Smart specialisation in practice: insights from recent Italian experience

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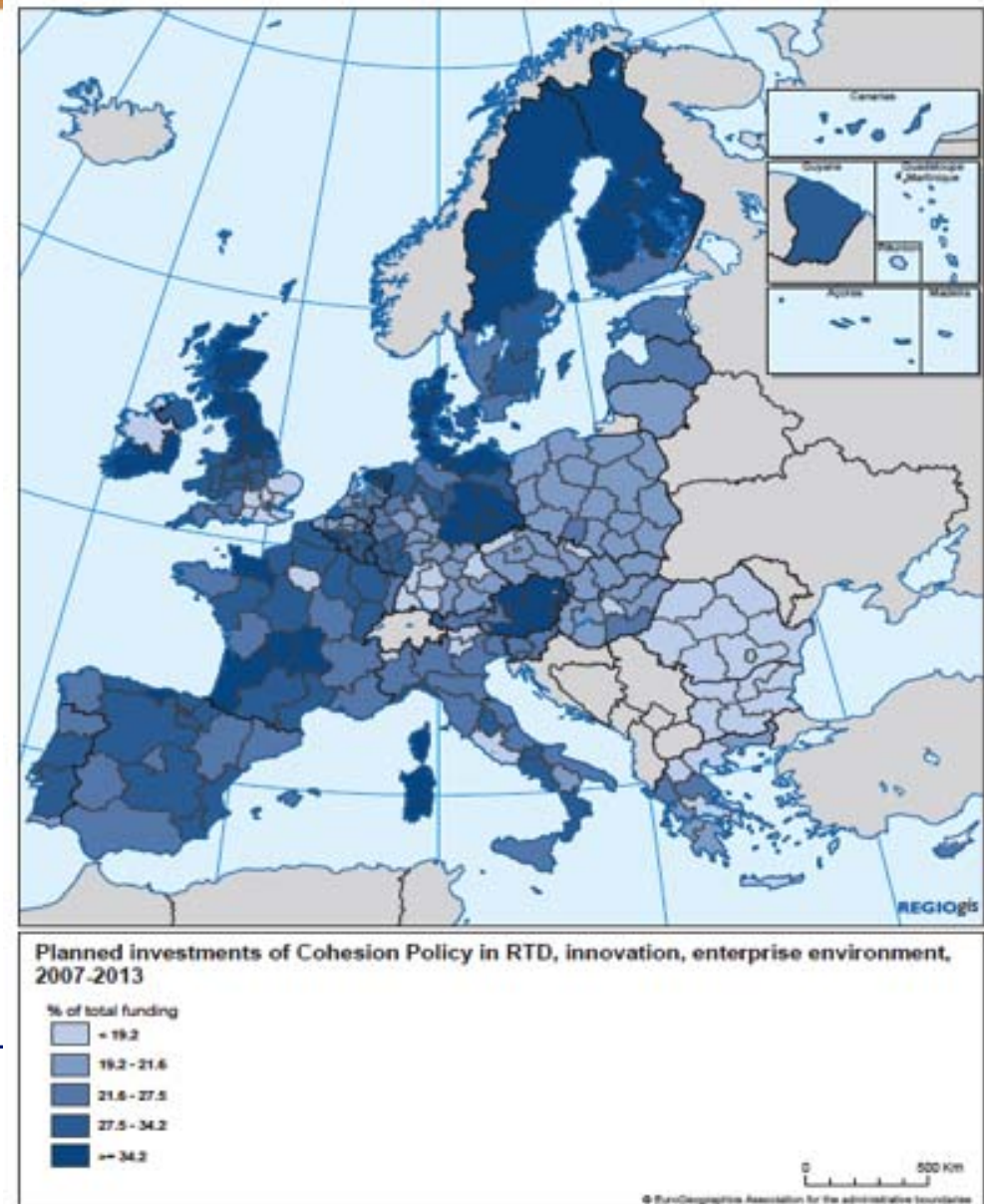- Acknowledgments and Contacts

"Regions matter" (1/3)

In 2007-2013, the global resources assigned to R&D and innovation by EU Cohesion Policy at regional level exceed those in FP7 and CIP (86.0 Vs. 56.9 billion Euro).

This growing spend of EU Structural Funds on R&D&I has been called "the silent revolution" (Landabaso 2010).

