Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Networking event:

Smarter Europe

15 NOV 2022

SMART

Follow us on social media

Agenda

10:00	Welcome and introduction
10:05	Improving the capacity for innovation in the Member States and regions + Q&A
10:20	Interreg Europe & Smarter Europe + Q&A
10:45	Assistance to applicants + Q&A
10:55	Networking instructions
11:00	Overview of networking ideas
11:10	Networking discussions (break-out rooms)
12:00	End

Improving the capacity for innovation in the Member States and regions

Interregional cooperation and Innovative and Smart economic transformation

Tomislav Pinter

Smart and Sustainable Growth

DG Regional and Urban Policy

Innovation and the competitiveness of Europe and its regions

- Why do we have smart specialisation in Cohesion Policy?
- Is the Cohesion policy the main source to address the innovation divide?
- How to involve a broader range of stakeholders in the smart specialisation?
- How to make the entrepreneurial discovery process more operational?
- How to strengthen the research and innovation ecosystems and cooperation between science and businesses?
- How to create linkages between regions?

The European Regional Development Fund

Policy objective 1 – Specific objectives

- S0 1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
- SO 1.2. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities
- SO 1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, incl. by productive investments
- SO 1.4. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship
- SO 1.5. Enhancing digital connectivity

Investments should focus on the smart specialisation priority areas identified and developed in the process of entrepreneurial discovery. This is a regulatory requirement for investments under SO 1.1. and SO 1.4, strong recommendation for SO 1.2. and SO 1.3.

Focus of the ERDF – main highlights under policy objective 1

- Support for research and innovation activities that contribute to a smarter Europe by promoting **innovative and smart economic transformation**;
- **Place-based approach**: EDP needed to understand the needs of the territories and build on their competitive advantage;
- **Market orientation** of research and innovation activities: absorption of knowledge and its translation into new products, services and processes;
- **Digitalisation** as an innovation enabler;
- **Skills** related to the deployment of new technologies & processes (S3 related);
- **Innovation ecosystems**: links among research and innovation actors and industrial stakeholders.

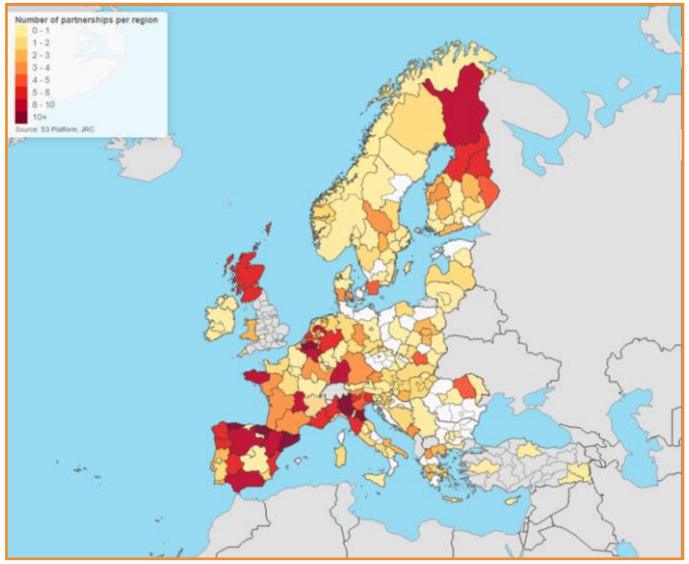
Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

Starting in **2015**, the European Commission services launched three **thematic smart specialisation (S3)** platforms:

- **TSSP Agri-Food**
- **TSSP Energy**
- **TSSP Industrial Modernisation**
- *2022:* A new platform focusing on **Sustainable Blue Economy**

S3 Thematic Platforms:

- joint initiatives supported by the European Commission;
- wide range of advice and support services;
- Currently, 37 S3 partnerships active under existing TSSPs



There are 208 registered regions total, coming from 19 Member States and 7 non-EU countries

S3 Community of Practice – What?

- A comprehensive and integrated **technical assistance** for **platforms** and **S3 community**;
- The **main point of contact and source of information** on the S3 concept;
- **Advice on the development** and/or **implementation of smart specialisation** to national and/or regional authorities and stakeholders;
- **Analytical, advisory** and **technical support**, **project** and **expert databases**, and **communication activities**;

S3 Community of Practice – How?

- **S3 Community of Practice Secretariat**
- **S3 Community of Practice Website**
- **S3 Expert Database and Support**

- **S3 Conference**
  - a forum to inform the S3 stakeholders about the latest policy developments and Commission initiatives in relation to the S3
- **S3 Forum**
  - an opportunity for stakeholders to network, discuss S3 policy and implementation issues and exchange information and good practices

- **Three S3 Working Groups:**

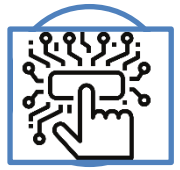
  dedicated to the criteria of the S3 enabling condition on **innovation diffusion, industrial transition and interregional cooperation**

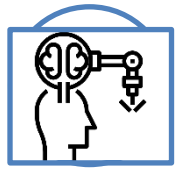
- **S3 Expert Group:**

  consisting of **leading S3 and innovation policy experts and academics** to discuss and advance the S3 concept

Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument

- Complementig Horizon Europe and other mainstream (ERDF) programmes;
- INTERREG link (Art. 13 ERDF Regulation): « 13.7. When implementing this instrument, the Commission shall ensure coordination (..) in particular with strand 'Interreg C (…)»
- With the focus on projects that are close to market deployment;
- Tailored for the Cohesion specific context.





