

# WORKSHOP - SMART SPECIALISATION 4 BLUE GROWTH COOPERATION

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Wednesday 21st October, 2020

**18<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK** of  
**REGIONS** and **CITIES**

05>09 OCTOBER 2020 12>16 OCTOBER 2020 19>22 OCTOBER 2020

Is there a space for smart specialization strategies to be capitalized and deepened into within the EU Green Deal



# Contextualisation from 3 different perspectives



## 1 S3

Strategic instrument to harness the potential for smart growth.

We have a responsibility to draw lessons learnt.

Existing success stories: **+120 Smart Specialisation Strategies** developed in EU regions/MS and **+30 interregional partnerships** (agri-food, industrial modernization, energy).

There is a need **of deepening Smart Specialisation within EU**:

- It is important to guarantee that Smart Specialisation Strategies implemented by EU regions/MS are anchored on a solid basis in terms of prioritisation, governance, stakeholder involvement, and monitoring and evaluation.
- It is important to **encompass the sustainability dimension**, which is of key importance to deliver on the agenda of the EC and achieve competitive sustainability.

## 2 Blue economy



Table 2.1. Preliminary assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 economic crisis on the Blue Economy

Sector	Size	Initial impact	Recovery path
<b>Established sectors</b>			
Marine living resources	Medium	Strong	Lagged
Marine non-living resources	Small	Medium	Prompt
Marine renewable energy	Nascent	Strong	Prompt
Port activities	Medium	Strong	Prompt
Shipbuilding and repair	Small	Medium	Lagged
Maritime transport	Medium	Strong	Prompt
Coastal tourism	Very large	Strong	Very lagged
<b>Emerging sectors</b>			
Blue bioeconomy	Small	Strong	Prompt
Ocean energy	Nascent	Small	Prompt
Desalination	Nascent	Small	Prompt
Maritime defence	Small	Small	Prompt
Cables	Nascent	Small	Prompt
Research and Education	Nascent	Small	Prompt
Marine observation	Nascent	Small	Prompt

Source: Commission Services.

- Innovative business models ?
- More resilient / long-term ?
- Flexible for «fast» innovation ?
- Phasing out the obsolete ?

## 3 EU Green Deal



Low carbon, climate resilient future.

A path for fundamental transformation of Europe's economies and societies.

Science, knowledge and evidence (not short-term crisis contingencies) are paths towards more resilient economies, societies and governance systems.

Demonstrating feasibility of new technologies and solutions is key but experimentation, social innovation and citizen engagement are just as critical.

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Dive into the: *Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future: Research and innovation in support of the **European Green Deal call***  
*(3 examples)*

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## EU GD **Area 1**: Increasing climate ambition: cross sectoral challenges

- The important responsibility of Europe's regions to accompany and assist their communities and economies in adapting to climate change.
- Climate-resilient innovation Packages for transformational adaptation of European regions and communities. Development of region-specific portfolios of R&I solutions, mature enough for demonstration.
- Some solutions for regional adaptation have been developed and successfully tested at small scale. Now, the challenge is to scale up and demonstrate at large scale systemic solutions.
- Actions funded will serve as early facilitators in pre-identifying and upscaling the most promising cross-sectoral solutions at a regional scale.



Opportunity for «maritime regions».



“Maritime regions” with a mature RIS3 strategy could bring a differential value in these consortia.

To work towards triggering societal transformations among key community systems (i.e., fisheries and aquaculture; clean energy, transport).

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## EU GD **Area 3**: Industry for a clean and circular economy

- **Circular economy** should be a **central component in local and regional economies**, creating circular ecosystems and designing participatory community-based innovation schemes.
- Proposals could test public-private partnership models, interregional cooperation mechanisms and multilevel funding synergies useful for de-risking business investments.
- It is essential that systemic solutions, and the economic sectors involved in them, are selected and based on a detailed analysis of the cluster's socio-economic needs, circular potential, challenges to be tackled and, when feasible, smart specialisation priorities.
- Proposals will form part of the demonstration projects for the implementation of the European Commission's Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI).



