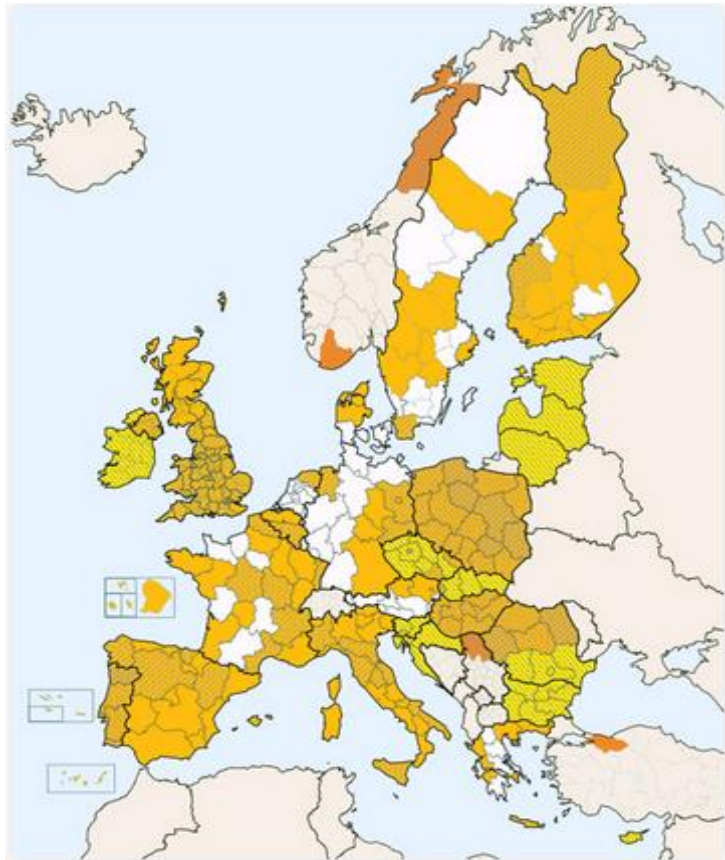# Smart Specialisation and The S3 Platform
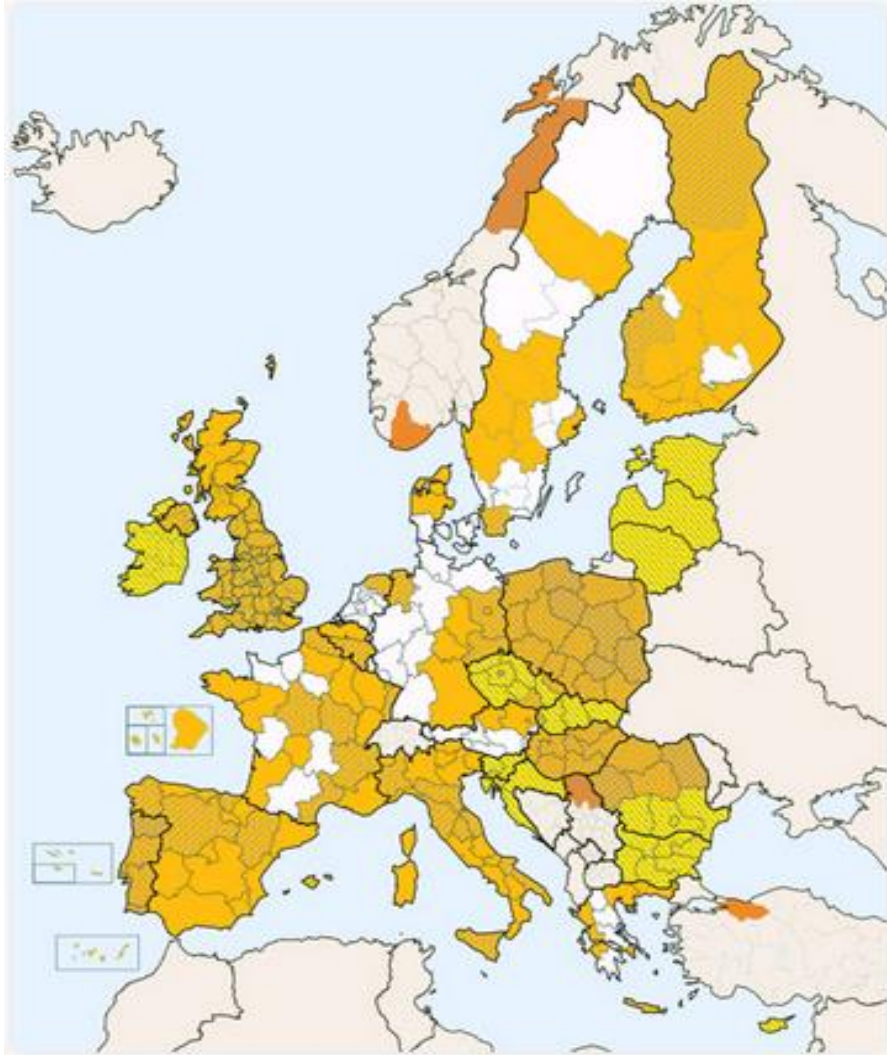
Study visit – Østlandssamarbeidet 9 February 2015

