

# RELOS3

## Thematic Event 2

### Bologna, 28<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## THEMATIC EVENT REPORT

The second Thematic Event of the RELOS3 project took place in Bologna during the days 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. This is the second thematic event of the project, which, as explained in previous documents, aims to foster the implementation of regional smart specialization strategies at local level. The overall objective is to improve the delivery of regional smart specialisation strategies by 15% by 2021, by actively involving local authorities and subregional actors. This will be done by improving the partner's policy instruments on the basis of good practices transferred.

The topics of the four thematic events are specified in the project website and the previous TE Report. The TE organized in Bologna focused in the **Sustainability of Quadruple Helix Collaboration (Industry, R+D and Academy, public administration and citizens) beyond RIS3 strategy**.

The event gathered up to 25 participants in the two days of development. All project partners were present, together with stakeholders representing the different components of the quadruple helix of the partners' local contexts. The event also counted with expert speakers from international background as well as from Bologna. The complete list of participants is provided at the end of this report.

The specific issues discussed during this Thematic Event were chosen after a consultation with the partners and taking into consideration the issues raised during the TE in Malta. In this sense, an on-line survey was sent to all partners previously to the Bologna event, with several questions related to the topic of the 4H collaboration in the RIS3 and to the issue of RIS3 oriented to missions, which had raised much interest during the TE 1.

The survey can be consulted in the following link:

<https://en.surveymonkey.com/r/TWZ85XN>

The survey results showed the following results:

- All partners collaborate with different components of the quadruple helix (administration, industry, R&D and academy and citizens);

- The most frequent type of collaboration is with the private sector and the research institutions (100% of the partners claim to work on a permanent basis with these two components), while collaboration with civil society is present in four of the six partners
- All partners agreed that the mission oriented topic was relevant for the project and wanted to work further on it

To finish the survey, partners were asked to identify critical issues regarding the collaboration of the 4helix in the deployment of RIS3 that they wanted to discuss during the TE Bologna.

From the survey results, the following key issues were identified, becoming the questions on which the seminar was held:

- What mechanisms/strategies to specifically achieve the involvement of civil society in RIS3?”
- Is RIS3 oriented to missions/challenges a good mechanism to promote sustainable collaboration of all parts of the 4H?
- How to align the RIS3 areas of specialization and the 3H stakeholders with the challenges identified by civil society?
- How can we increase and improve the 4H collaboration, assuming that in most cases this collaboration already exists?
- What good practices and methodologies can be transferred to the partners?

The agenda of the meeting was then designed in order to answer these specific questions. In this sense, expert speakers on the different topics were invited and the presentations and field visits about the Bologna case were selected based on their relevance for the questions raised.

The next pages present the development of the TE and the main conclusions obtained. We present the main findings of the different interventions. When indicated, each section is completed with an annex at the end of this document.

### **DAY 1 -28<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The TE was opened by Marino Cavallo, director of the Office for research, innovation and EU projects management of the Metropolitan City of Bologna, and host of the event. The lead partner, Sabadell, introduced the agenda and the topics to be discussed.

This first day started with the presentation of the videos recorded by partners in Malta Thematic Event. In videos, each partner had to present the specialization strategy of another partner, as a way to familiarize with it. Videos will be available in RELOS3 webpage. After this introduction, a Masterclass was held, with the interventions of three expert speakers. The day continued with a workshop dealing with the topic of how to address RIS3 to challenges. After the lunch, the team from Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, responsible of the Baseline study, presented the progress of the RELOS3 studies.

## Masterclass: Insights about 4H in RIS3 (part I)

### Intervention 1. Miren Estensoro

*Miren Estensoro, researcher at Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness and University of Deusto* opened the Masterclass with an intervention titled “Interrogating sustainability in RIS3. Lessons learned from the Basque Cases”. Her intervention was oriented to highlight the governance challenges in the RIS3 implementation and to present the capabilities needed to ensure the sustainability in quadruple helix (4H) collaboration when implementing innovation policies. She focussed in two cases in the Basque Country which illustrate the different topics presented.

According to Mrs. Estensoro after some years of RIS3 implementation, there is an increasing awareness of the difficulties that this process entails for regions, as they are faced with the need to move from traditional policies of innovation to most difficult processes as the entrepreneurial discovery process. The main problems identified relate with the implementation of bottom-up strategies; the needs of new learning processes and capacity building and how to design of new territorial governance models.

