

SMART SPECIALISATION WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2021

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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OBJECTIVES

The Smart Specialisation Working Group aims to monitor and contribute to key policy developments related to S3 by enhancing dialogue with relevant EU institutions and stakeholders, such as DG REGIO, the S3 Platform and its S3 Thematic Partnerships, the European Parliament, and the Committee of the Regions. The goal is to strengthen the regional perspective in the wider smart specialisation agenda and provide support and visibility to working group members through the regional snapshots, and to act as support for other ERRIN working groups – such as Policy and Innovation & Investment – on S3 related issues.

CONTEXT

The key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2021 are:

- The role of S3 in the recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic
- The Interregional Innovation Investment instrument and its implementation
- ERA Hubs and Smart Specialisation in the European Research Area
- The S3 Platform and S3 partnerships

The funding programmes important for the Working Group include:

- NextGenerationEU
- Cohesion Policy / Interregional Innovation Investment instrument

Support partnership building (e.g. S3 partnerships) and collaboration with other European organisations or networks:

The Smart Specialisation WG promotes S3 partnerships and pilot actions in WG meetings and will in 2021 have a WG meeting dedicated to exploring how instruments such as the RIS3 and I3 could be used by regions to support the creation of S3 partnerships. Potential collaboration opportunities with networks such as the Vanguard Initiative, EARTO and CPMR will be exploited if relevant.

ACTIVITIES

Role of regions and the RIS3 in the recovery

Date TBC

The aim of the meeting would be to explore how S3 can be a tool to ensure a sufficient level of coordination with the recovery and resilience facility and regional funding.

Explore possibilities for collaboration with the group led by Catalonia and its working group on exchange of information when it comes to the recovery plan.

Future of the S3 Platform, S3 partnerships and the new I3 instrument

Date TBC

This meeting will look at the future of the S3 Platform, and whether new S3 partnerships can be proposed and what support they will be provided with. Further, we will explore the international dimension of the S3 and how regions can make better use of their RIS3 in developing European partnerships. We will also provide latest information about the new I3 instrument and how it can be used as a tool to support collaboration and the creation of partnerships.

Examples could include the new [pilot actions related to COVID-19](#) or [those previously funded](#).

ERA Hubs and Smart Specialisation in the European Research Area

Date TBC

Build on the outcomes of the Policy Working Group and look further into the ERA Hubs. Can we shape this new element further?

The skills dimension of S3

Date TBC

Explore how centres of vocational excellence are linked with S3 and look at University Alliances and the role of S3 in them.

Potential examples: Nice – creating innovation hubs focusing on specific topics such as ageing; Region Sud - Memorandum of Understanding with Marseille University; and Poznań University of Technology - UNICE coordinator.

Possibility to draw on ERRIN's project Charter, focusing on the blueprint of the sectoral skills and the regional roll out on skills, and look at how S3 can be linked to the blueprints.

Effective implementation of S3 strategies

Date TBC

This meeting will look at the implementation of the new regional S3 strategies and take stock of the experiences from the previous period. It will provide an analysis of the success factors when it comes to the implementation of RIS3 – what have we learned, what should be avoided and what should we bring with us into this period?

We will build on the richness and diversity of our new co-leaders and foster exchanges between different typologies of regions (lagging, transition, more developed).