

Session 2. Re-thinking the Discovery Process

Experience of Norte Region (Portugal)

António M. Cunha  CC DR
N O R T E

JRC Workshop, Seville, 23th November 2022

Norte (PT11)



Cohesion criteria

- 2014-2020: Less-developed region
- 2021-2027: Less-developed region

Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2021 [\(EC, 2021\)](#)

- Moderate Innovator
- Score (2021): 0.432
- Change (2014-2021): ▲ 11.8%

Regional Competitiveness Index 2019 (EC)

- Develop. stage: lowest + (2/5)
- Rank: 203/268

R&D performance (Eurostat, 2019):

- Total R&D expenditure: 971 Euro Million
- R&D expenditure (% GDP): 1.53%

R&I funds (2014-2020) [1]

Cum. ESIF R&D per capita

611.11

Cum. EU H2020 per capita

93.24

TEDv comparison indicators for Norte ▼

% total R&D expenditure

32.10%

(Average contribution of ESIF-T01 for total R&D)

% total R&D expenditure

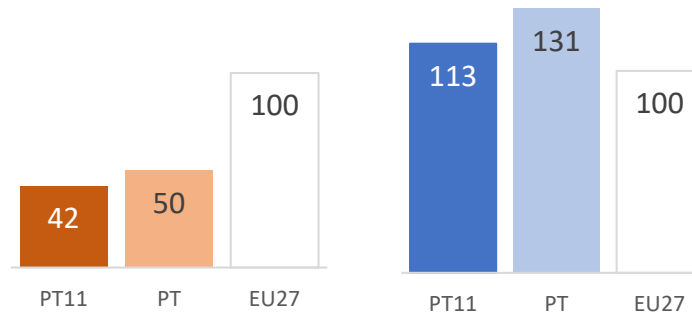
4.90%

(Average contribution of H2020 for total R&D)

Concentration index of R&I funds in climate change projects (2014-20) [2]

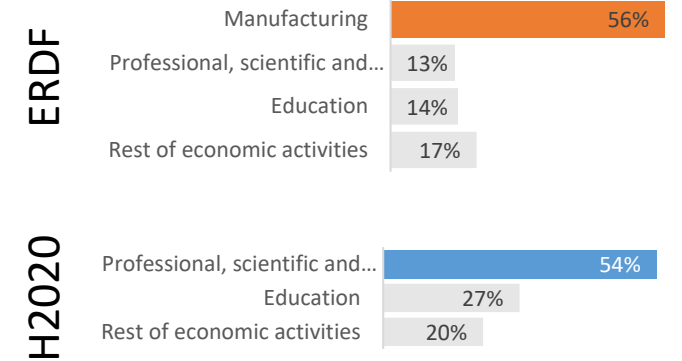
ERDF – T01 (R&I)

H2020

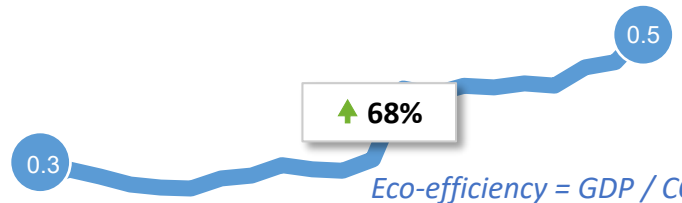
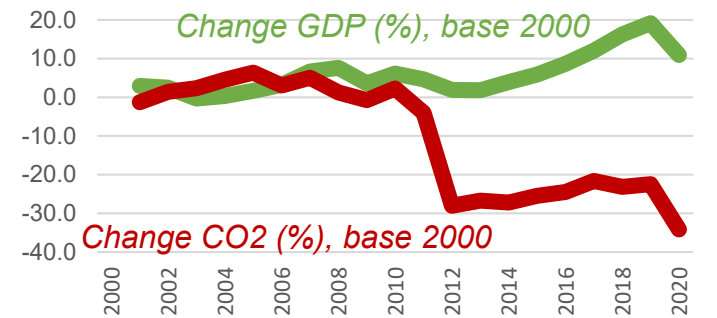