The capability of the local level to address these issues is essential to develop a sustainable collaboration among the different components of the 4H. In this sense, there are three specific capabilities that need to be developed in the process:

- (I) Multi-level governance;
- (II) (II) Collective knowing;
- (III) (III) Identifying the facilitators in the process.

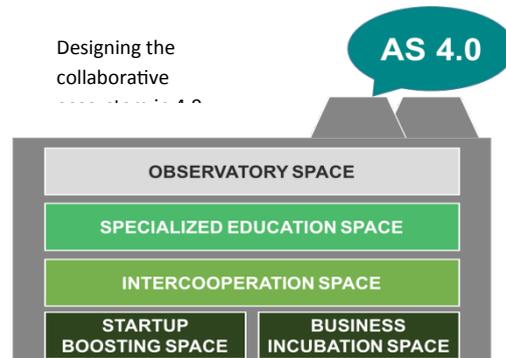
Mrs. Estensoro illustrated these topics focussing in the example of two cases in the Basque Country: the development of a new governance model for the Gipuzkoa province and the smart specialization process of the city of Bilbao.

Regarding the first topic, the key issue is how to connect regional and sub-regional governments for the RIS3 implementation, assuming that regions are not homogeneous units but have different governance and administrative configurations all around Europe. The interdependence of regional and subregional governments is high in many cases, which results in the need of enhance multi-level governance to ensure the success of the RIS3 process. IN this sense, the case of the Gipuzkoa province showed how all actors need to engage in the development of a common framework involving all agents. In Gipuzkoa there was a process to create a shared vision regarding the development of an Industry 4.0 Strategy. The provincial government collaborated with the municipal and county levels to reach the local SME and collect their view on how to adapt to the 4.0 strategy. The subregional (subprovincial in this case) level became the most appropriate one to reach the “real” actors.

The need to develop new learning processes and capacity building was illustrated by Mrs. Estensoro with the case of Bilbao specialization strategy, and specifically with the Urbact In-Focuss project, leaded by Bilbao city council. This project allowed arranging a new

collaborative framework among local actors of the quadruple helix, with the goal of co-creating a Local Action Plan. The first step was to identify the three specialization areas of Bilbao that are aligned with the Basque Country Specialization Strategy, to later determine specific priority projects.

In this sense, the process has identified until now, three projects in Bilbao, one the creation of a Collaborative Working Space in 4.0 Industry, the second a Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology in fashion and the third the configuration of a collaborative ecosystem to train in business services related to 4.0 industries.



The relevance of these examples is how **actors have learned to act together for a common strategy**, aligned with the regional one. It is then critical how to maintain the collaboration beyond the specific projects, for which engaging in the creation of collective knowledge is key. Other important issue is **how to manage conflict and power relations among actors**. According to Miren Estensoro power issues must be introduced, keeping dialogue (including subregional levels) for managing territorial complexity.

In this sense, the third capability, the role of facilitators is critical for the process. The facilitators are actors that are engaged in the process but not as stakeholders but as agents that **allow reflection** on the issues at stake, **take decisions** and **identify actions**. In this respect, researchers in RIS3 can play a role as insiders in the construction of new governance modes. This is what happened in the case of Bilbao, where Orkestra was engaged in the specialization process of the city, contributing to the **construction of new modes of governance that helped handle complexity**.

Her intervention concluded with several statements regarding what is needed for sustainable 4helix collaboration in the RIS3 implementation:

- ✓ Supporting multilevel governance to make operative the collaboration
- ✓ Supporting collective knowing
- ✓ Considering complexity; little has been said about power and conflict.
- ✓ Developing capabilities of facilitation and empowering the role of facilitators of change processes (creating conditions for reflection, decision and action); Action Research can be a facilitation strategy where researchers act as facilitators to construct collective knowing through dialogue and co-generation.

