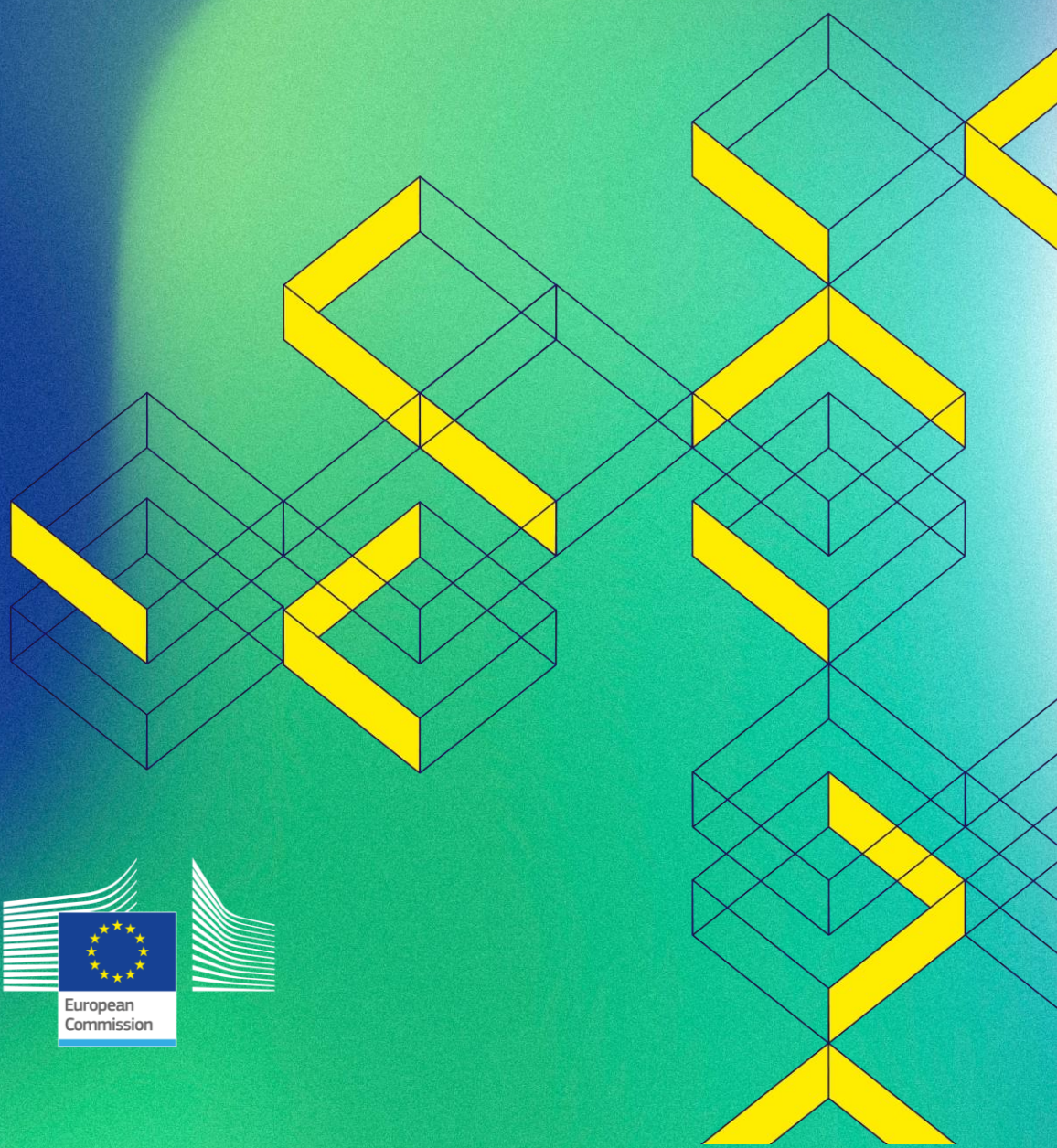


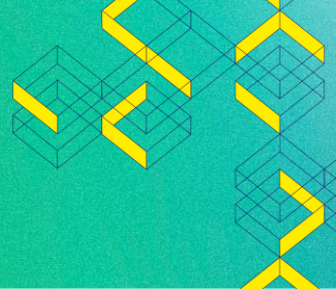
Partnerships for Regional Innovation

What 74 European territories have learnt from the PRI Pilot about transformative innovation and why these lessons can help them connect their innovation ecosystems towards Green Deal



European Committee
of the Regions





The PRI Pilot as a European Lab for Transformative Innovation

Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) is a strategic approach to innovation-driven **territorial transformation**, linking **EU priorities** with national plans and **place-based** opportunities and challenges.

