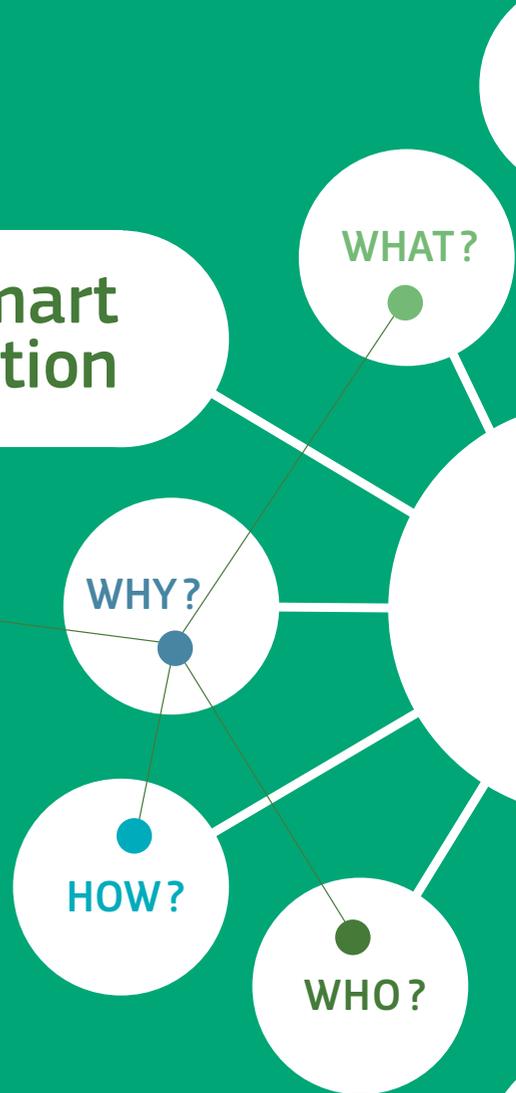


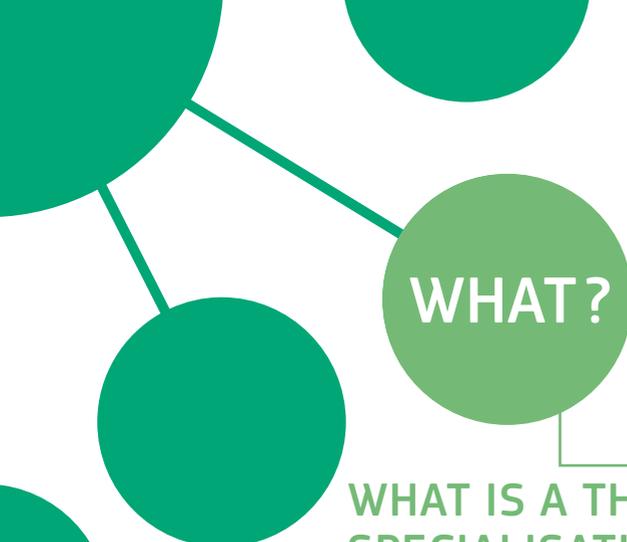


European
Commission

Thematic Smart Specialisation

*Interregional cooperation
to increase innovation
investment across
EU borders*





WHAT?

WHAT IS A THEMATIC SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM?

Smart Specialisation Thematic Platforms are instruments to support bottom-up collaboration between businesses and researchers along value chains across the EU. They promote complementarity of regional funding for innovation in specific smart specialisation areas.

They target key political priorities in order to facilitate the emergence of transnational projects to modernise EU industry, to support the objectives of the Energy Union, the Circular Economy Package, the Digital Single Market, and to deliver solutions for transformation challenges.

The platforms provide an opportunity for policy makers at EU, national and regional level to pool experience and combine instruments to address these priorities in a regional context, where change is felt most.

