



Smart Specialization Strategies: Concept, Framework and Design

Manuel Palazuelos Martínez
S3 Platform, IPTS (DG JRC), European Commission

**Smart Specialization Strategies:
Concept, Framework and Design**

Murcia, 11th April 2013



OUTLINE

1. The S3 Platform: background and activities
2. Smart specialisation: the concept
3. Steps towards a successful Smart Specialisation Strategy: framework and design

OUTLINE

1. The S3 Platform: background and activities
2. Smart specialisation: the concept
3. Steps towards a successful Smart Specialisation Strategy: framework and design



The S3 Platform

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

- Launched in June 2011
- Team of JRC-IPTS, European Commission
- Steering Team incl. different DGs: REGIO, RTD, ENTR, EAC, CONNECT, SANCO, AGRI, CLIMA

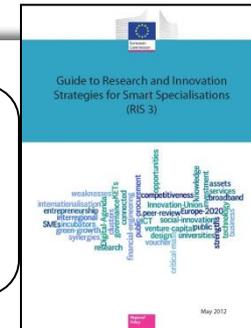


European
Commission

Main activities of S3 Platform in support of the countries/regions preparing RIS3

7. Research agenda

1. The RIS3
methodological
Guide



2. Peer Review
workshops & trans-
national learning

6. Newsletter and
Website with special
access for regions &
interactive tools



3. Outreach & Country
Events (Seminars in
Member States & EU
Macro-regions)

5. Thematic
workshops &
working groups

4. RIS3 assessment
and support to DG
REGIO



Peer Review Exercises

- 1° Workshop in Sevilla (Jan 2012)
- 2° Workshop in Sevilla (May 2012)
- 3° Workshop in Ponta Delgada (June 2012)
- 4° Workshop in Pisa (Sept 2012)
- 5° Workshop in Strasbourg (Dec 2012)
- 6° Workshop in Palma de Mallorca (Feb 2013)
- 7° Workshop in Brno (Mar 2013)

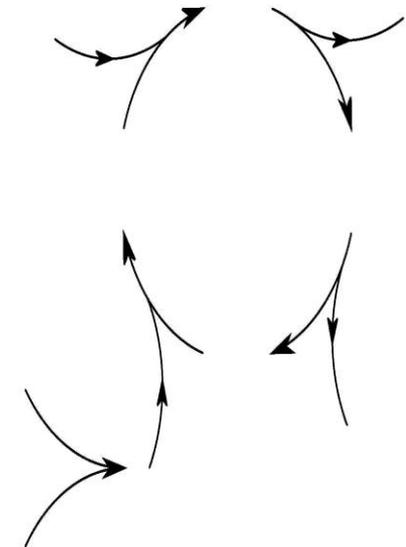
8° Workshop in Vaasa (May 2013)

9° Workshop in Budapest (June 2013) – national authorities

10° Workshop in Faro (July 2013)

11° Potential Workshops in late September, November 2013

Methodology



OUTLINE

1. The S3 Platform: background and activities
2. Smart specialisation: the concept
3. Steps towards a successful Smart Specialisation Strategy: framework and design

What does "smart specialisation" really mean?

In a nutshell: RIS3 is based on 4 Cs + C

* **Competitive advantage**

* **Choices:** Policy choices (tough ones)

* **Critical mass** of resources & talent

* **Collaborative Leadership**

+...**Common sense** = *Not about re-inventing the wheel.*

What does "smart specialisation" really mean?

What is Smart Specialisation ?

- = evidence-based
- = no top-down decision, but dynamic/entrepreneurial discovery process inv. key stakeholders
- = global perspective on potential competitive advantage & potential for cooperation
- = priority setting in times of scarce resources
- = getting better / excel with something specific
- = focus investments on regional comparative advantage
- = not necessarily focus on a single sector, but cross-fertilisations

What does "smart specialisation" really mean?

- ❑ It means **avoiding duplication and fragmentation of effort** with scarce public resources within the Union.
- ❑ It means **being selective and support the R&I activities that are relevant** in view of existing conditions and assets
- ❑ It is not « **café para todos** » (« **coffee for all** »): it implies policy choices and breaking away from established lobbies and rent-seekers.

