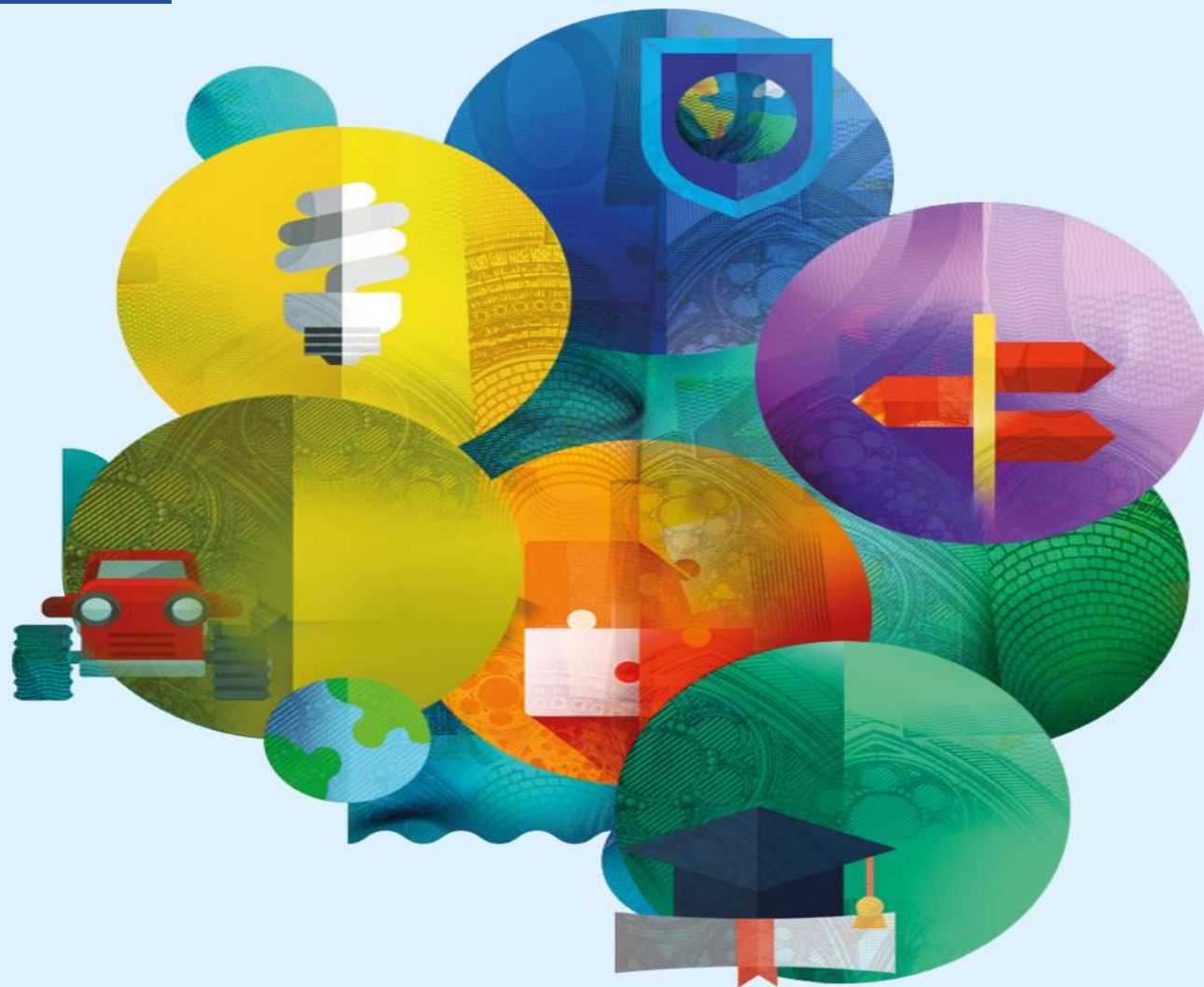


# The role of the Smart Specialisation in the Cohesion policy 2021-2027



*#CohesionPolicy*  
*#EUinmyRegion*  
*#SmartSpecialisation*

## Cohesion Policy

### **Art. 174 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**

*In order to promote its overall harmonious development, the Union shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion. In particular, the Union shall aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions. (...)*

