

# Joint Research Centre

the European Commission's in-house science service

*Serving society  
Stimulating innovation  
Supporting legislation*

## Introduction to the Smart Specialisation Process and the S3 Platform

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Smart Specialisation Platform

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[www.ec.europa.eu/jrc](http://www.ec.europa.eu/jrc)





## R&I Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) = **Economic Transformation Agendas**

aiming at using inspired R&I for producing competitive economic return and lasting welfare for the society!

**NOT ONLY FOR THE BEST!** as innovation is multi-dimensional & includes basic inventions or development of applications → at minimum RIS3 transform less-advanced regions into good followers! Regions need to seek the concentration of resources and do it in original and rather unique area of knowledge expertise!

Source: D.Foray 12/2011

# RIS3 towards novelties...

## ***Building on the past (RIS)...***

- *Widespread experience of national/regional innovation strategies in the framework of the EU research & innovation + cohesion policies*
- *Achieved greater co-operation among private and public stakeholders and better communication between technology providers and clients*

## ***but also...Breaking from the past!***

- *Lack of international and trans-regional perspective*
- *Not in tune with the industrial and economic fabric of the region*
- *Too narrow vision of innovation*
- *Picking the winner syndrome*
- *Just copying the best performing regions*

# What is **Smart Specialisation?**

## **S3** the policy concept

- Promote **inclusive and sustainable growth**
- **Place-based policy:**
  - Valorise existing assets and local specificities
  - Mobilise local economic players as the main actors of economic change
- Based on transparent **selection of economic activities** with high transformative potential for the economy

## **RIS3** the strategy

- National or regional **agenda for economic transformation**
- **Coordinate financial and entrepreneurial resources** to support the selected economic activities
- Define **governance and monitoring mechanisms**



# Main Design Principles for RIS3

- 1. ANALYSIS:** discovery of the socio-economic and innovation engines of regional growth, competitive advantages & weaknesses
- 2. MAKE CHOICES:** identify a limited set of priorities for development where to concentrate investment
- 3. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT:** setting priorities should be an inclusive and interactive process centred on *entrepreneurial discovery*
- 4. BROAD VIEW OF INNOVATION:** support technological as well as practice-based and social innovation
- 5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:** feeding back information into the policy cycle and allowing strategy revision



## **RIS3 Guide of the European Commission**

With contributions of D. Foray, P. McCann, J. Goddard, K. Morgan, C. Nauwelaers

Available on the **S3 Platform webpage**  
<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

# Centrality of Entrepreneurial Discovery Process

## Priority-Identification Process:

- 1. Entrepreneurial actors in a broad sense:** all actors potentially holding some type of entrepreneurial knowledge, from businesses to research institutions and the public administration
- 2. Interactive process where *different* actors can meet:** become aware of potential for synergies and complementarities, or explore experimental ideas
- 3. Shielded environment where actors can disclose information:** both virtual and physical space
- 4. Non-hierarchical process:** stakeholders in this process stand on the same foot as the administration

*from the S3 Platform experience...*



Public authority will prioritise those activities that:

- (i) Have critical mass of entrepreneurial resources and capabilities
- (ii) Show commitment of stakeholders / entrepreneurs
- (iii) Are suitable to realize the strategic goals/meet the needs and challenges of the local economy and society