Inger Midtkandal,
S3 Platform

Joint Research Centre (JRC)
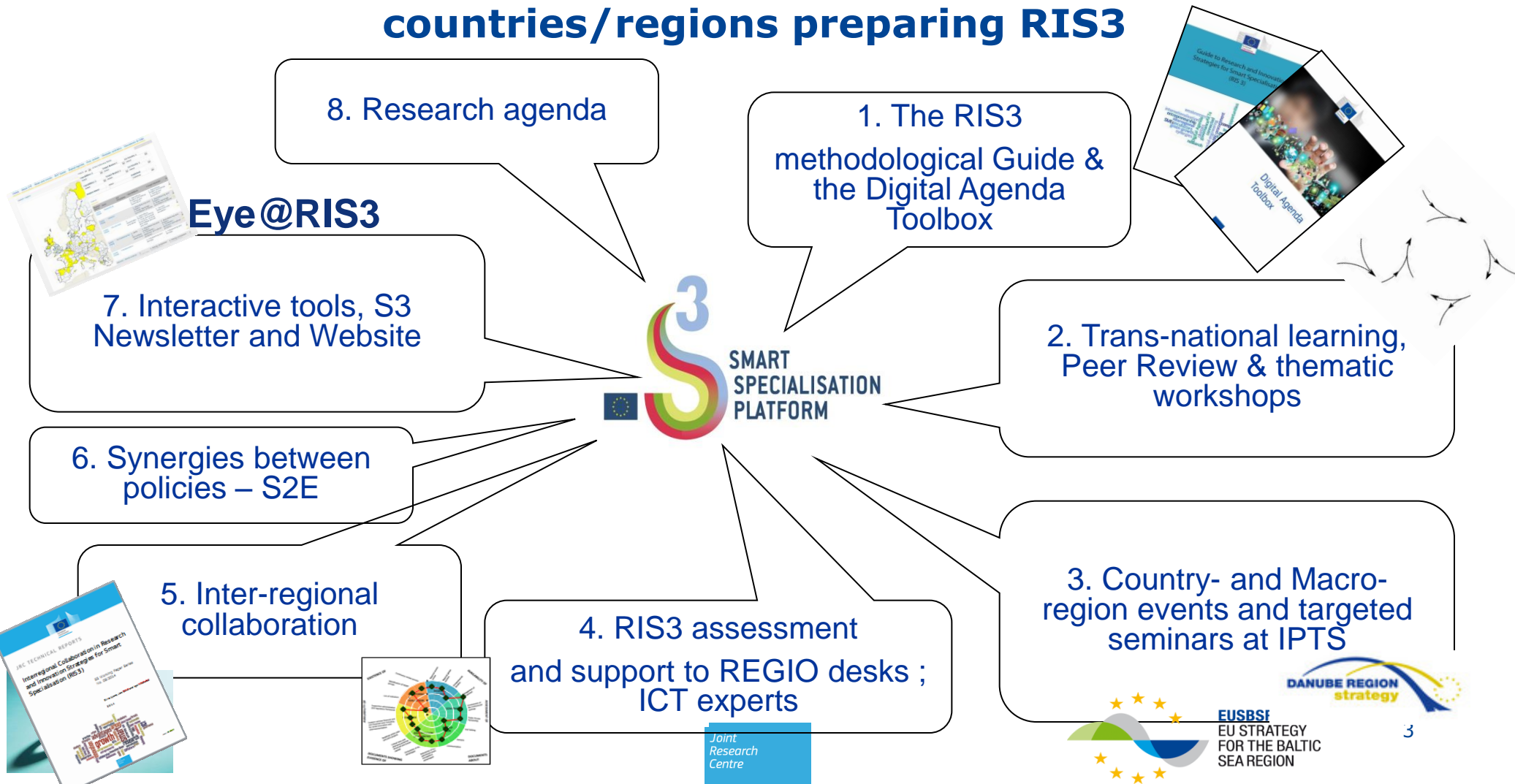The European Commission's in-house science service

The S3 Platform

- Created in 2011 to provide science-based professional advice to EU national and regional policy-makers for the establishment and implementation of their RIS3, make better use of the ESI Funds and thus contribute to the Europe 2020 goals.

- Managed by JRC-IPTS in Seville in the frame of a wider EC effort including DG REGIO, RTD, ENTR, EAC, CNECT, ENER, AGRI.

EU Countries registered: 15
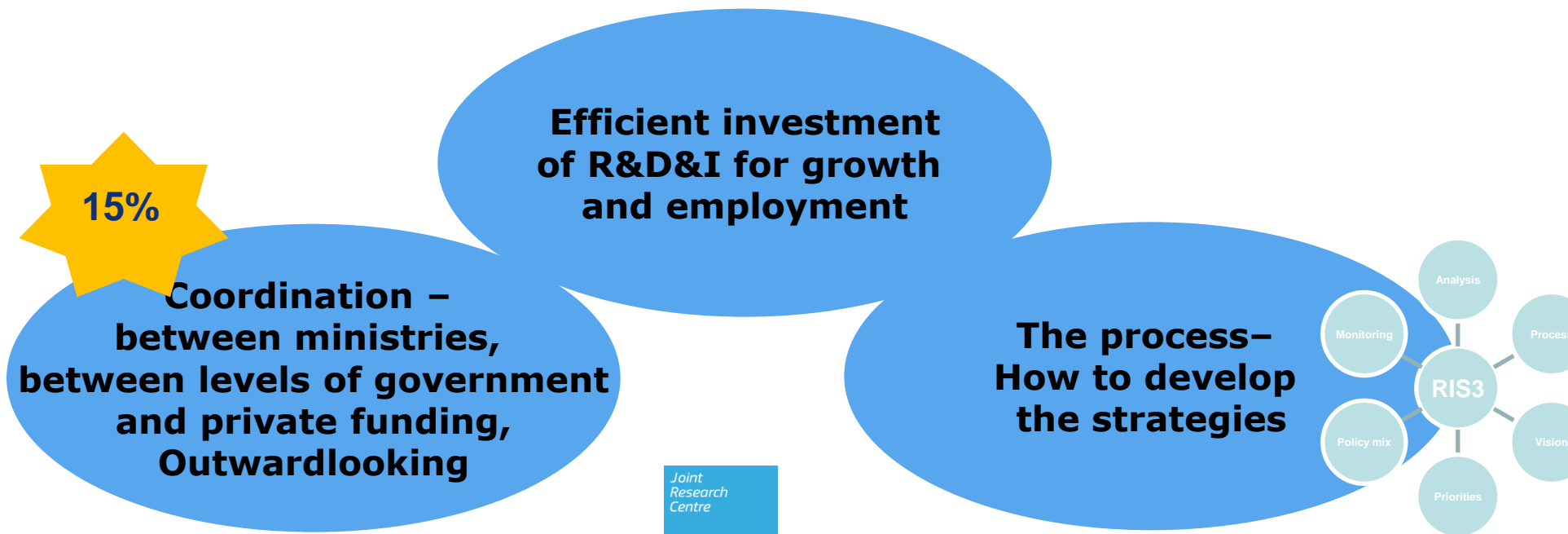
EU Regions registered 154

