REGIONS & CITIES

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Online workshop

Cultural & Creative Regional Ecosystems

14 October 2020 | 16:30-18:00 (CEST)

Isabelle Seigneur

B3. Territorial Development unit

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

European Commission

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The concept of Smart Specialisation (S3)

- A **place-based innovation policy**
  - A place-based approach to R&I policy that aims to boost growth and jobs in Europe
  - Based on a SWOT or similar analysis to identify **region's own competitive advantages**
  - Through **concentration of resources** on a limited set of R&I priorities (preferably going beyond sectoral definitions) in which innovation can most readily occur
  - Regional priorities are identified through an **open dialogue** between policy makers, industry, research/education institutions & civil society – **Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)**
- The development of Regional R&I Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) = introduced as an ex-ante condition to access cohesion funds for R&I in the **2014–2020** period (ERDF, TO1)

→ **2021-2027: "S4: Smart Specialisation Strategies for Sustainability"**

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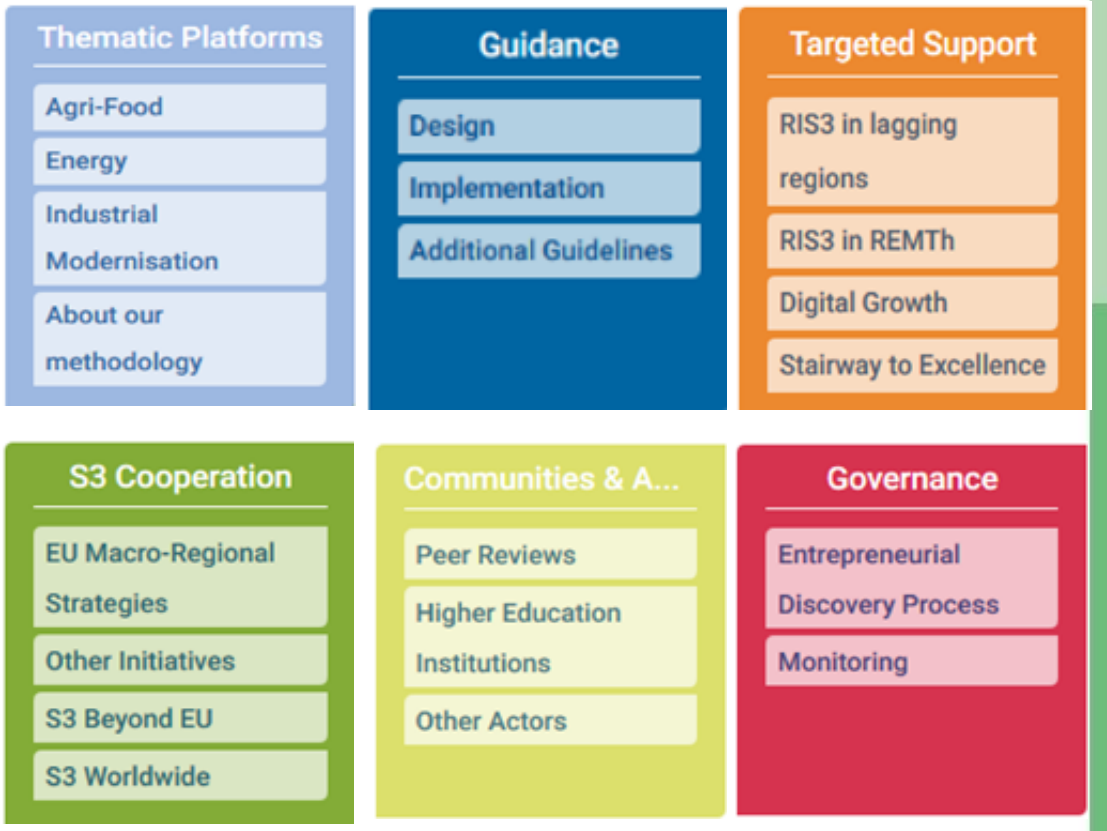
The S3 Platform, supporting innovation-led growth in EU regions

SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM

http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu

The S3 Platform provides advice to EU countries and regions for the design and implementation of their S3:

