

# The European Commission's science and knowledge service

Joint Research Centre

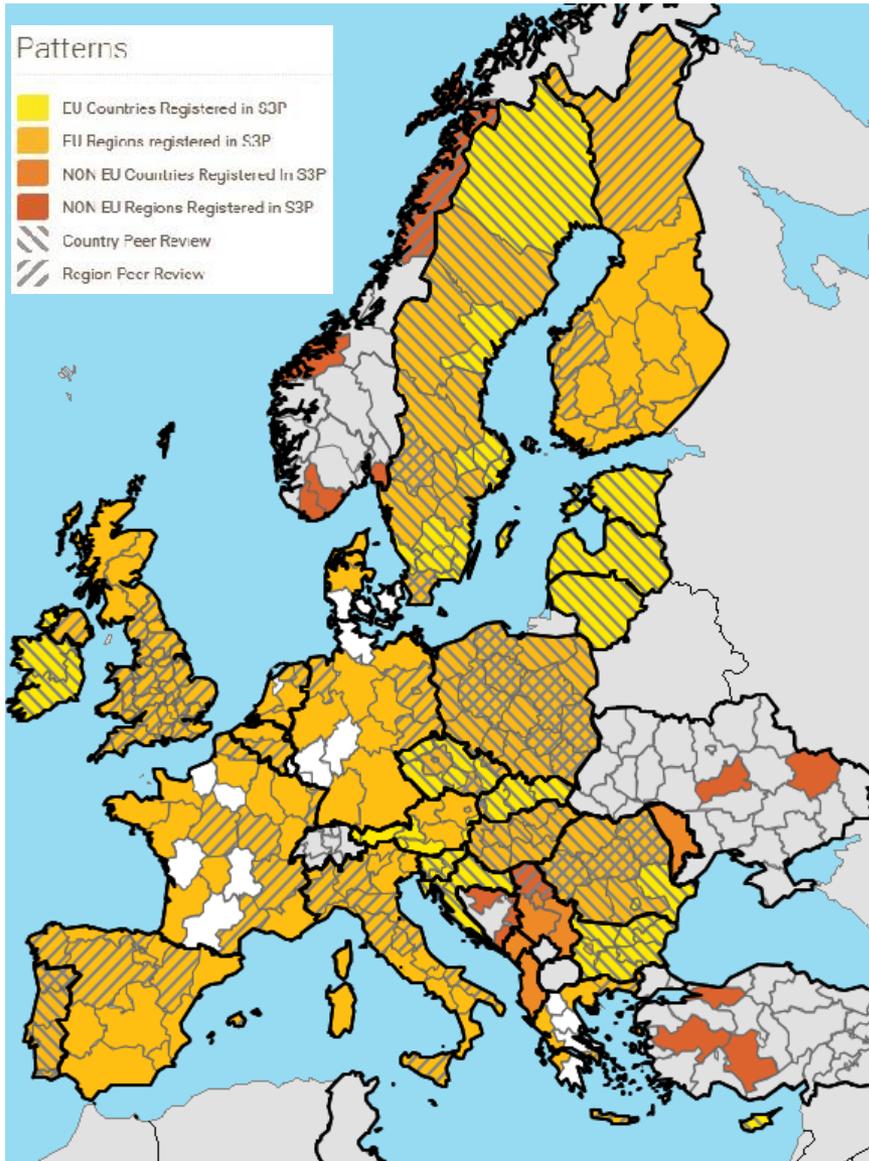
## Innovation and Smart Specialisation Seminar on the BSR

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# Smart Specialisation Platform



## Achievements

**Broad membership:** 184 regions, 22 countries

(incl. non-EU: RS, MD, ME, AL & regions from BA, NO, RS, UA & TR)

**Strong endorsement** by national / regional policy-makers:  
average 4.5/5 satisfaction rankings

**Implementation:** 40% of ERDF spending on Smart Specialisation categories - 36 billions € (Jan. 2017)

**Thematic concentration** through partnerships: Agri-food, Energy, Industrial Modernisation, Digital growth ► Thematic Platforms

