

2019

BEYOND EDP: Action plan for the Östergötland region

Interreg Europe



**PP8: Region Östergötland,
Sweden**

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Part I – General information

Project: PGI00048 **Beyond EDP: Improve the RIS3 effectiveness through the management of the entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP)**

Partner: Region Östergötland

Territory concerned: The Östergötland region

Country: Sweden

NUTS2 region: Östergötland

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

The Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland (RIS3)

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

The aim with the participation in the Beyond EDP project is to improve the Region Östergötland's RIS3 process and the way of using the region's strengths in order to add value regarding innovations and strong competitiveness. The Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland focuses on cross-sectoral regional strengths from which all industries and branches can benefit. The five regional strengths of Östergötland are; Effective logistics; Business models and arenas for sustainable system solutions; Smart, secure and connected products and systems; Simulation and visualisation; and Advanced materials.

The Action Plan will contribute to improve the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland by further systemising the use of the strength areas in the plan for the updated and improved strategy. An important part of the plan is to develop and implement a new tool for how to work more pro-actively when prioritizing future investments connected to the regional strengths.

Apart from the possibilities transnational EU programmes offers, consideration has to be taken to national ERDF programmes as well as the cooperation with other regions in Sweden in greater-regions where investments is expected to be made. Here, a competition and challenge is to be found regarding the financing. Region Östergötland's aim is to affect a greater-region ERDF OP through RIS3 and thereby create possibilities for increased investments, and furthermore to develop and add new ways of measuring the result in the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

In order to improve the Smart Specialisation Strategy, Region Östergötland has benefited from sharing experiences with all regions at different levels regarding RIS3 in the Beyond EDP project. By learning from other regions' RIS3 and strengths areas, Östergötland could combine its strengths areas with another strength area from another region and thereby create synergies that will have positive effects on the competitiveness of the companies in both regions.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1: Development and implementation of work methods, tools and processes to be used in the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland

A basic fact to bear in mind is that Region Östergötland does not have the role as Managing Authority of the EU's Structural Funds, but work at a lower regional level. The task to update the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland is limited in comparison to those project partners in the Beyond EDP project that are Managing Authorities. But as one of five regions involved in the greater-region programme East Middle Sweden, Region Östergötland has the opportunity to influence the content in the East Middle Sweden programme. Especially, it is important to find ways to measure and evaluate Region Östergötland's achievements in the East Middle Sweden programme.

Beyond EDP lessons learnt applied in the action

1. The region Extremadura, in Spain, presented an interesting way of using their thematic working groups in a sustainable way – “RIS3 Thematic Working Groups”. The thematic groups were invited to meet with the Managing Authorities and to have a dialogue regarding future calls. In this way the Managing Authorities were kept up to date about the current situation in different sectors and potential future opportunities were detected. And the key players could interact with the authorities as well as other regional stakeholders.
Extremadura also demonstrated a good example of how combining strengths in the region can increase a region's competitiveness. A study visit to their “green cluster” showed a very good cooperation between the Green Cluster and the companies in the region. By taking on assignments from the companies for development and synergy effects between expert/researcher and companies, the Green Cluster showed an example of excellent product development.
2. The business oriented region Northern-Netherlands with the project partner Northern-Netherlands Provinces Alliance, has been an inspiring project partner, and as the region in many ways has a common ground regarding RIS3 governance as the Region Östergötland, it would be valuable to develop joint work methods. The Northern-Netherlands region is prominent in vital areas for the society as agriculture, health, water, circular economy and renewable energy, and most companies are SMEs. That is a parallel to the situation in Östergötland and forms an excellent basis for future cooperation promoting both regions' strengths. Furthermore, the Northern-Netherlands found an interest in Region Östergötland's matrix-system focusing on facilitating the use of the regional strengths from a bottom-up perspective, which for them could serve as a useful example how to improve the quality of implementation of their RIS3.

The good practices will be adapted in the following way in the Östergötland region:

1. The Region Östergötland will adapt the good practice from Extremadura with facilitating the dialogue between thematic working groups in different sectors and the Managing Authority for the greater-region East Middle Sweden.
Region Östergötland will also investigate if the regional cluster Vreta Cluster could develop their work methods and function in the same way as in the Green Cluster in Extremadura.

