

RIS3 support in Lagging Regions

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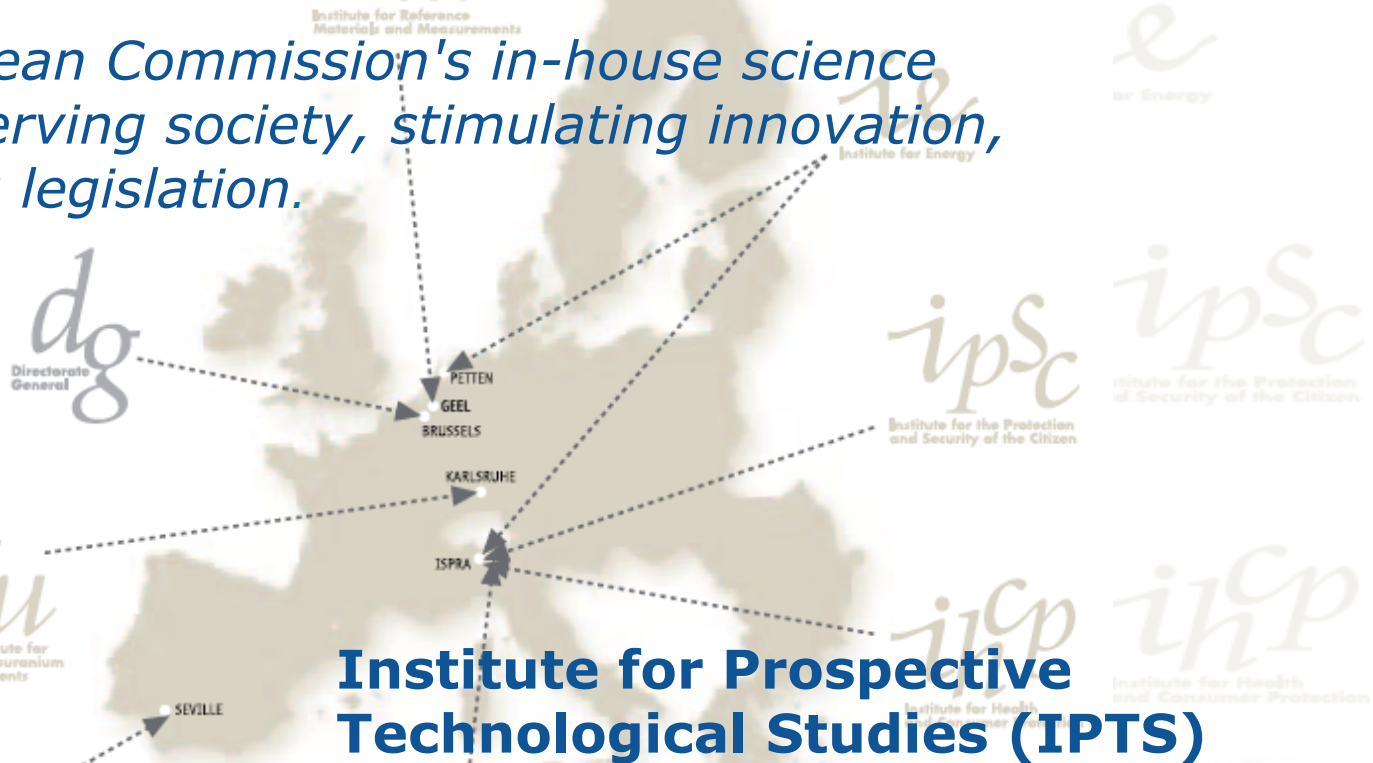
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Joint Research Centre (JRC)