**2017 EPSA best practice recognition**

# Smart Specialisation – place based framework for territorial development

## **S3** the policy concept

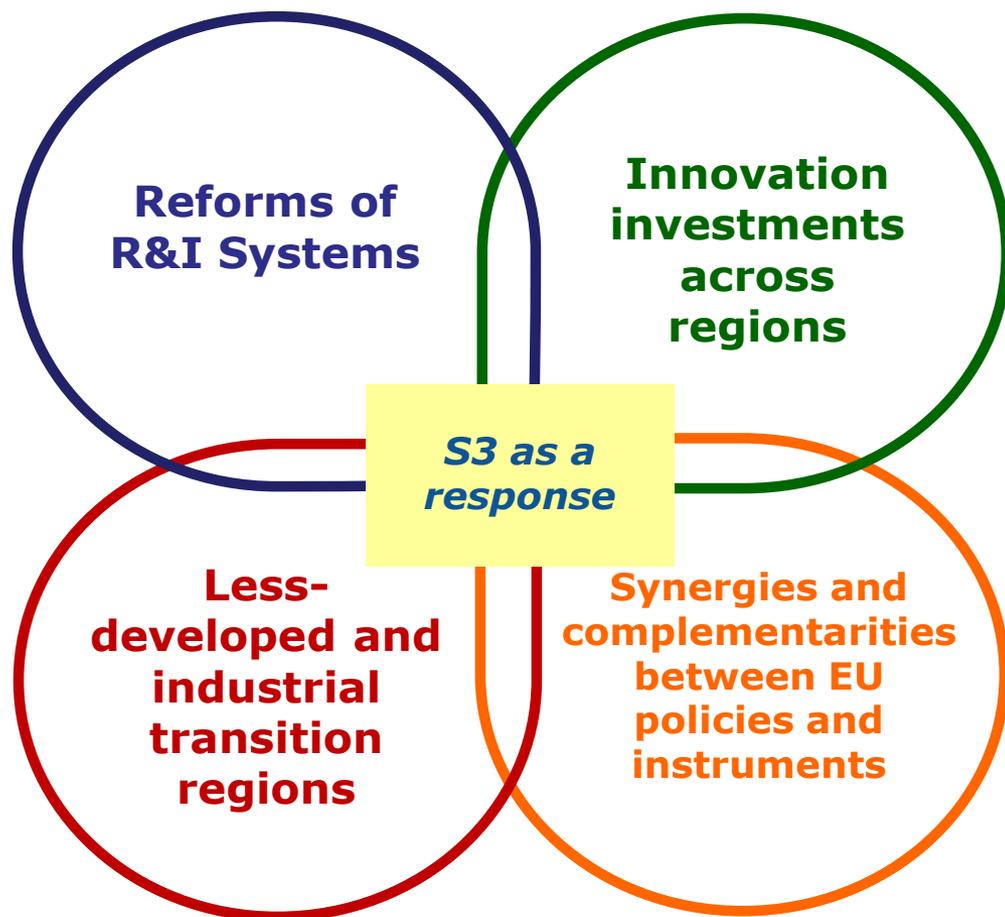
- Promote inclusive and sustainable growth
- Place-based policy:
  - Valorise existing assets and local specificities
  - Mobilise local economic players as the main actors of economic change
- Based on selection of economic activities with high transformative potential for the economy
- Promotes connectivity of innovation ecosystems

## **RIS3** the strategy

- National or regional agenda for economic transformation
- Coordinate financial and entrepreneurial resources to support the selected economic activities
- Define and reinforce governance and monitoring mechanisms



## **Smart specialisation provides answers to challenges for boosting place-based innovation-led growth**



**'Smart specialisation represents a new way of working together, which ensures stronger local and regional participation in decision-making, and whose potential can be scaled-up for the benefit of the EU as a whole.'**

**(Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances, 2017)**

# S3 support to the EU Macro-Regional Strategies

The S3 Platform gives a specific focus on the EU Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS) to connect S3 in macro-regions

In collaboration with MRS Priority Area Coordinators and Territorial Cooperation Programmes (INTERREGs)

- Identify and support **trans-regional co-operation** opportunities in S3, based on similar and complementary S3 priorities
- Set up and implement **collaborative investment projects**
- Learn and exchange on mobilising appropriate available **funding tools**
- Nurture territorial **innovation ecosystems** across borders



## Why support S3 in MRS?

MRS form platforms where regional and national policymakers can:

- Discuss the transnational dimension of S3
- Identify similar and complementary S3 priorities
- Examine various cooperation opportunities to stimulate transnational cooperation in S3
- Learn about available implementation instruments,
- Explore common interests and set up collaborative projects
- Jointly consider how to mobilise relevant funding sources that will support their projects

## S3 Workshops at Annual Forums of EU Strategy for BSR:

- S3 Workshop on E-Health at Annual Forum for the EUSBSR, 2015
- S3 Workshop on Bio-economy at Annual Forum for the EUSBSR, 2016

## Collaboration with EUSBSR Policy Area Innovation:

- Workshops/Discussions/Steering Committee meetings
- **BSR ERDF Managing Authorities Network** aligning ERDF structural fund programmes in order to initiate project collaboration in S3 areas

## Collaboration with BSR Interreg

- Call with focus on S3
- **Project platforms/ workshops:** Moving towards smart spe added value of cooperating in project platforms, 2017



# Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects focusing on Smart Specialisation



- **EmpInno** – Empowering for innovation and growth in medium sized cities and region/ getting RIS3 closer to business
- **Smart blue regions** – Enhancing blue growth opportunities through implementation of RIS3
- **BSR Stars S3** – Stimulating smart specialisation ecosystem through engaging SMEs in open innovation processes
- **RDI2CluB** Rural RDI milieus in transition towards smart Bioeconomy Clusters and Innovation Ecosystems, applying S3 approaches
- **Smart-up BSR** –improving the implementation of RIS3 Strategies with focus in four areas: Healthy ageing, Climate changes, Smart Cities, Circular economy
- **GoSmart BSR** – Strengthening smart specialisation by fostering transnational cooperation
- **LARS** Learning Among Regions on Smart Specialisation – supporting public sector in their regions and to connect S3 innovation networks across regions

