

SMART SPECIALISATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY (S4)

The role of Smart Specialisation in promoting sustainable regional development in the post-pandemic era

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Outline

1. The concept and process of Smart Specialisation
2. The Recovery for Europe and the role of Smart Specialisation
3. The Road so far - looking ahead
4. The support of the JRC of the European Commission: the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P)

The concept of smart specialisation

*Smart Specialisation is an **integrated place-based economic transformation agenda** via research and innovation*

- ▶ **SMART**: Identify the region's own **strengths and comparative assets**
- ▶ **SPECIALISED**: **Prioritise** research and innovation investment in competitive areas
- ▶ **STRATEGIC**: Define a **shared vision** for territorial innovation



Smart Specialisation Platform

The process of smart specialisation

Step 1 – Analysis of regional context/potential

Step 2 – Governance

Step 3 – Vision for the future

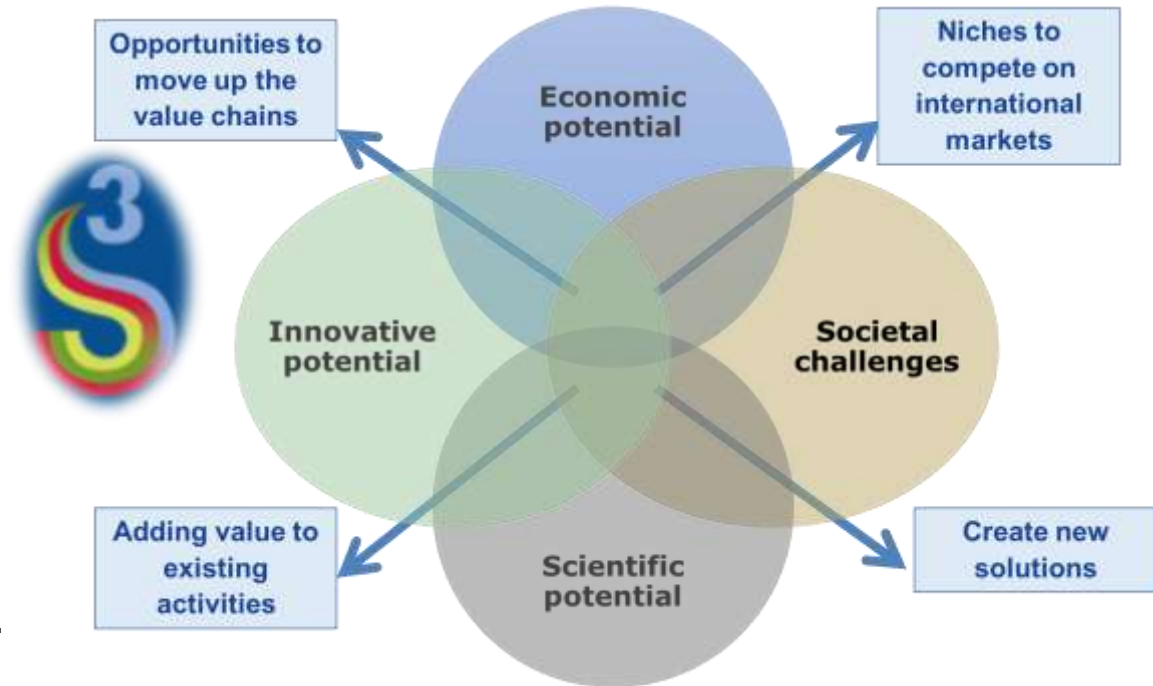
Step 4 – Selection of priorities

Step 5 – Policy mix

Step 6 – Monitoring and evaluation



Smart Specialisation – Potentials at the service of the economy and the territory



What can Smart Specialisation deliver?

- A **participatory governance** model
- Support for the **Just Transition**
- New opportunities to **create quality jobs in the recovery**
- New opportunities for **local economic growth in the recovery**

2. The Recovery Plan for Europe – COVID 19

- Effects of the current Crisis - We are proposing a major recovery plan for Europe to support the European recovery and protect and create jobs.
- We are putting forward a two-pillar response:
 1. **Next Generation EU**: a new recovery instrument of 750bn Eur
 2. **A reinforced MFF** for the EU for 2021-2027 of 1,100bn Eur
- Instruments to support MS efforts to recover
- Measures to boost private investment
- Support companies in need
- The reinforcement of EU programmes

The way out of the crisis and the role of S4

We cannot exit the crisis by going back to where we stood before...
...the only way out is through **new development paths**



Smart Specialisation can play a central role in **discovering** such paths and concrete investment opportunities...

...and support a more **sustainable and inclusive** development

The key features of smart specialisation

Smart Specialisation: a bottom up approach with stakeholders - ownership

- Promoted by the Commission
- National/regional research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) are integrated, place-based **economic transformation agendas**



Key topics to focus on in S4 to support the recovery

EDP

- The **Entrepreneurial Discovery Process** guides public and private investment to the areas with potential meet the social and economic development goals of the territory

Governance

- When it comes to the sensitive moment of deciding on strategic priorities, a truly **inclusive RIS3 governance** structure should be able to prevent capture by specific interest groups, powerful lobbies, or major regional stakeholders.

Monitoring Evaluation

- **Monitoring** as: a system to gather and process information, a transparent crystallisation of the logic of intervention and a communication device
- **Evaluation** as: a way to reinforce our credibility, a communication device and provide confidence in the process.

