Better RIS3 Governance

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform – Follow-up Article

Online Matchmaking session, Thursday 9 March 2023, 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Objective of the online matchmaking:

For the programming period of 2021-2027, the Western Greece Managing Authority is in the process of designing and implementing its Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3). The Managing Authority (MA) is particularly interested in exploring new S3 governance arrangements and promoting a continuous and inclusive open discovery process (ODP) by learning from other European regions.

Policy Challenges:

The Western Greece Managing Authority wanted to gain insights and get inspired from good practices to promote better RIS3 Governance, namely on:

- How to promote an inclusive and continuous open discovery process (ODP)?
- How to promote synergies and collaboration among regional stakeholders?

Participants:

Host region: The Western Greece Managing Authority

- **Anastasia Pyrgaki**, Region of Western Greece, Directorate of Development Planning
- **Spyros Papaspyrou**, Region of Western Greece, Directorate of Development Planning
- **Sofia Karveli**, Region of Western Greece, Directorate of Development Planning
- **Ioanna Chamakioti**, Region of Western Greece, Directorate of Development Planning

- **Nikos Thomopoulos**, Region of Western Greece, Managing Authority
- **Aris Mamasoulas**, Region of Western Greece, Managing Authority
- **Theodoros Tsumbelis**, Region of Western Greece, General secretary of Achaia Chamber of Commerce
- **Panagiotis Papadatos**, Region of Western Greece, Western Greece Association of Technological SMEs

Matchmaking Regional Peers:

- **Dmitri Domanski,** Business Metropole Ruhr, Germany
- **Elisabetta Marinelli**, Senior Consultant, Technopolis Group Belgium
- **Piotr Dylewski**, Marshal Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw, Poland.
- **Rafał Muszakowski**, Marshal Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw, Poland.

Observers:

- **Harri Kuusela**, Regional Council of Päijät-Häme, Finland.
- **Ninetta Chaniotou,** Regional Council of Kainuu, Finland.
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Moderators:

- **Marc Pattinson**, Policy Learning Platform, m.pattinson@policylearning.eu
- **Arnault Morisson**, Policy Learning Platform, a.morisson@policylearning.eu

Key Insights shared during the online matchmaking.

The peers shared insights on promoting an inclusive and continuous entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP):

- **Some regions are adopting challenge driven S3 to address regional societal challenges**. This shift towards, for example the green and digital twin transitions, offers European regions the opportunity to build new governance arrangements to address societal challenges. The region of **Castilla y León**, Spain, has adopted new Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) mechanisms such as EDP for the development of transformative challenges and working groups to promote flagship initiatives in an open public-private partnership framework.
- **Developing institutional capacities for effective S3 governance is a continuous process that requires time**. Building long-term trust, enabling learning mechanisms, and retaining the right persons with strong knowledge on the regional institutional context are necessary enabling factors for developing institutional capacities for effective S3 governance. It is essential for regions to have operational teams consisting of competent staff to support the implementation of policies and strategic initiatives.
- **Regions must select relevant key performance indicators that are aligned with guidance issues and can assist in piloting progress.** These indicators can be shared with the regional innovation actors to foster a 'unity of purpose', particularly regarding the regional strategic S3 priorities (see the good practice **Transparent Presentation and Communication of Innovation Projects Funded by ERDF** in Asturias, Spain).
- **Regional animators can be identified and 'contracted' to handle certain parts of the EDP.** For example, cluster managers can play an important role in engaging SMEs and larger companies in the EDP process.
- **The EDP must recognise different sub-regional strengths and complementarities** to rally different sub-regional actors (for instance municipalities) around a common vision.

- **The EDP process can also be a way of identifying new and perhaps more risky priorities that can represent new regional growth opportunities** (see for instance **the wild-card strategy in North Portugal**).
- **Quantitative tools such as Social Network Analysis or patent analysis** can support regional policymakers to map and identify central innovation actors (see for instance the **Platform RIS3CAT** in Catalonia, Spain). Additionally, the concept of **economic relatedness** reveals that new industrial sectors for a region emerge from the pre-existing regional industrial sectors. It provides a strong quantitative analytical tool to select the industrial sectors to prioritise.

Interreg Europe good practices to promote better RIS3 governance.

The peers and moderators discussed good practices coming from Interreg Europe projects (see also the **Interreg Europe good practice database**), namely:

- **Ambitious Research Development 2020 (MARIE)** from region Centre-Val de Loire, France, aims to spur ambitious regional R&D projects with an international reach and socio-economic impact for the territory. The program provides funding for up to 10 million euros per project through public calls to create partnerships among research centres, universities, and private companies on ambitious R&D projects. The significant public funding available is expected to facilitate the creation of strategic projects that will support the regional S3 priorities.
- **Primas Proof of Concept** (**S3CHEM**) is a public-private initiative to support research groups in developing proof of concepts in Asturias, Spain. Proof of concepts correspond to the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3, where first laboratory testing is conducted and require close collaboration between research and industry. Each edition of the programme is co-financed by IDEPA (50%) and a large private company (50%) to support proof of concepts in specific RIS3 priorities. The programme facilitates university-industry collaboration in the early stage of the TRL. The programme fosters multi-actor collaboration with the objective to find research solutions to regional industrial R&D challenges.

Additional Sources of further information

- Interreg Europe policy brief on **Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)**
- Interreg Europe policy brief on **Clusters: Driving the Green and Digital Twin Transition**
- Interreg Europe policy brief on **University-Industry Collaboration**
- Interreg Europe article on **Innovation Vouchers**
- Interreg Europe article on the **Entrepreneurial Discovery Process**
- Interreg Europe article on Innovation **Inducement Prizes: small steps to transformative changes**
- Interreg Europe peer review on **Sector Prioritisation and the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)**

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

Note circulation: All attendees.