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presents

# S3 FORUM

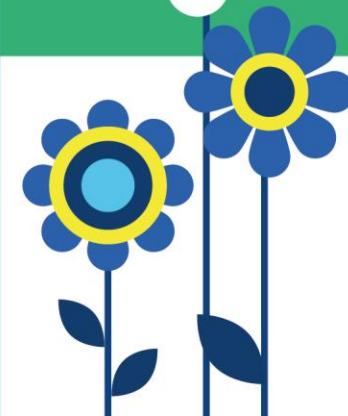
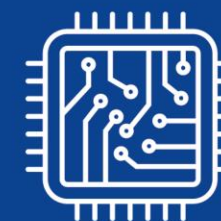
#S3Forum



## Parallel session 3: From Local Strengths to Interregional Cooperation



#S3Cop



# Parallel session 3: From Local Strengths to Interregional Cooperation

- **Aitor Mintegui**, EU Affairs & Policy Officer, Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU, Spain
- **Pirita Lindholm**, Director, ERRIN
- **Richard Tuffs**, Friends of Smart Specialisation
- **Marc Pattinson**, Senior thematic expert, InterregEurope Policy Learning Platform

*Moderator : Els Van de Velde, S3 CoP Secretariat*

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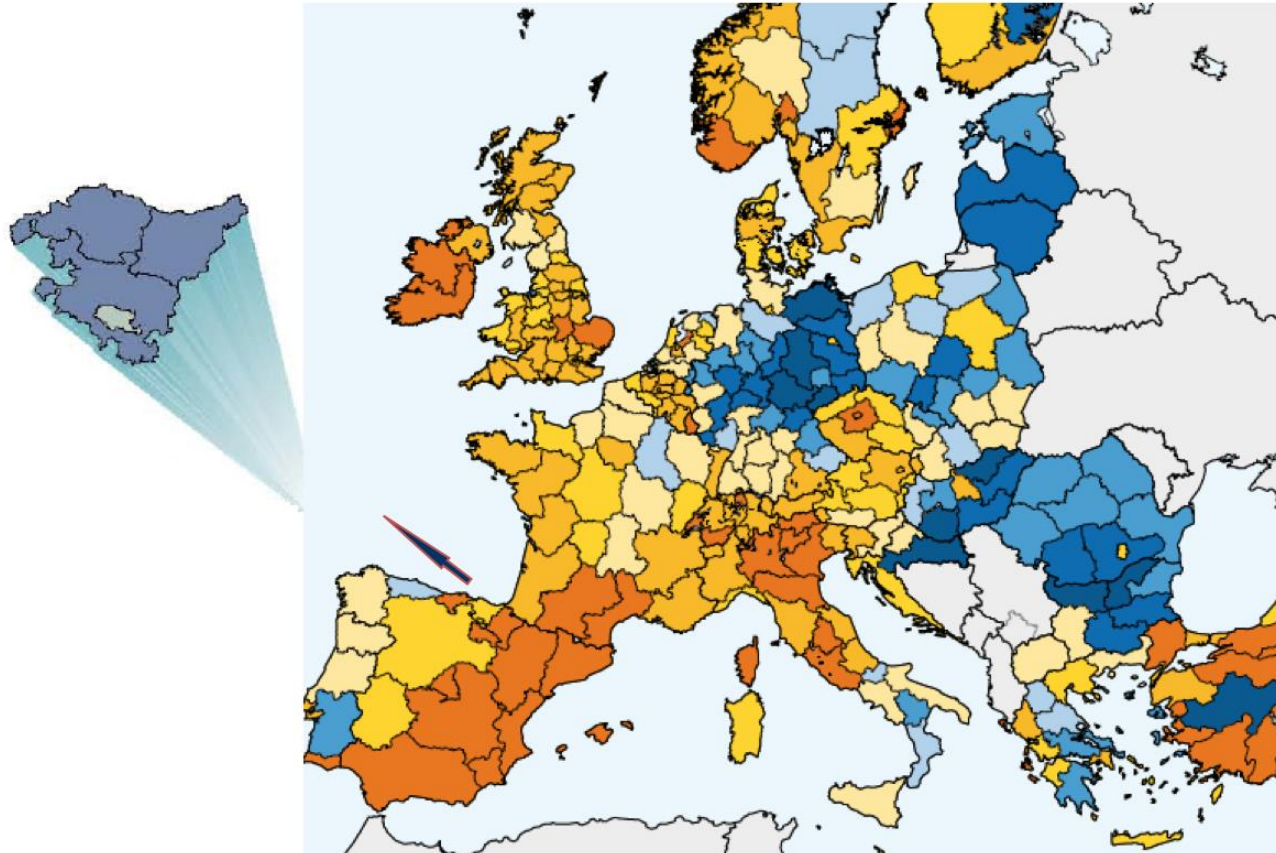
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From local strengths to interregional  
collaboration: the case of the Basque Country



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# Basque Country



**Surface area:** 7,234 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 2,180,449  
**Population density:** 304/km<sup>2</sup>  
**GDP (PPS/inhabitant):** 108 (EU-27 = 100)

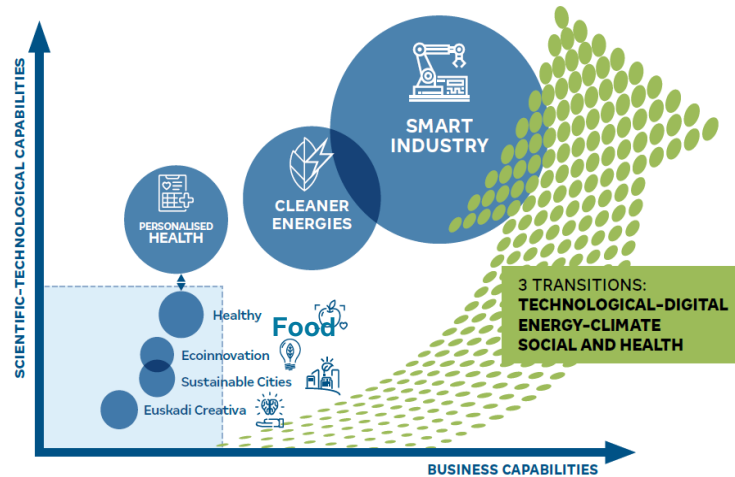
24% GDP  
from industry  
(almost 40% including  
advanced services)

+2,3% GDP  
investment in R&D  
(leading region in Spain)

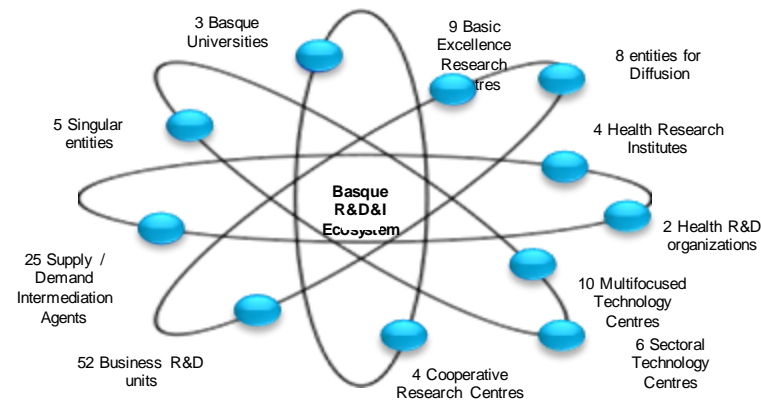
+2% Active  
population in R&D  
(over 14,000 researchers and  
21,000 personnel)

**Strong innovator**  
European RIS 2023  
(best innovation performance  
among all regions in Spain)

# Basque S3 and Basque R&D&I ecosystem

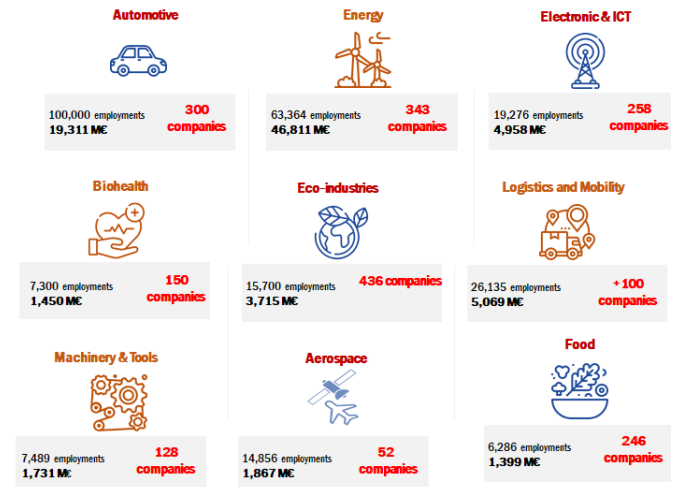


The Basque Industry boasts an important network of clusters set up more than 25 years ago, aimed at improving business competitiveness through cooperation among SMEs, research agents and public administration



**BRTA** BASQUE RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE  
13 Technology Centres and 4 Cooperative Research Centres

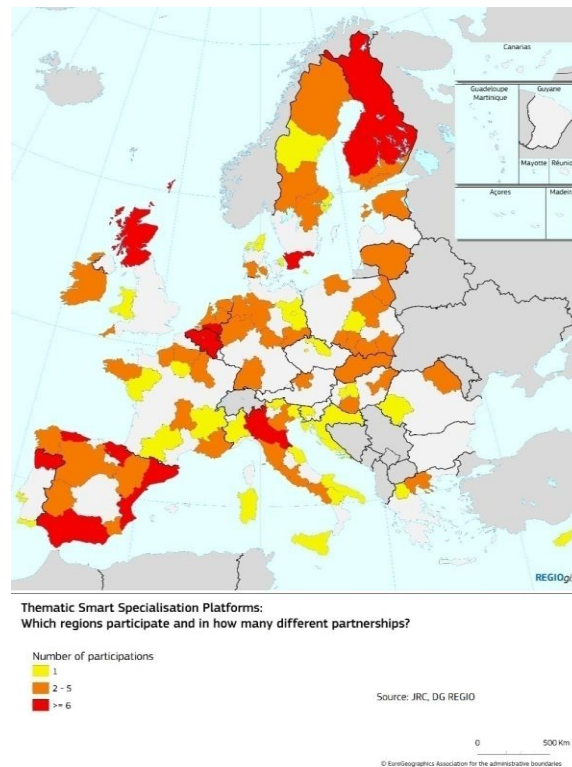
## MAIN INDUSTRIAL SECTORS



\*Eustat 2021

# Basque & Interregional Cooperation in Innovation

- Founded the **Vanguard Initiative** in 2013 Together with 7 other regions to implement the outward looking dimension of S3. Co-leading the ADMA Energy and the AI pilot and participating in Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing, Hydrogen pilots.