# Key steps for developing RIS3

*Step 1 – Analysis of regional/national context & potential*

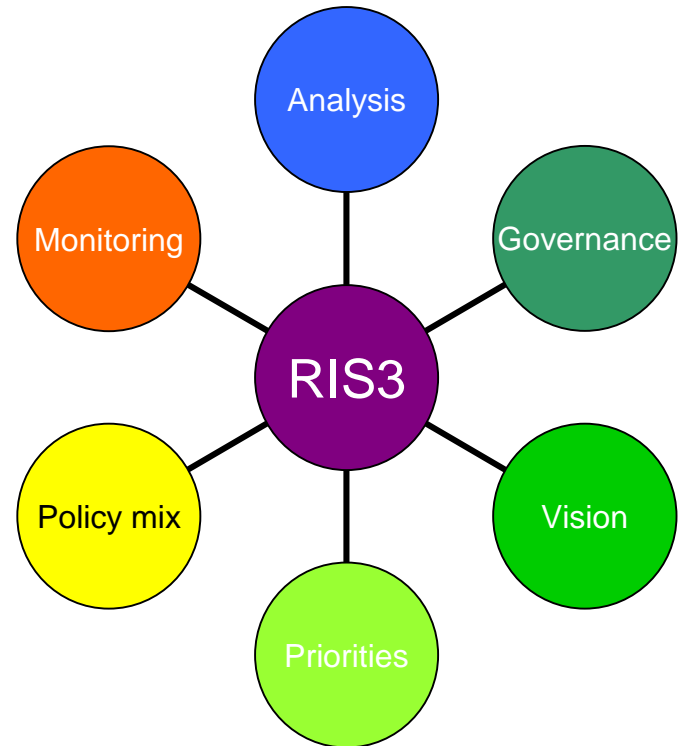
*Step 2 – Governance*

*Step 3 – Vision for the future*

*Step 4 – Identification of priorities*

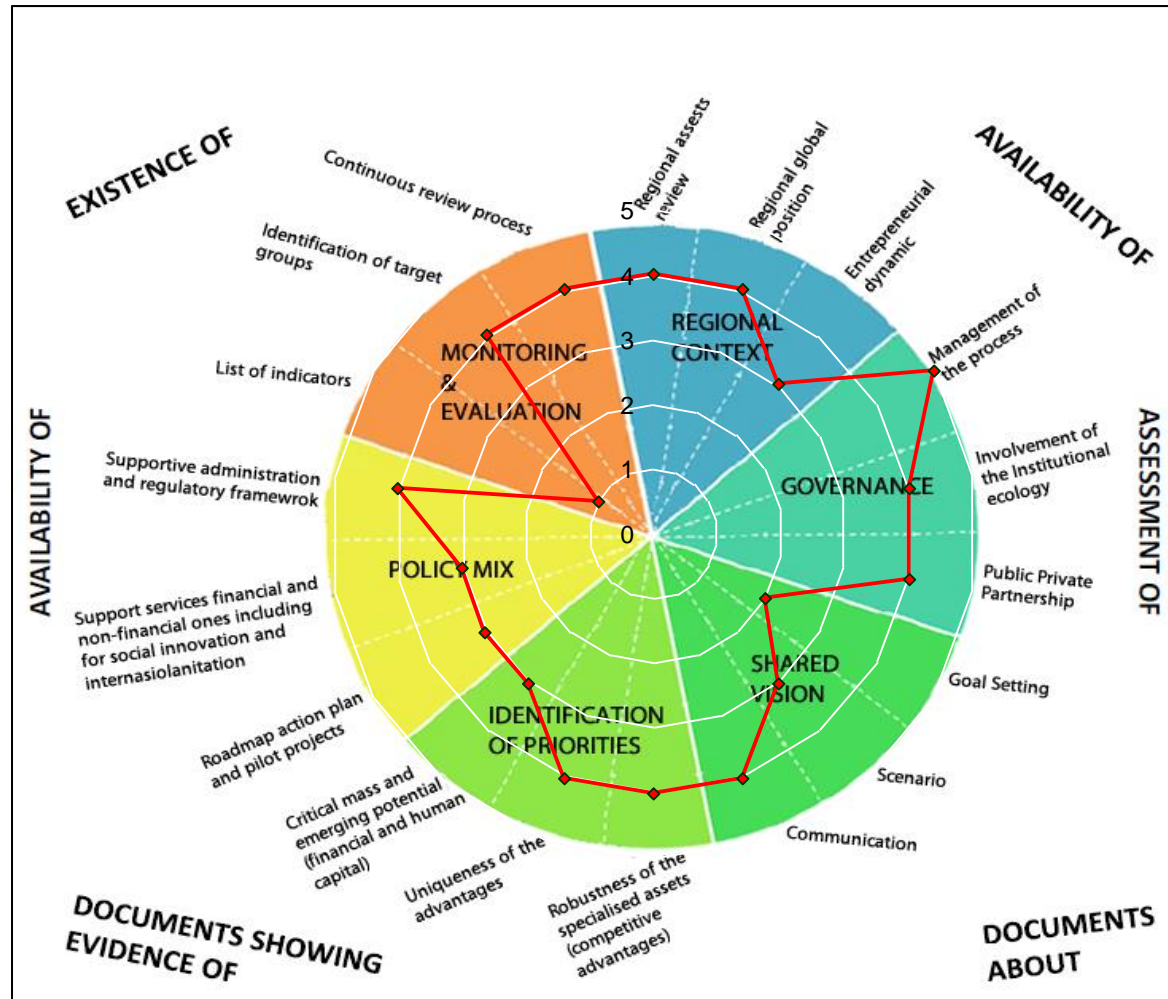
*Step 5 – Policy mix*

*Step 6 – Monitoring & evaluation*





# RIS3 Design vs. RIS3 Assessment







## Participatory process w/ Continuous Stakeholders' Engagement Quadruple Helix



**Business**

- Manufacturing and services
- Primary sectors
- Financial sector
- Creative industries
- Enterprises (large and SMEs)
- Clusters and organisations

**Research and Education**



- Public and private research bodies
- Universities
- Education and training
- VET centres
- Science and technology parks
- Technology transfer offices



**Public administration**

- Different government levels
- Energy and innovation agencies
- Regional development agencies
- Business advice offices
- Public procurement departments
- Public incubators

