

Smart Specialisation Strategies Community of Practice (S3 CoP)

S3 Conference

Thursday 30th of March 2023

09:30 – 16:00 CET

Broadcasted from Brussels, Belgium
and webstreamed online



Presentation overview – morning session

| Presentation | Speaker |
|--|---|
| Presentation of the newly launched S3 CoP and its activities | Margrethe Steinert, S3 CoP Secretariat Elisabetta Marinelli, S3 CoP Secretariat |
| S3 Expert Group: analytical studies on S3 policy and implementation | Matthieu Lacave, S3 CoP Secretariat |
| Expert support to S3 development and implementation on the ground | Nikos Maroulis, S3 CoP Secretariat |
| Working Groups on innovation diffusion, industrial transition, and interregional cooperation | Susana Elena Pérez, S3 CoP Secretariat Vincent Duchène, S3 CoP Secretariat Yari Borbón, S3 CoP Secretariat |
| S3 Thematic Platforms and Partnerships | Els Van de Velde, S3 CoP Secretariat |
| Conclusions of the morning | Wolfgang Munch, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission Agis Evrigenis, S3 CoP Secretariat |

Follow the S3 CoP Twitter account :

@S3Cop_EU

And retweet about our upcoming activities, also using the following hastags to inform the S3 community:

#S3Conference

#S3CoP

#EURegions

#SmartSpecialisation

Presentation of the newly launched S3 CoP and its activities

Elisabetta Marinelli, S3 CoP Secretariat

Margrethe Steinert, S3 CoP Secretariat

S3 Community of Practice

Flagship initiative of DG Regio:
strategic services to S3 practitioners:

Assessing needs
and co-design
solutions

Analytical
approach to policy
dialogue

Hands-on support
to regions

Key components

Creating and mobilising a community of practitioners

Addressing key challenges for S3 implementation

Offering targeted support to regions, smart specialisation platforms and partnerships