OUTLINE

1. The S3 Platform: background and activities
2. Smart specialisation: the concept
3. Steps towards a successful Smart Specialisation Strategy: framework and design



Key steps for developing a RIS3

Step 1 – Analysis of regional context/potential

Step 2 – Governance

Step 3 – Vision for the future

Step 4 – Selection of priorities

Step 5 – Policy mix

Step 6 – Monitoring and evaluation



Step 1 – Analysis of regional context and potential for innovation (I)

- Assess existing regional assets
- Identify regional competitive advantage
- Combine methods



Step 1 – Analysis of regional context – looking out – and potential for innovation (II)

- Outward-looking
Analysis
- Flows of:
 - knowledge
 - skills



Step 2 – Governance

- Ensuring participation and ownership
- Collaborative leadership
- Governing bodies



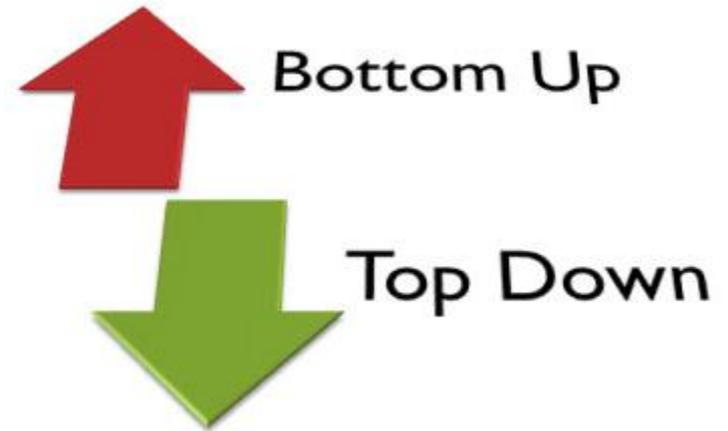
Step 3 – Shared vision

- Developing an overall vision of the region's future
- Produce a positive tension towards the future



Step 4 – Identification of priorities

- Where top-down meets bottom-up
- **Limited** number of areas
- Avoid capture by interest groups!



Step 5 – Policy mix

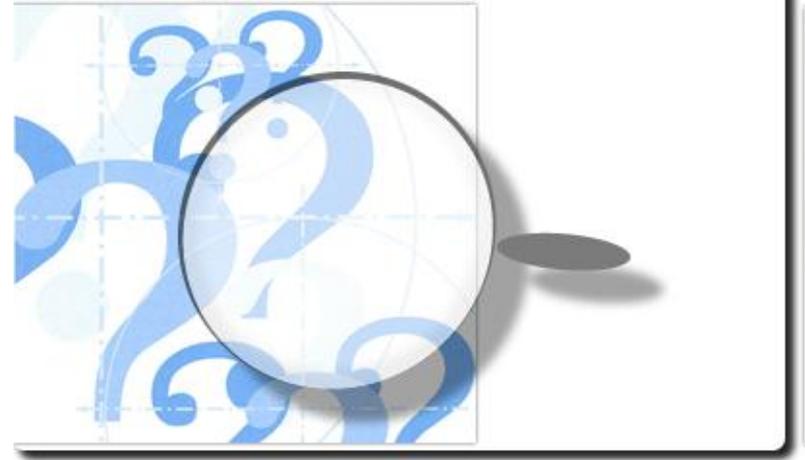
- Implementation, definition of :
 - a coherent policy mix
 - roadmaps
 - action plan



