



Stairway to Excellence

**Achieving better synergies between ESI Funds
and other EU Funding Programmes**

Andrea Conte, PhD

European Commission

DG Joint Research Centre

Piran, 22/03/2017



Smart Specialisation Platform

Since 2011 supporting Member States & Regions to design and implement their S3 by identifying a limited number of R&D and industrial activities with ***high innovation potential***.

- EU Countries registered in S3P: 18
- EU Regions registered in S3P: 170
- Non-EU Countries registered in S3P: 2
- Non-EU Regions registered in S3P: 8
- S3P Peer-reviewed Countries: 15
- S3P Peer-reviewed Regions: 60

Description	Capabilities	Target Markets	EU Priorities
Green building, energy saving, new construction materials.	1. Construction	1. Construction	1. Sustainable innovation 2. Eco-innovations
Life science, diagnostics, bio-pharmaceuticals.	1. Human health & social work activities	1. Human health & social work activities 2. Human health activities (medical services)	1. Public health & security 2. Public health & well-being
Monitoring and prevention of natural risks.	1. Public administration, security & defence	1. Public administration, security & defence	1. Public health & security
ICT for cultural heritage.	1. Information & communication technologies (ICT)	1. Creative, cultural arts & entertainment 2. Libraries, archives, museums & other cultural activities	1. Cultural & creative industries
ICT for tourism.	1. Information & communication technologies (ICT)	1. Tourism, restaurants & recreation 2. Travel agency, tour operator & other reservation service & related activities	1. Service innovation
Food security, environmental sustainability of agro-food processes.	1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing	1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing 2. Agricultural services	1. Public health & security 2. Food security & safety
Trans-shipment and inter-modality logistics.	1. Transporting & storage	1. Transporting & storage 2. Water transport & related services	1. Blue growth 2. Transport & logistics (incl. highways of the seas)

Main activities of the S3 Platform

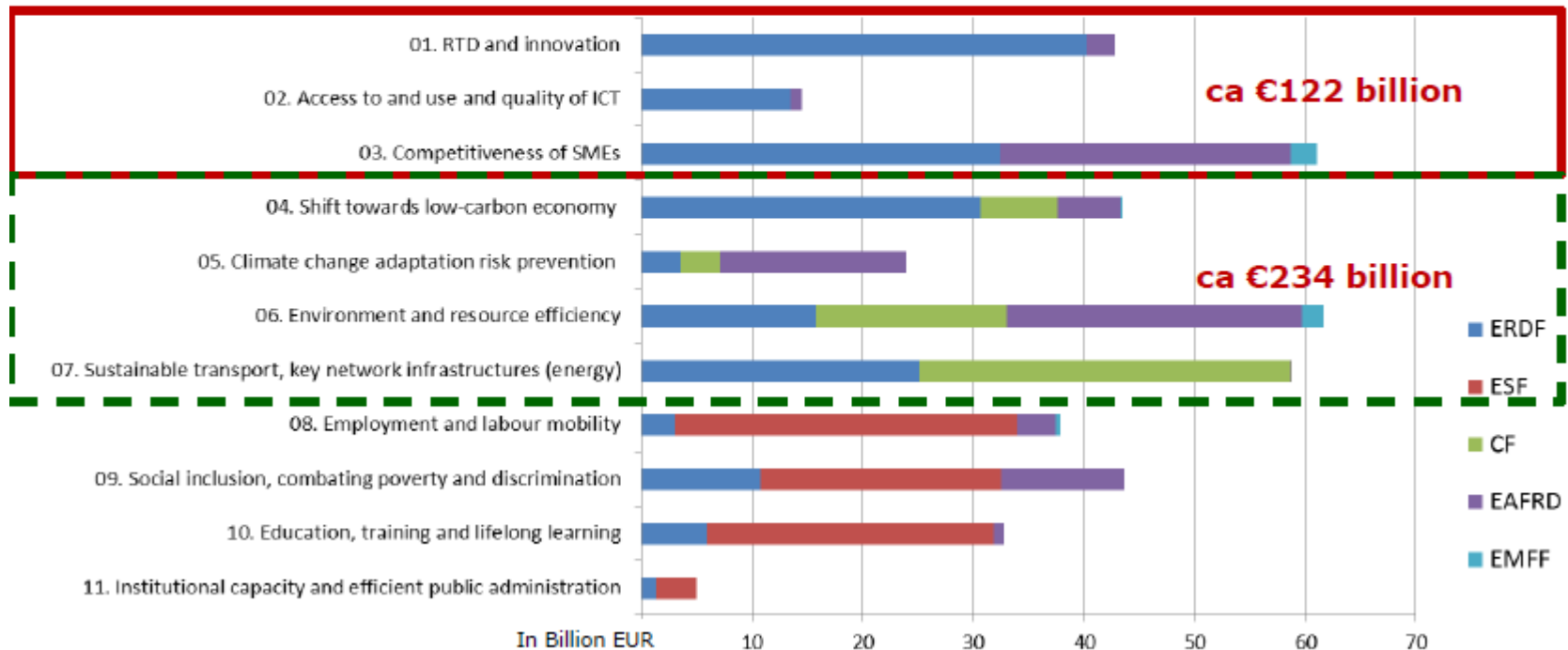
Support to RIS3 Implementation

	SSP	S2E	Lag Reg
	"Smart Specialization"	"Stairway to excellence"	"Lagging Regions"
Key Issues	Entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP) Monitoring / evaluation	Efficiency/effectiveness of R&I ecosystem Synergies between R&I funding streams	Governance Support Catalysing EDP Translate priorities into projects
Territorial Coverage	EU28 MSs & Regions Macro-regional Initiatives Urban & Rural Initiatives	EU28 MSs & Regions	Selected MSs, Regions & Cities
Thematic Coverage	Thematic SSPs (digital/energy/ agro-food/industrial modernization)	Thematic R&I Support (some focus on H2020)	Regional thematic priorities (some focus on bio/agro-food, ICTs)

Targeted support to actors, processes and learning
Stimulating stakeholders' involvement
Interactive web tools
Analytical support

ESIF programming 2014-20

- **EUR 454 billion of ESIF + EUR 183 billion of national co-financing**
- **456 national/regional OPs and 79 INTERREG cooperation programmes**
- **Concentration on 11 thematic objectives**



Source: Final ESIF partnership agreements as of December 2015



European Commission

Eye@RIS3

Research & Innovation Capabilities

Select

Business Areas & Target Market

Select

EU Priority

Blue growth

- Select
- Aeronautics & space
- Blue growth**
- Cultural & creative industries
- Digital Agenda
- KETs
- Nature & biodiversity
- Public health & security
- Service innovation
- Social innovation
- Specific local policy priority
- Sustainable innovation

Select

- Agriculture, forestry & fishing**
- Construction
- Creative, cultural arts & entertainment
- Energy production & distribution
- Human health & social work activities
- Information & communication technologies (ICT)
- Manufacturing & industry
- Mining & quarrying
- Public administration, security & defence
- Services
- Tourism, restaurants & recreation
- Transporting & storage
- Water supply, sewerage, waste management & remediation activities
- Wholesale & retail trade

EU Priority (Subcategory)