Planned investments of Cohesion Policy in RTD, innovation, enterprise environment, 2007-2013

% of total funding

- < 19.2
- 19.2 - 21.6
- 21.6 - 27.5
- 27.5 - 34.2
- >= 34.2

Before 1988	1989-1993	1994-1999	2000-2006	2007-2013
0.2	2.0	7.6	21.4	86.0
=	4%	7%	11%	25%

The Europe 2020 flagship initiative "Innovation Union", the new Framework Programme "Horizon 2020" and the new Cohesion Policy Agenda for 2014-2020, aim at furthering this trend by calling for more integration between instruments and funding priorities along the R&D&I value chain.
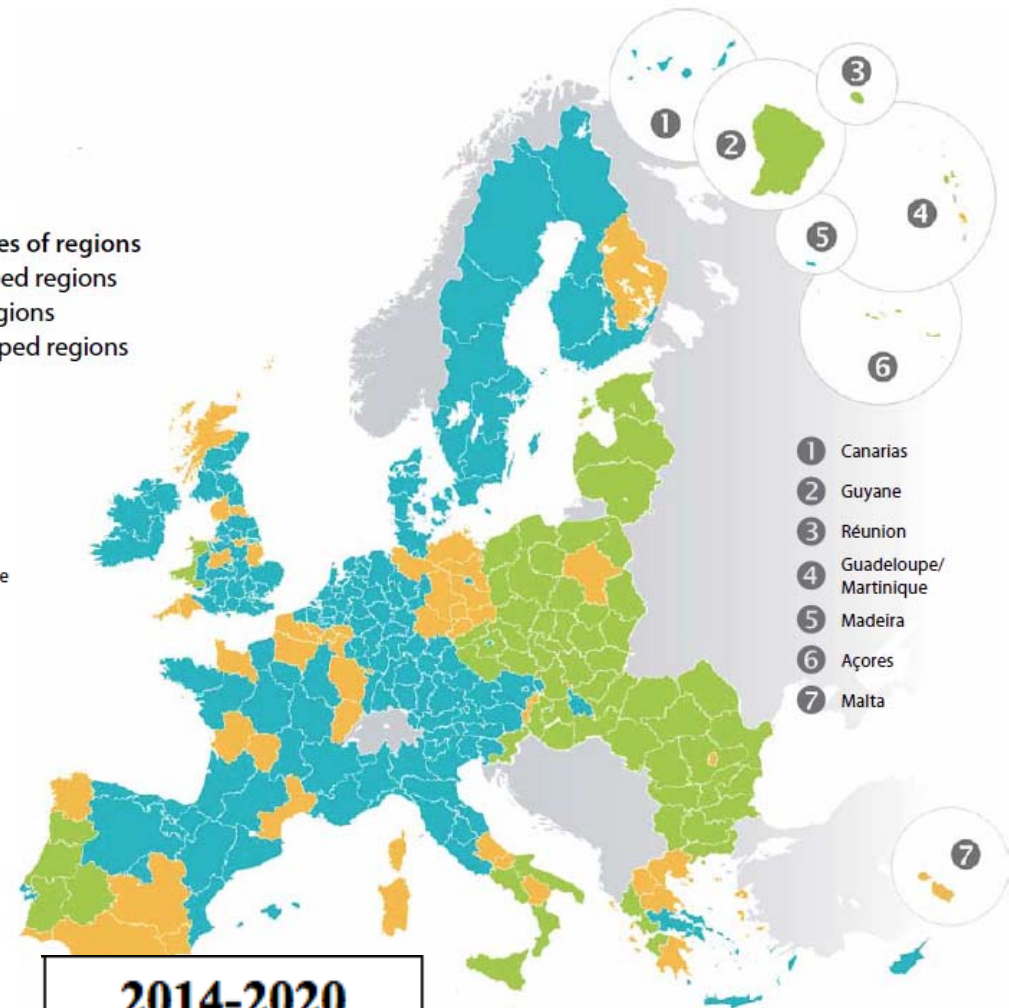
Three categories of regions
- Less developed regions
- Transition regions
- More developed regions

GDP/capita*
- < 75 % of EU average
- 75-90 %
- > 90 %
*index EU27=100

1 Canarias
2 Guyane
3 Réunion
4 Guadeloupe/ Martinique
5 Madeira
6 Açores
7 Malta

Before 1988	1989-1993	1994-1999	2000-2006	2007-2013
0.2	2.0	7.6	21.4	86.0
=	4%	7%	11%	25%

2014-2020

???

