

# The European Commission's science and knowledge service

## Joint Research Centre



**Mutual Learning Exercise on  
National Practices in Widening Participation and Strengthening  
Synergies - Country Visit to Spain, 10th-11th January 2017**

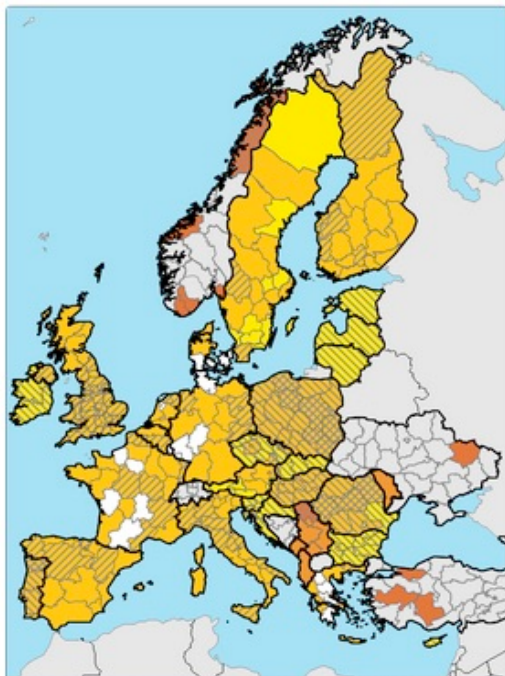
**Experiences from Stairway to Excellence**

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Madrid, 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2018

# JRC.B3 Territorial Development

## S3 activities



- EU Countries registered in S3P: 18
- EU Regions registered in S3P: 172
- Non-EU Countries registered in S3P: 4
- Non-EU Regions registered in S3P: 10
- S3P Peer-reviewed Countries: 15
- S3P Peer-reviewed Regions: 60

### Thematic Platforms

Agri-Food

Energy

Industrial  
Modernisation

About our  
methodology

### Guidance

Design

Implementation

Additional Guidelines

### Targeted Support

RIS3 in lagging  
regions

RIS3 in REMTh

Digital Growth

Stairway to Excellence

### S3 Cooperation

EU Macro-Regional  
Strategies

Other Initiatives

S3 Beyond EU

S3 Worldwide

### Communities & A...

Peer Reviews

Higher Education  
Institutions

Other Actors

### Governance

Entrepreneurial  
Discovery Process

Monitoring

# Spreading excellence in a RIS3 context

## Main issues hampering optimal capturing of H2020 funding

### Quality of governance

- Need for more participatory (RIS3) governance
- Administrative, legal and technical issues
- Structural bottlenecks in the R&I ecosystem

### Capacity building

- Lack of qualified human resources
- Lack of business sector innovation capabilities and weak innovative entrepreneurship
- Lack of openness, weak integration in EU networks

### Innovation

- Weak links between academia/PROs and business
- Limited use of available funding and financing sources for R&I
- Limited use of research infrastructures

## Projects in place to address these issues

### **Build regional capacity - *RIS3 support to Lagging Regions Project (EP funded)***

- Organise participatory governance and monitoring based on entrepreneurial discovery
- Develop Human resources/mobility plans
- Develop & implement long term (RIS3) strategies

### **Explore different entry points to H2020 - *Stairway to Excellence Project (EP funded)***

- Training Managing Authorities to build capacities for accessing H2020 open calls
- Collaboration between regions and EIT Innovation Communities (Regional Innovation Scheme)
- Collaboration between MSs/regions and Joint Undertakings through MoUs