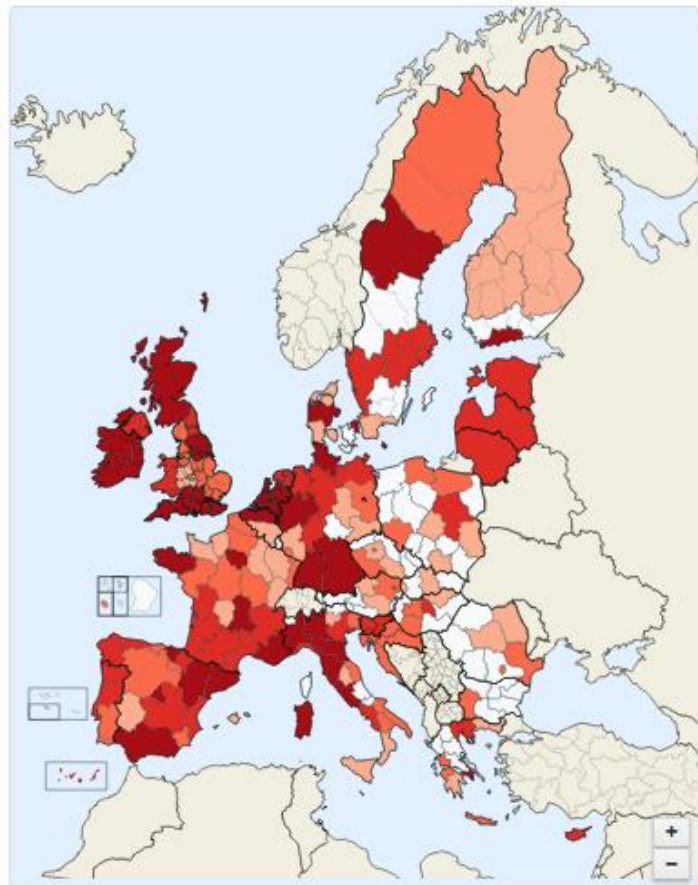
Select

- Select**
- Aquaculture
- Blue renewable energy
- Coastal & maritime tourism
- Fisheries
- Marine biotechnology
- Offshore mining, oil & gas
- Shipbuilding & ship repair
- Transport & logistics (incl. highways of the seas)



- EU Countries with Encoded S3 Priorities
- EU Regions with Encoded S3 Priorities
- Non-EU Countries with Encoded R&I Priorities
- Non-EU Regions with Encoded R&I Priorities

Other S3 Tools



- 1) Benchmarking Regional Structure
- 2) Revealed Competitors & Regional competitiveness scoreboard
- 3) ESIF viewer: planned ESIF Investments
- 4) R&I Regional Viewer

Economic Data

Regional context indicators
Last available data

GDP - Euro per capita ▾

Structural Funds

Planned investments
2014-2020

Total ESIF Research 8 ▾

Horizon 2020

Allocated funding
2014-March 2016

EU.3.2. - Food security ▾

Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative

Economic Background

- Composition of GBAORD at the European Level
- New ESIF Thematic Concentration towards knowledge investments

Economic Rationale

- Efficiency-related leverage effect of EC R&I funding by matching programmes with:
 - ✓ (apparently) different objectives
 - ✓ different management of the programmes (shared vs central management & ex-ante vs competitive-based allocation).
 - ✓ different support to innovation life cycle (innovation capacity building & innovation absorption capacity).

Legal Novelties

- Synergies under the new MFF 2014-2020 (COM Guide on Synergies, spring 2014)

Four cases of combined funding (COM Guide on Synergies):

- 1. Joint or simultaneous funding:** Different funding sources within a single project. ESIF could also be used for some "complementary" funding (cost items eligible under ESIF but not under H2020).
- 2. Sequential funding:** separate successive and legally/financially not linked projects with alternating H2020 or ESIF support. Sequential funding can go in both directions: capacity building (e.g. raising readiness to participate in H2020) and/or innovation exploitation (e.g. exploitation of H2020 results).
- 3. Additional/parallel funding:** ESIF money is not directly linked to a H2020 project, but a regional/national authority decides to fund a project to enhance the impact of a H2020 R+I project or Erasmus+ or COSME in its region (i.e. skills development or capacity building or for amplifying the impact of Joint Technology Initiatives).
- 4. Alternative funding:** ESIF money could be used for project proposals with a positive evaluation under H2020 or Erasmus+ that could not be funded due to a lack of H2020 funds under the call (i.e. SME instrument projects from a single country / projects submitted under the Fast Track to Innovation pilot scheme).

← "Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Funding: The Stairway to Excellence (S2E)"

08 Mar 2017

S3 Targeted Support

General Information

The "**Stairway to Excellence**" (S2E) initiative is a pilot project funded by the European Parliament (EP) and focused on supporting European Regions and Member States in enhancing synergies in the use of different EU funding sources for research, development and innovation (European Structural and Investment Funds and Horizon 2020, also taking account COSME, ERASMUS+, Creative Europe and so on).

The **Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)** are now a reality in Europe. With EU regions and nations having completed the technical fulfilments of the ex-ante conditionality and related action plans, the activities are now moving to the implementation phase. More information is available at: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>.

Within the broader context of the S3 activities, the **2017 Conference on the synergies between Horizon 2020 (COSME, ERASMUS + etc.) and ESIF** will be organized in collaboration with the **European Parliament (EP)**, and **DG REGIO** to raise awareness of major stakeholders on (1) the progress in exploiting the synergies between Horizon 2020 (and other funding programmes) and ESIF and (2) discuss practical bottlenecks emerging when R&D&I actors will start implementing the available tools for synergies between funds.

Venue



Crowne Plaza Brussels - Le Palace; Rue Gineste 3; Brussels (BE)

Contact information

← "Aligning implementation of RIS3 and H2020 Funding across research priorities"

09 Mar 2017

S3 Targeted Support

General Information

The aim of the workshop is to create a forum for exchange of best practices and enhancing collaboration between NCPs as well as regional/ national authorities managing European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) on the issue of synergies between H2020 and European Structural and Investment Funds in regard to the specialized thematic areas.

The workshop is targeted towards H2020 NCPs, ESIF managing authorities and key stakeholders in the covered themes interested in improving their knowledge in the field of synergies between ESIF and Horizon 2020.

Venue

CSIC Office in Brussels, Rue du Trône 62

Contact information

Eskarne.ARREGUI-
PABOLLET@ec.europa.eu

National S2E Events

- **A better understanding of the national innovation ecosystem**
- **Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies**
- **Sharing experiences in combining different EU funds**

Cyprus (September 2016)

Bulgaria (July 2016)

Romania (June 2016)

Hungary (May 2016)

Poland (April 2016)

Slovenia (April 2016)

Estonia (March 2016)

Czech Republic (March 2016)

Lithuania (October 2015)

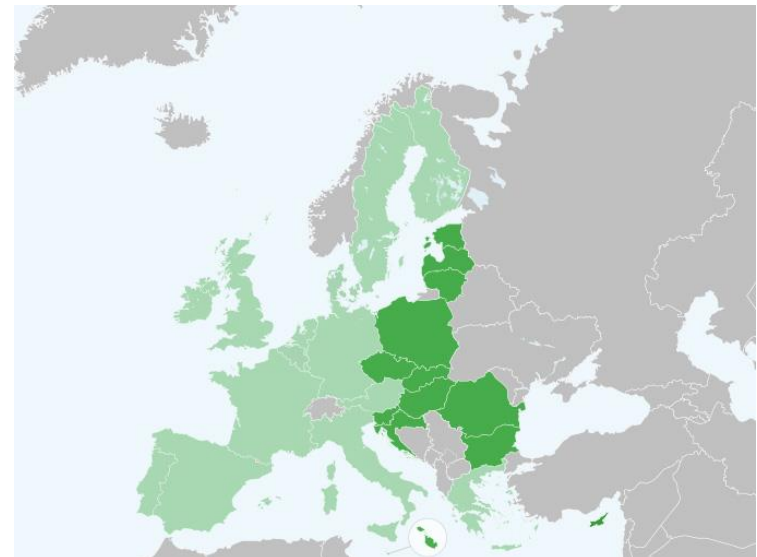
Malta (July 2015)

Slovakia (June 2015)

Latvia (April 2015)

Croatia (March 2015)

Events open to national and regional MAs, NCPs, national authorities in charge of RIS3, selected experts and representatives from business and research organisations.