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SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM
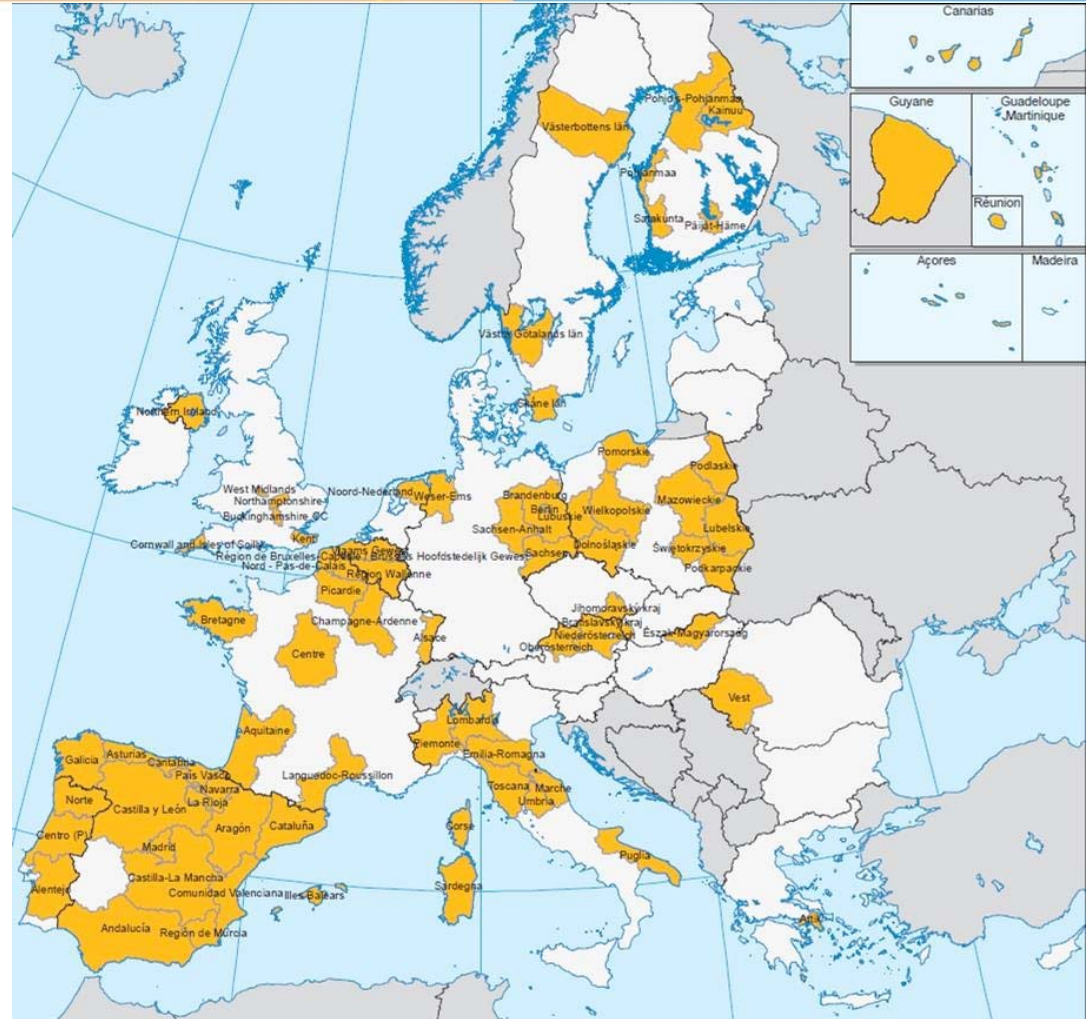
Established in 2011, the S³ Platform (S³P) assists Member States and regions to develop, implement and review Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS³).

→ A platform concept in search of a network?