Non-EU Regions registered: 5

Main activities of S3 Platform in support of the countries/regions preparing RIS3

8. Research agenda

1. The RIS3 methodological Guide & the Digital Agenda Toolbox

Eye@RIS3

7. Interactive tools, S3 Newsletter and Website

2. Trans-national learning, Peer Review & thematic workshops

6. Synergies between policies – S2E

5. Inter-regional collaboration

4. RIS3 assessment and support to REGIO desks ; ICT experts

3. Country- and Macro-region events and targeted seminars at IPTS

RIS3 "Research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation" is a dynamic and evolutionary process – "not a structure"- deeply grounded in **an entrepreneurial discovery process** (not a one-off action) where Governments are rather facilitators…than in a position of command and control.

RIS3 is for…
innovation leaders **and** for those lagging behind !

15%

Efficient investment of R&D&I for growth and employment

Coordination – between ministries, between levels of government and private funding, Outwardlooking

The process– How to develop the strategies

RIS3

Analysis

Process

Monitoring

Policy mix

Vision

Priorities

European Commission

Joint Research Centre

Do it through a "RIS3" approach:

ANALYSIS: discovery of the socio-economic and research-innovation engines of regional growth, competitive advantages & weaknesses.

PROCESS: governance, stakeholder involvement, institutional setting.

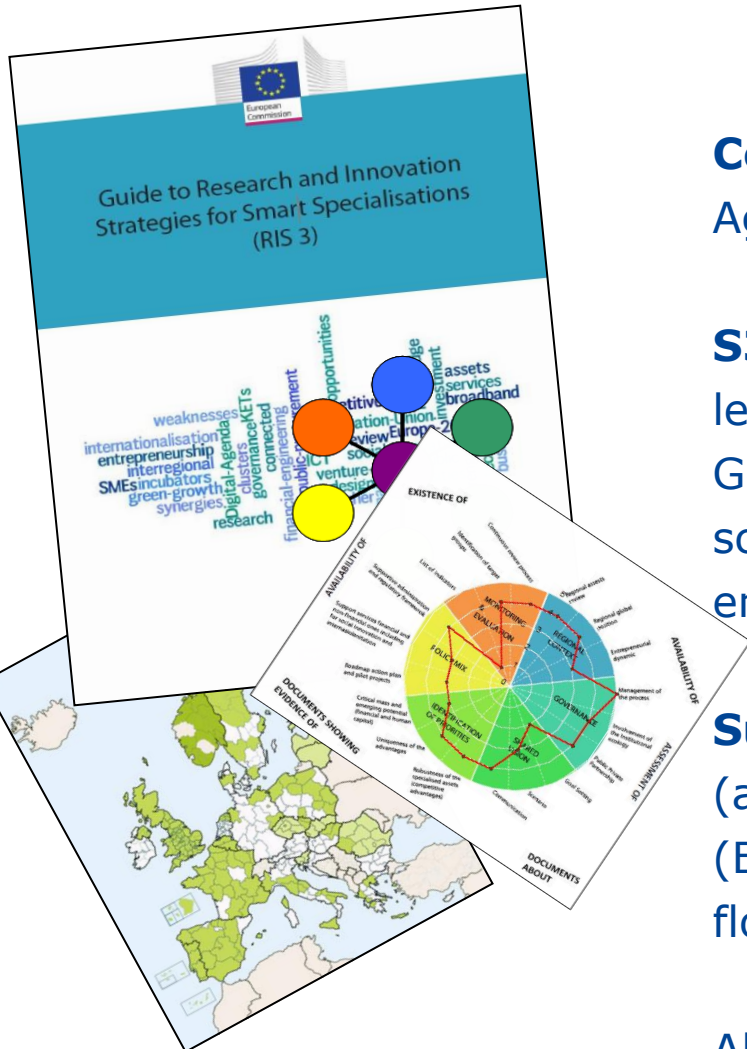**VISION/GOAL/OBJECTIVES:** common goals for the future.

PRIORITIES: search and selection of activities & projects & actions & technological areas to focus on.

POLICY MIX: policy mechanisms and instruments - social, industrial, innovation, labour, research, development.

MONITORING: selection indicators and evaluation process.

