S3

An analysis of the role of Smart Specialisation practices in the pandemic recovery period with early implementation examples

Online workshop

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What are the first lessons learnt from the early initiatives that have emerged to address the covid 19 epidemic emergency crisis?

- **Stakeholders' connection as a catalyst to spur novel solutions that respond to societal challenges and new demands**

- **Agile governance setting, reinforcing stakeholders' capacities to adapt and respond to the health crisis**

- **Role of European clusters and Smart Specialisation Partnerships to disseminate relevant tools and promote inter-sectorial approaches to face the crisis**

Stakeholders' connectedness and the integration of citizens' initiatives in regional innovation ecosystems

- **Castilla y Leon:** adaptation of the innovation ecosystems to respond to the health emergency and support the whole territory - role of the universities' network to foster knowledge transfer, notably through their Fab Labs

→ Smart Specialisation strategy's as a tool to foster collaborative mechanisms and efficient innovation ecosystems

- **Navarra:** volunteers' platform collecting initiatives and demands to face the socio-sanitary challenge with more than 100 social innovation collaborative projects; regional recovery plan, redefining S3 priorities and challenges involving regional actors (continuous Entrepreneurial Discovery Process)

→ S3 has proven to be the best channeling system to take quick decisions during the crisis and to draft the Regional Recovery Plan

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Agile governance setting, reinforcing regional actors' capacities to respond to the pandemic

- **Centre-Val de Loire**: Continuous assistance to 450 companies through the regional economic developers' network; Regional online platform dedicated to protective equipment production; Human capital and skills are part of S3 horizontal action/ adjust policy measures according to needs, notably through specialized training.

- **Valencia:** Turning the COVID-19 threat into an opportunity for Smart Specialisation with the launch of a textile-sanitary cluster – action plans to reconvert or revive regional industrial sectors at a larger scale, and bring together different priority sectors.

- **Northern Netherlands**: launch of a « Covid-19 solutions call », with very fast (3 weeks) collaborative initiatives with 22 emerging consortia involving heavily SMEs. SNN keeps on using the S3 approach to spur entrepreneurial discovery from societal challenges. A coordinated response strategy is in place, entailing "Corona monitoring" which focuses on the societal-economic impact and provides input for policy response.

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Support to businesses, moving towards more sustainable and inclusive models of development

- **Tuscany:** "Unlock Toscana tool" notably to attract private investments, identify and assist companies oriented towards to digital transition, circular economy and environmental sustainability

- **Lapland:** capacity to mobilize actors around a shared vision with very efficient networks, providing advisory support and online training to businesses. Maintaining European collaboration with new prioritisation, notably through the Arctic Smartness Clusters

- **Salzburg**: multi-level governance corona aid packages and special support programmes for companies, notably in health and tourism

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3D Printing : 3DP PAN EU proposes a web-based matchmaking tool connecting supply and demand, helping organisations and companies to find missing components to keep operations running

Cybersecurity : the European Cybersecurity Organisation has elaborated a Covid-19 Response Package to inform all European stakeholders on the availability of free tools to fight cyberattacks in the Covid context

The role of S3 Thematic partnerships and clusters to reinforce European value chains 2/2

Traceability and Big Data in the agri-food sector(Andalusia): creation of supply chain platforms, where supply and demand can meet to (mitigate labour shortage and ensure product distribution)

Sport (Lapland): inventory of pan EU ideas to support the Sport economy and bottom up communication platform in which businesses can find each other to set up new collaborations (seeking cross fertilisation with health, tourism and digital sectors)

Potential role of Smart Specialisation

- The crisis has helped to bring together various priority sectors and gained speed, allowed for the interconnection between stakeholders from different clusters

- Role of public institutions to consolidate the interconnectedness

- Importance of place-based policies and stakeholders' capacity to develop new business models, reinforcing the integration of citizens' initiatives in regional innovation ecosystems

- **Broad potential of Smart Specialisation to explore novel opportunities and foster resilient territories, able to adapt to changing environment**

See also, publication of the results of the stakeholder consultation on the European innovation ecosystem: « **A robust innovation ecosystem for the future of Europe**"
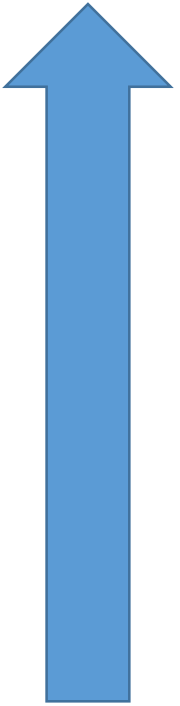
Embarking in more sustainable and inclusive models of development represent a transition challenge for various territories

Top-down - EU dimension

- Directionality

- Coordination

- Practice sharing

Bottom-up - Places matter

- Local policy design and delivery

- Customised innovative solutions

- Build on territorial diversity and local strengths and needs

More information : Industrial Transition working group

The role of digital transformation

Digital Innovation Hubs have the role to support SMEs in benefiting from advanced digital technologies

They will be at the centre of regional, national and European digital innovation eco-systems, and hence they will be **key actors of Smart Specialisation**

The experimental nature of S3 paves the way towards the exploration of novel opportunities

Smart Specialisation can play a central role in discovering **new development paths** to foster resilient territories and support a more sustainable and inclusive development.

Experimenal policy allows for:

- articulation of knowledge and experience of stakeholders in a health emergency period

- cross-fertilization and risk-taking

- Policy-learning and implementation

Thank you!

More information:

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

S3 Newsletter

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