



**Top-down sectoral meets a bottom-up place-based perspective: love at first sight or a marriage of convenience?**

**Friends of Smart Specialisation (FoSS) (open session)**

**Special Session 14  
March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022  
09.00-11.00 CET**

# Welcome

Dimitri Corpakis

# Speakers

- Dimitri Corpakis, Friends of Smart Specialisation
- Richard Tuffs, Friends of Smart Specialisation
- Ninetta Chaniotou, Project Manager, Regional Council of Kainuu, Finland
- Markku Markkula, President of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, former President of the European Committee of the Regions and Professor Taina Tukiainen, Aalto University Business School
- Laura Roman, Technopolis Group

# Setting the scene

- The European Green Deal is the new growth strategy of the EU. Introduced in 2019 along with the Digital Agenda, the Green Deal and the Digital Agenda are the twin-track policy drivers for the 2021-2027 financial period supported by cohesion, research and innovation and industrial strategies.
- The EU's long-term budget, coupled with NextGenerationEU (NGEU), a temporary instrument designed to boost the recovery, freed up €2.018 trillion to help rebuild a greener, more digital, and more resilient Europe.post-COVID-19 Europe a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe.
- To access the NGEU funding, Member States produced in a record time the so-called National Recovery Plans (NRP), which in themselves are for their majority, impressive planning pieces of extraordinary promise targeting investments for innovative growth.
- However, one of the key weaknesses of the Recovery Plans was the lack of attention paid to consulting the regional or local levels on future investment choices as it is now confirmed by numerous reports at the EU institutional level.
- Therefore, the Recovery Plans may firstly not represent the actual regional challenges or relate to existing smart specialisation strategies and secondly reduce the 'buy-in' of regions and relevant stakeholders due to a lack of ownership of the program and hence undermine its implementation.

# Session Outline



# A new European paradigm and a new role for smart specialisation (S3): driving a place-based approach into top-down policies ? (1)

- Place-based policies, such as S3 strategies, can help regions become more productive and less vulnerable to shocks.
  - The Communication on the 8<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report argues for developing the tools to deliver cohesion towards 2050 by: **“Increasing the effectiveness of place-based policies.** The need to complement nation-wide structural policies with place-based policies is increasingly recognised. Smart specialisation shows how to build on local assets to strengthen competitiveness and the innovation ecosystem...”

COM(2022) 34 final (8th Cohesion Report)
- S3 has focused on maximizing the potential of regions by concentrating investment on sectors where they identify a competitive advantage – this is not a top-down exercise but involves collaboration within the region between a wide range of stakeholders, both public and private, to drive research and innovation and investment and seek synergies and connections both within the region and externally.
- However, since the COVID pandemic, new thinking and policies at the EU level (e.g. Recovery and Resilience Facility) have a more top-down emphasis such as the EU’s Industrial Strategy rooted in Industry 4.0 (See Industrial Policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century [Industrial Policy for the 21st Century: Lessons from the Past | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)).
- But Industrial Strategy is also part of a wider EU policy mix – first and foremost driven by the EU’s twin transitions of the Green Deal and the Digital Agenda. There should more collaboration between other EU policies such as Cohesion Policy, Horizon Europe now with its third pillar of the European Innovation Council and new thinking on missions and the European Research Area (e.g. future ERA Hubs).

## **A new European paradigm and a new role for smart specialisation (S3): driving a place-based approach into top-down policies ? (2)**

- Europe needs both a sectoral and a place-based policy mix as outlined by the recent Committee of the Regions opinion which calls on the Commission to include the local and regional level in the future design of the new EU industrial strategy in a strategic dialogue to improve the links between industrial and regional ecosystems.
- But how can an innovation system approach be integrated in multi-level governance? For example, what could or should be the future role of the European Research Area?
- One of the ways to coordinate this top-down and bottom-up approach is via smart specialisation strategies. Regions can play a strong role via expanded and improved S3 strategies that encompass transition, sectoral policy, skills and increasing shift to both sustainability and sustainable finance – all on the S4 agenda.
- Is the European Green Deal, with its wealth of policies, encouraging regions to shift from S3 to S4 (smart specialisation and sustainability)? Can S4 act as a transition policy of the economic growth model as a whole (Green Deal for climate neutrality)?
- What might a top-down/bottom-up growth model look like?

# Discussion

- Why were, in most Member States, regional smart specialisation strategies (S3) ignored and why is S3 not already mainstreamed as a general concept in all transformation policies? Is S3 confined to regional policy and what happened to multilevel innovation governance?
- How can S3 play a bridging role with the NRP to deliver the best prioritisation process for investment choices in the context of the Green Deal?
- Can we identify bridges that facilitate linking recovery plans and smart specialisation or identify barriers to linking smart specialisation to National Recovery Plans and EU Industrial Policy?
- How do we link the more sectoral industrial strategy focused on industrial ecosystems, alliances, and Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) with the concept of place-based transformation?
- How do we maximise the effectiveness of a top-down directionality (e.g. Green and Digital) with a more bottom-up focus - rejecting a one-size-fits-all approach and a shift to a more challenge-driven approach embracing mission-oriented research and innovation (Horizon Europe). What could be the spatial implications of such an approach?



# **Redefining the place-based approach: practice-based insights**

**Ninetta Chaniotou, Ari Laineuvo, Venla Virkamäki**

**Regions in Recovery**

**31.3.2022**

# Background

## Why this contribution

The place - based approach is one of the pillars of smart specialisation strategies.

The **motivation for the article is twofold**: realisation that **(i) interregional collaboration results and implications tend to go beyond answering individual questions. They point to more comprehensive and strategic conclusions, which are especially impacting the place-based approach;** **(ii) there are not yet so many tools available: Regional diversification studies have primarily focused on regional capabilities, but neglected the role of interregional linkages** (Ron Boschma (2017). Relatedness as driver of regional diversification: a research agenda. *Regional Studies* 2017, vol. 51, issue 3, 351-364. DOI: [10.1080/00343404.2016.1254767](https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2016.1254767); Adam Whittle (2020). Operationalising the knowledge space: theory, methods and insights for Smart Specialisation, *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science*, 7:1, 27-34, DOI: [10.1080/21681376.2019.1703795](https://doi.org/10.1080/21681376.2019.1703795)). The same is true concerning literature on new path development that paid little to no attention to interregional links (Trippel M., Grillitsch A., Isaksen (2018). Exogenous sources of regional industrial change: Attraction and absorption of non-local knowledge for new path development. *Progress in human geography* 42 (5), 687-705.)

—> Having said this, just to remind, our perspective is that of regional policy practitioners, whose objective is improving regions' performance and chances and this involves re-interpreting economic development contexts. It implies that the evidence-based approach has three dimensions: what is prioritised, legitimacy of perspective and approach, and tools to apply findings.

## Profile

Joint contribution by two regional authorities in Finland (Regional councils of Helsinki-Uusimaa and Kainuu), their individual or joint experiences from interregional initiatives and the (expected or induced) impact of these activities on the respective RIS3:s.

# Background

## Research question

- Do interregional complementarities impact the way we understand and apply the place-based approach and the regional smart specialisation strategies (RIS3, S3)
- And, if yes, what are the policy (RIS3) implications?

## Literature review

- The place based approach
- Identification and activation of interregional complementarities
- Value chains (as regional policy tools: promoting localisation of competitive segments and adherence to competitive value chains)
- The enabling framework

# Background

## Data collection

Case-studies of ten (10) initiatives aiming at reinforcing the effectiveness of RIS3 through interregional networks and initiatives were analysed and compared.