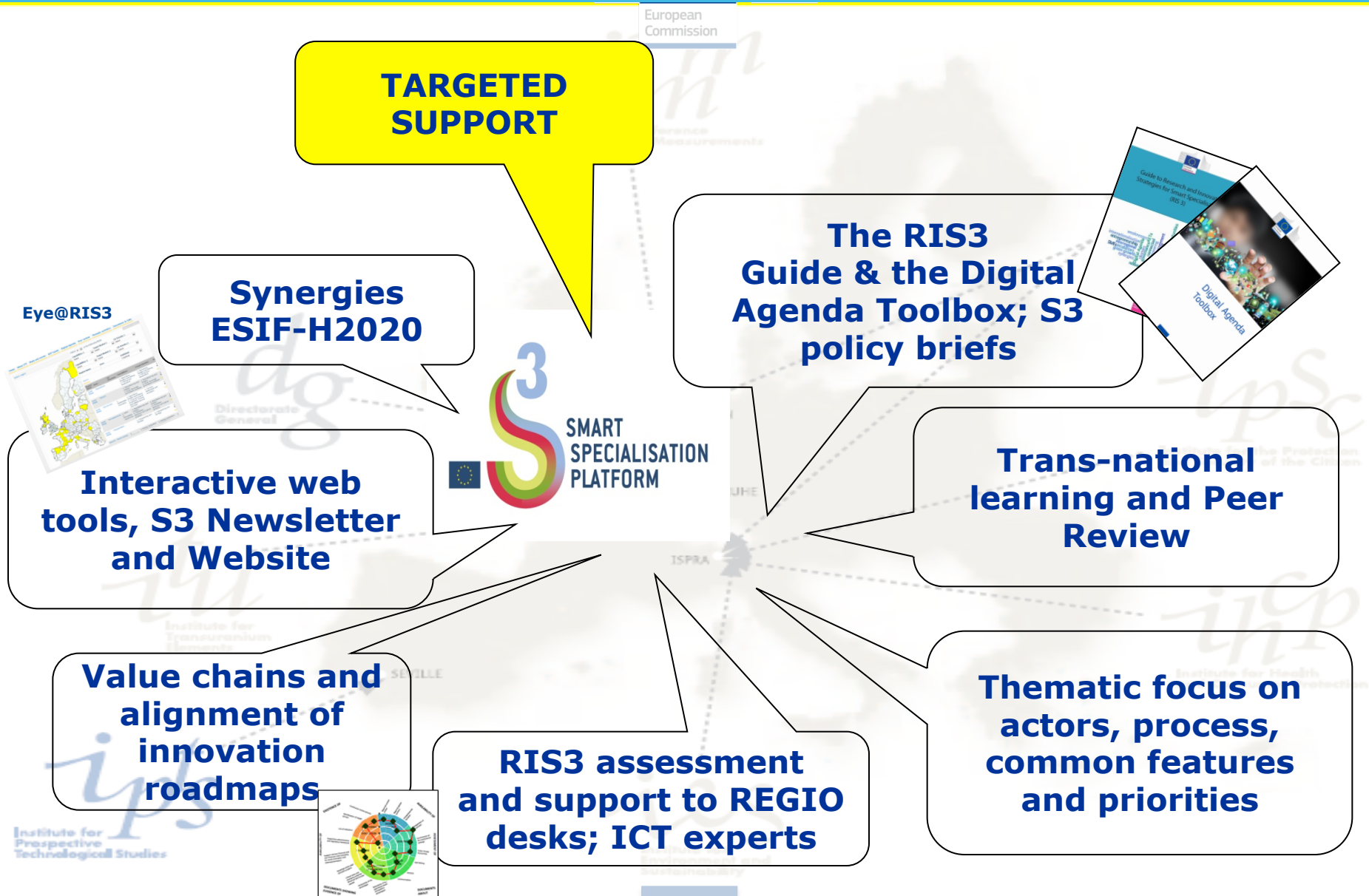
The European Commission's in-house science service. Serving society, stimulating innovation, supporting legislation.



Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTs)

Developing science-based responses to policy-challenges

Activities of the S3 Platform



RIS3 in Lagging Regions: aims & background

Aims

To support the refinement and implementation of the RIS3 of selected EU regions

To generate lessons and a model for other regions

To serve as a test-bed for theories on Smart Specialisation – understanding of RIS3

Background

Extends successful activities on Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Implements two European Parliament "Preparatory Actions"

Lagging Regions: Policy issues

Slow and limited growth
– despite investment

Lack of understanding →
lack of effective actions to
identify, understand,
address issues

**Policy issues
and
definitions**

Low growth regions - GDP/capita
below EU average and did not
converge to EU average post-crisis
(Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal)

Less developed regions - GDP/
capita <50% of EU average
(Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland,
Romania)