Step 6 – Monitoring and evaluation

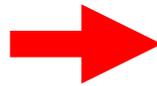
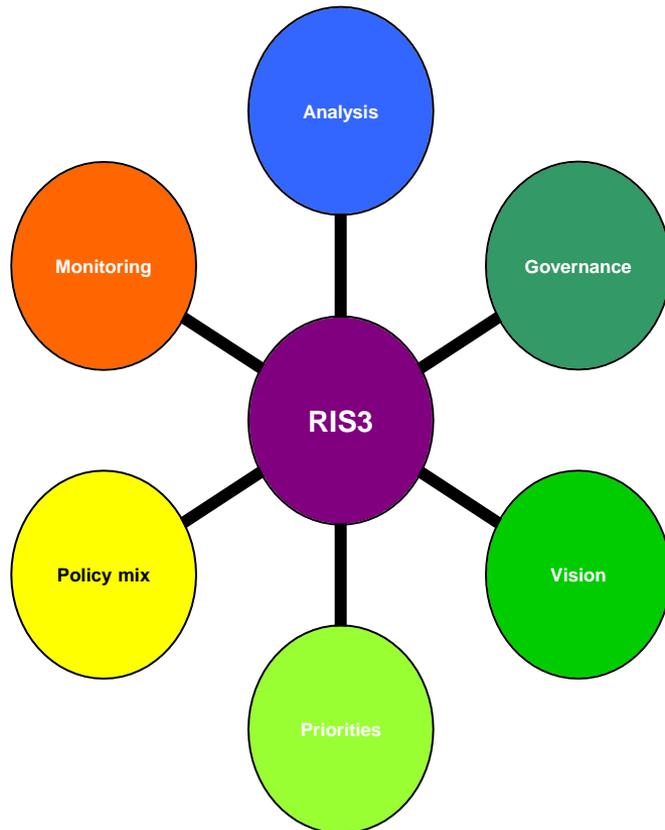
- Integration of mechanisms for:
 - Monitoring →
 - Evaluation →
- Measurable targets and indicators

Monitoring & Evaluation

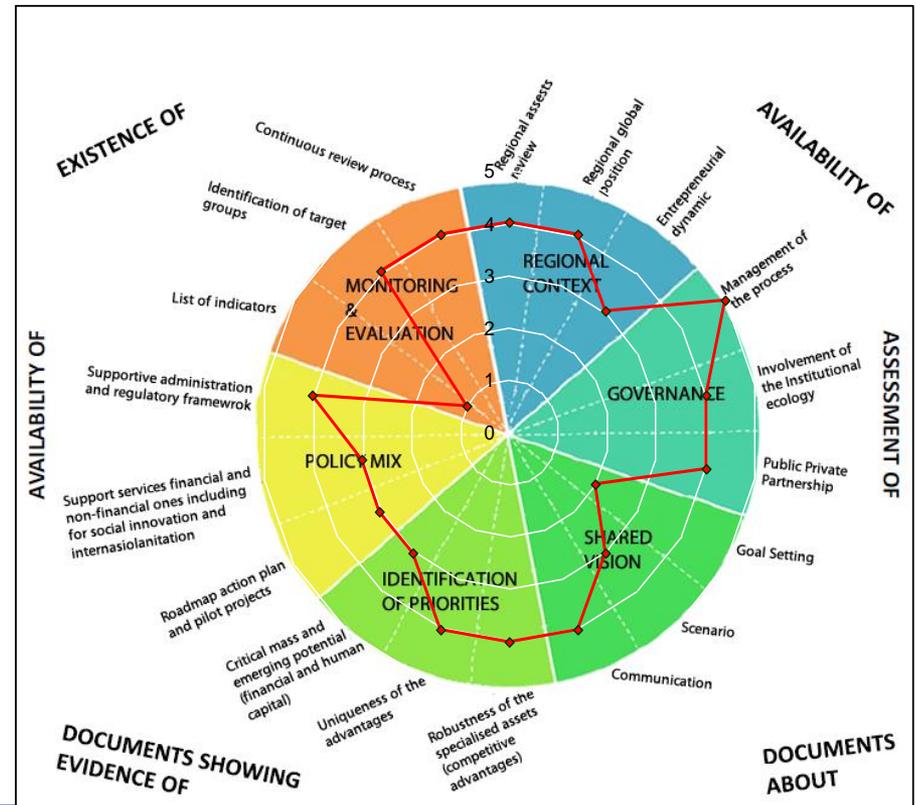


S3 Platform support: streamlined “easy-to-use” assessment tools which ensure consistency with methodological approach