## The ten initiatives

FRESH project, 2009-2012, Interreg IV C

SCIENCE LINK, 2011-2013, Baltic Sea Programme

BALTIC TRAM, 2016-2019, Baltic Sea Programme

BRIDGES project, 2016 - 2022, Interreg Europe

ClusSport S3, 2017 onwards

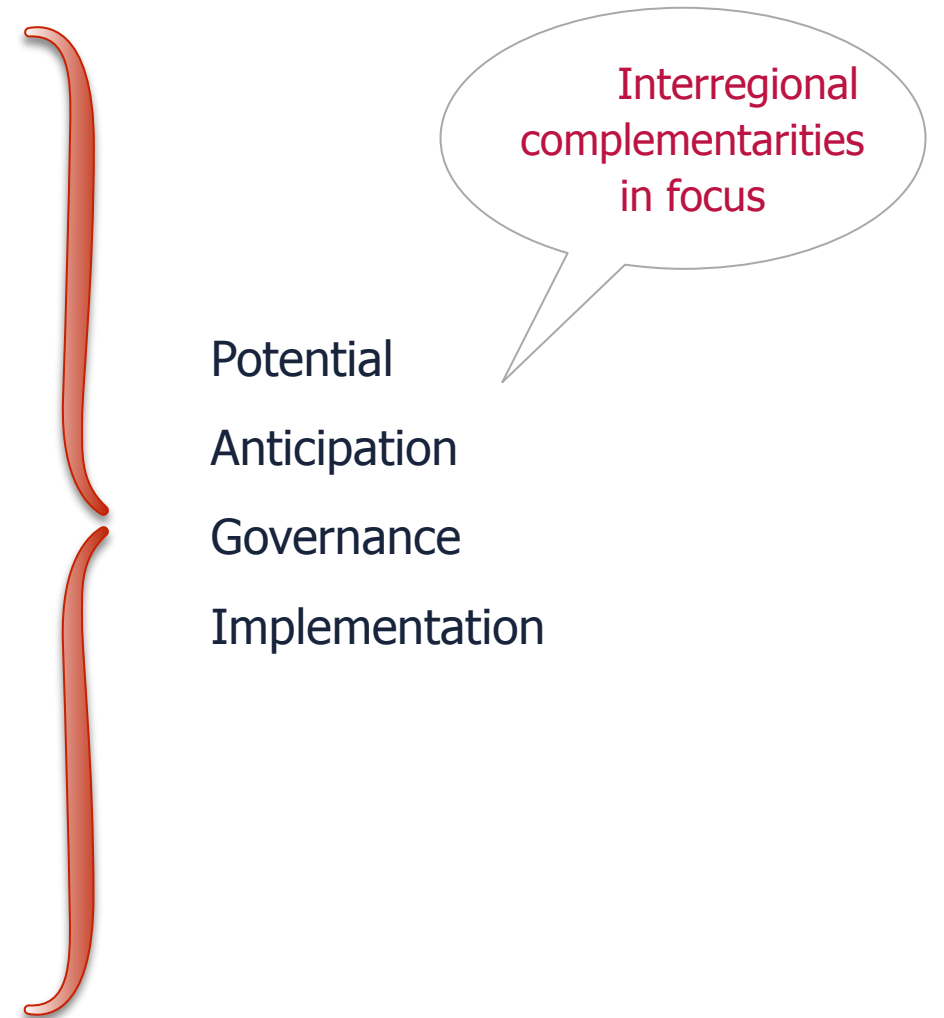
ELMO project, 2018 - 2020, industrial transition

Big Five, on going network 2018 onwards

Mining regions S3, 2018 onwards

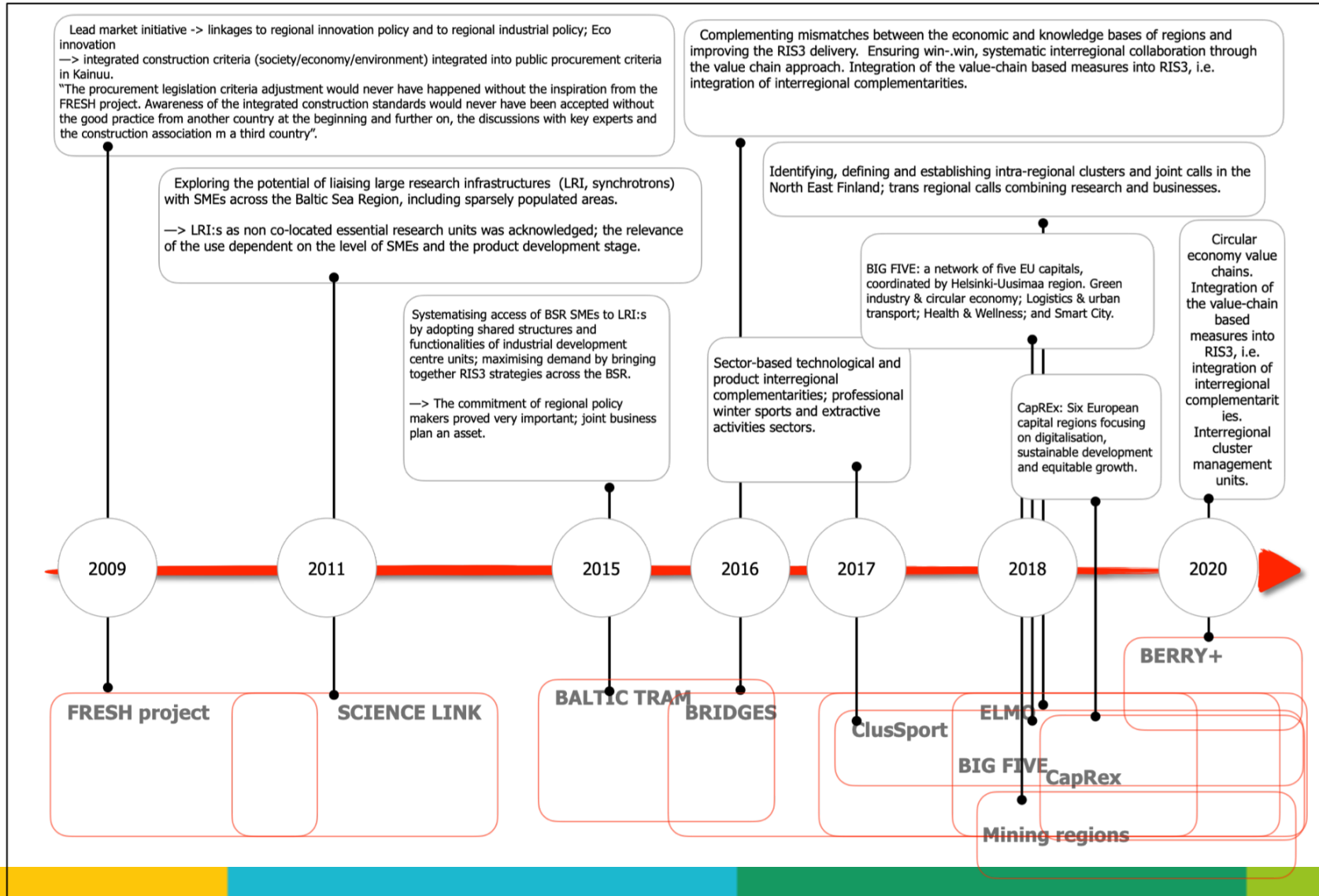
CapRex, on going network 2019 onwards

BERRY+ S3, 2020 onwards



# Background

Figure 1 Ten initiatives liaising interregional complementarities to regional innovation strategies



## Conclusions 1

- 1.- Analysis identified a shared space of insights and findings resulting from the 10 initiatives and relating to the need to re-interpret the place-based approach.
- 2.- This space is conditional on the frequency, depth, range and density of extraterritorial interactions defining an economy & research area, relevant to a region's RIS3, but territorially apart. This transcends the place-based approach to a larger space that could be called, potentially, 'extended RIS3 area' or 'extended innovation region'... .
- 3.- Conclusions are structured into two parts: **I. Objectives** and **II. Ensuring an enabling framework.**

## Conclusions 2

I.- The objectives defining such a space need to be better understood.

The extended RIS3-territorial objectives might be about different types of activities, already acknowledged as priorities by other (e.g. national) development frameworks as well. What is conceptually new, additional is the notion of joint development.

Motivation	Objective
1 Closing gaps	Knowledge and technology transfer, case-by-case (FRESH, SCIENCE LINK, BALTIC TRAM, BRIDGES, CapREx, BERRY+)
2 Innovation system improvement	Orchestrated exchanges among comparable innovation intermediaries (SCIENCE LINK, BALTIC TRAM, ELMO, BRIDGES, Big Five, CapREx, BERRY+, CLUSSPORT)
3 Expanding knowledge and awareness for strategic decision-making	Advanced good practices to speed up strategic renewal (FRESH, SCIENCE LINK, BALTIC TRAM, ELMO, BRIDGES, Big Five, CapREx, BERRY+)
4 Complementary technologies for excellence-based growth (edge research)	Joint development (technological complementarities); project-based collaborations (BRIDGES, ClusSport, Mining Regions, ELMO, Big Five, CapREx, BERRY+)
5 Address joint development issues, joint development opportunities	Joint development; project-based collaborations (ClusSport, Mining Regions, ELMO, Big Five, CapREx, BERRY+)
6 Specialisation, economies of scope 7 Diversification, economies of scale	Value chain re-shoring & in-shoring, value chain near-shoring (BRIDGES and BERRY+) Identifying development niches, including and reinforcing EDP decision making (BRIDGES, BERRY+)
8 Market development	Transregional clustering (ELMO, BERRY+, CLUSSPORT)
9 Market access	Placement of innovative products, including re-localisations and interregional investments (BRIDGES)

# Conclusions 3

## II.- Ensuring an enabling framework

II.1 **Identification and activation of interregional complementarities.** Methodologies for the identification of interregional complementarities (we recommend two: through patent analysis, Balland&Boschma 2021; and /or by matching complementary competitive advantage).