Services



Policy advice

S3 Expert Group

Working Groups

Support

Thematic Platform and Partnerships

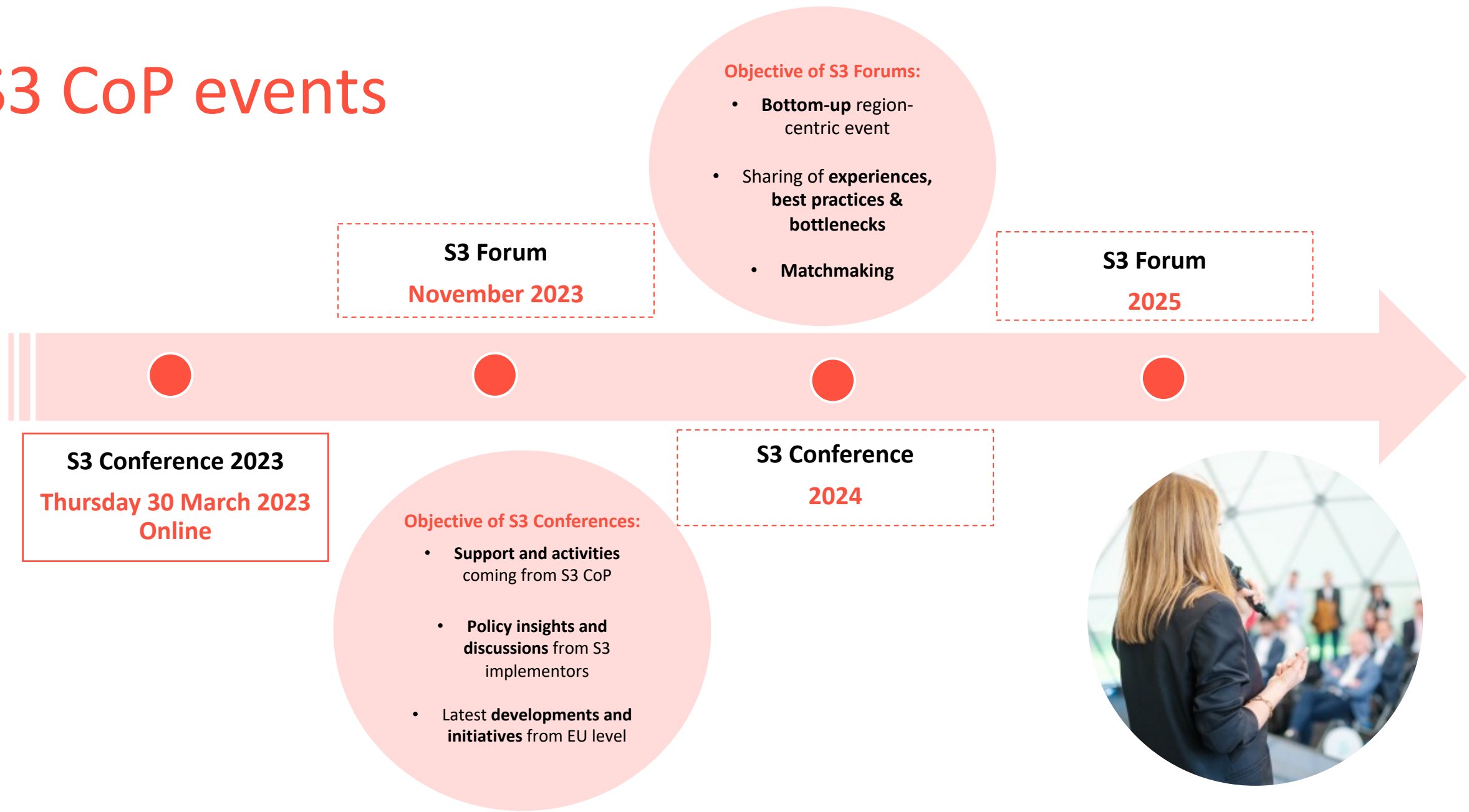
Targeted support to regions

Community engagement

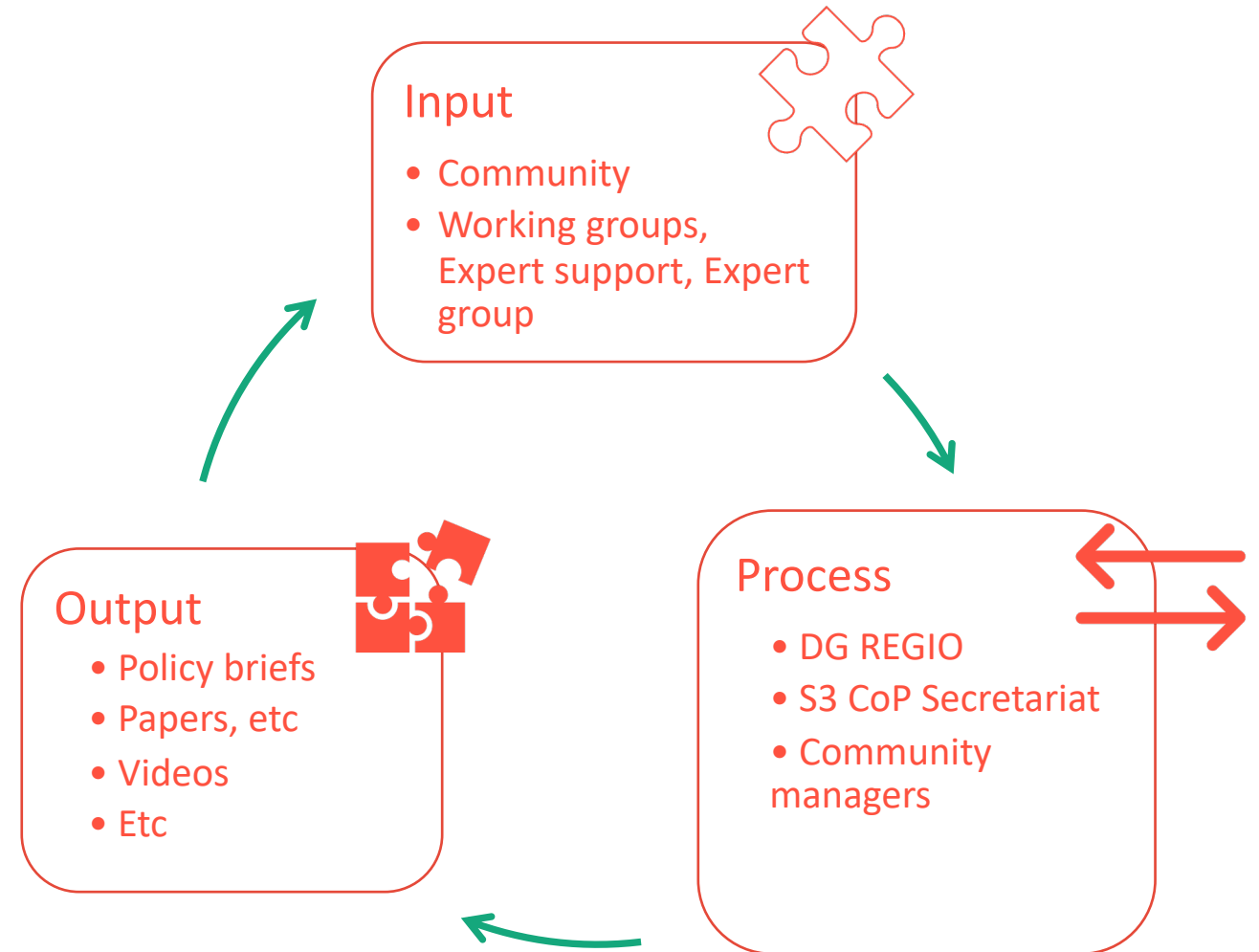
S3 CoP Website

S3 CoP events

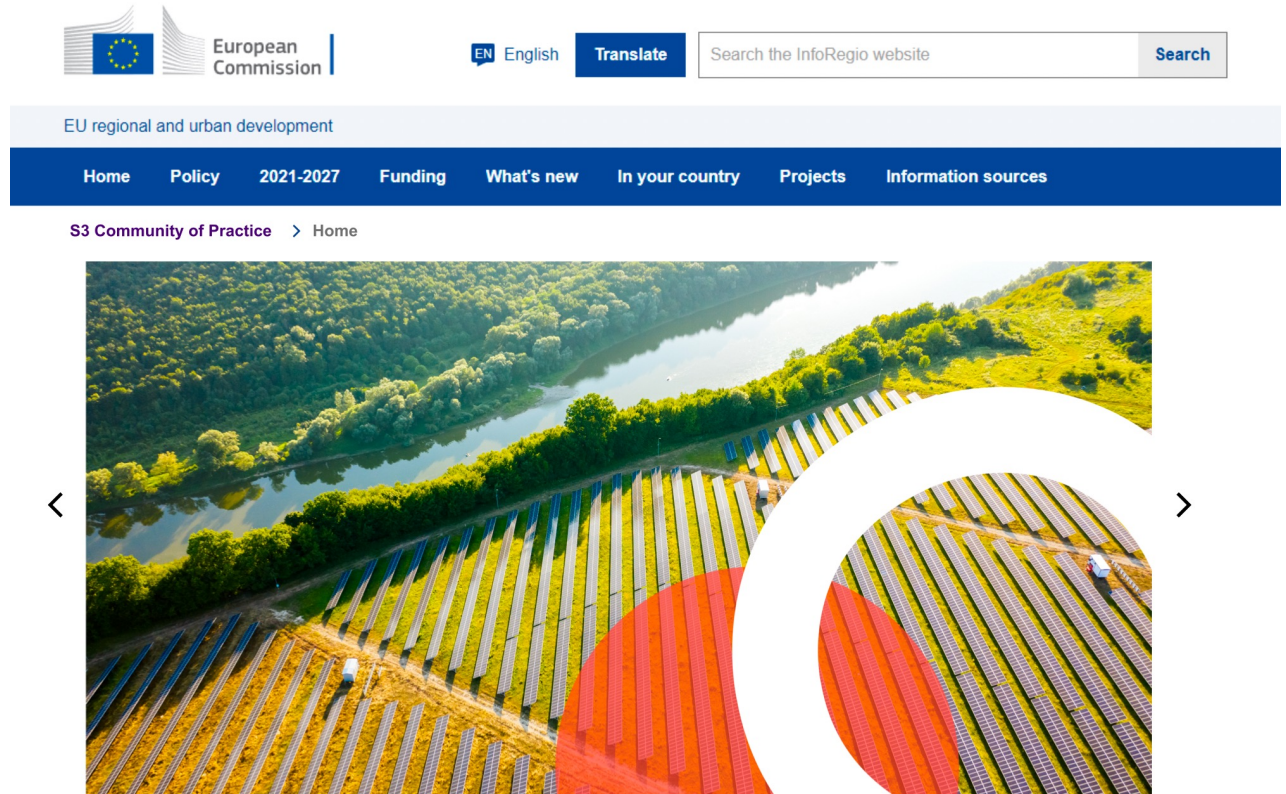
S3 CoP events



Knowledge capitalisation in the S3 CoP



Website



- Services
- Resources
- Events
- News



S3 Expert Group: analytical studies on S3 policy and implementation

Matthieu Lacave, S3 CoP Secretariat

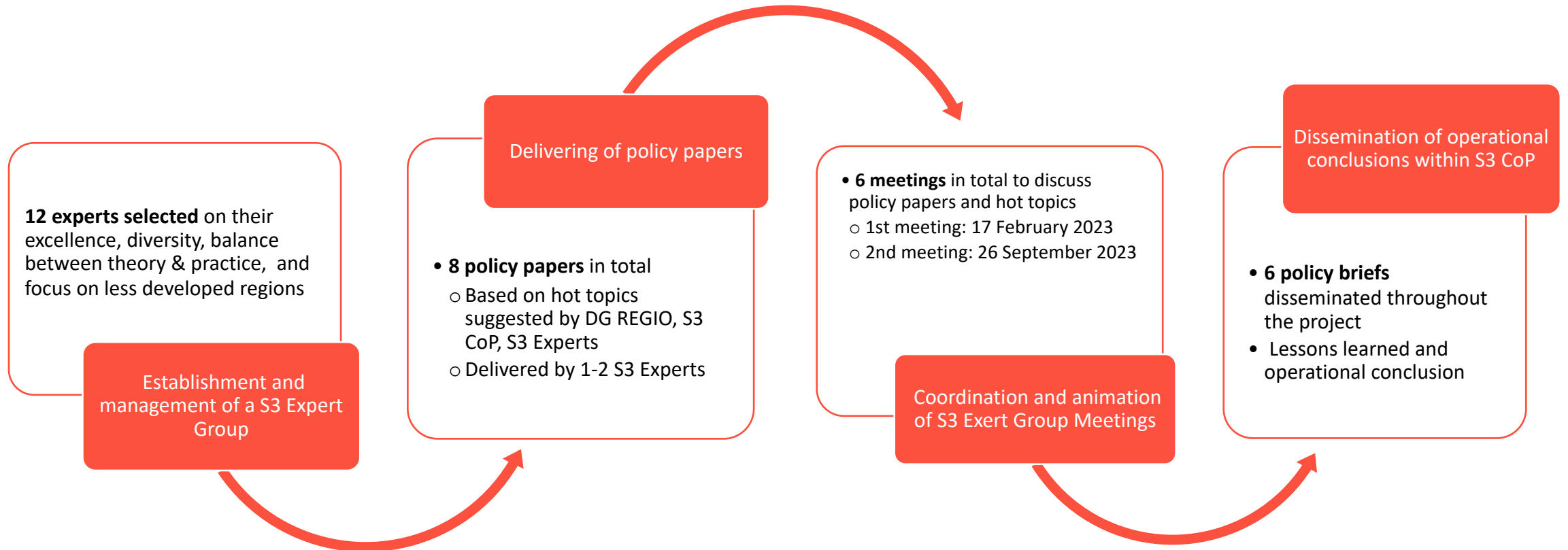
Objectives

The purpose of these stream of activities is **to take stock** from existing academic research, policy practices and ad-hoc analytical works **on S3** to:

- **Update**, stimulate, and develop **the S3 concept**
- **Draw operational lessons** from a policy perspective
- **Inform the policy design and implementation of the S3**



Workflow of the S3 Expert Group