- One of the few European regions that is participating in more than 6 S3 partnerships within the **S3 Thematic Specialisation Platforms**

# Basque & Interregional Cooperation in Innovation

- Solid experience of collaboration in the design and implementation of funding instruments with other regions. Since the 6th Framework Programme the Basque Country **has collaborated in 20 European initiatives to support collaborative R&D&i projects**, has even coordinated one of these initiatives (MANUNET). Nowadays, the Basque Country is part of two ERA-NET Cofund and one co-funded European Partnership, all aligned with its RIS3: M-ERA.NET and ERA.MIN and Clean Energy Transition Partnership.

ERA-NET	THEMATIC	ERA-NET	THEMATIC
<b>CETP</b>	Clean Energies	<b>M-ERA.NET</b>	Materials science and engineering
<b>ERA.MIN</b>	Raw Materials	<b>MANUNET</b>	Manufacturing
<b>OCEANERA-NET</b>	Ocean Energies	<b>MATERA +</b>	Materials
<b>MATERA</b>	Materials	<b>MNT-ERA.NET</b>	Micro and nanotechnologies
<b>ENT III</b>	Transport	<b>EUROTRANSBIO</b>	Biotechnology
<b>ECO-INNOVERA</b>	Eco innovation	<b>LED ERA</b>	Lead markets
<b>SAFEFOODERA</b>	Food safety	<b>EURONANOMED</b>	Nanomedicine
<b>SMARTGRIDS</b>	Smart grids	<b>SUSFOOD</b>	Sustainable food production and consumption
<b>SURPRISE</b>	Sustainable business	<b>SAFERA</b>	Industrial safety
<b>ERNEST</b>	Sustainable tourism	<b>ETRANET</b>	ICT in industrial manufacturing

- One of the 74 selected territories that takes part in the **Partnership for Regional Innovation pilot (PRI)** of the European Commission with the objective of improving the coordination and directionality of regional, national and EU innovation policies to implement Europe's green and digital transitions.

# Why cooperate?

- Cooperation can help regions create strategic partnerships with partner regions and stakeholders in areas of common interest.
- Regions that cooperate are better positioned to address grand challenges (green and digital transition): avoid fragmentation of research & innovation efforts, facilitate access to research capacity and infrastructure, access to finance.
- Deep analysis of internal capacities and benchmark with other regions
- Networking, sharing of best practices, learning and mentoring between regions.
- Paves the way for potential strategic alignment which will goes beyond the development of specific projects (pooling of funding)



# Some lessons learned

- Need for strong and continuous political and financial support throughout the process.
- Manage expectations: interregional cooperation takes time and it will create benefits only in the mid-term. Therefore, it is important to show evidence of the results achieved.
- Coordination is critical. Public-private collaboration at regional level has provided good results.
- Regional actors require specific support to take part in these interregional initiatives.
- Build on the interregional collaborative networks in which the region already takes part.
- Working with other regions/stakeholders - Differences among European regions: different types of clusters/SME intermediaries, different regional maturity and industrial background
- Know your regional ecosystem and locate where you see your regional actors in the envisaged value chain
- Agree on a solid governance so that every partner contributes to the partnership and responsibilities are shared
- There is no handbook for a successful interregional collaboration in S3. Learning by doing.
- Trust is one of the main drivers to a successful cooperation.



**Thank you for your attention!**

[aitor-mintegui@euskadi.eus](mailto:aitor-mintegui@euskadi.eus)

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Pirita Lindholm

ERRIN – European Regions Research and  
Innovation Network



European  
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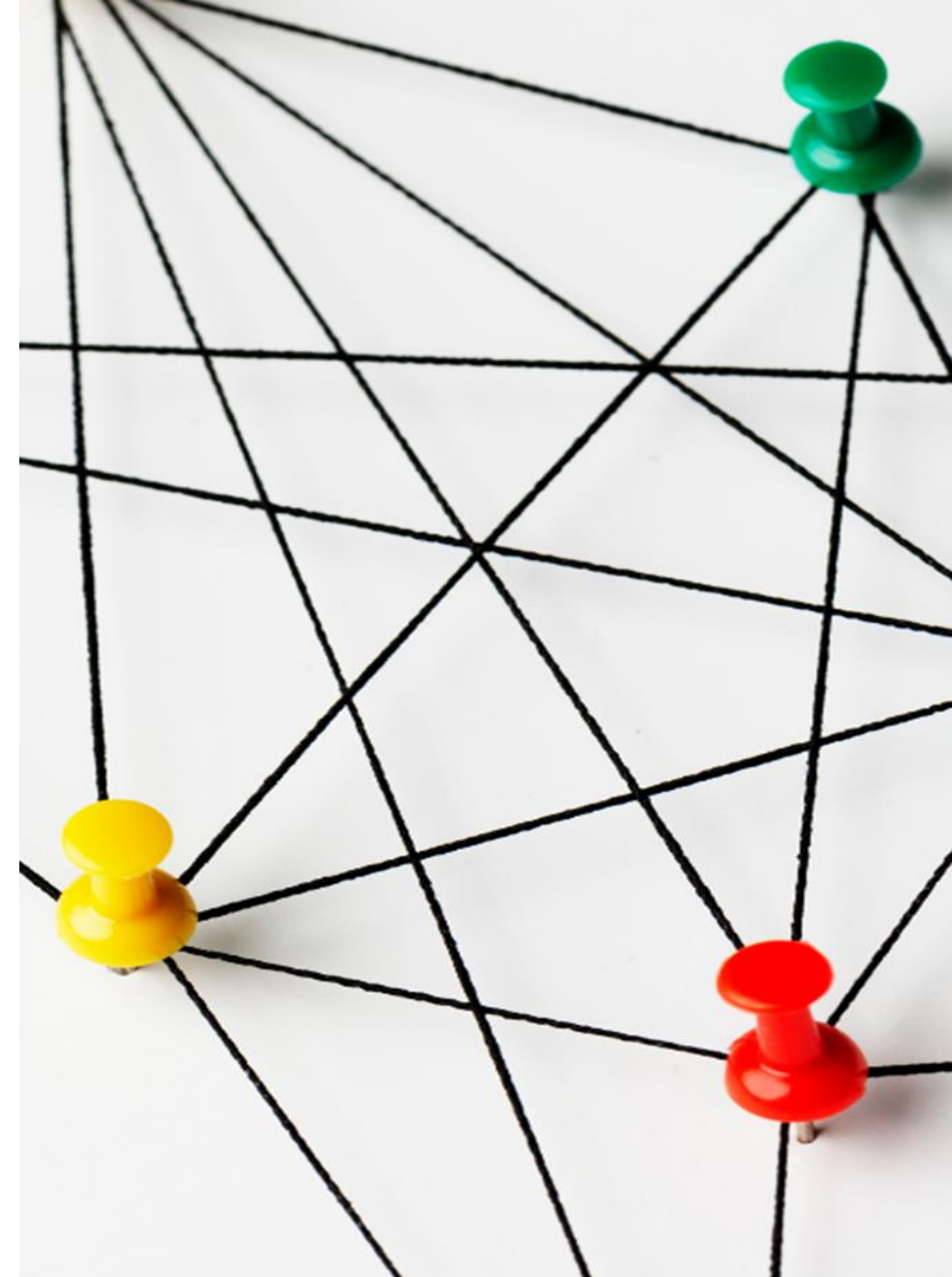
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# OUTLINE

- ✓ Smart Specialisation – needs and trends
- ✓ Interregional collaboration – challenges and opportunities
- ✓ Towards post 2027 cohesion policy



# ERRIN MEMBERS AND MISSIONS



Bring a place-based perspective to EU research and innovation policy and programmes



Make connections and facilitate EU engagement between member regions, EU institutions, and other partners



Increase project opportunities for members



Position regional interests in the research and innovation landscape

120 members  
22 countries

Bringing together regional and local R&I stakeholders



# SMART SPECIALISATION – NEEDS & TRENDS

## Perspectives for Smart Specialisation

- Answering to local challenges combined with EU level priorities such as green and digital transition
- Further activating relevant stakeholders and breaking silos between them
- Broadening scope: considering sustainability and tackling societal needs



WIELKOPOLSKA  
REGION  
BRUSSELS OFFICE



### TIME&TOOLS

S3 is about changing mentality of the policy makers – it can make a difference but it takes time for people to understand, appreciate and implement the concept



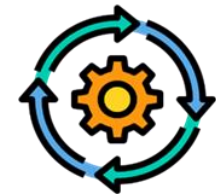
### ADEQUATE & FLEXIBLE FUNDING

For experimenting and pilot actions.  
Allow for mistakes!



### OFFER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

S3 can be an offer for local governments – they need to learn how identify the benefits



### INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION

Regions look for the best practices in designing policy instruments

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR REGIONAL INNOVATION (PRI)

New approach to place-based innovation policy building on positive experiences with smart specialisation strategies

For example, Mid-Sweden is using PRI as

- ✓ A strategic method for regional development driven by innovation
- ✓ A way to increase multi-level governance

## Reflections:

- Looking towards the next phase of PRI starting in 2024 with expectations from regions for further hands-on support
- Possibility to use PRI to foster mission-oriented approach – moving towards more challenge-driven Smart Specialisation



# THEMATIC SMART SPECIALISATION PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborative networks aiming to establish European ecosystems for transnational and interregional collaboration in regions and countries with similar or complementary S3 priorities

## Example: [H2 Valleys S3 Partnership](#)

- ✓ Increasing the visibility at EU level for role of regions and the need for regional support for hydrogen and H2 value chains
- ✓ Further support to hydrogen valleys