Key implications

- Need to ensure vertical coordination of policies
  - ↓ From EU to Member States
  - ↓ From Member States to Regions

- Need to integrate horizontal with vertical coordination
  - ↓ Along the R&D&I value chain
  - ↓ Towards external stakeholder communities
  - ↓ Across the business sectors
  - ↓ Between the PA "silos"

- Need for policy alignment, reducing inefficiencies and gaps, but also preserving local specificities

- Need for capacity building at the lower "tiers" of PA

Phase I (2008-2009)

- Expert Team
  - Scientific Committee (A.Bonaccorsi- coordinator, F.Beltrame, M.Calderini, F.Rossi, S. Trento)
  - DPS Staff
  - Support from INVITALIA
- Participants
  - About 100, mostly from National and Regional PA
- Focus
  - State of the art analysis in regional R&D&I policy
  - Benchmarking and recommendations
    - On process improvement (goal setting, funding procedures, monitoring and evaluation – both "ex ante" and "ex post")

Phase II (2010-2012)

- Expert Team
  - ↓ Scientific Coordinator (A.Bonaccorsi)
  - ↓ Practitioners rather than academicians (A.Bairati, A.F.Bianchi, T.Bianchi, L.Bologni, M.De Maggio, F.Molinari)
  - ↓ Support from Agenzia per l'Innovazione and DPS staff
- Participants
  - ↓ About 250, mostly from Regional and Local PA
- Focus
  - ↓ Exchange of "hands-on" experiences between PA "silos"
  - ↓ Capacity building of civil servants
  - ↓ Production of administrative documents in collaboration with "pilot" organisations

Phase II (2010-2012)/ 2

- Topics
  - ↓ Regional level technology foresight
  - ↓ Multi stage calls for funding and pre-commercial public procurement
  - ↓ Mapping and improvement of proposal selection processes in R&D&I funding calls
  - ↓ Construction and improvement of a grid of (ex ante) selection criteria
  - ↓ Construction and improvement of a grid of performance indicators for technological districts and innovation poles
  - ↓ Impact evaluation models and experiences

Policy relevance of topics

Public demand for innovation

Knowledge intermediaries

Public support to industrial R&D

Regional level technology foresight

Multi-stage calls for funding and Pre-Commercial Procurement

Construction and improvement of a grid of performance indicators

Construction and improvement of a grid of ex ante selection criteria

Impact evaluation models and experiences

Mapping and improvement of R&D&I proposal selection processes

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Main outputs – Phase I

Migliorare le politiche
di Ricerca e Innovazione
per le Regioni

Contenuti e processi di policy

Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico
Dipartimento per lo Sviluppo e la Coesione Economica

First published in 2009.

Initially printed in 600 copies.

Innumerable (literally /000's) downloads from http://www.dps.tesoro.it/documentazione/docs/all/DPS_Rapporto_Ricerca_e_Innovazione.pdf

COLLANA DEL

Progetto Sostegno alle Politiche di Ricerca e

Innovazione delle Regioni

QI04CP01

Le politiche di ricerca e innovazione delle regioni

Paolo Martinez, Alessandra Modi

In collaborazione con

Innovation Cafè!

First published in October 2011 – report from a participatory evaluation event ("Innovation Café") held with the working group members themselves.

No printed edition.

About 3.000 downloads from http://www.aginnovazione.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/QI04CP01-Politiche_ricerche_e_innovazione_regioni.pdf

COLLANA DEL

Progetto Sostegno alle Politiche di Ricerca e

Innovazione delle Regioni

QI05CP02

Selezione ex ante dei progetti di ricerca industriale

Report intermedio del Gruppo di lavoro 3

Coordinatore: Leda Bologni

Dicembre 2011

First published in December 2011 – report from Working Group No. 3 on "ex ante" selection criteria.

No printed edition.

About 3.500 downloads from http://www.aginnovazione.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/QI05CP02-Selezione-ex-ante-dei-progetti-di-ricerca-industriale.pdf

COLLANA DEL

Progetto Sostegno alle Politiche di Ricerca e
Innovazione delle Regioni

QI07CP03

Mappatura e miglioramento dei processi di selezione nei bandi di ricerca industriale e sviluppo pre-competitivo

Report intermedio del Gruppo di lavoro 2

Coordinatore: Andrea Bairati

Gennaio 2012

First published in January 2012 – report from Working Group No. 2 on proposal selection processes.

No printed edition.

About 3.500 downloads from http://www.aginnovazione.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/QI07CP03-Mappatura-e-miglioramento-dei-processi-di-selezione-nei-bandi-di-ricerca-industriale.pdf

Quaderni
Innovazione

**Gli appalti pre-commerciali
per il finanziamento
dell'innovazione nelle Regioni**

**Foresight tecnologico
a livello regionale**

+ pilot projects on Pre-Commercial Procurement in several regions

First published in May 2012 – joint report from Working Groups No. 1 and 4 on technology foresight and pre-commercial procurement.

