



European Committee  
of the Regions

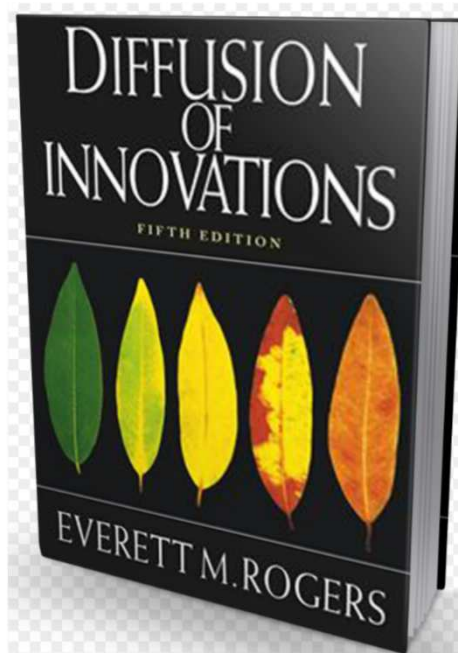


**DRAFT OPINION**

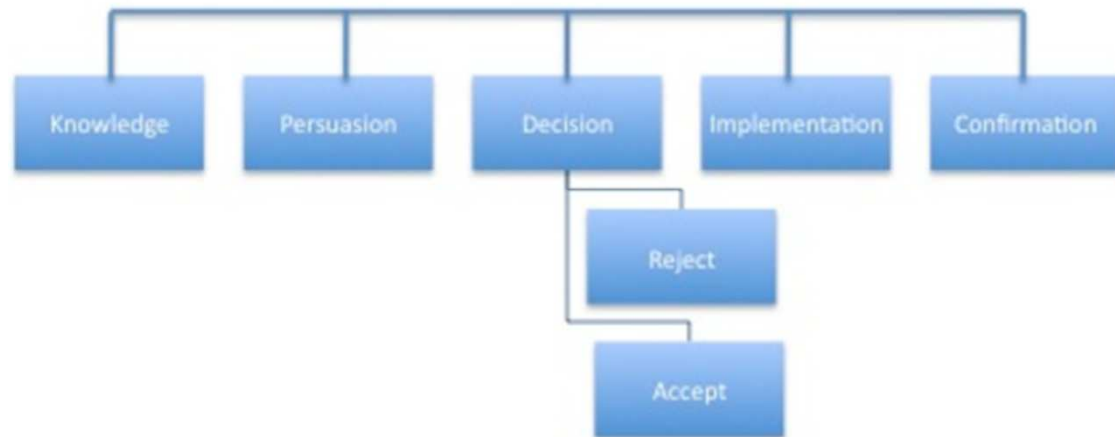
# **Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3): impact for regions and inter- regional cooperation**

**122nd plenary session, 22-23 March 2017**

# Smart specialisation – CoR draft opinion



## Five Stages in the Decision Innovation Process



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:DoI\\_Stages.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:DoI_Stages.jpg)

# Smart specialisation – CoR draft opinion

## Implementing the Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3)

- Participation of **all levels of governance** - state, regional, subregional and/or local - must be ensured / “Entrepreneurial Discovery Process”, backed by a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches, in which **citizenship** should also be properly involved
- The RIS3 **monitoring mechanism** should be capable of identifying and monitoring planned changes in each RIS3 priority by means of proper selection of result indicators...but...
- Acknowledges the efforts made by the S3 Platform in terms of **technical assistance** and provision of instruments...but...
- RIS3 strategies should provide for setting up flexible, external organisations or structures to support governments in building the **capacities** of local and regional authorities.
- ...**participatory process often remains inadequate**. Calls therefore on the Commission to encourage relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local level to ensure effective compliance with this legal provision.
- ...Regrets that there is **no single focus for monitoring and evaluation** in terms of drawing up a specific group of joint indicators for all regions.
- ...although the **lack of a common regulatory framework** means there is a risk of lack of harmonisation in the implementation and monitoring of RIS3
- ...support ...carried out by the **S3 Platform** to be **extremely useful, but insufficient**, believing that each local and regional authority must be enabled to build its internal regional capacities, including RIS3 implementation, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.

# Smart specialisation – CoR draft opinion

## Synergies between the European Structural and Investment Funds and other programmes

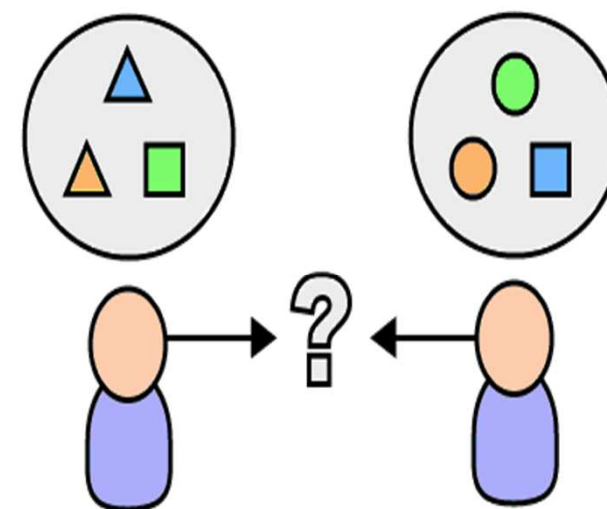
- the foundation on which the RIS3 are based goes further than efficient use of the Structural Funds, the aim being to generate **synergies between regional innovation and development policies and financial instruments, in order to prevent duplication**
- This process is however being hampered by its **regulatory complexity**.
- The search for synergies must also extend to other EU policies and the relevant intervention mechanisms;
- important to encourage **training programmes**, especially in regions with limited experience in this area, highlighting sectoral success stories that can be used as benchmarks for other regions
- any success will depend on smooth links between the different **levels of governance** - EU, state, regional and, where appropriate, local - and on coordination between the **management authorities** and the **national contact points**, amongst others

# Smart specialisation – CoR draft opinion

## Facilitating interregional cooperation and creation of value chains

- emphasises that **creating critical mass** at territorial level is essential if the EU and its industries are to be competitive on a global scale.
- Considers that the local and regional authorities are the appropriate location for addressing **innovative ecosystems**, forging the necessary links between EU policies, industry, research centres, higher education institutions and citizens
- considers that it is crucial to have sufficient information and coordination capacity, the ideal outcome of which would be a fully-fledged, **coherent system of complementarities**, removing inefficiencies arising from duplication and simple imitation
- interregional cooperation will generate synergies between economic activities and resources that have already been defined in the regions in such a way as to be **better harness potential and prevent duplication** in investment, by using structural funds
- ...there are substantial **barriers that hinder interregional cooperation**, such as:
  - lack of resources or administrative capacity,
  - absence of examples of best practice,
  - uncertainty about how to carry it out,
  - lack of a reference and methodological framework,
  - vagueness about objectives,
  - asymmetric levels of political competence,
  - regulatory barriers and the absence of a financial framework to facilitate such work

## S3 & interregional cooperation – S3 eta eskualdeen arteko lankidetzaz





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***“Navarre shall be the wonder of  
the world”***

**W. Shakespeare, Loves Labours Lost (Scene I)**