The index measures concentration, where EU27 = 100 and for the other territories it expresses their specialisation patterns (= share of funds in climate change projects in a territory over the average of this share in the EU27 x 100). Values higher than 100 indicates a concentration face EU reference

R&I funds sectorial concentration 2014-2020 [1]

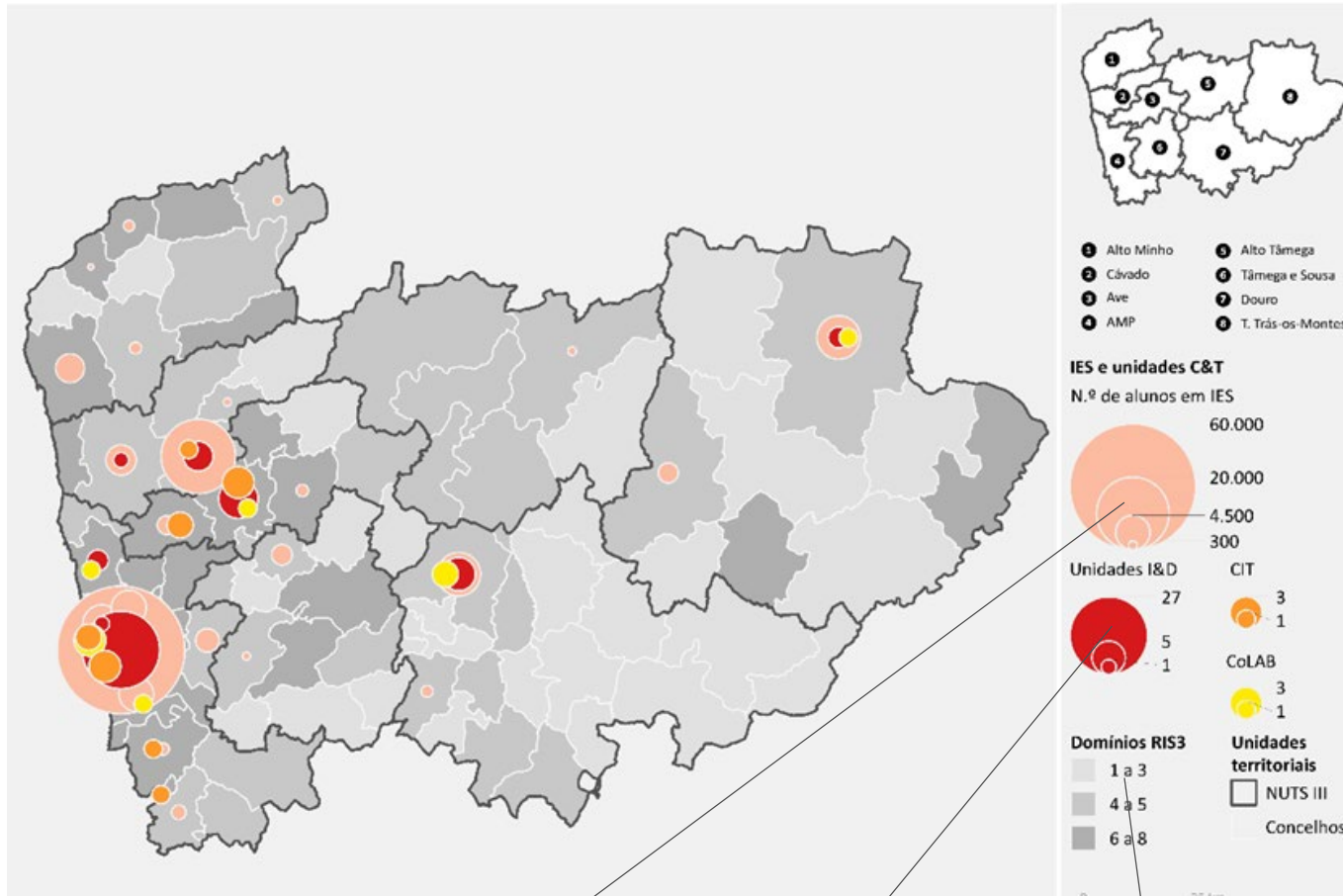


Change in GDP and CO2 emissions (%), base 2000 [3, 4]



