



European Committee
of the Regions

Commission for the Environment,
Climate Change and Energy

Seminar on

Energy, Education, Sustainability: Investing in the future of the regions – From vision to citizens' everyday lives

8 November 2018
Burgenland, Austria

ENVE





Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy

Burgenland, 8th November 2018

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Expert working with the Joint Research Centre**

What is Smart Specialisation?

Is there a link between innovation and regional growth?

There is a strong case for selecting innovation as a core priority:

“The general consensus...is that the driving force behind long-term economic growth is science, technology and innovation in its different forms and facets” (OECD 2011: Regions and Innovation Policy)

Smart specialisation:

- is **place-based** innovative approach that aims to **boost growth and jobs** in Europe
- The aim is to identify and **develop its own competitive advantages**: select in each region a limited number of sectors in which innovation can most readily occur
- This approach is characterised by the identification of strategic areas for intervention based both on the **analysis of the strengths and potential of the economy** and on an **Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) with wide stakeholder involvement**

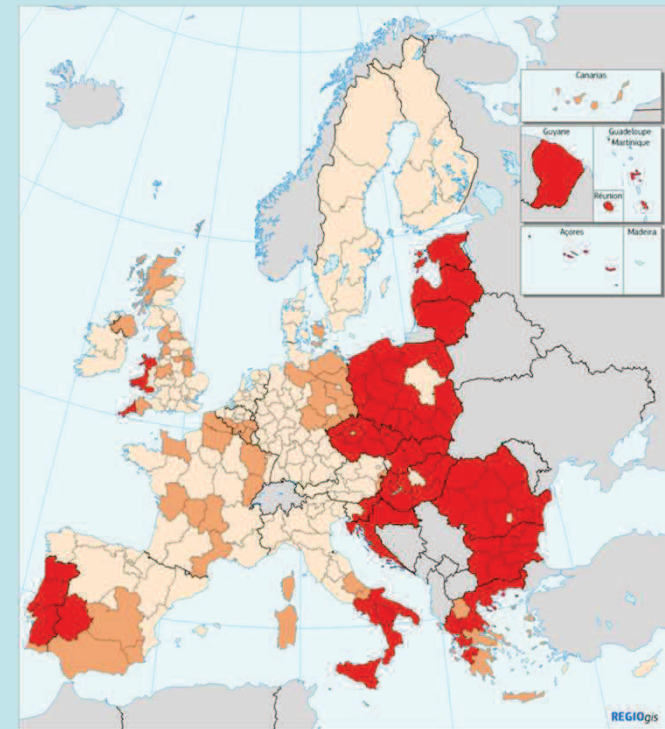
Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3)

REGULATION (EU) 1303/2013 - Applies to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Ex-ante conditionality for Thematic Objective 1 ERDF 2014 – 2020 (Strengthening research, technological Development and innovation)

"...A national or regional Smart Specialisation Strategy (**RIS3**) is in place that:

- is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities
 - outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment
 - contains a monitoring mechanism..."
- **Over 120 smart specialisation strategies have been developed**



Eligibility map 2014-20



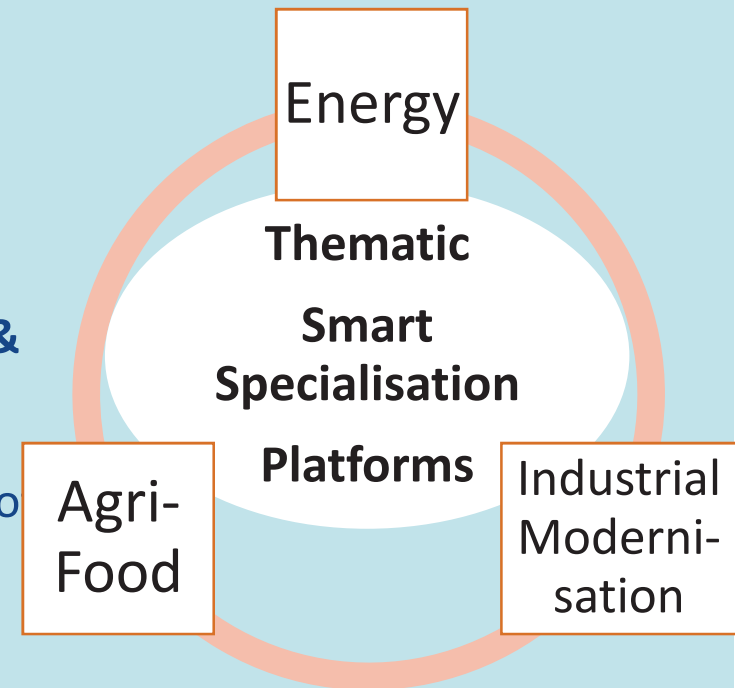
Smart Specialisation Platform (S3 Platform)

- The **Smart Specialisation Platform (S3 Platform)** was designed to assist regions and Member States in developing RIS3 strategies
- The S3 Platform is the Commission's mechanism to **provide advice to regional and national authorities on how to develop and implement their smart specialisation strategies**
- **Launched in June 2011**
- Managed by a team established in the Territorial Development Unit (B3) of the Joint Research Centre in Seville



Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

- Create Thematic Smart Specialisation platforms in high value-added sectors:
 - Agri-Food
 - Energy
 - Industrial modernisation
- Platforms provide support for **targeted innovation & transformation**
- Regions join forces and pool resources on the basis of matching smart specialisation priorities



The Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy)

Energy is the most popular priority in S3 - 2/3 of all regions have chosen an energy-related priority in their RIS3

S3PEnergy was created in 2016 to:

- Support the implementation of the S3 of the regions/countries that have chosen energy-related priorities in their RIS3 (TO1)
- Assist countries in the optimal uptake of the Cohesion Policy funding opportunities for energy (TO4 & TO7e) – co-funding opportunities

Who is part of the S3PEnergy?

- The European Commission through joint action between DG REGIO, DG ENER and the DG JRC
- **72** Member States and regions active in partnerships



Platform Activity – S3PEnergy

- 1. Policy research and implementation advice:**
analysis and advice on energy-related topics of interest to regions, ESIF energy monitoring tool, good practices, exploration of funding opportunities
- 2. Mutual transnational learning arena:**
mapping and matching of regional capacities and S3 priorities, thematic partnerships, interregional workshops
- 3. Information, communication and dissemination:**
sharing of information in areas of interest to member regions, events, website etc.
- 4. Specific Information and analysis in support of other DGs:**
monitoring of uptake of ESI Funds for energy, input for policy development and implementation feedback

Partnerships – S3PEnergy

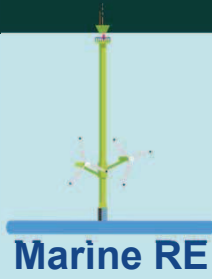
- Creation of 5 Partnerships inside the S3PEnergy: **Bioenergy, Marine Renewable Energy, Smart Grids, Solar Energy and Sustainable Buildings**
- Identification of partnerships across EU regions, based on regional smart specialisation priorities
- **Main objectives of partnership creation:** execution of joint projects based on common investment interests
- **Spillovers:**
 - **Spread of knowledge and ideas** amongst members with overlapping priorities
 - Strengthening of **inter-regional network**, development of contact base for mutually-beneficial future collaborations
- **103** partnership participants

Partnership Members – S3PEnergy



22 regions,
including:

- North Netherlands (NL)
- North West Croatia (HR)
- South Estonia (EE)



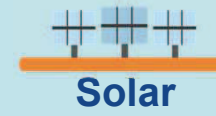
16 regions,
including:

- Norte (PT)



11 regions and
Member States,
including:

- Cyprus (CY)



11 regions and
Member States



42 regions and Member
States, including:

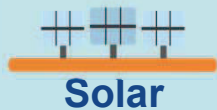
- Brussels-Capital Region (BE)
- North West Croatia (HR)
- Copenhagen region (DK)
- Lazio (IT)
- Lithuania (LT)

Partnership Development– S3PEnergy

- Partnership development: **move from Learn and Connect to Demonstrate** phase
- 2 pilot projects in place funded by DG REGIO with up to 200,000 EUR in technical assistance during 2018



Partnership Activity – S3PEnergy



- **11 regions and Member States led by Alentejo (PT) and Extremadura (ES)**
- **Objective:** support solar electricity generation and distribution in Europe and maintain the European concentrated solar power industry leadership worldwide.
- **Project Example:** Development of a First-Of-A-Kind Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant hybridized with Photovoltaic (PV). This plant will test the technical and commercial viability of exporting solar energy generated in Southern Europe to demand hubs in Northern Europe.



- **42 regions and Member States led by Andalusia (ES) and North Great Plain (HU)**
- **Objective:** Improving the sustainability of Europe's buildings and construction industry, one of the EU's major energy consumers.
- **Project Example:** Smart Campus pilot. Selected and supported by DG REGIO in their pilot action. The project aims to design more efficient and innovative generation and distribution systems in university campuses.

Interregional Cooperation - Why?

- **To boost innovation to meet major challenges** (energy transition, agro-food system and industry modernisation...) through the identification of the most innovative solutions and technologies
- To support the optimal and effective uptake of the Cohesion Policy funds, exploiting complementarities in the implementation of national/regional OPs and S3, and avoiding duplication of investments and efforts
- To enable the development of investment pipelines: forging new business opportunities, co-creating EU value-chains
- To upscale S3 investments and achieve critical mass through complementary regional investments (bottom-up mobilisation: coalitions of politically committed partners)
- To build synergies with other regional, national and EU initiatives (Horizon 2020, SET-Plan, etc.)

Some Final Thoughts

How can I join the S3PEnergy?

- Bi-annual call for new partnerships
- Joint existing partnerships

Next Steps:

- Smart Specialisation remains a pivotal element in the next programming period
- Maintain the **structured and coordinated support from the JRC**



Thank you!

Contact the platform:

S3PEnergy: [JRC-B3-S3PLATFORM-](#)

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