



DG REGIO, European Cluster Alliance (ECA) and TACTICS workshop:

“Clusters new trends and their challenges for implementing RIS3”

Thursday 21st of June, Brussels

DRAFT AGENDA

Objectives of the event:

- 1/ Present and debate Tactics key recommendations: “new cluster trends”, help policy makers develop new and better cluster initiatives (morning session)
- 2/ Clusters and smart specialization: overview of latest, the Regional innovation smart specialization strategy Guide (RIS3 Guide), other policy supports, best practices/peer review cases (afternoon session)

Target audience:

- European Cluster Alliance members
- Policymakers at Regional National and European level dealing with cluster issues
- Representatives of cluster policies/programmes/ initiatives

Please **register** by sending an email to eca-tactics@proinno-europe.eu

Priority will be given to the ECA members. If you wish to become a member of the ECA please visit www.proinno-europe.eu/eca or send an email to eca-tactics@proinno-europe.eu

Venue : Délégation générale de la Région Rhône-Alpes à Bruxelles

62, rue du Trône, 1050 Bruxelles (au RDC)

9:30 - 10:00 Registration – coffee

10:00 - 10:10 Introduction of the day : Isabelle Lebo/ Marc Pattinson

10:10 – 10:40 Background and Overview of “Cluster Winds” Report (Cecilia Johannsson/Emily Wise, VINNOVA)

Discussants: Regions of Rhône-Alpes and Baden-Württemberg (TBC)

- Do these trends reflect your experience in your region/country?
- How will/should these trends impact cluster and competitiveness policies in the future? What are key areas for change?

10:40 - 11:00 Introduction of TACTICS Key Messages and Proposed Actions + Explanation of small group discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Small group discussion; proposed questions:

- Do the key messages address the main areas for future cluster development?
- What can be done to put the proposed actions into practice?

11:30 – 12:15 Reporting Back and Reflections from EC

12:15 – 12:30 Summary and next steps (Cecilia Johannsson/Emily Wise)

12:30 – 12:45 Overview from Nikos Pantalos DG Enterprise: Conclusions from the morning

Lunch 12.45 - 13.45

The Role of Cluster Initiatives in helping to develop and deliver RIS3

14:00 - 14:30 The future cohesion policy: clusters as critical instruments to implement smart specialisation (Claus Schultze, DG REGIO)
Questions & Answers

14:30 - 15:00 Peer review case and feedbacks :

- PACA RIS 3 Peer review experience (tbc)
- Wallonia RIS 3 Peer review experience

15:00 - 15:20 Case Study: Jan Larosse, from EWI (department of Economy, Science and Innovation, Flanders): joint project with the OECD on smart specialization

15:20 - 15:50 Key note Presentation: "The Nexus of Innovation and Clusters in Peripheral and less Favoured Regions" (Stuart Rosenfeld)

Tea break 15.50 to 16.15

16:15 - 16:45 *Is the Cluster competition approach by its regional strategic aspect an alternative to regional specialisation?* Panel discussion: The experience of France (Pole de competitivite), Sweden (Vinnvaxt) and Anke Merkl-Rachbauer (TMG, Upper Austria) (*other speakers tbc*)

16:45 - 17:15 *Do/Will RIS3 strategies have an influence on cluster policies/programmes?* Panel discussion: *Claus Schulze (DG REGIO), Ivan Boesso (Veneto Innovazione), Croatia, Estonia, Madrid (all speakers tbc)* Tactics

17:15 - 17:30 Q&A from the floor: Animation by Marc Pattinson ECA Secretariat

17:30 Summary and next steps: Integrating recommendations of the RIS 3 approach from DG Regio / ECA/TACTICS

ANNEX : TACTICS and ECA in short

TACTICS INNO-Net under the Pro INNO Europe Initiative <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/tactics> consortium

(Oseo/France; VINNOVA/Sweden;

TMG/Upper Austria; Veneto

Innovazione/Italy; PAED/Poland; MMU

(replacing NWDA)/UK and IWT/Flanders) aims at supporting and further expanding the European Cluster Alliance, and contributing to the development of better cluster policies and practical cluster support tools across Europe.