II.2 **Value chains become part of regional strategy,** localisation (re-shoring, in-shoring) and interregional complementarities (near-shoring or off-shoring).

II.3 **Timing** Our finding is that the best is trying to anticipate the extended RIS3 space at policy planning or revision stages, rather than only later at implementation stage.

This would allow maximising their benefits at delivery stage, by concentrating on operations with the highest added value, alignment & synergy with regional initiatives. It also implies that funding provisions of interregional initiatives, dedicated to the extended regional innovation space, would / could be made at reduced risk.

Statistical data is required to implement this step. In our experience, this is sometimes challenging.

—> Presently we are testing through EDP sessions in Western Macedonia open to the participation of other regions, e.g. Helsinki-Uusimaa and Kainuu, with the purpose to diversify RIS3 industries.



# Conclusions 4

II.4 **Funding (1)** The experience from the three S3 partnerships revealed funding options requirements: **baseline/coordination funding** for anticipating, identifying, planning, analysing, specifying the domains of interventions and quantifying their results.

**Funding continuity** is important. By the term 'continuity' we mean the option to have follow up initiatives within and across borders.

—> Recent literature on aligning funding initiatives is impressive. It contributes creating an ever more enabling overall framework. (For example: **Interact 2015**. The alignment of funding to support the EUSBSR: where do we stand? **European Parliament 2016**. RESEARCH FOR REGI COMMITTEE - MAXIMISATION OF SYNERGIES BETWEEN EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS AND OTHER EU INSTRUMENTS TO ATTAIN EUROPE 2020 GOALS. **European Parliament**, January 2021 event on Exploring synergies between Horizon Europe and regional policy, page 5, "Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy funds are the two most important EU funding sources to support research and innovation. Synergies can be pursued at various levels, from design and strategic planning, to project selection, management, communication, dissemination and exploitation of results, to monitoring, auditing and governance. A comprehensive approach requires strategic complementarity between programme design and objectives as well as clear and compatible funding rules and processes". **Ireland, National Investment Office The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, PROJECT IRELAND 2021: Assessing the alignment of the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan. fi-COMPASS 2021. Combination of financial instruments and grants under shared management funds in the 2021-2027 programming period. Factsheet May 2021. ERDF programme statement 2021, HEADING 1B: Economic, social and territorial cohesion, stresses under the place based approach "...3) better conditions for sound implementation of those investments on the ground through mobilisation of national, regional and local players" . [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/about\\_the\\_european\\_commission/eu\\_budget/db\\_2021\\_programme\\_statement\\_european\\_regional\\_development\\_fund\\_erdf.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/db_2021_programme_statement_european_regional_development_fund_erdf.pdf)**

Our perspective is how to operationalise this potential and also how to take into account our "lessons learnt" from direct experiences.

# Conclusions 5

## II.4 Funding (2)

Alignment of national, regional and trans-regional (includes cross border, transnational, interregional) funding mechanisms is needed. The need has been acknowledged by several institutions already (EC, Interreg programmes, some regions). For example, the BSR and the Danube programmes propose approaches, especially joint calls, or synchronised (coordinated) calls (source: DanuBioValNet project, Deliverable 4.1.2 Policy Benchmarking Report), co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA) through INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme. It was prepared by Gregor Svajger and Mikael Keller. ALSO: Meier zu Köcker, G., Dermastia M., Keller M. and Bersier, J. (2018). Proposal for a Cross-regional Scheme to Support the Development of Transformative Activities in the Alpine Space).

We would also propose complementarity calls, i.e. activities that are sequentially linked across regions and still form part of a joint initiative.

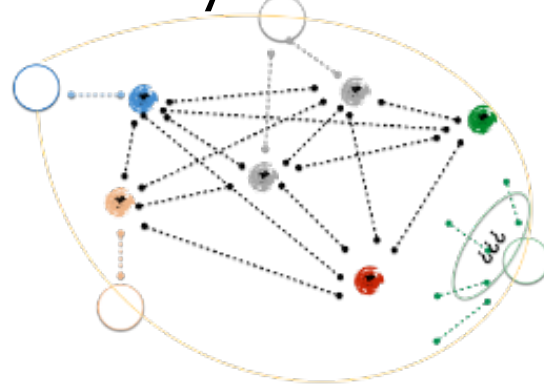
—> IMPORTANT The precondition under the Funding discussion, is that it has to happen under the Cohesion Policy principles of Concentration of resources: (/regional\_policy/en/policy/how/is-my-region-covered/), Concentration of effort: targeting resources on policy objectives (/regional\_policy/en/policy/how/priorities) for a more competitive and smarter Europe and for a greener Europe and Concentration of spending.

In the case of interregional complementarities, these principles must be ensured simultaneously for the participating regions. Our solution has been to promote 'win-win' collaboration schemes.

## Conclusions 6

**II.5 Interregional governance** schemes and the resources to implement it. Several initiatives confirm this (Science Link, Baltic TRAM, ELMO, BERRY+, Mining Industries, Big Five, CapREx). Governance will shape and support the functionality of an institutionalised extended regional programme area. It would probably imply, inter alia, making use of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or a joint venture agreement between and among concerned regions. This is not usual yet.

—> It is network theory.



However, to make it work, a first step is to establish, evidence, anticipated usefulness and confirming the feasibility of possible agreements and thereof ensuing activities.

## Conclusions 7

**II.6** An **implementation roadmap** is needed and its implementation would require that specific parameters need to be satisfied, for example:

(i) **legitimacy** (extended RIS3 space must be part of an overarching policy—> overall enabling framework; EU & national); currently fully satisfied

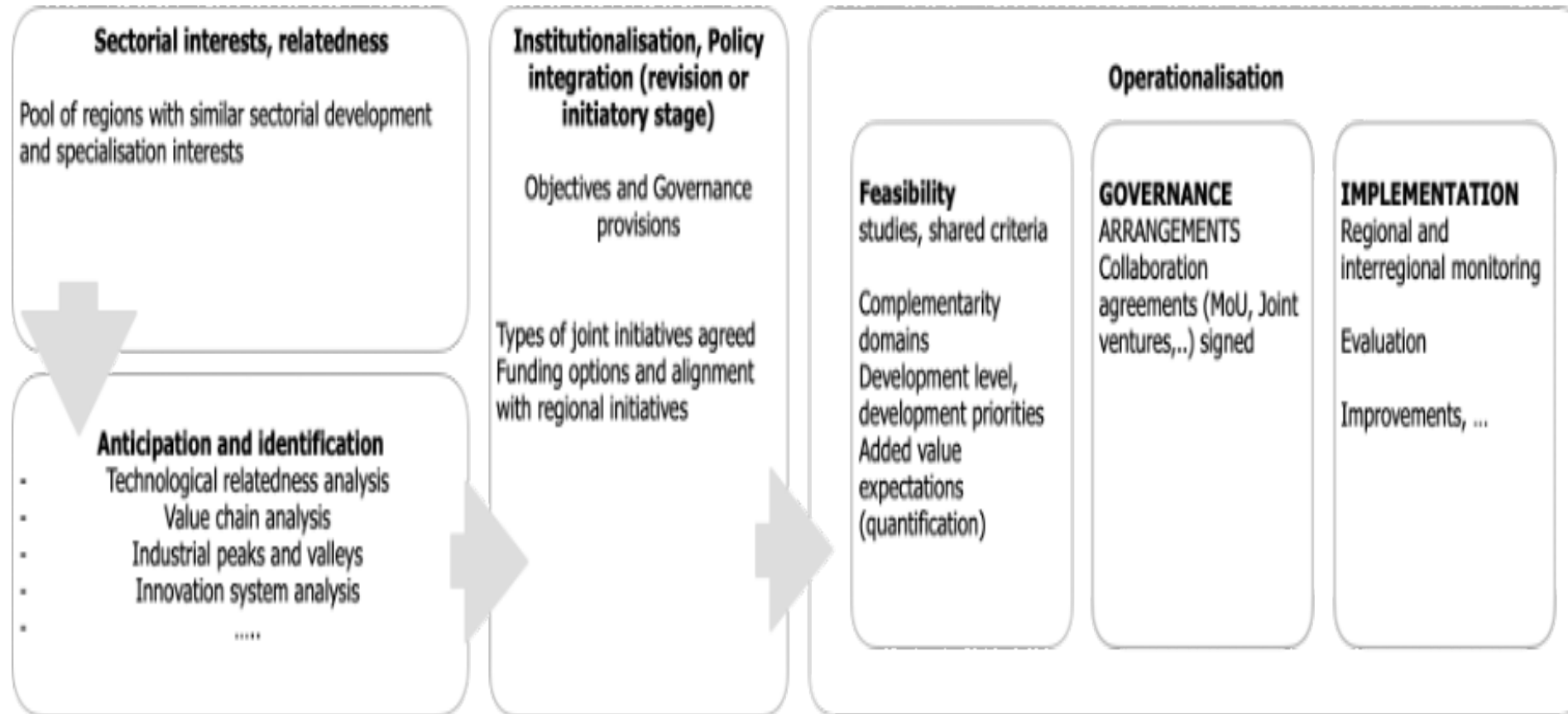
(ii) **institutionalisation** (integration into regional strategies, including the potential for governance arrangements); nominally satisfied (RIS3 is required to allow space for interregional innovation initiatives)