Initially printed in 440 copies.

About 2.500 downloads from http://www.aginnovazione.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/QI08-QI09.pdf

Rubbettino

Quaderni Innovazione

Indicatori di risultati intermedi per misurare la performance di Distretti Tecnologici e Poli di Innovazione

Valutazione di impatto: metodi ed esperienze

Rubbettino

First published in June 2012 – joint report from Working Groups No. 1 and 4 on technology foresight and pre-commercial procurement.

Initially printed in 440 copies.

About 2.000 downloads from http://www.aginnovazione.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/QI_10-11.pdf

Phase III (2013-??)

- Expert Team
  - ↓ TBD
- Focus
  - ↓ Piloting of real-life implementations
  - ↓ On site, rather than centralised activities
- Possible overlaps with ongoing activities
  - ↓ RIS³ in individual Regions
  - ↓ Stakeholder integration in prioritizing decisions
  - ↓ Technology foresight experiments
  - ↓ Pre-commercial procurement experiments

Smart specialisation in practice

- Smart specialisation is closing the gap between regional research specialisation/ excellence and manufacturing/ service innovation ("push approach")
  - ↓ The experience of "Analisi fattuale" (= evidence-based policy making) under PON 2007-2013 (G. Pellegrini, coordinator)
  - ↓ Carried out in 2008-2009 in order to identify the specialisation of four Convergence regions and to define the roadmap to move from research to manufacturing or service innovation
  - ↓ Neglected in the design of PON schemes
  - ↓ Updated in 2012 in order to manage the inability of regional policies to introduce any kind of specialisation in the selection of industrial districts (>190 projects)

"Factual Analysis"

- The "Analisi fattuale" 2008-2009 exercise was based on a mix between expert and desk analysis

- The output produced
  - ↓ Positioning of regional research system (international excellence/ national visibility/ only regional)
  - ↓ Roadmap of transition in the life cycle "research – proof of concept – prototype – testing – industrial scale up – manufacturing"
  - ↓ Expected time-to-market
  - ↓ Scale of investment
  - ↓ Competition and risk-assessment

To be applied on a large scale before the 2014-2020 programming cycle

Public Demand

- Smart specialisation can be declined not only from the research/technology perspective, but also from the demand perspective ("pull approach")
  - ↓ Regions should identify areas of need for public demand in which there is also potential for innovation in the territory
  - ↓ Public demand may play the role of "entrepreneurial discovery" of regional specialisation
  - ↓ The DPS project **has developed the administrative tools to manage public demand in order to obtain the Smart specialisation goal**
    - – Pre commercial procurement
    - – Phase zero (technology foresight)
    - – Consultation of civil society and industrial milieu

Public incentives to R&D

- Regional policies are reluctant to use public incentives to R&D in a selective way

- Two possible interpretations
  - Lack of specialisation due to political pressures (constituencies)
  - Purposeful use of incentives for discovery of unexploited opportunities

- Need for a thorough selection of proposals
  - Use of R&D incentives in order to discover new opportunities requires serious ex post and impact evaluation
  - Scope for a national initiative: **unique procedure for all Structural Funds schemes (even those managed at regional level) with a certified list of experts**

e-Participation as an opportunity

"*How can we get tourism more sustainable and competitive*?" An Electronic Town Meeting done in Florence, on June 30th 2011, with the involvement of about 90 people.

Partner in charge	Spatial Planning	SEA	Strategic Planning	Other
Regione Toscana, IT			90	
		70		
City of Hamburg, DE	72			
University of Ulster, UK			90	
				50
				60
			80	
			50	
				75
				45
				60
ANETEL (Larnaca District Development Agency) and the Voroklini Community Council, CY			20	
	39			
University of Palermo, IT	80			
Turku University of Applied Sciences, FI				31
				46
	46			

Overview of PARTERRE pilots

(the figures stand for the number of participants)