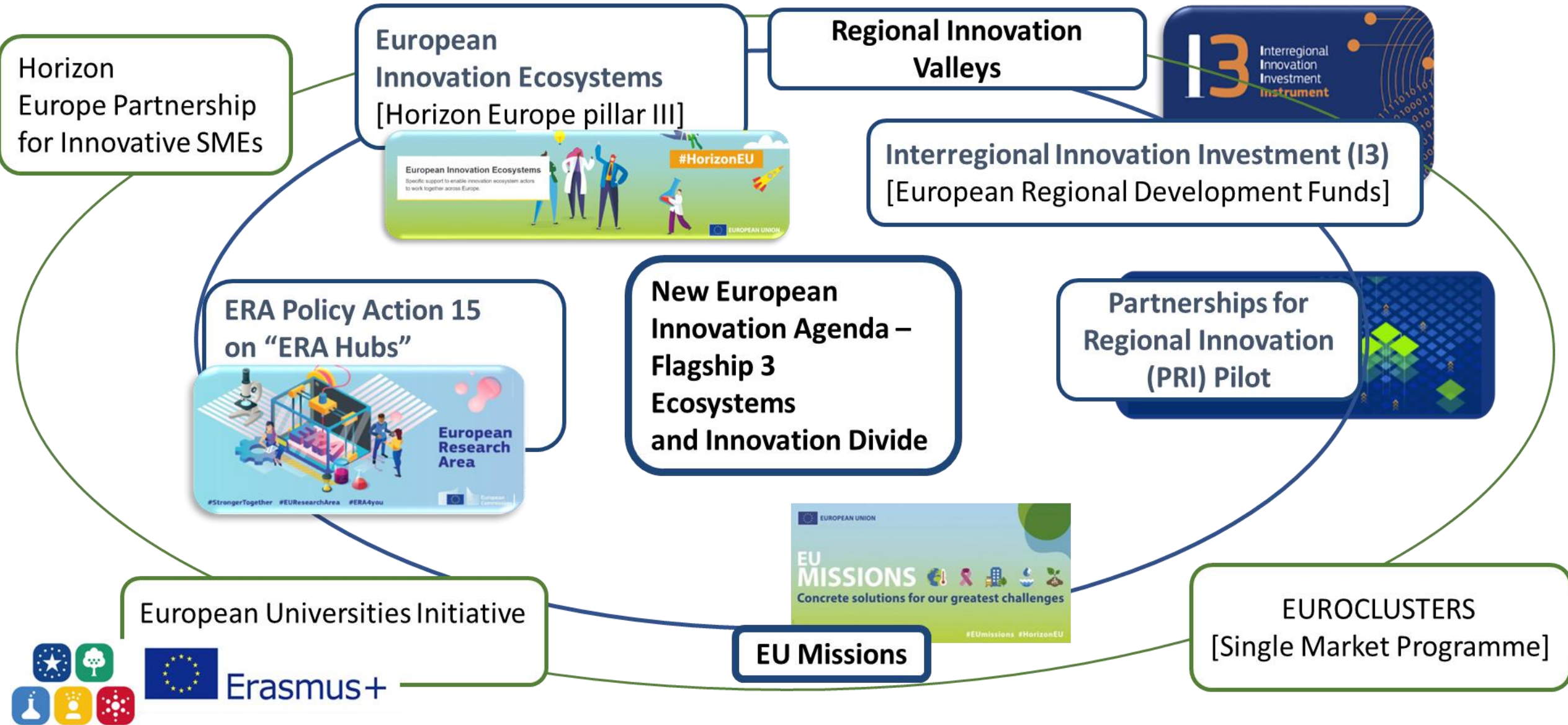


## Reflections:

- Need to clarify the objective and expectations for the Smart Specialisation Partnerships – aligning perceptions of the European Commission and regions
- What should the S3 Partnerships focus on? How could they best support regions to enhance their interregional collaboration related to innovation?



# ECOSYSTEM COLLABORATION - LANDSCAPE



# INTERREGIONAL INNOVATION INVESTMENTS (I3)

Advisory and financial support to innovation projects in joint smart specialisation areas on the road to commercialisation and scale-up

## Objectives and added value:

- Facilitating stronger interregional cooperation in investments
- Supporting interregional innovation projects in their commercialisation and scale-up phases
- Offering tools to overcome regulatory and other barriers and bring projects to investment level

## Reflections:

- The capacity building call is very popular. Should more emphasis be placed on supporting capacity of the regional innovational ecosystems (and not only for less developed regions)?
- Lack of involvement of regional authorities in I3 projects – how tight is the link to S3?



# REGIONAL INNOVATION VALLEYS (RIVs)

## Objectives and added value:

- Enhancing coordination and directionality of regional R&I investment and policies
- Strengthening regional innovation ecosystems by engaging whole quadruple helix
- Connecting regions with different innovation performance levels, building on Smart Specialisation Strategies and PRI
- Facilitating interregional innovation projects, including in deep-tech innovation, linked to key EU priorities

## Reflection:

- Co-fund requirement a challenge: Need for enabling practical implementation of synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF funding
- Critical role of creating a dialogue between EU, national and regional governments, as well as between Commission Directorates



# EU MISSIONS

- Place-based – the green deal challenges need to be tackled at local and regional levels
- Strong emphasis on the ecosystem approach and governance innovation – such as Climate City Contract in the Cities Mission

Missions have ambitious goals and will deliver concrete results by 2030.



**cancer:** improve the lives of more than 3 million people



make 150 regions and communities **climate resilient**



restore our **ocean and waters**



achieve 100 **climate-neutral and smart cities**

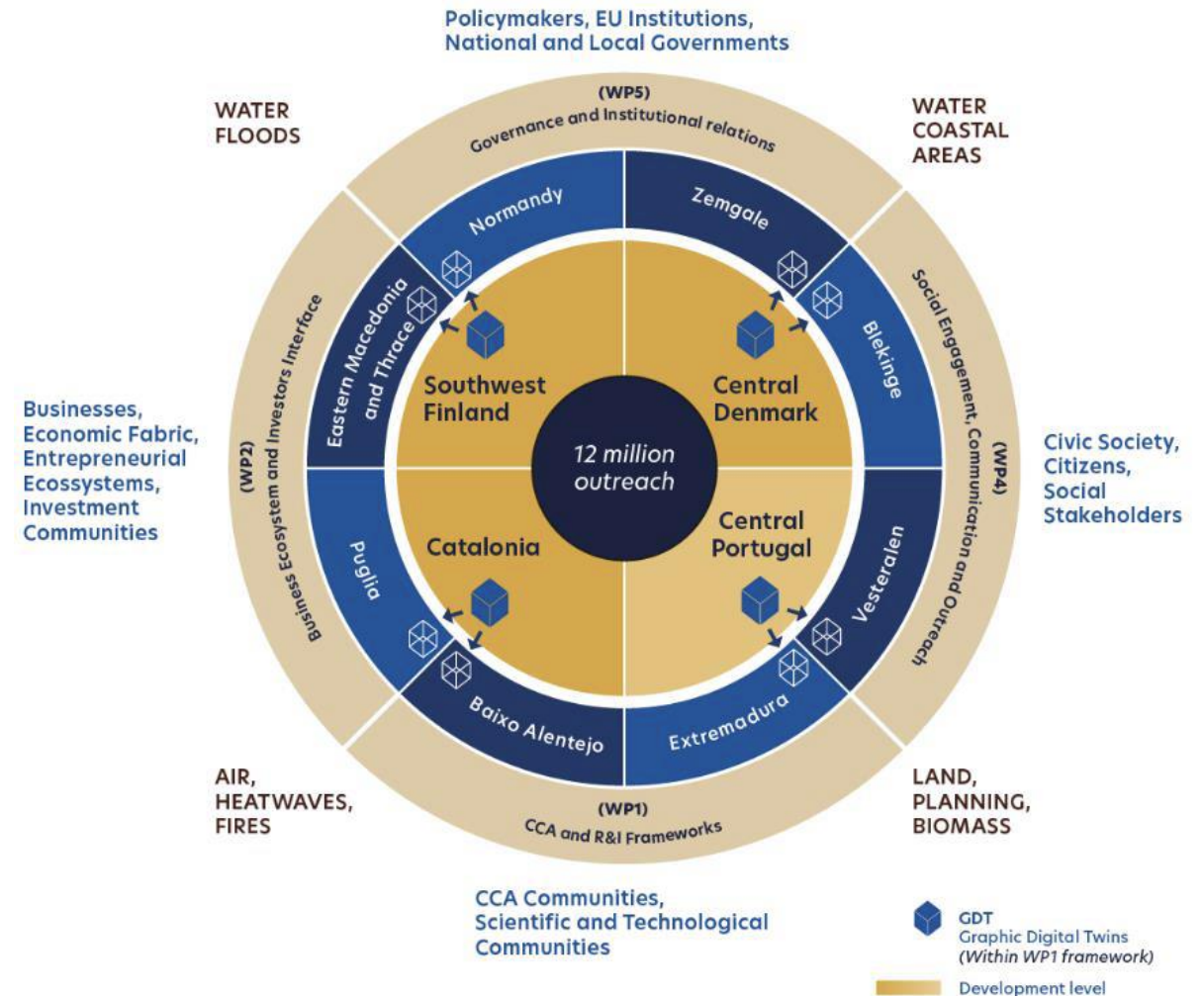


create 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards **healthy soils**



# EU MISSIONS

- Reinforce the resilience, accelerate the transformation and increase adaptive capacity of 12 climate-vulnerable regions in Europe
- Contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change
- Implement 4 Large-Scale Demonstrators of resilient innovations for Climate Change Adaptation including the regional ecosystem
- Transfer know-how and innovative solutions to 8 Twin Regions through both physical mutual-learning activities and innovative immersive digital twins



Total budget: ~ 26.7 m€, EU funding ~ 25.0 m€  
 Consortium: 56 partners



# WIDENING AND DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT

- Tackling innovation divide as a network priority
- More visibility and roles of responsibility within the network to members from CEE
- Mobilising and increasing participation of various stakeholders
- Identifying areas where further support is required
- Influence policy together
  - [ERRIN messages for Horizon Europe WIDERA Work Programme 2023-2024](#)
  - [ERRIN contribution to call for evidence for the new European Innovation Agenda](#)
- Strengthening dialogue with the European Commission