Stairway to Excellence (S2E): Achievements

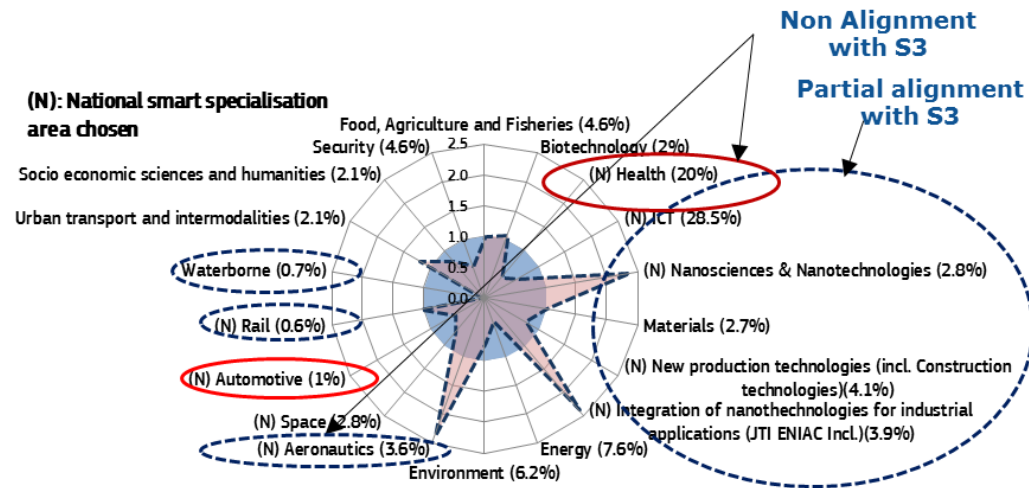
Launched in 2014 to support EU13 MSs and regions to develop and exploit synergies between EU funding.

- **Policy Insights** - #1 on "Lessons Learnt from S2E National Events" & #2 on "EU13 Participation in International Science"
- **National Policy Events & Joint Statements** – main challenges and possible actions in each EU13 MS
- **National and Regional "Facts and Figures" & "Country Reports"** of all **EU13 MSs** - empirical facts and R&I ecosystems
- **25 Synergy Examples** - cases of combined funding
- **R&I Regional Viewer** - visualise main economic and R&I indicators

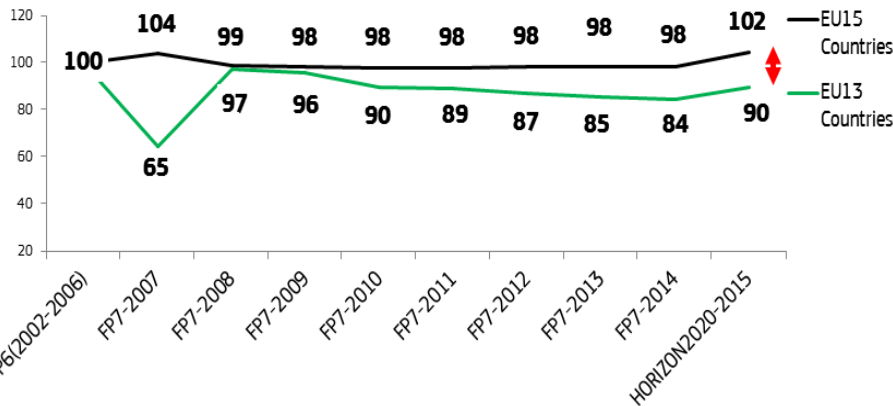


S2E evidence for a better implementation of RIS3 strategies

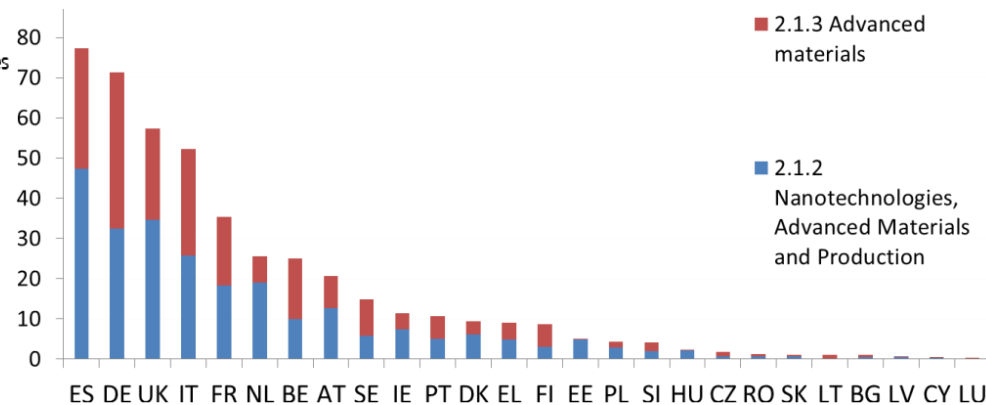
R&I themes in FP7/H2020 & Alignment with RIS3 strategies (case of Czech republic in the FP7)



EU FP/H2020 trends of Budget share from FP6 to H2020 (FP6=base 100)



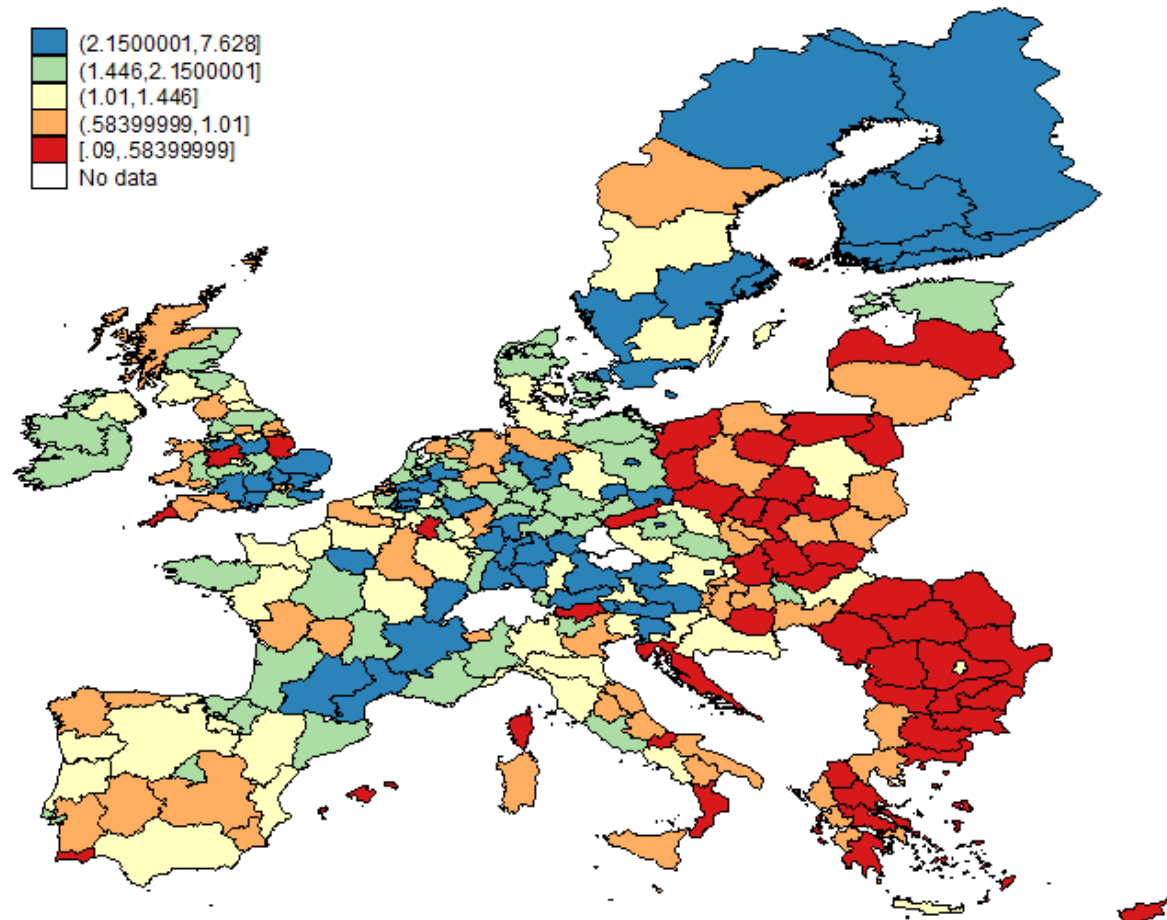
Leaders in FP7/H2020 themes (case of Nanotechnologies in H2020)