A number of cities, regions, businesses are engaged in testing and improving circularity. Nevertheless, concrete implementation of systemic solutions for territorial deployment still needs to be demonstrated and replicated.

Opportunity to engage relevant blue economy actors in 'circular territorial clusters' to implement, demonstrate and facilitate the replication.

Opportunity for more efficient and sustainable blue economy businesses, processes and value chains (zero-waste, recycling, using secondary raw materials, valorizing local bio-based feedstock, etc.).

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## EU GD **Area 6**: Farm to fork



- European food is recognized as being safe, nutritious and of high quality. It should now also become the global standard for sustainability.
- Adopting a multi-actor and cross-sectoral approach engaging practitioners, public and private institutions and citizens to co-create, test and demonstrate solutions from production to consumption, in practice, on a European scale but **with attention for regional and sectoral needs and contexts**.
- Specific care to engage young professionals (e.g., young farmers, young fishers, young researchers, young entrepreneurs, etc.), SMEs, consumers and citizens.
- **“Open innovation”** and **“Blue Growth”** are both cross-cutting priorities.



- Opportunity to engage with existing smart specialization strategies (inflows and outflows of knowledge to accelerate innovation).
- Opportunity for end-users and practitioners to be involved, not as a study-object, but in view of using their entrepreneurial skills for developing solutions and creating "co-ownership" of results.
- Opportunity to encompass the “sustainability” component.

## General conclusions / thoughts (1)



- ✓ - EU GD can learn from one of the key values of smart specialization, “**Collaborative leadership**” (mobilizing an array of stakeholders to jointly prioritize and explore opportunities). “**Entrepreneurial**” approach. Opportunity to establish connection across the participation and deliberation processes across regions up to European scale level.
- ✓ - Smart Specialisation can feed into the EUGD by showing how **innovation and growth can lean on a region’s own competitive advantages & unique economic structures and knowledge bases** rather than on “choose the winner” policies.
- ✓ - EU GD can learn from **governance** models, applying a joint creative thinking process among researchers, businesses, different levels of government, the public sector and civil society. Allowing EU GD consortia to make informed policy choices about the fields where a region/country has best chance for a knowledge-driven economic transformation. **Governance experimentation**.
- ✓ - The **sustainability** dimension of Smart Specialisation can be enhanced within the EUGD context. Paving the way towards “S4”.
- ✓ - EU GD can enable “**deep dives**” into specific cases of regions and partnerships. It can develop “**what-if scenarios**” on concrete cases at local/regional level. It can “**scale-up**”. Possibly can also provide a scenario to monitor/evaluate specific S3 strategies/plans.



## General conclusions / thoughts (2)



- ✓ - Smart specialization can be the **“territorial enabler”** of Europe’s twin green and digital transitions, and a substantial element of a territorial response to the COVID-19 crisis –for a Europe that leaves no one and no place behind”. (As said by Alessandro Rainoldi, Joint Research Centre S3 Platform, Seville, Policy brief S3).
- ✓ - EUGD can be a good framework to **co-define citizen participation mechanisms together with S3 stakeholders**.
- ✓ - Importance of **finding the right marriage** between “sectorial & place” and “Top-down & bottom-up” approaches. Also the importance of addressing the eternal challenge of connecting local, regional, national, EU levels.
- ✓ - Importance of being aware that **global crisis/challenges are here to stay & how regional perspectives play a key role**.
  - E.g. COVID-19 and/or Climate crisis:
    - Different impacts at local/regional levels (local/regional approaches can be more realistic, efficient and effective).
    - “Fast” innovation may be something we need to embrace (flexibility to adapt). Need to re-think existing systems/solutions/business models.
    - Several crisis/challenges may occur at the same time and may have different “priorities” (E.g. Employment / sustainability).
- ✓ - EU GD applicants should **establish links with national/regional authorities who developed Smart Specialisation Strategies**, and with **relevant networks such as ERRIN – European Regions Research and Innovation Network**.

Thank you very much for your attention

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