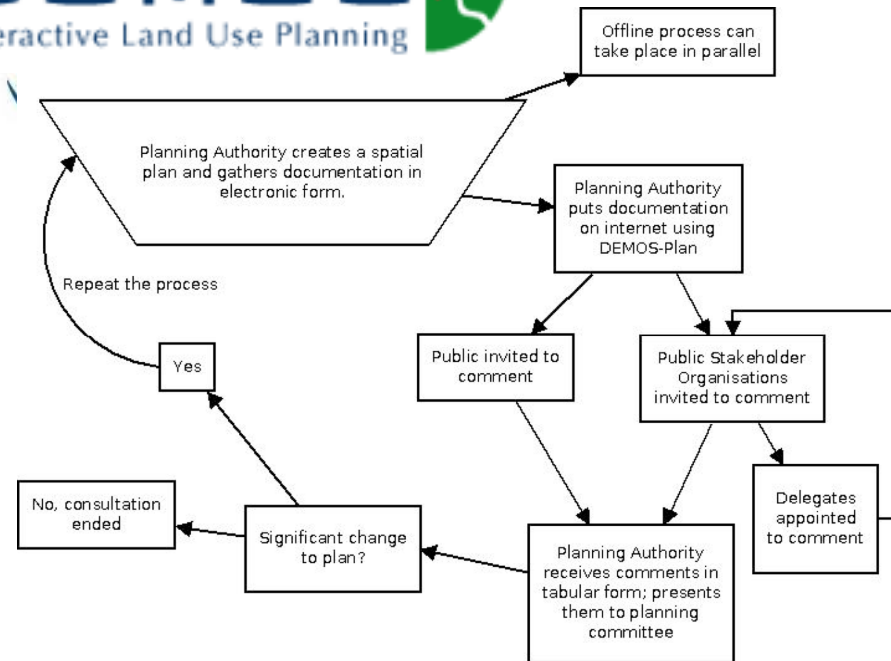More info: www.parterre-project.eu

Partner in charge	Thematic Content
Regione Toscana, IT	Two Electronic Town Meetings (in June & December 2011) dealing with: a) Sustainable and competitive tourism (90 participants) b) Solid waste management, storage and differentiation (70 participants)
City of Hamburg, DE	Distributed management of a spatial plan amendment session involving 72 stakeholders from the Bergedorf district (August-September 2011). Use of DEMOS-Plan (integrated into the Hamburg IT and geodata infrastructure)
University of Ulster, UK	Eight Electronic Town Meetings (August 2011-April 2012) on the following topics: a) Provision of a roadmap for the AHP health and social well-being policies in Northern Ireland (90 participants) b) Development of a Regional response to the UK Cabinet Office's consultation on Open Data (50 participants) c) Exploration of how local businesses can be supported in their innovation activities using partnerships models with academic and government stakeholders including universities and development bodies (60 participants) d) Engagement of stakeholders in North Belfast in a civic debate on how to address issues related to unemployment in local community (80 participants) e) Maximising Social Value Through Public Sector Procurement, a discussion that involved a range of stakeholders from industry, academia, government, and the voluntary and charitable sector (50 participants) f) Innovation in Sustainable Construction and Energy Management, a discussion that involved a number of stakeholders from industry, academia and government (75 participants) g) Brain Computer Neural Interfaces (BCNI) to support people with neurological problems living at home, a debate that saw the participation of 45 staff and students from University of Ulster School of Health Sciences h) Embedding Telehealth in Care & Service Provision, a discussion that saw the participation of 60 people from the University of Ulster and the South Eastern Regional Health and Social Care Trust.
ANETEL (Larnaca District Development Agency) and the Voroklini Community Council, CY	Two consecutive trials (in January and February 2012): a) Stakeholders consultation on the Draft Rural Development Plan for the District of Larnaca (15 comments in DEMOS-Plan, 37 by e-mail, 6 by post, and 39 questions) b) Electronic Town Meeting on the open planning issues for the communitarian progress of the Voroklini Community (39 participants)
University of Palermo, IT	An Electronic Town Meeting on the creation of a shared vision of development for the heritage site known as "Maredolce Castle" and the whole second district of "Brancaccio" in the City of Palermo (80 participants, February 2012)
Turku University of Applied Sciences, FI	(Jan 2011-Mar 2012) Four Electronic Town Meetings on the following topics: a) Participation in a software development process at the Technical University of Applied Sciences (31 participants, mostly students and teachers) b) Actions to improve efficiency in the people's use of energy in the Hakastarö building (46

More info: www.parterre-project.eu

DEMOS Plan
Interactive Land Use Planning

Offline process can take place in parallel

Planning Authority creates a spatial plan and gathers documentation in electronic form.