(iii) **anticipation and identification** (studies; which ones are important complementarities to consider, what tools for identifying them); currently developing

(iv) **feasibility confirmation** (financial, technological, economic, knowledge); not sufficiently addressed yet

(v) **operationalisation** (governance arrangements, policy measures and individual interregional initiatives); not sufficiently addressed yet.

# Questions, comments



# Coordinating and Competing in Ecosystems: How Regional Governance Shape New EU Missions and ERA Hubs?

**Markku Markkula, President of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, Former President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)**

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# Context, Challenge and Research Question

## Context

- The European Council in November 2021 defined 20 priority actions, one of which '**Build-up regional and national R&I ecosystems to improve regional/national excellence and competitiveness**' outlined the need to define and pilot ERA Hubs to enable the emergence of competitive R&I ecosystems across the EU, to fill territorial gaps and to ensure the easier flow of talents and investments.
- From the cities' and regions' perspectives, the new instruments are European Missions and ERA Hubs. In our presentation, we focus on governance: how to integrate top-down & bottom-up successfully.
- European Commission itself has stated that without the active role of cities and regions, the ambitious targets of the European Missions will not be reached.
- The EU Mission plans have a powerful place-based dimension, as clearly described in their implementation plans.

## Evidence

- Our presentation is based on analyzing the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) opinions, reports, and seminars during 2015-2022 - especially those dealing with regions and cities' role in innovation and European renewal policies.

## Research question

- How should the multilevel -and especially, regional and local level -governance, be organised in the EU Missions?

# From Benchmarking to Bench-learning & Bench-Acting



## Regional Innovation Ecosystems

CoR guide Learning from the EU's Cities and Regions



EU Committee of the Regions 2016:

This publication seeks to stimulate bench-learning between regions and cities, sparking new ideas and fundamentally stirring economic development.

Presenting some of the most inspiring city developments across the EU, this book offers readers an opportunity to understand and explore how Europe's cities and regions are breaking new ground in regional development. The mayors and other CoR members answered the question: how their city/region is a forerunner in co-creating regional innovation ecosystems. The data used and described were gathered with the JRC EU's Joint Research Centre.

To overcome its current challenges, Europe must establish a culture of co-creation and break its boundaries, moving toward innovation ecosystems through entrepreneurial discovery, open innovation, experimentation, and action.



# The Concept to a Place-Based Regional Innovation Ecosystem



- Smart sustainable city is a **physical and virtual place where technologies and humans co-evolve.**
- **Innovation ecosystem is a partnership of complimentary players** who share the same vision and are willing to contribute to joint actions in order to achieve the individual and joint goals.
- Smart sustainable city is **by-default resilient.** It predicts, identifies and responds to opportunities and risks.
- **The new role of cities is to empower communities, collaboration and citizens** to pursue ideas, to innovate and to take action.

# Challenges and Policies at the Regional and Local Level

## 1. Focus on entrepreneurial spirit and value creation processes

- Co-create the discovery mind-set via open innovation 2.0 & societal innovation learning camps.
- Network with international research and business communities (not only the players from your own region & Member State).

## 2. Implement RIS3 by involving all key stakeholders (Quadruple Helix)

- Strengthen your region's RDI capacity building, including research and innovation infrastructure, Living Labs etc. to increase the use of EU instruments.
- Create governance mechanisms to optimize synergies, since substantial parts of the H2020 budget will be delegated to public-public-partnerships and public-private-partnerships, i.e. EIPs, JTI, ERA-Nets etc.

## 3. Use RIS3 for the regional economic transformation

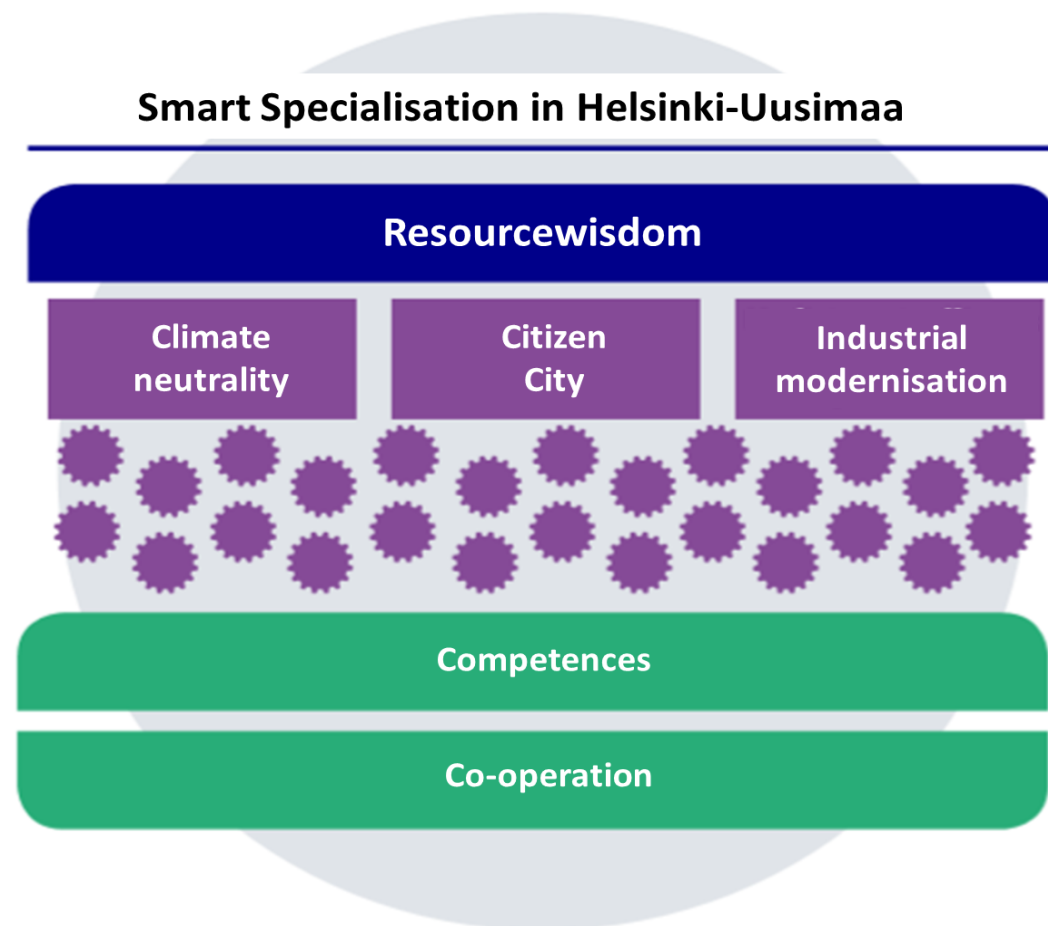
- Focus on building European partnerships through H2020, INTERREG, Macro Regions.
- Increase synergies between different financial instruments and actors in the RIS3 development and implementation processes.