The PRI Pilot action kicked off on 17 May 2022 as a joint initiative by the Joint Research Centre and the European Committee of the Regions, supported by Commissioners Gabriel and Ferreira.

Seventy-four European territories applied, on a voluntary basis to be part of the PRI Pilot, involving four Member States, 63 Regions and seven cities, including six networks.

Some of the **key features** of PRI include:

- The set up of partnerships tasked with the definition and implementation of **local missions** to coordinate initiatives, policies and funding instruments under a single steer.
- The integration of contributions from relevant policy portfolios and funds under a coherent directional logic: PRI approach fosters the identification of challenge-oriented synergies across innovation policy and others such as regional development policy, industrial, skills, employment, infrastructures and social policies.
- PRI pilot action has been designed as a policy lab to gather scientific evidence to support regional policies design.
- **PRI Scientific Committee** brings together fourteen top experts on regional development, economics, innovation and EU policies.
- PRI sets the conditions for connecting interests, opportunities and challenges faced by territories, creating an open collaboration space for practitioners.



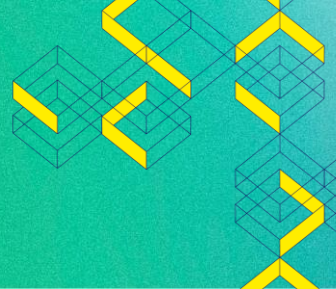
The Commission announced the 63 regions, seven cities and four Member States selected in the pilot project for Partnerships for Regional Innovation

The PRI PLAYBOOK was published in May 2022 to provide conceptual and operational guidance to the territories.



PRI seeks to support the implementation of EU policies for the twin transition including the European Green Deal, Industrial Policy, Cohesion Policy, Innovation policy, Recovery and Resilience Facility, REPOWER EU and the Green Deal Industrial Action Plan

Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) aims to empower EU territories in taking a lead in systemic transformative innovation. In doing so, PRI seeks to translate EU (innovation and other) policies targeting transformation into relevant tools for each territory to support transformative innovation, to reinforce local experimentation and to engage territories actively in the implementation of those EU policies.



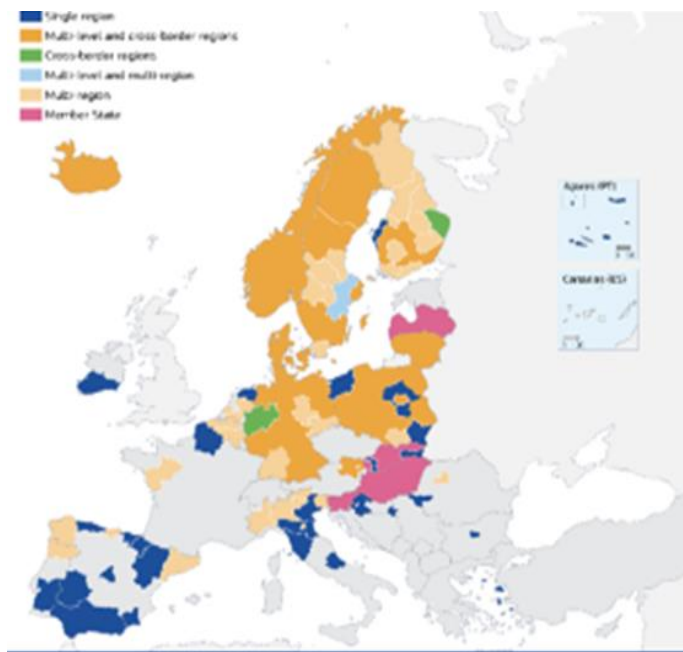
Lessons so far from the Pilot on the PRI approach and Playbook

Lesson 1: Territories agree that **PRI is a bridge of different instruments and actions** for innovation-driven territorial transformation through a systemic approach. Through Partnerships for Regional Innovation, territories can unleash their potential, build on our rich diversity, and open up their existing development pathways and innovation ecosystems to help the European Union meet the challenges of the future.

Lesson 2: The revised PRI Playbook needs to be enriched with more real-world practices, which are being contributed by territories participating to the PRI Pilot. This will help produce an operational Playbook that can help territories design and implement transformative innovation strategies. It should provide a process-oriented and user-centered perspective, by bridging the PRI concepts and the PRI toolbox of 68 fiches from the first Playbook. How? By focusing on four main processes, such as Envisioning & Foresight, Orchestrating & Governance, Engaging & Partnerships, and Implementing & Learning. It will guide readers, such as **sustainability innovators in the public sector**, by asking them questions. Tools will include a revised version of the fiches published in 2022 and new ones, structured per process phase.