Guidance – analysis – supporting tools

Comprehensive guidance tools – RIS3 Guide, Digital Agenda Toolbox, FAQs

S3 Publication series - Policy briefs co-authored with lead academics (Foray, Boschma, Rodriguez-Pose, Goddard) and practitioners; Working papers providing scientific analysis to contribute to conceptual and empirical developments related to smart specialisation

Supporting tools developed on: RIS3 self-assessment (assessment wheel); regional RIS3 priorities (Eye@RIS3), regional benchmarking, bilateral trade flows

All is publicly accessible on the web

Peer review of S3

➢ Own methodology inspired by trans-national mutual learning objective and: (i) exchange of roles; (ii) concentration in space and time; (iii) mix of peers and experts; (iv) focus on questions defined by countries/regions under review

➢ No. of peer-reviews workshops: 18 (from Jan 2012 to Feb 2015)
➢ Peer reviewed regions: 53
➢ Peer reviewed countries: 16

➢ Average no of regions/countries present at each workshop: 25
➢ Average participants at each workshop: 56

http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/peer-review

Impact of the peer review exercise (Survey 2013 Q4)

Legend: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
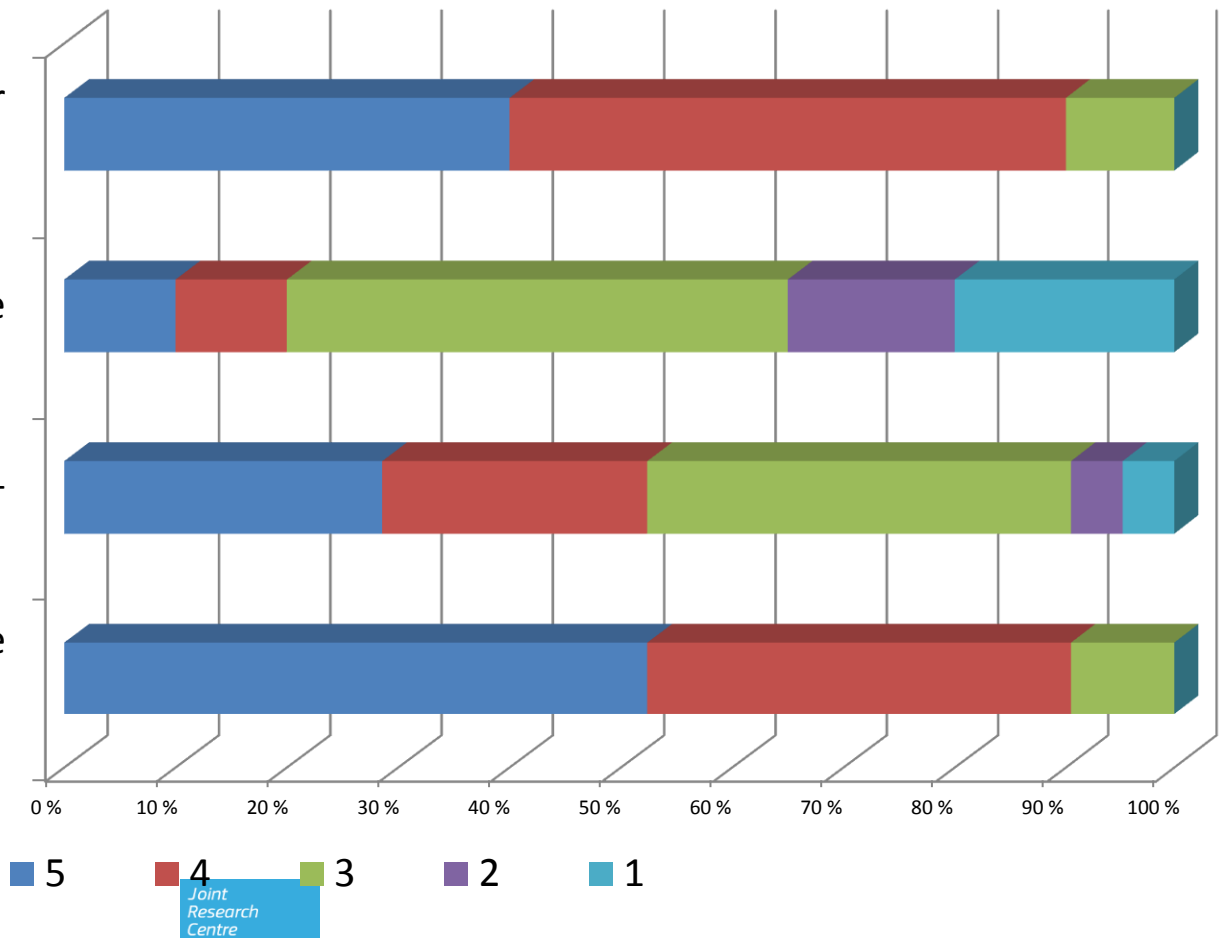
S3 Platform – Thematic activity

Development of mutual learning and sharing tools with respect to the implementation of S3 and the alignment of innovation roadmaps across Europe.

Combination of top-down and bottom-up needs/wishes – regions, countries, EU funded trans-national initiatives, EU macro-regions, stakeholders, etc.

Across the actors of S3: Universities (with EUA); Science parks (with JRC and IASP); SMEs (with UEAPME and EURADA); RTOs (with EARTO)

Across the S3 process: Entrepreneurial process of discovery; Governance; M&E; Priority setting; OP action plans; Co-ordination of national and regional level

Across regional features and aggregations: Macro-regional strategies (Danube; Baltic), Sparsely populated regions; Outermost regions; Rural areas

Across common S3 domains: ICT/Digital growth; KETs (e.g. advanced manufacturing); Energy (e.g. fuel cells & hydrogen); Value chains

