



Higher Education for Smart Specialisation (HESS)

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HESS: What?

A new project launched by the European Commission's S3 Platform, in cooperation with DG Education and Culture

Broad aims in the context of smart specialisation:

- **Align human capital supply with S3 priorities (regional demand)**
- **Strengthen the contribution of HEIs to regional innovation systems**

Pilot starts now and lasts for twelve months; limited in scope

Launched publicly during the EWRC in October

HESS: Why?

The S3 still do not have a sufficient understanding of human capital or how to fully involve HEIs

Prioritised domains will not be sustainable without adequate human resources

Risk that ESI Funds are not strategically spent in the area of HE

Lack of integration / synergies of policies within the 'Knowledge Triangle'

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Perspectives for Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) in the wider context of the Europe 2020 Growth Strategy

This report was written by the Expert Group established to assess the contribution of "Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation" (RIS3) to the Europe 2020 Growth Strategy



2015

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

2.2. Smart Specialisation – a Research and Innovation (and Education) policy approach

The RIS3 pre-conditionality – having a RIS3 (or existing similar national or regional strategy) in place in order to be eligible for ERDF support for innovation-related measures – applies specifically to two ERDF thematic objectives:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (R&I target)
- Enhancing access to, and use and quality of ICT (ICT target).

This misses, however, the crucial role of (higher) education and foreign direct investments in fostering a major structural change in the industry of the less developed regions, which the 3% R&D intensity target of the Europe 2020 strategy implicitly calls for. A well-developed RIS3 would need to pay sufficient attention to these two mechanisms to augment R&I capabilities.

HESS: Objectives

- 1. Understand and support HEIs to align their functions of human capital development with S3 priorities.*
- 2. Analyse how the synergetic and strategic use of public funds can allow HEIs to better contribute to implementation of S3*
- 3. Foster change within **selected** HEIs to allow them to take on a boundary spanning role in implementing S3*
- 4. Facilitate external cooperation between the **selected** HEIs and other actors in the quadruple helix.*
- 5. Co-produce knowledge within a Community of Practice and disseminate this knowledge to a large policy audience.*

HESS: Who?

S3 Platform is an analytical, advisory and networking hub for EU Member States and regions in the design and implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).

Based at DG Joint Research Centre's Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) in Seville, Spain

Synergies with other IPTS activities: Lagging regions, Stairway to Excellence, Thematic Platforms (Knowledge for Growth), OpenEdu, EntreComp (Information Society)

Synergies with other DG EAC initiatives: UB Forum, Knowledge Alliances, HEInnovate...

HESS: How?

Global analysis of relationship between HE, S3 and the ESI Funds

- **Analysis of OPs, Surveys and Interviews**

Action research

- **Two cases: One in a less developed region (NE Romania), another in a more developed region (Navarre)**

Dissemination to reach a wider audience

- **Including cooperation with stakeholders and international organisations**