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From S3 to S4: Smart Specialisation Strategies for Sustainability (S4) for the Green Deal and SDGs



S4
Countries,
Regions,
Cities



The European Green Deal

The Digital Transition

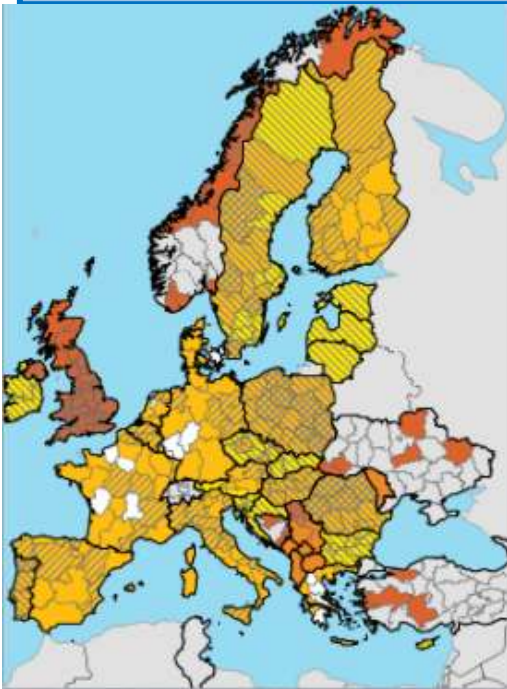


SDGS

- 6. Clean water and sanitation
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12. Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13. Climate Action
- 14. Life Below Water
- 15. Life on Land

3. The road so far – looking ahead

The Smart Specialisation Platform, a decade of achievements...



- EU Countries registered in S3P: 19
- EU Regions registered in S3P: 178
- Non-EU Countries registered in S3P: 7
- Non-EU Regions registered in S3P: 32
- S3P Peer-reviewed Countries: 16
- S3P Peer-reviewed Regions: 75

... rewarded by internal endorsement...

Over 120 smart specialisation strategies

Around 35 partnerships, 187 regions and 33 countries in the thematic platforms

2017 JRC award for excellence

Strong political endorsement at EU level (COM, EP, Council, CoR)

JRC co-lead in July 2017 Communication on "Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions"

... and international recognition

2017 EPSA best practice recognition

Strong endorsement by policy-makers

Scientific impact: 25 publications/year



Smart Specialisation generates interest inside... but also outside the EU: Smart Specialisation worldwide

Paper for the European Alliance for Innovation, EAI's international conference
on Technology, R&D, Education & Economy for Africa
TREE for Africa 2018, March 2018

Smart specialisation in Sub-Saharan Africa: new
perspectives for innovation-led territorial development

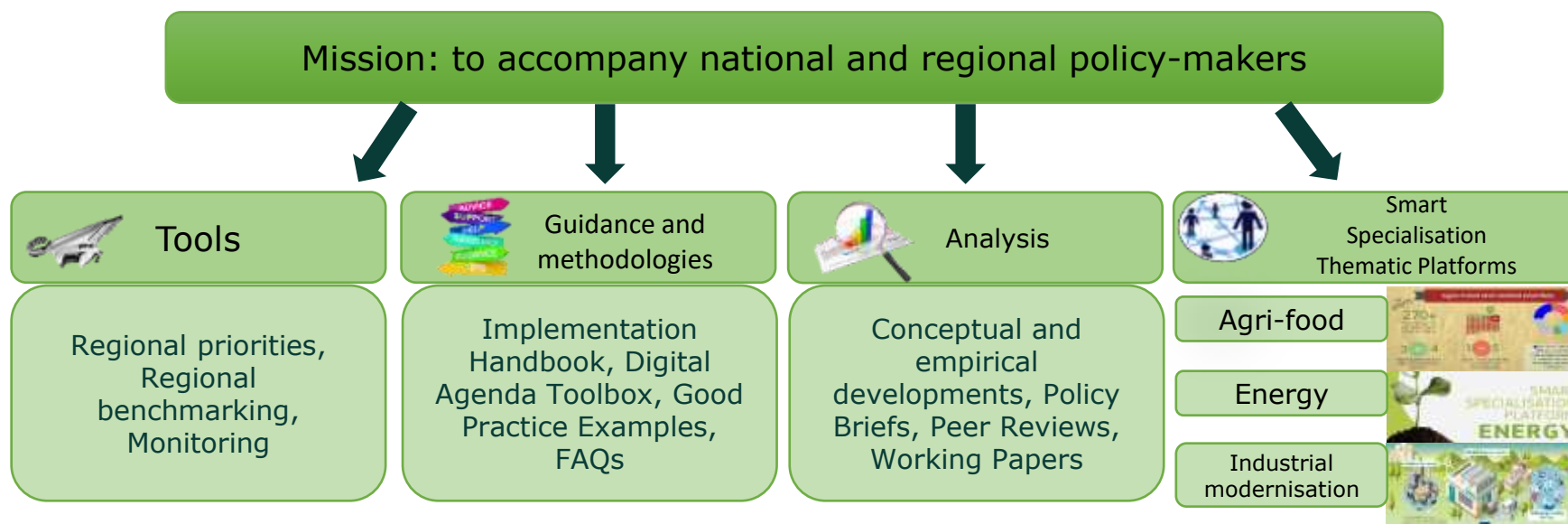


European
Commission

4. The support of the JRC of the EC: the S3P

The Smart Specialisation Platform of the JRC at the Service of the Green Deal and the European Recovery

The Smart Specialisation Platform



Sources: European Commission; <https://www.raysgarageut.com/brake-repairs-sandy-ut>, <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-sign-directions-support-help-tips-advice-guidance-assistance-105426309.html>, <https://greeksoftinstitute.wordpress.com/2016/10/22/how-to-get-historical-data-for-futures-and-options/>, <https://www.kpezakyn.gr/2017-18/>

The support tools



Thank you!



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