**Civil society/ Users**



- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Citizens' initiatives
- Societal challenges
- Cooperative innovative solutions
- Consumers associations
- Talents

**Entrepreneurial discovery.**

The process of systematically scanning for technological, political and regulatory, social, and demographic changes to discover opportunities to produce new good and services

**Entrepreneurial in composition & spirit:**  
risk-taking, broader view beyond boundaries ...

# Smart Specialisation Platform



Created in 2011 to provide **science-based** professional advice to EU national and regional policy-makers for the establishment and implementation of their Research & Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (**RIS3**), make **better use** of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and thus **contribute to the Europe 2020** goals.

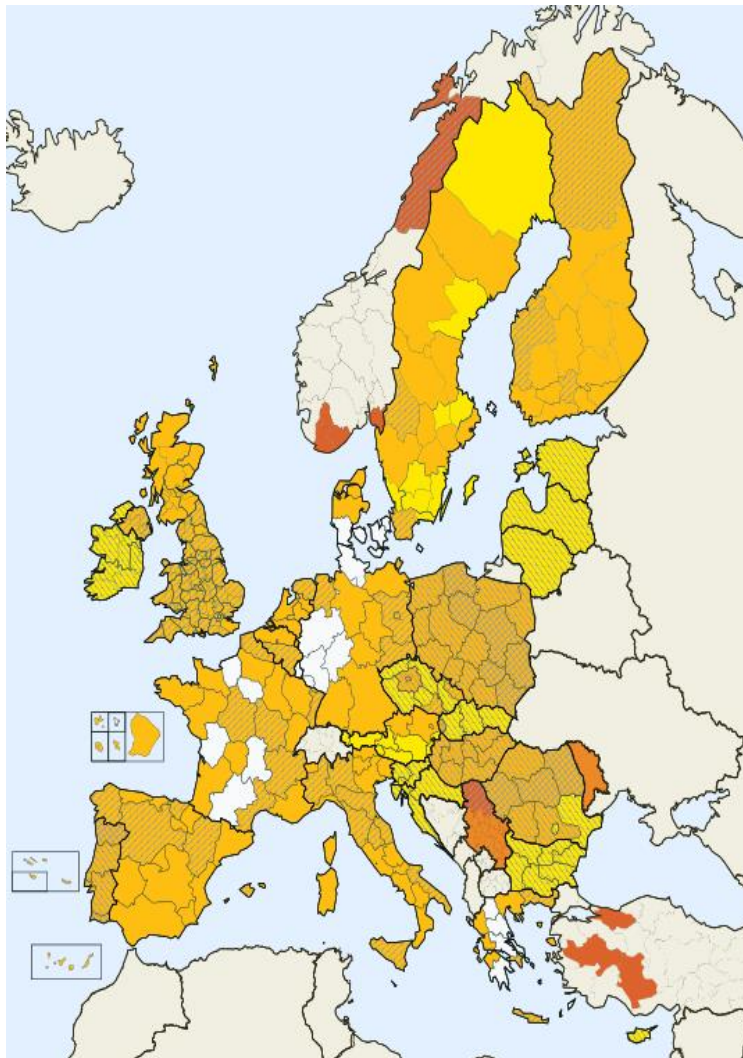
## *A privileged perspective to bridge the communities:*