Norte Region Innovation Ecosystem

Norte Innovation Ecosystem



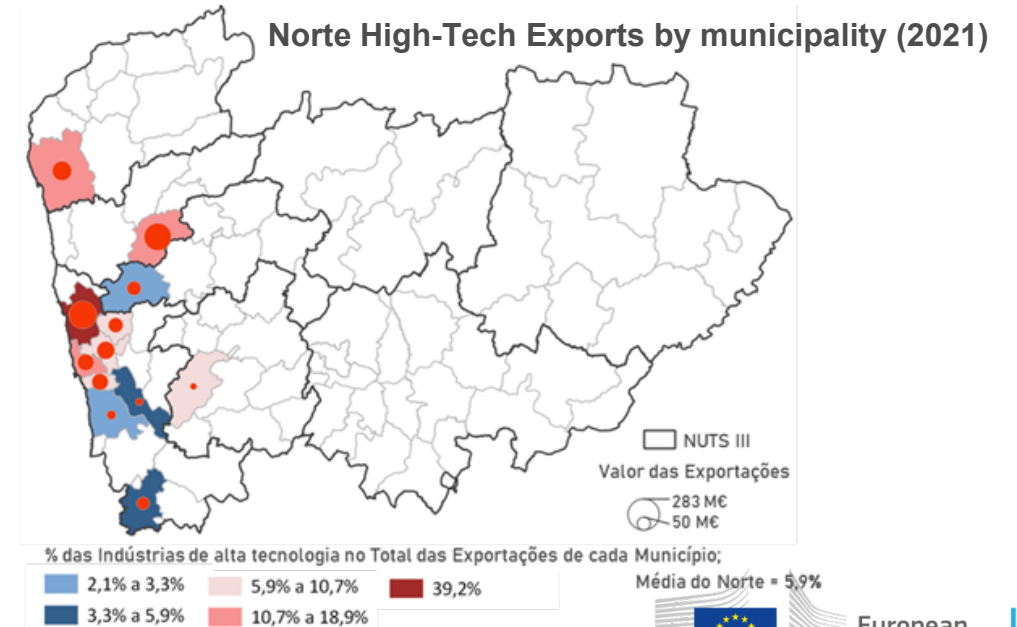
