



**Euroopan alueiden
komitea**



SEDEC Commission Panel The role of S3 in recovery strategies

Keynote: 'Policy objectives and best practice – new S3 strategy of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region in Finland.'

**Helsinki
Smart
Region**



Helsinki-Uusimaa
Regional Council



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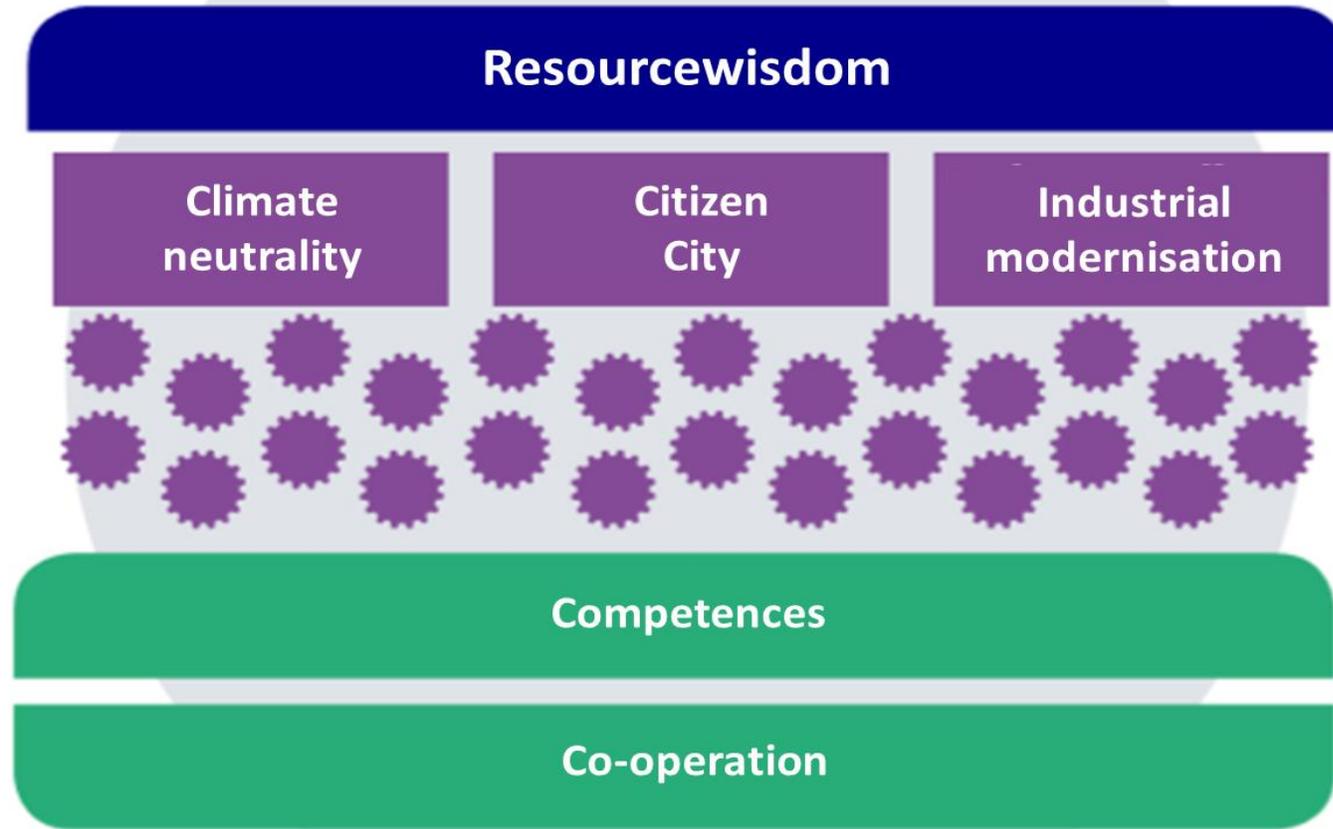
- Vice-President of the EU Committee of the Regions
- Chair of the Espoo City Board
- President of Helsinki Region (Chair of the Board)



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Smart Specialisation in Helsinki-Uusimaa



Competence is a uniting factor across all strategic priorities.
Helsinki-Uusimaa has a strong and versatile educational sector.
Responding to the needs of resource wisdom requires the extensive and efficient utilisation of competences
in all areas of priority.