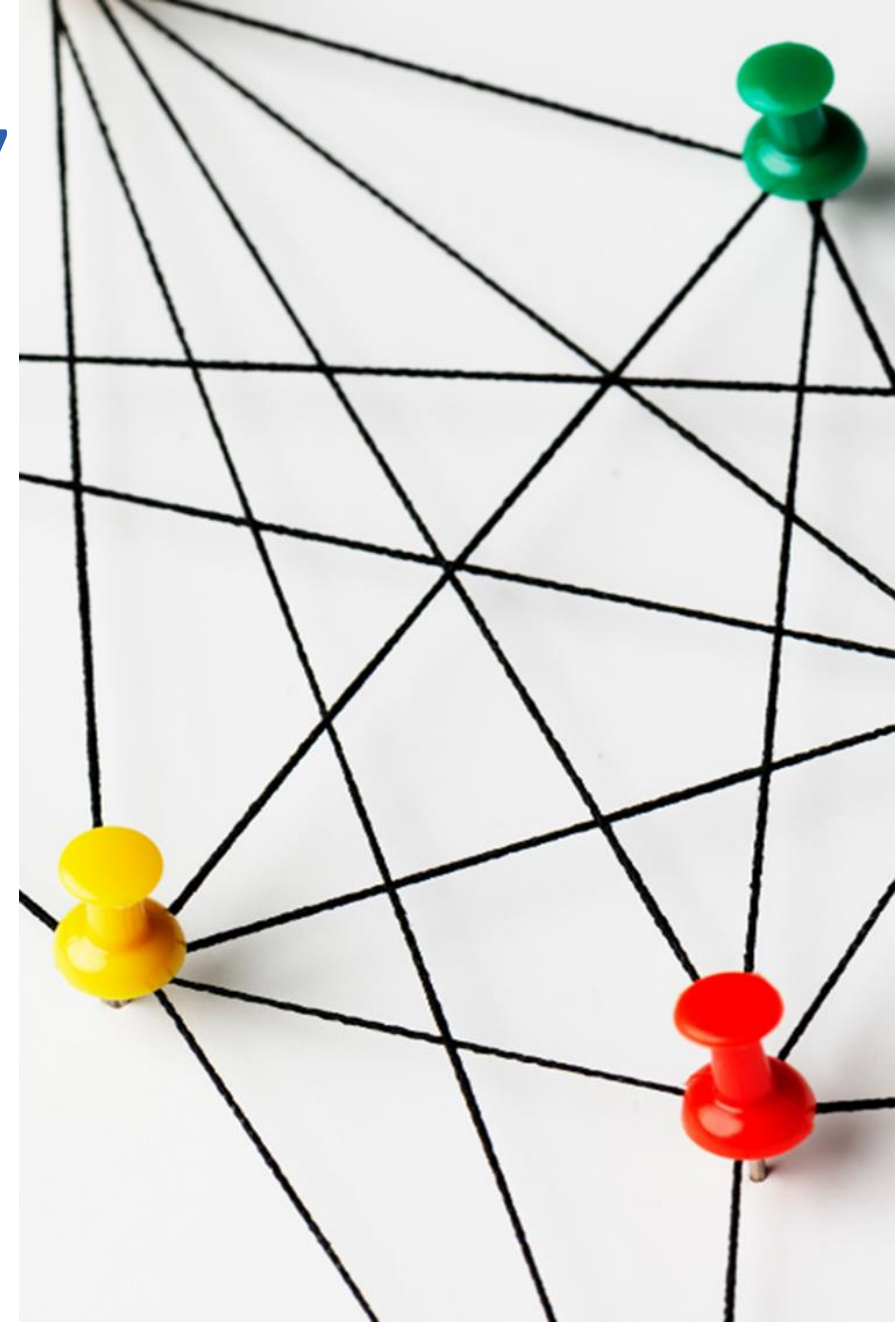


# TOWARDS COHESION POLICY POST-2027

- Strengthening R&I dimension in the cohesion policy post-2027
- Finding ways to better coordinate R&I and Cohesion policy
- Increase flexibility
- Important not to “silo” innovation under one key action – innovation should happen in all policy areas



- Better connected regions and their ecosystems
- More resilient European Innovation Ecosystem
- Ability to answer to major societal challenges such as climate change





Thank you for your attention!

[pirita.lindholm@errin.eu](mailto:pirita.lindholm@errin.eu)



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## Transforming Smart specialisation: what role for Interregional Collaboration?

Richard Tuffs

Friends of Smart Specialisation and  
Chair of S3 CoP on Interregional Collaboration

28th September 2023



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# Friends of Smart Specialisation - FoSS



- An informal policy and reflection group, based in Brussels
- Formed in 2018
- Aims:
  - To promote mainstreaming of smart specialisation across relevant EU policies
  - To analyse and improve its effectiveness
  - To contribute to new thinking on the topic
- Who are we:
  - Dimitri Corpakis (ex-European Commission) [d.corpakis@gmail.com](mailto:d.corpakis@gmail.com)
  - Jan Larosse (ex-European Commission and Flanders Region) [jan.larosse@telenet.be](mailto:jan.larosse@telenet.be)
  - Richard Tuffs [richardtuffs@ymail.com](mailto:richardtuffs@ymail.com)
- Note this presentation inspired by FoSS ideas but not an official FoSS position.

# Outline

- Need to transform S3
- Build in a stronger Interregional Collaboration component to S3
- Stronger focus on regional challenges and resources
- Stronger awareness of capacity and governance issues
- Conclusion



# Transforming S3

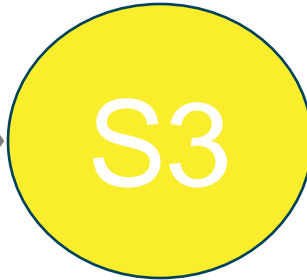
- Smart Specialisation (S3) now accepted as a regional innovation strategy **enhancing competitiveness and driving economic growth.**
- But the global context for regional development has evolved and so must the ways that **relevant strategies are conceived and implemented on the ground.**
- **There is no size fits all** - Rodrik (2015) notes that *no single set of policies is appropriate for all countries and domestic reforms must be tailored to specific circumstances. Many models do not work in real world situations because they ignore place-based factors.*
- *“Knowledge accumulates in economics not vertically with better models replacing worse ones, but horizontally, with newer models explaining aspects of social outcomes that were unaddressed earlier. Fresh models...bring in a new dimension that may be more relevant in some settings...”* Rodrik 2015 p67

# S3: Growing challenges

- Pandemic
- Climate change
- Geo-political...
- Technology changes



Time to re-think S3

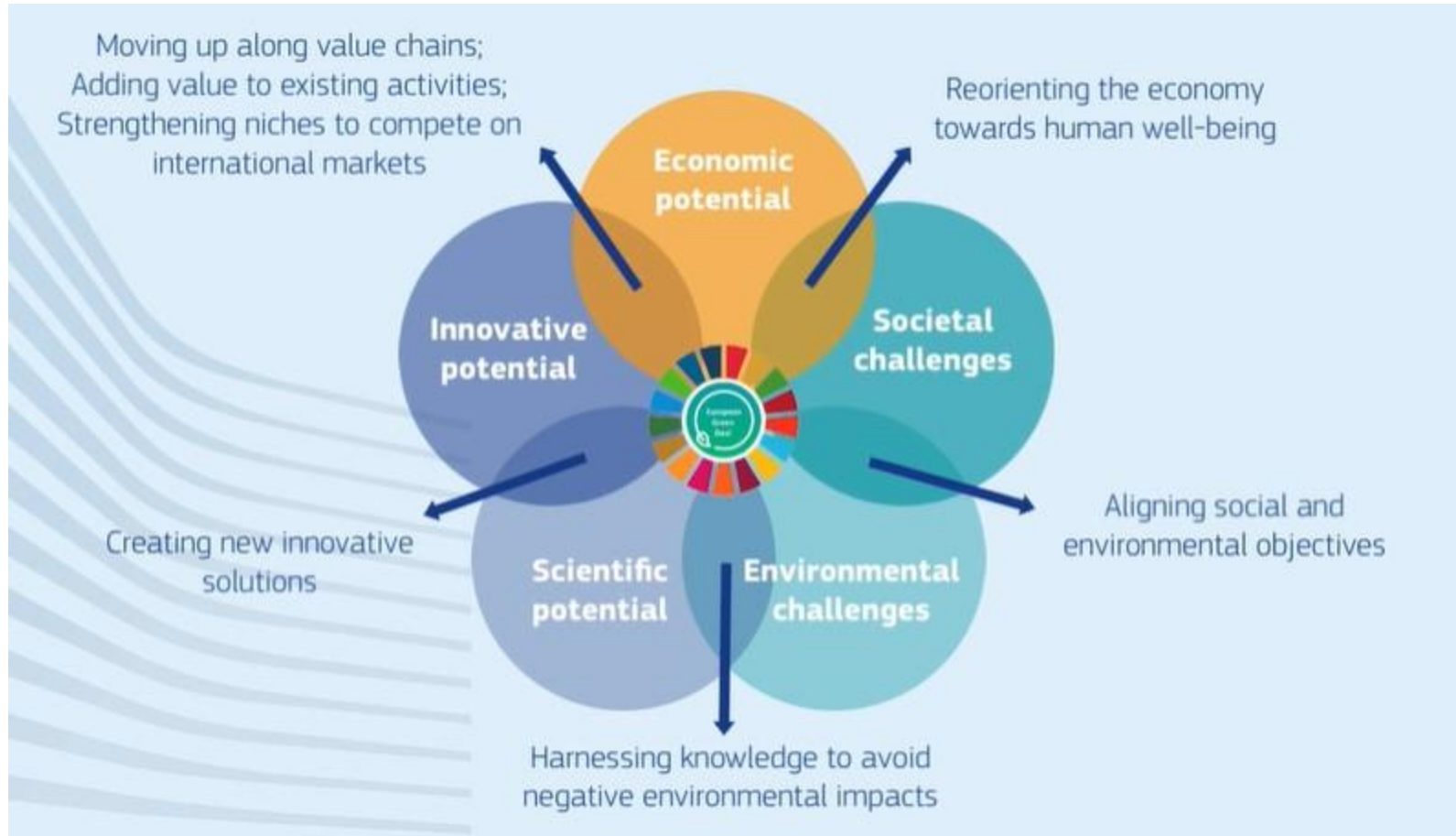


- Poor implementation
- Too much focus on Cohesion Policy
- Seen more as a task than an opportunity for some regions

Top  
down

Bottom  
up

# Transforming S3 – towards – S5?



Recent thinking:  
Adding on societal  
and environmental  
challenges.

Source S3 MOOC

[Smart Specialisation in EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Region and the new trends in the Smart Specialisation approach : Module 1 \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

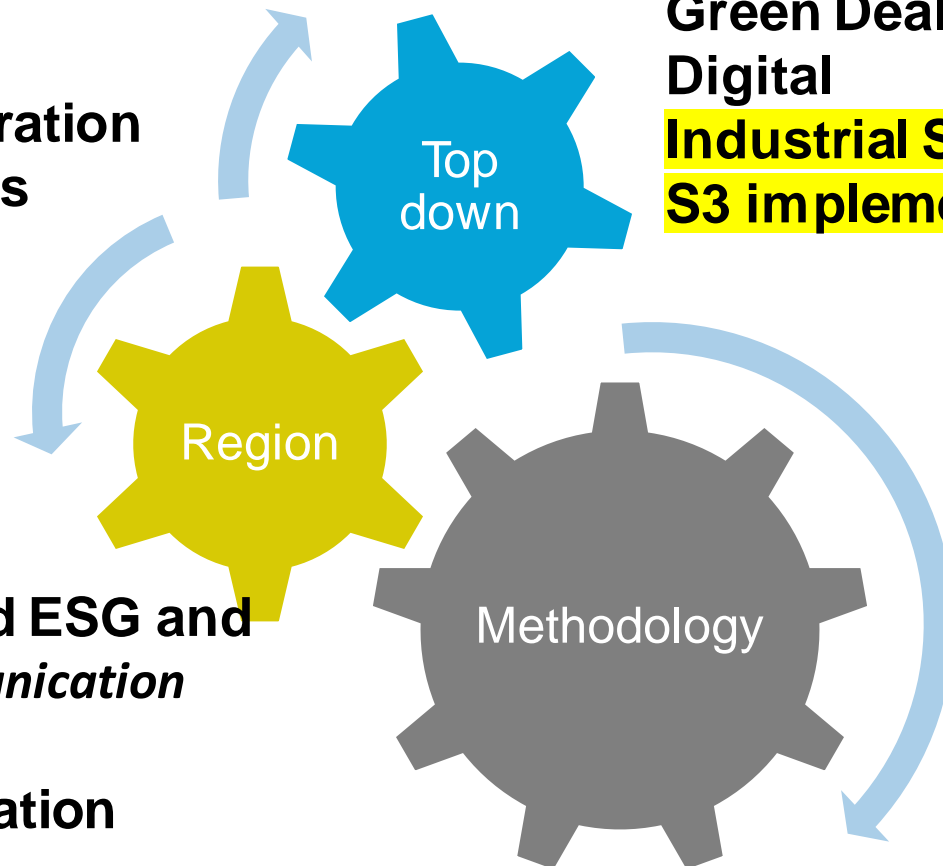
# Discussion: What needs to change?

