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A roadmap to interregional complementarities, update 28.2.2022

The roadmap is made in the context of the BRIDGES project, 5th call (additional activities) and contributes to the implementation of the policy impact outputs of the BRIDGES project, as well as to the BERRY+ S3 initiative ( <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/berry/>).

Roadmap

The objective of the BRIDGES project additional activities resonates with BERRY+ aims: we are seeking ways to access predictable, multiplier effect from the interregional complementarities collaboration. Our process has been to start from projects and lead to programmes and / or collaboration agreements. Benefitting from value-chain opportunities to internationalise (interregional projects) while, at the same time and in a coherent way, in-shoring and re-shoring initiatives are in parallel identified and implemented (enhance the regional embeddedness through scaled up diversification).

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre have elaborated a staged approach to interregional complementarities, mapped in Figure 1.

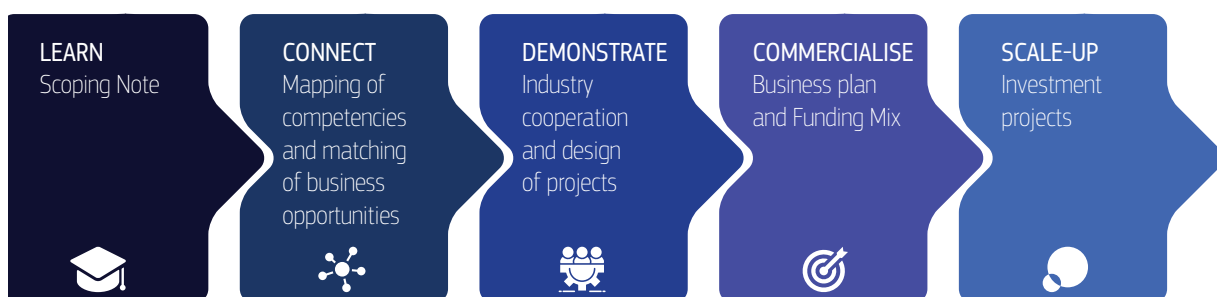


Figure 1 Work-flow steps included in the Thematic S3 approach¹.

¹ EUROPEAN COMMISSION, JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE, Ruslan Rakhmatullin, Fatime Barbara Hegyi, Katerina Ciampi Stancova, Javier Gomez, Krzysztof Mieszkowski (2020). METHODOLOGICAL MANUAL, DEVELOPING THEMATIC INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SMART SPECIALISATION: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BUILDING AND MANAGING INTERREGIONAL SMART SPECIALISATION PARTNERSHIPS. <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc> .

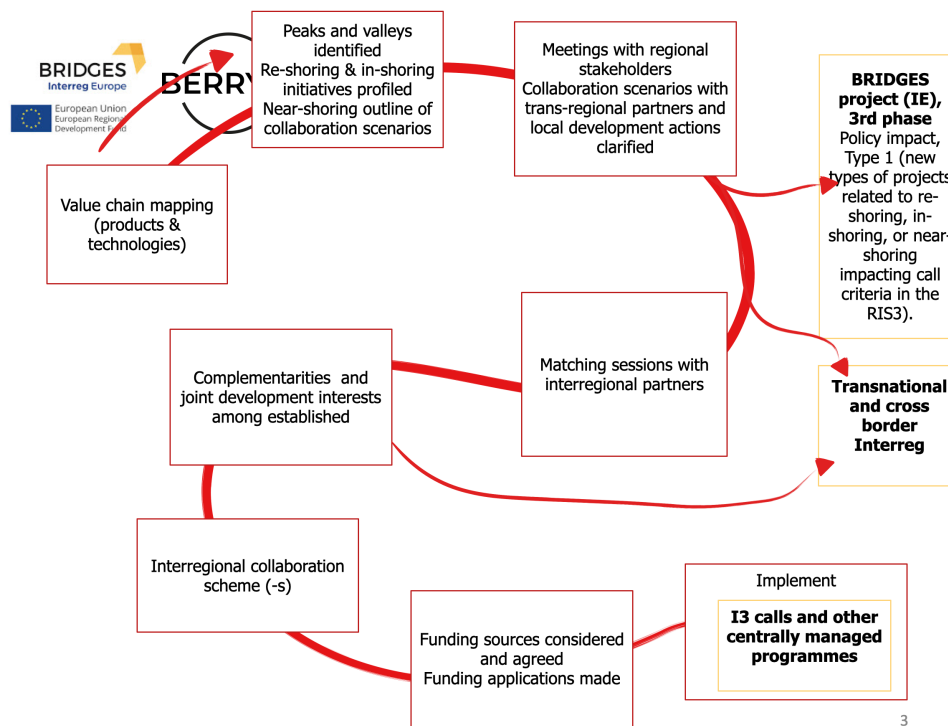
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This approach needed to be better understood and operationalised especially when relating to the application of the value chain concept. What we found out, through the interactions of all regional partners in BRIDGES and most of the partners in BERRY+, was that in the case of many regions, (i) business to business collaboration opportunities are often constrained by the lack of suitable support sometimes required for preparatory actions (targeted and accessible funding); (ii) at the same time, the range of collaborations could be much more extensive, far reaching and interesting, leading to the option of strategically positioned multiplier effect.

In our approach, we combined value chain mapping with territorial analysis and positioning. The value chain mapping is based on a simple excel which distinguishes value chains into Key technologies, Products, Applications, Key in-vestment, Promotion, Policies (innovation, industrial, regional), industrial modernisation, Partnerships and Markets. In the next step, the mapped information is matched to respective regional capabilities revealing, accordingly, concentrations ('peaks') and lagging / challenged parts ('valleys'). This information is analysed by the project partners and their regional decision makers and policy initiatives are agreed at regional and if, relevant, also at interregional level.