## 4. Speed-up the strategic political decisions

- Focus more on R&D and innovation and co-creating the culture of experimenting, piloting and scaling-up to broad use around Europe ... and move to action.
- Create concepts for local collaboration and European partnerships.

# From RIS3 S4

1. Use RIS3 for the regional economic transformation
2. Encourage co-creating innovations to accelerate change
3. Focus on entrepreneurial spirit and value creation processes
4. Increase European Partnerships
5. Speed-up the strategic political decisions
6. Implement RIS3 by involving all key stakeholders (Quadruple Helix)



Competence is a uniting factor across all strategic priorities.  
Helsinki Region has a strong and versatile educational sector.

Responding to the needs of resource wisdom requires the extensive and efficient utilisation of competences  
in all areas of priority

# European Missions CoR Opinion

The CoR acknowledges that **the EU Missions are a "NEW" and "VITAL" instrument** as stated by the European Commission: "EU Missions are a new way to bring concrete solutions to some of our greatest challenges by delivering concrete results and impact **by 2030 by putting research and innovation into a new role, combined with new forms of governance and collaboration,** as well as by engaging **citizens**".

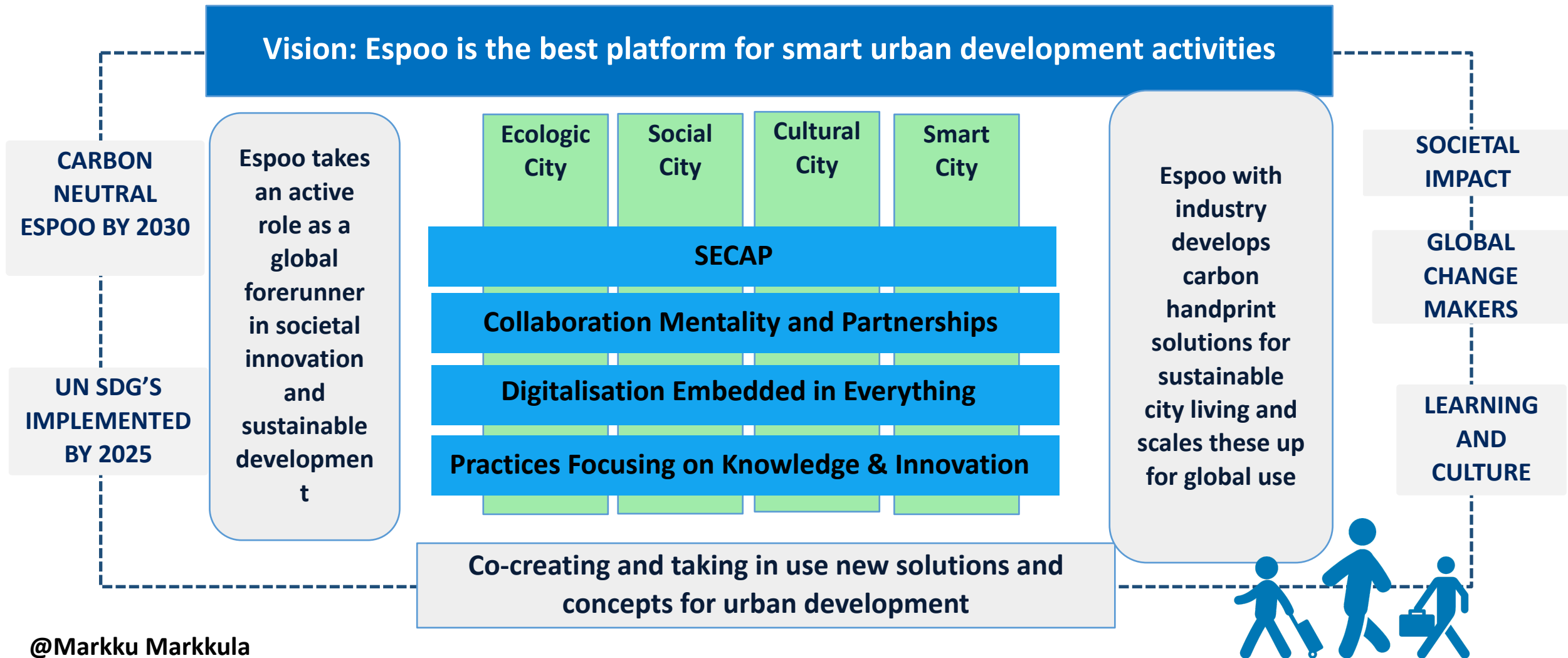
Based on the European Research Area Policy Agenda – Overview of actions for the period 2022-2024, European Commission 2021.

**The CoR opinion highlights the following:**

- **Orchestration**
  - Roadmaps & Portfolios of actions
- **Bench-learning**
  - European partnerships
- **Innovation ecosystem**
  - Local and regional collaboration
- **Intelligent assets**
  - Human, structural and relational capital
- **Climate Footprint & Handprint**
  - Not only urban and rural planning and implementation
  - Business life making active RDI investments and renewal

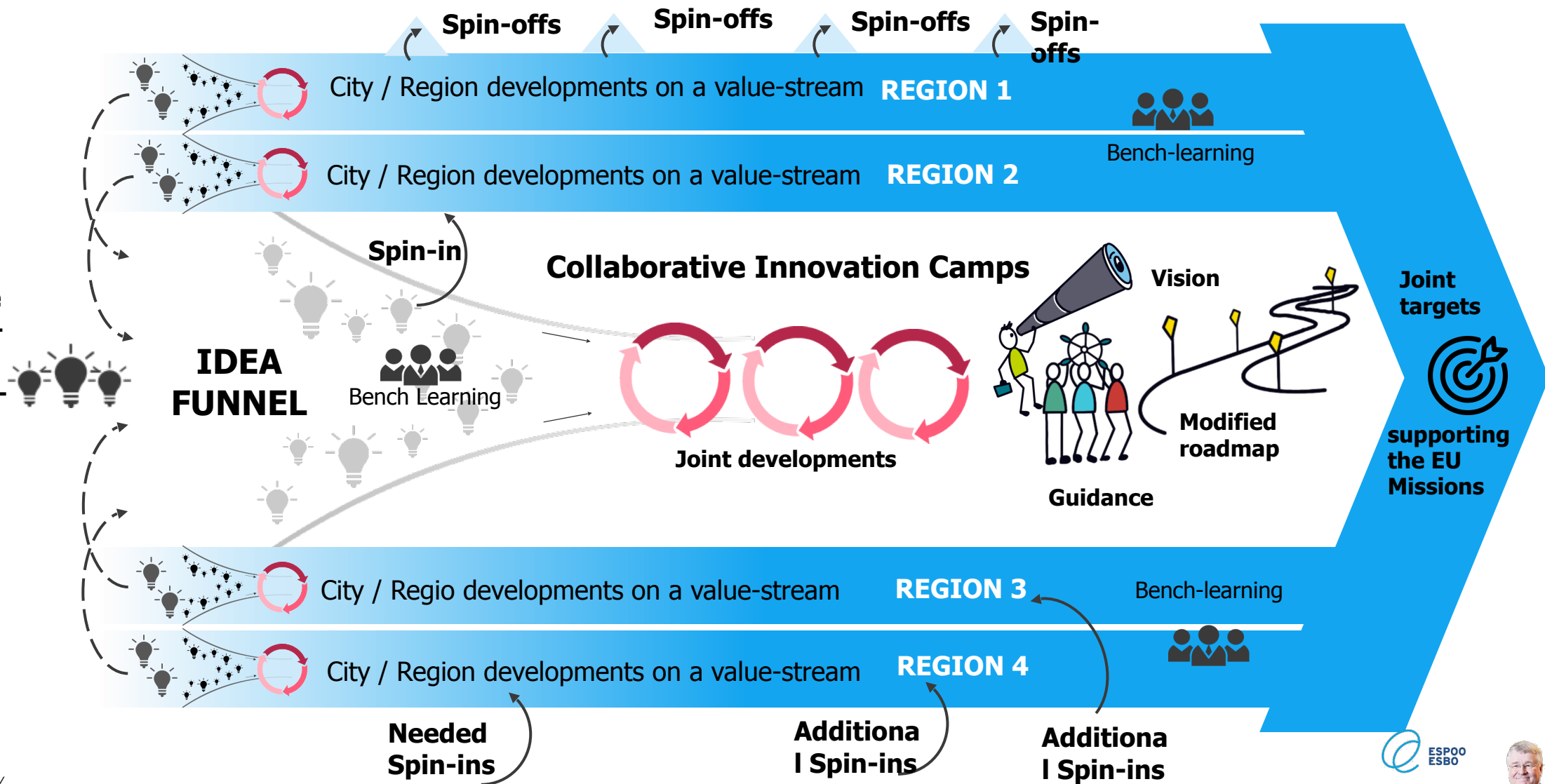
# Human-Centered Local Governance

**Sharing Best Practices, the Case Espoo: City as a Forerunner in Economic, Ecologic, Social and Cultural Sustainability**

