



**2018 SMARTER Conference on Smart Specialisation and Territorial Development
Implementation Across Global Networks of Regions, Cities and Firms
26th - 28th September 2018 CaixaForum Sevilla, Spain**



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia



**Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona**

Synergies Between Interreg Europe and S3 *A Methodological Proposal to Enhance Policy Learning*

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Context (1/3)



The European Commission has fostered the **territorial cooperation** of the EU member states and their regions, developing programmes (commonly known as **Interregs**) to foster transregional collaboration to **design and implement better and more efficient public policies**.

The **Interreg Europe (IE)** programme promotes and co-funds projects with the aim of improving the results of regional public interventions through **interregional exchanges of experience and learning**. The programme gives priority to projects aimed at **improving instruments in ERDF operational programmes** that have a direct **link to S3**.



Thematic areas



Context (2/3)



The European Commission has fostered the territorial cooperation of the EU member states and their regions, developing programmes (commonly known as Interregs) to foster transregional collaboration to design and implement better and more efficient public policies.

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January 2017

Context (3/3)



Challenge:



Main obstacles in exploiting synergies:

- difficulties to access/form international networks,
- weak collaboration with other EU countries,
- lack of experience in EU project consortiums management, as well as
- the lack of long-term strategic planning of R&I policies

A methodology (1/4)



A methodology (2/4)

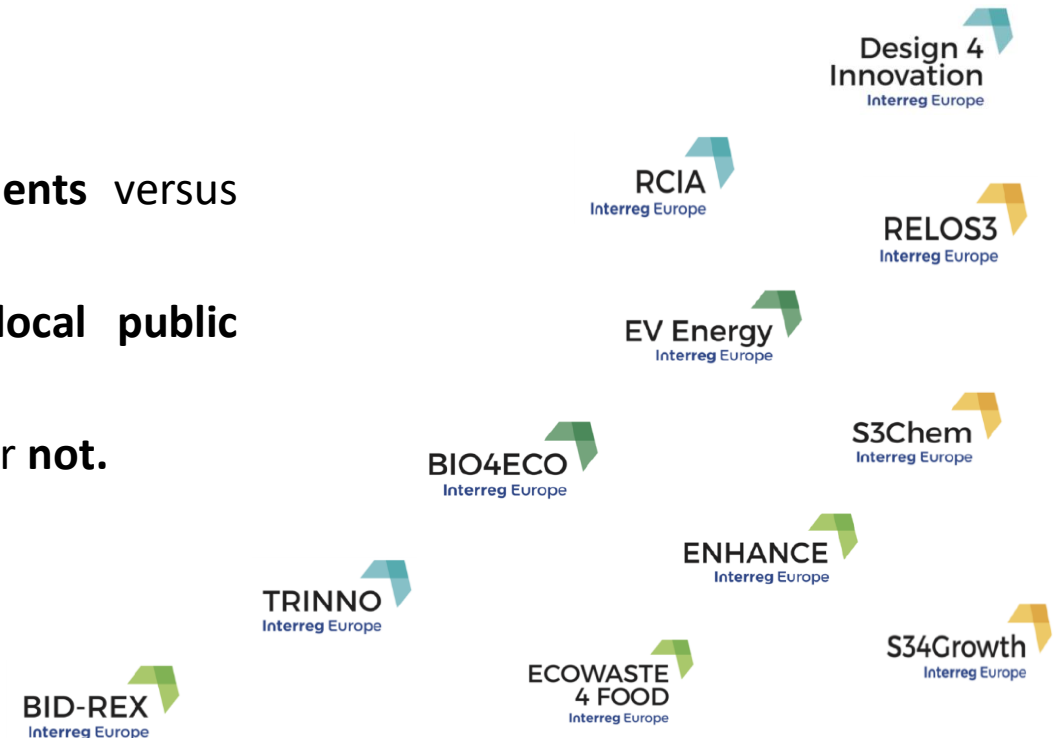


Phase 1

Preparatory analysis mapping of the Interreg Europe projects with Catalan partners

Analysis to study / determine:

- Projects that were relevant to specific **RIS3CAT instruments** versus projects that were relevant to **RIS3CAT Priorities**.
- Projects that had a **direct relation with regional or local public interventions** and those which did **not**.
- Projects related to public interventions **co-funded by ERDF** or **not**.



A methodology (3/4)



Phase 2

Workshop with local stakeholders involved in IE projects in Catalonia

A meeting with Catalan partners of IE projects (projects granted under the first and second calls for proposals of the 2014-2020 period, for those were the ongoing projects at the date) was organised on the 11th of January 2018.

The meeting was framed against the broader process of S3 monitoring and highlighted the need to understand the RIS3CAT as a strategy encompassing multiple instruments and not limited to the ERDF Operational Programme.