European
Commission

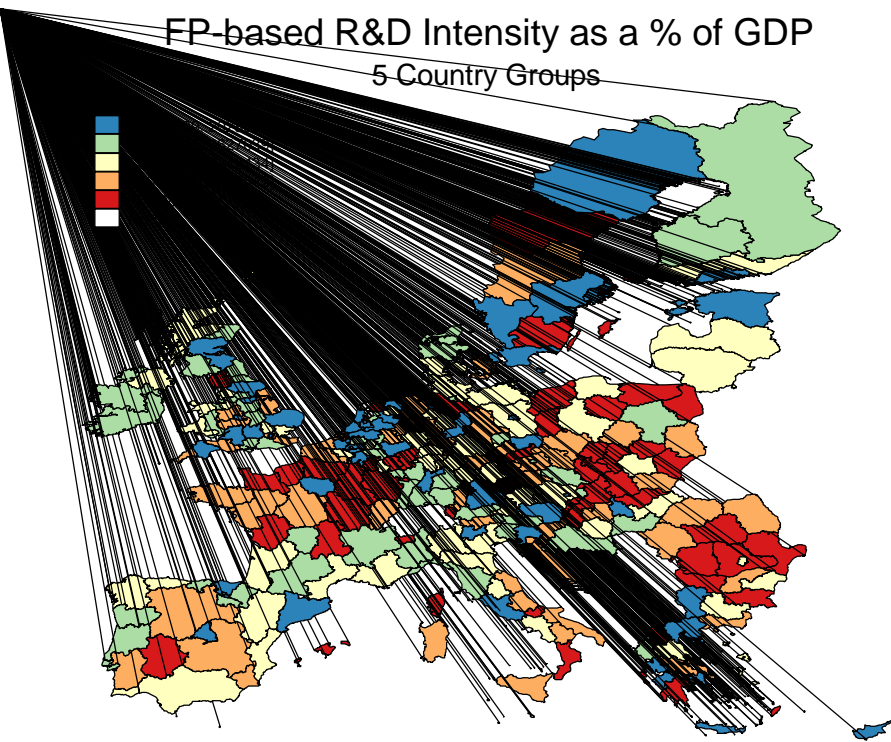
Regional R&D Intensity as a % of GDP 5 Country Groups



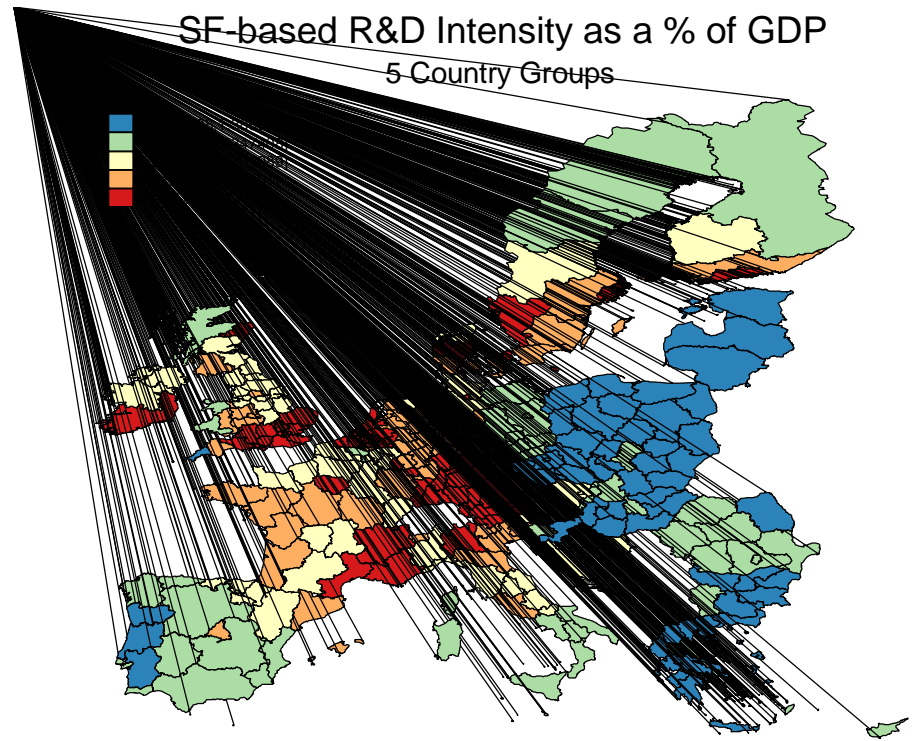
Source: JRC/IPTS



Funding Distribution of 7th FP and SFs



Source: JRC/IPTS



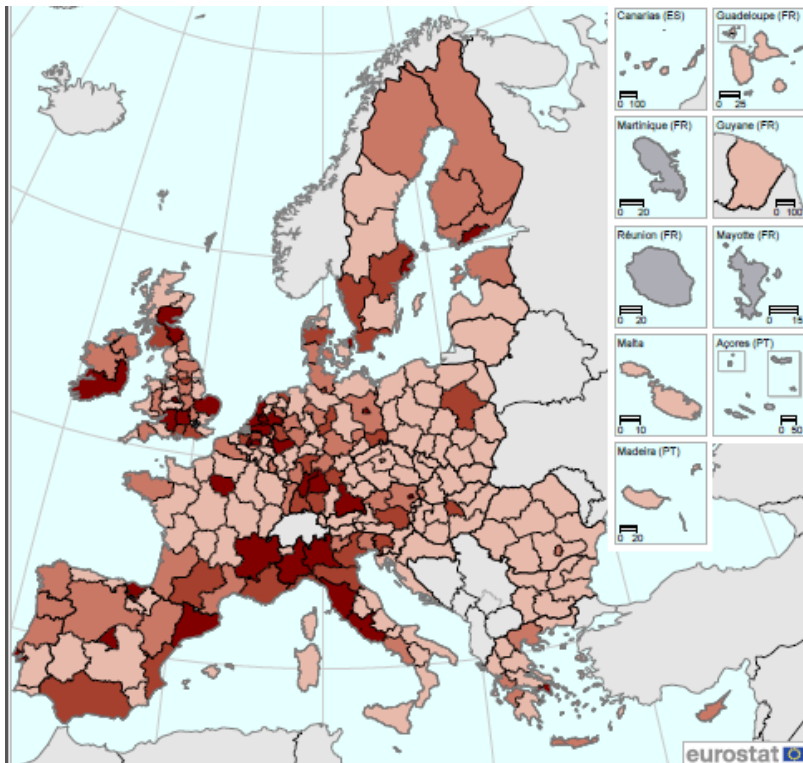
Source: JRC/IPTS



European
Commission

EU Regions in Horizon 2020 (oct 2016)