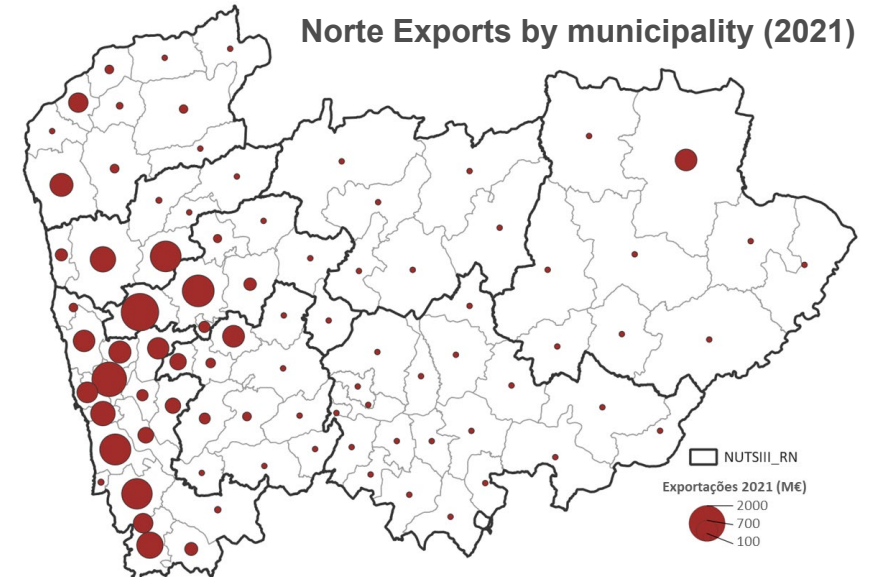
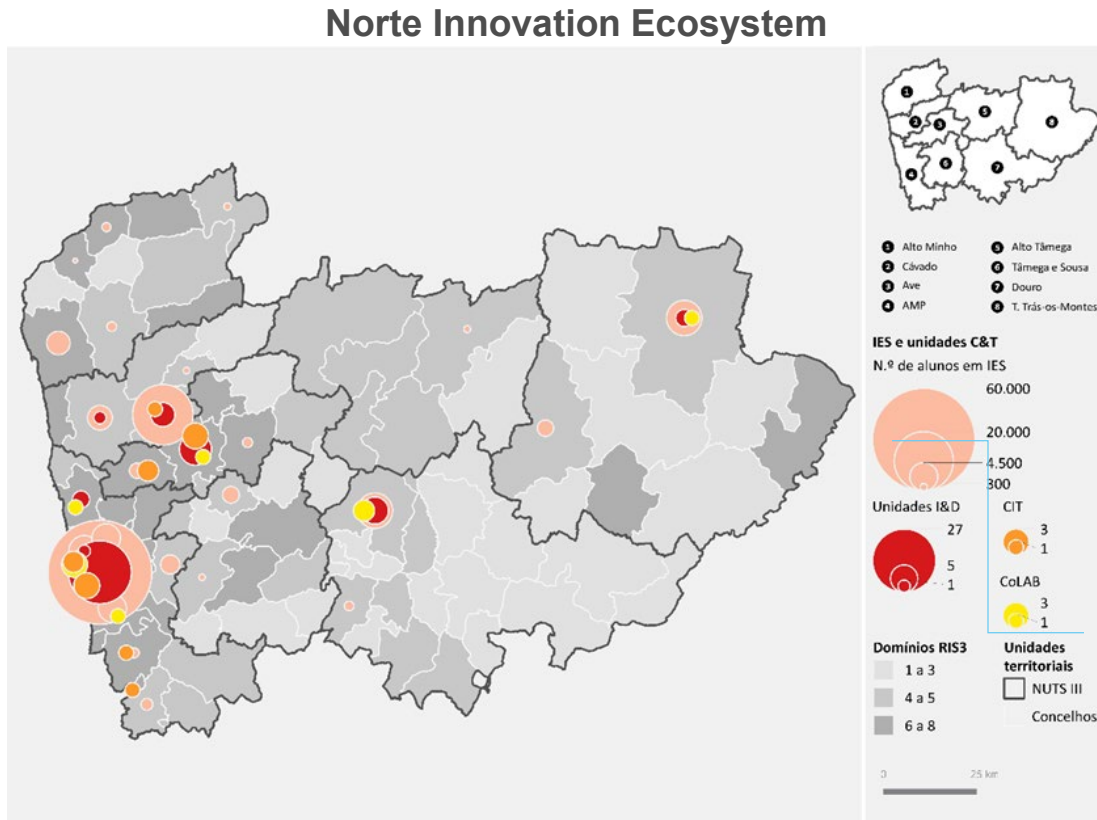
Number of students enrolled in higher education institutions