- guidance material: *RIS3 Guide, Implementation Handbook…*
- data and tools: *S3 priorities (Eye@RIS3), Regional Benchmarking, Digital Innovation Hubs catalogue…*
- peer-reviews and mutual learning
- training to policy-makers: *MOOC on monitoring S3…*
- analysis: *Conceptual and empirical developments, policy briefs, working papers…*



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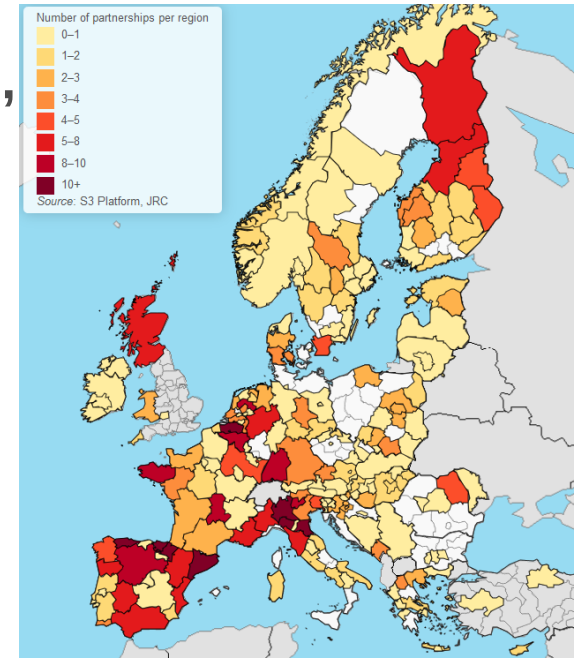
3 Thematic Platforms – 33 Partnerships

S3P Agri-Food - S3P Energy - S3P Industry



- Thematic S3 Platforms (TSSPs) connect regional **innovation ecosystems,** provide **interactive & participatory environment** as a support of S3 implementation through transnational / interregional cooperation
  - Launched in 2015-2016
  - 189 regions from 33 EU + non EU countries
- Thematic Interregional S3 Partnerships:

  Based on their local priorities (Q-helix and bottom-up), EU regions have partnered around **areas of common interest** and **joined forces** to:
  - **avoid duplication**,
  - exploit **complementary strengths** across the EU,
  - increase **critical mass**,
  - enhance the development & investments in **EU value chains,**
  - build **synergies** with other regional, national and EU networks and initiatives.

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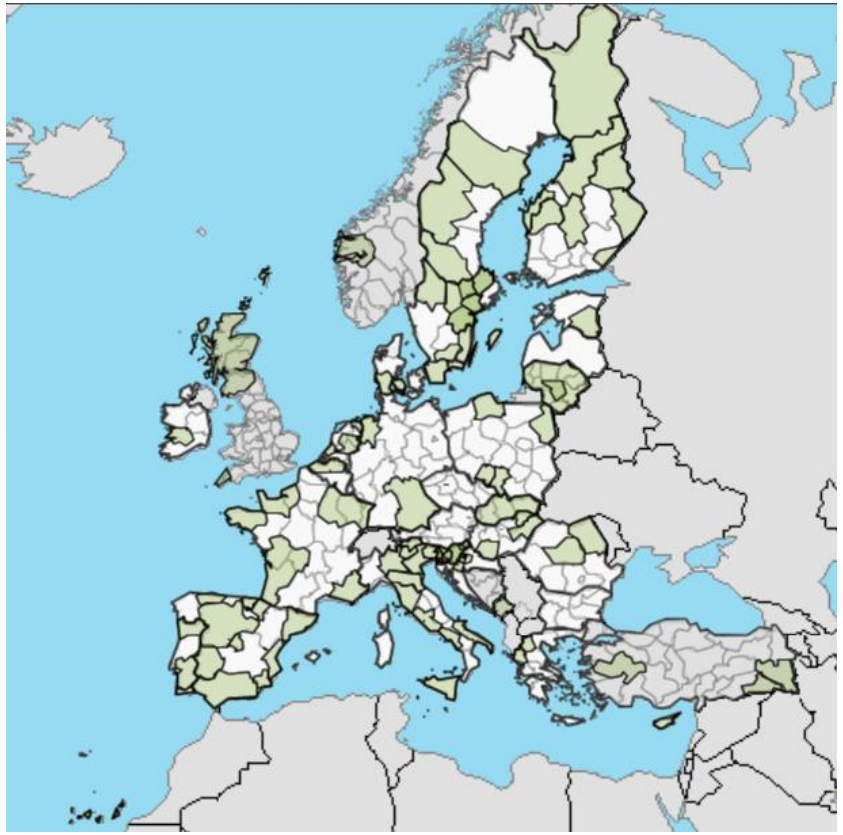
S3 Thematic Platform on **Energy**



https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3p-energy

Since 2016, **S3PEnergy** has been promoting interregional cooperation in energy innovation:

- encouraging collaboration for joint demonstration solutions (co-investments with ESIF, EU Value Chains linkages…)
- advocating for strategic alignment between regions regarding energy & innovation → new MFF 2021-2027!

