

Smart Specialisation & Future Cohesion Policy

Katja Reppel
Deputy Head of Unit for Smart and
Sustainable Growth
DG Regional and Urban Policy



#CohesionPolicy #EUinmyRegion

Economic Challenges for EU regions

Globalisation
Automation and robotisation
Emerging and digital technologies
Decarbonisation
Circular Economy
Aging
Brain Drain

Economic transformation is needed & No region should be left behind



Future Cohesion Policy Objective 1: innovative and smart economic transformation

Enhancing R&I capacities

+ uptake of advanced technologies

Digitisation

for citizens, companies and governments

Smart Specialisation Strategies

Developing **skills** for S3, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

Growth and competetitiveness of SMEs start-up/scale-up Eco-systems

Interregional innovation investments



Priorities for innovative & smart economic transformation via Cohesion Policy

1. Innovation

- Business investment in R&I and entrepreneurial university
- Pilot lines, early product validation, technology transfer
- Key digital technologies
- Living labs, test-beds

2. Digitalisation

- ICT uptake in SMEs; B2B; B2C;C2C
- E-government
- E-inclusion, e-health, e-learning, e-skilling
- New firms, start-ups/scale-ups

3. SME

- Industrial cluster development/ EDP process
- Access to finance and advanced business services
- Innovation management in SMEs
- Training, reskilling for smart specialisation areas

4. Skills for S3

- Integration of education and training institution in innovation ecosystem
- Skills in higher education to increase commercial viability



Smart Specialisation Strategies post 2020

2014-2020 S3 criteria:

- Limited number of RIS3
 priorities building on own strength & potentials
- SWOT or similar analysis& EDP
- Monitoring system
- In line with national or regional R&I strategic policy framework
- Measures to stimulate private R&I investments
- Budgeting plans

Strengthened by 2021-2027 S3 criteria:

- + analysis of bottlenecks for innovation diffusion & digitalisation
- + Ongoing entrepreneurial discovery process
- + competent institution or body responsible for S3 management
- + Improve national or regional research and innovation systems
- + Actions to manage industrial transition
- + Measures for international collaboration

Main points for next generation S3:

- Continue with smart specialisation in the new financial perspective and build on what has been developed by now
- Go beyond simply prioritising innovation investments towards a mechanism of economic transformation that serves broader economic, social and environmental goals
- Broaden the scope of smart specialisation strategies beyond R&I
 - > Innovation, digitalisation of industry, SME competitiveness, skills
- Complements to physical investment
 - ➤ Intangibles, software, IP, firm-level skills
- Reinforce governance of smart specialisation
 - Accountable body, role of EDP as an ongoing process
- Accelerate innovation diffusion and increase cross-sectoral cooperation as part of adaptation to technological change
- Benefit from interregional innovation investments and complementarities

Role for Universities

- Technology and knowledge for economy
- Form and attract talent
- Universities as economic actors
- Stepping stone for international contacts

Get involved in:

- Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategies
- Entrepreneurial Discovery Processes for Smart Specialisation Strategies

Questions and Answers