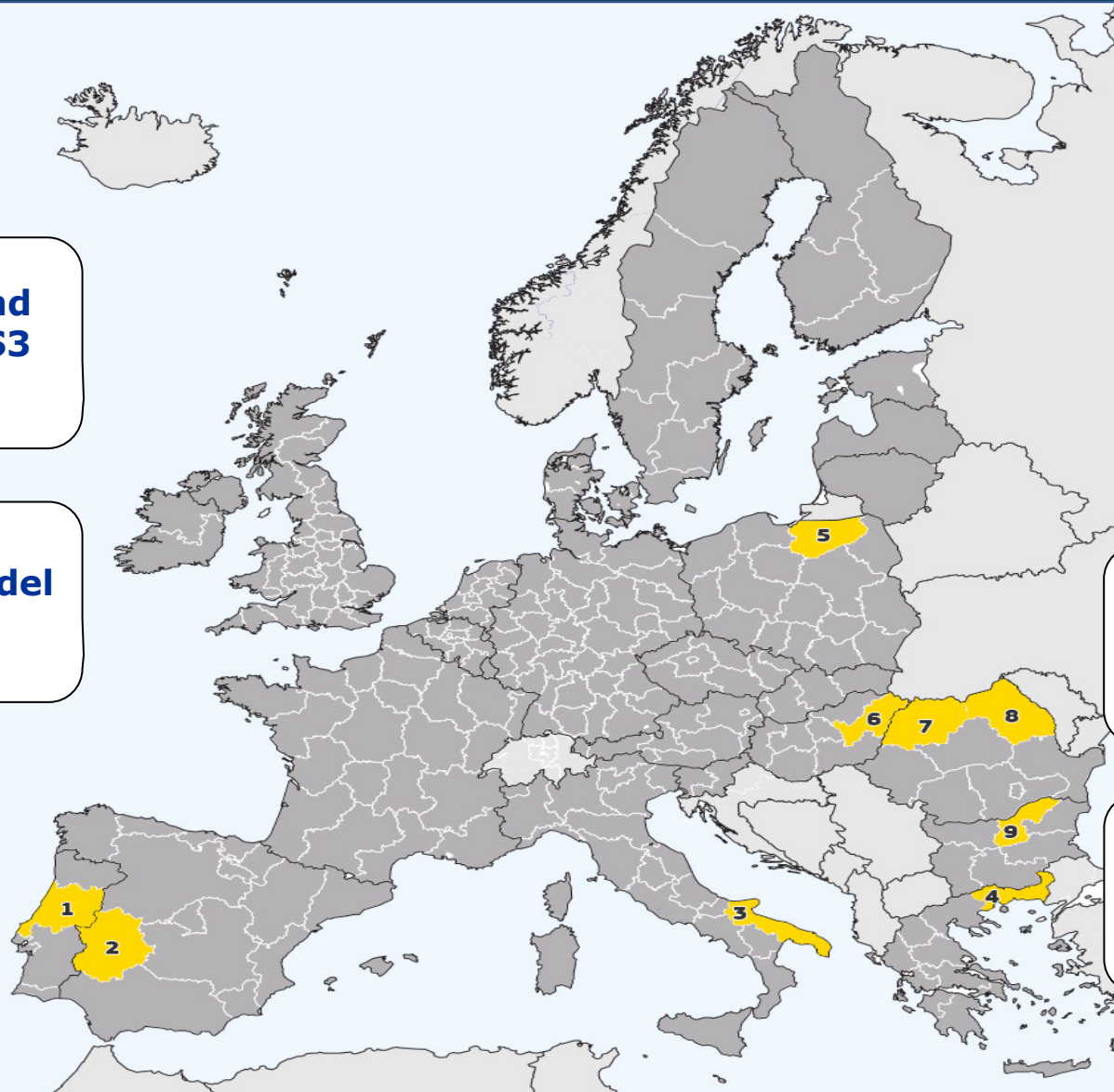
### **Support to universities - *Higher Education for Smart Specialisation Project***

- Align higher education with regional economy
- Strengthen role of education in RIS3 and regional innovation systems
- Inform EU and national policy-making