- **6 partnerships** in energy + Heating & Cooling initiative
- **70 territorial admin. units** in 23 different countries
- DGs REGIO, ENER & JRC

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BIOENERGY | SMART GRIDS | SOLAR ENERGY | GEOTHERMAL | MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY | SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

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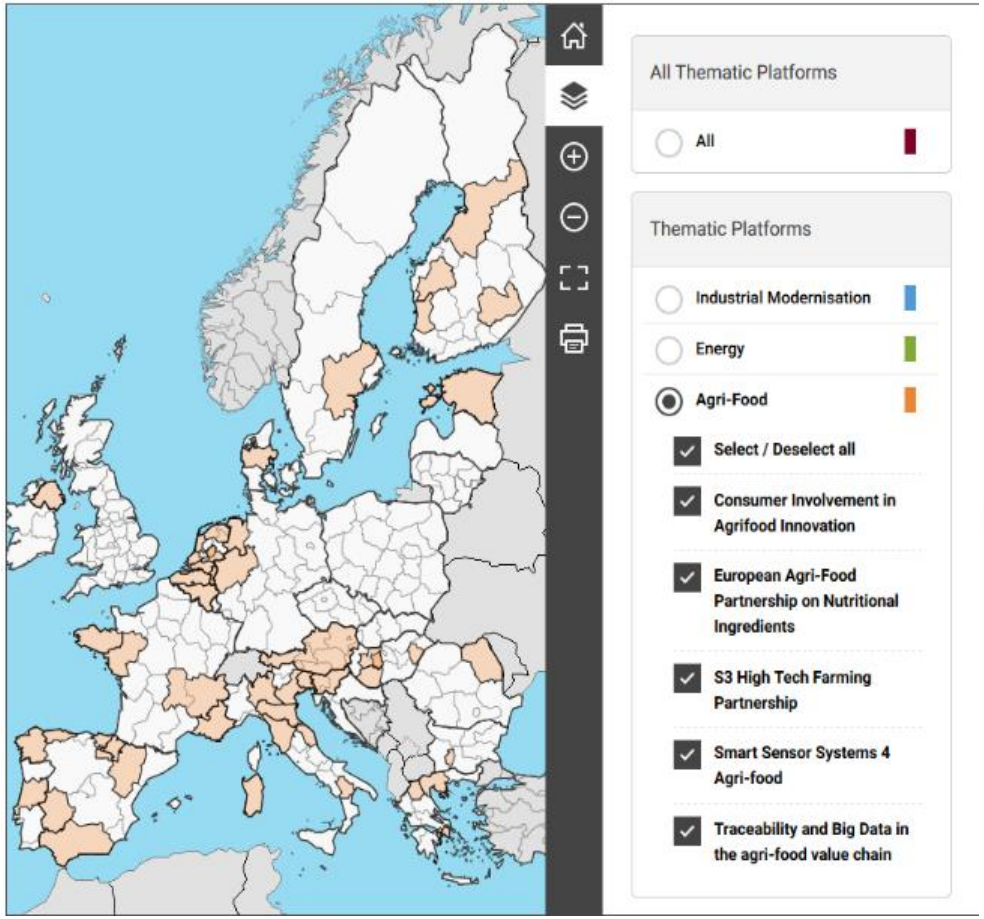
S3 Thematic Platform on **Agri-food**

https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/agri-food

- **5 partnerships:**
  - Consumer Involvement in AF
  - High-tech Farming
  - Nutritional Ingredients
  - Smart Sensors for Agri-Food
  - Traceability and Big Data
- **59 territorial administrative units**
- DGs AGRI, REGIO, RTD & JRC



