



HIGHER

Interreg Europe

Project Overview

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PROJECT
CONTEXT

Interreg
Europe



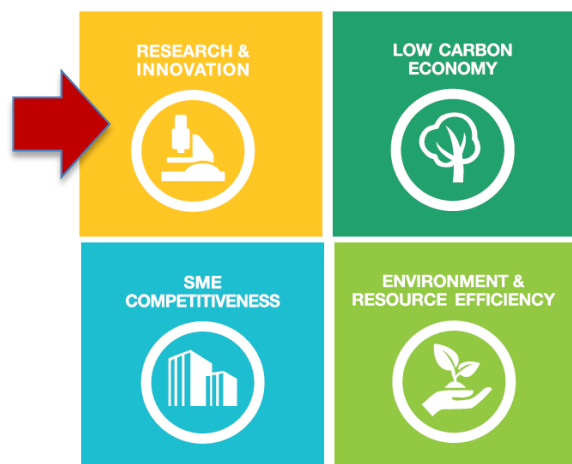
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

Rationale of Interreg Europe


Exchange of experience to improve **performance of policies** for regional development, in particular **Structural Funds programmes**

Thematic focus

Actions



- A. Policy Learning Platforms
- B. Interregional Cooperation Projects



Partners from different countries working together on a shared regional policy issue (within the thematic fields of the programme) ...

... to improve the effectiveness of the policies of the regions involved in the project (in particular their Investment for Growth and Jobs goal programmes)



HIGHER

BETTER POLICY INSTRUMENTS
FOR HIGH INNOVATION
PROJECTS IN THE EUROPEAN
REGIONS

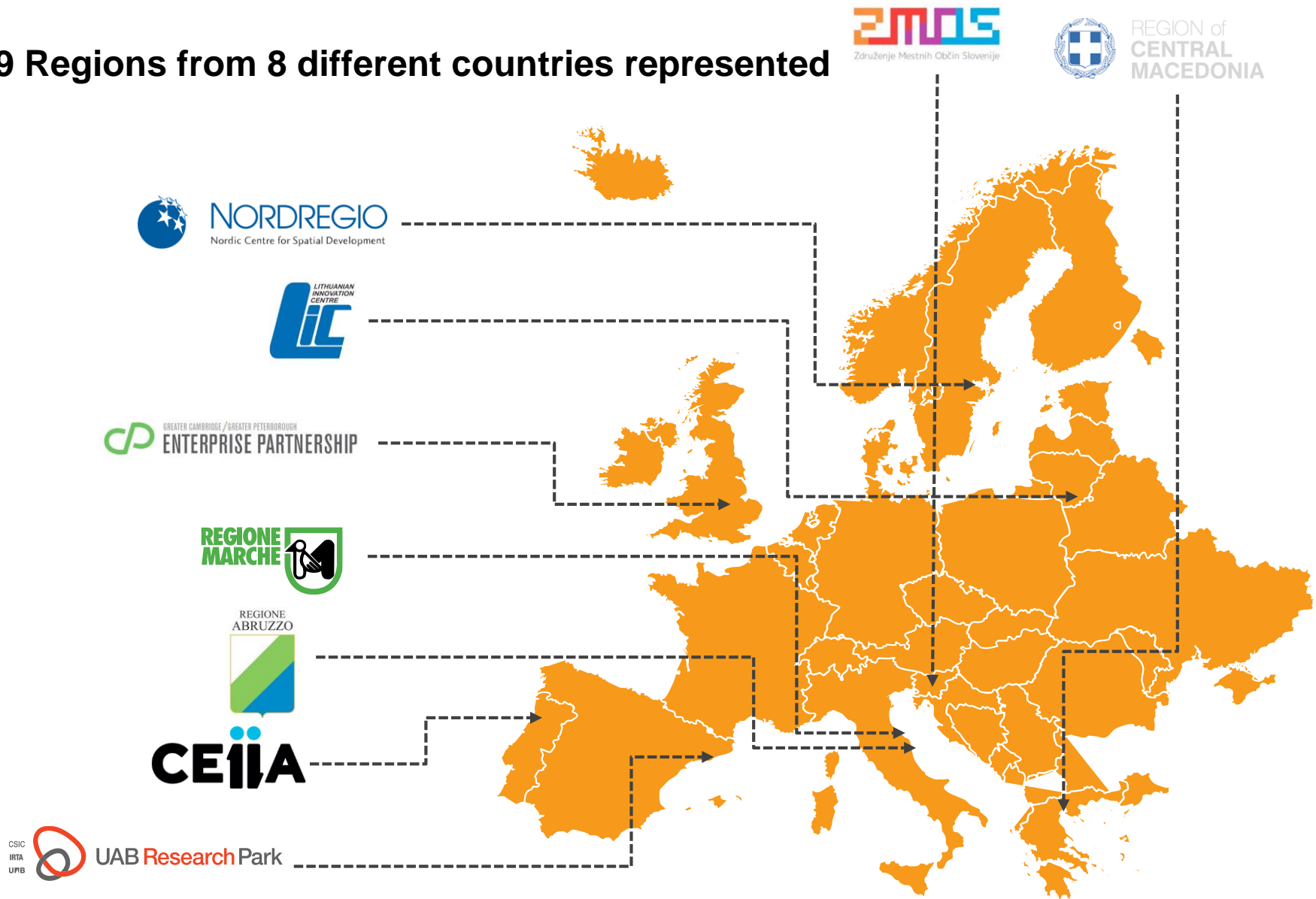
Overall objective:

To achieve innovative models of **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** suitable to mobilise investment in related smart specialisation areas and fostering an entrepreneurial discovery process in driving innovation process of the policy instruments addressing RIS3.

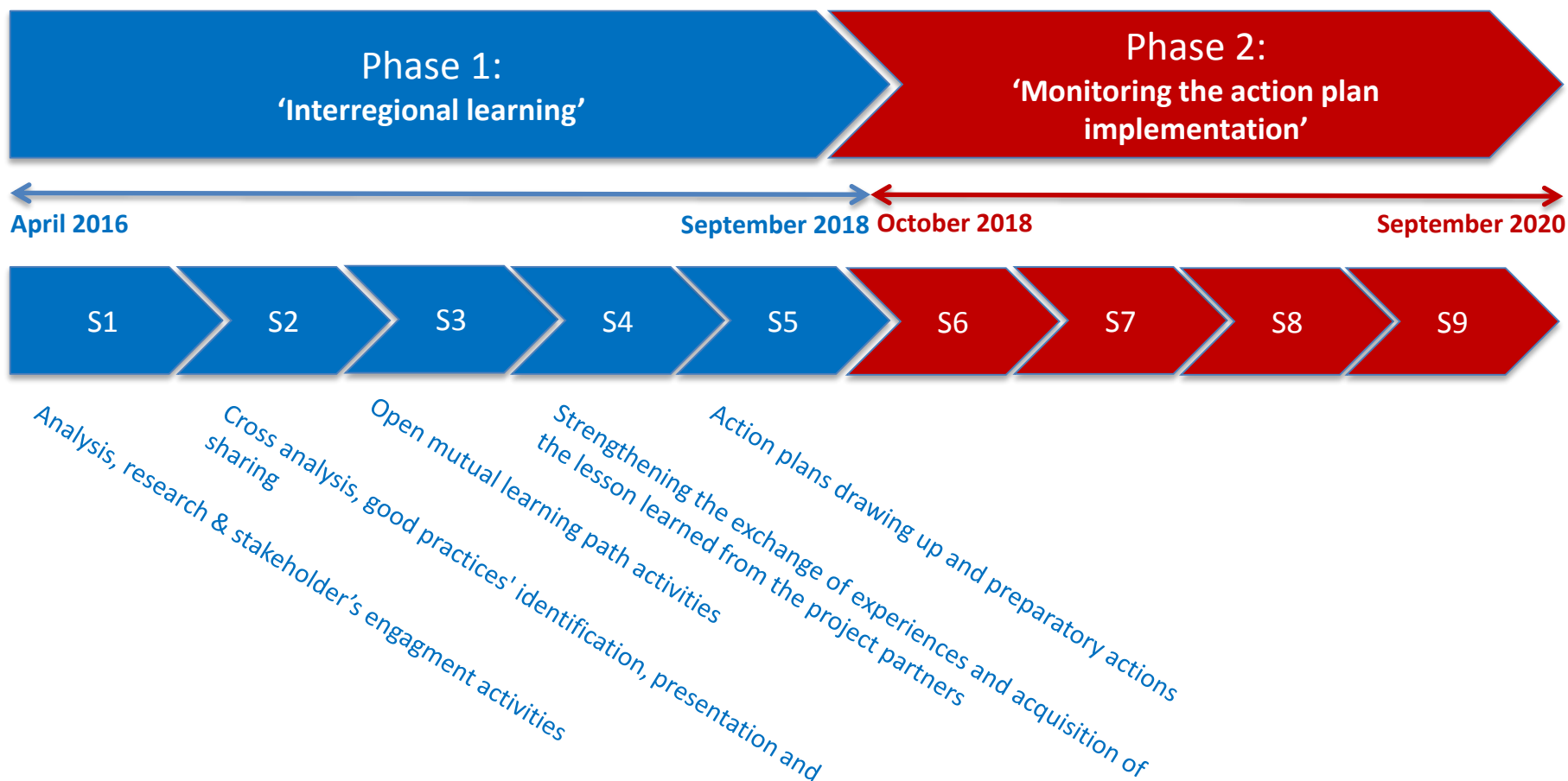
Main sub-objectives:

- To promote the role of the **Public Authorities as innovation demand drivers** starting from public procurers' needs.
- To set up of a **Learning Process** starting from the good practices identification and exchange of Structural Funds MA actions e.g practices to: manage ESIF programs on interregional and transnational actions, types of priorities, project selection.
- To **support the implementation of the policy instruments action plans**, exploiting explicitly the possibility to invest ESIF funds in related smart specialisation areas among Member States (e.g. in macroregional platforms or other networks).
- To **implement an “experience hub” of PPP** through a process of transformation of experience tacit knowledge (experience acquired in the work) into explicit knowledge (information available to others). The “hub” means digitalise work experiences, ready to be promoted in all European web and social platforms including program web platform so to do critical mass in the European debate.
- To **promote the engagement of all actors**, quadruple helix approach, for improving the policy instruments: from institutions to the new innovative entrepreneurs, hidden champions and groups with an entrepreneurial potential.

9 Regions from 8 different countries represented



- Action Plan
(1 per region)
- Measures to be implemented
 - Timeframe
 - Work steps
 - Responsible players
 - Costs and funding resources (if applicable)



Learning process activities organization scheme:

1. **Strategic knowledge gathering:** collection of data, policy instruments SWOT analysis and gathering of relevant information;
2. **Cross checking and peer reviewing** for the identification of good practices and benchmarking analysis for the identification of best ones;
3. **Exchange of knowledge, good practices and experiences** including their spreading up and digitalization;
4. **Acquisition and application of the lesson learned.**

Key Activities:

- Meetings with Policy Makers
- Meetings with stakeholder groups
- Workshops
- Study visits
- Peer reviews
- Online information platforms
- Interregional brainstorming meetings
- Drawing up of the action plans for policy instruments improvement

- Policy Instruments Analyzed
 - Links with RIS3
 - SWOT
- Good Practices identified
 - Cross-Analysis Performed
 - Peer review with innovation experts
- Benchmarking
 - Extension to other EU regions

The HIGHER Good Practice Collection of Smart Specialisation

Tackling common challenges in smart specialisation processes
The concept of Smart Specialisation Strategies (SS) has emerged as an important approach in Europe and beyond for delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through the adaptation of innovation policies to the regional context. Smart Specialisation is based on identifying the unique characteristics, assets and competitive advantages of each region, and bringing regional stakeholders and resources together to promote innovation, to commission research and to tackle societal challenges.

The development and implementation of smart specialisation strategies can be a complex process. The HIGHER Good Practice Collection on Smart Specialisation is, therefore, designed to provide innovation stakeholders with an overview of good practices in the design and implementation of smart specialisation. The aim of the Collection is to showcase different good practice examples from the HIGHER Partnership and other European regions, focusing on how to overcome some of the most common challenges faced when facilitating the smart specialisation process under four key themes:

1. THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DISCOVERY PROCESS
Entrepreneurial discovery is an inclusive process involving a wide range of regional stakeholders, designed to identify local innovation capabilities, new market opportunities and priority investment areas. No one-size-fits-all entrepreneurial discovery process has been developed and used in the formulation of smart specialisation strategies, with regions adopting different levels of participatory models and evidence-based practices in the identification of areas of regional innovation specialisation. In relation to entrepreneurial discovery processes, the Good Practice Collection addresses key issues, including how to:
1. Create the conditions for an effective and efficient discovery process.
2. Prioritise key themes and projects.
3. Refine projects and calls that best help catalyse regional innovation potential.

2. GOOD GOVERNANCE
With a multitude of stakeholders involved in smart specialisation processes, public authorities play a crucial role in creating the frameworks and infrastructures for facilitating stakeholder mobilisation in the design and implementation of smart specialisation. In terms of Good Governance, the Collection gives tips on how to:

1. Create effective regional and local governance structures for smart specialisation.
2. Ensure inclusive and democratic SS governance.
3. Increase the involvement of businesses in SS processes.
4. Work with interest groups and strong leaders.

3. TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND VALUE CHAINS
Transnational cooperation is a key element of smart specialisation enabling the sharing of knowledge, developing synergies and coordinating innovation initiatives with other countries and regions. Transnational cooperation is instrumental in the emergence of new innovations, as collaborating across borders provides access to business and knowledge networks, enhances research & innovation grants access to new markets and business opportunities, helps joint global value chains and potentially generates significant growth. In terms of transnational cooperation, the HIGHER Good Practice Collection reflects on questions such as how to:

1. Link SS and international value chains.
2. Consider international aspects of SS and joint financing.
3. Create transnational SS strategies.

Practical examples of good SS transnational collaboration and value chains are provided from the Portuguese-Spanish border region, the Baltic Sea Region and the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATING SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGIES
Monitoring and evaluation is a strategic management tool created together with key stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation and oversight of smart specialisation processes. The monitoring and evaluation process helps policymakers to ensure if they are meeting the goals and objectives of their strategy, potentially reallocate and reconfigure the focus and direction of their strategies and learn lessons from successful and unsuccessful outcomes. In relation to monitoring and evaluation, the HIGHER Collection provides insights on how to:

1. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of SS?
2. Choose and implement meaningful monitoring activities and indicators for the complex SS process.

Examples of good SS monitoring and evaluation processes are drawn from the Galapagos, Emilia Romagna and Catalonia.

[Read more and explore the cases at HIGHER webpage](#)
www.interregeurope.eu/higher



Key events organized :

- Interregional exchange of experiences (Cambridge)
- Innovation Summit (Vilnius)
 - Attraction of private investments into R&D
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Circular economy
- Workshop: Good practices in agri-food & tourism (Thessaloniki)

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

- Online tools
 - Smart Map
 - Innovation Hub
- Innovation Summit on Circular Economy (Stockholm, February 2018)
- 2 new workshops (Ancona, Ljubljana)
- Action Plans

Thank you for attention!



European Union
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