



# Partnerships for Regional Innovation

A new approach for territories that want to go beyond the S3 enabling condition

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# The right moment

- Urgency to address **climate change** while leaving no one behind
- Secure **Europe's position** in the economy of the future
- Confluence of maturing trends:
  - Deep global **transformations in socio-technical systems**;
  - Return of **industrial policy: EU competitiveness through sustainability**;
  - New scientific paradigm of innovation: **system-level innovation and transformative innovation policy (Frame 3)**;
  - Experience with **Smart Specialisation (regions)** and **RRF (countries)**.

A European Green Deal

Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



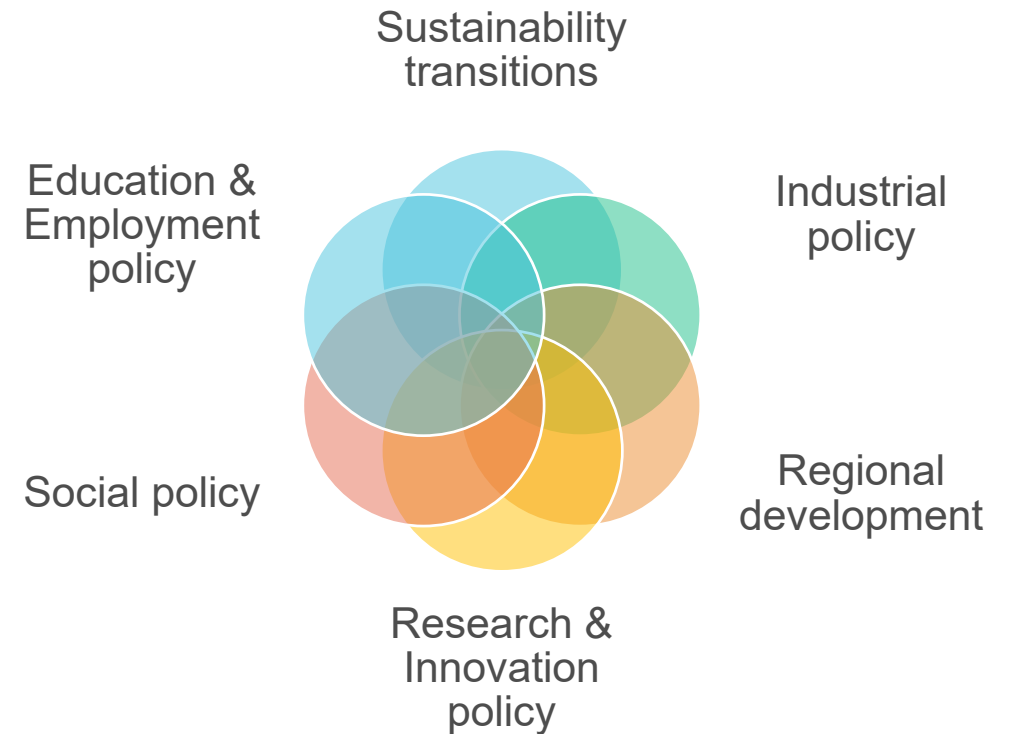
FRAME 3  
Transformative  
Change  
Emerging



# Partnerships for Regional Innovation

*A new approach to innovation-driven **territorial transformation**, linking **EU priorities** with national plans and **place-based** opportunities and challenges*