Recovering → Need to Be Fast and Focused

What is needed? 1) More than so far bottom-up approach; 2) Digitalization by-default; 3) Local & Regional Innovation Ecosystems operating with European Partnerships

Integrated activities for sustainable growth:

1. Four dimensions: economic, ecologic, social and cultural
2. Synergic use of funding instruments, including EU & local, public and private
3. Forerunner cities & regions needed
4. Science meets regions → societal innovation and breakthrough initiatives needed

S3 - lessons learned:

1. More collaboration and sharing knowledge through EU partnerships
2. Locally breaking silos and moving towards entrepreneurial mindset
3. Create platform economy based on open data, open innovation & inclusiveness
4. EU wide innovation platforms for experimenting, piloting and rapid prototyping → scaling up best practices

Lessons Learned: Increase local collaboration & European Partnerships

Voluntary Local Review for UN by Espoo City:

SDG targets can be achieved only
by public-private-people
commitment and collaboration



VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS'
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 IN THE CITY OF ESPOO



Lessons from the BSR:

Smart Specialisation falls short

- A system of interlocking and mutually reinforcing priorities is still missing
- Networking with relevant stakeholders inter-regionally is not common
- Combining regional goals with inter-regional opportunities is still to be learned



Smart-up BSR

*Professor Taina Tukiainen, Aalto
University, BSR Smart-up*

What Next? Focus on Cooperation and Innovation Platforms

The implementation of the strategy involves:

- financing projects and development environments that implement the strategy
- **supporting regional innovation ecosystems and networks**
- promoting cooperation across regional borders in order to build a stronger whole
- **participating and encouraging actors to participate in international networks and platforms**
- strengthening the Helsinki Smart Region brand and improving its visibility abroad.

Innovation based on versatile, quickly renewable and internationally competitive competence is born in a long-term innovation ecosystem that is sufficiently cross-sectoral and based on experimentation.

Different platforms and pilot environments are supported as part of the strategy's implementation.

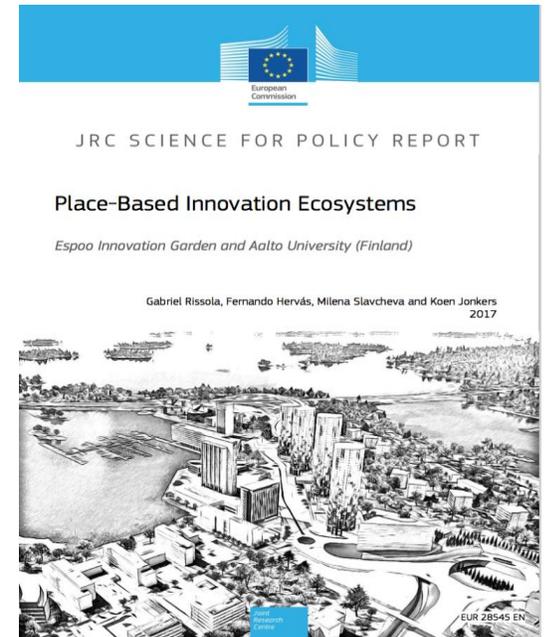
Regions Need to Deepen their S3 Activities as a Place-Based Innovation Ecosystems (from TH via QH to RIE)

The future smart cities function as mutually complementary ecosystems, where different actor groups and actors collaborate locally and internationally to discover the optimal balance in:

- 1) **urban sustainable growth activities,**
- 2) **invigorating and human-scale living environments,**
- 3) **synergistic innovation processes by several actor groups (including strong citizen involvement) for continuous renewal.**

This means that future urban ecosystems should be seen in a broad context: **as orchestrated platforms for testing emerging concepts and technological solutions for a sustainable tomorrow.**

Furthermore, Europe needs to investigate how to turn the accumulating know-how into competitive and successful **business models, processes and other operations.**



JRC has made this “Place-Based Innovation Ecosystems” study focusing on the Espoo Innovation Garden experience. This is the 1st of this kind as a model for the others.