Members of the S3 Expert Group

| Name | Country | Affiliation |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Alexandre Almeida | Portugal | National Innovation Agency Portugal |
| Ron Boschma | Netherlands | Department of Human Geography and Planning, Utrecht University |
| Tatiana Fernandez | Spain | Generalitat de Catalunya |
| Dominique Foray | Switzerland/France | École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne |
| Simona Immarino | Italy/UK | Department of Economics and Business, University of Cagliari |
| Kristiina Jokelainen | Finland | Founder at SmartNorth Ltd |
| Tarmo Kalvet | Estonia | Tallinn University of Technology, TalTech; Institute of Baltic Studies |
| Karolina Lipinska | Poland | Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Region in Poland. |
| Antonio Novo Guerrero | Spain | President of the European Cluster Alliance |
| Agnieszka Olechnicka | Poland | Centre for European Regional and Local Studies University of Warsaw |
| Ruslan Stefanov | Bulgaria | Economic Program at Center for the Study of Democracy |

1st S3 Expert Group Meeting

- **1st S3 Expert Group Meeting** in Brussels in **February 2023**
 - *Limited scope & use of policy instruments in S3* (Dominique Foray)
 - New Innovation Agenda
 - Implementation of S3 in 2021-2027
 - Brainstorming on S3 Hot Topics to be addressed in the next meetings
- **Outputs disseminated through the S3 CoP website**

Suggestion of potential topics for future assignments

A. Identify how to help regions strengthen the entrepreneurial discovery process and set priorities

B. Identify barriers in terms of governance and institutional capacity to implement the S3 in less developed and transition regions

C. Identify good practices, barriers and enabling factors on the enhancement of synergies between ERDF - channelled to support S3 - and **Horizon Europe** - aiming at strengthening regional innovation ecosystems.