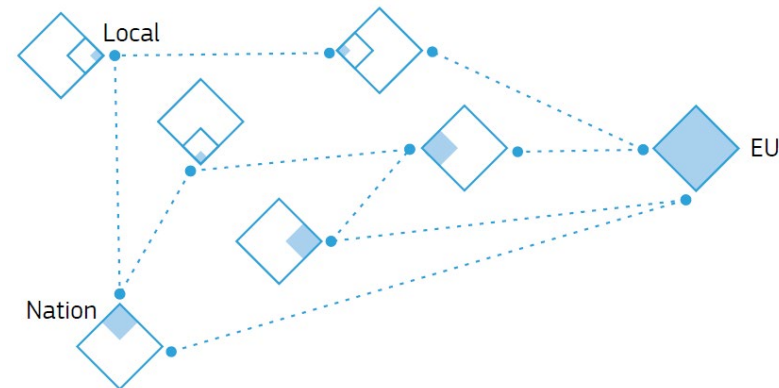
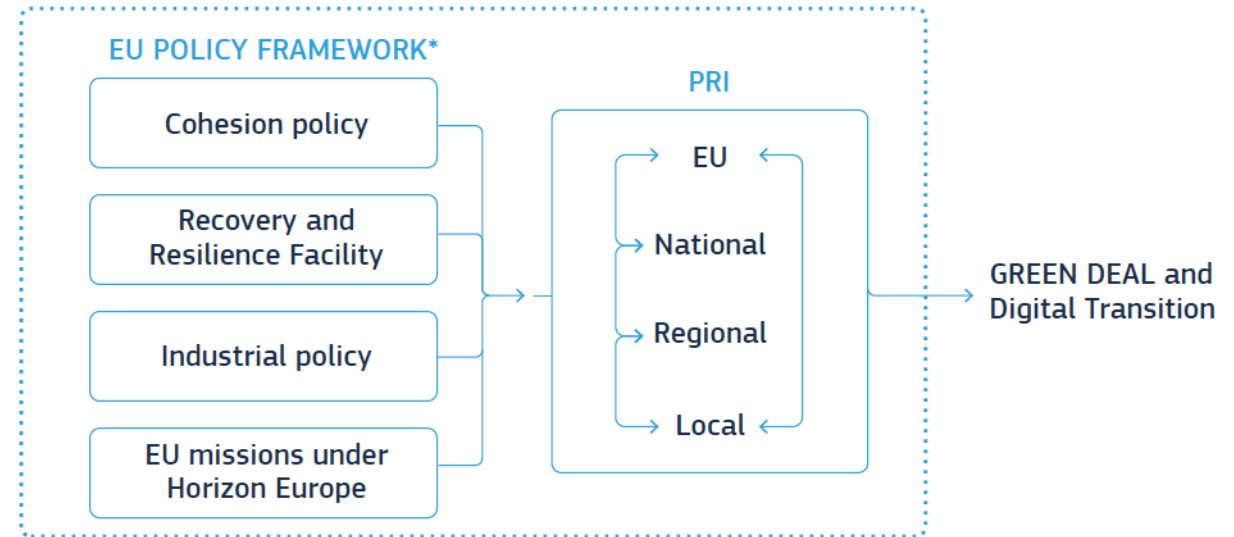
- **Partnerships** for sustainability transitions that create economic, social & environmental value
- Participatory **governance framework** in support of forward-looking policy
- **New ways of working across government** departments and levels focused on solving territorial challenges



# PRI and Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)

PRI aims to address the limitations of S3 in the context of the twin green and digital transition, notably that:

- *S3 is limited to ERDF innovation funds only;*
- *S3 do not consider other essential policies for transformation e.g. energy, transport, environmental, demand side policies, skills, regulation, ...*



# PRI Playbook

## Purpose & Scope

- Document leading thinking and practice on **innovation**
- Initial **guidance** for JRC-CoR Pilot (not prescriptive)
- Facilitate **exploration, experimentation, learning & co-creation**
- Three building blocks:** initial approach to be co-developed through the pilot
- Toolbox**, structured around highly-visual **68 fiches** (on concepts, principles, practices, methodologies etc.)
- Pluralistic yet eclectic** drawing from state-of-the-art
- Inputs and support** from JRC units (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, H1, I2) and PRI Scientific Committee

