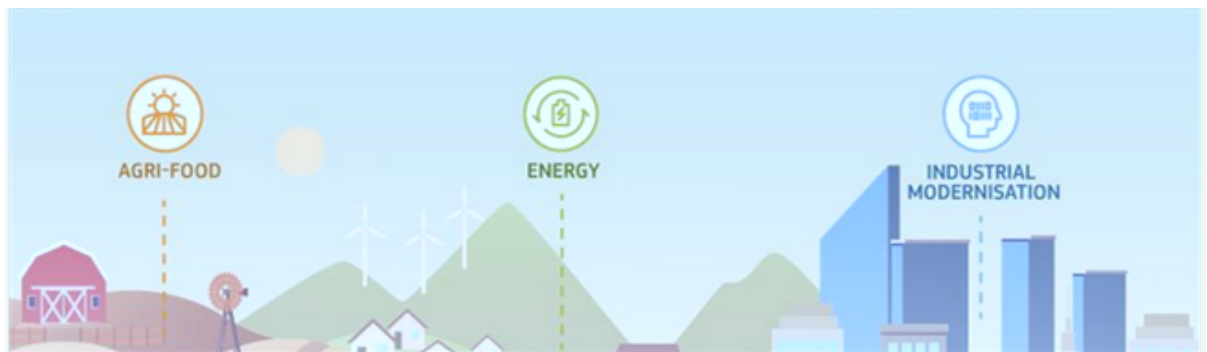


Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms Monitoring Progress Report

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership Monitoring Progress Report

This report is presented to the relevant Working/Steering Committee.

The report is updated every six months.

Confidentiality:

The management report (section I) and progress report (section II) will be made available to the public via your Partnership's web page.

The part on self-assessment is confidential.

Based on the monitoring results, the European Commission will decide on the following term's support.

* Reporting period

July - December 2020

* Please select the name of your partnership

Chemicals

*** Start date of your partnership**

2018

*** Partnership's webpage**<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/chemicals>

I. Management report

*** Please provide the executive summary and the objectives of your partnership**

The focus area of this thematic partnership is the Chemical Industry and its related industries. The main objective is the modernization of the chemical industry to a sustainable, energy- and resource-efficient sector

that is globally competitive and provides innovative solutions.

The sub-objectives of this partnership are to develop solutions on:

- Sustainable production based on renewable raw materials and clean energy (decarbonized fossil energy and solar- and wind power)
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mainly CO₂) and energy and resources consumption in chemical plants
- Promoting new high value-added value chains and their integration across regional borders and across sectors, such as logistics, agriculture, forestry, energy, etc., in a way that complementarities of regional specializations are utilized
- Supporting close-to-the-market products, scale-ups, pilot, and demo plants.

*** Please provide the list of leading regions**

Lombardy, Italy
Limburg, the Netherlands

*** Please provide the list of participating regions.**

*If possible, please follow this format: "Name of the region in English (Country abbreviation), NUTS code".
e.g.: Lapland (FI), FI1D7*

Mazovia, (PL),
Usti nad Labem (CZ),
Saxony-Anhalt (DE),
Wallonia (BE),
Catalonia (ES),
Central Ostrobothnia (FI)

Please provide the list of interested regions or other entities (other than national /regional authorities)

Groningen-Drenthe (NL),
Brandenburg (DE),
South Holland (NL),
Lviv (UKR)
West Pomerania (PL)
Mazovia Energy Agency (PL)

Please provide an overview of the **working areas** of your partnership

	Working area	Region in charge	Involved regions	Other actors
* 1	Alternative feedstock - Valorisation of agro-food biomass project	Lombardy	Limburg, Catalonia, Mazovia	Assolombarda
* 2	Alternative feedstock - Electric cracking technology	Limburg	Lombardy, Catalonia	Brightlands Chemelot Campus
* 3	Polymers - Plastics recycling	Limburg	Saxony-Anhalt, Lombardy, Catalonia, Usti, Mazovia	Brightlands Materials Centre
* 4	Chemical Recycling pyrolysis project	Usti	Mazovia, Saxony-Anhalt	Unipetrol Centre for Research and Education (UniCRE)
* 5	Sustainable process technology - Flow Chemistry project	Catalonia	Lombardy, Mazovia, Saxony-Anhalt	Research of Catalonia (ICIQ))
* 6	-	-	-	-
* 7	-	-	-	-
* 8	-	-	-	-
* 9	-	-	-	-
* 10	-	-	-	-

Please provide information regarding past meetings, workshops and dissemination activities (six months prior to filling out the survey)

	Event	Date	Place	Any other information
1	Webinar: Activities and opportunities of cooperation with S3P-Industry thematic partnerships, European Alliance against Coronavirus	07.07.2020	Brussels	
2	Industrial Cooperation & Smart Recovery	13.10.2020	Brussels	
3	ECRN conference "Building the Sustainable Chemical Industry of Tomorrow: Regional Response to common European Challenges"	26.10.2020	Brussels	
4	S3 Partnerships and Cooperation under IGJ goal	25.11.2020	Brussels	
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Please provide information regarding planned future meetings, workshops and dissemination activities