## Intervention 2. Prof. Francesco Grillo

The second intervention of the masterclass was by Professor Francesco Grillo, academic visitor at St Antony's College – University of Oxford and managing director of the consultancy firm Vision & Value. His intervention, titled *The quadruple helix and S3: Can innovation survive bureaucracy* presented a critical analysis of the innovation policies and the smart specialization process in regions-

He argued that for many years there has been a non-**critical vision about innovation and RIS3**, assuming that increasing investment in R&D was a sufficient condition to promote innovation and achieve economic growth and that smart specialization strategies were the appropriate tool for sustainable growth. For Prof. Grillo only recently there has been a critical revision of RIS3, and he pointed out several issues: On one hand, **innovation is not only a question of investments and top-down strategies, but has to do with motivation of the actors engaged.**

Moreover, it is critical to take into account the institutional context and in this sense he questioned whether institutions (as regional or subregional governments) conceived to



Classification of cases according to the openness of the policy making and the innovation policy performance. as

manage a stable environment and guarantee equal treatment can be the initiator (and project manager) of a smart specialization. In this sense, he highlighted **the importance of changing ways of doing in the public sector and in general in engaging in a more collaborative and cooperative process of policy making.**

Professor Grillo put therefore the emphasis, as did Mrs. Estensoro, in the importance of a participative scheme that facilitates specialization, and the need to focus on common issues among the actors in the process. In this sense, he ended his intervention with several conclusive statements:

1. Do not overstretch the entrepreneurial discovery process and focus it on those "common" issues
2. Knowledge management system.
3. Spill over mechanisms
4. Internationalisation of civil services workforce, cross border partnerships with other regions
5. Reorganize by smart specialisation
6. Recruit networkers instead of experts, target public procurement to innovators
7. Develop smart specialisations metrics
8. Target innovation friendly, less short-term oriented companies.
9. Create forums where knowledge holders represent nobody but themselves (using techniques like Chatham house rule).

10. Encourage institutional flexibility so that resources are moved from more performing to less performing regions.

### Intervention 3. Teo Firpo, researcher at NESTA

The third intervention of the masterclass developed in a different way. Mr. Teo Firpo, researcher at NESTA, an innovation foundation that works developing innovation methods for governments and other organizations. He undertook an interactive workshop on *Experimental policy design of Public Policies*. The goal of this workshop was to **learn about experimental policies and reflect about its validity for the different contexts of the RELOS3 partners**. The methodology of the experimental policy design starts from the premise that there is little innovation in the way innovation policies are designed, implemented and evaluated. In this sense, the NESTA methodology allows knowing more about the added value of innovation policies and its effect on the actors involved. The experimental policy design is based in the creation of testable hypothesis about the impact of policies and the analysis of the assumptions agents do when designing them. It is also about being able to focus on the policy ideas that arise from an Imaginative mindset more than an analytical mindset.



In order to develop these ideas, participants engaged in an activity led by Mr. Firpo. Participants were divided in small groups, and were asked to provide policy ideas to solve a specific challenge: remove the cars from the city of Barcelona. Participants had then to classify the proposals in three groups: highly possible to implement; quite possible to implement or totally difficult to implement, having then to choose one of the last group. With this exercise Mr. Firpo illustrated the need to think out of the box and then analyse the assumptions we are making and to which extend the proposals could be measured by testable hypothesis.

The speaker presented several examples where there has been a process of experimental policy design, as can be seen in the picture above.

### Masterclass roundtable

After the three interventions, there was a round of questions to speakers, resulting in an interesting discussion. On one hand, participants asked whether the “enthusiasm” about RIS3 was decreasing both among regions and the European Commission. According to the speakers, for the next programming period the EC is thinking of re-orienting the RIS3 policy but not necessarily by giving more relevance to the local level. Is then up to actors in the process, such as the RELOS3 project, to push the revision in this direction.

Other questions regarded the specific way of working of Orkestra as facilitators of the Smart Specialization process in Bilbao. Mrs. Estensoro highlighted how Orkestra researchers were in charge of facilitating meetings and the contact among partners, promoting meetings every three weeks and working both on the content and on the methodology to develop a common framework of co-creation of the strategy. Related with the specific way to involve different actors, Prof. Grillo highlighted the importance of following a “step by step” tactic, involving first those agents that are more willing to participate and leaving the “sceptical” ones for a later stage of the process. This is also a way, as Miren Estensoro pointed out, to manage conflict and power relations that will be always present in the process.

### Workshop: Orienting RIS3 to challenges

The afternoon of the first day started with a workshop led by the consultants of Prysma. The workshop had as objective to work on how to incorporate challenges to RIS3 as a way to achieve a sustainable 4H collaboration. This activity was designed as an answer to the interest generated in this topic during the first TE in Malta, an interest that was later confirmed with the survey to partners that has been described at the beginning of this report.