A methodology (4/4)



Phase 3

Qualitative survey on such projects, exploring synergies with S3 and opportunities for policy learning at three moments of the project life-cycle (design, implementation, future)

The debate (and further individual analysis) was articulated following the tripartite survey to analyse the synergies of the projects and the RIS3CAT. It covered three aspects:

- Design stage (inclusion of RIS3CAT priorities, sectors, instruments, etc.)
- Implementation stage (exchange of experiences and learning useful for RIS3CAT)
- Stage after 2020 (action plans, measures to improve aspects of RIS3CAT and further ideas and projects)

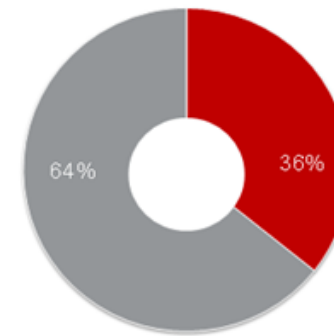
Results (1/3)



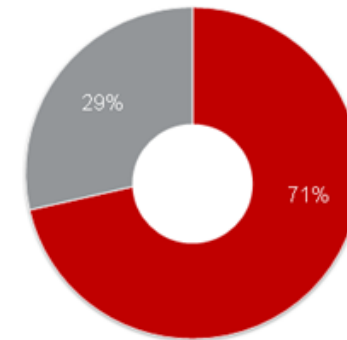
Preliminary mapping

Of the 14 participating projects (out of 20 in with Catalan partners), 5 are directly related to RIS3CAT instruments, 10 are related to areas of smart specialisation established in RIS3CAT, 2 have no direct relation with regional or local public interventions, and 12 focus on public interventions currently not co-financed by the ERDF OP. Projects related to a particular sector do not usually focus on any one specific public intervention; rather, they take into account the various instruments and policies that may affect the sector.

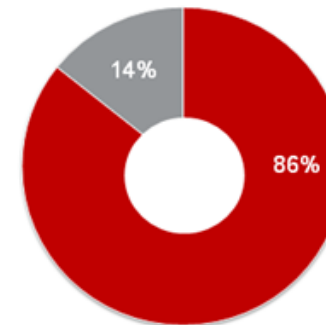
Direct relation with RIS3CAT



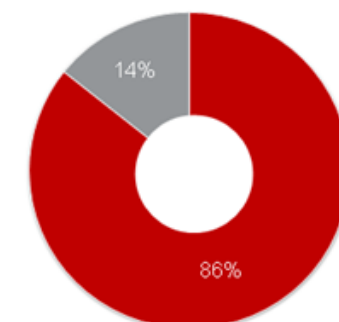
Relation with RIS3CAT smart specialisation areas



Relation with regional or local interventions



Projects focusing on public interventions public currently cofinanced by ERDF



■ Yes
■ No

Source: Directorate-General for Economic Promotion, Competition and Regulation

Results (2/3)



Main results

- In most cases the identification of synergies, which was an administrative requirement for IE project-proposals, responded to true strategic needs.
- If at the theoretical level it has been relatively easy to identify synergies and complementarities, it proved a lot more difficult to work on them throughout the subsequent phases of the projects.
- It appears difficult for IE project-representatives to translate the outcomes of the exchange of experiences in policy lessons relevant for S3. The most successful exchanges emerged where project partners could identify from the start, a common challenge/opportunity/ problem/uncovered need.
- IE projects have been very successful in mobilising the stakeholders of the quadruple helix model in joint collaboration.

Results (3/3)



Main results

- Many projects do not provide for mechanisms to promote the translation of lessons learned from Interreg Europe projects into S3-based policies.
- The workshop and survey outcomes stress that to foster such complementarity, a fluid, structured dialogue with the Government units responsible for S3 and public interventions co-financed with the ERDF OP is needed.
- As one could expect, those partners that are not managing authorities of the instruments their project tackles face more barriers to identify and implement proper ways to foster the synergies between IE and S3.

Conclusions and policy implications



- 1. Timing:** it is crucial to identify these synergies towards the updating of S3 and the programming period 2021-2027.
- 2. Role of stakeholders:** perfect opportunity to foster the role of the stakeholders of the quadruple helix model, engaging in the broader concept of entrepreneurial discovery process and also the open innovation perspective.
- 3. Implications for monitoring S3:** key aspect to gather information from stakeholders and to use it to complement the results and information obtained through the RIS3-based instruments.
- 4. Complementarity with other programmes:** consider the complementarity with Horizon 2020, national and regional instruments, etc.

Foster synergies!

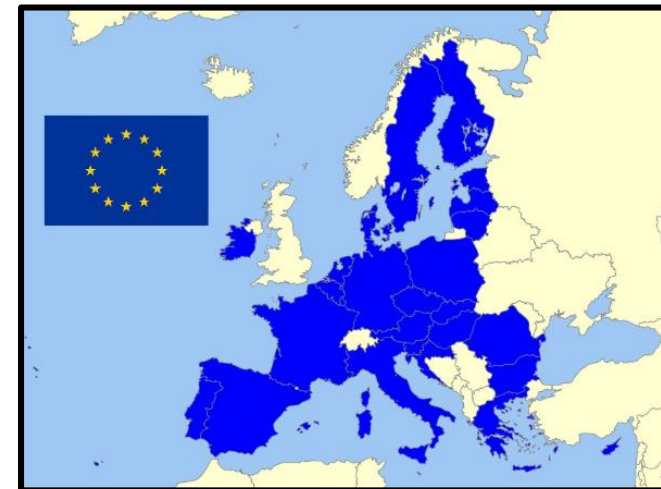


Etc....



YOUR RIS3

Towards 2021-2027



Thank you!



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