# Report “S3 Collaboration in the Baltic Sea Region on financial instruments”

*with Emily Wise, Lund University*

## ***Aiming***

- To explore examples of projects and initiatives in the BSR where funding has been connected with collaboration opportunities in S3 in the BSR
- To strengthen understanding how macro-regional frameworks can bring added value
- To capitalise the results and lessons learned from efforts to align funding sources to address joint challenges using smart specialisation approach
- To identify challenges and bring recommendations how mobilisation of joint finance could be improved

# Alignment of financial instruments to address common challenges in the BSR



BSR projects and initiatives that test joint funding instruments to support collaboration in smart specialisation in macro-region:

➤ **EUSBSR ERDF MA-Network**



➤ **Interreg BSR with S3 focus**



# Comparison of initiatives

	<b>BSR ERDF MA Network</b>	<b>Innovation Express</b>	<b>Baltic TRAM</b>	<b>BSR Stars S3</b>
<b>Targeted user</b>	Collaborative Innovation projects (triple helix based)	Collaborations of clusters and SME networks	SME	SMEs in the field of bioeconomy
<b>Participating countries</b>	BSR ERDF MA Network	DK, LT, NO, SE, DE-Baden Wurttemberg	BSR	DK, FI, LT,NO,SE
<b>Method of mobilising partners</b>	Joint workshops, coordination through PA INNO	Cluster matchmaking and coordinated calls	Coordinated calls	Coordinated calls
<b>Source of funding</b>	ERDF	Mostly regional and national funds	Interreg project with regional or national funds	Interreg project with NCM
<b>Number of projects approved</b>	2 from the first pilot in cleantech	213 (from five calls 2013-2017)	32 (from two pilot calls; second call still open)	Call open from 12 March to 1 Sept

# Some insights from the cases

## Strengths/Potentials

- *Cooperation structures on both policy/strategic and operational levels – with reinforcing links between*
- *Including intermediaries (e.g. cluster and research interface organisations) to mobilise companies/SMEs in transnational R&I activities*
- *Integrating transnational activities into existing programs*
- *Flexibility, variable geography, allowing application of national rules*
- *Strong potential for broadening the scope/use of the cooperation structures and approaches*

# Some insights from the cases

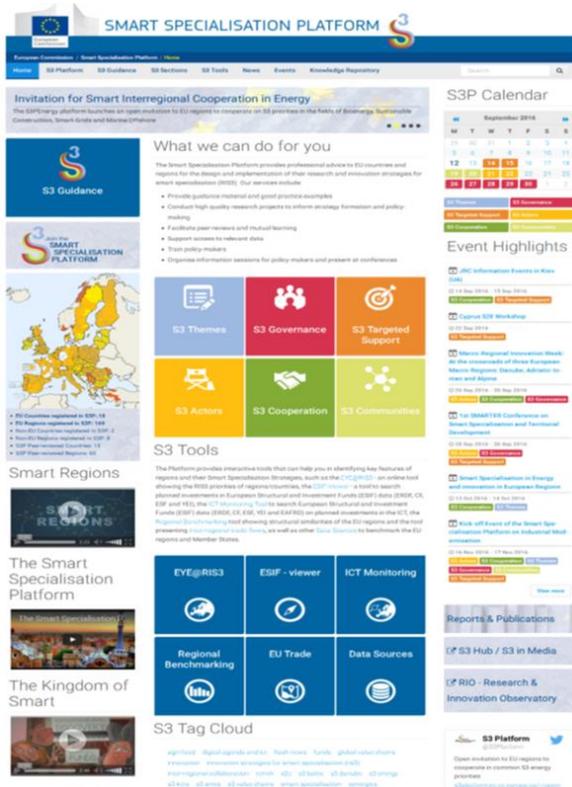
## Challenges/Limitations

- *Lack of stable, longer-term, institutional support for transnational initiatives*
- *Without leadership and approach to fund 'transnational activities', sustainability and further development of joint funding instruments at risk*
- *Lack of embeddedness of transnational collaboration in regional/national innovation programmes*
- *Lack of instruments that are tailored to the needs of operational-level actors*
- *Diversity of rules and financial frames challenges implementation of joint financial instruments*

# Recommendations

- *Continue efforts to build knowledge and capacity through capitalisation, bringing projects and initiatives into the platforms*
- *Develop solutions that would secure more stable institutional frames for (successful) transnational initiatives*
- *Increase transnational element into regional/national programmes*
- *Better tailor EU funding instruments for developing and maintaining sustainability of joint instruments for macro-regional collaboration in smart specialisation*

# THANK YOU



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

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