### **Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (EU) 2021/1058**

*Support from the ERDF under policy objective 1 (PO 1) should be based on building capacities for smart specialisation strategies, which set priorities at national or regional level, or both, to increase their competitive advantage by developing and matching research and innovation strengths with business needs and necessary skills through an entrepreneurial discovery process. (...)*

# Cohesion Policy Objectives 2021 -2027



**A smarter Europe** (innovative & smart economic transformation)



**A greener, low-carbon Europe** (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)



**A more connected Europe** (mobility)



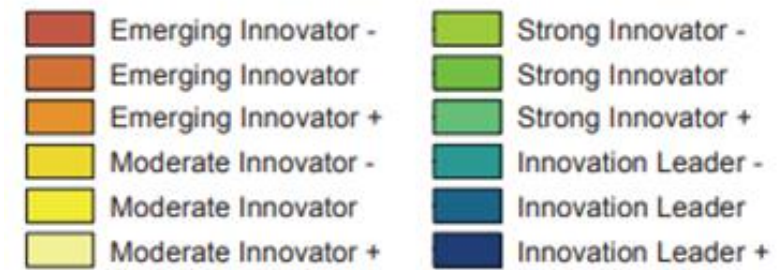
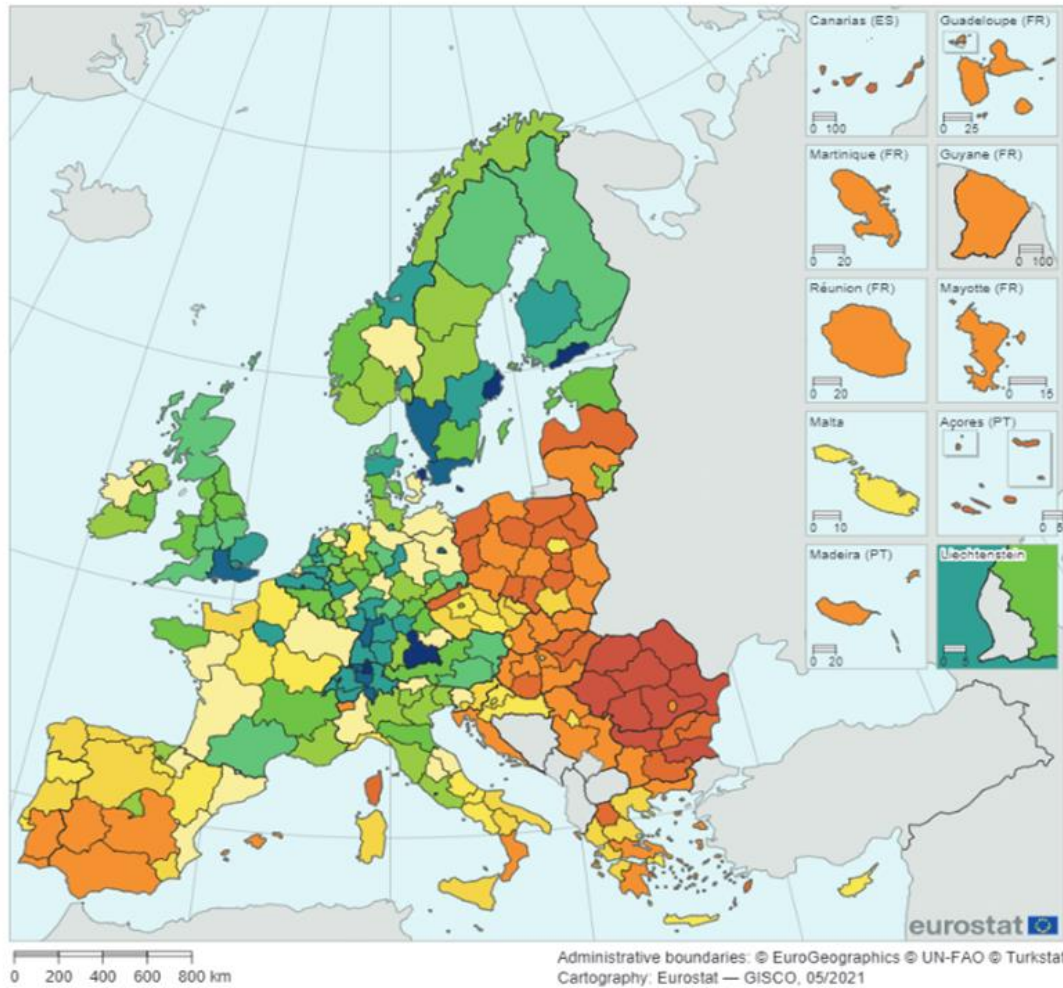
**A more social Europe** (the European Pillar of Social Rights)