Innovation Divide in Europe



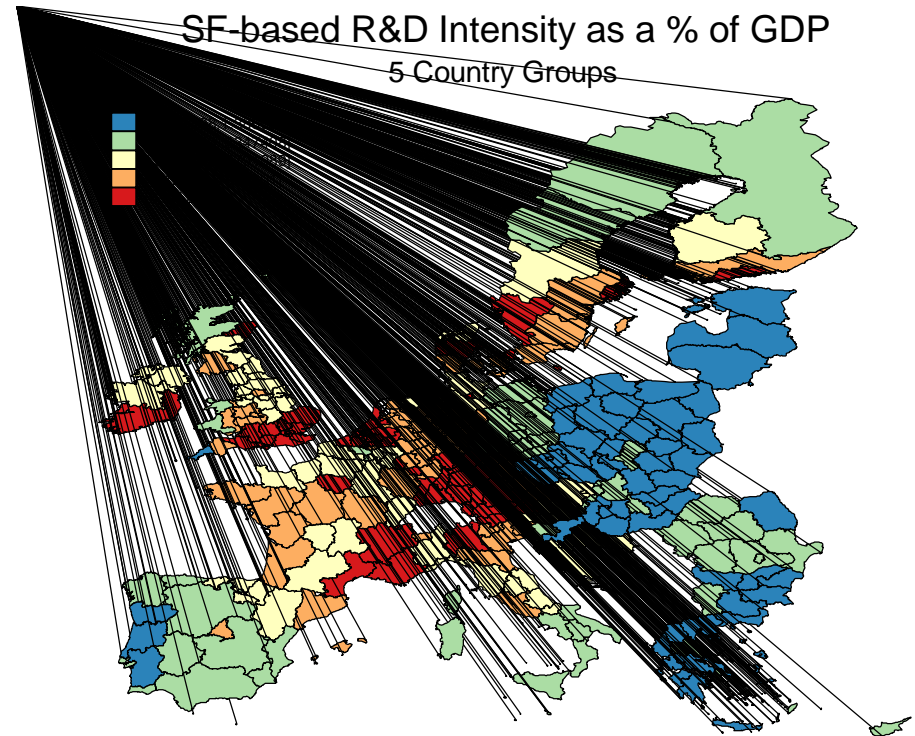
Default subtitle2

Administrative Boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turktsta
Cartography: Eurostat — IMAGE, 23/02/2017

Legend:

- <= 43950597
- 43950597 – 162506689
- 162506689 – 451337297
- > 451337297
- Data not available

0 200 400 600 800 km

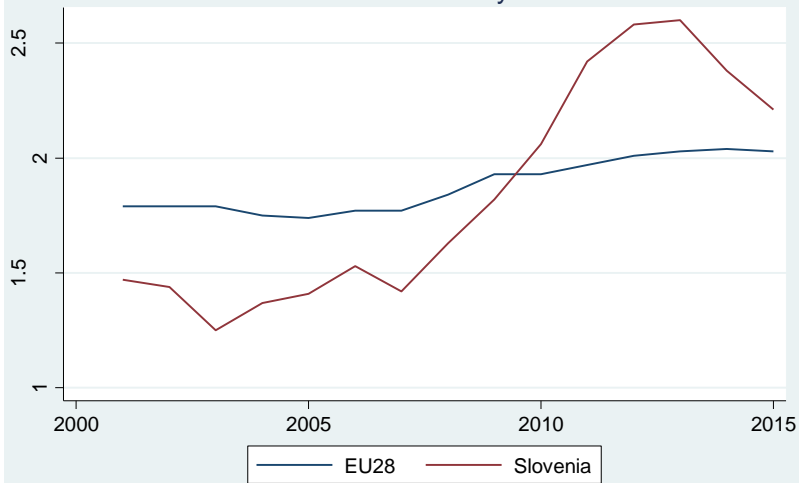


Source: JRC/IPTS



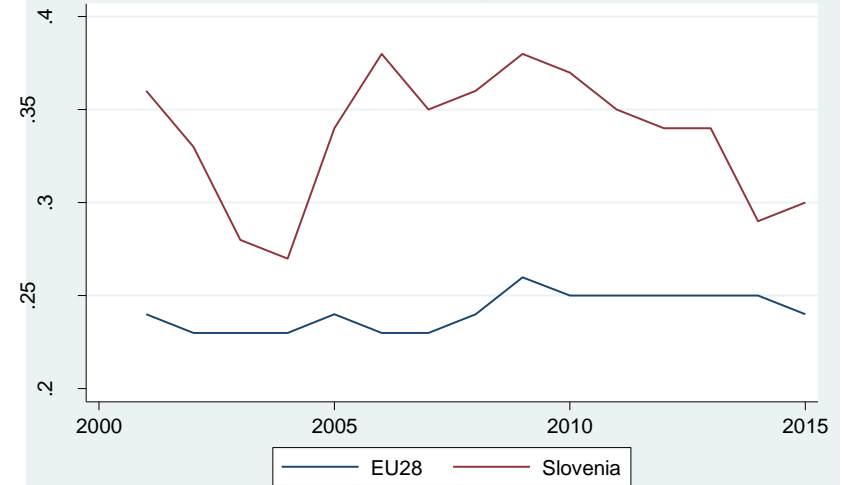
European
Commission

R&D Intensity



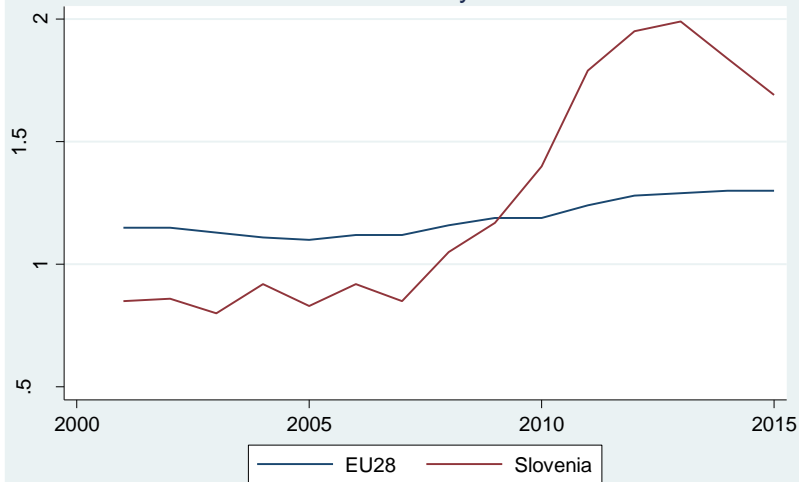
Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Intensity - GOV