The process is outlined in **Figure 2.**

Figure 2 A roadmap to interregional complementarities



Types of funding channels are indicatively mentioned (IE, I3, etc.) in Figure 2. Types of interregional exchanges have been earlier identified and are summarised in Table 1.

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Table 1 interregional complementarities, actors, enablers

Types of complementarities	Actors	Enablers
1.- Technology transfer, research-to-business, or business-to-research.	Research, businesses, innovation intermediaries	Funding sources: EU /regional / or national Regional policy makers (enabling regional support; e.g. provisions for setting up interregional initiatives; possible parallel (coordinated calls) with the partner regions)
2.- Joint technology development; research-to-research-to business(-es). [Balland & Boschma 2 , methodology discussed in section 2.2]	Research, businesses, innovation intermediaries	Funding sources: EU /regional / or national Regional policy makers (enabling regional support; e.g. provisions for setting up interregional initiatives; possible parallel (coordinated calls) with the partner regions)
3.- Scaling up (technology transfer x methodologies) programmes [industry-to-research concept]	Research, businesses, innovation intermediaries	Funding sources: EU /regional / or national Regional policy makers (enabling regional support; e.g. provisions for setting up interregional initiatives; possible parallel (coordinated calls) with the partner regions)
4.-Innovation system collaboration (methodological improvements x access to missing resources; collaboration between innovation infrastructures)	Research, businesses, innovation intermediaries	Funding sources: EU /regional / or national Regional policy makers (enabling regional support; e.g. provisions for setting up interregional initiatives; possible parallel (coordinated calls) with the partner regions)
5.-Business-to-business collaboration. This has been the most difficult to concretise. We have identified (i) integration into supply chains (requires alignments with buyer technology), (ii)localisation of products through joint ventures, and (iii) facilitating access to new markets (exports, market research)	Innovation intermediary Europe Enterprise Network	National & regional funds Regional policy makers (enabling regional support; e.g. provisions for setting up interregional initiatives; possible parallel (coordinated calls) with the partner regions)
6. Policy design collaboration	Regional policy makers	Regional authority provisions and feasibility of such bilateral agreements

Results to date (28.2.2022)

As the BRIDGES project partners have been implementing the value chain maps, and there has been progress in methodological findings, towards the definition of inshoring and near-shoring initiatives to be proposed to the respective regions' Structural Funds, more parametres, important for operationalising the results of the studies

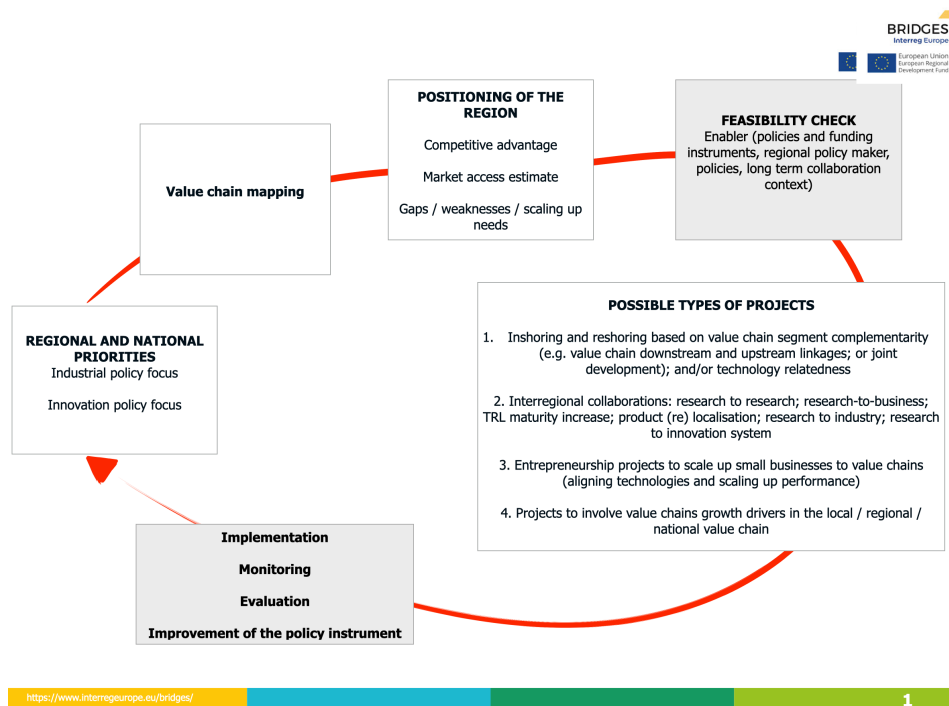
² Balland P-A. & Boschma R. (2021). Complementary interregional linkages and Smart Specialisation: an empirical study on European regions, *Regional Studies*, 55:6, 1059-1070, DOI: [10.1080/00343404.2020.1861240](https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2020.1861240).

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were identified: (i) linking value chains to national and regional industrial and innovation policies (directionality within the value chain mapping, a step towards value capturing); (ii) regional positioning and value-capturing within the value chain map: localisation of priorities in terms not only of competitive advantage, but also of immediate demand recognition; (iii) strongly reconfirmed the need for a feasibility check of the initiatives to be proposed (policy & funding provisions), and (iv) ensuring coherence between (ii) & (iii) and the possibility of continuity of initiatives. This, ideally, will lead to a multiplier effect impact.

Figure 3 summarises these findings.

Figure 3 Value chain mapping and development initiatives



These results will be reinforced by the value chain mappings findings in the regions and the decisions on which initiatives will be promoted and what the multiplier effect of these initiatives is anticipated to be. This document will be updated accordingly by 30.6.2022.

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