



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)



S3 Newsletter

Seville, 19 December 2012

Welcome to the sixth issue of the S3 Newsletter

S3 PLATFORM - A GROWING COMMUNITY

103 regions, 3 countries and 1 non-EU region are now registered in the S3 Platform

Newcomers:

Lietuva (Lithuania) (LT)

Malta (MT)

Devon (UK)

Liguria (IT)

Małopolskie (PL)

Nordland (NO)

Pirkanmaa (Tampere Region) (FI)

Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Ελλάδος (Western Greece) (EL)

More info:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-platform-registered-regions>

S3 PEER-REVIEW

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

S3 Platform 6th Peer-review workshop

7-8 February 2013 in Palma de Mallorca (ES)

Organised jointly with the Balears region. Five regions will have their strategy peer-reviewed: Aragón and Balears (ES), Lapland (FI), Marche (IT) and Pomorskie (PL).

More info (including draft agenda and practical information) and registration:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/6th-peer-review-7-8-feb>

The upcoming Palma de Mallorca workshop will mark the first anniversary of the peer-review activity of the S3 Platform.

Since January 2012, the Platform has organized Peer Review Workshops for registered regions and by February 24 EU regions will have their strategy peer-reviewed.

The workshops have two objectives. Firstly, they are meeting places where regions meet each other, Commission staff, academic experts and others to discuss matters of common interest regarding Smart Specialisation. Secondly, they are peer-review workshops where participants learn together through examination and discussions of the work on RIS3 of at least four regions.

The peer reviewed region presents its RIS 3 along a **template** prepared by the S3 Platform. The Strasbourg version from December 2012 of the template can be found at <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/peer-review>.

The template covers the main features of the RIS 3 process as illustrated in the RIS3 Guide and can therefore be a useful accompanying tool for national and regional policy-makers in their RIS3 preparation and establishment.

More peer-review workshops will be organised in the coming months.

Provisional dates are as follows:

- mid March 2013 in Brno (CZ)
- May 2013 in Vaasa (FI)
- late June 2013

More detailed information will be available on the S3 Platform website in the coming weeks and in the next issues of this newsletter.

S3 WORKSHOPS – INDICATORS AND MONITORING & EVALUATION TOOLS

The S3 Platform is happy to announce a **thematic workshop on "Economic Indicators and Monitoring and Evaluation Tools for Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3)"**. The workshop will take place in Groningen (NL) on 24/25 January 2013 and will focus on the use of economic indicators and monitoring and evaluation tools in the context of RIS3. The purpose of the initiative is to discuss the role of different types of indicators in the process of developing and implementing RIS3 in general and with the support of the Structural Funds. The event will be organized around two main sub-topics: tools and indicators for analysing and profiling regional economies (DAY 1), and tools and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of policies (DAY 2). Presentations by leading academics, practitioners, and policy makers will be followed by the presentation of regional case studies. The event aims at gathering around 120 attendees, both academics and policy makers involved and interested in the development of RIS3. Details available at <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home>.

S3 FOCUS – CHECK AND BENCHMARK YOUR REGION

The European Commission released in November the 2012 edition of the European Regional Innovation Scoreboard.

This edition provides a comparative assessment of innovation performance across NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 regions of the European Union, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland.

The results show that most European countries have regions at different levels of performance. At least one region in each of the 4 broader performance groups can be observed in France and Portugal. Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK have at least one region in 3 different performance groups. This regional diversity in innovation performance also calls for regional innovation support programmes better tailored to meet the needs and potential of individual regions, and smart specialisation plays a crucial role in this context.

Regional policy-makers can check and benchmark their region's performance at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/ris-2012_en.pdf.

The report includes detailed data on the performance of each individual region with regard to both the general scoreboard and each specific indicator. These data are available for 2007, 2009 and 2011 and constitute a remarkable dataset on innovation dynamics which could feed the analytical effort for the RIS3 process in the regions.

S3 FOCUS – A FIRST FLAVOUR OF PRIORITIES

The S3 Platform has been going through the peer reviews and also the questionnaire that was sent in September 2012 to registered regions regarding their interest in different topics for planning of future activities.

In these documents what can be interpreted as priorities of the regions has been identified. It came to over 100 different priorities. In order to manage this better, they have been grouped into broader categories of related or similar topics.

