



Introduction to S34GROWTH

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Enhancing Policies Through Interregional Cooperation:
New Industrial Value Chains For Growth – S34Growth

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SUOMEN ITÄMERI-INSTITUUTTI
THE BALTIC INSTITUTE OF FINLAND

S34Growth

Interreg Europe

EU industry renewal, competitiveness and internationalisation through industry-led interregional cooperation



www.interregeurope.eu/s34growth

Project summary

In the S34Growth project, 10 European regions from 8 EU countries develop an innovative interregional element to their structural fund policy instruments, supporting the renewal of Europe's industry and competitiveness.

Within the Vanguard Initiative – New Growth through Smart Specialisation, the S34Growth partners have been pioneering a new approach to European industry-led interregional cooperation since late 2013.

Key messages

- Supporting the renewal of Europe's industry and competitiveness
- Emphasising the importance of industry-led interregional collaboration
- New kind of interregional cooperation linking value chains across Europe and improving commercialisation and product & service development

Project Partners

Flemish Government, Department Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI) (BE)
Basque Government (ES)
Catalan Agency for Business Competitiveness (ACCIO) - Government of Catalonia (ES)
The Baltic Institute of Finland (FI)
The Council of Tampere Region (FI)
AFIL - Intelligent Factory Lombardy Cluster (IT)
Brainport Development (NL)
Province of Zuid-Holland (NL)
National Innovation Agency (PT)
Region Skåne (SE)
Scottish Enterprise (UK)



More information

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/s34growth/>
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- Partnership based on the Vanguard Initiative (VI) - New Growth through Smart Specialisation.
- With VI, partners have been pioneering a new approach to European industry-led interregional cooperation since late 2013.
- S34Growth takes the VI initiated cooperation to a new level by focusing on policy learning processes, improving the structural funds (SF) policy instruments and developing an interregional approach to S3.
- The S34Growth partners are convinced that changing the policy mindset must be done together with likeminded regions with strong ambitions and innovation-driven S3 strategies.

Project in brief

- The main objective of the S34Growth project is to develop and improve existing regional policy instruments to facilitate interregional collaboration, which in turn will support the renewal of Europe's industry and competitiveness.
- The project focuses on industrial innovation related interregional collaboration.
- S34Growth builds on the VI methodology (learn, connect, demonstrate, commercialise).
- As the main result, an innovative interregional element to the addressed regional policy instruments is developed, supporting the interregional, co-specialization approach to smart specialisation, and to be easily replicated at any domain and anywhere in Europe.

Activities used for the exchange

- On-Site Deep Dive (OSDD) visits to S34Growth partner regions, including policy accelerator and co-creation sessions and site visits
- Analyses and reports on OSDD experiences to facilitate the preparation of the regional action plans
- OSDD results based policy briefs, consisting of analyses and recommendations and supporting wider European dissemination and policy learning
- Interregional stakeholder and dissemination events, as well as regional stakeholder meetings in each partner region



OSDD Norte, 17-20 January 2017





OSDD Scotland, 20-23 March 2017



OSDD Zuid Holland, 30 January - 1 February 2018

Keys for a successful learning process

- Solid partnership with a common approach to desired policy changes, and with genuine opportunities for and commitment to future collaboration (e.g. aiming at widening the pool of resources and knowledge bases, or at accessing complementary assets)
- Stakeholder engagement: close linking of policy learning goals and activities and real-life cooperation and development needs of stakeholders
- Communication, awareness-raising: facilitating new ways of ERDF-driven innovation and development support, and industry-led interregional collaboration

Results and impact after first two years

- The project has provided an excellent platform for the development of better coordinated and interregionally designed and implemented regional innovation policies, especially as regards cooperation in structural fund policies, programmes and projects (e.g. Article 70 utilization, joint calls and RDI infra utilization, joint preparation for the next EU programme period)
- For regional authorities and other stakeholders, the project activities have provided valuable information and new knowledge on key expertise and leading actors, new interregional cooperation opportunities and development needs in the project focus areas in the project partner regions across Europe
- Businesses and academia have been provided with new kind of opportunities to participate in S3 implementation interregionally - facilitating industry-led interregional collaboration
- Capacities of participating authorities and innovation and business development agencies to support innovations and new business opportunities, to identify new value chains across Europe, and to improve commercialisation and product & service development have strengthened



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