Repeat the process

Planning Authority puts documentation on internet using DEMOS-Plan

Yes

Public invited to comment

Public Stakeholder Organisations invited to comment

No, consultation ended

Significant change to plan?

Planning Authority receives comments in tabular form; presents them to planning committee

Delegates appointed to comment

A tool for online consultations within spatial planning processes

- ✓ Online access to maps and related documents
- ✓ Full management of proposals, rejection and approval of modifications
- ✓ Documented savings in both printing/distribution costs and administrative process time
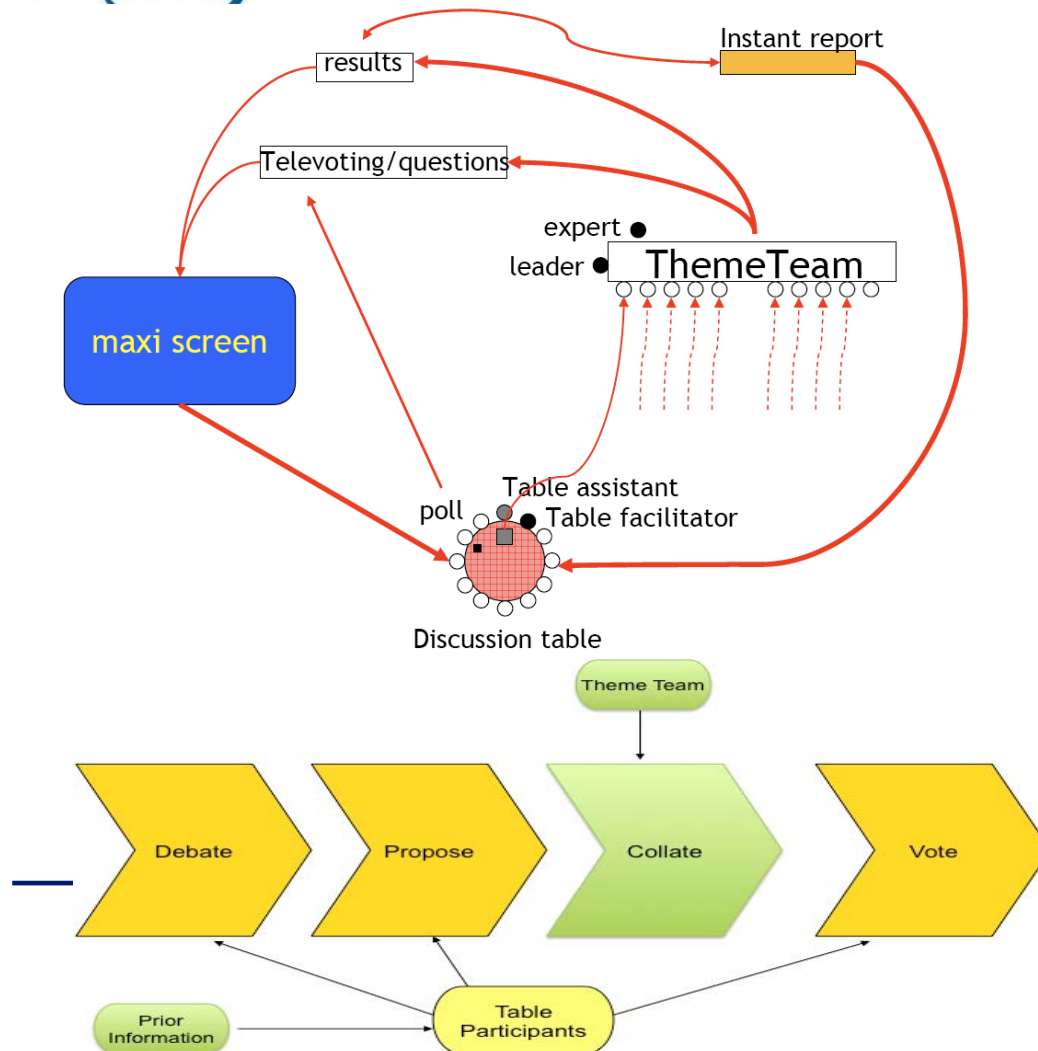
Electronic Town Meeting

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