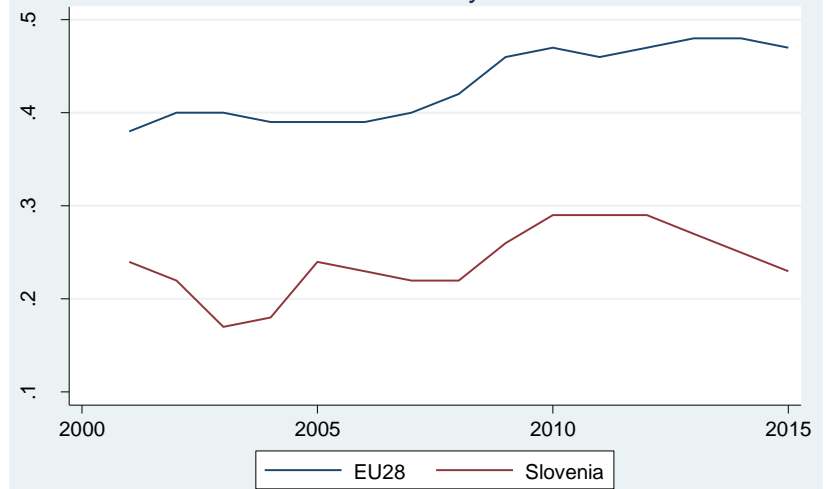
Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Intensity - BEs



Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Intensity - HEs

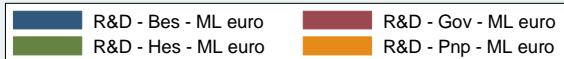
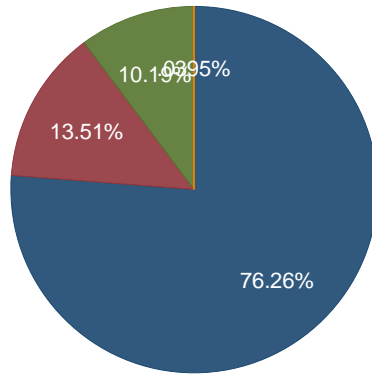


Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data



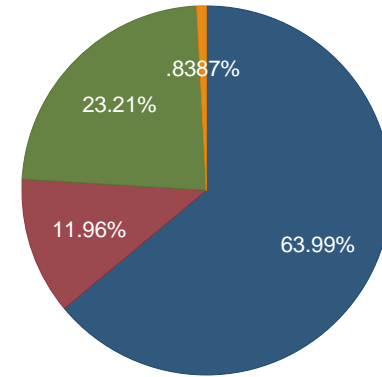
European
Commission

R&D Investment - Performance - Slovenia 2015



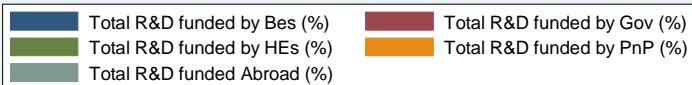
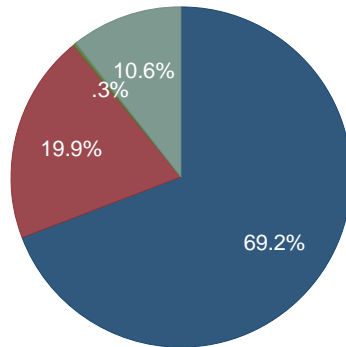
Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Investment - Performance - EU28 2015



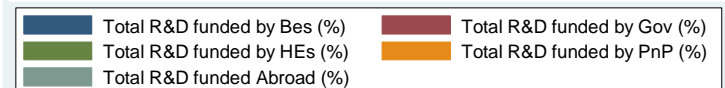
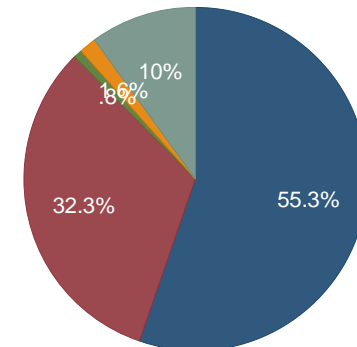
Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Investment - Funding - Slovenia 2015



Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

R&D Investment - Funding - EU28 2014

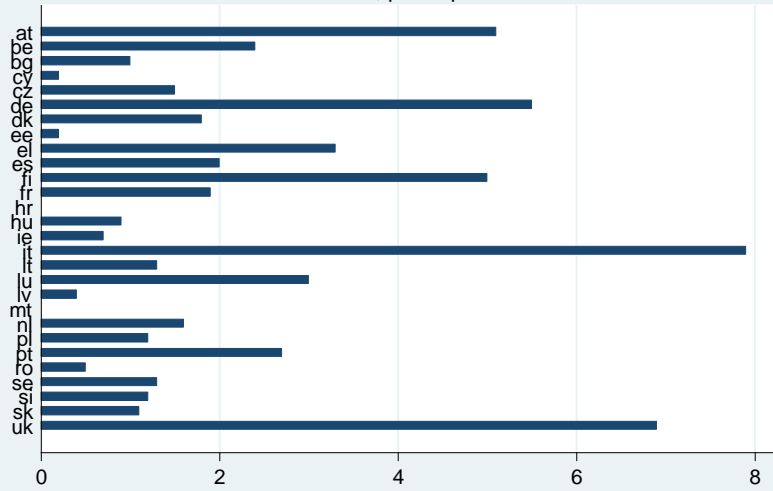


Source: JRC Calculations based on ESTAT data

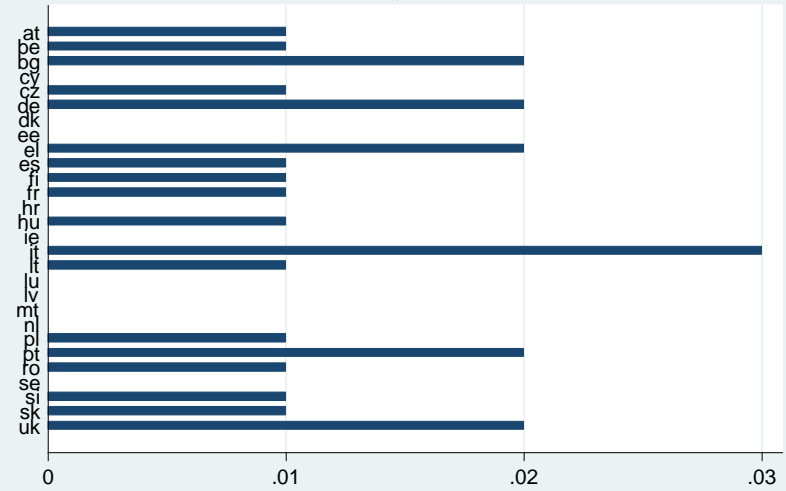


European
Commission

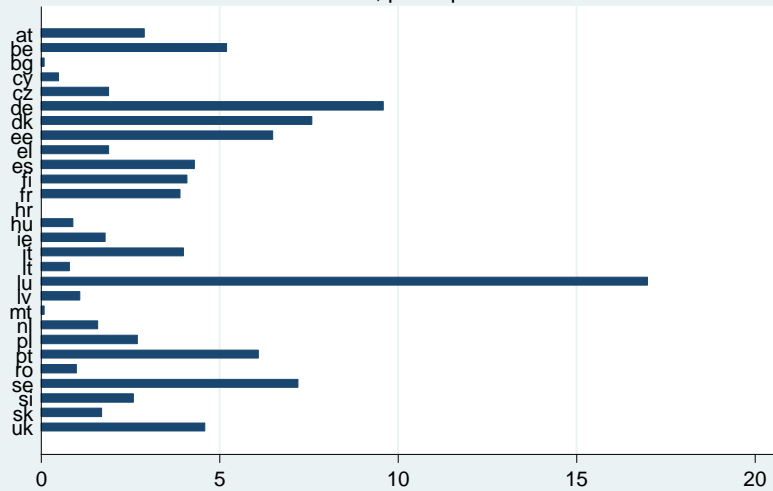
GBAORD - Exploration and exploitation of the earth
2014, per capita



