



Exploring the potential of the smart specialisation strategies approach in terms of cross-border, transnational and regional cooperation to boost the economic growth

***Changing Patterns of Territorial Policy: Smart Specialisation & Innovation in Europe
First SMARTER Conference on Smart Specialisation and Territorial Development
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Structure of the paper

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 - European territorial cooperation (Interreg) (2007-2013) projects examples, boosting knowledge transfer and innovation
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Need for strategic cooperation to elaborate cross-border, transnational, inter-regional S3s

Smart specialisation in itself warrants the need for strategic cooperation as an essential component and furthermore emphasizes on the inclination towards global value chains, the search for synergies with other regions and the creation of trans-regional collaborations and networks

Advantages of such collaboration are:

- increased economies of scale and scope,
- maximization of spillover effects,
- increased valuation of capacities and resources and of access to specialized services
- increased opportunities for enterprises, particularly SMEs

The RIS3 guide emphasises the need for regional strategies to adopt an 'outward looking' approach in terms of their orientation towards global value chains, the assessment of priorities vis-à-vis other regions, as well as the consideration of cross regional projects and networks.

Need to create cross-border innovation policy approaches, such as joint research and mobility programmes, joint research infrastructures, partnerships and cooperation networks

Trans-regional cooperation, and especially cross-border one, permits greater effectiveness and access to innovation policy tools, which can further be implemented by regions within the smart specialisation approach.

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Overview of good examples of cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation in terms of smart specialisation and innovation (1)

- The **Euroregional Innovation Strategy** (drawn up and adopted by the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion in 2014)
 - *eHealth Eurocampus project, Links Up project, Spur Project*
- The **2014-2020 Strategic Plan** (prepared and adopted by *the Aquitaine-Euskadi Euroregion EGTC* (2014))
- **Joint cross-border smart specialisation strategy for Galicia (ES) – Northern Portugal Euroregion**

The above strategies are good examples of cooperation between public sector, economic players and research centres in border regions aimed at promoting the economic development of the territory as a whole and encouraging innovation. They can serve as inspiration for other border regions that have not yet formalised their cooperation in a strategic manner.

Overview of good examples of cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation in terms of smart specialisation and innovation (2)

- Vanguard Initiative (VI)
- MANUNET – an ERA-NET Co-funded initiative
- Interreg Europe 2014-2020

Interreg Europe projects relevant to Smart Specialisation:
HIGHER, Beyond EDP, BRIDGES, Clust&RIS3,
CLUSTERIX 2.0 , SmartPilots, S3Chem, S34Growth

Addressing added value of macro-regional strategies (MRS) for boosting innovation and align S3s

Four EU MRS adopted:

- *EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (2009) (EUSBSR)*
- BSR STARS S3 Project
- *EU Strategy for the Danube Region (2010) (EUSDR)*
- DANUBE-INCO.NET Project
- *EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (2014) (EUSAIR)*
- BLUE TECH ADRION CLUSTER – BLUE TECH
- *EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (2015) (EUSAR)*

MRS provide platforms for transnational collaboration and facilitate dialogue between different regions and policy sectors. This increases opportunities to access to the EU financing, improves possibilities for influencing the policy agenda, provides access to partner search networks in the whole macro-region.

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ETC (Interreg) projects examples - boosting knowledge transfer and innovation

- Projects achievements in the field of research and innovation - joint research projects, cooperation between research institutes and companies, establishment of international border universities, cross-border research centres and cross-border training institutes, creation of cross-border clusters and networks of companies, cross-border incubators and advisory services for SMEs, high-tech branding to attract foreign investors;
- One of the best examples - the *Food2Market Project (Interreg IVB North-West Europe)* built up a transnational innovation incubator for SMEs in the food industry, which is used by SMEs to expand their markets across the borders;

■ Investments for smart growth represent 27% of the ETC ERDF budget 2014-2020 and the expected outputs are the following: 22 500 companies supported in promoting smart growth, 6900 companies working in cooperation with research institutions across EU borders, 1300 researchers directly involved in cross-border and transnational research activities.

Governance and synergies

- Importance of the Quadruple Helix approach
- Role of universities as part of smart specialisation
- Entrepreneurial discovery process towards more synergies
- Multi-level governance principle
- Appropriate coordination mechanisms should be set up to ensure effective coordination and synergies between the ESI Funds and other Union and national funding instruments, as well as with the EFSI and EIB
- Simplification and overcoming legal obstacles across borders

Concept for synergies

- *More links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education*
- *Enhancing the impact of investments, links between projects, building on previous projects or other instruments*
- *Strengthen cooperation and complementarity across Europe by teaming up different capacities in leading and lagging regions thanks to smart specialisation*
- *Synergies and complementarity – ESI Funds, EFSI, Horizon2020 and other thematic EU programmes;*
- *Broader use of financial instruments (FIs), financial institutions should be broadly involved, providing specific financial engineering expertise and know-how*
- *Utilising the quadruple helix model and entrepreneurial discovery process*
- *Mobilisation of investments and synergies across governance levels (EU-national-regional)*
- *Engaging in forms of transnational cooperation such as the Vanguard Initiative, the Seal of Excellence, the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP), the S3 platforms, the Stairway to Excellence, and the regional innovation schemes for the co-location centres of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT);*
- *Facilitation of the development of strategic cluster partnerships*

Guidances for synergies

- *Enabling synergies between European Structural application: and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes -*
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf
- *European Structural and Investment Funds and European Fund for Strategic Investments complementarities: Ensuring coordination, synergies and complementarity -*
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/thefunds/fin_inst/pdf/efsi_esif_compl_en.pdf



Thank you for your attention!

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