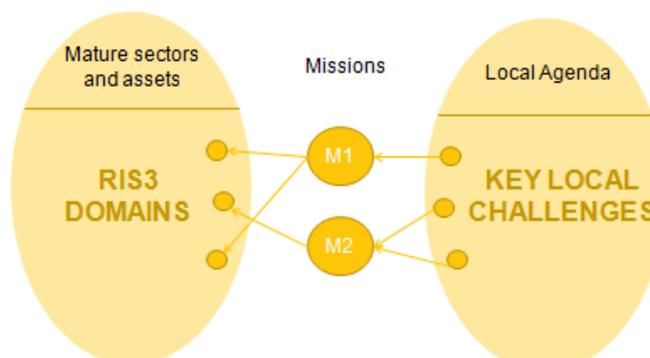
Each partner worked in their own case, together with the stakeholders they had invited. Mr. Jordi Garcia Brustenga, researcher at University of Barcelona and consultant at Prysma, introduced the subject, reviewing the concept of mission-oriented innovation.

According to this theory, mission oriented policy allows creating a 4H Partnership with an exciting objective and a group of coherent and holistic initiatives, and is a mean to:

- Sort out a social or environmental key challenge by promoting new life styles
- Boost proud, identity and optimism about the future (after the crisis experience)
- Co-create new markets through new consumption & production habits

Moreover, mission oriented policies can be a lever to promote research and development, to create a competitive business development, to generate employment and to improve the quality of life of citizens.

A mission that is shared by all the components of the 4H can facilitate the



implementation of innovation policies, being able to bring closer and find a common field for RIS3 specialization and the challenges of the society.

Participants were then engaged in the workshop that asked them to identify a mission that could act as this connection element between societal challenges and RIS3 specialisation domains. Each group had to agree on one or two challenges and define the specialization areas of their region/local context.

Later, groups had to think of a mission capable of generating economic activity and employment by giving an answer to the challenges posed. Specifically, groups had to reflect whether the mission reunited the following conditions:

MISSION	SORT OUT CHALLENGE?	EXCITE 4H?	NEW LIFE STYLE?	NEW MARKETS?	EMPLOYMENT?
Mission 1:					
Mission 2:					

- It sorted out the challenge
- It engaged civil society
- It promoted a new lifestyle
- It generated new economic activity and new jobs

The activity was very useful for participants to think on their own context and to identify the challenges that could be answered through the specialization areas. In any case, it helped partners to start thinking on how their own specialisation domains could be nailed down by giving a response to societal challenges, and the elements to consider in the process.



Moreover, the activity revealed the need to count with an agreed framework that defines what a challenge is and what the mission. The process of agreeing in this framework might become a useful tool to start transforming the traditional way of doing in the relationships between agents. This aligns with the conclusions of the Masterclass that put the emphasis in



the need of developing a shared knowledge and capabilities and creating motivation among agents.

### Update studies and monitoring: Progress of RELOS3 studies

Mrs. Giulia Lazzeri researcher at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, and in charge of the Baseline study of the RELOS3 project presented an update of the research. The research is advancing at the agreed speed, with the contributions of partners to different surveys and reports that will contribute to the final report.

In her presentation, Mrs. Lazzeri put the emphasis in an analytical framework to classify the specialization strategies, according to different categories: on one hand, the type of local context, on the other, the typology of the specific implementation of the RIS3. Specifically, she discussed whether the urban /rural dichotomy could explain differences in the way the RIS3 is implemented. Referring to the second group of categories, she mentioned three types of possible RIS3 implementation process: Experimental that is, top-down; Competitive, bottom-up, with the participation in the decision making of different typologies of agents) and Delivery oriented, that is, with emphasis in the active role of the local context in process.

An interesting discussion was raised regarding the convenience of using the rural-urban dichotomy today, when the processes of urbanization are pervasive and the boundaries between rural and urban areas are fading due to existing interconnections and functional relations between both types of areas.

After this presentation, Mrs Nora Annesi also researcher in Scuola Superior Sant'Anna, did an intervention on S3 implementation and the circular economy, *S3 implementation: innovation and circular economy for local development*. The argument was that the implementation of circular economy process might be a good example for the S3 implementation. It also should involve different agents in the process and develop a clear framework to be deployed. Moreover, the role of public sector as lever of the generation of circular economy models is strong, as it can be in the creation of conditions of ecosystems of innovation. She mentioned three mechanisms through which public administration can influence the development of circular economy models: public procurement, accelerating and supporting new consumption patterns and new initiatives of citizens and business.

**SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

The second day of the Thematic Event was devoted to visits and presentations related with the Bologna case. Two visits were organized, first to the innovation incubator TIM #WCAP Accelerator and second to the Start-up incubator space at the Margherita Gardens' park, both located in Bologna city. During first visit, partners had the opportunity to listen to three presentations, about different aspects of the smart specialization process in the province, the strategic metropolitan plan of Bologna and the program to fight unemployment in the metropolitan region.

### Visit to the TIM #WCAP Accelerator

The visit to this business accelerator started with the welcoming and guided visit to the place by Mr. Marco Lotito, accelerator leader of the TIM #WCAP Accelerator. This is an initiative of the main Italian telecommunication group, Telecom, and was created to support the development of **successful projects** with the aim of integrating the best solutions in the company's value chain. The initiative is part of the open innovation strategy of the TIM Company, being present currently in four Italian cities, among which Bologna.

The Accelerator offers different tools to promote innovation among the private sector and the society: a Call for Start-ups, to select later-stage development projects, a **Call for Partners**, aimed at ready-to-market start-ups operating in specific sectors, and for those selected the **Co-Creation programme**. Mr. Lotito highlighted that they collaborate on a regular basis with other initiatives and programs related to innovation developed by the Bologna City Council, the Metropolitan city of Bologna and the Emilia-Romagna Region.

Mr. Silvano Bertini, coordinator of the RIS3 Strategy of the Emilia-Romagna Region, presented the development of the specialization strategy in this region. He highlighted that this strategy is embedded in a wider regional strategy on innovation. This was initiated in 2002 with the Regional Law no. 7/02 "Promotion of the Industrial Research, Technology Transfer and Innovation in the productive system of Emilia Romagna". The specialization strategy aims to improve competitiveness and create employment in the regional economic system. It has focussed in three type of domains o specialization: those that are already consolidated, namely agro food, construction and engineering, and those with high potential of growth in the region: health-wellbeing and culture-creativity, identifying as well the main technological and organizational factors that need to be addressed in each of these domains to ensure the specialization. Currently the strategy focus in developing synergies between the existing clusters in the region and the specialization domains and promote innovation through different policy instruments as for instance the *IncrediBOL* initiative, a public-private project managed by the Bologna municipality and supported by the Emilia-Romagna region. This initiative promotes innovation in the creative sector, through grants, open contest of ideas, consulting desk service, among others. Questioned by participants about the interrelation



with the Metropolitan Strategic Plan, he pointed out that even if RIS3 is a regional strategy, they are in contact with the Metropolitan City of Bologna and other local institutions on a regular basis, participating in joint discussions to find strategic complementarities.

Afterwards, Mr. Daniele Donati, president of the PSM Scientific Committee, presented the Metropolitan Strategic Plan of Bologna. This plan, originated in the local context, has recently been boosted by the Mandatory Law for the creation of metropolitan Cities in Italy, among which Bologna. The presentation went through the different phases of the Plan development, starting with the creation of a Promoting Committee with representation of different public and private agents. After this, a participatory process, with more than 1.000 people involved, led to more than 500 projects that were then reduced to 67. Out of this, 49 are already under implementation, of which 19 are specifically related with innovation and economic development.

Mrs. Giovanna Trombetti, from the Metropolitan City of Bologna, was in charge of the last presentation. She introduced the Covenant of Bologna, an initiative of the Metropolitan administration to fight unemployment in the area. It was a relevant example of a huge challenge that many territories are facing now, and how in this particular case it is addressed with public-private collaboration.

### Visit to the Green House of Margherita Gardens' park. Start-up incubator space by Aster

The second and last visit of the Thematic Event was to the Aster Start-Up incubator. Aster is the Consortium for **innovation and technology transfer** of Emilia-Romagna, composed by the regional government, the six universities and research centres located in the region and the Regional Union of **Chambers of Commerce**, working in collaboration with regional **Business Associations and Innovation Centres**. This Start-up incubator is then, one of the initiatives of this consortium, which promotes innovative instruments to support the access to financial resources for innovation, facilitate the technological transfer and the improvement of skills to enhance innovation.