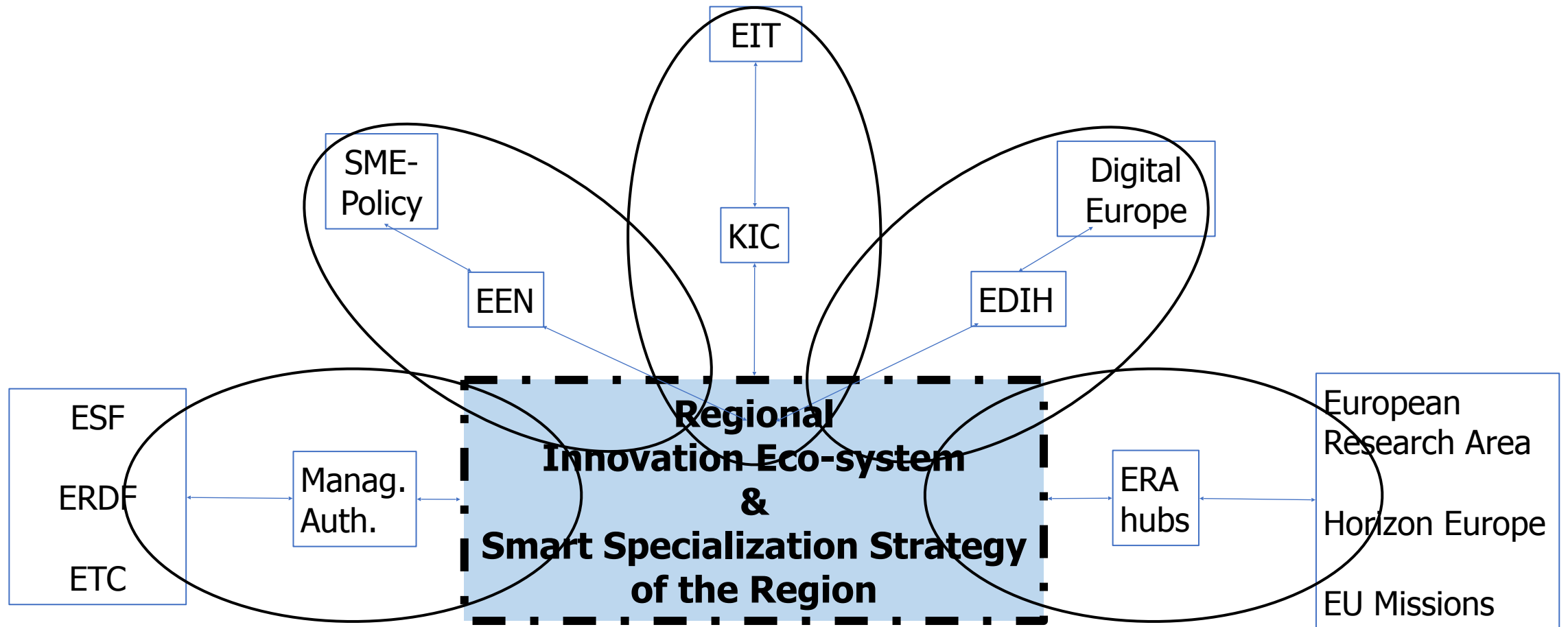


# Regional Governance & Orchestrating Bottom-up Partnerships

**European Mission:**  
**Collaborative Governance+ Innovation ecosystems + joint partnership with several regions**



# EU Instruments, Fragmentation and Governance



CoR plenary on ERA 3-5.2.2021: "a new ERA should be an opportunity to fully recognise the role of smart specialisations and their collective and entrepreneurial process as one of the cornerstones of current and future European research and innovation performance"

# Conclusions

- 1) EU level gives the frame and, above all, necessary support services, including part of the financing. The influencing action happens on the ground: cities and regions with all their stakeholders.
- 2) Reaching the ambitious targets requires all the actors on all governance levels to learn new competencies by integrating technology and research with a human-centric approach. The focus needs to be on using the potential of intangible assets and intellectual capital. Orchestration increases collaboration, motivation, and capabilities, in other words, competitiveness by co-creating new portfolios and actions.
- 3) In addition to the usual public and private financing, the EU financial instruments like Horizon Europe, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Cohesion Fund need to be used in synergy.
- 4) The EU Missions can use the creation of ERA Hubs to connect local and regional RDI ecosystems and partner with local and regional decision-makers piloting the ERA Hubs to develop concrete collaboration.
- 5) The system of ERA Hubs can bring missing elements to the ERA and EEA landscapes to create European knowledge societies throughout Europe to accelerate the transform societies to green sustainable and digital growth. The ERA Hubs network ideally ensures that local and regional RDI ecosystems become an integrated part of the European-wide RDI ecosystem.
- 6) The ERA Hubs can enable active local contributions in integrating implementation of experimentation of regional ecosystems to co-create needed societal and other innovations by experimenting, rapid prototyping, testing, demonstrating, and scaling-up research and innovation effectiveness in cities and regions.



# Top-down meets place-based: Case study on the Mission “Restore our ocean and waters by 2030”

Based on the ongoing work for SPECIFIC CONTRACT No RTD/2021/SC/030

Baseline study for the implementation of lighthouses of Mission ‘Restore our ocean and waters by 2030’