D. Understand how the S3 can integrate education and skills as key priorities.



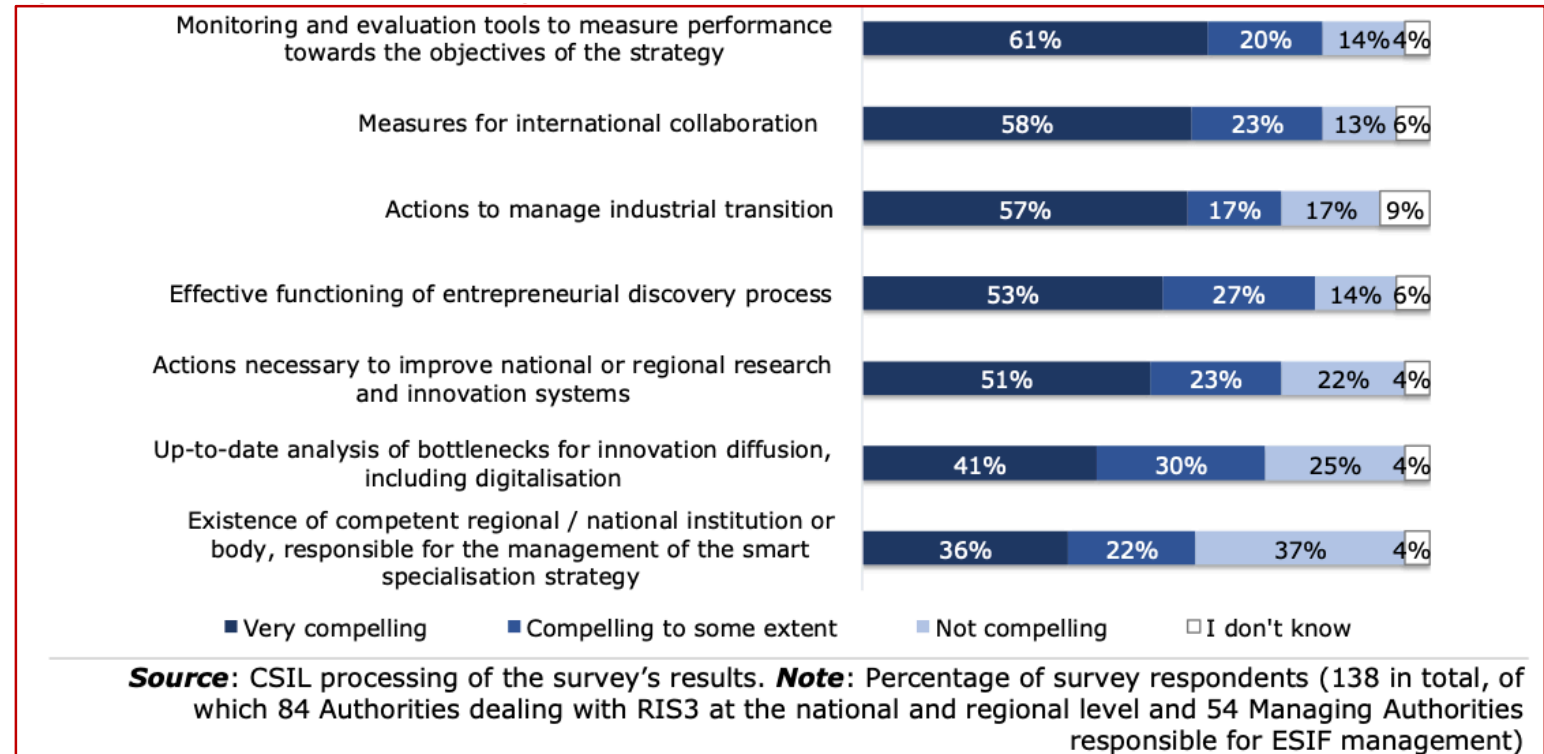
Expert support to S3 development and implementation on the ground

Nikos Maroulis, S3 CoP Secretariat

Regions are facing challenges in implementing their S3

- S3 was a significant novelty for EU regions in 2014-2020
- A survey in 2019 among regional authorities identified **seven implementation challenges**
- In the new programming period, regions should demonstrate compliance during the whole duration of the support

Support requirements of regions



Co-designed and hands-on support

- Fitting regions' specific needs
 - Expert selected according to needs
- Focus on implementation, combining:
 - Visits to the Region
 - Meetings with the authorities/stakeholders
 - Analysis of the situation
 - Recommendations & follow-up