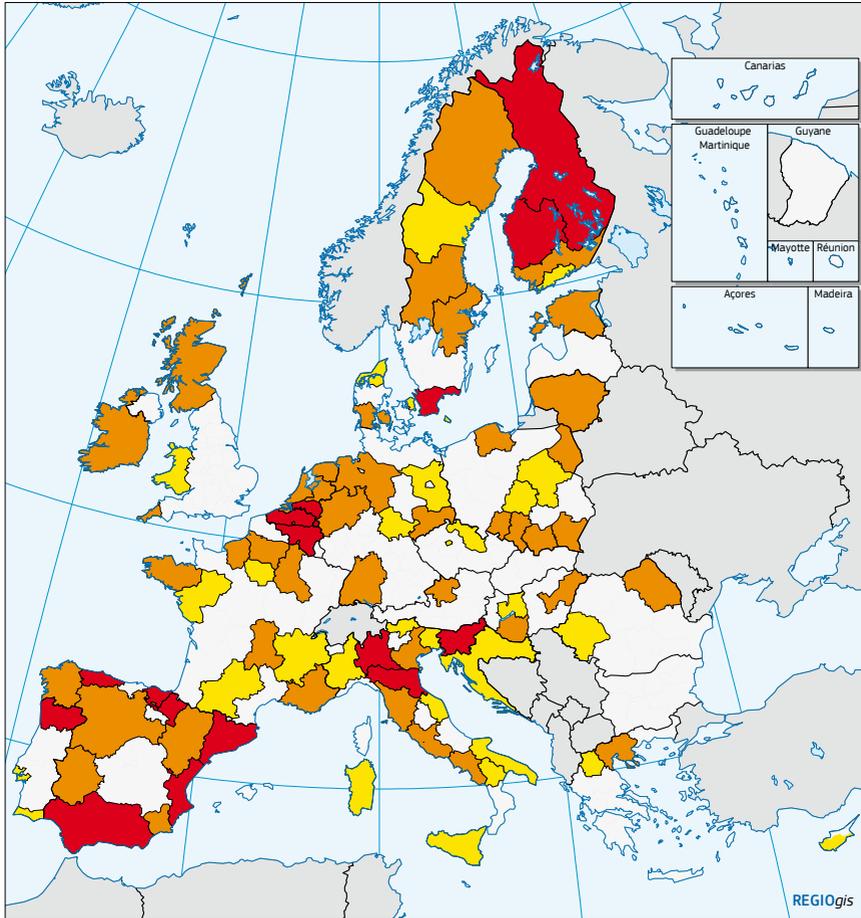
Since June 2016 there are three Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms:

- for **Energy**
- for **Industrial Modernisation**
- for **Agri-Food**

In each thematic platform, interregional partnerships on specific topics leading to concrete projects are created. At the end of May 2017 there are **18 partnerships**. More than **80 regions** are involved.

Smart specialisation inspires regions to focus investments in research and innovation on competitive economic strengths and to mobilise local skills for new, sustainable growth opportunities. Innovation actors across regions co-create solutions to common challenges and build European value chains.

EU REGIONS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS



Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms: Which regions participate and in how many different partnerships?

Number of participations



Number of partnerships: 18
 in Energy: 5
 in Industrial Modernisation: 9
 in Agri-Food: 4

Source: JRC, DG REGIO



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WHY?

WHY DO WE NEED SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORMS?

- To **boost innovation and investment projects** through inter-regional cooperation of innovation actors working beyond borders
- To **complement efforts** in the implementation of national/ regional operational programmes and their respective smart specialisation strategies across EU
- To **avoid duplication of investments**
- To **enable development of project investment pipelines** using economies of scale and scope possible only at EU level
- To **build synergies** with other regional, national and European initiatives (Horizon 2020, COSME, EFSI etc)

HOW?

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The European Commission's experts provide strategic guidance to the platforms. The operational work of the platforms is supported by the S3 Platform. This is the European Commission's contact point to support the smart specialisation process. The S3 Platform, together with other European services, provides direct assistance to facilitate the set-up of strategic partnerships.

Partnerships are coalitions of committed regions that search for alignment and upscaling of smart specialisation investments. Through thematic platforms, the European Commission helps partnerships achieve their investment objectives in a specific area.