technopolis<sub>group</sub>

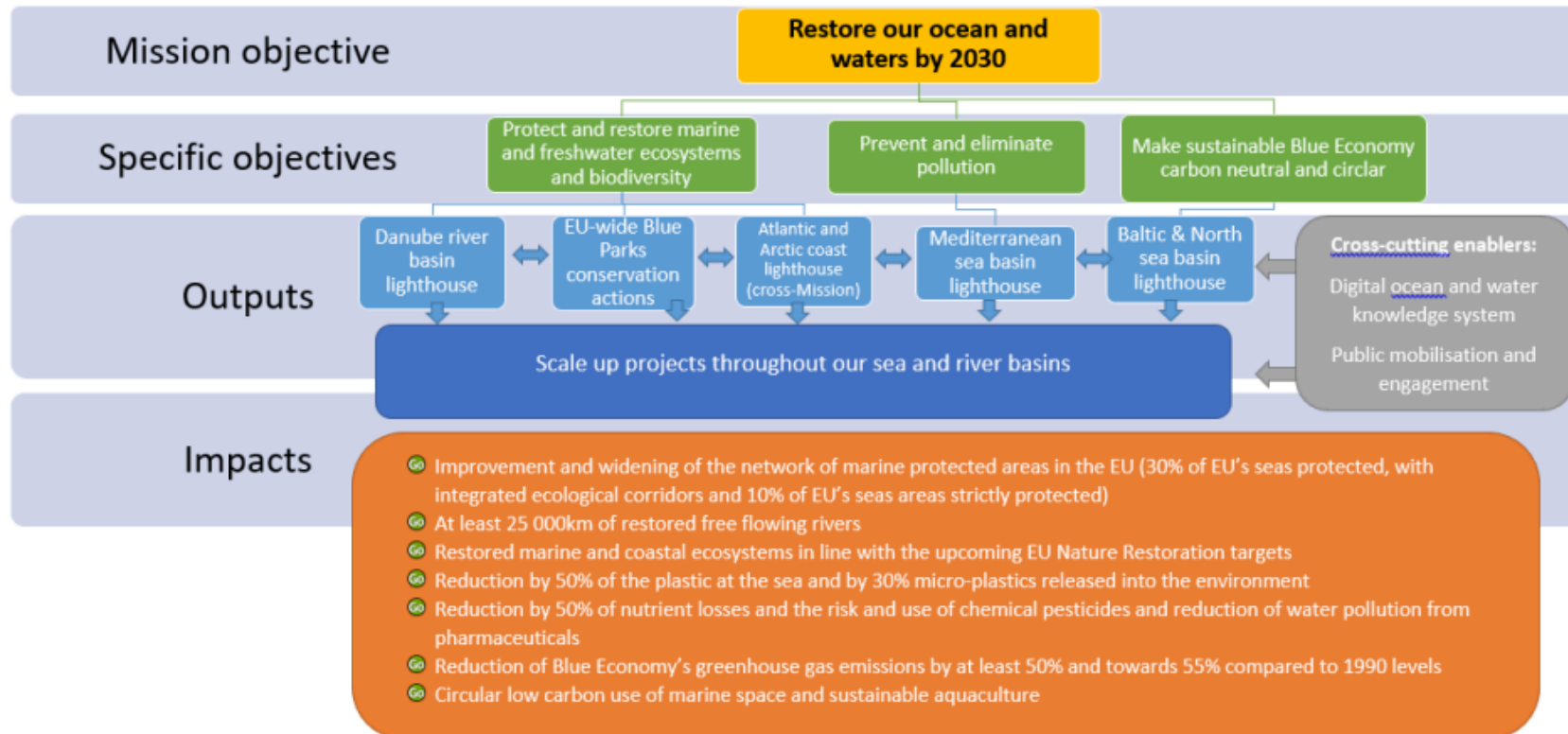


# Disclaimer

- The project is ongoing, we are still in the data collection phase, this presentation relates to our assumptions for which we would welcome feedback and dialogue
- All opinions are my own, I am not representing the European Commission, the Oceans Mission nor the Mission secretariat
- For questions concerning the Mission and its implementation, the HEU Work Programme on Missions, please refer to the Mission Secretariat – Helena Meyer, Edoardo Casarotto, [RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-OCEANS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-OCEANS@ec.europa.eu)



## Mission 'Starfish': Restore our Ocean and Waters



2021-2025: Deploy innovative solutions

Post-2025: Scale-up the solutions

Source: EC, 2021, Mission Restore our Ocean & Waters by 2030, Implementation Plan

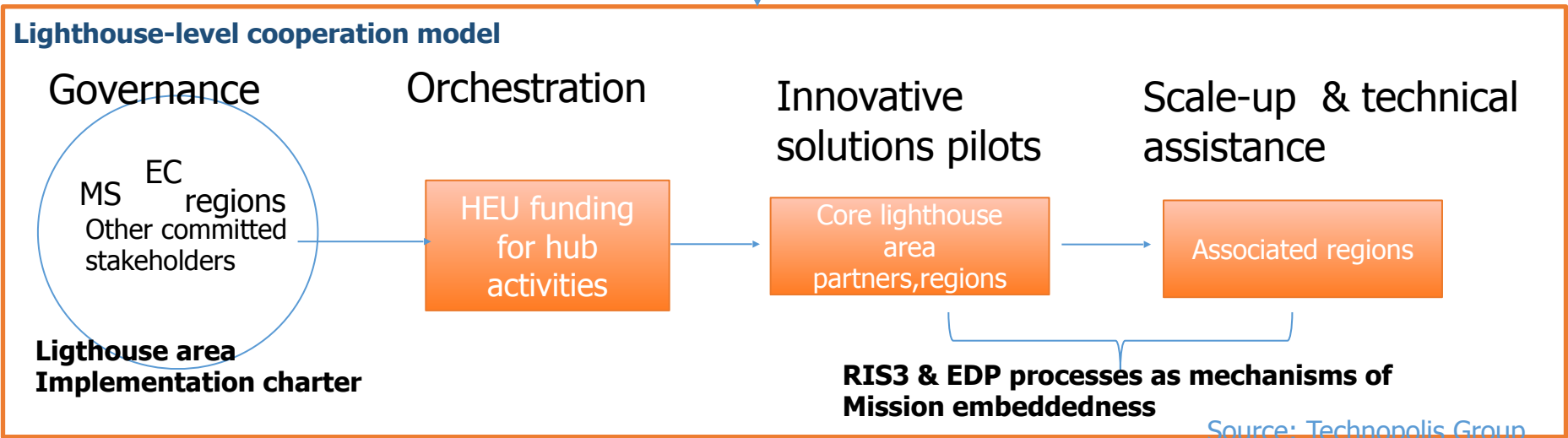
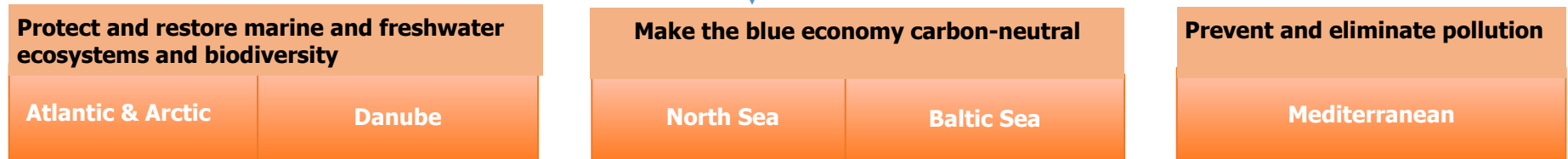
# Mission 'Starfish': Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

## The Mission's collaboration model (own / partial representation)



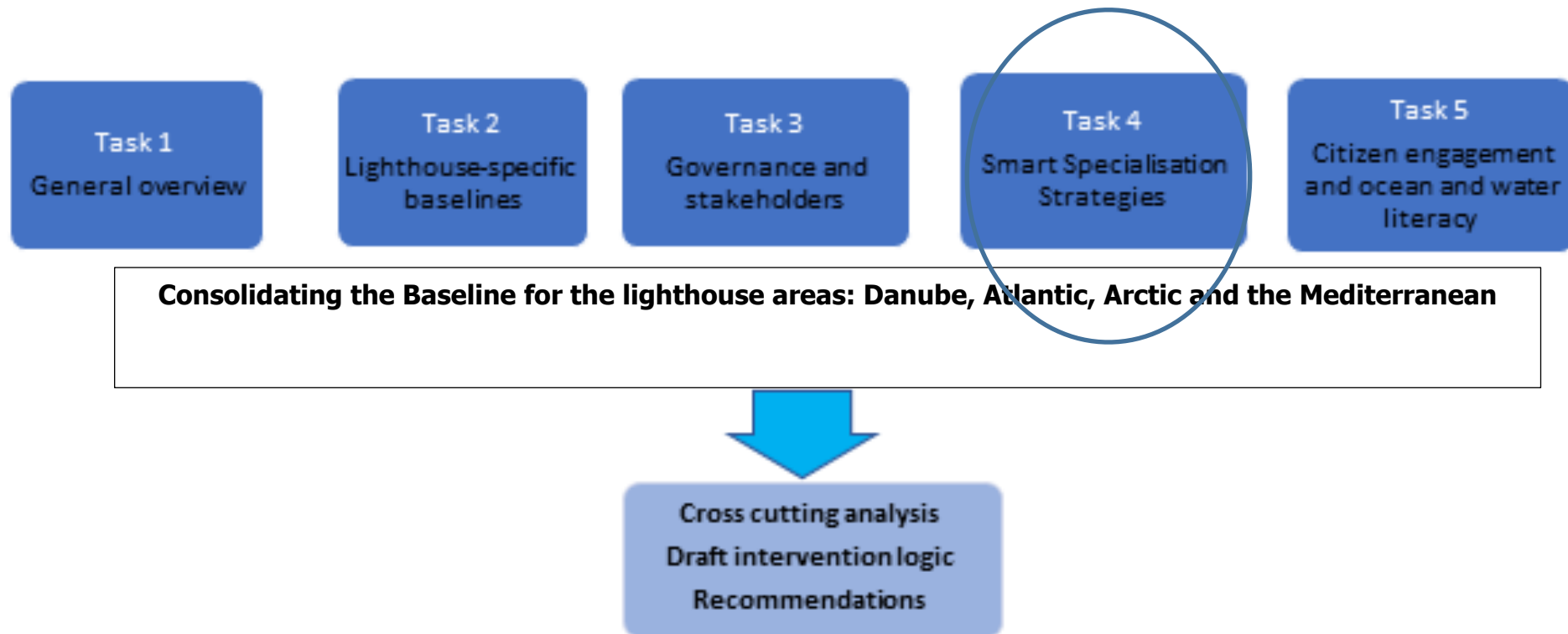
- protecting 30% of the EU's sea
- restoring marine eco-systems and 25.000 km of free flowing rivers
- prevent and eliminate pollution by reducing plastic litter at sea, nutrient losses and use of chemical pesticides by 50%
- make the blue economy climate-neutral and circular with net-zero maritime emissions.