Lesson 3: PRI Territories welcome the impulse provided by PRI to foster **synergies** between different funding instruments and actions. Territories embrace the PRI approach to accelerate transformative outcomes by introducing **local missions** to coordinate actions under a single directional logic, exploring broad-ranging policy mixes for **system-level innovation**.

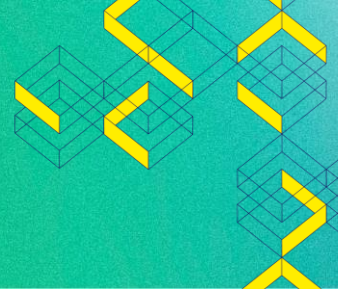
Lesson 4: the **Playbook** should be a **living document** and capture the feedback and insights exchanged with, and among, territories in the PRI Pilot action.



Source: S3 Platform

On 28 March 2023, a High-level PRI Event, **From Playbook to Implementation**, is to take place in Brussels. It consists of two main parts. The first addresses the importance of turning **science into policy action**. The second focuses on the role of **PRI in delivering the New European Innovation Agenda**. In this occasion, PRI pilot participants can renew their collective commitment of to keep working together and use the PRI approach.

Snapshot from the Pilot: from a mapping exercise, it emerged that a **diverse set of EU territories** is active in the Pilot, in terms of PRI potential and aspirations. Some joined the Pilot because they were already approaching transformative innovation regional strategies; some wanted to learn how to better connect the national with the regional and local levels; others wanted to learn from and with more experienced regions; finally, for some territories, the Pilot action represented a trigger for collaboration in newly formed networks.



Interregional cooperation in PRI

The European Green Deal, the EU Missions, the European Industrial Strategy, REPOWER-EU and now the Green Deal Industrial Plan are mobilizing contribution by European territories to strengthen their innovation ecosystems and the connections across them, to contribute to the green and digital transitions and to attain the open strategic sovereignty.

Lesson 5: Territories' work in PRI has revealed unexploited opportunities to collaborate to address the main challenges facing Europe.

EU CHALLENGES

Reducing the reliance on fossil fuels
Increasing global food security
Digital transformation
Healthcare
Circularity
Climate Adaptation

The PRI approach provides the frame to integrate the territorial, systemic and transformative visions across such pan-European cooperation initiatives.

The **New European Innovation Agenda¹**, fosters the creation of **regional innovation valleys**, bringing together less and more innovative regions, with aligned areas of specialisation, complementarities and capabilities. Innovation valleys promote collaboration, directionality and will take forward joint innovative projects targeting EU priorities.

The European Commission goal is to have more than 100 regions involved in innovation valleys.

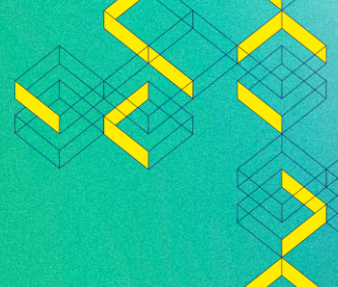
The European Innovation Agenda relies on **PRI pilot** as a steppingstone for territories to experiment with new interregional cooperation approaches.

Under the PRI approach, interregional cooperation gives rise to Challenge-Oriented Interregional Innovation Partnerships (CHOIRs), meaning an additional inter-territorial dimension to policy coordination, joint ownership with stakeholders and guiding directionality.

Cities and Regions and Member States together are able to better address the societal challenges, defining common missions and coordination actions plans tailored to their needs and capacities. The potential of this joint action contributes to transformative innovation influencing multiples value chains, inside the regional ecosystem and outside the territory.

Lesson 6: The challenges facing Europe today demand joining forces. Additionally, cross border cooperation offers avenues for regional competitiveness for the following reasons:

- Improved connectivity and the diffusion of innovations through inter-regional linkages
- Reinforced regional innovation capacities, allowing local innovators to access the European Markets
- Accelerated transformation of ecosystems with new policies and tools
- Greater potential for regional innovation ecosystems to contribute to industrial sectors and global value chains, especially in less developed regions
- Opportunities to jointly address common challenges, e.g. climate adaptation
- Pooling of funding
- Synergies creation
- Mutual learning and capacity building



A hands-on approach

How can EU Interregional Cooperation instruments be integrated and contribute to this collaboration agenda?