**A Europe closer to citizens** (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

# Research & Innovation capacity

## Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS) 2021

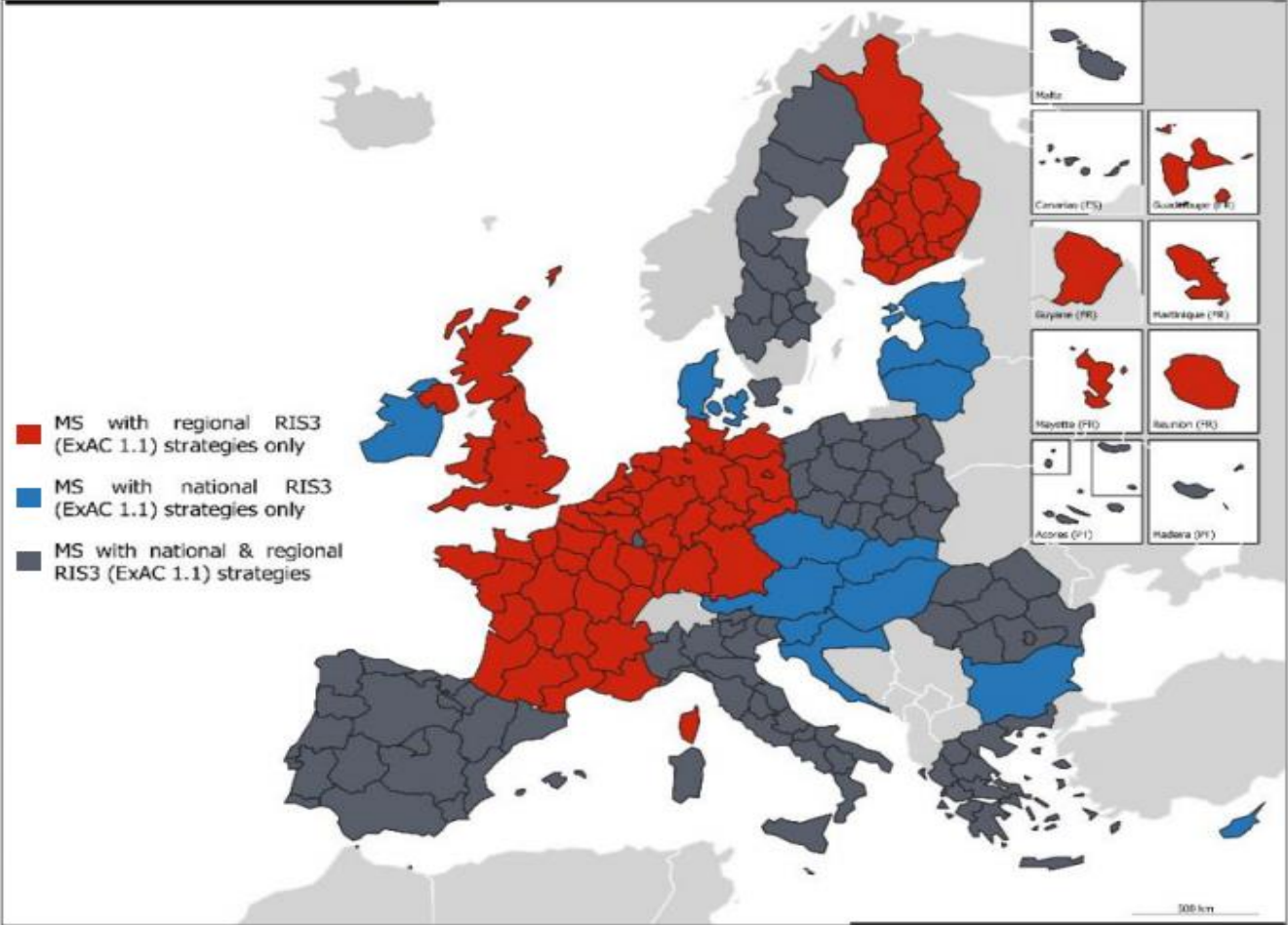


**Source:** Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2021, EC (2021)



# Governance in Smart Specialisation: national or regional perspective

Map 2-1: Overview RIS3 strategies according to their governance level



**Source:** Study on prioritisation in S3 in the EU, Prognos/CSIL (2021)

## Key issues for Smart specialisation post-2020

How to better adapt smart specialisation to different regional needs?