Lighthouses as hubs piloting, demonstrating and deploying the Mission activities across EU sea and river basins



Source: Technopolis Group

# Baseline study for the implementation of lighthouses of the Mission - General Methodology



# Task 4: Analysis of Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) & other relevant strategies

## • Objectives:

- Analysis of RIS3s, RRP and other macroregional strategies to identify synergies with the topics of the Mission objectives per lighthouse area
- Analysis of measures foreseen to implement the MSFD and WFD, which are relevant to the Mission objectives implemented in the lighthouse area.
- Identify opportunities to align RIS3/ S4 with Mission objectives

## Assumptions underlying the study

- We look at the Mission Lighthouse area as a collaboration model
- RIS3 and EDP processes can be used as connectors / factors of embeddedness between EU-wide Mission & local specialisation, realities and activities
- Having an aggregate view of the status and potential of the RRP, RIS3s can support the process of scaling up solutions in line with Mission objectives

# Baseline study Mission Ocean Task 4 overview: Analysis of Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3)

## Step 1: Broad scanning & obtaining the latest available data

- Identification of the RIS3 strategies relevant to the Mission objectives per lighthouse area, based on JRC Eye@RIS3 platform



## Step 2a: Strategy is available online and relevant on at least 2 objectives

- Rapid assessment of the expected synergies as per Task 4 objectives
- Rating of the level of alignment and synergies



## Step 3: For the most relevant strategies

- Identification of stakeholders to be targeted or engaged
- Identification of relevant measures contributing to the lighthouse area targets, MSFD, WFD and Blue Economy Communication
- Identification of R&I actions and developments relevant to the Mission



## Step 2b: Survey with MAs

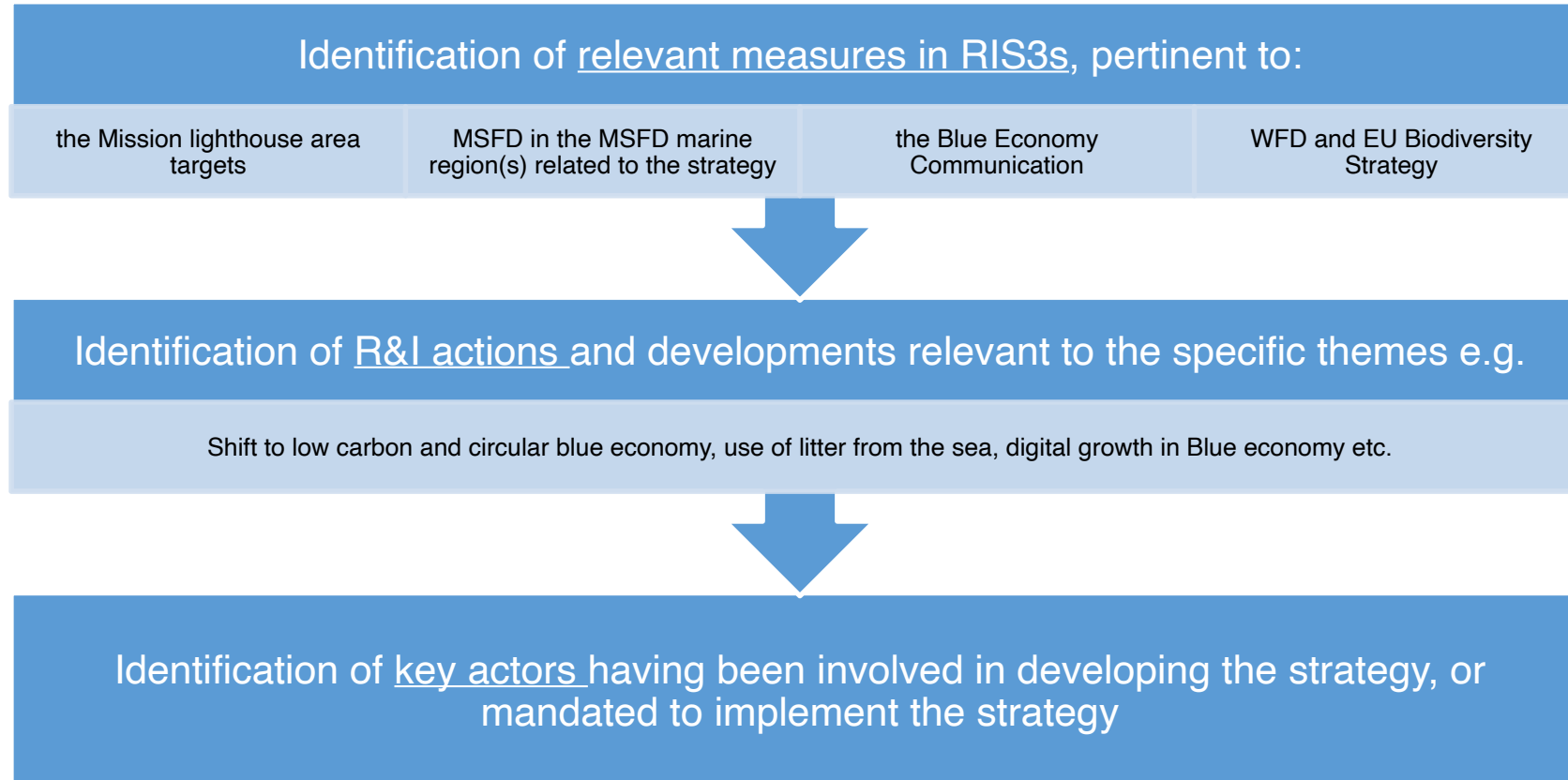
- Identify status of RIS3 process and potential synergies with the mission objectives
- Identify regions for interviews



## Step 4: Interviews with up to 10 coastal regions where RIS3s 2021-27 are not yet published

- Identification of opportunities for alignment with S3/4 and using the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)
- Interviews

# Task 4: RIS3, RRP's & other strategies' analysis





# Task 4: Synergy mapping & analysis - ideas / assumptions open for discussion

Possible scenarios for alignment with MOs

## Scenario 1: regions with good to high alignment to MOs

- understand measures that are foreseen in synergy with Mission objectives, which can be leveraged by the mission

**Opportunities for alignment** with Mission Objectives (**assumptions**)

**Optimal scenario:** regions mobilised as part of lighthouse area charter & hub orchestration / solutions deployment

## Scenario 2: regions with moderate to low alignment

- **Could they be engaged as associated regions for adopting the solutions?** What is the rationale for these regions' engagement in the Mission?

Regions have a process / organisations in place for **continuous EDP** and analyse the mission's opportunities and get engaged as associated regions

## Scenario 3: regions with RIS3s for 2021-2027 not published yet

- **Could the EDP be an enabling framework** for embedding mission objectives in these regions?

**EDP process** can be a gateway to mobilise (new) resources in line with Mission Objectives

**Question:** are these the only scenarios we can consider in the analysis? Any other factors that might be relevant?



# Get in touch!

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# Conclusions 1

- EU initiatives are increasingly relying on the ownership and active involvement of EU regions, who together can contribute to reaching EU-wide strategic goals.
- RIS3 and EDP processes are key to ensuring that the regions take advantage of EU-level initiatives and opportunities like Missions or ERA Hubs (connecting regions into EU-wide cooperation platforms) by strategically positioning themselves at EU level based on their specialization, capacities and needs.
- For this, ideally regions have a governance mechanism in place for a “continuous” EDP process, or platforms like regional R&I partnerships where regional priorities and actions are continuously refined and updated in light of new opportunities or needs.


# Conclusions 2

- Regions should connect with industrial ecosystems.
- Regions need to pay more attention to the Green Deal, Industry 5.0 and the growing ESG agenda (Environment, Social and Governance) linked to sustainable finance, due diligence...
  - FoSS welcomes the recent CoR/JRC Pilot Action on Partnerships for Regional Innovation [Pilot Action on Partnerships for Regional Innovation: Your region can apply now \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Regions need to engage in wider EU policies while making the case that these policies recognize the importance of a place-based perspective and S3.
  - The Communication on the 8<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report argues for developing the tools to deliver cohesion towards 2050 by: Enhancing complementarities within other EU policies. The current approach to synergies within the EU budget...needs to be more focused on real policy complementarities. A specific regional focus needs to be given to new policy areas - such as strategic interdependencies, social climate policy, European Industrial Alliances - where cohesion policy could be particularly relevant...'COM(2022) 34 final (8th Cohesion Report)
- Developing a skills agenda both linked to the green and digital transition and the Industrial Strategy and the regional smart specialisation strategy.

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- Laura Roman, Technopolis Group

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