**Regional attractiveness**

**More attention to value chains**

Focus on interregional collaboration  
e.g. Regional Innovation Valleys

Improved EDP – more RRI and ESG and  
*coordination, connections, communication*  
A challenge-based approach  
Stronger focus on implementation



Strategic directions = future funding

Foray – planning logic

Green Deal

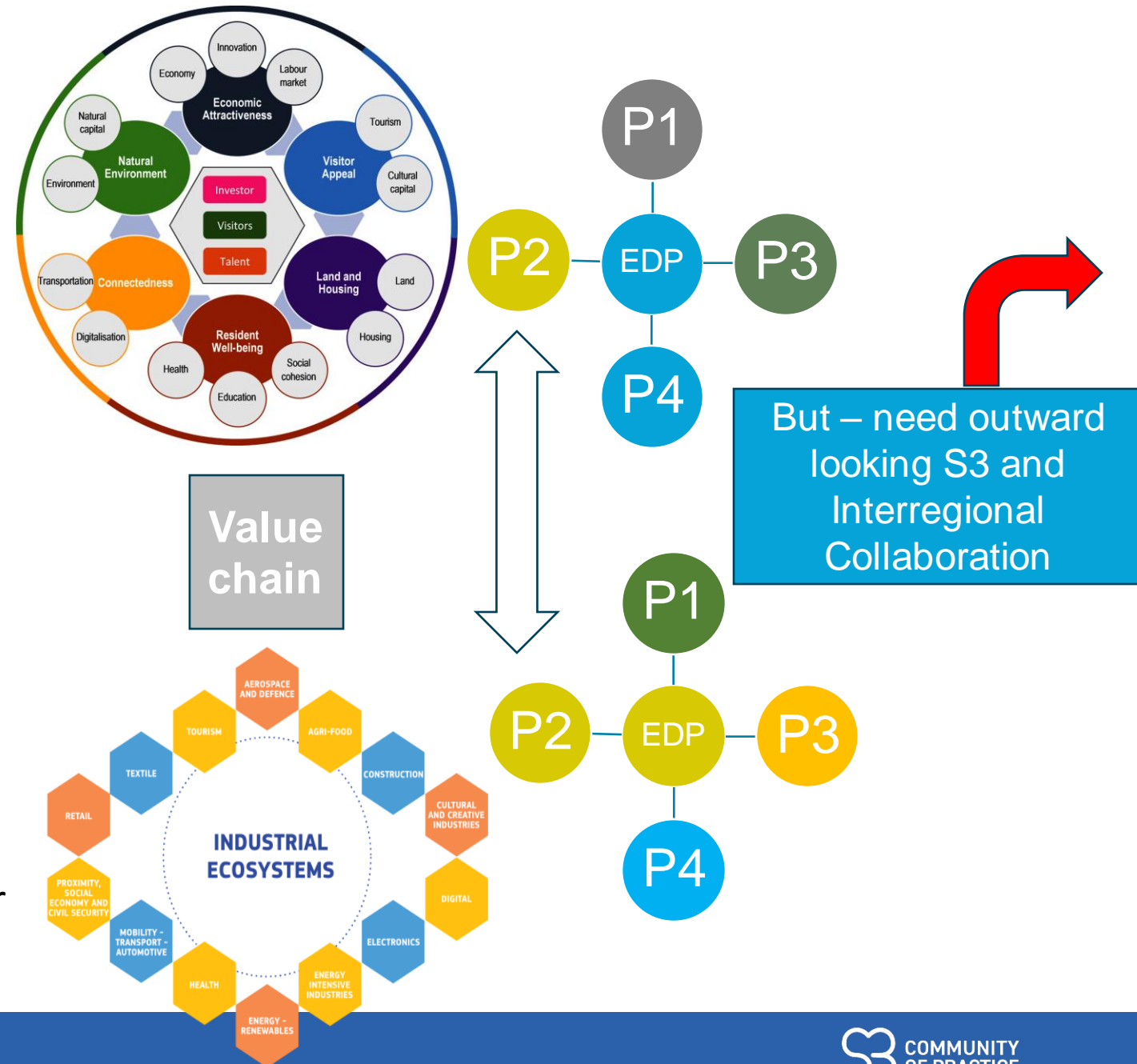
Digital

**Industrial Strategies**

**S3 implements EU strategies**

# S3 can contribute...

- S3 can play a significant role in this new synthesis between industrial and place-based policies.
- Smart Specialisation's Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) can identify future growth drivers of a place-based economy by involving a range of regional stakeholders.
- By prioritizing both existing competitive advantage and future investments for growth, S3 can provide the essential seed elements for an industrial policy in the making.

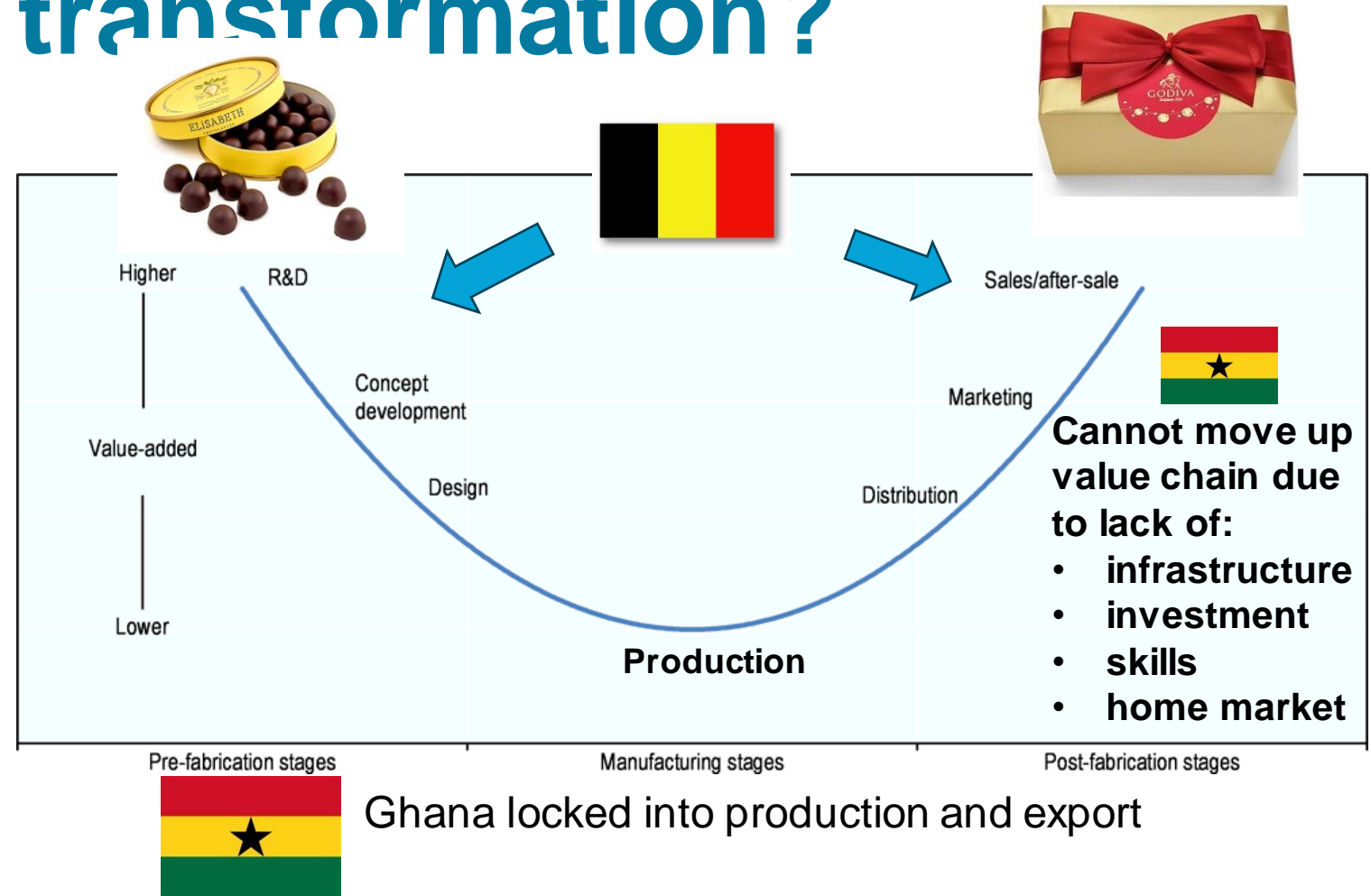




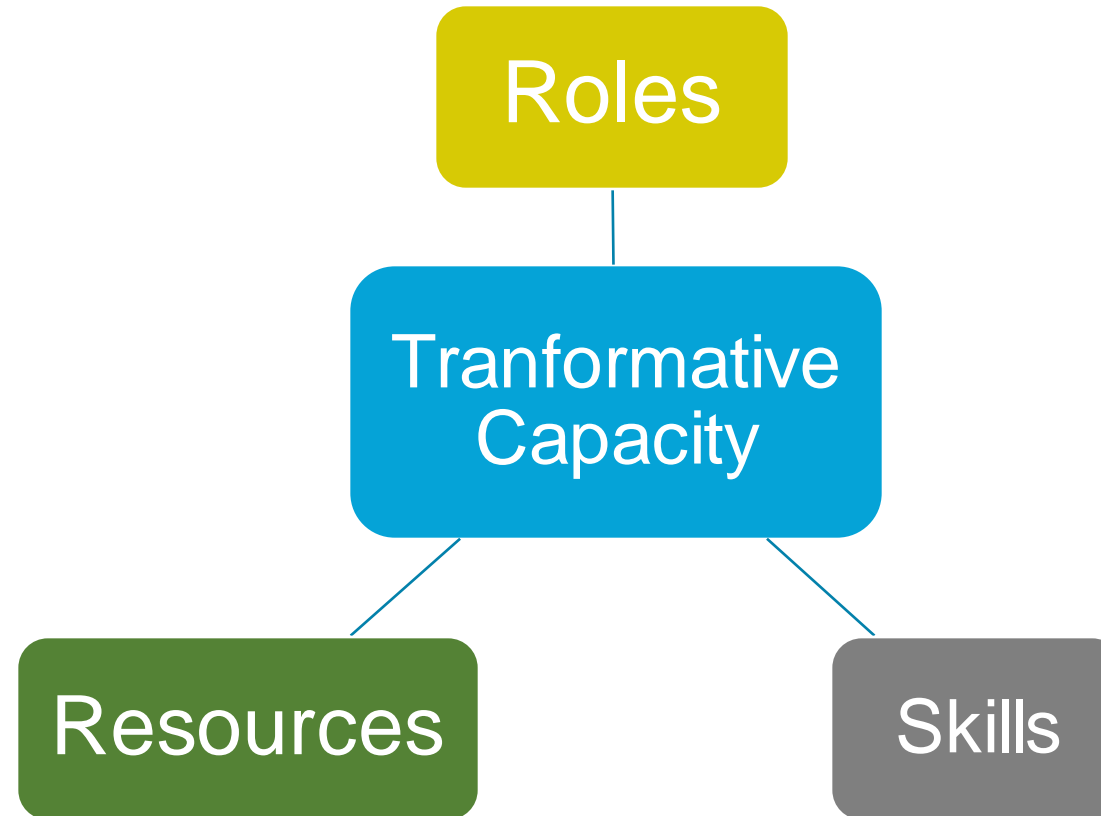
# Interregional collaboration – a key component of transformation?

