

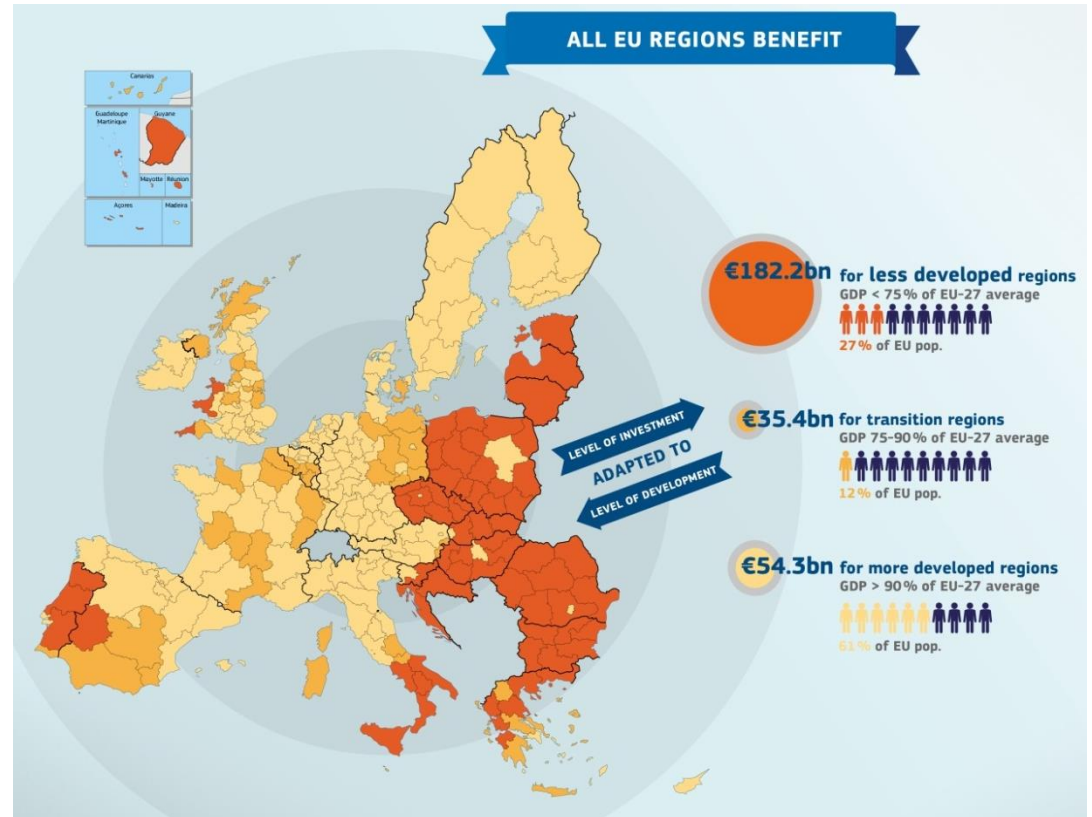


SMART SPECIALISATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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EU REGIONS: 2014-2020



REGIONAL POLICY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNTRIES

- (i) Policy supported through European Neighbourhood Policy (e.g. **Ukraine State Regional Development Strategy until 2020**)*
- (ii) **Policy Dialogues** with Ukraine (MoU 2009), Moldova and Georgia, enshrined in Association Agreements*
- (iii) **Participation in EU territorial cooperation** programmes or macroregional strategies (e.g. Danube)*

THE DANUBE STRATEGY



EU REGIONAL POLICY 2014-2020: KEY ELEMENTS

- *Policy positioned as modern investment tool to deliver on EU strategy for **jobs and growth** (Europe 2020) and EU priorities*
- *Emphasis on **RTD and innovation, digital economy, SME's, energy efficiency and renewables***
- ***Multilevel governance:** Implemented in context of balanced partnership between national, regional and local levels*



SMART SPECIALISATION: KEY INNOVATION IN REGIONAL POLICY

*Aims at **transformation of EU economies** towards innovation driven growth*

*Need for **all regions to be involved** in innovation cycle, thus contributing to enhancing their own **competitiveness** and of Member State and EU as a whole*

SMART SPECIALISATION: WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

- ***Matching academic strengths with needs of real economy***
- ***Clear prioritisation on strengths of region***
- ***Bottom-up interactive process***
- ***Concentration of resources***
- ***Critical mass***
- ***Faster uptake of ideas***
- ***Building interregional cooperation***



GOVERNANCE : A PARTNERSHIP MODEL

*Reflects regional policy **partnership principle of stakeholder involvement***

*Is a **joint creative thinking process** among researchers, businesses, different strands of government, the public sector and civil society*

***Means to make informed, meaningful policy choices** about the fields where a region or country has best chance for a knowledge-driven economic transformation*

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Smart Regions Conference June 2016 takes stock:

121 smart specialisation strategies at national or regional levels in place setting out priorities, with help of JRC Platform

Strategies serve as pre-condition for effective spending

Thematic Platforms established for key topics: Industrial Modernisation, Energy, Agri-food

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

(i)Implementation: Strategies not the final objective, need to be implemented through concrete investments

(ii)Monitoring need to be operational

(iii)Bottlenecks in certain less-developed regions, e.g. weak linkages between research and business, administrative capacity, political will.



UKRAINE STATE STRATEGY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2020

Integrated approach combining three components: sector (industry), territorial(spatial) and management (governance)

Sector: " increase in regional competitiveness through optimisation and diversification of the economic structure, ensuring efficient specialisation of regions with a priority of using their own resource potential".

SUCCESS FACTORS IDENTIFIED IN STRATEGY: EXAMPLES

- (i) Coordination of strategy's objectives with priorities of sectoral policies, including education and research, innovation, economic development and investment***
- (ii) Stimulating cooperation between universities, research institutions and enterprises in the region***
- (iii) Stimulating the development of innovative and pioneering work by enterprises***



STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Regional Development Strategies adopted by the majority of regions (oblasts)

Financing of projects possible from State Regional Development Fund

Adoption of Sectoral Regional Development Programmes, including " Innovative Economy and Investments"



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALISATION

*"The issue of effectiveness of the measures in the Strategy **cannot be considered separately from the issue of the reform of the administrative-territorial structure**, fiscal decentralisation, development and promotion of competitive principles of economy, strengthening the role of local self-government and so on".*

***EU U-LEAD project supporting decentralisation** currently being launched*

CONCLUSIONS

Smart Specialisation is proving to be a valuable tool in regional development within the EU, from the perspective of both identifying priorities of regions and the governance model for reaching decisions

The concept is consistent with the objectives of Ukraine's Regional Development Strategy and the process of decentralisation