European Parliament Support – 2 Preparatory Actions

PA 1: Support for growth and governance in lagging regions

- Regions from 8 EU MS
- Stakeholder engagement, mutual learning, support for RIS3 implementation
- Cross-cutting approaches to key issues of growth and governance
- Refinement of the RIS3 model
- Further development of practical support for regions across EU

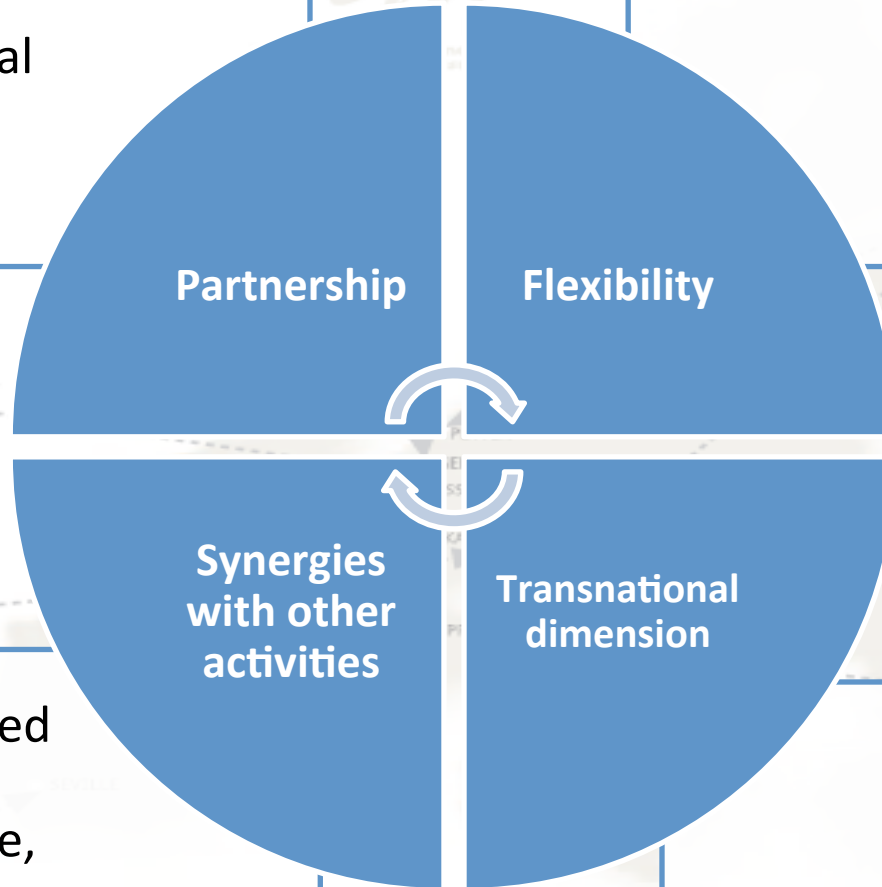
PA2: Competitive advantage and potential for smart specialisation in Romania

- In depth support for 2 Romanian Regions (North East, North West)
- Close complementarity - but deeper engagement
- Differing stages of RIS3 development between regions
- Coordination with national level RIS3

Implementation

- JRC, DG REGIO, other DGs, regional and national authorities

- approach tailored to needs and problems identified by stakeholders



- S2E, Less Developed Regions initiative, Vanguard Initiative, S3P, etc.

- Identify and share common challenges and solutions

Bottom Up Dynamic

Business idea as main driver

Business idea

E.g. use of wine-making residues

Idea decomposed

Research and innovation components and fundability

Idea refined

Partners, business and research aspects, roadmap, funding sources

EDP focus group

Project Development
Lab 1 (PDL 1)