## • Interregional Collaboration

- Learning
- Knowledge – e.g. resilience
- Plugging into value chains and industrial ecosystems
- Developing critical mass/scaling up
- Inward investment
- Skills – talent attraction
- Targeted outputs



# But change limited by capacity



[Borras, S et. al. EconPapers: The Transformative Capacity of Public Sector Organisations in Sustainability Transitions: A Conceptualization \(repec.org\)](#)

# Key challenges to interregional collaboration (IC) as identified by WG members

Experiences vary between regions with implementing IC

Interreg – positive but also may encourage for quick wins

IC requires a strategic planning stage

IC is a new area of work ...and is hampered by a too inward-looking attitude

Clusters can help build capacity for collaboration

IC often dependent on a few key people

Issues of capacity

Lack of S3 linked to IC

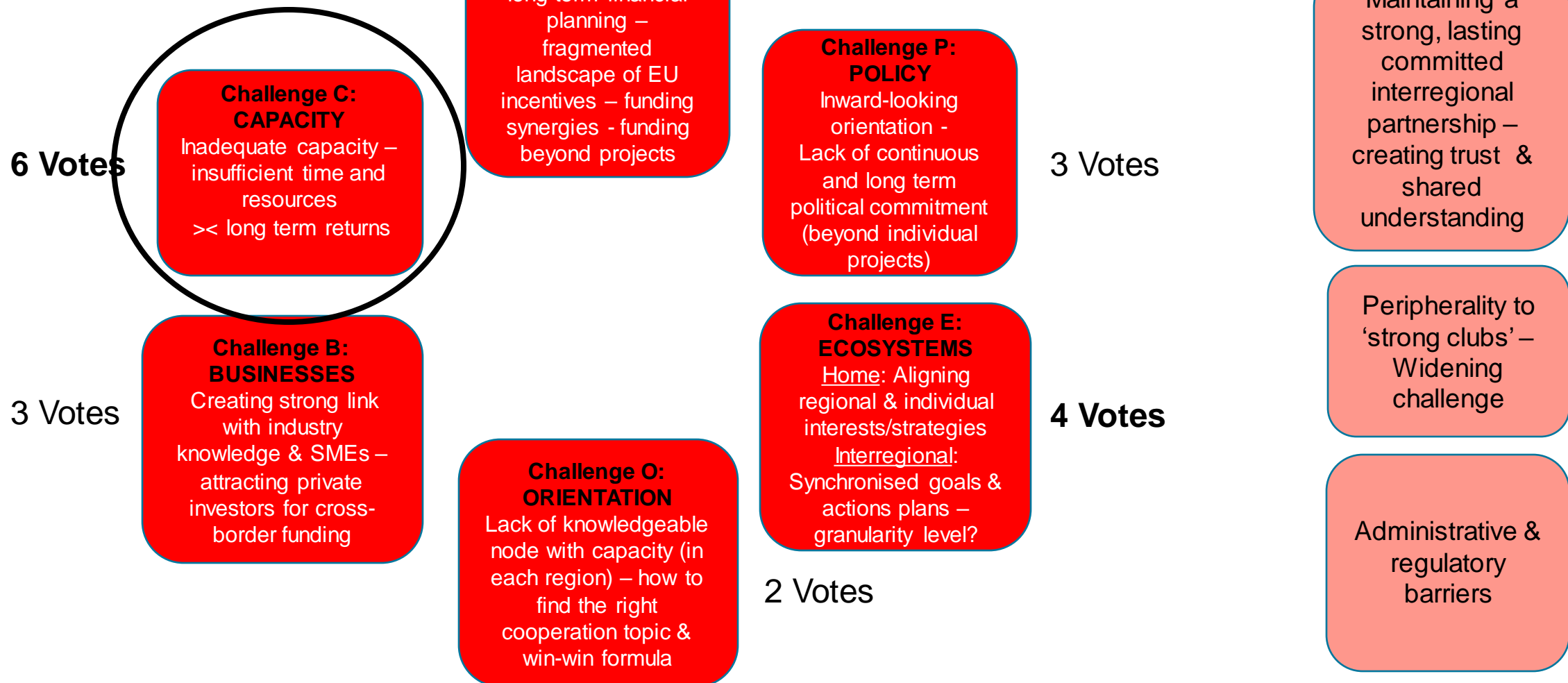
Changing mindsets is a necessity to move forward.

Aligning regional and EU policies is complex and leads to difficulties in designing IC

IC needs mutual understanding of concepts and terminology

IC projects vary in level of maturity so challenges vary

# Main implementation challenges faced by WG members



# Focusing on Capacity: issues raised



Peer learning – how to improve?

How to strengthen the engagement of regional stakeholders?

How can we better organise collective learning?

What regional governance structures are most effective?

Are systematic guidelines to give big picture of interregional collaboration needed and if so in what format?

How do we encourage more training on inter-cultural communication between regions?

How do we move from a one-person contact structure to a more institutional format?

How do we better involve agencies in interregional cooperation?

In terms of interregional collaboration, how do we define and measure return on investment?

At what scale should we look for interregional collaboration e.g. cross border joint S3s?

How far does geography help or hinder interregional collaboration strategies – e.g. centre vs periphery?

# Focusing on Challenges



**Outward focus**  
**Unsure what to do...**  
**A need for collaboration**  
**In the region and between regions**

**Inward focus**  
**We know what to do...but may not do it!**

# Clarity of challenges and explicit measures of success

- “The X project ran from 2016 to 2020, and then we still got funding for an extension period 2021-2022.
- Throughout the years, people, organisations and regions have gotten to know each other very well and also achieved quite a lot together.”
- **Questions:** What did the project do, what was learned, return on investment?

# Balancing ambition with resources

## UN SDG Report 19th September 2023

- **The achievement of the SDGs is in peril.** At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we are alarmed that the progress on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline.
- Our world is currently facing numerous crises. Years of sustainable development gains are being reversed. Millions of people have fallen into poverty, hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent, humanitarian needs are rising, and the impacts of climate change more prevalent, humanitarian needs are rising, and the impacts of climate change more pronounced.
- This has led to increased inequality exacerbated by weakened international solidarity and a **shortfall of trust to jointly overcome these crises.**

*High-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit).*



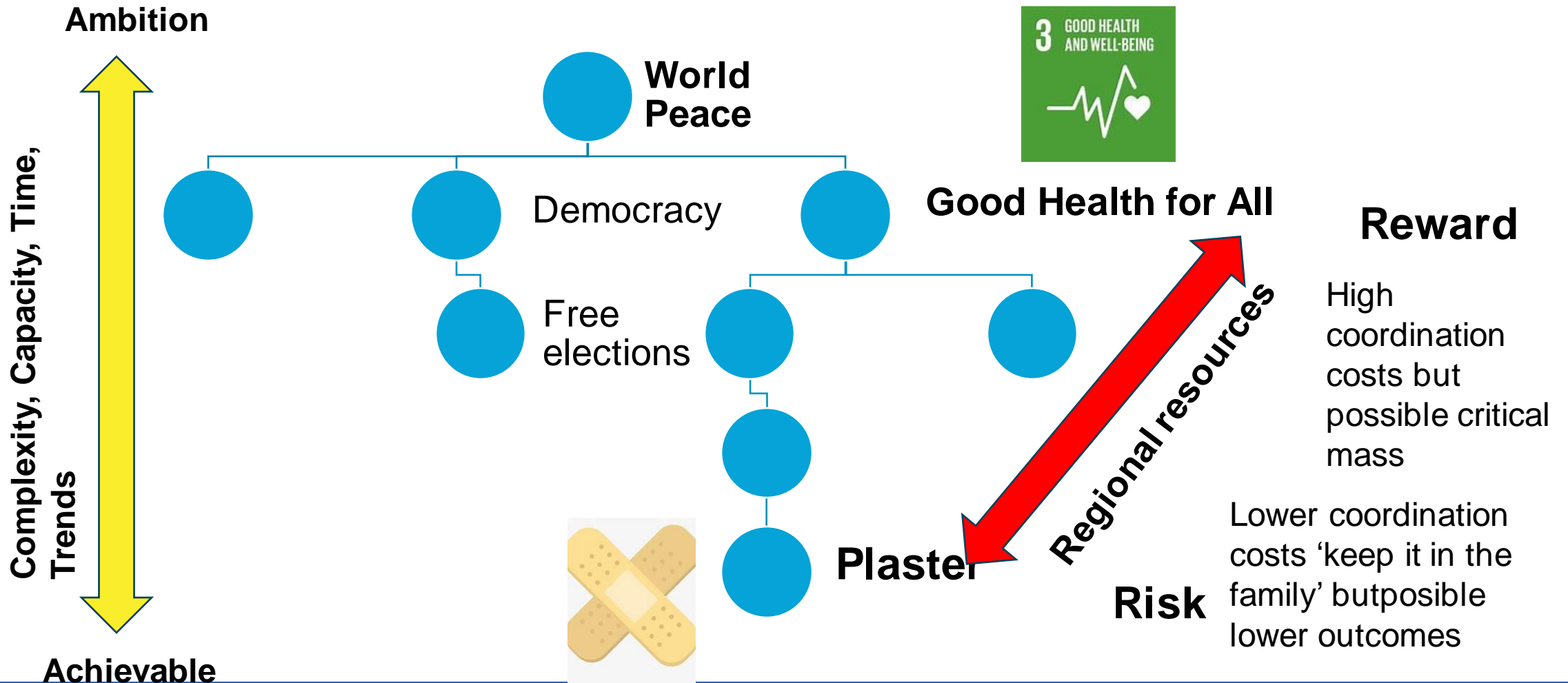
# Australia Net Zero Industrial Policy

- Australia's industrial policy must be “recast and modernised” to take advantage of the global energy transition, the Treasurer said on Thursday, while promising a new “uniquely Australian” plan that leverages more private capital amid bolder public investment overseas.
- **Our plan will be ambitious, but uniquely Australian,** focused on Australia's strengths – on renewable energy, resources, our reputation as a trusted and reliable trading partner, on our people, and our knowledge.”
- **Unable to match the scale of subsidies** in the US, the government will look to get more out of its investment through industrial and financial policy...
- [Australia's industrial policy to be 'recast' for net zero world \(innovationaus.com\)](https://www.innovationaus.com)
- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023