How to set up a thematic partnership — step-by-step



Select a strategic thematic area linked to a **smart specialisation priority** of your region. Connect with regions across Europe that have similar or related priorities. Ensure political commitment to invest in a **targeted area**



Bring together cluster organisations and other industry platforms to find out together how exactly cooperation will help to **accelerate business development** and new innovation solutions to industry challenges in the targeted area



Develop a roadmap for investment projects among the partner regions, involving businesses and researchers, to solve **common challenges** in **creating new value chains**

HOW CAN REGIONS ACCELERATE BUSINESS INVESTMENTS?



Start with **targeted investments** in regional/national innovation facilities for testing, integration, validation, to support business solutions in the priority areas



Set up a European regional **network of demonstration and pilot projects**, providing successful examples of innovations, to encourage additional private investment in the domain



Ensure **follow-up business investment**, with new financial instruments and services for upscaling

This three layer investment model is inspired by the Vanguard Initiative. The Vanguard Initiative brings together 30 European regions to collaborate with industry and develop areas that will benefit modernisation of their economies.

See <http://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/pilotinitiatives>

EXAMPLES OF JOINT ACTIONS

In the Partnership for **'Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing'** a demo-case is developed on connecting pilot-facilities for the circular economy. The **'De- and Remanufacturing Pilot Network'** has already mobilised 69 universities and 80 industrial partners with letters of intent to participate in the definition of an interregional service model that connects pilot installations in 7 regions. Their aim is to support innovation in eco-products, processes and business models (including cross-regional value-chain building) with pilots and demonstrations to recover, re-use and upgrade functions and materials from industrial waste and post-consumer high-tech products under a new circular economy perspective. The Basque Country, Flanders, Lombardy, Norte, Scotland and Tampere each have their regional specialisations and combine specialised facilities for validation of high-risk investments in circular economy businesses before the industrial implementation. Together they build critical mass for European solutions to the common challenges of transitioning towards a circular economy, such as recycling of electronic waste.

Within the **'Industry 4.0 for SME Partnership'**, the demo-case on **'Production Performance Monitoring Systems'** aims at helping SMEs integrate production monitoring systems in their production line. The case targets large groups of metal-milling SMEs being usually TIER-3 or TIER-4 suppliers of large OEMs in the automotive, aerospace or machinery & tooling sectors. By organising SME access to technology facilities from different regions (at this moment: Mazowieckie, Slovenia and Catalonia), SMEs will be able to better assess the validity and the relevance of monitoring solutions, inducing productivity gains at low cost.

HOW DOES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION SUPPORT YOU?

1

The S3 Platform interacts closely with the 190 regions that are currently members of its Smart Specialisation Community to provide access to the thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

2

The Commission's directorates-general work together to offer transparent access to relevant support. This can range from expert advice, to matchmaking services, to calls and financing instruments – singly or in combination, according to a partnership's investment needs

3

The lead-regions in the partnerships and the lead-DGs meet in a steering committee to monitor progress of the partnerships towards investment targets. They also discuss future support instruments to accelerate the investment pipeline



WHO?

WHO BENEFITS?

Managing authorities — finding synergies between different EU funding mechanisms, investment areas and companies in common priority areas

Cluster organisations in similar domains — developing joint visions and investment roadmaps for value chains and emerging industries

Public authorities — demonstrating smart specialisations in their regions, finding larger public and private investments for their key areas, also using networks of cities as living labs

Businesses — building networks and obtaining access to shared innovation infrastructures for pilots and demonstrators

S3 PARTNERSHIPS

The following interregional partnerships have emerged in the three Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms.