Online consultation
and PDL 2

Bottlenecks for implementation

Peer review
Board of critical friends

Working groups
Mobility & Governance

Analysis of role of
KETs

RDI funding guide
and case studies

Mapping
international R&I
collaborations

Technical meetings regional/
national/EU

State aid issues

Avoid double funding between
national/regional calls

Sustainability/viability

Role for KETs

Need for champions/leaders

Address training needs

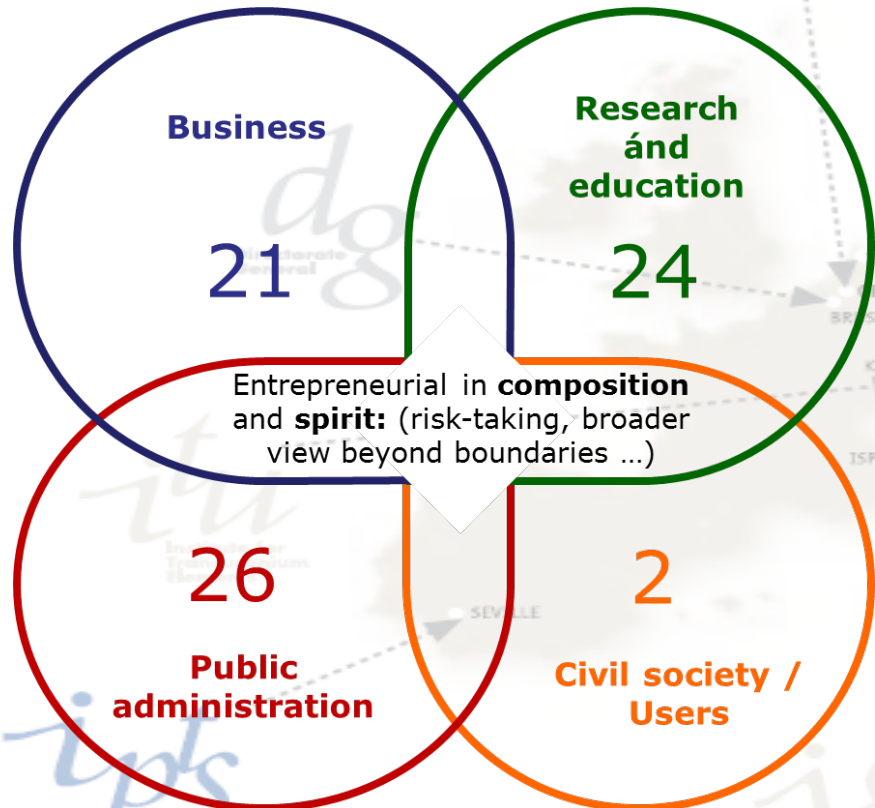
International scope

Entrepreneurial Discovery Process Focus Group Cluj – May 2016

European
Commission

Cosmetics and food supplements based on natural resources

Stakeholder representation (Quadruple helix)
73 participants



38 business ideas generated

Examples of business ideas:

- Database of plant resources - Edible plants consumed traditionally for anti-ageing / healthy ageing purposes
- Anti-acne products - testing efficiency locally
- Transylvanian Cosmatopea Cluster
- Locally branded bio products
- In-house technology for determination of own natural cosmetic products' validity date and for quality control of ingredients and final product
- Smart packaging: with anti-microbe protection or smart labels changing colour if expired
- Cosmetics and (para)pharma: From harmful to beneficial cosmetics