# Engagement challenges

- **S34GROWTH Results achieved by the Basque Government (ES)**
- **BDIH Konexio is the first innovation voucher scheme of the Basque Government and** was launched as a direct result of the practical insights shared by other S34GROWTH partners regarding the “innovation vouchers” instrument. Budget: **2.5 MEUR**
- Since its pilot launch in 2020, almost 200 Basque companies have increased their competitiveness as a result of their participation in the programme...
- **Unfortunately, reality has shown that Basque companies do not seem eager to apply for this international component of the programme** as to date all applications received have asked to have access to the scientific-technological equipment available at the Basque DIH. Language barriers and lack of knowledge about other DIH's assets are mentioned as reasons for this.
- *Thanks to Interreg Europe for sharing this slide*
- [S34Growth | Interreg Europe](#)

# Refining the challenge: matching challenges to resources



# Conclusion – we need...

- A transformation of S3 – mix of top down and bottom up
- A more challenge-focused approach to S3 with improved and outward focused EDP with clear targets
- Better communication of S3 strategies at all levels with contact points
- A stronger focus on interregional collaboration (various forms)
- But more awareness of capacity issues and more support at the regional level e.g. coordination costs
- Involving improved governance along with resources (funding) and skills
- Better use of networks and more EC support for coordination costs e.g. - Interreg



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*Marc Pattinson, Interreg Europe Policy  
Learning Platform - Thematic Expert*

**Interreg  
Europe**



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# Insights from Interreg Europe

**Latest experiences from Interreg Europe project stakeholders in developing and testing elements of the S3 methodology**



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# Interreg Europe - Two actions



## Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issues – such as Smart Specialisation



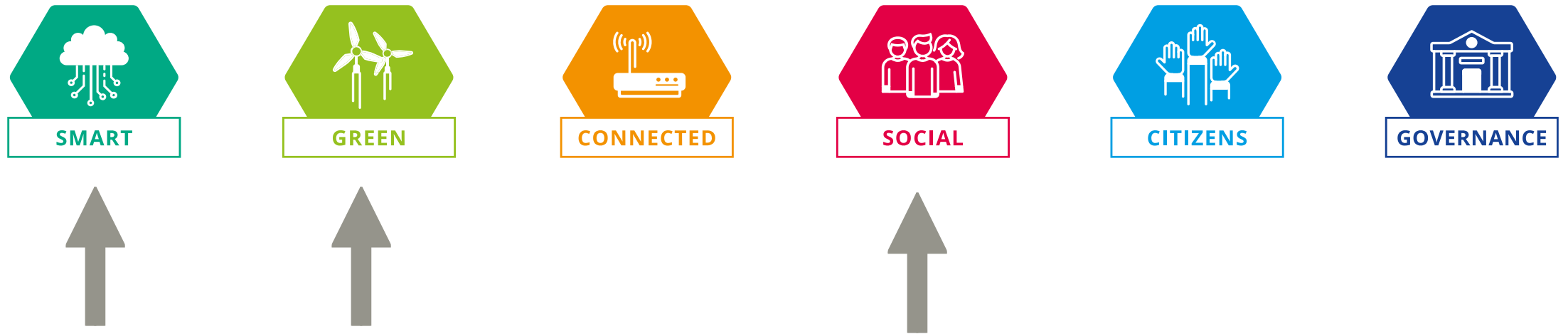
## Policy Learning Platform

Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all



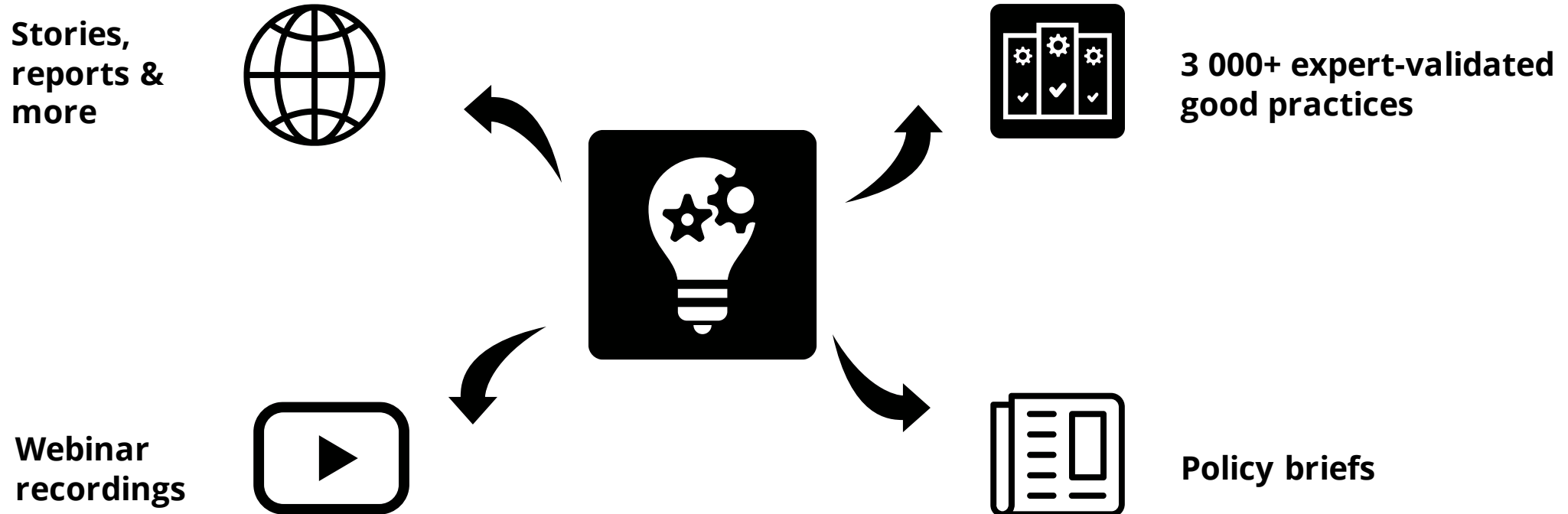
# Programme **scope**

1 cross-cutting priority on capacity building → **six topics**



**Concentration** principle (80%)

# Access to a wealth of tested policy solutions



<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions/good-practices>

## WHY INTERREG EUROPE AND S3 ?

- In recent years, regional innovation policies across Europe have relied on the smart specialisation approach to support the design of their innovation strategies. However, its focus on endogenous knowledge flows is considered a major weakness of the approach. See Alessio Giustolisi  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09654313.2022.2068950>
- But why do we need an interregional or external perspective? Better knowledge of trends, diversify value chains, increases market opportunities and access to R&D&I resources ... And learn from others, successes but also failures ... Especially useful for LDR ...
- Interreg Europe programme can play an important role in supporting and accelerating the policy learning process and today is considered is a key element of the « policy tool kit » to facilitate and accelerate **interregional cooperation** in support of S3 design and deployment.

## WHY INTERREG EUROPE AND S3 ?

- Especially useful given the capacity to connect different regions with different innovation ecosystems – high, moderate, low ... BUT seeking to work with the same value chains and identify paths for win-win cooperation
- For Interreg Europe you decide your policy focus ! – choice is bottom up – and S3 regularly features as a priority theme of Interreg Europe projects and provides the interregional development component
- Interreg Europe can also serve as a building block for other initiatives/programmes – S3 Partnerships, RIV EIE and I3 value chain investments, Euroclusters ... Bringing new actors to the table – SMEs – and help them think « outwards » and connect with each other

# Examples of IR-E projects tackling the topic of **Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)**

**CLUSTERS3**  
Interreg Europe

**2016-2020**

Leveraging Cluster Policies for successful implementation of RIS3

**MARIE**  
Interreg Europe

**2017-2022**

MAinstreaming Responsible Research & Innovation in European S3

**ecoRIS3**  
Interreg Europe

**2017-2022**

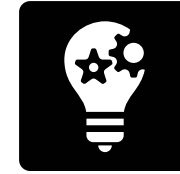
Policies & Measures to Support Local & Regional Innovation Ecosystems

**Beyond EDP**  
Interreg Europe

**2016-2021**

Improve the RIS3 effectiveness through the management of the entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP)

# How : Access to knowledge – S3



**2014 - 2020**

### Smart Specialisation monitoring tool

RIS3 Monitoring System is a data integration, exploration and analysis platform.

14 Jul 2021 | By project IMPROVE

 Expert approved



**2014 - 2020**

### Smart Specialisation Platforms for Agri-Food for the Region of Central Macedonia

The Region of Central Macedonia's main strategy is the participation and co-creation in a number of S3P Agri-Food platforms.

09 Apr 2019 | By project BIOREGIO

 Expert approved



**2014 - 2020**

### Working Groups for Malopolska Smart Specialisations

The Working Groups for Malopolska Smart Specialisations are the co-operation forum of regional government, entrepreneurs and other innovation ecosystem actors.