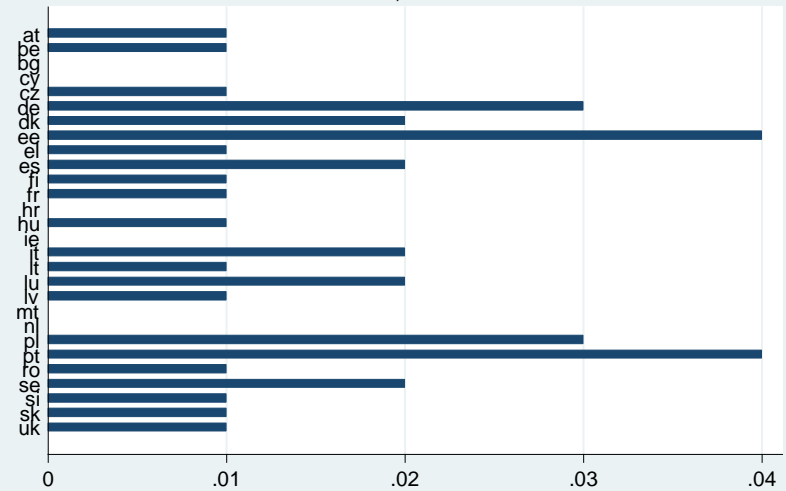
GBAORD - Exploration and exploitation of the earth
2014, % GDP

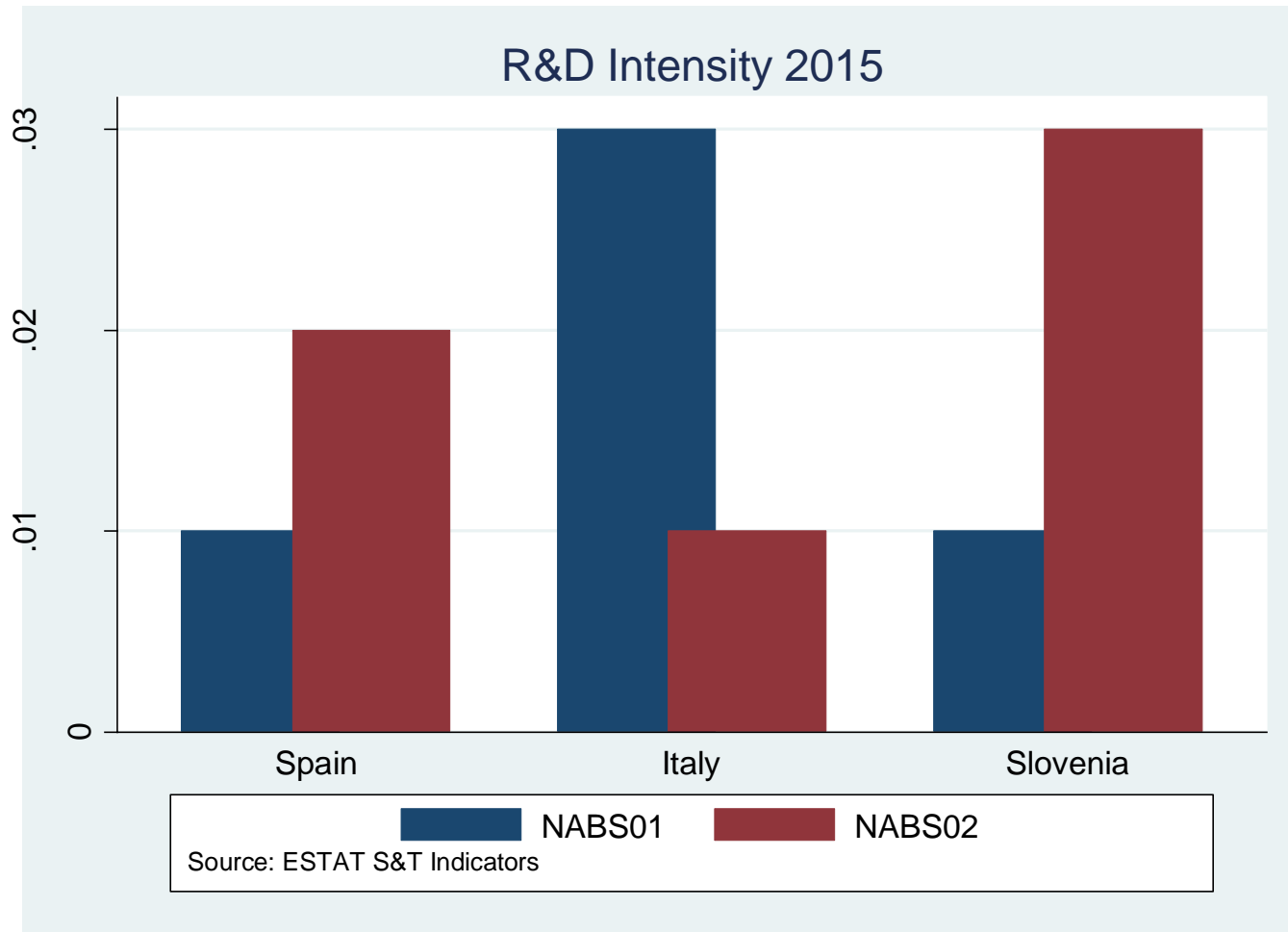


GBAORD - Environment
2014, per capita



GBAORD - Environment
2014, % GDP





Mapping regional competences- priorities



Mapping competences and matching priorities of regions



Figure 1: Regions with MNE priorities (Jan-15)

