

3-4 JULY 2019
Budapest, Hungary

LEARNING LAB



Supporting the effective uptake of Cohesion Policy funds in energy

S3 as a tool to enhance innovation capabilities in EU13

Rationale, objectives and methodology
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#S3PEnergy

#SmartSpecialisation



Introduction to the Learning Lab rationale, objectives and methodology

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JRC Unit B3 – Territorial development

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Rationale

- RIS3 as an ex-ante requirement to get better efficiency in the use of Structural funds across Europe
- S3 plays a key role in fostering efficient and inclusive Research and Innovation (R&I) ecosystems
- In 2011, the Commission established the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3 Platform)
- It supports in closing the innovation divide (e.g. innovation gap between EU13 and EU15 Members States)
- Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy) was created to assist MS and regions towards an effective implementation of their S3 related to the energy sector

Rationale

- S3PEnergy has contributed to build the international dimension of the smart specialization advocating for strategic alignment between regions (Energy partnerships)
- partnerships show a high participation from most advanced countries and with entrenched innovation experience, but EU13 regions are much less represented and active in the S3 Energy partnerships
- Less developed energy-related innovation expertise may be a crucial deterrent, in the absorption of ESI Funds (TO1 Research and Innovation and TO4 Low Carbon Economy).
- Challenges related to governance, administrative capacities, appropriate skills and the need of a better alignment of policies in R&I and energy

Objectives

To understand better the challenges faced by EU13 regions regarding energy-related innovation policies

The **specific objectives** of the learning lab are to:

- engage the dialogue among public authorities responsible for Cohesion Policy funding related to Innovation and Energy,
- analyse the territorial innovation ecosystems of EU13 in the field of energy: assess main challenges and barriers regarding energy-related innovation policies,
- raise awareness of the EU networking and the actions needed to be involved in the global value chains,
- share experience and showcase good practices,
- prepare for the prospect of capacity building activities, and
- draw lessons for the future and identifying follow-up actions to strengthen the engagement in S3PEnergy

Expected outputs

- ❑ improve governance models in EU13 MS, including a increase of strategic alignment of territorial capacities for the post-2020 framework
- ❑ build and reinforce appropriate managerial skills and capacities of the Managing Authorities of ESI Funds dealing with energy and innovation, and
- ❑ reinforce the EU13's internationalization and connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape, in particular to initiatives supporting value chains (KICs, Strategic Value Chains) and R&I missions (H2020 and Horizon Europe).

Methodology: Parallel session 1

- In Plenary: pitches from selected regional and/or national representatives on their current situation on **governance, including the alignment of R&I and Energy policies**
- Split into 2 parallel groups. QUESTIONS:
 - ✓ What are the main challenges in your country/region regarding energy-related innovation governance?
 - ✓ Which have been the initiatives developed to enhance the quality of governance of the energy and innovation system?
 - ✓ What have been the successes or failures of those actions? How to increase the interaction between i) Research & Innovation and ii) Energy policies in your region?
- In Plenary: the rapporteur for each group reports back on the groups' discussions
➔ CHALLENGES & POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS/ POLICY ACTIONS

Methodology: Parallel session 2

- In Plenary: pitches from selected regional and/or national representatives on their current situation on *capacities & appropriate skills*,
- Split into 2 parallel groups. QUESTIONS:
 - ✓ Do you have sufficient expertise/staff to undertake your activities? Which are the challenges related with human capacities and skills that could affect a successful implementation of low carbon economy initiatives?
 - ✓ To what extent your country/region is facing the need to update the required skills and competences for a clean, fair and effective energy transition? Which would be your training needs?
 - ✓ To what extent is your country/region active in international environments where to get competences for working in wider value chains?
- In Plenary: the rapporteur for each group reports back on the groups' discussions
 - ➔ CHALLENGES & POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS/ POLICY ACTIONS

Methodology: Parallel session 3

- In Plenary: pitches from selected regional and/or national representatives on their current situation on *internationalisation and connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape*
- Split into 2 parallel groups. QUESTIONS:
 - ✓ What are the main weaknesses in your country/region regarding connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape in energy (KICs, H2020, Interreg, S3 thematic platforms, COSME...)?
 - ✓ What actions can be taken to overcome the main issues? By whom? Which have been the successes or failures of those actions?
 - ✓ Do you think it will be possible in the current programming period to set any exchange with other regions or MS to increase the effectiveness of your policies in energy? And for the 2021-2027 period, would you be interested in developing strategic alignment?
- In Plenary: the rapporteur for each group reports back on the groups' discussions
 - ➔ CHALLENGES & POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS/ POLICY ACTIONS

Pitches plenary sessions

PARALLEL SESSION I Governance	PARALLEL SESSION II: capacities & appropriate skills	PARALLEL SESSION III: Internationalisation
RO	SI	HR
PL	CZ	LT
BG	MT	SK
HU	CY	
LV		

Groups for parallel sessions

GROUP 1:

- BG
- HR
- CY
- CZ
- LV
- HU team 1

GROUP 2:

- LT
- MT
- PL
- RO
- SK
- SI
- HU team 2

Rapporteurs:

Katharina Krell, Laura Supjeva, Enikő Csató, Nicolas Jarraud