



Cohesion Policy and Smart Specialisation

Unit G1

Smart & Sustainable Growth Unit
DG Regional and Urban Policy
European Commission

Smarter Conference
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Smart Specialisation - paradigm shift in the EU planning of Research&Innovation investments

- Research strengths with business needs
- Clear prioritisation
- Bottom-up interactive process
- Concentration of resources
- Critical mass
- Faster uptake of ideas
- Building interregional cooperation

Analysis concerning the challenges of applying RIS3 approach in the different MS/regions

- Balanced representation in entrepreneurial discovery process
- Interactive nature of RIS3
- Monitoring and assessing progress of RIS3 projects
- Coordination within member states
- Interregional cooperation
- Differentiated support

Suggested actions to help implement, monitor and assess progress of RIS3

- Ensuring quality of projects
- Improving management of smart specialisation
- Sharing good practices
- Providing transparent reporting
- Communication on smart specialisation

Questions and Answers



Ensuring quality of projects

Advise on selection criteria for calls, to align them with relevant smart specialisation strategies;

Ask for monitoring results of calls, in terms of whether they respond to the smart specialisation priorities identified, the concentration of resources, and the stimulation of private R&I investment;

Encourage managing authorities to have an ongoing supervision of their projects to detect problems as they are encountered, and to undertake remedy actions to ensure effective and efficient implementation (problem-solving/diagnostic monitoring);

Promote combining ESIF funding with EFSI to help the more innovative projects be taken up or scaled up.

Improving Management of Smart Specialisation

*Encourage involvement of the **RIS3 governance body at the monitoring committee** meetings ;*

***Liaise with EMPL counterparts** to promote the skills agenda for smart specialisation areas / invite EMPL to participate in developing thematic smart specialisation platforms;*

*Organise **specific meetings of the managing authorities / implementing bodies and RIS3 governance bodies** on implementation of smart specialisation strategies ;*

*Encourage regional/national authorities, with the involvement of EMPL where relevant, to **build specific skills (e.g. participatory leadership methods)** in public administration and local communities to link business, research and civil society in a pro-active discovery process, and utilise its results to shape national/regional policy mix..*

Sharing good practices

Request **presentations of projects in smart specialisation areas at monitoring committees** and invite managing authorities to show concrete cases on the ground;

Identify good practices of smart specialisation implementation and inform the S3Platform, which continuously updates a collection of examples and makes it available on <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ris3-examples>;

Encourage national/regional authorities to **organise an annual conference on smart specialisation with workshops, and/or matchmaking events**, between project promoters in specific smart specialisation areas;

Promote interregional business/research cooperation by supporting organisation of interregional partnership/matchmaking events aiming at building a pipeline of investment projects.

Providing transparent reporting

*Encourage MAs to **publish RIS3 strategies**, monitoring data and reports;
Put **RIS3 implementation on the agenda of the annual review meetings** ;*

*Encourage MA to include **a report on the implementation of smart specialisation** strategies in the annual implementation report (e.g. as a separate annex);*

*Every year, after annual implementation reports, **present a progress in implementation of smart specialisation strategies to the European Commission colleagues** to discuss issues encountered during implementation, inc. possible suggestions for the European Semester and country teams.*

Communication on smart specialisation

Prepare the Communication on "Smart Specialisation: a fresh approach to the European growth and jobs through regional innovation strategies" in Q2 2017 ;

Encourage national/regional authorities to review the strategies in 2017 in order to boost their efficiency and effectiveness;

*Inform managing authorities regularly of **events/workshops/trainings organised by the S3Platform** on horizontal topics e.g. monitoring of smart specialisation, or partnership/matchmaking events in thematic smart specialisation platforms e.g. energy, industrial modernisation, agri-food;*

*Add information on **smart specialisation in the OP communication plans**;*

Be more direct in our communication: emphasise action ahead of process; explain process in terms of results; use practical examples; showcase successful projects. We need to show S3 as central to ERDF delivering investment in Europe, i.e. cutting-edge investment for growth and jobs.

S3 Platform

WP1 – Support for implementation of smart specialisation strategies

- **To geographical desks:**

support on data analysis and recommendations re measures implemented by operational programmes for RIS3

analysis of Annual Implementation Reports

support in the preparation of the relevant monitoring committees and annual review meetings with possible participation

monitoring of the implementation of smart specialisation strategies (SFC data analysis complemented with qualitative assessment of project selection and efficiency and effectiveness of applied policy instruments with recommendations for managing authorities)

participation in smart matrix meeting with showcasing policy instruments implementation by national and regional authorities bringing experts and research expertise;

S3 Platform

- **To managing authorities:**

Peer-to-peer on instruments implementation

Showcasing and active examples dissemination

Advise on smart specialisation elements (EDP, governance, policy instrument (see OPs), project selection, monitoring and evaluation)

Trainings and train the trainers on smart specialisation ;

- **To final beneficiaries:**

Trainings (e.g. how to setup incubators, how to manage science and technological parks, how to use fab labs, how to prepare an internationalisation strategy etc.)

S3 Platform

WP2 – Development of interregional cooperation and common project in smart specialisation areas across EU:

In line with MoUs with ENERGY and GROW, and following WP1 of current administrative agreement (methodology: Learn-Connect-Demonstrate-Commercialise), to contribute to EC priorities via interregional cooperation in strategic domains (energy, industrial modernisation, agri-food)

Helping regions to implement an investment pipeline for jointly defined priority areas and feed into the European Investment Plan;

S3 Platform

WP3 – Research of RIS3 on national/regional economic growth and EU cohesion:

Topics as in the handbook (entrepreneurial discovery process, good governance, selection criteria and selection process, transnational cooperation, monitoring, compliance with state aid), with learning loops from empirical evidence gathered from implementation (recommendations for actions on the basis of lessons learned and cases/examples included)

Operationalization of monitoring which aims at helping in effective realisation of projects (i.e. diagnostic monitoring)

Evaluation of the impact of implementation of smart specialisation strategies

Help in building business relations with other parts of the world, complementing regional strengths in value chains.

Smart matrix meeting topics

- 6 October – synergies/ERC/SoE (Beata Grajnert)*
- 20 October – Multiregional cooperation (Jan Larosse)*
- 10 November – ICT support / DSM (Marco Pino)*
- 24 November – SME support (Eduardo Barreto)*
- 8 December – Social Innovation (Suzanne Andersson)*
- 22 December – Wrap of RIS3 activities in 2016 and actions for 2017*