



# **Stairway to Excellence (S2E)**

## **Achieving better synergies between ESI Funds and other EU Funding Programmes**

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**European Commission**

**DG Joint Research Centre**

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# Smart Specialisation Platform

- Since 2011 supporting Member States & Regions to design and implement their S3 by identifying a limited number of R&D and industrial activities with **high innovation potential**.



- EU Countries registered in S3P: 18
- EU Regions registered in S3P: 167
- Non-EU Countries registered in S3P: 2
- Non-EU Regions registered in S3P: 7
- S3P Peer-reviewed Countries: 15
- S3P Peer-reviewed Regions: 60

## Contacts

[National S2E Profile](#)

[RIO-PSF page](#)

Description
Advanced technologies in the vehicle and other machine industries
ICT and information services
Sustainable environment
Agricultural innovation
Clean and renewable energies
Healthy society and wellbeing
Inclusive and sustainable society
Healthy local food



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# Eye@RIS3

- Research & Innovation Capabilities
- Business Areas & Target Market
- EU Priority

## EU Priority

Aeronautics & space ▼

Select

Aeronautics & space

Blue growth

Cultural & creative industries

Digital Agenda

Nature & biodiversity

KETs

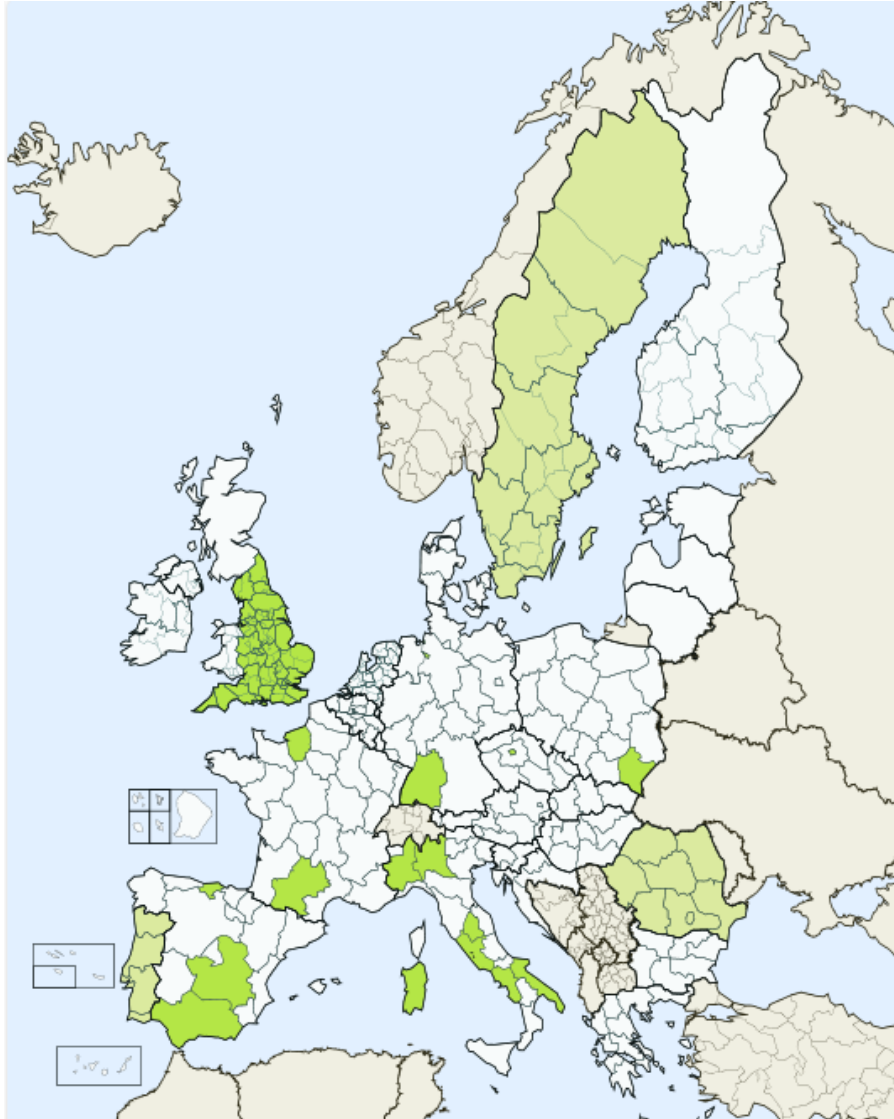
Public health & security

Service innovation

Social innovation

Sustainable innovation

Specific local policy priority



# Other S3 Tools

1. Benchmarking Regional Structure
2. Revealed Competitors and regional competitiveness scoreboard
3. ESIF – viewer: planned Investments under ESIF