*Outside the Commission* - Support to countries / regions developing and implementing their RIS3 and to their "triple/quadruple helix" partnerships

*Inside the Commission* - Support to DG REGIO and other policy DGs

*In the scientific community* - Contribution to the conceptual and methodological debate around smart specialisation

# Smart Specialisation Platform



## Key Data:

**Wide membership:** 177 regions + 20 countries

- Open to the Non-EU regions/countries (8 Non-EU regions and 2 Non-EU countries registered so far!) – **UA invited!**

Strong endorsement by national/regional policy makers: average 4.5/5 **satisfaction rankings** (86% rankings at least 4/5; 100% at least 3/5)

High **“loyalty rate”**: > 50% of regions attending workshops come back

Strong **political endorsement** at EU level:

**EC** (Hahn, Cretu), **EP** (Winkler, Buzek, Van Nistelrooij), **Council** (Van Rompuy, Tusk), **CoR** (Markkula)

# Main activities of the S3 Platform

**Support to lagging regions & Synergies ESIF-H2020 "Stairway to excellence"**

**S3 Knowledge Base: Guidance and Analysis, RIS3 Guide, DA Toolbox, S3 publications, S3 Seminar Series on Territorial Development**

**S3 Website & Newsletters**

**Trans-national focus Peer Reviews (in total 75 regions/countries)**

**S3 Interactive web tools**

**Peer eXchange & Learning Thematic focus on actors, process, common features and priorities**

**RIS3 assessment and support to REGIO desks**

**Support to the EU Macro-Regional Strategies & Alignment of innovation roadmaps**

**Focused approach on Value Chains - Thematic S3 Platforms: Energy, Agro-Food, Industrial Modernisation, Digital Growth...**



# S3P support to the Danube Macro-Regional Cooperation



- S3P registration:

**177 regions** (23 MS + 4 non-EU)

**18 MS + Serbia & Moldova**

- from **Danube:**

**23 regions** (6MS+RS)

**9 MS + RS & MD**

S3P peer-reviewed:

**60 regions + 15 MS**

- from **Danube:**

**8 regions**

**7 MS**

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home>

Source: S3 Platform, September 2016

# Smart Specialisation...

... as an **ex-ante conditionality** for the release of ERDF resources on Thematic Objective 1 (Research and Innovation)

TO1 directly linked to 40 B EUR + indirectly TOs 1-4 >110 B EUR

... as a **leverage** for additional funding (national/regional/PPP) supporting identified S3 value chains in countries/regions  
= up to 6 times more!