2. Inspired by the work performed by the Northern-Netherlands Provinces Alliance, Region Östergötland would like to increase the exchange of RIS3 work methods in order to strengthen Östergötland's competitiveness. The fact that the Northern-Netherlands Provinces Alliance is a Managing Authority, which Region Östergötland is not, is also a valuable input to the discussion for Region Östergötland's part that could inspire to new ways of working.
By exchanging experiences with Northern-Netherlands, Region Östergötland could further improve the development of the existing matrix-system used for coordinating the multi-actor innovation process for the five strength areas. Additionally it would be interesting to looking into whether there could be new ways to open for business cooperation between companies in the two regions.

Nature of the action

The aim is to update and improve Region Östergötland's Smart Specialisation Strategy instrument by using the required knowledge regarding the implementation process of the RIS3 in other countries. Furthermore to develop a common methodology/language towards companies, share experiences to the stakeholders in the region, to develop new tools and improved goals in order to be more pro-active regarding future EU projects.

Steps for the implementation

The new Smart Specialisation Strategy must be based on the current situation in the region, and we must also investigate the pros and cons with the old strategy. Therefore an evaluation of the current RIS3 strategy has been performed.

The dialogue regarding the improvement of the RIS3 strategy will be further developed and discussed with RÖ's officials, decision makers and other relevant stakeholders in the region. The experiences from the Beyond EDP project as well as the good examples listed above will be used and integrated in the updated RIS3 strategy.

The different steps in the Region Östergötland's Action Plan, Action 1:

1. Develop and improve work methods, tools & processes to be used in the updated RIS3 strategy, in combination with a dialog with decision makers and other stakeholders in the region and abroad
 - a. Meetings to discuss the update of the RIS3 strategy
 - b. Improve and implement the RIS3 work methods, tools and processes
 - c. Workshops with regional experts for all regional RIS3 strengths to present the latest findings and discuss the future.
 - d. Implement thematic working group meetings with Managing Authority inspired by Extremadura, as well as investigate if their way of working with their "green cluster" could be introduced in Östergötland.
 - e. Exchange experiences with the Northern-Netherlands region in order to looking into possible improvements of the multi-actor innovation process for Östergötland's five strength areas. Additionally to look into their way of working with RIS3 as a Managing Authority, as that would be a useful experience for Region Östergötland.
 - f. Decide how to follow up and measure the new RIS3 strategy

Stakeholders involved

- The politicians and decision makers in Region Östergötland: Since RÖ is governed by elected politicians; the plans for the strategy must be approved by the Regional Council.
- Our stakeholder group (for policy instrument 8): Will closely follow the work.
- The Officials at RÖ: As the strategy is a tool for the ordinary work all relevant officials will be involved.
- Relevant regional EU programme and regional platforms: The work must be coordinated and discussed with representatives for the national Regional Fund programme East Middle Sweden (a greater-region), in which Östergötland participates.
- Representatives in relevant regional platforms such as East Sweden Business Region and the Coordinators for different Smart specialisation platforms where also Linköpings University is a key player.
- Beyond EDP Project partners: Representatives for the Extremadura region, and for the Northern-Netherlands region.

ACTION 2: The update phase of the Region Östergötland's RIS3 strategy

Nature of the action

Action 2 focuses on the work to update the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland. The internal process and all practical steps for updating the instrument Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland, has been finally set by the Manager of Region Östergötland's Department of Growth & Marketing.

As Region Östergötland does not have the role as Managing Authority of EU's Structural Funds, but work at a lower regional level, the task to update the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland is limited in comparison to those project partners in the Beyond EDP project that are Managing Authorities. As one of five regions involved in the greater-region programme East Middle Sweden, Region Östergötland has the opportunity to influence the content in the East Middle Sweden programme.

The updated instrument – the Smart Specialisation Strategy – will be influenced by the outcome of the meetings with the regional stakeholders, the chosen work methods and measuring tools, the workshops with experts on the different RIS3 strengths, and the learnings from the exchange with the regions Extremadura and Northern-Netherlands as well as the whole Beyond EDP project.