# Lagging Regions: aims and coverage

**Support the refinement and implementation of the RIS3 of selected EU regions**

**Generate lessons and a model for other regions**



## SELECTED LAGGING REGIONS

- 1 Centro
- 2 Extremadura
- 3 Puglia
- 4 Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
- 5 Warmińsko Mazurskie
- 6 Észak-Alföld
- 7 Nord-Vest
- 8 Nord-Est
- 9 Severen Tsentralen

**Test-bed for theories on S3 and for understanding RIS3**

**S3 as entry-point to address wider structural issues**



# RIS3 support to lagging regions: bottom-up approach

## Business idea as main driver

### Business idea

E.g. use of wine-making residues

### Idea decomposed

Research and innovation components and fundability

### Idea refined

Partners, business and research aspects, roadmap, funding sources

EDP focus group

Project Development Lab 1  
(PDL 1)

Online consultation and  
PDL 2

## Bottlenecks for implementation

Peer review  
Board of critical friends

Analysis of role of KETs

Mapping international R&I collaborations

Local Working groups  
Mobility & Governance

RDI funding guide  
and case studies

Transnational working groups on  
RIS3 monitoring and governance

State aid issues

Avoid double funding between national/regional calls

Sustainability/viability

Role for KETs

Need for champions/leaders

Address training needs

International scope



# Stairway to Excellence I & II (S2E): 2014-2017

Launched in 2014 to support EU13 MSs and regions to develop and exploit synergies between EU funding.

- **Policy Insights** - #1 on "*Lessons Learnt from S2E National Events*" & #2 on "*EU13 Participation in International Science*"
- **National Policy Events & Joint Statements** – main challenges and possible actions in each EU13 MS
- **National and Regional "Facts and Figures" & "Country Reports"** of all EU13 MSs - empirical facts and R&I ecosystems
- **25 Synergy Examples** - cases of combined funding
- **R&I Regional Viewer** - visualise main economic and R&I indicators



# S2E III - Closing the innovation gap & helping achieve excellence in EU MS & regions (extended to EU28)

## Capacity building for increased H2020 participation

### Trainings for MAs and RIS3 teams

- Targetting less developed territories
- Aims to increase H2020 'participation'

### International Project Development Labs

- Support international networking
- Explore variety of funding sources
- Thematic S3 platform

### Governance of PROs

- Improving quality of PRO governance
- Aims to increase excellence and support innovation

### Multi-level governance of synergies

- Transnational working group on multi-level governance
- Collaboration with LAGREG

## Testing new scenarios for combining funding sources

### Collaboration of MAs and JUs

- Case of cleansky JU
- Match-making with Cleansky JU, FCH JU, BBI JU
- Good practices

### Collaboration of MAs and KICs under RIS

- Test phase with EIT Climate
- MoU between JRC and EIT

### Funding guidance

- Mapping funding and financing in selected areas
- Case of R&I in energy

### Explore other synergies

- Synergies among structural funds (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF,...)
- EIB



# HESS objectives

## HESS Core Objectives

- Integrate Higher Education and the Knowledge Triangle into S3 policy mix
- Promote synergetic use of ESIF and other public funds to incentivise HEIs
- Strengthen the position of HEIs in S3 governance structures

## HESS Secondary Objectives

- Promote cooperation between HEIs and other actors in the quadruple helix at regional level
- Champion reform within HEIs to make them more entrepreneurial and engaged in smart specialisation

# Critical issues in synergies

- National and regional capacity to implement RIS3 (and not just OP) and to 'chase' funding (both manpower and skills)
- Synergies: which funds and for what purpose?
- High need for guidance (a funding GPS) at the right level of granularity (demand driven)
- Societal challenges and related R&I agenda's lack a single challenge owner, which is reflected in the funding structure
- Bottlenecks in taking up synergies are connected to structural bottlenecks in the national/regional R&I system
- Importance of considering different doors of H2020
- For some territories wide targeted support is needed if we want to see a change