... as a **trigger for change** in innovation policies (& strategies) + in overall transparency and participatory policy making

... as an **influential pattern** for other public investment policies (e.g. application to other EU policies – enlargement + thematic objectives and other EU policies)

... S3 towards a **cross-cutting policy paradigm??**



REGIO, JRC & Spec.policy DGs

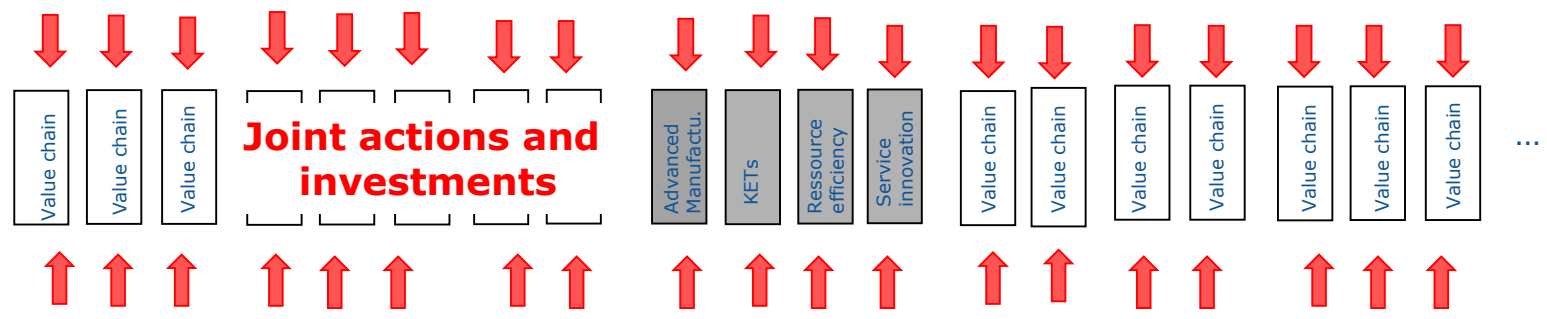
## S3 Strategic Developments - EU

Regional authorities

Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

**Energy**    Agro-Food    Digital Growth    **Industrial Modernisation**    (Health)    (Circular Economy)

Business

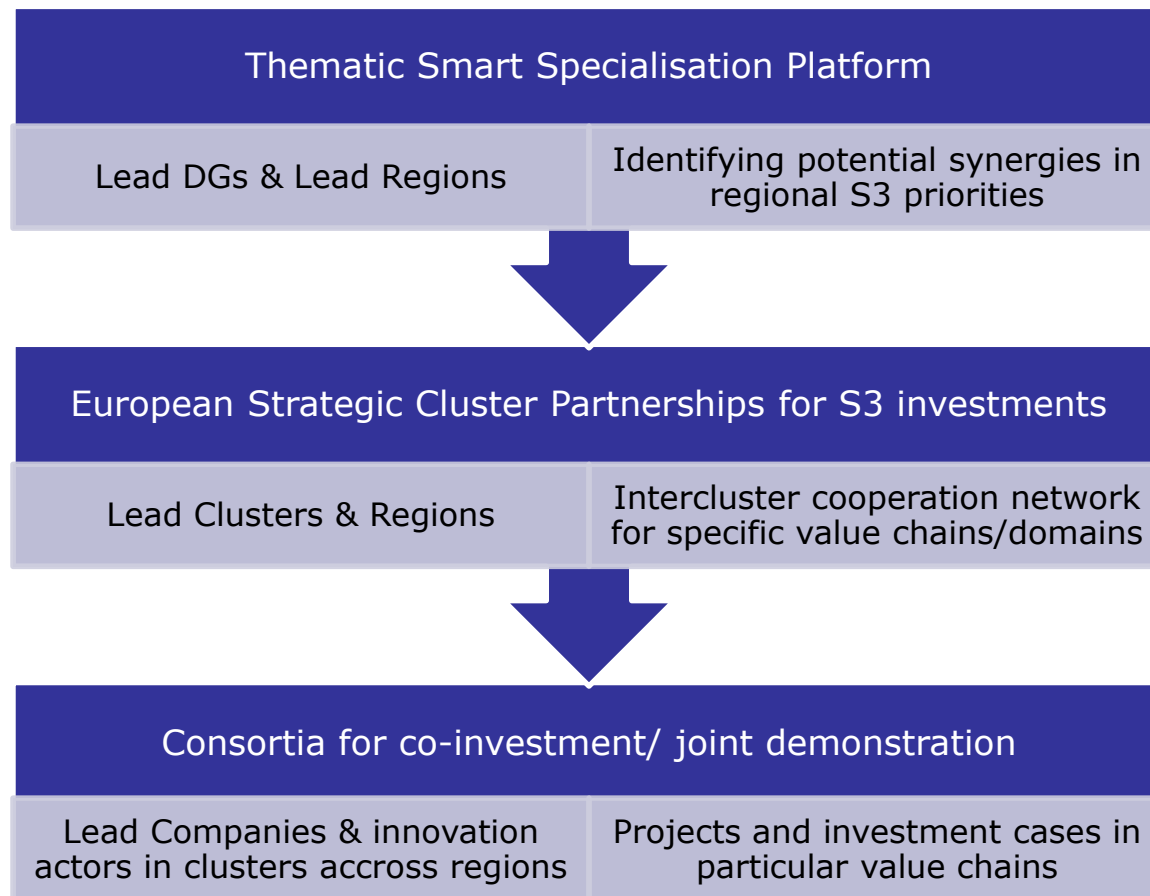


Cluster organisations

European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investment



# Three steps of the 'Entrepreneurial Discovery Process' at the EU-level



# Specific S3 Thematic Activities

## 1) Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3P-Energy)



**What?** The S3P-Energy is designed to deliver change by:

- **Improving trans-regional learning**