Thematic Area		Participating regions (lead-regions underlined)
ENERGY		
1	Marine Renewable Energy	<u>Basque Country</u> (ES), <u>Scotland</u> (UK), Andalusia (ES), Asturias (ES), Bretagne (FR), Cornwall (UK), Dalarna (SE), Emilia Romagna (IT), Flanders (BE), Lombardy (IT), Navarra (ES), Norte (PT), Ostrobothnia (FI), Pomorskie (PL), Skåne (SE), Sogn and Fjordane (NO), South Denmark (DK)
2	Sustainable Buildings	<u>Andalusia</u> (ES), North Great Plain (<u>Észak-Alföld</u>) (HU), Asturias (ES), Brussels-Capital Region (BE), Campania (IT), Castile and Leon (ES), Catalonia (ES), Cornwall (UK), Etelä-Karjala (FI), Extremadura (ES), Flanders (BE), Gorenjska (SI), Grand Est (FR), Haute-Normandie (FR), Ireland, Jamtland (SE), Lapland (FI), Lazio (IT), Lisboa Region (PT), Lithuania, Murcia (ES), North West Croatia (HR), Opolskie (PL), Podkarpackie (PL), Podlaskie (PL), Pomorskie (PL), Prague (CZ), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (FR), Rzeszów (PL), Śląskie (PL), Slovakia, Slovenia, South Transdanubia (HU), South-Estonia (ET), Valencia (ES), Västerbotten (SE), Veneto (IT)
3	Bioenergy	<u>Lapland</u> (FI), Castile and Leon (ES), Asturias (ES), Catalonia (ES), Cornwall (UK), East and North Finland (FI), North Great Plain (<u>Észak-Alföld</u>) (HU), Extremadura (ES), Grand Est (FR), Haute-Normandie (FR), Ireland, North Jutland (DK), North East Romania (RO), North Karelia (FI), North Netherlands (NL), Opolskie (PL), Östergötland / East Sweden (SE), Podlaskie (PL), Pomorskie (PL), Śląskie (PL), Slovakia, Slovenia, South Tyrol (IT), South-Estonia (ET), Valencia (ES), Värmland (SE), Västerbotten (SE), Weser-Ems (DE)
4	Smart Grids	<u>Basque Country</u> (ES), <u>Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur</u> (FR), Algarve (PT), Andalusia (ES), Bretagne (FR), Cyprus, Lithuania, North Mid Sweden (SE), North Netherlands (NL), Pomorskie (PL), Puglia (IT), Slovenia, South Transdanubia (HU), West Finland (FI)
5	Solar	<u>Extremadura</u> (ES), Andalusia (ES), Asturias (ES), Castile and Leon (ES), North Great Plain (<u>Észak-Alföld</u>) (HU), Etelä-Karjala (FI), GAP (TR), Ireland, Murcia (ES), Opolskie (PL), Podlaskie (PL), Sicilia (IT), Śląskie (PL), Slovenia, South-Estonia (ET), Manisa Subregion (TR), Valencia (ES), Veneto (IT)

Thematic Area	
AGRI-FOOD	
6	High Technology Farming
7	Traceability and Big Data
8	European agri-food and smart electronic systems
9	Bioeconomy (VI)

Thematic Area **Participating regions
(lead-regions underlined)**

INDUSTRIAL MODERNISATION

**Participating regions
(lead-regions underlined)**

Tuscany (IT), Auvergne Rhone-Alpes (FR), Central Macedonia (GR), East Sweden (SE), Extremadura (ES), Galicia (ES), Gelderland (NL), Lazio (IT), Limburg (NL), Marche (IT), Netherlands, South-Netherlands (NL), Weser-Ems (DE), West Macedonia (GR)

Andalusia (ES), Emilia Romagna (IT), Basque Country (ES), Bretagne (FR), Central Macedonia (GR), Extremadura (ES), Friuli-Venezia-Giulia (IT), Galicia (ES), Hajdú-Bihar (HU), Limburg (NL), Middle Black Sea Region (TR), Navarra (ES), Pays de la Loire (FR), Sardinia (IT), Satakunta (FI), South Ostrobothnia (FI), South Savonia (FI), South Transdanubia (HU)

Flanders (BE), Asturias (ES), Auvergne Rhone-Alpes (FR), Eindhoven (NL), Galicia (ES), Greece, Central Transdanubia (HU), Lombardy (IT), Lower Saxony (DE), Navarra (ES), North Rhine-Westphalia (DE), Wallonia (BE)