High Tech Farming

Traceability & Big Data

Nutritional Ingredients

Consumer Involvement in Agri-Food

Smart Sensors 4 Agri-Food

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S3 Thematic Platform on **Industrial Modernisation**

https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/industrial-modernisation

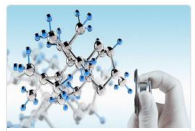
- 22 partnerships
- 137 territorial adm. units
- DGs REGIO, GROW, RTD and JRC

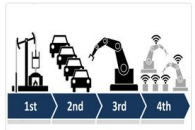
Advanced manufacturing

Non-food Biomass

Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing

3D-Printing


New Nano-Enabled Products



SMEs to the Industry 4.0

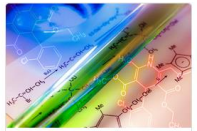
Sport

European Cyber Valleys

Social Economy

Artificial Intelligence & Human Machine Interface

Personalised medicine


Chemicals

Safe and sustainable mobility

Digitalisation and Safety for Tourism

Advanced materials for batteries

Mining industry

Water Smart Territories

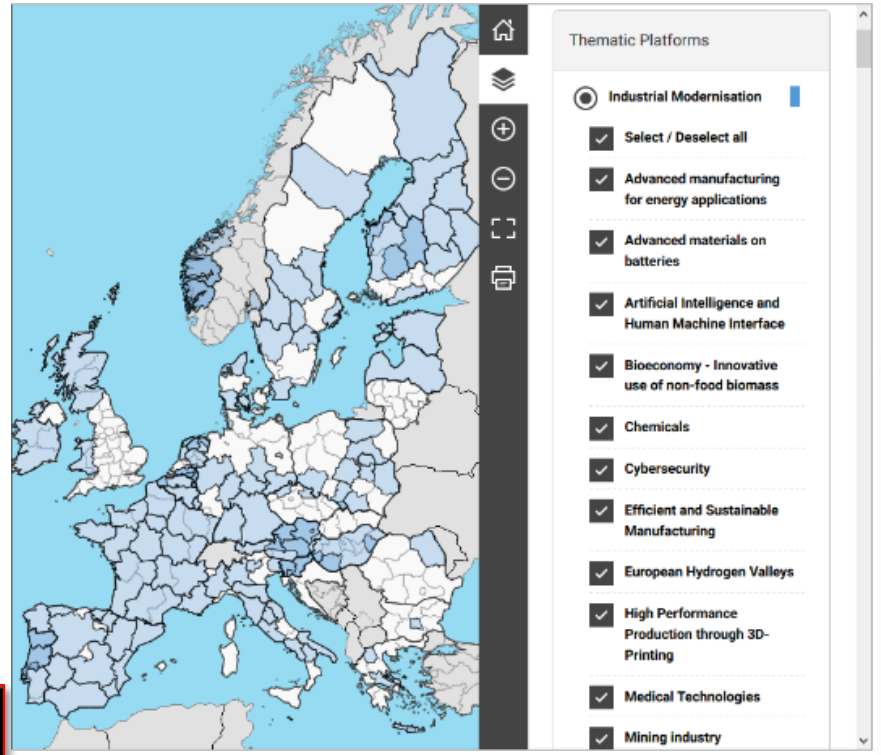
Textile Innovation

Medical technology

Photonics

Hydrogen Valleys

Cultural and Creative Regional Ecosystems



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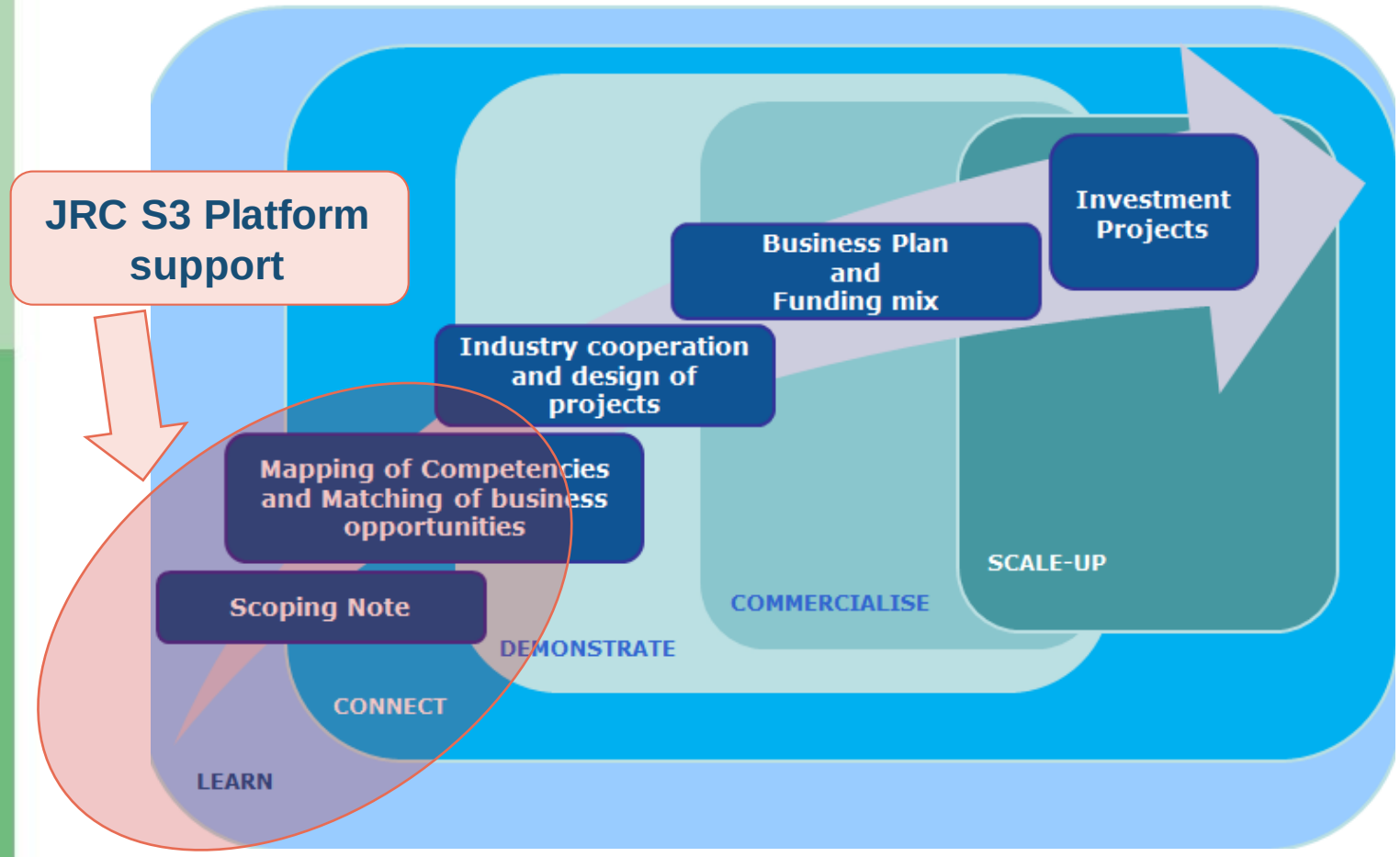
S3 partnerships phases



Methodological Manual

To assist public authorities responsible for ***designing and delivering interregional investment projects*** in the S3 context

https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC116630/s3p-thematicmanual_-_online.pdf

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Specific support to S3P-Industry partnerships

ReConfirm

Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)
for S3P-Industry investment projects

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S3P-Industry: phases and support services

https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reconfirm

SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM

Process of the S3P-Industry

Provided by ReConfirm

Regional Co-operation Networks for Industrial Modernisation

Support in:

- Governance advice
  Identifying partnership vision
- Scoping investment ideas/ partnership priorities
- Establishing roadmaps
- Validating and specifying investment ideas
- Identifying relevant stakeholders and matchmaking
- Specifying investment projects
- Drafting investment protocols

Phase 0
Setting up a thematic area

Phase 1
Mapping competences and matching business opportunities

Phase 2
Industrial cooperation and design of concrete investment projects

Key Activities:

- EU research (incl. updating the Regional Innovation Monitor Plus)
- Drafting scoping/mapping papers
- Moderating and supporting kick-off events and strategic workshops
- In-depth mapping and interviews
- Mobilising stakeholders
- Moderating and supporting collaboration laboratories
- Moderating and supporting matchmaking events
- Supporting working groups in preparing investment pitches