How to broaden innovation and reinforce innovation diffusion?

How to strengthen cooperation and internationalisation?

How to improve links with other EU programmes?

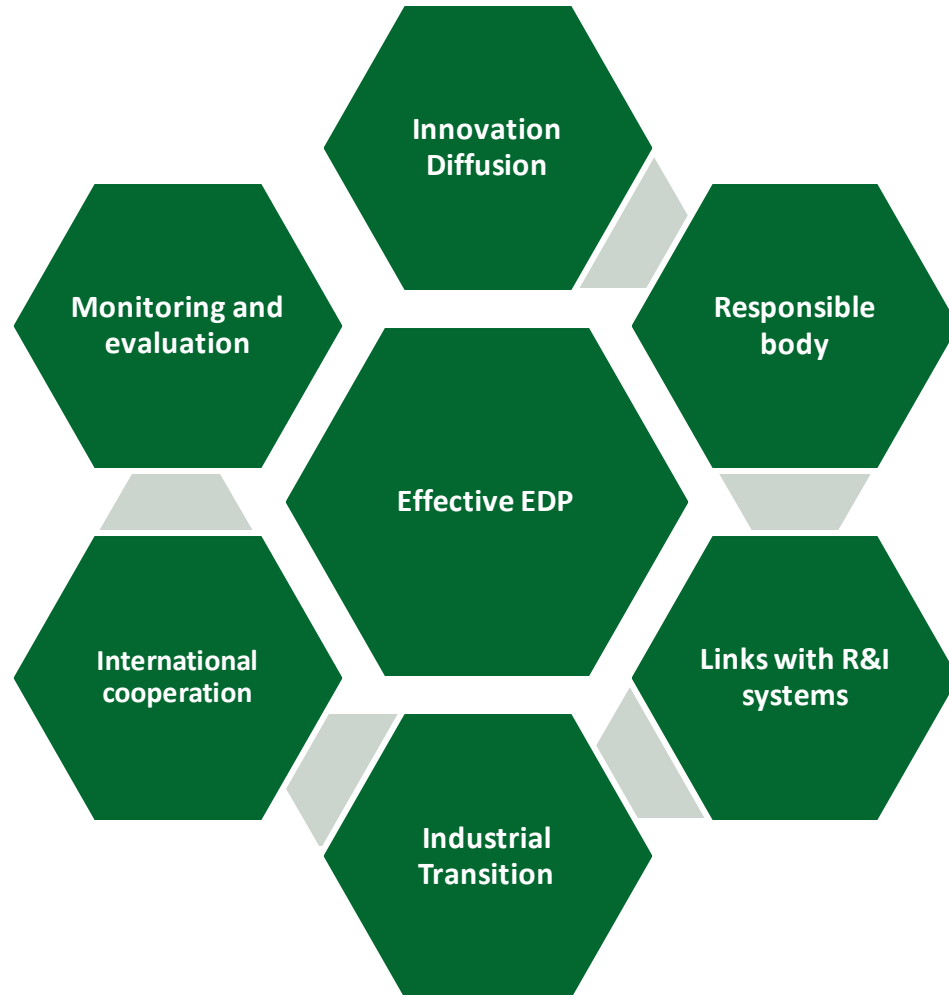
How to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, lesson learning?

How to strengthen and embed governance?