JRC publication EUR 28545

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CoR Needs to Get More out of S3: Creating Inter-regional European Partnerships for Forerunner Activities

The starting point for defining these stages is that the region has a well defined S3 strategy. The stages from bottom-up guiding the activity processes and action plans are:

1. Sharing data, information and knowledge with other regions about S3 priority themes;
2. Experimenting the implementation of other regions' good practices;
3. Identifying best potential partners by using strategic platforms for benchmarking and benchlearning to reach targeted cooperation;
4. Planning and implementing joint actions & projects with several partnering regions in specific S3 priority themes;
5. Systemic creation of place-based innovation ecosystems and action roadmaps on S3 priorities with international partners;
6. Become global forerunners by forming joint inter-regional strategic alliances and using shared policy instruments in running joint S3 activities.

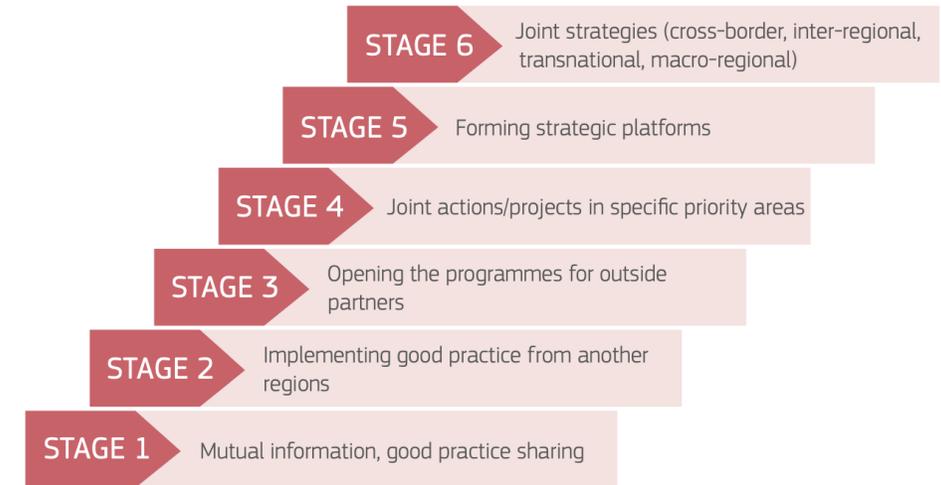


Figure: Evolution of transnational collaboration

The idea of stages uses the ideas of the figure above by Gianelle, C., D. Kyriakou, C. Cohen and M. Przeor (eds) (2016), *Implementing Smart Specialisation: A Handbook*, Brussels: European Commission, EUR 28053 EN, doi:10.2791/53569.



Moving to Action: Political Commitment and Multi-level Governance



Smart specialisation is an experimental innovation strategy, monitoring and learning play an important role in developing the practice. Smart specialisation strategy is successful when closely connected actors innovate together based on their region's strengths. Smart specialisation is a place-based strategy. That is why the regional innovation ecosystem and its actors play a central role. Multi-level governance at is based on its flexibility and process-like format.

S3 to Become Crucial Part of Regional Governance

Concept for Helsinki Region to focus on both short and long term impacts:

1. Integrate RIS3 stronger to the region's strategic decision making and economic transformation

- Create governance mechanisms to focus on building European partnerships and to optimize public-private synergies. Focus increasing both short and long term impacts.

2. Focus more on entrepreneurial spirit and value creation processes

- Strengthen region's RDI capacity building and collaboration by co-financing hands-on experimenting and embedding digitalization in ecosystems to increase the use and impact of EU instruments.

3. Implement RIS3 by involving all key stakeholders (Quadruple Helix)

- Increase synergies between different financial instruments and actors in the RIS3 development, implementation and scaling-up the results.

My concept is based on the seven principles of good governance based on experiences from the S3 Platform:

1. Leadership and participation to enable innovation;
2. Cohesion to implement a collective vision;
3. Independence and transparency;
4. Integrated implementation;
5. Embedding smart specialisation in regional policy-making;
6. The importance of multi-level governance;
7. Reflection and learning.

Gianelle, C., D. Kyriakou, C. Cohen and M. Przeor (eds) (2016), *Implementing Smart Specialisation: A Handbook*, Brussels: European Commission, EUR 28053 EN, doi:10.2791/53569.

Helsinki Region: Systemic Approach to Reach Carbon Neutrality by 2035