- Support to EU regions and industrial stakeholders to
  - **connect**
  - **form partnerships**
  - **reach agreements** on how to cooperate
- Started in Dec. 2016
- Will continue until **Dec. 2020**
- Continuous support / On demand

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S3P-Industry: phases and support services

https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/taf

Phase 3
Business plan and funding mix

Investment Projects

Provided by **TAF**
Technical Assistance Facility

Support in:

- Addressing specific issues related to the bankability of projects
- Improving the quality of projects in terms of legal and financial issues
- Identifying the right funding mix

Key Activities:

- Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) application management and selection
- Allocation of experts for projects
- On-the-spot support

- TAF information sheet
- Frequently asked questions
- Detailed guidance note for applicants
- Will continue until **Dec. 2021**

The timeline for 2020 is as follows:

Applications received by		Assessment round
14 February 2020		April 2020
30 April 2020		June 2020
30 June 2020		September 2020
30 September 2020	(deadline extended)	October 2020
15 November 2020	(deadline extended)	December 2020

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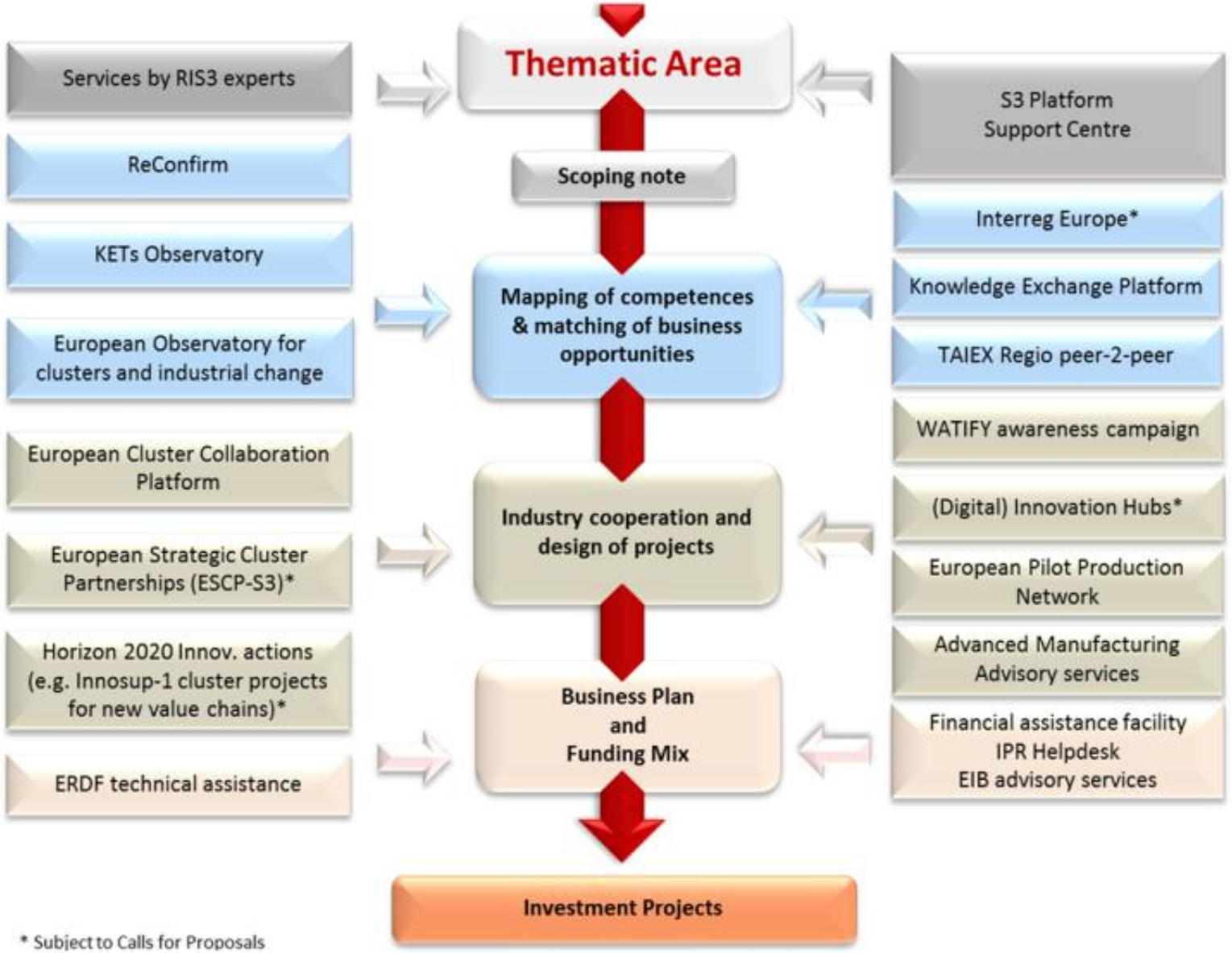
Other support mechanisms