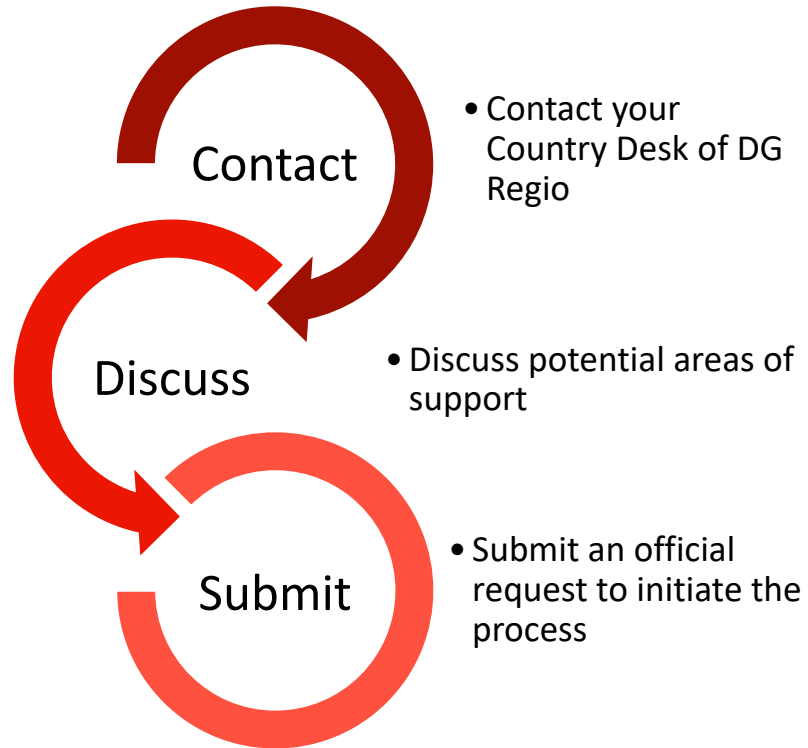
Experts selected out of a large pool

- The S3 CoP Secretariat is building an experts database
- Ongoing Expression of Interest (Eoi)
 - Open to consultants, policy practitioners and academics
- The S3 CoP Secretariat selects the experts and submits to the European Commission and the Region for approval