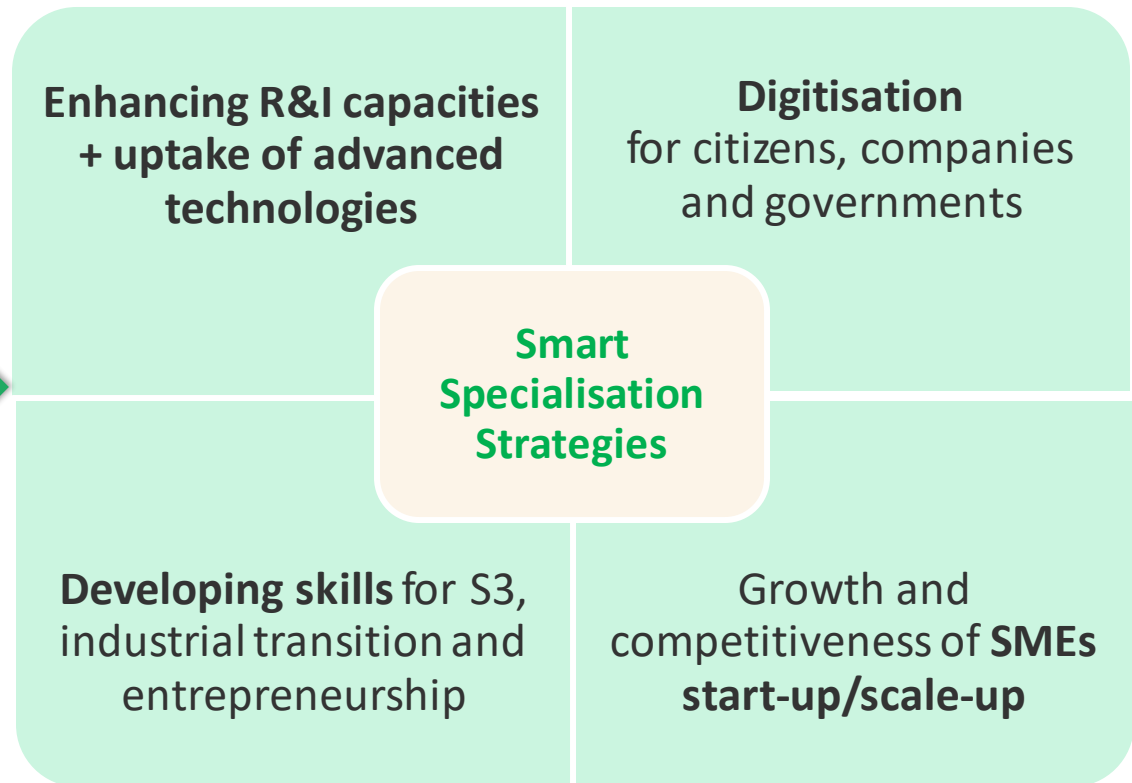
How to promote inclusive growth?

# Innovative and smart economic transformation through Smart specialisation

## Enabling Condition



## Specific Objectives



# Enabling condition for smart specialisation

Policy objective	Specific objective	Name of enabling condition
<b>1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity</b>	ERDF: Specific objectives 1.1 and 1.4 under this policy objective	<b>Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy</b>

## Fulfilment criteria for the enabling condition

Smart specialisation strategy(ies) shall be supported by:

1. Up-to-date analysis of challenges for innovation diffusion and digitalisation
2. Existence of competent regional / national institution or body, responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy
3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy
4. Functioning of stakeholder cooperation (“entrepreneurial discovery process”)
5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems, where relevant
6. Where relevant, actions to manage industrial transition
7. Measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation strategy



## **1. Up-to-date analysis of challenges for innovation diffusion and digitalisation**

Analysis has been undertaken to identify key challenges such as:

- Weaknesses in adoption at firm level of new technologies.
- Failure by universities and RTOs to serve the needs of firms in their ecosystem.
- Inefficiencies of innovation agencies in facilitating knowledge flows and coordination problems with other public agencies.
- Lack of knowledge transfer from multinational companies to domestic firms.

## **2. Existence of competent regional / national institution or body responsible for the management of S3**

There is a body which has a formal mandate and decisional powers to develop, coordinate the implementation and monitor the smart specialisation strategy.

### **3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards objectives of the strategy**

A monitoring and evaluation system is in place – under the coordination of the competent institution - to collect information on the implementation of smart specialisation priorities.

### **4. Functioning of stakeholder cooperation (“entrepreneurial discovery process”)**

There is an interactive and inclusive process in which actors from business, research, civil society and public administration (quadruple helix) identify specialisation priorities. This is an ongoing process, where all stakeholders are adequately represented.

## **5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems, where relevant**

Country Specific Recommendations and the country reports within the European Semester or dedicated evaluation shared and endorsed by Member States are to be taken into account to identify shortcomings and needs for improvement and define remediation actions.