RIS3 Guide



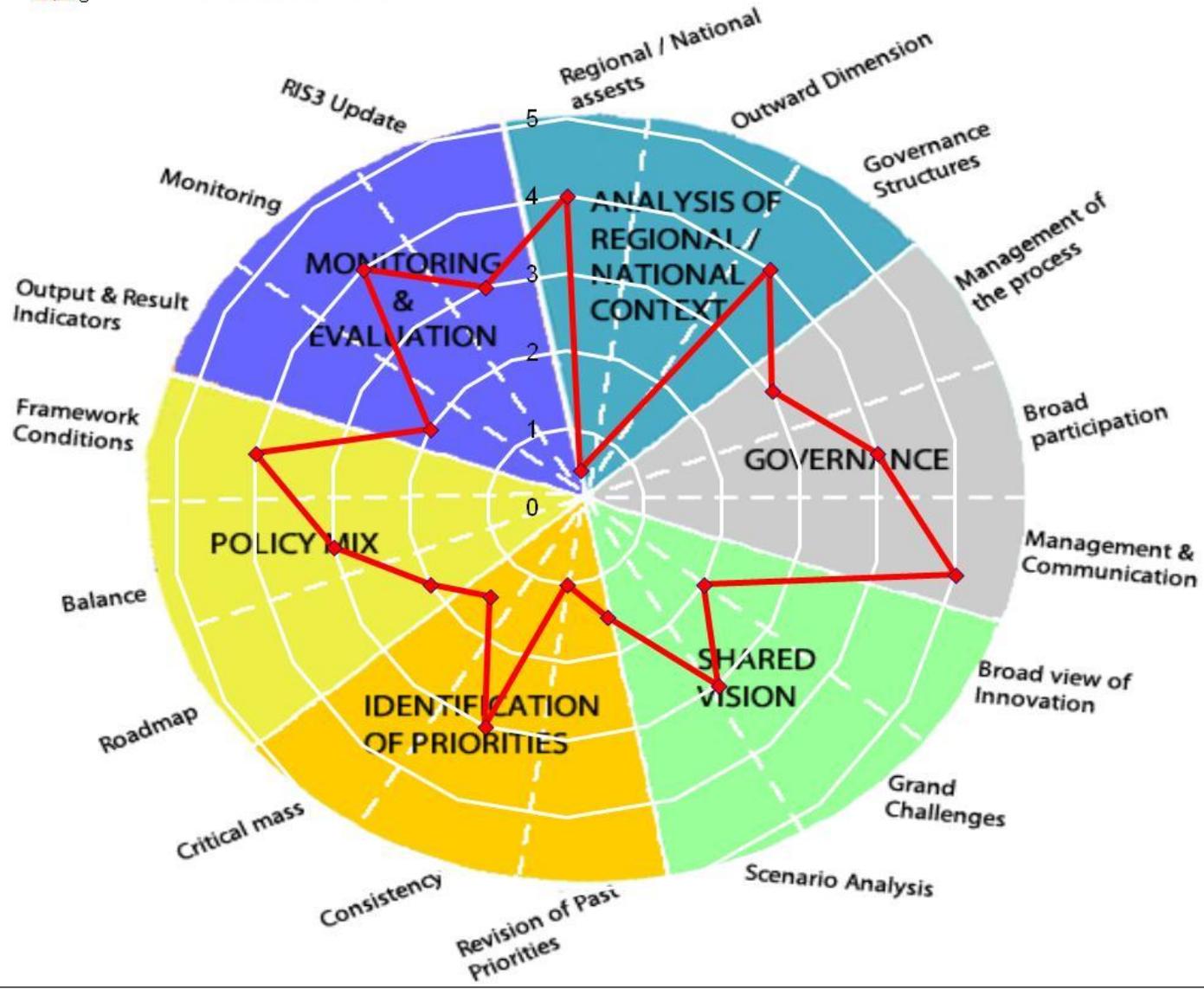
Assessment Report (AR) with the Assessment Wheel (AW)





Driving economic change through smart specialisation/RIS3

— Informal assessment XXX



Thank you for your attention!



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