

The S3 Community of Practice

Working group on Interregional Cooperation



The Working Groups (WGs) developed within the S3 Community of Practice (S3 CoP) aim to create a learning loop of **knowledge generation, knowledge capitalisation** and through **stakeholder engagement, action and peer learning**.

Throughout their activities, the WGs envision to follow a bottom-up, iterative and collaborative approach to facilitate exchanges of experience among regional stakeholders.



The main purpose of each Working Group is to...

- Collect and document existing knowledge and good practices
- Identify common needs, problems and challenges
- Co-develop with the regions potential solutions
- Create a process of successful implementation of those solutions tailored to the particularities of each region

The Working Group on Interregional Cooperation will shape its activities by analysing the measures taken by Member States and regions for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

Interregional cooperation means that, building on the priorities set out in each S3, regions should seek for opportunities for international collaboration between research actors, innovation actors, private companies and civil society. This collaboration should focus on similar areas and leverage the mapping of complementarities between regions. To facilitate this cooperation, measures should be taken to engage regional stakeholders (universities, research organisations, companies, clusters, civil society), in participating and contributing to innovation-driven collaboration networks, and other relevant initiatives.

Benefits of interregional cooperation for...

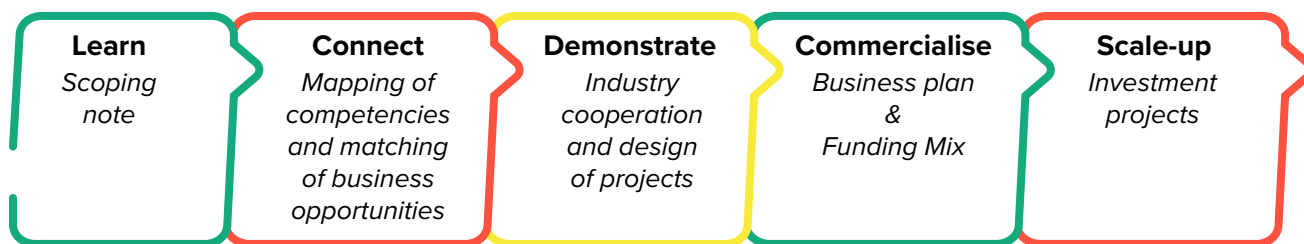
Regional Innovation Actors:

- Access to complementary resources, skills, knowledge, capabilities and lead users; hence generate critical mass
- Speed up demonstration, deployment and scaling up of technologies

Regional Policies:

- Foster an 'outward-looking' approach
- Stimulate better alignment of Smart Specialisation Strategies
- Identify and exploit funding synergies

A possible framework to support, monitor and assess interregional cooperation...



Interregional cooperation amongst EU regions can take different forms and follow different paths. The steps identified in the framework above should not be seen as linear or predictive: some feedback loops may be necessary at some points (e.g. revising the scoping of cooperation, mapping and identifying additional patterns for a full scale-up etc.). Regional commitment and regional schemes remain important, at each step of the cooperation.

Conclusion and next steps

The Working Group on Interregional Cooperation will function as a ‘test-bed’ for any region (or regional actor) interested in initiating (or further developing) interregional cooperation, by exploring or co-developing new solutions or approaches, based on the identification of the regions’ main challenges.

During the kick-off meeting held on 8 June 2023, Working Group Members were asked to identify and rank the main challenges to which they are confronted when initiating interregional cooperation. Amongst 6 main ‘clusters’ of challenges, they indicated the **challenge of building capacity for interregional cooperation** (i.e. inadequate capacity, insufficient time and resources) as the most critical one. A second challenge grouped together the difficulties in aligning regional and individual priorities and synchronising goals and strategies on the one hand (“aligning ecosystems”), and the provision of consistent and continued funding beyond projects on the other hand (“**funding**”).

These two challenges will be further defined in all their possible subdimensions, in the next two meetings (in September and November 2023) in order to identify operational solutions.

Find more information
on our [website](#)