	Event	Date	Place	Any other information
1	General Assembly of ECRN members	February 2020	Brussels	Discussion regarding the future of the partnership
2				
3				
4				
5				
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8				
9				
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II. Progress report

Innovative results

Please describe innovative results and achievements that could be attributed to the partnership (specific examples of results vs. objectives)

Project Bi-Rex ran by Lombardy region made huge progress. The concept is appealing, and the proposed offer embeds evident value. At present, the solution offered is at the proof-of-concept stage, making the project relatively immature for a comprehensive business plan to be developed. Nonetheless, some initial forecasted revenue figures were developed that indicate potential financial sustainability of the initiative. The project was able to attract market support by receiving pre-seed investment and grants from different sources, which seems to make the initiative appealing also to the market. However, a proper market analysis is yet to be performed and various elements of the preliminary business model need to be further elaborated. A Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) was signed between the two organisations from the leading region (Lombardy); however, no proof of commitment was yet provided by the second region involved (Limburg), which is necessary to meet the TAF support eligibility criterion corresponding to the interregional dimension of the investment idea.

A total amount of 10 expert days will be allocated to the project (conditional to the completion of step 1 of the work plan by the project promoter). The services are to be delivered over a duration of 3 months.

Tangible short- and medium-term socio-economic impacts achieved or expected (specific examples)

In the short term, thanks to the partnership, regions have been able to consolidate their own industrial and research ecosystem related to the chemical industry. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all the activities were put on hold or were transferred to the virtual reality. Additionally, the huge part of regional activities was focused on fighting against spreading the virus. Despite that, during this period we were able to engage the members into several events, and thanks to the ECRN activities we were able to organize the special session of European Alliance against Coronavirus dedicated strictly to the chemical partnership. This means that in the medium-term, we can expect to strengthen the regional and interregional innovation ecosystems. Additionally, some partners organized visits to each other's industrial. We also received the positive responses from the Lviv region and Mazovia Energy Agency that they are interested in the engagement into the projects and they see potential in this cooperation.

Inter-regional and inter-partnership collaborative results

Additional results obtained from working with other partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms (specific examples)

Evaluation of the involvement of relevant business sector (clusters, SMEs, business associations, chambers of commerce, Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), etcetera) in the Partnership activities (specific examples)

Cluster and business representatives, including national/regional chemical industry association representatives, as well as research organizations have been involved in the organized events and are gradually being acquainted with the aims of the partnership, and contribute to the discussions on regional needs and potentials. This involvement is ensured by the regional public authorities. The potential for cooperation is strongly visible in the field of bioeconomy between chemical partnership members and the Power4Bio Horizon 2020 project. Two of the project members expressed their interest in the partnership.

Evaluation of whether the level of inter-regional cooperation is sufficient to potentially provide practical and relevant socio-economic impacts (specific examples)

The level of inter-regional cooperation is strong due to the fact that the partnership is built on the basis of an interregional network - ECRN - which has been bringing most of the partners into cooperation activities in the last 10 years. Through the partnership, the industrial side of the inter-regional cooperation is being developed and it has been able to attract the participation of several clusters and industry associations. The partnership aims to further the possible identification of complementarities between the regional stakeholders so as inter-regional projects are built and socio-economic impacts achieved.

New activities

Involvement of regions from EU13 Member States in the Partnership, in particular with respect to scoping, mapping and/or matchmaking. In addition, justification should be provided if no EU13 regions are involved

Involvement of regions/countries from outside of EU28 Countries. (Number of participants from non-EU countries (specify their contribution)

The Lviv region (UKR) expressed its interest in the cooperation in the forestry sector (biomass and technology provider)

Advancement and promotion of the Partnership through publications and other communication/outreach activities (number of outreach activities that resulted from the partnership)

The partnership activities are frequently promoted through the social media channels of the ECRN network. Additionally, the partnership is promoted in meetings of the regions with their own stakeholders or interregional events.

Activities and projects with partnerships working under other S3 Thematic Platforms (AgriFood, Energy and Industrial Modernisation)

Your Partnership and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The EU has a strong position when it comes to sustainable development and is also fully committed to be a frontrunner in implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda, together with its member countries and regions. Many interregional partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms contribute strongly to the attainment of these 17 goals.

Please indicate to which Sustainable Development Goals and to what extent your thematic Partnership contributes?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition & promote sustainable agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives & promote well-being for all at all ages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality & empower all women and girls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment & decent work for all	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation & foster innovation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 11. Make cities & human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption & production patterns	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas & marine resources for sustainable development	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and						

revitalise the Global
Partnership for Sustainable
Development