* Subject to Calls for Proposals

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Thematic Platforms: other support activities

- *Feb 2020, Brussels*: **"Smart grids in the new MFF: the role of transnational R&I networks to strengthen smart energy"**

  Workshop with responsible authorities for Energy and S3 + other EU actors and initiatives in R&D&i in smart grids. (+ info)

- *EWRC 2019, Brussels:* **"Implementing S3 through Innovation Procurement"** (+ info)

- *July 2019, Budapest:* **"Supporting the effective uptake of Cohesion Policy funds in energy in EU13"** (+ info)
  - Governance
  - Capacities and skills
  - Connectedness with wider EU R&I landscape

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Thematic Platforms: other support activities

- *EWRC 2020:* **"Industrial cooperation & smart recovery"** - 13 Oct
- *EWRC 2020:* **"COVID-19 & Resilience of EU innovation ecosystems"** during the lockdown and their response to the emergence of the pandemic - 14 Oct
- Webinar "**S3 for SDGs in Agri-Food"**
- *Dec. 2019, Malaga:* S3 Platform on AF **"Exploring synergies with Digital Innovation Hubs"**
- TAIEX workshop on **State Aid Map in Energy**
- Workshop on **Financing options for S3 implementation in Energy**
- **Good practices** in S3
- Collaborations with **EIT, KICs, EEN, JUs, ETIPs**…
- *etc. → in response to bottom-up requests... Speak up!*

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CCRE-S3 & other partnerships

Opportunities for collaboration

- Partnerships partners to explore and exchange experiences on project activities, share ideas on potential cooperation and identify concrete joint activities for exploiting synergies in the future.

Digitalisation and Safety for Tourism

Artificial Intelligence & Human Machine Interface

Textile Innovation

Sport

Safe and sustainable mobility

3D-Printing

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Thank you!

More information:
http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu
@S3Platform

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Other resources slides…

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The S3 Platform

- ✓ ***Webinar 1:*** *"Place-based responses to the COVID-19 economic crisis" (17 Sept 2020)*
- ✓ ***Webinar 2:*** *"Smart Specialisation Strategies for Sustainability – opportunities for economic recovery and competitiveness" (6 Oct.)*
- ➢ **Webinar 3:** "S3 for SDGs" (10 Nov - 11:00-12:30 CET)
- ➢ **Webinar 4:** "S3: evidence, lessons, challenges and opportunities" (24 Nov)
- ➢ **Webinar 5:** "Quality of life in European cities: are cities in Europe inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?" (Nov. date tbc)
- ➢ **Webinar 6:** "Urban strategies and Smart Specialisation" (3 Dec)

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Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) in practice

Several challenges/opportunities, *e.g. as regards connectivity*:

- Develop a stronger place-based innovation ecosystem through **improved internal connectivity** (between different policies e.g. R&I + energy, between existing industrial and knowledge provision actors…)
- Grow a larger, stronger and more dynamic regional innovation ecosystem by **opening it up and connecting** it to macro-regional and EU knowledge networks and systems of innovation.
- Create economic growth through innovation **expanding across borders** and **fostering interregional cooperation**

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Future of S3 (S4!) and the new MFF

Cohesion policy 2021-2027 maintains or enhances:

- Smarter/Greener/Connected/Social/Closer to Citizens EU (all Policy Objectives)
- A tailored approach to regions - **locally-driven** development
- A **larger, stronger and more dynamic regional innovation ecosystems** through improved internal connectivity and the opening/connection to macro-regional and EU knowledge networks and systems of innovation:
  - Knowledge transfer between key stakeholders – **active Entrepr. Discovery Process (EDP)**
  - **Synergies** (not only funding, but in a **broader scope**)
  - More **support** for innovative companies and market-creating **innovations**
  - More support to interdisciplinary and **cross-sectors investments**
  - **Inter-territorial collaboration**
  - Digitalisation