A PRI approach can create synergies and thus contribute to overcoming fragmentation of policies and funding

Much more than money,

What is needed in the collaboration agenda?

Mobilising funding

- Funding Governance
- Coordination of funding
- Joint calls
- Financial Instruments
- Synergies

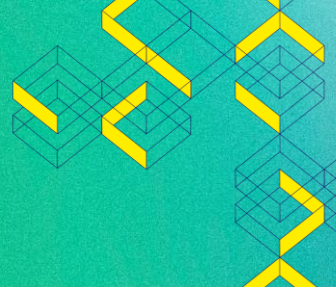
Reinforcing ecosystems with policies and tools

- Regulations
- Fiscal Policy
- Standardization
- Environmental policy
- Energy policy

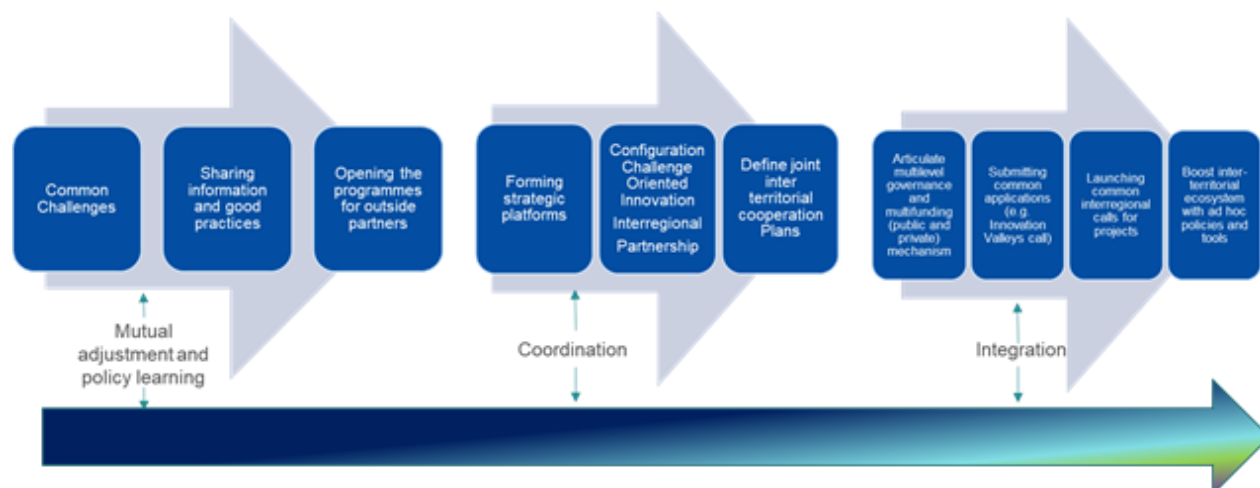
Tools to make innovation ecosystems more efficient

- Local SDGs
- Foresight
- DIH
- Taxonomy

Sound political endorsement from the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and territories



Interregional cooperation in PRI. A hands-on approach



Source: Adaptation of Woolford, J., Amanatidou 2012, elaboration based on Mariussen, et al. 2016; Uyarra et al., 2018

CONNECTING REGIONAL INNOVATION VALLEYS

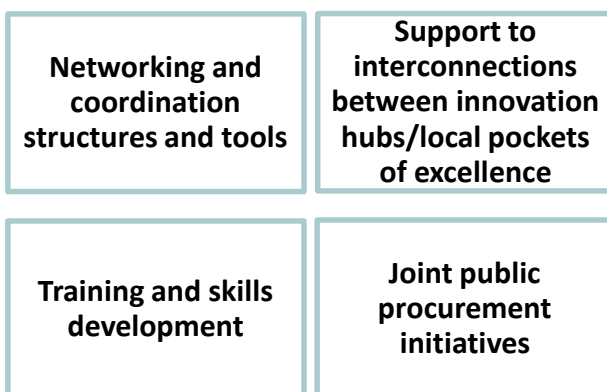
Who can create a valley? At least 5 national or regional authorities, from at least 5 different Member States or Associated Countries, of which at least 2 are representing a 'moderate' or 'emerging' innovator region and at least 1 is representing a 'strong' or 'innovation leader' innovator region.

Based on the draft of Future HORIZON-EIE-CONNECT calls shared by DG RTD and DG REGIO

In cooperation with



INNOVATION VALLEY JOINT INNOVATION PROGRAMME



3-4 INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS