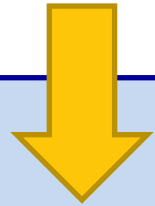
MACRO-ANALYSIS & BENCHMARKING

- Top-down sectoral strengths and strategic priorities
- High-level challenges, market trends and opportunities transformation
- Existing R&I initiatives to assess level of innovation and critical mass in key sectors



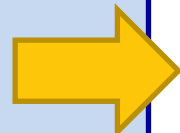
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- Current and emerging areas of innovation activity “on the ground”
- Deeper understanding of the local needs, framework conditions and perceptions
- Assess readiness and willingness to drive the S3 Entrepreneurial Discovery Process



MAPPING & SWOT ANALYSIS

- Mapping S3 areas with high potential (based on capacity and opportunity)
- Mapping key stakeholder and innovation activities
- SWOT analysis on place-based capabilities, resources, externalities, complementarities



FRAMEWORK & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritisation criteria for selection of S3 areas
- Recommendations on key stakeholder, enablers, and levers – (links with Smart Region)
- Practical framework/toolkit to inform further S3 development
- KPIs for monitoring and evaluation

EG Smart Region

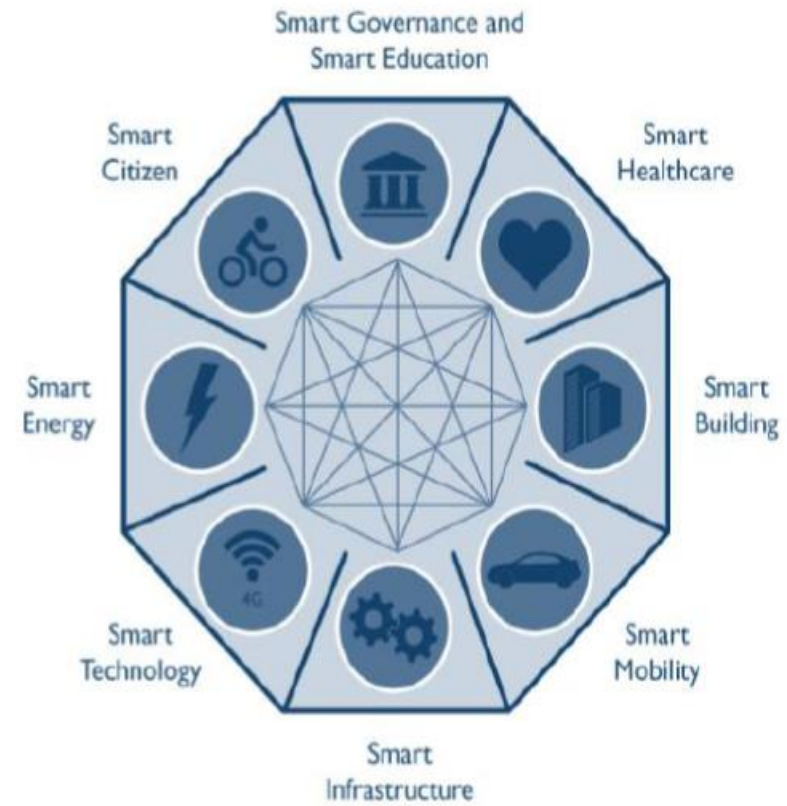
RPO 134

Smart Cities and Smart Region

It is an objective to:

- a. Build on Smart Cities and Smart Region initiatives in Cork, Limerick and Waterford, such as the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, and seek to extend such initiatives to towns, villages and rural areas to support a Smart Region;
- b. Seek investment in broadband, fibre technologies, wireless networks (including an Internet of Things Network across the Region) and integrated digital infrastructures to enable actions that sustainably deliver on smart technologies to increase the innovative, sustainable and competitive placemaking dividend for the Southern Region;
- c. Support a leadership role for the Southern Region as an innovator in smart technologies and smart mobility;
- d. Seek and support investment for initiatives in smart technology as an enabler for education and life-long learning in all locations.

SMART CITY CONCEPTS





Integrating the territorial dimension for cohesive S3.

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EU Project Officer - Southern Regional Assembly, M/A, Waterford, Ireland

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Project summary

COHES3ION aims to integrate a regional and sub-regional element into Smart Specialisation

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