<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pri-playbook>


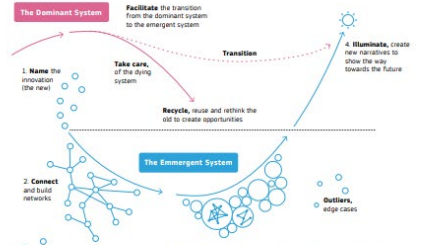


# A NEW PLAYBOOK IS OUT NOW!

## A TOOLKIT TO LEVEL UP YOUR REGION with innovation partnerships

Partnerships for Regional Innovation



LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT Regional, National, European	LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY Promoter, Developing, Innovation strategies	GOALS Strategy design, Stakeholder engagement	COMPETENCES Think Systemically: Value for sustainability, Work with others, Be creative
<h3>5 European start-up village forum</h3> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To promote entrepreneurship in rural areas <b>Use:</b> To identify local problems and create sustainable multiple value</p> <p>On 30 June 2021, the European Commission set out a <b>long-term vision for the EU's rural areas</b>. The vision identifies several areas of action towards <b>stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas</b> by 2040. The vision recognises the role of innovation to help tackle challenges and reap opportunities for wellbeing and growth in rural areas and includes a specific flagship action on research and innovation for rural communities. The <b>European Start-up Village Forum</b> is part of this flagship action.</p> <p>The Forum complements knowledge exchange and cooperation activities, and work as an open space where institutions and stakeholders can meet, discuss and shape actions and tools for innovation in rural areas. By bringing science-based and community-based knowledge and experiences together with high-level political traction, the Forum explores the different <b>dimensions of rural innovation ecosystems</b> and discusses insights on the challenges and potentials for <b>start-up creation and development in rural areas</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Do you have similar initiatives in your region?</li><li>Do you support idea generation among different types of stakeholders?</li></ul> <p>Think about how such an initiative could help identify local social problems and deliver multiple value in co-creation with stakeholders involved. Explore more below.</p>  <p><b>Find out more:</b> Long term vision for the EU's rural area: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas_en</a> The European Start up village Forum: <a href="https://eustartupvillageforum.eu">https://eustartupvillageforum.eu</a></p>	<h3>6 Sustainable development as a transition</h3> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To embrace socio-technical systems change <b>Use:</b> To think of transitions as complex multi-level processes</p> <p>Dominant socio-technical systems are characterised by individuals, norms, institutions, infrastructures and technologies, which are intertwined and reinforce each other. This leads to lock-ins, path dependency and resistance to change in current systems. Technological green fixes can hide the urgent need for transitioning from current business models to socio-technical systems in line to achieve the SDGs. To this aim, transformations (or transitions) that are more ambitious are needed. For example, new socio-technical systems should enable citizens to engage and contribute to the SDGs beyond their buying choices. A socio-technical system transition involves social, behavioural and technological change in an interrelated way, so that the end result is change in all elements of the old production and consumption configurations. Can you think about socio-technical systems that require</p>  <p>The two legs model advocate to: (1) name pioneers, (2) connect them and form networks, (3) get access to resources and expertise, (4) create new narratives and vocabulary towards the new.</p> <p>Source: adapted from Barbara Institute</p>		

# Playbook: Three building blocks



## Three building blocks

- Based on JRC experience with S3, literature, contributions from the PRI Scientific Committee, practitioner expertise

## Design specifications

- Unites multiple **funds/policy** domains for the twin-transition
- Suitable for **various levels** of governance (not just regions)
- Deploys various **instruments** (not just projects)
- Allows linking with European missions and partnerships (through **partnership hubs**)



# Playbook: Three building blocks

Includes S3 (in red)!

## Strategic policy framework

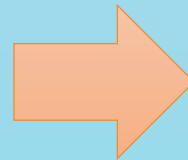
**Territorial strategy** that brings together or influences multiple policies and funds

### Open Discovery Process

Local missions (e.g. CHOIRs)

Stakeholder engagement & co-creation process (e.g. **entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP workshops)**, hackathons, innovation camps, etc.)

Regulatory sandboxes, policy labs



### Policy and action mix

Portfolios of investments (**R&I projects, skills, infrastructures, ...**)