Thematic workshops

1. **Indicators (Groningen, Jan 2013)**
2. **Universities (Seville, Feb 2013)**
3. **ICT (Seville, Apr 2013) - Pilot**
4. **Agro-food (Murcia, Apr 2013)**
5. **Transport/logistics (Las Palmas, Apr 2013)**
6. **Tourism (linked to peer-review, Faro, Jul 2013)**
7. **Rural regions (Fundão, Oct 2013)**
8. **Advanced manufacturing (Brussels, Nov 2013)**
9. **Urban/rural relationship (linked to peer-review, Potsdam, Nov 2013)**
10. **Prioritisation in RIS3 (Norrköping, April, 2014)**
11. **Sparsely populated areas (June, 2014)**
12. **Entrepreneurial discovery process (Pisa, September 2014)**
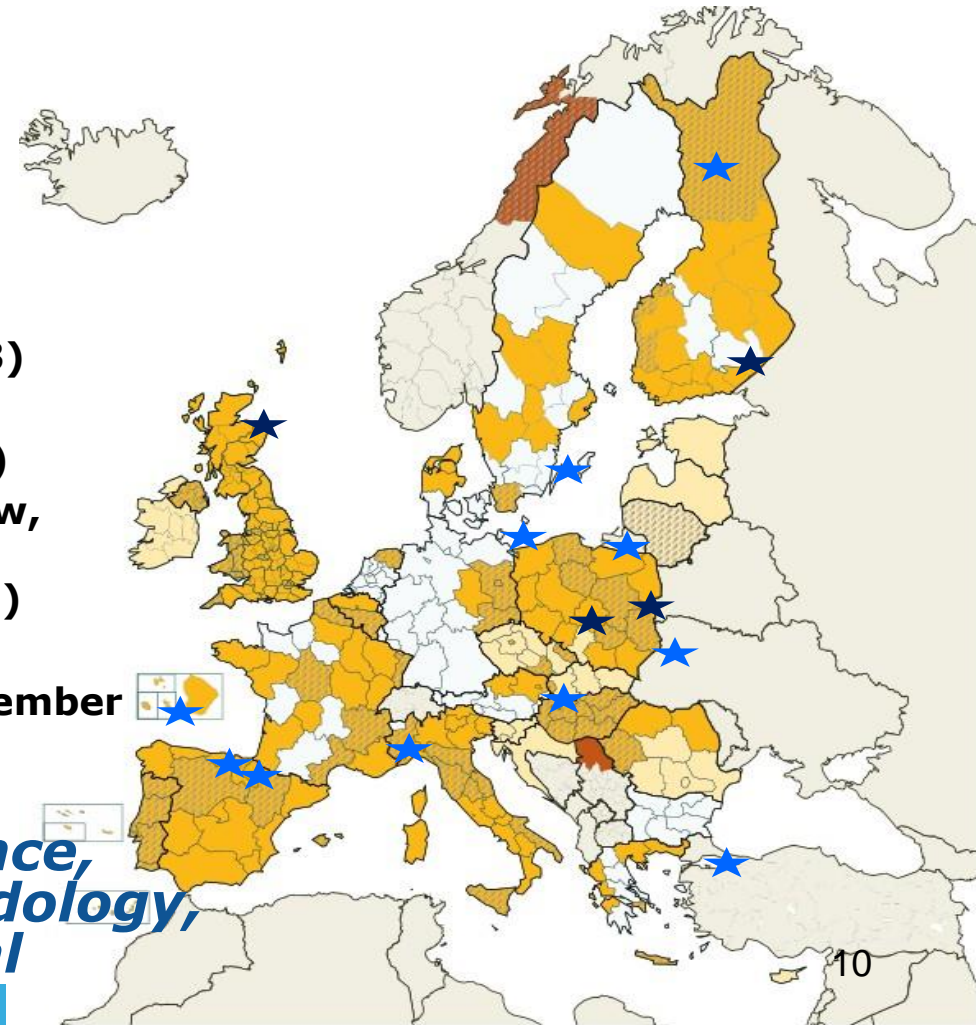
Very different in structure, attendance, focus Targeting RIS3 actors, methodology, common priorities, common regional features

10

Connecting RIS 3 in the Baltic Sea Region

April 13:   Vantaa

Nov 13:   Malmö

- Getting Smarter together in the Baltic Sea Region
  - eHealth, Smart Cities and Open session
  - Results: 12 working groups on concrete proposals

Oct 14: Jurmala

Dec 14: Vilnius

- Connecting RIS3 in the Baltic Sea Region
  - Health Technology, Smart Cities, Creative industries and Open Session
  - Aligning EUSBSR PA Innovation and Connecting the RIS3

2015: Tallinn?

WHY collaborate?

WHO or what level of actors ?
WHO is in power do to something?

HOW to work together

WHAT would you like to achieve?

WHEN is the next step to proceed?

JRC TECHNICAL REPORTS

Interregional Collaboration in Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-in-baltic-sea-region
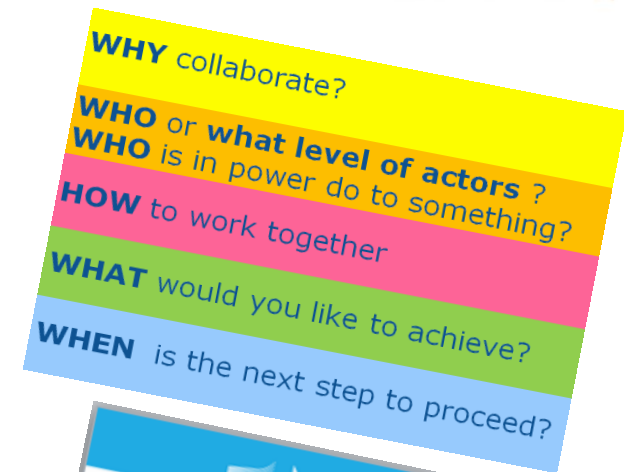
Collaboration across borders

Facilitating mutual learning and knowledge sharing … making smart specialisation priorities even "smarter"

Alignment of roadmaps
- Fostering alignment between European, national and regional innovation roadmaps
- Promoting synergies and co-investment opportunities (e.g. in the context of Horizon 2020 and the "stairway to excellence")
- Support the creation of groups around common themes to work with territorial co-operation strand of the EU cohesion policy
- A specific focus on EU macro-regional strategies

Where do we Stand?