## **6. Where relevant, actions to manage industrial transition**

The member state or region has undertaken analysis to identify sectors and occupations in the region or member state which are challenged by globalisation, technological change (notably linked to industry 4.0) and the shift to a low carbon economy and identified appropriate actions to facilitate transition.

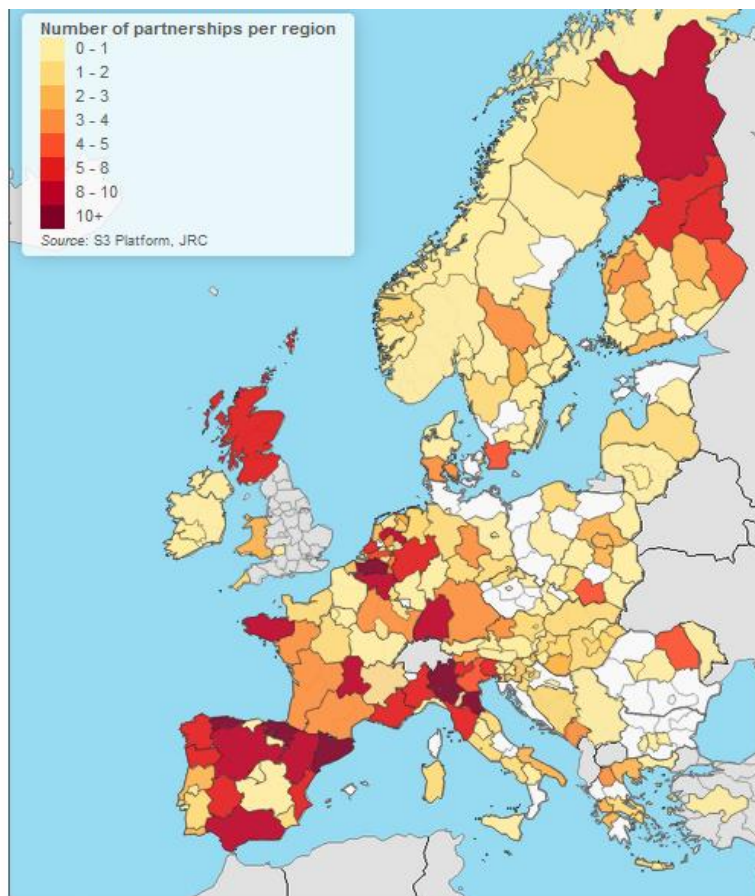
Where regions have experienced significant structural change, appropriate actions have been identified to address reskilling of the workforce, diversification of the economy, strengthening entrepreneurship and technological upgrading of SMEs.

## **7. Measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation strategy**

Opportunities for international collaboration with research and innovation actors and private companies in similar priority areas have been identified/mapped.

Measures to engage regional stakeholders (universities, RTOs, SMEs, clusters) in participating in and developing EU or international value chains are being developed / promoted.

# EC support to Member States and regions – the role of the Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms



- **4 platforms connecting regional ecosystems:**
  - Industrial Modernisation
  - Agri-food
  - Energy
  - Sustainable blue economy (from 2022)
- **EC initiative**, starting in 2015
- **37 partnerships – 208 regions – 19 Member States – 7 non-EU countries**
- Alignment of regional S3 → **creation of European value chains → common investment project**

# Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms (TSSPs) aim and role

- Create a collaborative structure for the building of **strategic S3 partnerships;**
- Build a transnational and interregional **collaborative network** of place-based innovation ecosystems;
- Create and develop new **European value chains;**
- Mobilise the potential of **European Structural and Investment Funds;**
- Building upon the current **bottom-up approach.**



## **S3 Community of Practice – support in practice since 2023**

- **Three S3 Working Groups** dedicated to the criteria of the S3 enabling condition on innovation diffusion, industrial transition and interregional cooperation;
- **S3 Expert Group** consisting of leading S3 and innovation policy experts and academics to discuss and advance the S3 concept;
- **S3 Community of Practice Website** one-stop digital portal for knowledge, information management and communication activities;
- **S3 Conference and S3 Forum** latest policy developments and Commission initiatives in relation to the S3, opportunity for stakeholders to network and discuss S3 and Cohesion policy.

# Thank you



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