26 Jun 2018 | By project InnoBridge

 Expert approved



**2014 - 2020**

### Cross-Border Smart Specialisation Strategy of Galicia – Northern Portugal (RIS3T)

Cross-Border Smart Specialisation Strategy of Galicia – Northern Portugal (RIS3T)

28 Mar 2018 | By project S34Growth

 Expert approved

**Possible synergies:** Use the good practice database to find good practices for Targeted Support Assignments and by learning from others

<https://interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions/good-practices?keywords=Smart+specialisation&projects=>

# Examples of IR-E projects tackling the topic of **Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)**

Recently  
**APPROVED**

**Interreg  
Europe**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**ORIGINN**

Economic and social transformation in rural areas through industrial innovation, emphasis in agri-food sector

**Interreg  
Europe**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**LOTTI**

Local identity driving traditional industry transition

**Interreg  
Europe**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**SKYLA**

Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition

# SOME LESSONS FROM THE INTERREG EUROPE PROJCT PORTFOLIO

- Adapting and testing S3 methodologies such as BEYOND EDP – exploring via interregional cooperation and via Peer Reviews to contribute to « updating the S3 concept » and find out what works better ....
- Testing new value chain methodologies or new sectors such as drones in AERIAL UPTAKE with focus on environmental risks
- Examples of developing a new green transition focus in a joint S3 strategy for Vestland County (Norway) – issues of resilience, value chain and urban/rural cooperation
- Exploring the « challenge approach », contests, hackathons can all be deployed to launch S3 priority specialisations and engage with start ups and thus generate and implement new outcomes !
- Policy Learning Platform allows you to be « Active » : Peer Reviews, workshops etc Stay connected, create networks and partners ... Help discuss solve complex problems and maybe spark new initiatives;

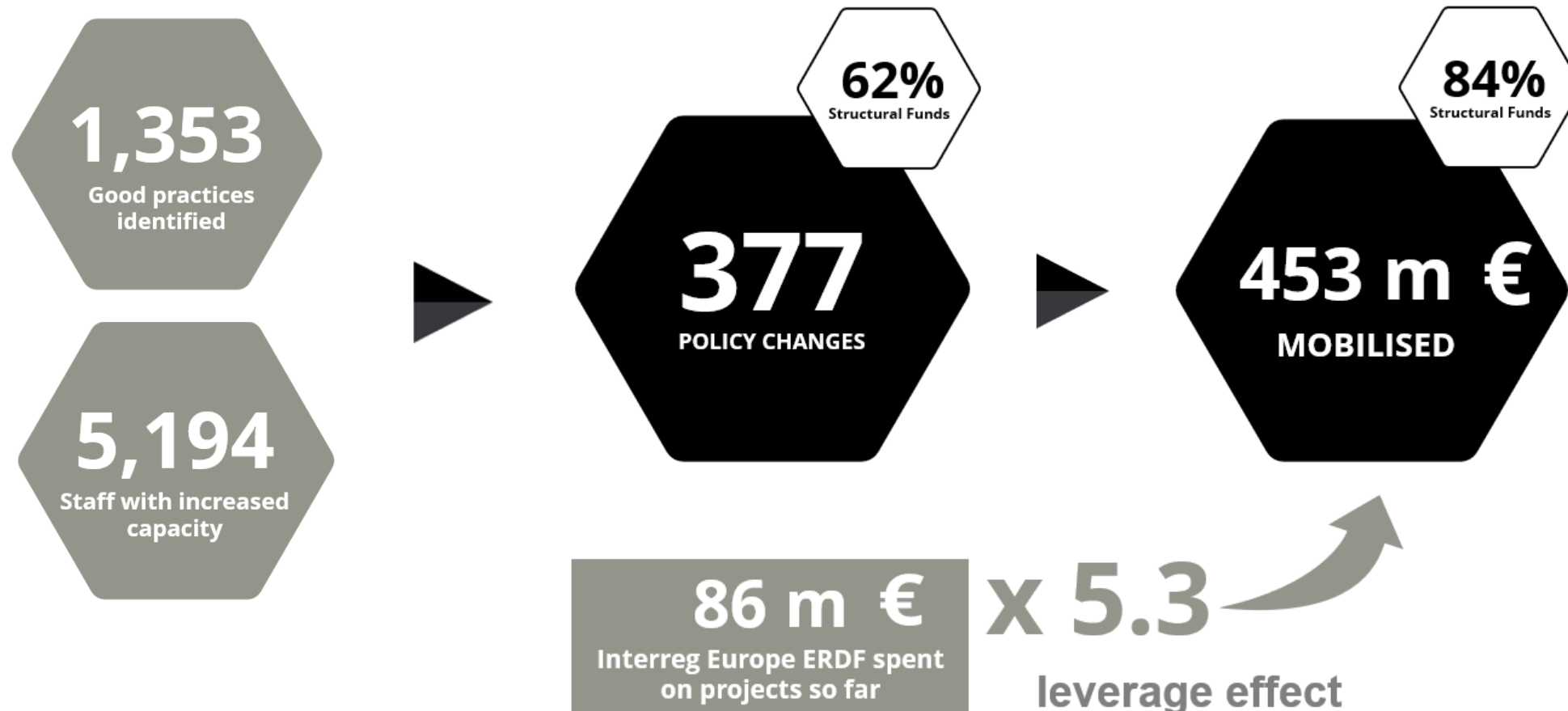


# SOME LESSONS FROM THE INTERREG EUROPE PROJET PORTFOLIO

- Link with Cascade funding for interregional innovation challenges ... Euroclusters DG GROW and via I3 interregional cooperation and S3 Thematic Partnerships – for example Digital and Personalised Medicine ... and linked to Vanguard Smart Health - similar examples in other thematic areas.
- In all cases strong interaction with quadruple helix actors – clusters, technology transfer ...
- For example identify new means to tackle policy challenges – projects that have looked at how innovative public procurement can be aligned with S3 - interregional innovative public procurement to support interregional based regional missions
- Interreg Europe provides policy makers with funding for stronger cooperation and for staying connected – with scope to connect with the S3 Community of Practice – Working Groups on Interregional cooperation but also in supporting regions via targeted assignments.

# Interregional cooperation works!

Results from 2014 – 2020 projects on **research & innovation**



\*Validated as of November 2023

# Stay in touch through our events and publications

Policy Briefs on [Smart Specialisation](#) and [Synergies between Interreg Europe and S3P Regional Missions](#)

## Webinars on line:

- European Innovation Ecosystems Regional Innovation Valleys held in June
- **Bespoke services : Peer reviews, matchmakings, online discussions. We will soon be calling for S3 experts for [East Flanders peer review](#).**

Join our online community <https://www.interregeurope.eu/user/register>



# How ...Access to expertise via Peer Reviews– S3



- The regional council of Päjäät-Häme, Finland, 17-18 October 2023 on S3 Governance
- The Province of East Flanders, Belgium, Q1 2024 on S3 EDP and Governance at the subregional level
- The Autonomous region of the Azores, Portugal, Q1 2024, on S3 and regional missions
- € support: travel & subsistence costs for experts, expert fee upon request + funding for local host organisation (catering, interpretation)
- Expert support: briefing and preparation of peer review with host, identification, recruitment and briefing of experts, agenda, moderation, communication
- Host a peer review ! Become a peer !

**Possible synergies:** look for opportunities for complementary capacity-building services. Check out an example of a final report : [Vestland County / Bergen – Norway](#) – how to combine urban/rural S3 challenges and specialisations using hybrid EDP for inter regional cooperation around the theme of Green/Energy Transition

# Interreg Europe Funding opportunities for new projects

Upcoming calls fully open to partners from new Partner States:

- **3<sup>rd</sup> call** planned in spring 2024
- **4<sup>th</sup> call** possibly in first half 2025 (depending on 3<sup>rd</sup> call results)

Normal programme's rules and requirements apply – six thematic priorities are available  
Smart/Green !

# Thank you !

*Contacts:*

**Marc Pattinson**

*Senior Thematic Expert – Research & Innovation  
Policy Learning Platform*



**Interreg  
Europe**



Co-funded by  
the European Union



POLICY LEARNING  
PLATFORM - Services

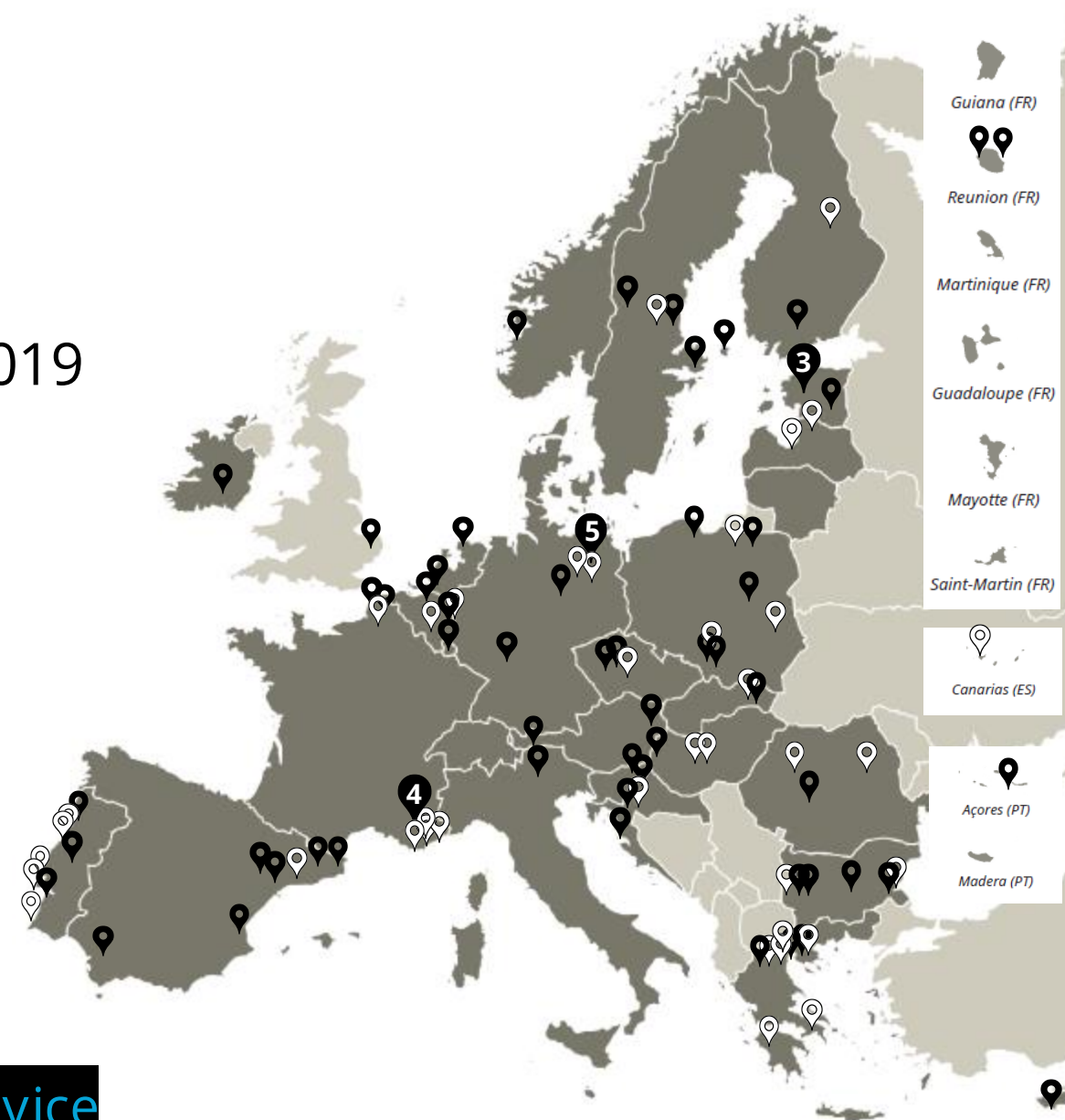
# Peer learning in practice

📍 **63 peer reviews** implemented since 2019  
10 peer reviews in the pipeline

📍 **42 matchmaking** sessions

- Contact the Platform experts
- Apply at any time!
- Assessment of application within 1 month max
- Expertise tailored to your needs!

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice>







Thank you for your attention!

#S3Cop



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Commission



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de Catalunya



Thank you !

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