Share of EC FP7 contribution received between 2007 and 2014 (starting from FP6)
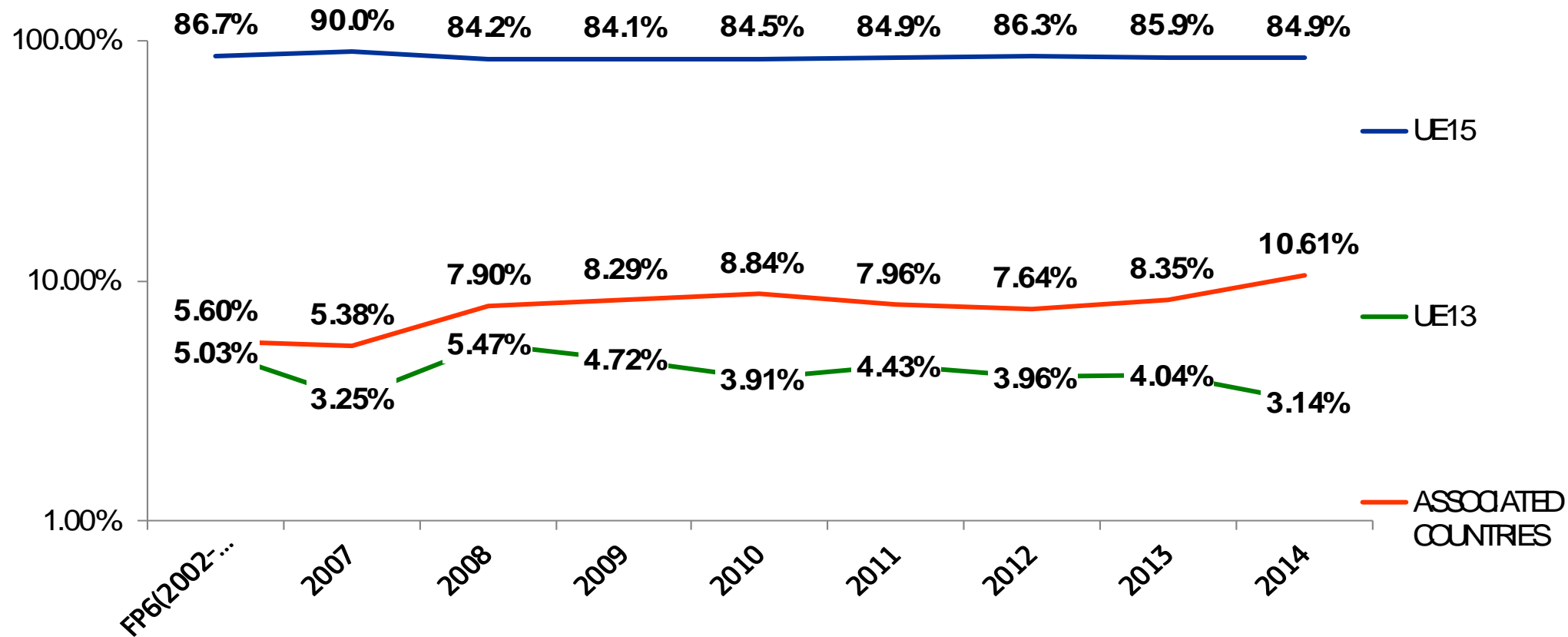
Stairway to Excellence (S2E) Project

Support to enhance the value of two key European Union (EU) funding sources for RDI (ESIF and H2020) by promoting their combination.

Two main objectives:
1. Assistance to regions and countries that joined the EU since 2004 (EU13 – New EU Member States) in closing the innovation gap, in order to promote excellence in all regions and EU countries
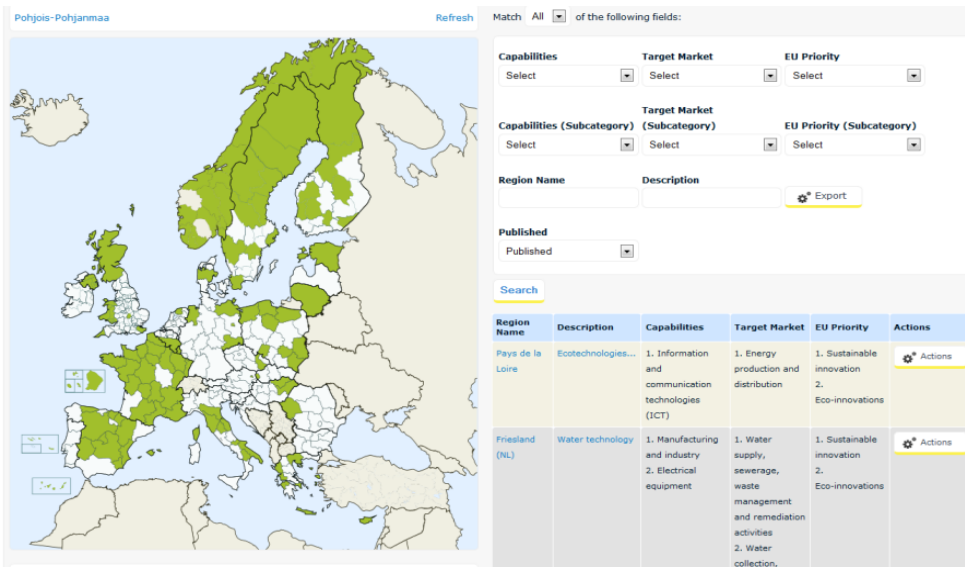
2. Stimulate early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Joint Research Centre
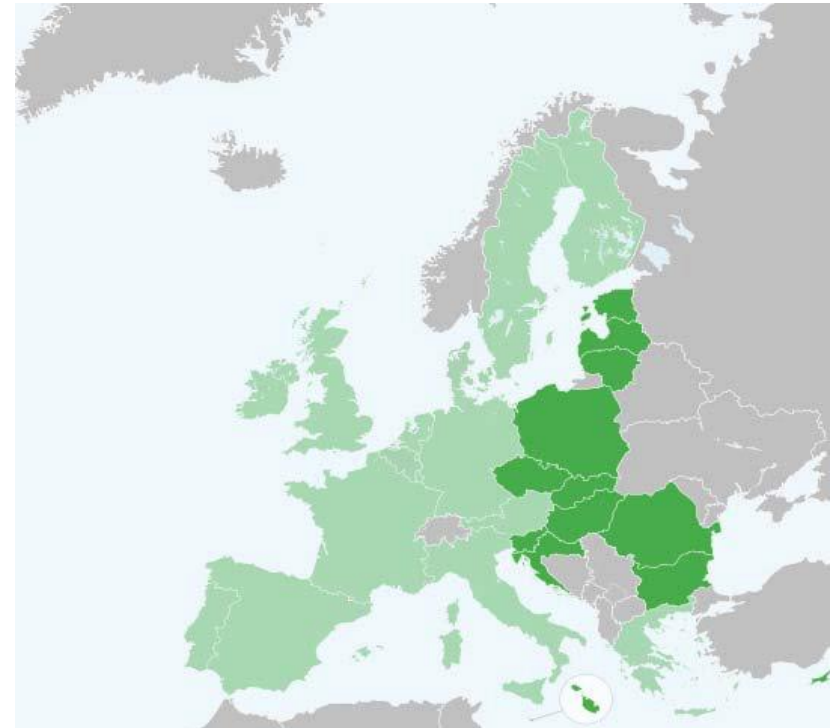
Eye@RIS3 – an online database for S3 priorities

Enables regions to position
themselves, and
to seek out potential partners for
collaboration

- Data from regional and national RIS3 strategies

- Four dimensions, short text descriptions, connections to EU policies, regional capabilities and target markets

- Not perfect matches, but an easy to use tool to give initial indications

- Approx. 900 regional priorities

- Consulted 57,000 times in 2014

Bioeconomy

Regions with common target priorities

Source: Eye@RIS3

European Commission

Inter-regional Trade and Competition Tool
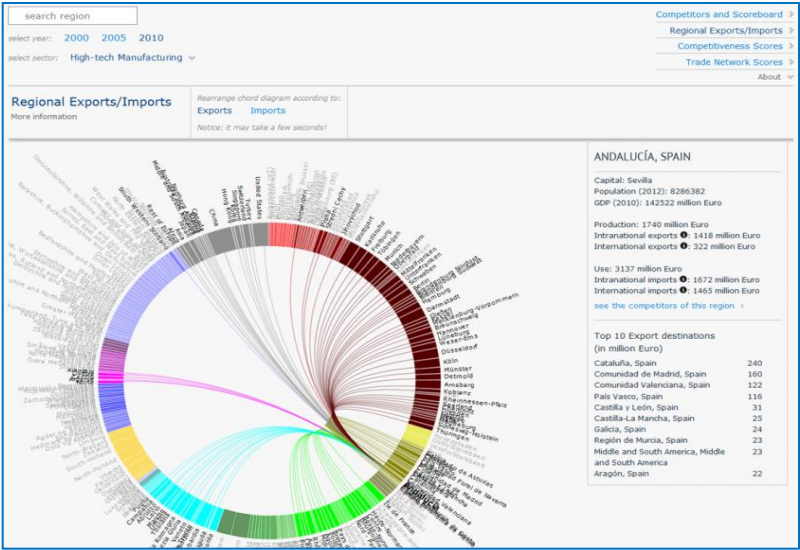
In the visualisation the trade between 256 European NUTS2 regions and the trade of these Nuts2 regions with the rest of the world is shown. The lines in the diagram represent the value of the flow of goods between the exporter region and the destination region.

The revealed competition map shows which region competes internationally with whom, on what and where. Revealed competition is determined here as the degree of trade networks overlapping with those of their competitors.

Joint
Research
Centre
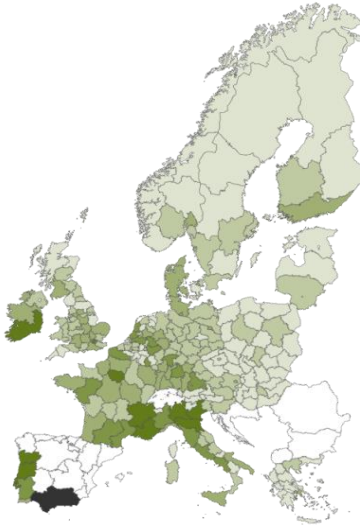
Benchmarking regional structure

In our methodological proposal, we define as reference regions those that share similar structural conditions relevant for innovation-driven development. That is, characteristics that cannot be easily changed in the short term and that are demonstrated to affect the way innovation and economic evolution take place in a region.

The comparison is not based on performance nor it is aimed to select "best performers" as peers. The idea is rather that (i) policy learning is most likely to be effective if your peers are similar to you, and (ii) you can learn both from others' successes and failures.

18

Assessing EU cohesion policy programming documents

28 Partnership Agreements
Around 180 Operational Programmes dealing
   with Thematic Objective 1 (R&I)

More than 500 intra- and
 inter-service consultations

A comprehensive
view on ex-ante
conditionality requirements

Joint
Research
Centre

Regional or national RIS3?

- Regional strategies only
  FR, BE, NL, UK*

- National and regional strategies
  ES, PT, PL, IT, EL, AT, DE

- National strategy with regional focuses/efforts
  SE, FI, DK, CZ, SK, HU, RO (partially)

- National strategy only
  LU, IE, LV, LT, EE, MT, CY, BG, SI, HR

Different Multi-level governance issues

Critical issues in the following...