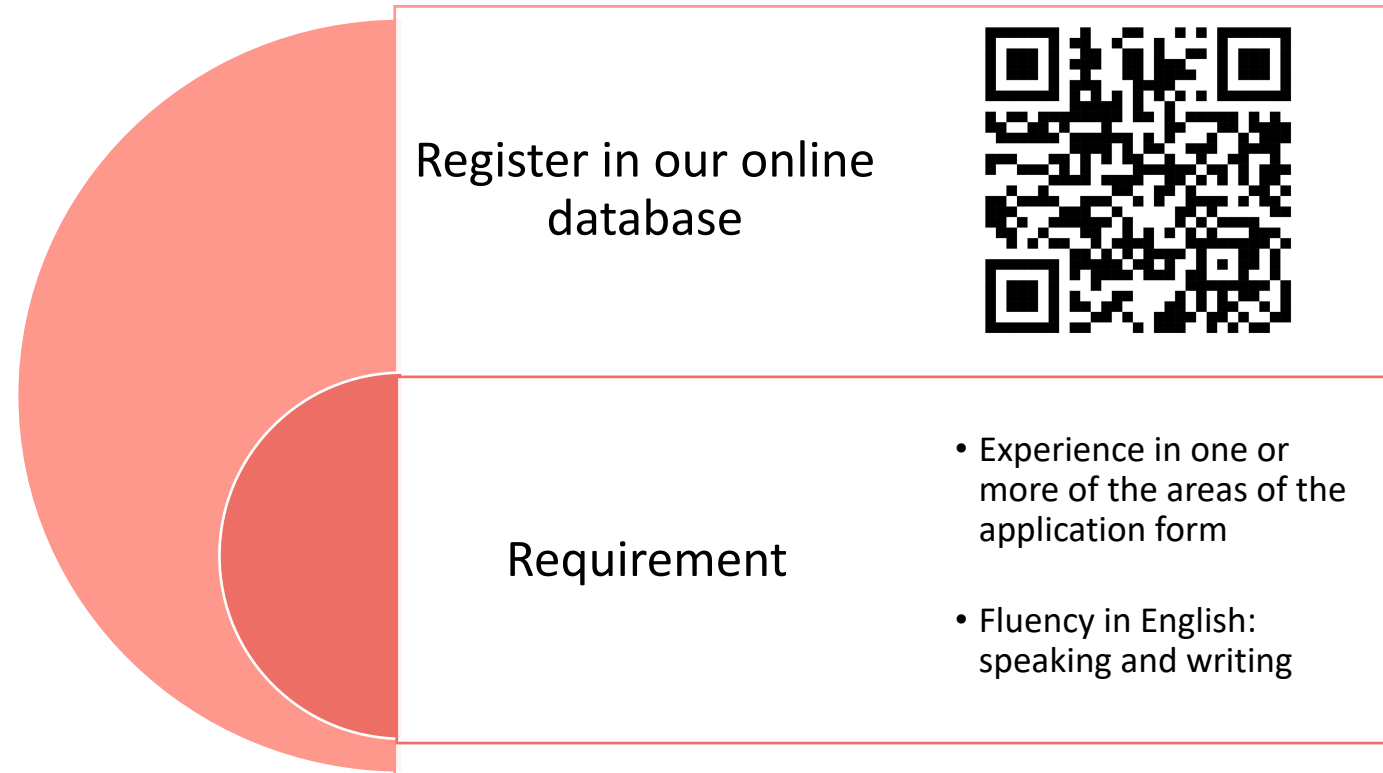


What are the next steps?

Regions



Potential Experts



Working groups on innovation diffusion, industrial transition, and interregional cooperation

Susana Elena Pérez, S3 CoP Secretariat

Vincent Duchène, S3 CoP Secretariat

Yari Borbón, S3 CoP Secretariat

Overview

- What are the Working Groups about?
- Main purpose, target group & approach
- Working Groups in short
- How to participate?



Working Groups

On the **enabling condition** “Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy”.

Three Working Groups (WGs):

- Innovation diffusion
- Industrial transition
- Interregional collaboration



Main purpose

- To collect **knowledge & good practices**
- To identify **common needs & challenges**
- To co-develop **solutions** with the regions
- To **support & monitor** the deployment of solutions

Target audience

- **Regional authorities** and policy makers

Approach

- **Bottom-up**, iterative and **peer learning approach**

WG “Innovation Diffusion”



Aim

- Identify **innovation diffusion bottlenecks**
- Discuss actionable **recommendations**



Key issues

- Adoption of new technologies, innovations, business practices and digital tools
- Collaboration between universities, RTOs and business
- Knowledge spillovers
- Role of innovation agencies



WG “Industrial transition”



Aim

- Explore experiences and instruments favouring green, digital, and resilient transitions
- Update actors’ assessment and management skills.



How

- Examine **actions and instruments** for social and environmental driven industrial strategies
- Share **assessment** and managerial **experiences** related to deployment of innovation and transition funds



What

- Identify and agree on **challenges**
- Support the development of **actionable recommendations**
- Discuss main **lessons** and emerging issues

WG “Interregional Cooperation”

Aim:

- **Test-bed** for interregional partnerships and regions
- **Learn – Share – Co-develop** (new) approaches / instruments
- **Facilitate**



Key questions:

- How to **initiate** interregional collaboration?
- How to **identify** right partnership, and how to **join**?
- Which key obstacles for **advanced** partnerships?
- Which key **impacts** expected?

What can you expect from the WGs?

- Be **up-to-date**
- Actively discuss actionable EU **policy recommendations**
- Showcase & benchmark **good practices**
- Identify **challenges & bottlenecks** in the implementation of the enabling condition
- **Test & Implement** solutions

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in the Working Groups!

- Between 10-15 members per WG
- Practical experience of the design and/or implementation of S3 policies and the enabling condition
- Three different roles:
 - **Working group members**
 - **Rapporteur**
 - **Chair**

REGISTER NOW !



S3 Thematic Platforms and Partnerships

Els Van de Velde, S3 CoP Secretariat

Context & objectives

S3 Thematic Platforms

Agri-food

Industrial
modernisation

Energy

Sustainable
Blue Economy

Thematic Smart
Specialisation
Partnerships on
Agri-food

Thematic Smart
Specialisation
Partnerships on
Industrial
Modernisation

Thematic Smart
Specialisation
Partnerships on
Energy

Thematic Smart
Specialisation
Partnerships on
Sustainable Blue
Economy

- **S3 Thematic Platforms**

- Collaborative network of strategic Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships
- Promoting complementarity of regional funding for innovation in S3 areas

- **Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships**

(TSSPs)

- Initiate and explore new value chains in specific priority areas
- Actors: committed regions, cluster organisations, businesses and innovation actors as well as civil society (quadruple helix)

How will the activities be organised?