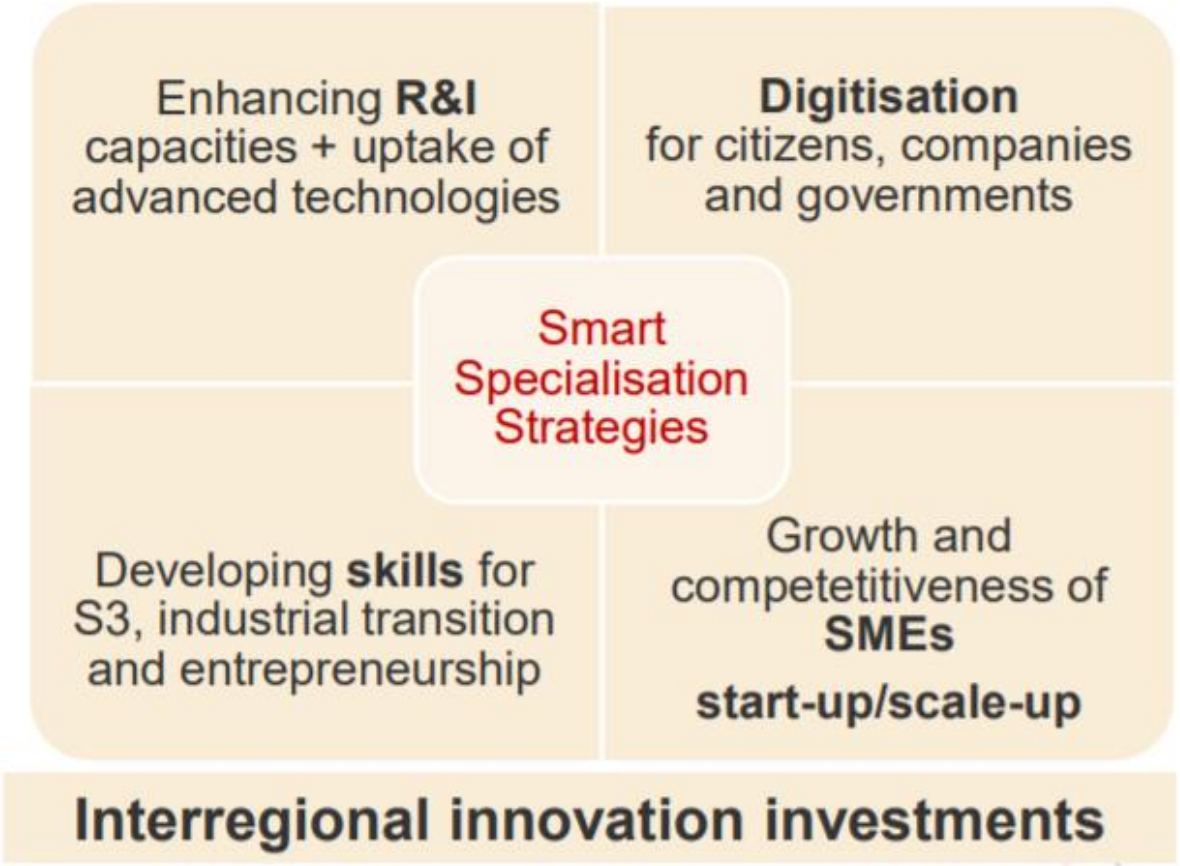
Need for a coordinated approach:

Reinforced smart specialisation - S3 as a coordination tool

Future of S3 and the new MFF

Policy Objective (PO)1 – A smarter Europe: innovative & smart economic transformation

Specific objectives:



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Future of S3 and the new MFF

Enabling condition PO1 (S3)

Policy objective	Specific objective	Name of enabling condition
1. A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation	ERDF: All specific objectives under this policy objectives	Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy

Fulfilment criteria for the enabling condition
Smart specialisation strategy(ies) shall be supported by: 1. Up-to-date analysis of bottlenecks for innovation diffusion, including digitalisation 2. Existence of competent regional / national institution or body, responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy 3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy 4. Effective functioning of entrepreneurial discovery process 5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems 6. Actions to manage industrial transition 7. Measures for international collaboration

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