Asturias (ES), Scotland (UK), Flanders (BE), Galicia (ES), Hauts-de-France (FR), Lombardy (IT), Navarra (ES), Scotland (UK), South-Netherlands (NL), Wales (UK), Wallonia (BE)

10	Advanced manufacturing for energy applications	<u>Basque Country</u> (ES), <u>Scotland</u> (UK), Andalusia (ES), Asturias (ES), Dalarna (SE), Emilia Romagna (IT), Flanders (BE), Lombardy (IT), Navarra (ES), Norte (PT), Ostrobothnia (FI), Skåne (SE), South Denmark (DK)
11	Bioeconomy	<u>Lombardy</u> (IT), <u>Randstad</u> (NL), Andalusia (ES), Asturias (ES), Baden-Württemberg (DE), Basilicata (IT), Basque Country (ES), Brandenburg (DE), Central Finland (FI), East Netherlands (NL), Emilia Romagna (IT), Flanders (BE), Lodzkie (PL), Malopolska (PL), Navarra (ES), North Netherlands (NL), North Rhine-Westphalia (DE), Scotland (UK), Skåne (SE), South-Netherlands (NL), Tampere (FI), Värmland (SE), Wallonia (BE), West Finland (FI)
12	Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing	<u>Catalonia</u> (ES), <u>Lombardy</u> (IT), Baden-Württemberg (DE), Basque Country (ES), Emilia Romagna (IT), Flanders (BE), Hauts-de-France (FR), Norte (PT), Saxony (DE), Scotland (UK), Skåne (SE), Tampere (FI), Wallonia (BE)
13	High performance production through 3D printing	<u>Flanders</u> (BE), <u>Norte</u> (PT), <u>South-Netherlands</u> (NL), Andalusia (ES), Aragon (ES), Asturias (ES), Auvergne Rhone-Alpes (FR), Catalonia (ES), Emilia Romagna (IT), Hauts-de-France (FR), Lombardy (IT), Malopolska (PL), North Rhine-Westphalia (DE), Örebro Län (SE), Randstad (NL), Saxony (DE), Skåne (SE), Tampere (FI), Thüringen (DE), Upper Austria (AT), Wallonia (BE)
14	Industry 4.0 for SMEs / Production performance monitoring system	<u>Castile and Leon</u> (ES), <u>Catalonia</u> (ES), <u>Mazowieckie</u> (PL), <u>Slovenia</u> , <u>Valencia</u> (ES), Aragon (ES), Bielsko-Bialej (PL), Lapland (FI), Navarra (ES), Timisoara (RO), Tuscany (IT)
15	Innovative textile	<u>Valencia</u> (ES), <u>North East Romania</u> (RO), Campania (IT), Catalonia (ES), Emilia Romagna (IT), Hradec Králove (CZ), Lombardy (IT), Norte (PT), Piedmont (IT), West Flanders (BE)
16	Medical technologies	<u>Auvergne Rhone-Alpes</u> (FR), <u>Lombardy</u> (IT), Aragon (ES), Baden-Württemberg (DE), Catalonia (ES), Copenhagen Region (DK), East Netherlands (NL), Flanders (BE), Helsinki-Uusimaa (FI), Île-de-France (FR), Navarra (ES), North Rhine-Westphalia (DE), Occitanie (FR), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (FR), South-Netherlands (NL), Tuscany (IT)
17	New nano-enabled products	<u>Skåne</u> (SE), <u>Tampere</u> (FI), Asturias (ES), Baden-Württemberg (DE), East Netherlands (NL), Emilia Romagna (IT), Navarra (ES), Norte (PT), North Rhine-Westphalia (DE), Rhône-Alpes (FR), South-Netherlands (NL), Wallonia (BE)
18	Sport	<u>Lapland</u> (FI), Flanders (BE), Kainuu (FI), North Brabant (NL), South-Netherlands (NL), Upper Austria (AT), Valencia (ES)



Find out more:

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