Priorities of regions from peer review presentation data

Energy (mainly green/sustainable energy)	13
Life science	11
Agriculture and food production	10
Tourism	9
New materials and Nano sciences	7
Marine / Aquaculture	7
ICT	7
Environment	6

With regard to the replies to the questionnaire, one should remember that this is a combination of fixed categories and some open questions and most of all that the questions referred to the areas of interest for future co-operation with other regions, so they do not necessarily represent the regions' priorities.

Themes of interest of regions from questionnaire data

KET - ICT	10
Financial engineering instruments	10
Digital agenda	8
Innovative public procurement	8
Agro- food	7

It is our intention to let this work and its further developments feed the S3 Platform activity in 2013 on supporting thematic exchange and process-related mutual learning on priority setting (more information on further releases of this Newsletter).

S3 OVER EUROPE - MAIN EVENTS HELD

SMEs and Smart Specialisation - Brussels (BE), 08 November 2012

JRC-IPTS together with DG REGIO, DG ENTR, EURADA and UEAPME hosted an event on SMEs and Smart Specialisation on 08th November in Brussels. The event informed on and discussed possibilities for SME involvement in smart specialisation strategy development (RIS3) and their implementation. There were slightly over 100 participants from all over Europe, mainly from SME organisations and representatives from regional and national agencies in charge of SME involvement in RIS3. Important messages were that SMEs and their representative organisations should act to involve themselves in RIS3 processes and that regional representatives should engage with these actors as they are central to the process. Furthermore there was a strong emphasis on innovation not only being about high tech companies, but that it is broader and include for example service and public sector innovation. As an outcome of the conference an Action Plan for the involvement of SME representative organisations in the RIS3 development process will soon be released. The agenda and the presentations can be found at <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/past-events>.

Smart specialisation in the Atlantic Arc - Bordeaux (FR) 20-21 November 2012

More than eighty participants from the different countries and regions of the Atlantic Arc gathered in Bordeaux to discuss how they can implement smart specialisation in their regions and cooperate across borders. Inspiration was taken from the Baltic Sea, which is more advanced in terms of its macro-regional strategy. Regions in the Atlantic share common opportunities and challenges, in particular related to their maritime physical and socio-economic context, and for many their relatively peripheral location. The seminar was hosted by S3 Platform member Aquitaine at the Regional Council in Bordeaux. Its

vice-President François Maïtia outlined the many opportunities the Atlantic regions are presented with through cooperation in general and the forthcoming EU funding cycle in particular. The high potential of maritime industries was the main topic of conversation in a debate on how S3 can be applied to the Atlantic, and in particular how this can be central to the process of priority setting in RIS3 development. Participants learned about how five regions and one Member State (Portugal) were approaching S3 in two case study sessions. The whole event was highly interactive and on the second day participants entered into in depth discussion about how regions can work together in the area of research and innovation during what was called a "RIS3 Café".

Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation in Spain 2014-2020 – Seville (ES) 13-14 December 2012

More than 300 policy-makers from the Spanish national and regional Governments have gathered in Seville to discuss the progress made and the perspectives for the near future of the process of establishing research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation. Participation was complemented by a number of international experts currently involved in supporting some Spanish region in their RIS3 process as well as representatives of Commission services and the S3 Platform.

Discussions focused on the co-ordination of national and regional governance tools, the links between RIS3 and the future EU cohesion policy regulations and features, and practical advice on how to organise and steer the RIS3 process at the regional level. The event benefitted from media coverage at regional and national level including El País at http://economia.elpais.com/economia/2012/12/13/agencias/1355399342_826589.html.

S3 NEXT

S3 EVENTS

January 24-25

Thematic workshop on indicators for smart specialisation strategies (Groningen, NL)
<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home>

February 07-08

S3 Platform Peer-review workshop (Palma de Mallorca, ES)
<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/6th-peer-review-7-8-feb>

OTHER EVENTS

January 28

Regional smart specialisation for the EU defence sector (Brussels, BE)
<http://www.eda.europa.eu/info-hub/events/2012/12/07/workshop-on-regional-smart-specialisation-for-the-eu-defence-sector>

February 07

Connecting innovation (Malmö, SE)
<http://www.skane.se/sv/Webbplatser/skanese/English/>

May 05-08

Shape and be Shaped: The Future Dynamics of Regional Development (Tampere, FI)
<http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-european-conference-2013>

CONTACT

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