Steps for the implementation

The different steps in the Region Östergötland's Action Plan, Action 2:

2. The update phase of the RÖ's RIS3 strategy
 - a. Write a final suggestion for the updated RIS3 strategy
 - b. Communicate the suggestion via a referral to stakeholders in the region
 - c. Formal approval of the updated RIS3 strategy
 - d. Communicate the final RIS3 strategy to all relevant stakeholders and to the Beyond EDP project
 - e. Prepare an information folder about the new RIS3 strategy

Stakeholders involved

- The politicians and decision makers in Region Östergötland: Since RÖ is governed by elected politicians; the plans for the strategy must be approved by the Regional Council.
- Our stakeholder group (for policy instrument 8): Will closely follow the work.
- The Officials at RÖ: As the strategy is a tool for the ordinary work all relevant officials will be involved.
- Representatives from relevant regional EU programme and regional platforms: The work must be coordinated and discussed with representatives for the national Regional Fund programme East Middle Sweden (a greater-region), in which Östergötland participates.
- Representatives in relevant regional platforms such as East Sweden Business Region and the Coordinators for different Smart specialisation platforms where also Linköping University participate.
- Beyond EDP project partners: Representatives for the Extremadura region and for the Northern-Netherlands region.
- Beyond EDP project partners: Information exchange with all project partners regarding the project result.

Timeframe

Activity number	Activity description	Timing
1	Develop and improve work methods, tools & processes to be used in the updated RIS3 strategy, in combination with a dialog with decision makers and other stakeholders in the region and abroad	Q2 2019 – Q2 2020
1a	Meetings to discuss the update of the RIS3 strategy	Q2-Q3 2019
1b	Improve and implement the RIS3 work methods, tools and processes	Q2-Q4 2019
1c	Workshops with regional experts for all regional RIS3 strengths to present the latest findings and discuss the future	Q4 2019 – Q1 2020
1d	Consult Extremadura about their work with the Green Cluster.	Q4 2019 – Q1 2020
1e	Carry out experience exchange with the Northern-Netherlands region for future cooperation	Q4 2019 – Q1 2020
1f	Decide how to follow up and measure the new RIS3 strategy	Q1 2020
2	The update phase of the RÖ's RIS3 strategy	Q2 2020-Q1 2021
2a	Write a final suggestion for the updated RIS3 strategy	Q2 2020
2b	Communicate the suggestion via a referral to stakeholders in the region	Q3 2020
2c	Formal approval of the updated RIS3 strategy	Q4 2020
2d	Communicate the final RIS3 strategy to all relevant regional stakeholders and to the Beyond EDP project	Q1 2021
2e	Prepare an information folder about the new RIS3 strategy	Q1 2021

Costs

The update and implementation of the new Smart Specialisation Strategy of Östergötland will not incur additional costs. The activities carried out will be included in Region Östergötland's own budget for regional development.

Funding sources

The funding source is mainly Region Östergötland's own budget for regional development, and to some extent funding from the Beyond EDP project, according to the project plan.

Monitoring and evaluation

The implementation of the action plan will be carried out by relevant officials at Region Östergötland's Department of Growth & Marketing as a part of ordinary and daily work.

The monitoring of the work with the action plan will be carried out by the head of the Department of Growth and Marketing.

The whole process will be monitored by the Beyond EDP's stakeholder group in Östergötland for policy instrument 8, as well as by politicians and decision makers in Region Östergötland.

- Performance indicators:
 - Number of coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders
 - Number of workshops with regional experts for Östergötland's smart specialization strengths
- Outcome indicators:
 - The updated policy instrument 8: The smart specialisation strategy of Östergötland

Commitment

This Action plan has been developed by Region Östergötland, Sweden, who commit themselves to implement the actions envisioned within their respective capabilities.

Date: 29 April 2019

Name of the organisation:

Region Östergötland, Sweden

Signature of the relevant organisation:



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Department for Regional Growth and Marketing