Number of scientific and technological institutions

Number of specialisations in RIS3 domains by municipality

- **Spatially unbalanced** distribution of the regional innovation ecosystem.
- Clear **division between the main urban centers and the rest of the Region** in the distribution of higher education and scientific and technological institutions.
- To overcome these weaknesses, the **regional smart specialisation strategy has a crucial role to:**
 - ✓ promote the technological intensification of regional productive base.
 - ✓ formalize and consolidate the regional innovation system in S3 priority domains.
 - ✓ promote a more territorial balanced system.
 - ✓ engage Regional Ecosystem with targeted value chains

Norte Region Innovation Ecosystem vs. Exports



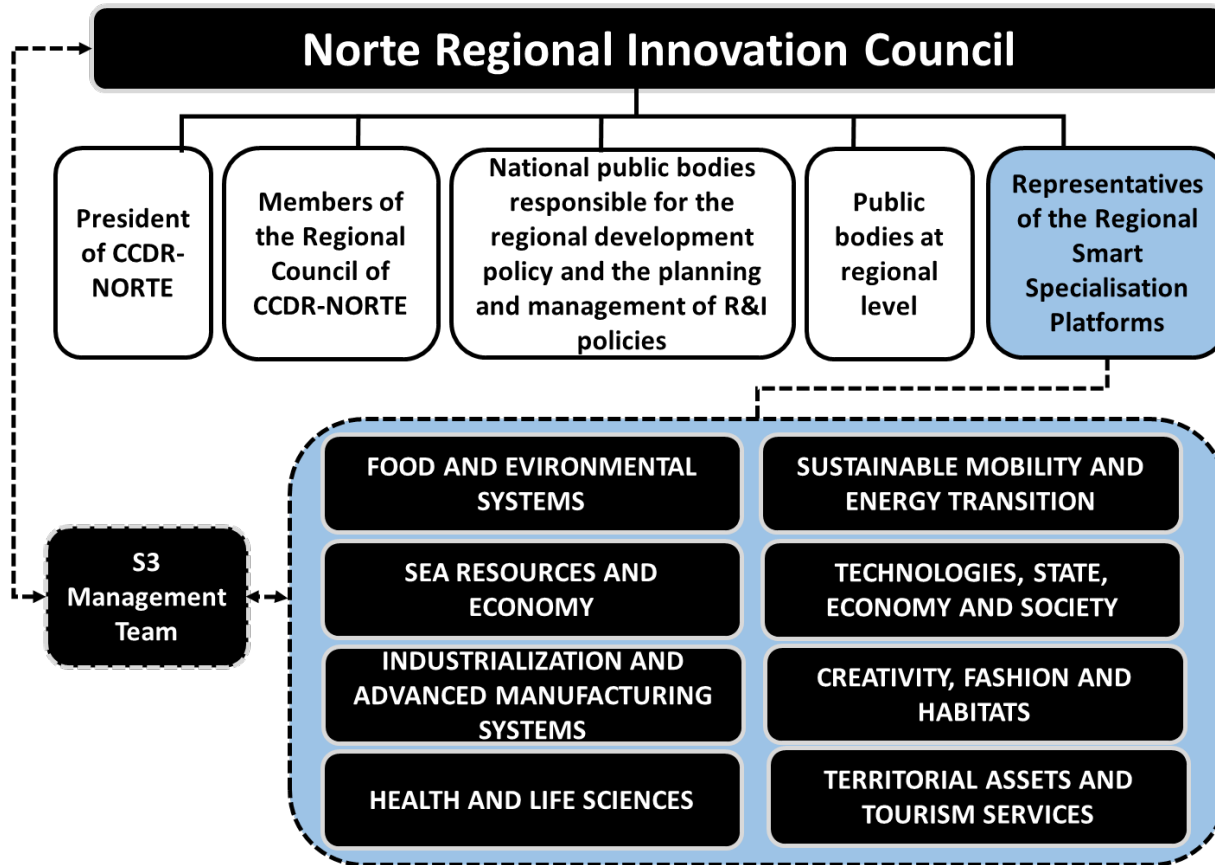
Description of EDP in Norte Region

Bottom-up approach with different types of stakeholders, companies and their associations, universities, research centers, public institutions, etc. interacting to identify new opportunities for economic development in RIS3 priority domains → **5 phases**:

- 1. Design** The **rationale to define** the RIS3 2014-20 priority domains emerged from 8 thematic workshops, involving 150 experts.
- 2. Implementation of admissibility and evaluation criteria** within the framework of the RIS3 in the Norte ROP that guided the investment presented by stakeholders (CCDR-N evaluated the alignment with RIS3 of more than 12,500 applications).
- 3. International activities** were critical to exploit other European funding sources (Interreg or Horizon 2020):
 - international networks (S3 Platform and Vanguard Initiative);
 - joint strategies (Galicia - Norte of Portugal cross-border smart specialization strategy).
- 4. Monitoring and evaluation of RIS3** activities were carried out, highlighting the approval of the report by the Regional Innovation Council (CRIN).
The regional smart platforms involved the participation of 70 entities.
- 5. RIS3 Review process** for 2021-27 included a survey to the smart specialization platforms and the approval by the CRIN and by CCDR-N Council (dec.2020). In the context of NORTE 2030 Strategic Plan, 8 workshops (80 entities) were organized.

Challenges and bottlenecks

S3 Norte 2027: Governance Model



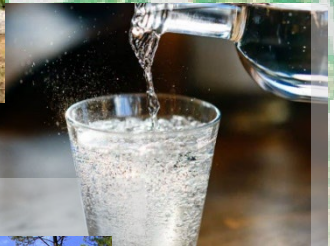
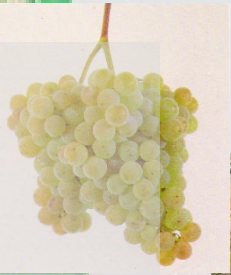
- Norte RIS3 governance model proved to be **adequate and functional** in the development of its competences during the period 2014-20. → to be continued with **small changes**.

Main challenges:

- ✓ **Improve the relationship** between the strategy and the funds governance model;
- ✓ **Empower public authorities** as knowledge brokers and facilitators;
- ✓ **Encompass a wider societal context** and integrate other funding sources besides cohesion funds;
- ✓ **Involve a broader spectrum of stakeholders** from different environments and different levels;
- ✓ **Boost the regional innovation ecosystem** to integrate value chains.
- ✓ **Importance of the new policy instrument for 2021-27 cohesion policy (SO 1.4)** to support the “entrepreneurial discovery process” and “capacity building” related to S3.

Major value chains

Mobility



Fashion - Textile - S



Wood - furniture



Agro-food



Ocean Energies



Further development

How to go beyond Smart Specialisation approach ?

Governance model

improve the relationship with Structural Funds governance model, the main instrument to support I&D, innovation, and economic competitiveness;

develop new skills and expertise to support strategy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

Integrate other funding sources besides the Regional Programme such as national funding programmes and Horizon Europe.

Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)

involve a broader spectrum of regional actors in the implementation and in the decision-making process. ROP 2021-27 indicators: 125 institutions in EDP - 60 in projects from EDP;

promote a more collaborative and open innovation policies regarding the territorial characteristics (e.g. partnerships for territorial value chains in S3 priority domains);

ensure an EDP in the identification of research and technological infrastructures priority projects.

International dimension

develop a strategy to increase the participation in EU programmes (Horizon Europe) and to promote synergies with the Regional Programme (Teaming, Seal of Excellence, Partnerships, etc);

consolidate the S3 cross-border strategy with Galicia and support joint initiatives (e.g. sustainable mobility, ocean energies and aerospace);

promote interregional cooperation in priority domains associate to the pillars of the Atlantic Area action plan 2.0 (e.g. blue economy);

reinforce the participation in international networks such as Vanguard Initiative (exploring new interregional financial instruments).

Thank you

António M. Cunha

President of Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission



© European Union 2022

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.