- **Enhancing policy coordination among existing resources:** at national, regional and local levels.
- **Improving cross-policy coordination:** Linking the innovation and energy 'worlds'.
  - *Funding:* support the optimal and effective uptake of the Cohesion Policy Funds for energy.
  - *S3:* Help implementation of smart specialisation priorities related to energy



**Why?** Energy is among the most popular priorities selected in smart specialisation strategies across Europe, **with over 2/3 of all EU territory choosing at least one energy-related priority.**

**S3P-Energy** integrates and profits from JRC's multidisciplinary competences in energy!



# Specific S3 Thematic Activities

## 2) Global value chains (GVC) in the context of smart specialisation

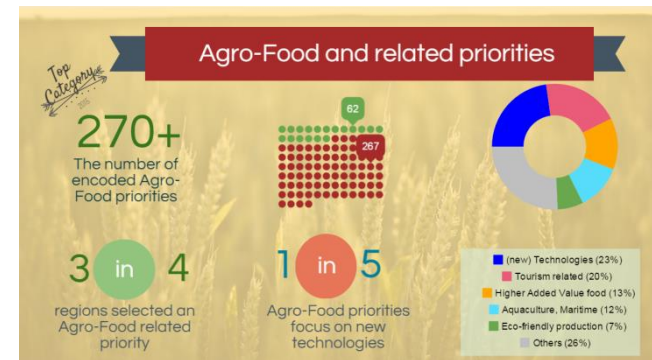
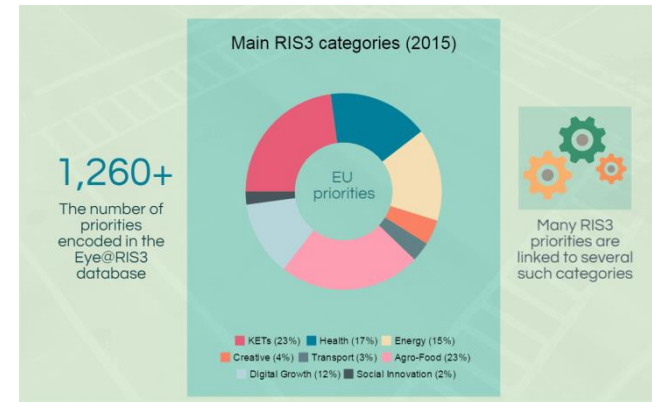
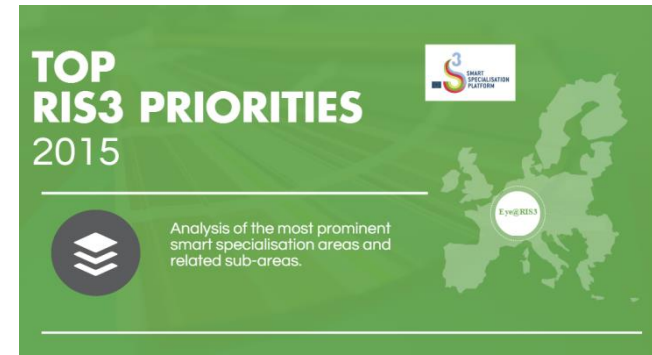
**What is it about?** The GVC aims at assisting regions in their efforts to facilitate the development of **new value chains through the interconnection of regional eco-systems** and their actors in quadruple helix in specific S3 investment areas.