The work of this group of seven regional and national public innovation agencies and has been focused around six thematic task forces:

- TF#1: Fostering international cluster cooperation;
- TF#2: Channelling RDI funding through excellent clusters;
- TF#3: User-driven excellent clusters;
- TF#4: Supporting cluster marketing and branding;
- TF#5: Evaluating cluster excellence;
- TF#6: Using excellent clusters to address emerging industries (including innovative services).

Additionally 15 European cluster experts the so called "Reflection Group" <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/eca/page/presentation-reflection-group> have actively participated in the Task Forces and provided inputs and support in developing new policy initiatives via the six task forces. ECA members have also been regularly consulted and asked to provide their views and experiences.

THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER ALLIANCE (ECA) IS A VOICE FOR POLICY MAKERS INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING CLUSTERS AS PART OF BROADER INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS STRATEGIES.

The ECA has been supported by the European Commission (DG Enterprise) since its launch in 2007 through the CIP/PRO INNO Europe and currently via the TACTICS INNO Net project* managed by Oseo France and 6 partners among the main Innovation actors in Europe (Vinnova in Sweden, TMG Upper Austria, Manchester Metropolitan University UK, IWT Flanders/ Belgium, Veninn Italy and PAED in Poland).

The ECA is supported by a dedicated Secretariat and shared web platform (PRO INNO Europe). Over the last two years, membership of ECA has grown from some 50 public policy agencies to **almost 120 (with over 250 separate individual policy makers)** and all EU countries are now covered. Strong linkages have been created with other cluster initiatives (ROK, Interreg) and internationally with Japan and USA (TARIC.....). <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/eca>



ANNEX: DG Regio RIS3



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL POLICY
Policy Coordination
Thematic coordination, innovation

National/Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation

Smart specialisation is essential for truly **effective research and innovation investments**. In the European Commission's proposal for **cohesion policy**¹ in 2014-2020 it is a **precondition for using the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in 2014-2020** to support these investments.

National/Regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies) are integrated, place-based economic transformation agendas that do five important things:

- 1) They focus policy support and investments on key national/regional priorities, challenges and needs for knowledge-based development.
- 2) They build on each country/region's strengths, competitive advantages and potential for excellence.
- 3) They support technological as well as practice-based innovation and aim to stimulate private sector investment.
- 4) They get stakeholders fully involved and encourage innovation and experimentation.
- 5) They are evidence-based and include sound monitoring and evaluation systems.

The RIS3 *ex-ante* conditionality **requires EU Member States and regions to identify the knowledge specialisations** that best fit their innovation potential based on their assets and capabilities.

The strategies should be developed through a process of '**entrepreneurial discovery**', i.e. involving key innovation stakeholders, in particular business. Thus, rather than being a strategy imposed from above, smart specialisation involves businesses, research centres, universities and other actors working together to identify a Member State's or region's most promising areas of specialisation that have a potential to provide competitive advantage, but also the weaknesses that hamper innovation there.²

Based on this, the national or regional authorities will draw up a **document outlining the proposed strategy for that country or region**, including the **planned Structural Fund investments** in research, technology development and innovation.

This strategy should not only build on and/or aim at **regional scientific excellence** and technology driven innovation, but also support **practice-based innovation**³ that draws on existing knowledge,

¹ COM(2011) 615, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm

² http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/monitoring/knowledge_en.htm (cf. D. Foray et al., Smart Specialisation — the concept, June 2009).

³ For instance, social and service innovations, action to address social challenges, new business models and demand-side measures such as public procurement.

technologies, experiences, sector cross-fertilisations, user involvement, etc. to **develop innovative solutions**.

The **Commission offers support** to accompany the smart specialisation strategy development by expert and peer-reviews, guidance documents and provision of data material and analysis.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/smart_specialisation_en.pdf

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

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