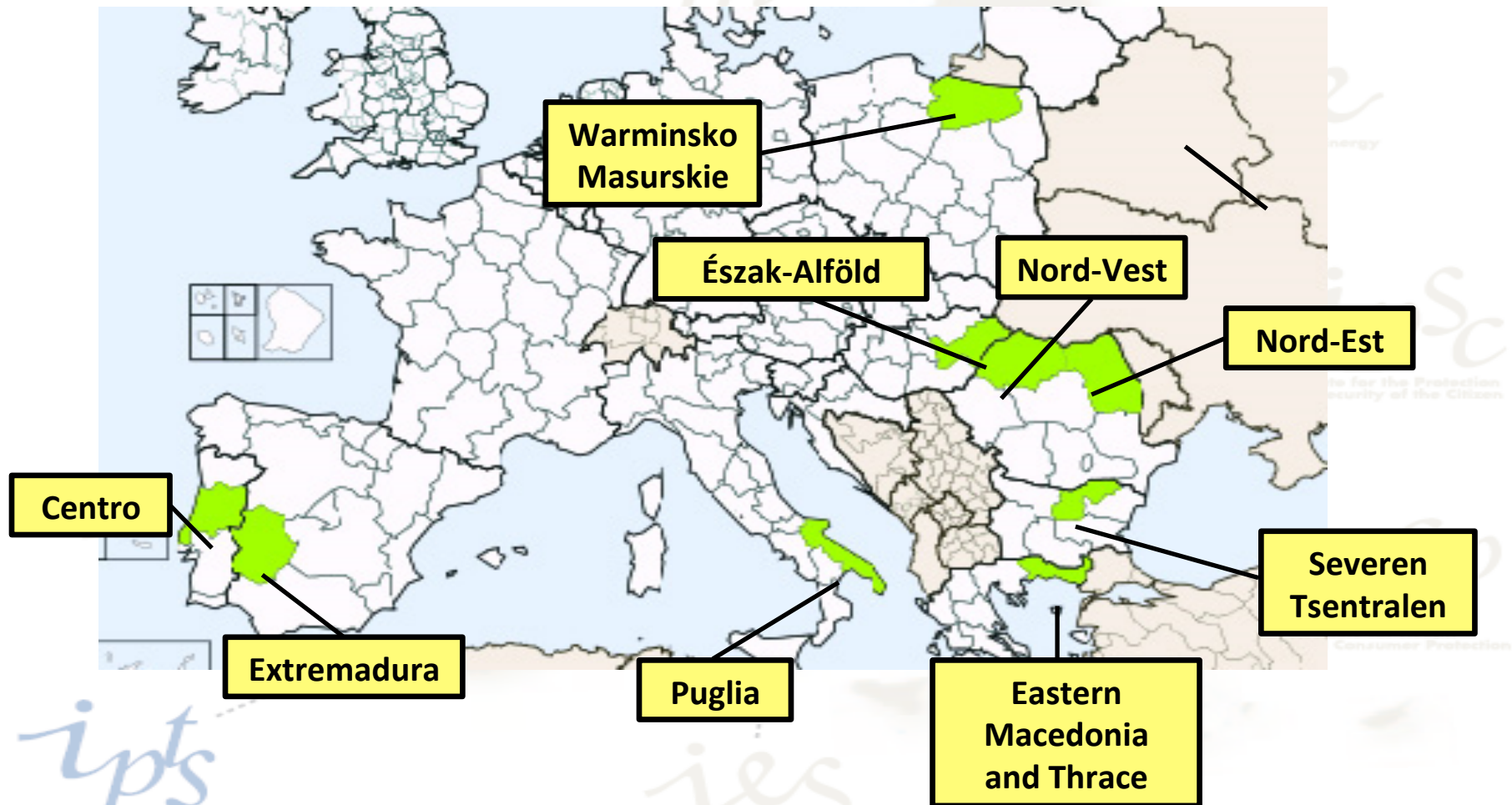
Key role for international stakeholders

Toolbox

Objectives	Tools
Idea generation, trust building and support cooperation	EDP focus group methodology
Open up to wider (online) communities	Online stakeholder engagement
Address brain drain, build skills	Mobility Working Group
Increase coordination between national and regional levels	Methodology Project Development Lab 1
Widen funding sources to draw on for idea implementation	Methodology Project Development Lab 2
	Online RDI Funding Guide
	Case descriptions
Optimise RIS3 governance structure	Governance working group
Support ongoing stakeholder engagement	Stakeholder round table discussions
Identification of barriers and possible solutions	Tailored peer review events
Mutual learning	Board of critical friends
	Collaboration spotting tool
Support international cooperation	

Support to RIS3 implementation in Lagging Regions

Focused on 9 regions in Eastern and Southern Europe: selection of regions



REGIONS

- **Bulgaria** - Severen Tsentralen
- **Greece** - Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
- **Hungary** - Észak-Alföld (city focus - Debrecen)
- **Italy** - Puglia
- **Poland** - Warminsko Masurskie
- **Portugal** - Centro
- **Romania** - Nord-Est and Nord-Vest
- **Spain** - Extremadura

Horizontal issues (i)

Governance - Working Group(s) on Governance

- long-term sustainability of the EDP process
- relationship between national and regional levels
- synergies between structural funds and other resources

Transnational cooperation – essential to RIS3

- Potential transnational collaboration
- Cooperation within EU and with neighbourhood countries
- Thematic cooperation across EU (Value chains/KICs/...)
- Methodological cooperation/mutual learning

Horizontal issues (ii)

Implementation of RIS3 –critical issues for sustainable RIS3 implementation:

- State Aid rules
- Sustaining EDP
- Instruments beyond the ROP (synergies between ERDF and H2020, but also with other (EU) funding opportunities)
- Appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems
- Components of the R&I system and design of the policy mix
 - Role of universities, RTOs, and research-active firms
- Outward-looking orientation

Outcomes

Regions

Specific support

- e.g. instruments
- e.g. synergies between funds
- support to continuous EDP

Horizontal support

- E.g. Monitoring, governance
- E.g. Cross-regional exchange

Dissemination

- Codification of methodologies
- Publications
- Other media

Commission

Advancing understanding of
RIS3 implementation

RIS3 - an entry point to broader
issues

Improve understanding of slow
and limited growth

Impacts - Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

European
Commission

Trust building and commitment

- Willingness/openness to collaborate
- Increased trust in the "quadruple helix"
- Approach adaptable to other regions

Enhanced understanding of RIS3

- Focus on the process and the ideas emerging
- Need to align regional strengths, international trends and opportunities

Participatory capacity building

- Increased participation of stakeholders in policy activities (EDP focus groups, working groups, online consultations)

Identifying Challenges

- Legal and administrative
- Capacities and experiences

Other

- Momentum created and sustained
- Sense of collaboration between actors
- Sustained commitment

SEVILLE

Specific outcomes

European
Commission

Six Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) Focus Groups: four in REMTh (2014-5); two in Romania (2016)

Wine EDP (Drama, 2014) –fostered collaboration between local wine producer and Italian university

Cosmetics EDP (Cluj, 2016) – highlighted potential for EU collaboration with French cluster

Draft Calls for funding proposals – based on EDP focus groups – targeting SMEs, increasing applied research and dissemination of results – 2016 call on polymers

EDP methodology further refined and applied:

- in REMTh: chemical/ polymer materials and electronic/ electrical equipment)
- Greek regions (Attica and Thessaly)
- Romanian regions (NW and NE)



Project website

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Thank you!



State of play

- **Exploratory visits/meetings and first events**
- **First stakeholder events** took place in **Nord-Vest, RO** and **Nord-Est, RO** - Entrepreneurial discovery focus groups:
 - On cosmetics & food supplements based on natural resources (CLUJ – 26 May)
 - On biotechnology (IASI – 06 June)
 - TAIEX-REGIO Workshop on Tech Transfer and RIS3 (8 June - BUCHAREST)
 - Exploratory visit in IASI (7 June) of HESS project with pilot in Nord-Est (HESS=Higher Education in Smart Specialisation)
- Identification of horizontal **activities across regions** involved: diversifying RIS3 instruments, RIS3 governance, RIS3 monitoring, state-aid, etc.
- Inception report under preparation
- Board of "Critical Friends"

Future activities – 2016 -2017

Roadmap for future activities under refinement:

- RIS3 development and action plan based on further EDP focus groups and other stakeholder interaction
- Support in developing a concept note for Romanian regions as input for national level
- Governance and alignment between national and regional level
- Tackling concrete implementation issues related to RIS3: stakeholder interaction, multiple funding sources, state aid, monitoring,...
- Transnational cooperation (essential to RIS3): cross-border, thematic (Value chains/KICs/...), methodological cooperation/mutual learning
- Capacity building: human resources and mobility, entrepreneurship, ...

Objectives

- appropriate and **specific support** to the implementation of RIS3 and related activities in selected lagging regions
- develop and implement **horizontal approach to key issues** in growth and governance of lagging regions
- improve **understanding of slow and limited growth** in EU regions and links to macro-economic framework conditions
- RIS3 - an entry point to **understanding broader structural problems** (e.g. in RDI, education, business environment and governance) - links with the 'lagging regions initiative'
- contribute to **advancing relevant theory** on (implementation of) smart specialisation by codifying hands-on experiences
- **develop and disseminate lessons** for other EU regions

Work Packages

- **National/Regional Profiling** - stocktaking and assessment of state of RIS3 implementation in selected countries/regions
- **RIS3 implementation and refinement in Romanian regions** - reinforcement of linkages between national and regional RIS3 and support to development of EDP
- **Specific support activities** - undertaken in selected regions
- **Horizontal support and peer learning** - addressing common issues and with wider relevance
- **Analysis, tool development and policy recommendations**
- **Coordination, cooperation, and communication**