**Why?** S3 is an engine for the development of European eco-systems that are necessary to gather critical mass for market breakthroughs.

**How?** Thematic S3 Platform provide **a multi-level support mechanism, combining efforts at regional, national and European level**, addressing in particular market and system failures that prevent breakthroughs, starting with information and coordination failures. The development of interregional collaboration is driven by opening-up regional smart specialisation strategies.



**Thematic S3 Platform on Agro-Food & Thematic S3 Platform on Industrial Modernisation!**



# JRC-IPTS Activities in Associated Countries

Danube

Danube-  
INCO.net

Scientific  
support  
to EUSDR

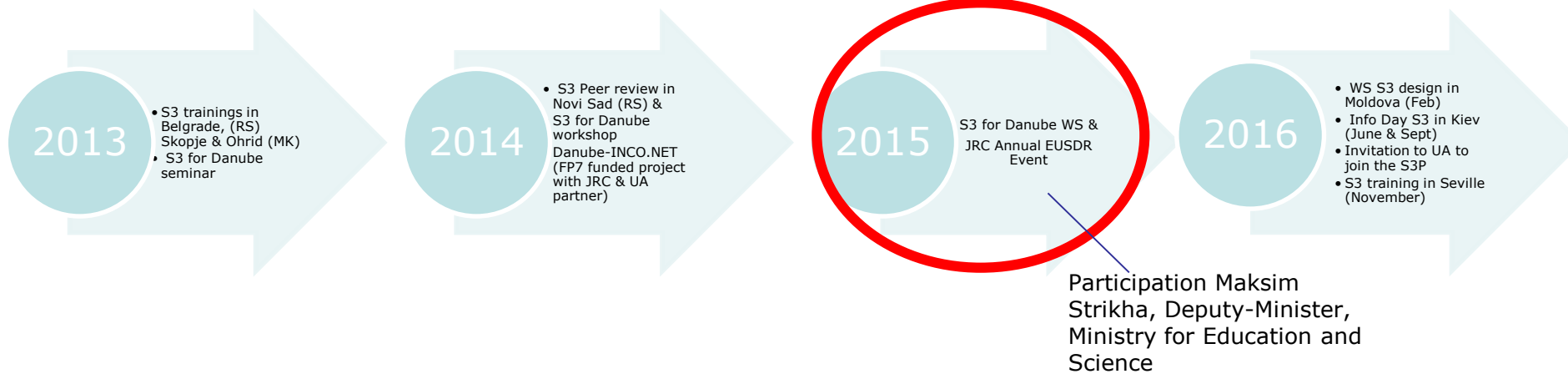
JRC  
E&I  
Action

Foresight  
training

Targeted  
support

# S3 Platform Supporting Activities to UA and Enlargement/Neighbourhood Countries related to Smart Specialisation (S3)

**S3 Platform through 'Smartly Specialised Danube' has been supporting transnational collaboration and mutual learning through S3 approach in the enlargement and neighbourhood countries since early 2013.**



## **S3 Beyond the EU...** growing interest in...

- Norway and Switzerland (at national & regional level)
- EU Candidate and Neighbourhood countries (Serbia, Turkey, Tunisia, Moldova, **Ukraine**,...)
- Latin America (Chile, Brazil, Peru, Mexico), Australia & South Africa

