



Smart Specialisation Strategies foster knowledge-based growth in EU regions

Fostering transregional S3-based cooperation: Advancing the sustainable blue economy through macroregional innovation collaboration – Brussels 20/04/23

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General concept

Research and innovation key for sustainable and smart economic transformation. Central to the EU's main objectives.

2010, the European Commission called on governments to develop Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).

Concept strong hold in EU regional policy -
Smart specialisation has made a real difference

The three pillars of S3

Localisation

Prioritisation

Participation

Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (EU) 2021/1058

Support from the ERDF under policy objective 1 (PO 1) should be based on building capacities for smart specialisation strategies...

Article 22 :(vi)

Content of programmes

Each programme shall set out for each specific objective the interregional, cross-border and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State or outside the Union.

***New* ENABLING CONDITION FOR SMART SPECIALISATION**

Policy objective

1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity

Specific objective

ERDF:

Specific objectives 1.1 and 1.4 under this policy objective

Name of enabling condition

Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy

New thematic enabling condition "Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy" - seven fulfilment criteria:

1. Up-to-date analysis of challenges for innovation diffusion and digitalisation.
2. Existence of competent regional or national institution or body, responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy.
3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objective of the strategy.

4. Functioning of stakeholder co-operation (“entrepreneurial discovery process”).

5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation system, where relevant.

6. Where relevant, actions to support industrial transition.

7. Measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation strategy.

SUPPORT to S3 community

4 Thematic S3 platforms connecting regional ecosystems:

- Industrial Modernisation
- Agri-food
- Energy
- **Sustainable blue economy**

37 partnerships – 208 regions

S3 Community of Practice – DG REGIO's major source of support

The S3 Working Group on Interregional Collaboration start operating in May 2023

- collect and document knowledge and good practices in different European regions
- identify common needs, problems, and challenges
- co-develop, support, deploy and monitor solutions to such challenges
- meet twice a year, for three years, and comprise experts from the quadruple helix.

Outcomes will be published and elaborated to ensure that they can be of support to all EU regions.

Smart specialisation and sustainable blue economy

More than 40 regions identified S3 priorities in relation to sustainable blue economy:

- fisheries
- aquaculture
- blue renewable energy
- marine biotechnology
- marine & coastal tourism
- shipbuilding and ship repair
- transport and logistics

Big potential to establish new S3 partnerships

Thank you



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