Services offered by the S3 CoP Secretariat



**Training and capacity building
on interregional collaboration
(incl. support for community
backing)**



Governance



(Re)Scoping



Mapping



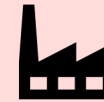
Smart Partnering



**Funding, finance, and
investment assistance**

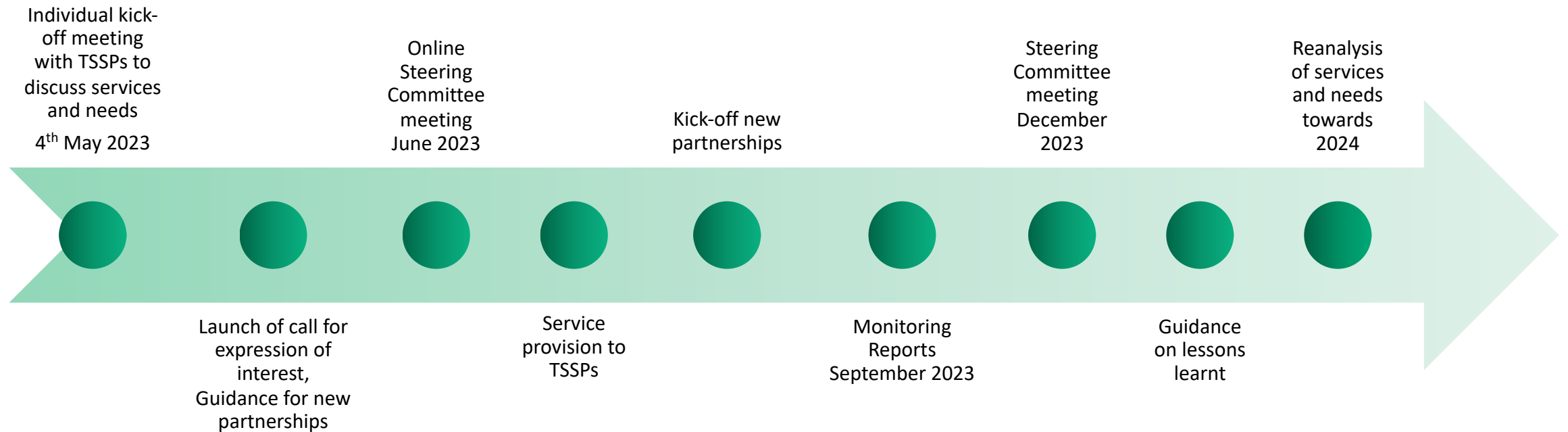


Demonstration



**Scale-up and
commercialisation**

Next steps



Conclusion of the morning

Wolfgang Munch, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Agis Evrigenis, S3 CoP Secretariat

Morning key takeaways and conclusions


- **Bringing the stakeholders and policymakers together**
 - Strong bottom-up approach
 - Align resources and efforts towards shared goals
- **Tailored support to the regions**
- **Interregional cooperation**
 - More ambitious objectives
 - Regions learning and working with each other
- **A holistic view of innovation**
 - Technological advancements, but also practice-based and social innovation. Each region wants to achieve economic growth and prosperity. Target the entire ecosystem.



The importance of the S3 CoP Secretariat for Regions

S3 CoP Secretariat supports regions & policy practitioners by:

Addressing the needs and expectations of regions;
Identifying policy trends and strategic priorities;



Facilitating **knowledge exchange** and collaboration between regions;
Working with Partnerships and **driving innovation** on the ground.

S3 CoP secretariat: services to regions



S3 website

Hub for information, knowledge, and news.
Regularly revised and updated S3 content –
including experts assignments

[S3CoP](#) [#EURegions](#) [#SmartSpecialisation](#)

Experts EoI &
database: live on
website from
March 2023



High level fora and conferences

Learning and networking.
Bringing the community together.

At least 2 events per year:
1st S3 CoP Forum in
November 2023 – co-
organised with regions



Working Groups

45+ members - practitioners and regions.
Building practical solutions with regional stakeholders.
Bottom up approach.
3 WGs: innovation diffusion, industrial transition, interregion
collaboration

WGs kick-off
meetings from
May 2023

S3 CoP secretariat: services to regions



Experts and practitioners working together

Advancing policy concepts and implementation framework.

Expert Groups & analytical assignments: ongoing



Targeted support to regions

Learning and networking.
Bringing the community together.
30+ assignments

Assignments kick-off from June 2023



Support to thematic platforms and partnerships

Focusing on innovation and growth.
Hands-on support to boost innovation.
Working on the ground with all partnerships.

Partnerships kick-off meetings from April 2023

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Twitter:
@S3CoP_EU

Website:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice_en

