

## S3P – Industry: 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting



**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee of the Smart Specialisation Platform for Industrial Modernisation took place on 12th April 2018 in Rovaniemi, Finland.**

It was attended by representatives of the leading regions, relevant Commission services, such as DG REGIO, DG GROW, DG RTD, and DG JRC, the Committee of the Regions as well as representatives from the Secretariat of Interreg Europe and ReConfirm, the project supporting the partnerships.

The workshop focused on the progress achieved by the partnerships and issues faced in the implementation of the activities during the reference period. The Commission services presented a number of recent EU actions that are relevant to the Platform's work such as those undertaken under the Interreg Europe programme, the New Pilot Actions for interregional innovation projects, the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships, and discussed possible synergies with Horizon 2020.

DG GROW started by presenting an overview of the state of play of the Platform's activities:

- Scoping notes have been finalised and approved by all current partnerships;
- Mapping analysis is ongoing for 6 of the new partnerships;
- Development of investment ideas by some partnerships is progressing.

Next steps include:

- Operational:
  - Continue supporting all partnerships – focus on matchmaking events;
  - Coordinate with the upcoming cluster projects (under COSME);
  - Coordinate with REGIO Pilot Actions;
  - Manage the integration of the new partnerships.
- Financial:
  - Technical Assistance action (COSME) – already launched, available in Q1 2019;
  - Continue discussions with other Commission services.
- Other activities: Follow up actions for establishing closer relationships with INTERREG; Initiate discussions with EIT; participate in the EWRC event on 8-11 October 2018.

DG REGIO outlined the general principles of Cohesion Policy financial perspectives where attention is paid on reforms of Research and Innovation systems, interregional cooperation, diffusion & upgrading, and in the future on S3 implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Reference was made on the new action to support Pilot Interregional Innovation Projects to support a number of on-going interregional partnerships towards commercialisation and scaling up.

### **A. PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS**

*Open discussion moderated by DG JRC*

The discussion was structured around three main topics that were addressed by the partnerships:

- **Governance:** How regional authorities and other stakeholders are involved in the process so far?

- **Activities:** How regions and other intermediates have contributed to the mapping activities— what can be done better by the support services in this area?  
**Investment:** How far the partnerships have progressed to identify investment ideas?

**ADMA for Energy (Vanguard):** Political commitment in the framework of the Vanguard Initiative. Alignment around common priorities as well as the VI membership model. Pilots are open to clusters and other regional agencies. Industry has been involved in the consultation process to define broad challenges and technology roadmaps. Re-engage industry with concrete opportunities. Some funding for specific challenge development through the NeSSIE project.

**Digitalisation and Safety in Tourism:** Regions are well committed. Participation is well balanced across the EU. Additional support provided by NECSTouR, a network of 37 touristic regions, is key for the overall operation of the partnership. No formal agreement between partners so far.

**Textile Innovation:** The involvement of regional authorities and other stakeholders is very good. Four specific areas for action and possible investments have been identified. Links to other national and regions initiatives are under development. The setting up of formal agreements is progressing.

**SME to the Industry 4.0:** The partnership is re-organising the governance structure. Links with other initiatives at national and regional level are progressing. So far EC support has helped to build up the partnership, identify main areas, mapping leading companies and SMEs, and involving key stakeholders. In the long term there would be a need for specific tools for SMEs to design and co-finance investment projects.

**Sport:** Regional stakeholders are well committed and all partners are linked to other stakeholders. The partnership receives excellent support from the European Platform for Sports Innovation. Strong links with other policy initiatives developed in DG EAC, and Interreg. No formal agreement about governance so far. The support of Reconfirm experts is very appreciated. Next EPSI/ ClusSport brokerage event scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> in Torino.

**MedTech:** The partnership includes 30 regions. Four plenary meetings brought together all the regions, associated clusters, and research centres. Discussions remain technical so far, so it is not yet envisaged to formulate a political agreement. The mapping carried out by ReConfirm helped to identify the main sub-themes for further cooperation between partners.

**New Nano-enabled Products (Vanguard):** 14 regions involved. The steering group meets every month and the plenary meeting is organised twice a year. Mapping completed in 2015 but regularly updated. Five user cases initially identified; today three main demo-cases are pursued; three events are to be organised soon: A workshop is planned in Karlsruhe this month and another one in Flanders in June; a third event is planned on Nano-Enabled Printed Electronics. Close links with the EPPN supported under Horizon 2020.

**3D Printing (Vanguard):** Formal setting established following the Milan Declaration and the Vanguard membership standards. A more formal commitment is not necessary for the moment. Co-lead regions meet often and share views mainly on financial modelling and associated risks. Mapping expanded and updated several times. Investment project ideas are under development particularly for one demo case. DG REGIO Pilot Action will contribute to the articulation and the replication/upscale of smaller scale successes for the other demo cases as well.

**Photonics:** Regional authorities are aware of and partially involved. Some regions are already exploring co-investment opportunities in this area. A scoping paper outlines the core competencies

within the Photonic Alliance. The first stage of mapping is being driven by PhotonDelta together with active partners of the European Photonics Alliance.

**Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing (Vanguard):** Advanced level cooperation between regions. Five demo-cases are currently under development mobilising more than 300 stakeholders in 21 regions. A draft business plan is prepared for the De-RE Manufacturing demo case; governance issues are under discussion. Several EC support actions have been used to assist this demo case (Watify, part of a PwC study, and the REGIO Pilot action). There is a private financial commitment signed by more than 50 future potential users.

## **B. Relevant EU actions and strategies**

Representatives from the **Interreg Secretariat** reported about the results of the joint event organised by Interreg Europe and the Platform. The aim was to explore synergies and identify new concrete ways to develop cooperation between the two communities. The participants agreed that there is scope and interest from both communities to establish such a cooperation in the future in a more systematic way.

As a follow up action, it was agreed to organise together a series of Thematic workshops to discuss more specific forms of cooperation including exchange of results (deliverables, policy practices, mappings, investment ideas etc.). Moreover, regions involved in Interreg projects could be interested to join the thematic partnerships of the Platform and regions already involved in the Platforms could be interested to apply to the Interreg Europe initiative. The Policy Learning facility together with Reconfirm could facilitate the organisation of the joint events; 2-3 such Thematic Workshops could be organised in the EWRC days in 9-10 October 2018.

DG GROW presented the EC initiatives supporting interregional collaboration of clusters in particular:

- The European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investments aimed to mobilise the industry to participate in the work undertaken by the partnerships.
- The second Innovation Actions (INNOSUP-1 cluster projects) aiming to develop new cross-sectoral industrial value chains across the EU.

Finally, DG REGIO presented how the new action of **Pilot interregional support actions** complements the activities currently undertaken under the Industrial Modernisation Platform (as well as the other two Smart Specialisation Platforms on Energy and Agro-Food). The support will be on specific issues that would help the partnerships to move forward their commercialisation process.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be organised **in Bilbao on 27-28 November 2018**.

We would like to thank all participants for their participation and valuable contribution.

We would like also to thank the host organisation for their great work for making this SC meeting a successful event.

**The S3 Platform team**