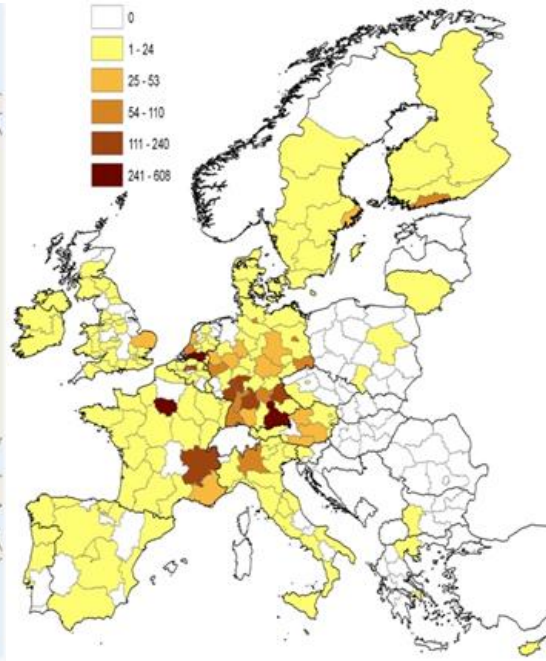


Figure 2: Regions with MNE-related patents

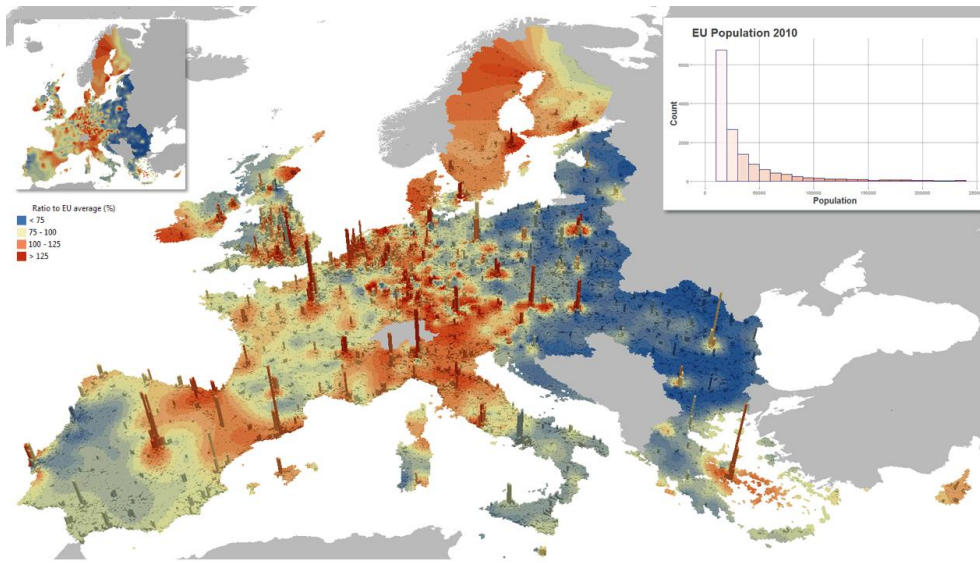
- Identifying regions with similar priorities
- Identifying regions leading the development of specific technologies- Focus on KETs

TOP 10 PHOTONICS			Top 10 MNE		
NUTS2 code	Region	# of Patents	NUTS2 code	Region	# of Patents
NL41	Noord-Brabant	370	FR10	Île de France	608
FR10	Île de France	329	NL41	Noord-Brabant	420
DE21	Oberbayern	267	DE21	Oberbayern	354
DE60	Hamburg	104	DE23	Oberpfalz	240
DEA5	Arnsberg	96	DE11	Stuttgart	221
DE23	Oberpfalz	92	FR71	Rhône-Alpes	208
AT34	Vorarlberg	91	DE71	Darmstadt	157
ITC4	Lombardia	77	BE24	Prov. Vlaams Brabant	150
NL33	Zuid-Holland	72	DEB3	Rheinessen-Pfalz	147
DE11	Stuttgart	69	DEA2	Köln	110
Total top 10		1567	Total top 10		2615
Total Europe		3039	Total Europe		4712
% Top 10		0.52	% Top 10		0.55

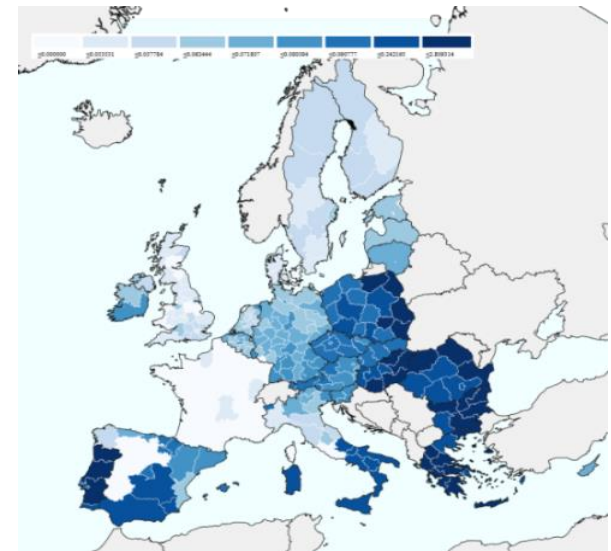
Our support to the High-Level Expert group on Key Enabling Technologies

Integrated Territorial Modelling

RHOMOLO and ***LUIZA*** are analytical instruments to capture territorial and economy-wide effects of investments and reforms.



GDP and Demographic trends (Reference)



GDP impacts by 2023



European
Commission

S2E Web

S3 Targeted Support

[RIS3 in REMTh](#)

[Rural Innovation](#)

Stairway to Excellence

[What is Stairway to](#)

[Excellence](#)

[National Events](#)

[Country & Region](#)

[Information](#)

[Synergies Examples](#)

[Instruments, Platforms &](#)

[Concepts](#)

[Relevant Initiatives](#)

[Reference Documents](#)

[FAQ on S2E](#)

Latest News

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION

S3 Targeted Support

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION to
forthcoming S2E events

Latest S2E activity

S3 Targeted Support

Latest publications available on-line

UPCOMING S2E National Events

Stairway to Excellence

What is Stairway to Excellence

The 'Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds: the STAIRWAY TO EXCELLENCE (S2E)' project was launched in 2014 within the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P).

The **Stairway to Excellence (S2E)** project aims to support [EU13 regions and countries](#) in developing and exploiting the synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Horizon 2020 (H2020) and other EU funding programmes and:

- Assist them in closing the innovation gap, in order to promote excellence in all regions and EU countries;
- Stimulate the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

[Activities of S2E](#)

[Background for the Project](#)

National Events

[National Events](#) are being organized in [EU13 Members States](#) to:

- Ease understanding of national and regional innovation ecosystems
- Raise awareness to enable synergies between EU funding programmes
- Share experiences in combining Structural Funds and Framework Programme to improve excellence
- Draw lessons for the future and identify follow-up actions to enhance potential synergies

Country & Region Information

Quantitative and Qualitative information are produced for [EU13 regions and countries](#):

- [National and Regional Fact & Figures](#) aim to draw the European profile of a country/ region with statistical and financial information coming from the EU's 7th Framework Programme and Structural Funds dedicated to research and innovation.
- [S2E Country Reports](#) provide further analysis on selected policy issues that affect optimal use and the combination of key EU funds for R&I and offer country-tailored policy suggestions aiming to tackle the weaknesses identified in the analysis.



BG HR CY CZ EE HU LV LT MT PL RO SK SI

S3 Targeted Support

S2E organizes National Events in all EU13 Member States

Related Links

Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P) [HomePage](#), and specifically:

- S3 Platform Membership Registered Countries and Regions

- Eye@RIS3

- [Eye@RIS3 Specialisation Mapping](#)

- [Guides related to aspects of the S3](#)

[DG REGIO HomePage](#)

Contacts

Contact the [S2E email box](#)

Know the [S2E Team members](#)

More Specific contacts are available for the respective [registered Member States on S3P](#), for instance:

- [H2020 National Contact Points](#)

- [European Enterprise Network branches](#)

Synergies examples

[Synergies examples](#) are provided in which SF/ ESIF and FP7/ H2020 funds have been combined in order to amplify the R&I investments and their impact, using different forms of innovation and competitiveness support, or carrying innovative ideas further along the innovation cycle or value chain to bring them to the market.

Instruments, Platforms & Concepts

Fiches are being made available on a selection of [European instruments/ platforms/ concepts](#) that can be considered as facilitators especially for "downstream activities", to exploit and diffuse results from earlier programming period (FP7) and current one (H2020), and as key elements in monitoring the implementation of synergies in their various forms.

Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms

Beyond the Reference Documents (below) and Related Links (left), there are a number of [Relevant Initiatives, Projects and Platforms](#) for Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds.

Reference Documents

We gather [Reference Documents](#) relevant to Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds, including guidance for Policy-Makers, Implementing Bodies and Beneficiaries of EU Funds and instruments issued by the European Commission or other bodies.

FAQ

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) relate to practical application of the Guidance on synergies between ESIF, Horizon2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes.

A [list of acronyms](#) is also available.

Events

Publications

Thank you!



<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/stairway-to-excellence>

andrea.conte@ec.europa.eu

JRC-IPTS-S2E@ec.europa.eu