## **Collaboration JRC-Ukraine on the S3**

- JRC and the Commission support UA through active participation in S3 related projects (**FP7 Danube INCO.NET**) and through the JRC Enlargement & Integration Action (E&IA) S3 related activities.
- **JRC E&IA S3-support: Kick-off in 2016:**
  - Info days in target countries (**MD** 2/16; **UA** 9/16; **RS** 10/16)
  - Training seminar (7-9 Nov. 2016) & Immersion stay (10-11 Nov. 2016, Seville)
  - Policy roundtable at Open Evaluation Conference (Danube INCO.NET; 25 Nov. 2016, Vienna)
  - Set up of expert support (1 expert per country)
  - Possibly participation in EDP events of the lagging regions' project.



European Commission / Smart Specialisation Platform / Home

Home S3 Platform S3 Guidance S3 Sections S3 Tools News Events Knowledge Repository

### Invitation for Smart Interregional Cooperation in Energy

The S3PEnergy platform launches an open invitation to EU regions to cooperate on S3 priorities in the fields of Bioenergy, Sustainable Construction, Smart Grids and Marine Offshore

### What we can do for you

The Smart Specialisation Platform provides professional advice to EU countries and regions for the design and implementation of their research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3). Our services include:

- Provide guidance material and good practice examples
- Conduct high quality research projects to inform strategy formation and policy-making
- Facilitate peer-reviews and mutual learning
- Support access to relevant data
- Train policy-makers
- Organise information sessions for policy-makers and present at conferences

### S3 Tools

The Platform provides interactive tools that can help you in identifying key features of regions and their Smart Specialisation Strategies, such as the **CYC@RIS3** - an online tool showing the RIS3 priorities of regions/countries, the **S3P@vision** - a tool to search planned investments in European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) data (ERDF, CF, ESF and YEI), the **ICT Monitoring Tool** to search European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) data (ERDF, CF, ESF, YEI and EAFRD) on planned investments in the ICT, the **Regional Benchmarking** tool showing structural similarities of the EU regions and the tool presenting **Inter-regional trade flows**, as well as other **Data Sources** to benchmark the EU regions and Member States.

### S3 Tag Cloud

agri-food digital agenda and icl flash news funds global value chains innovation innovation strategies for smart specialisation (ris3) inter-regional collaboration roma1 s2c s3 balic s3 danube s3 energy s2 kota s2 smca s3 value chains smart specialisation synergies transnational collaboration value chains

### S3P Calendar

September 2016

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

### Event Highlights

- JRC Information Events in Kiev (UA)
  - 14 Sep 2016 - 15 Sep 2016
  - S3 Cooperation S3 Targeted Support
- Cyprus S2E Workshop
  - 22 Sep 2016
  - S3 Targeted Support
- Macro-Regional Innovation Week: At the crossroads of three European Macro-Regions: Danube, Adriatic-Ionian and Alpine
  - 24 Sep 2016 - 30 Sep 2016
  - S3 Actors S3 Cooperation S3 Governance
- 1st SMARTER Conference on Smart Specialisation and Territorial Development
  - 28 Sep 2016 - 30 Sep 2016
  - S3 Actors S3 Governance S3 Targeted Support
- Smart Specialisation in Energy and innovation in European Regions
  - 13 Oct 2016 - 14 Oct 2016
  - S3 Cooperation S3 Themes
- Kick-off Event of the Smart Specialisation Platform on Industrial Modernisation
  - 16 Nov 2016 - 17 Nov 2016
  - S3 Actors S3 Cooperation S3 Themes S3 Governance S3 Governance S3 Targeted Support

### Reports & Publications

- S3 Hub / S3 in Media
- RIO - Research & Innovation Observatory

### S3 Platform @S3Platform

Open invitation to EU regions to cooperate in common S3 energy priorities

#S3Platform #S3Energy #S3Platform

38 days

### S3 Platform @S3Platform

Report: "Opportunity Now: Europe's Mission to Innovate" now available

#S3Platform #S3Energy #S3Platform

65 days

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Stimulating innovation  
Supporting legislation*

## Thank you for your attention!



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