Demand subsidies and public procurement

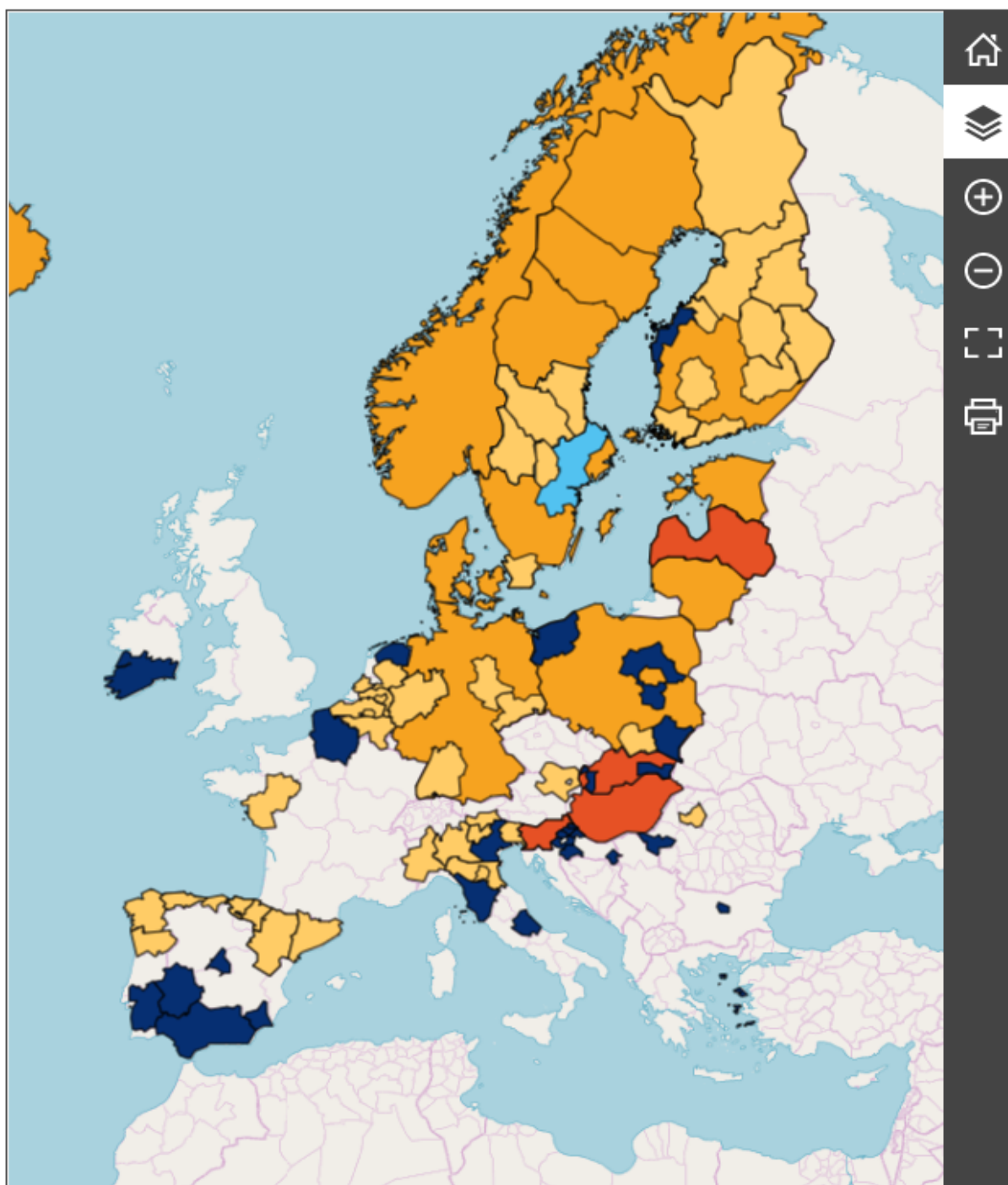
Non-financial instruments (e.g. regulation, reform, ...)

Private sector and citizen actions

# PRI Pilot

## Goals:

- To further improve, adapt and test PRI Playbook
- To document and disseminate new findings and lessons
- Test PRI connections to other initiatives at regional/local level



## Participation in the Partnerships for Regional Innovation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single region	■
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-level and cross-border regions	■
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cross-border regions	■
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-level and multi-region	■
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-region	■
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member State	■

- **74 territories:** 4 Member States, 63 regions (28 single applications, 35 networks), 7 cities, 6 networks of regions
- Carried out by the Joint Research Centre and the Committee of the Regions

<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pri-map>



# Concluding remarks

- PRI is a complementary approach to S3 meant to foster alignment with other funds and amplify impact;
- PRI development has drawn on JRC experience supporting regions implementing S3, on the JRC assessment of the enabling condition and on collaboration with the PRI Scientific Committee including some of the best EU experts on innovation and regional economics;
- Developing the PRI approach will help regions implement their S3 and the use of ERDF funds for innovation;
- The three specific PRI topics for discussion today: evaluation, ODP and interregional cooperation are particularly important.

# Thank you

The '**Playbook**' and the '**Concepts and Rationale**' documents can be found here:  
<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC129327>

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