



Smart Specialisation and Energy Platform: Energy and innovation tendencies of European regions

13A116

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9:00-10:45

Organisers/leaders:

European Commission: DGs
REGIO, ENER and JRC

Chair/moderator:

Ales Gnamus,
Scientific Officer, Joint Research
Centre

Speakers:

Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of
Territorial Development Unit,
European Commission, Joint
Research Centre

Tudor Constantinescu,
Principal Advisor to the Director
General, European Commission,
DG ENER

Gergana Miladinova, Team
Leader Sustainable Growth,
European Commission, DG
REGIO

**Małgorzata Maria Klawiter-
Piwowska**, Office of the
Marshall of Pomorskie Region

Ilari Havukainen, Project
Manager, Regional Council of
Lapland

Joaquín Villar Rodríguez,
Head of Department,
Internationalisation and
Prospection, Andalusian Energy
Agency

Cristina Oyón, Head of
Strategic Initiatives at SPRI,
business development agency in
the Basque Country

More information links:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3p-energy>

Web streaming of the session

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Outline

The Smart Specialisation platform on Energy (S3PEnergy) is an EU-wide initiative that engages contributions of three different services of the European Commission: DGs REGIO, ENER and JRC. The main objective is to align energy innovation at national, regional and local levels with the EU priorities, as well as to assure an optimal uptake of EU Cohesion Funds for energy. Within Smart Specialisation Strategies to be implemented in the period 2014-2020, energy-related priorities are present in more than 2/3 of member states and regions.

The workshop highlighted how Smart Specialisation priorities on energy can contribute to the EU Cohesion and Energy policies. Latest activities of the S3PEnergy were also presented including the creation of interregional cooperation partnerships on bioenergy, smart-grids, marine renewable energy and sustainable construction. Accordingly, the regions of Lapland (FI), Pomorskie (PO), Basque Country and Andalusia (ES) presented their state of play in these topics.

Main messages and conclusions

Alessandro Rainoldi emphasised the role of S3PEnergy to promote inter-regional cooperation leading to a better implementation of S3 energy-related priorities. **Tudor Constantinescu** pointed out that energy efficiency will have to be a priority and that the share of renewable energy in EU will increase in all possible scenarios by 2050. Technology mix is a key aspect for smart specialisation in energy as new technologies can come to the picture, and distributed generation and energy storage are becoming a reality. **Gergana Miladinova** highlighted that "energy" is one of the winners of the Cohesion Policy reform: *before there was a maximum possibility to finance energy efficiency; now there is a minimum obligation to finance low-carbon economy*. Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms promote regional development discussions focusing on regional/national priorities in international value chains. Interregional cooperation is a driver for S3 implementation. **Małgorzata Maria Klawiter-Piwowska** indicated that eco-effective technologies in the generation, transmission, distribution and consumption of energy and fuels and in construction will contribute to decrease energy consumption in the Pomorskie economy. She also called for more cooperation with other regions in order to achieve the smart specialisation aims. **Ilari Havukainen** highlighted that bio-economy is a pillar in the smart specialisation of Lapland. Five "artic clusters" have been implemented, including one on circular economy and another on smart rural communities. **Joaquín Villar Rodríguez** stressed that S3 energy priorities in Andalusia address the promotion of energy rehabilitation of buildings and urban rehabilitation, the improvement of the competitiveness of companies of the construction sector, the creation of skilled employment and the reduction of energy poverty. Implementation of these priorities is taking place by establishing synergies with other EU Cohesion policy instruments as for example the Interreg project BUILD2LC for priorities of sustainable construction. **Cristina Oyón** presented the energy strategy in the Basque Country, oriented to improve the competitiveness of companies, technology centres and scientific agents, and identifying Marine Renewables as a priority. The Basque Energy Cluster gathers 350 companies, with a total turnover of nearly €50 billion and more than 64 000 jobs worldwide. Regional challenges cannot be tackled alone and therefore interregional cooperation in energy priorities is crucial. The participation of the Basque Country in the Vanguard initiative is an example of cooperation among regions, something which can also be synergized with the S3PEnergy work.

In the wrap-up session it was concluded that:

- **Cohesion Policy** plays a significant role in the delivery of Energy Union.
- **Research and Innovation** is one of the five pillars of Energy Union and the S3PEnergy platform provides a key support to the EU MS and regions with energy-related priorities.
- **S3PEnergy** allows not only the joint action of different EC services (REGIO, ENER, JRC) but also the alignment of EU, MS and Regional Cohesion and Energy policies
- S3PEnergy spills over the concept of S3 -and its legal relation to the Thematic Objective 1-, by facilitating **synergies with the T04**
- **Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)** should be also considered in interregional cooperation and dynamics

"Technology mixes are a key aspect for smart specialisation in energy as new technologies can come to the picture"

Tudor Constantinescu, DG ENER