<p><b>Countries</b></p> <p>All selected (28) ▾</p> <p>► Show advanced filters</p>	<p><b>Regions</b></p> <p>All selected (209) ▾</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All OP Type</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-regional</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transnational</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Productive investment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy infrastructure</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental infrastructure</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transport infrastructure</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable transport</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social, health and education infrastructure and related investment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research and development and innovation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business development</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and communication technology (ICT) – demand stimulation...</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development of endogenous potential - Environment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development of endogenous potential - Other</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour m...</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelo...</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders a...</p>
<p><b>Thematic objectives</b></p> <p>None selected ▾</p>	<p><b>Categories of intervention</b></p> <p>None selected ▾</p>		

# Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative

## Economic Rationale

- Composition of R&I at the European Level (GBAORD) across public/private division and geographical composition
- New Role of ESIF in supporting broad intangibles investments
- Leverage effect of EC R&I funding by matching programmes characterised by:
  - ✓ (apparently) different objectives
  - ✓ different management of the programmes
  - ✓ different support to the entire innovation life cycle: core excellence support complemented by innovation generation capacity (*upstream activities*) and innovation absorption capacity (*downstream activities*)

## Legal Novelties

- Synergies under the new MFF 2014-2020 (COM Guide on Synergies, spring 2014)

# Objectives of S2E

## Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Initiative:

- Pilot Project funded by the European Parliament
- Initiated in October 2014 (Launching Conference in Prague)

## Objectives:

- The provision of assistance to Member States and Regions to enhance the value of these two EU funding sources for R&I by promoting their combination (2015/2016: focus on EU13).
- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

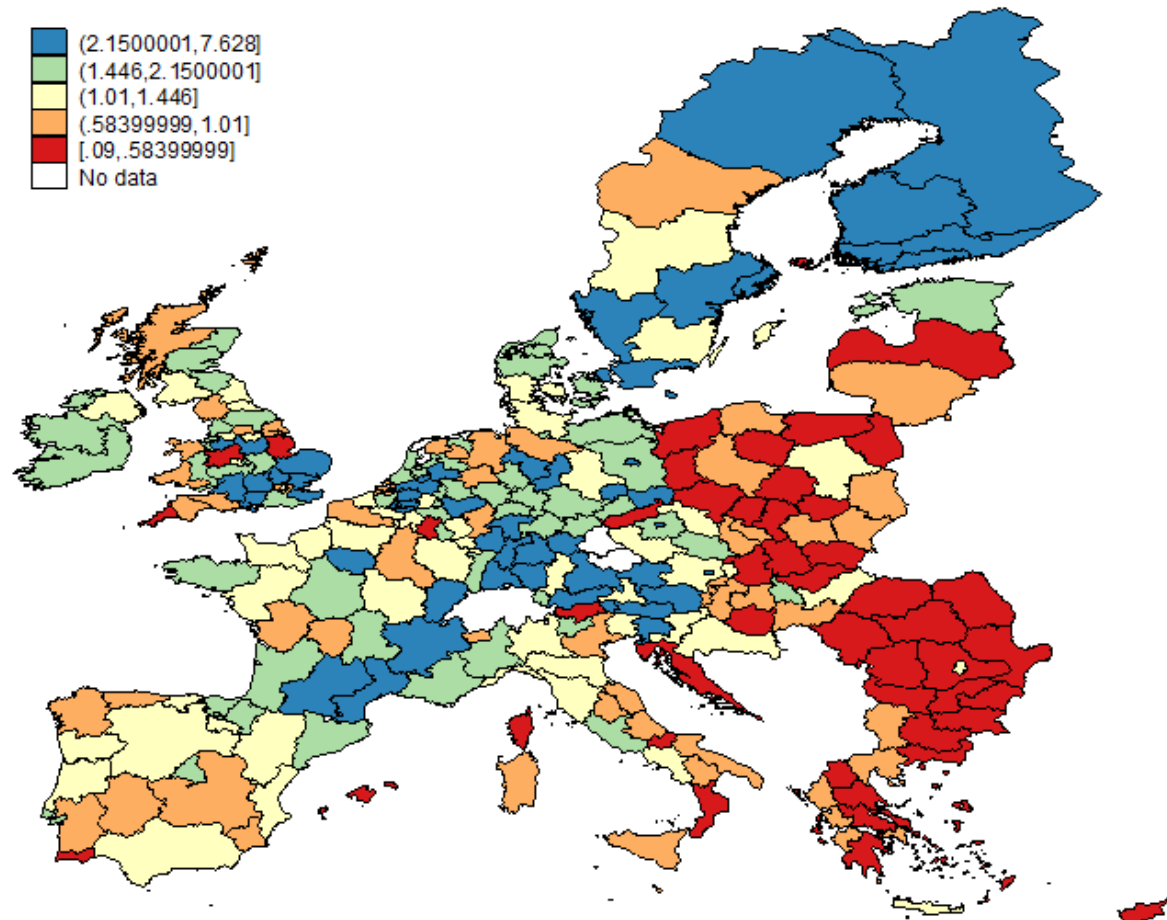
## Stakeholders Involvement:

- COM services (JRC, REGIO, RTD, ENER, CNECT, GROW) and other European Institutions (EP, CoR, EIT)
- Stakeholders' Representatives (EARTO, EBN, ERRIN, KICs)
- Regions and Member States (S3P network, S2E National events)
- FP / H2020 Network (NCP, regional networks, innovation agencies)



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## Regional R&D Intensity as a % of GDP 5 Country Groups



Source: JRC/IPTS



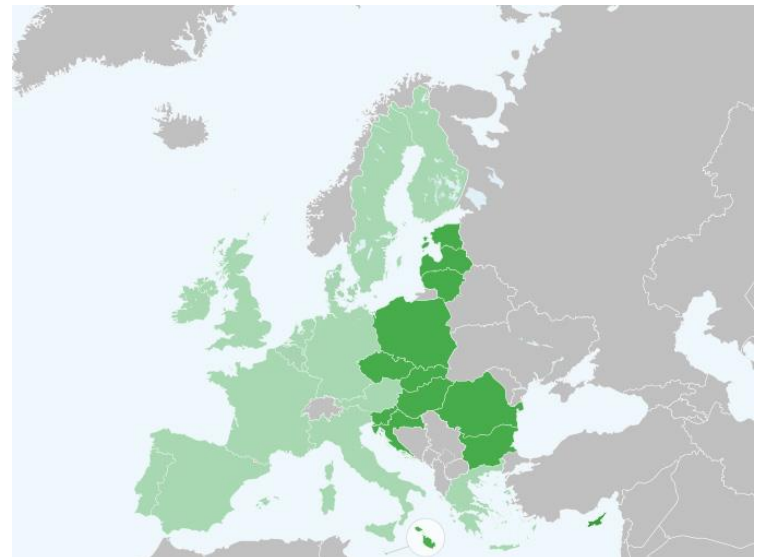
# National S2E Events

- **A better understanding of the national innovation ecosystem**
- **Raising awareness of the actions needed to enable synergies**
- **Sharing experiences in combining different EU funds**

The events are open to national and regional MAs, NCPs, national authorities in charge of RIS3, selected experts and representatives from business and research organisations.

<u>Romania</u>	(June 2016)
<u>Hungary</u>	(May 2016)
<u>Poland</u>	(April 2016)
<u>Slovenia</u>	(April 2016)
<u>Estonia</u>	(March 2016)
<u>Czech Republic</u>	(March 2016)
<u>Lithuania</u>	(October 2015)
<u>Malta</u>	(July 2015)
<u>Slovakia</u>	(June 2015)
<u>Latvia</u>	(April 2015)
<u>Croatia</u>	(March 2015)

*Forthcoming  
Events:  
BG, CY*





# Key Messages (1)

## **Main Issue:**

- **Improving coordination / communication tools between main actors dealing with ESIF and S3 strategies**

## **Concrete Bottleneck:**

- Lack of information circulation between stakeholders (silo effect)
- Need for open dialogue and mutual trust among different stakeholders
- Lack of collaborative governance and inefficient inter-institutional and transnational cooperation (e.g. fragmented research system)
- Lack of awareness about synergy (i.e. funding programmes) opportunities

## **Possible Actions:**

- Better coordination of existing information channels & platforms
- More active roles for public bodies (e.g. promote EU programmes, establish specific offices etc.) together with more efficient incentive schemes
- Specific ministries (or agencies) to coordinate/lead collaboration
- Establishing a review / monitoring / evaluation system(s) (possibly more result-oriented than process-oriented)
- Learning/adapting from good practices

# Key Messages (2)

## Main Issue:

- **Active business involvement in the innovation ecosystem**

## Concrete Bottleneck:

- Lack of incentives for SMEs to participate in international research collaboration
- National funds (easily accessible) vs European funds (complicated with high coordination cost)
- Potential risk of multiple market distortions & rent-seeking behaviour

## Possible Actions:

- Strategic involvement of Business in the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
- Stabilise administrative and legislative framework to encourage business
- Facilitate SME-based R&D projects with supports of PROs and universities
- Measures allowing the primary use of ESIF for close-to-market projects
- Better Incentives for business (and/or researchers who are in collaboration with business) and risk reduction strategies via better awareness campaigns and technical support when feasible

# Key Messages (3)

## Other Main Issues:

- Brain drain
- Lack of strategic approach and prioritisation.
- Administrative burden & complicated bureaucracy
- Strategic Support for both capacity building (i.e. "upstream activities" towards research infrastructure, human resources, networking etc.) and commercial exploitation of results (i.e. "downstream activities")
- Lack of support to universities & industry for bridging activities.
- *Lack of motivation (for PROs and SMEs) to participate in EU research programmes*
- *Lack of knowledge transfers among public and private bodies (at national level) and among EU MSs (at international level)*

# Changing Patterns of Territorial Policy: Smart Specialisation and Innovation in Europe

28th - 30th September 2016

Seville, Spain



Regional  
Studies  
Association



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JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE  
*Institute for Prospective Technological Studies*



3  
SMART  
SPECIALISATION  
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# Thank you!



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

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