The presentation was given by Innovation Manager of the initiative. She presented several initiatives of the incubator, as the Start-up Cup, which promotes the recollection and initiatives related with innovation in all the territory by doing a bus-tour presenting the initiative in different towns and cities. They also have free information and consultancy desk and offer space for start-ups. Since 2012 more than

750 start-ups have been served in the incubator, with a high rate of success. She indicated that they are coordinated with other existing initiatives as the TIM Accelerator, helping them to identify the best start-ups; in general acknowledging that their role is precisely to give advice to entrepreneurs and start-ups to the right resources once they see their growth possibilities.

## Conclusions from the Bologna TE

The Thematic Event in Bologna allowed partners to address different questions related with the sustainability of the quadruple helix collaboration in the RIS3. In this sense, below there are the answers to the questions defined at the beginning of the event. These remarks have been elaborated from the speakers' interventions, the workshops and the open discussions that took place during the two days of event.

### HOW TO INVOLVE QUADRUPLE HELIX?

- The role of facilitators is key to help the stakeholders work together.
- Motivation is the only way to involve and innovate. The policy should integrate different challenges and interests.
- Experimental design of public policies opens conversations with the city needs and challenges.
- Local level is the place where RIS3 develops better the collaboration.
- Circular economy forces the stakeholders to share a common vision.
- It is not always necessary to involve civil society in the innovation processes.

### ARE MISSION-ORIENTED POLICIES AN ADEQUATE WAY TO DECLINE RIS3 TO OPERATIVE LEVEL?

- Experimental design of policies, via challenges or missions, can promote disruptive innovation.
- "If.. then..." scheme helps designing missions that transform the sectors.
- The mission-oriented concept is still under development, which means that there is still a long way in order to understand what a mission is and how to determine them.
- Circular economy is a concept that could become a "Mission" and raise synergies among RIS3 domains and local challenges.

### HOW TO INVOLVE NEW PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS?

- Multilevel approach appears as a necessary way to have everybody on board.
- We should assume that conflict and complexity is part of the game, so we should address them proactively.

- The new stakeholders are easier to attract if we focus on missions than if we do it on sectors. It is more justified, as they are not representative of sectors but can be essential to solve the challenges linked to the mission.

## GOOD PRACTICES

- RIS3 Bilbao
- Guipúzcoa network
- Experimental design of policies in Barcelona

## List of participants

Name	Role	Organisation	City/Country
Iolanda Repullo	Head of Business Support Unit	Economic Development Agency	Sabadell/Spain
Mònica Molina	Innovation officer	Economic Development Agency	Sabadell/Spain
Laura Capel-Tatjer	consultant	Pryma	Barcelona
Jordi Garcia Brustenga	consultant	Pryma	Barcelona
Konstantinos Kourkoutas	Coordinator CORE in Smart & Sustainable Cities	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) - UAB Strategic Research Communities (COREs)	Sabadell/Spain
Eduardo Huertas	Professor and Researcher	ESDi Higher School of Design - Centre attached to Universitat Ramon Llull (URL)	Sabadell/Spain
Elizabeth Duda	Project team member	WIELKOPOLSKA REGION	Poznań/Poland
Piotr Zaborowski	Project team member	WIELKOPOLSKA REGION	Poznań/Poland
Paweł Czechalski	Stakeholder	The city of Kalisz	Kalisz/Poland
Michał Cieślak	Stakeholder	The city of Leszno	Leszno/Poland
Siim Espenberg	Project team member	Tartu	Tartu
Mr Vaido Mikheim	Stakeholder	Tartu Science Park	Tartu
Mr Karl Viio	Stakeholder	Tartu County Development Agency	Tartu
Pedro Fernandez Alvarez	project manager	Malta enterprise	Malta
Claire Grima	project manager	Malta enterprise	Malta
Anton Bartolo	director	University of malta	Malta
Jacqueline Barbara	executive	Malta council for science and technology	Malta
Roel Folkersma	Project Manager	Emmen	The Netherlands

Luc Hulsman	External stakeholder	SNN – MA Northern Netherlands	The Netherlands
Wian Stienstra	Communication Manager	Emmen	The Netherlands
Massimo Battaglia	Universitary Researcher	Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies	Pisa (Italy)
Teo Firpo	Expert speaker	Nesta	London (UK)
Miren Estensoro	Expert speaker	Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness	Spain
Francesco Grillo	Expert speaker	St Antony's College – University of Oxford	Italy
Valeria	Local project coordinator	Bologna metropolitan region	Bologna
Marino Cavallo	Director	Bologna metropolitan region	Bologna