- Implementation and Policy mixes

- Synergies and coordination

- Inter-regional collaboration in RIS3

- Monitoring and Evaluation for continuous priority setting

….which challenges the national and regional governance set ups

Novelties in implementation of RIS3

1. Governance of integrated policy mix beyond R&D policies
   - Existing policy mixes are often accumulation of instruments over time and across policy domains and levels.
   - From "silo"-driven to outcome driven policies

2. Overcoming path-dependency – Genuine prioritization of investments
   - RIS3 requires screening existing policies with the perspective of new objectives and chosen priorities

3. Increasingly inter-related economies
   - Not only R&I, but also internationalisation
   - Connection of the regional economy with other part of value chain, do not stop at the administrative border
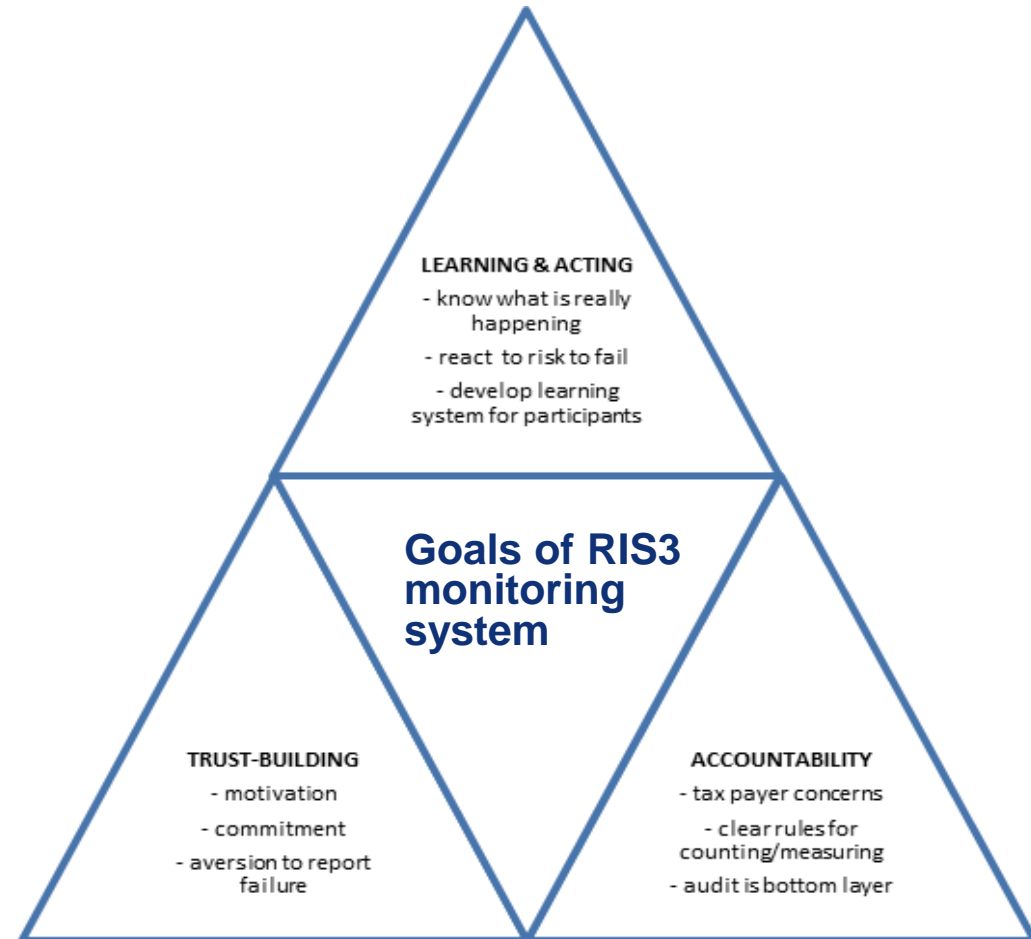   - Inter-regional partnerships and collaboration

4. From administrative to strategic policy management
   - Each priority area with target designed policy mix - break path dependency!?
   - Long term investments
   - Distinguish between horizontal and vertical policy instruments

Monitoring and Evaluation are crucial tools for success!

1. Inform about how transformation processes and what effects they are producing.
   - early warning system allowing to steer policy measures towards goals.
2. Condense and clarify the logic of intervention of the strategy.
   - helps people to understand the meaning and purposes of strategic actions and interventions.
3. Support stakeholder engagement and promote trust building.
   - provide the data base for easily understandable causal narratives of innovation processes.

LEARNING & ACTING
- know what is really happening
- react to risk to fail
- develop learning system for participants

Goals of RIS3 monitoring system

TRUST-BUILDING
- motivation
- commitment
- aversion to report failure

ACCOUNTABILITY
- tax payer concerns
- clear rules for counting/measuring
- audit is bottom layer

Joint Research Centre

Thank you!

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

JRC-IPTS-S3PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu

Inger.MIDTKANDAL@ec.europa.eu

What is Smart Specialisation?

= **fact-based**: all assets + capabilities + bottlenecks in a region, incl. external perspective, cooperation potential, global value chains

= no top-down decision but **dynamic entrepreneurial discovery process** uniting key stakeholders around shared vision

= **all forms of innovation**, not only technology-driven, existing / new knowledge

= **ecosystem** approach: creating environment for change, efficiency of institutions

= **differentiation**: focus on competitive advantages, potential for excellence, emerging opportunities, market niches

= **concentration** of resources on priorities, problems and core needs, for critical mass/critical potential

= **synergies** across different departments and governance levels (EU-national-regional); cross-sector/technology links

= **place-based economic transformation**: rejuvenate traditional sectors through higher-value activities

European Commission

Joint Research Centre