I3 Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

Regional and Urban Policy

I3 Instrument in a nutshell

WHAT

Commercialisation and scaling up of innovation projects for the development of **European value chains**

I3 Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

FOR WHOM

Interregional **Q-Helix ecosystems**: **researchers, businesses, civil society and public administrations** involved in **smart specialisation strategies** established at national or regional levels

Regional and Urban Policy

HOW

Implemented under **direct management**.

DG REGIO supported by European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)

HOW MUCH

ERDF (Art. 13)
EUR 570 Million (current prices)

Co-funded by the European Union

I3 Instrument – Key features

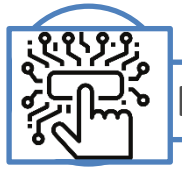
- Type of Investment: Interregional Innovation Investments in companies (TRL 6-9) to accelerate the market uptake/commercialisation in S3 priority areas;
- Final beneficiaries: Companies, in particular SMEs;
    - Expected outcome: The financial and advisory assistance provided under Strands 1 and 2a is expected to lead toward mature joint innovation investment projects in companies.
- Type of expenditure: Productive investments / demonstration / piloting in companies;
- Implementation: Investment portfolio of interregional innovation investments through redistribution of the grant to final beneficiaries (eg. through cascade funding).

I3 Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

Regional and Urban Policy

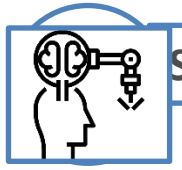
I3: Thematic areas and strands

THEMATIC AREAS:



Digital Transition

Green Transition



Smart Manufacturing

STRANDS:

Strand 1: Focus on interregional innovation projects in shared smart specialisation areas

Strand 2a: Focus on development of value chains in less developed regions

Strand 2b: Capacity building for less developed regions

Technical assistance & experimentation
EUR 11,4 M total budget (for the 7y period)

TOTAL BUDGET

EUR 570 M
(7 years)

I3 Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

Regional and Urban Policy

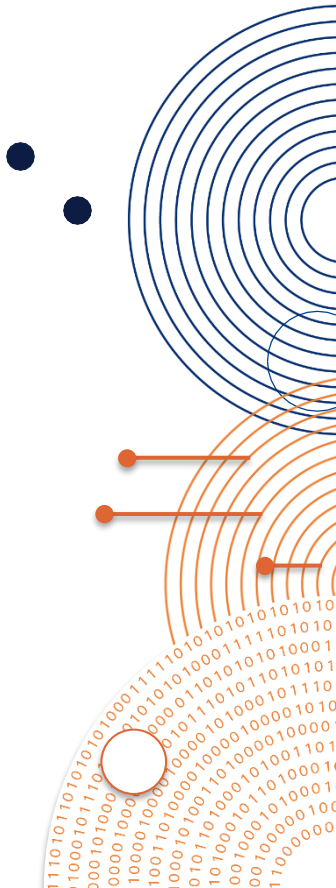
Capacity building Call – Q4/2022

- **Strand 2b** - Increasing the capacities of less developed regions to implement the interregional dimension

- Experiment **new approaches** and deliver **validated solutions**, **good practise examples**

- Indicative **core activities:**
  - Ecosystem Building and Connection;
  - Supporting the identification of investments projects;

- Indicative **support activities:**
  - Benchmarking the performance of local innovation actors against those in other regions;
  - Networking and staff exchange schemes.



Useful links

- EISMEA I3 Instrument web page
- DG REGIO I3 Instrument web page
- Investments into interregional innovation through I3 funding, Panorama April 2022

PANORAMA
Stories from Regional and Urban Policy

#I3Instrument

I3 Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

Regional and Urban Policy

Thank you

© European Union 2022

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the CC BY 4.0 license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Co-funded by the European Union

Interreg Europe

& smarter Europe

Kristaps Rocans
Policy Officer | Interreg Europe Secretariat

15 NOV 2022

Thematic networking event
Online

Follow us on social media

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)

Interreg: 4 strands, ~100 programmes, over 8 billions EUR ERDF

A	**cross-border**	**73** programmes EUR 5,800 million (72%)	
B	**transnational**	**14** programmes EUR 1,467 million (18%)	
C	**interregional**	**4** programmes EUR 500 million (6%)	**Interreg Europe** Urbact, Interact, Espon
D	**outermost regions**	**4** areas EUR 270 million (3%)	

Each strand has its own objectives

Sharing solutions for better regional policy

€ 379m
ERDF BUDGET

6
TOPICS

29
COUNTRIES INVOLVED

SMART

GREEN

CONNECTED

SOCIAL

CITIZENS

GOVERNANCE

Interreg Europe **rationale**

Supports the identification and transfer of good practices among EU regions in order to improve regional development policies

Helps policy makers to find new solutions to their challenges

- Primarily dedicated to **public authorities**
- Focus on **exchange of experience**

→ Different from cross-border or transnational cooperation

Two **actions**

Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue

Policy Learning Platform

Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all

Projects' main features

- **Objective:** Improve the **policy instruments** of the participating regions
- **Activities:** exchange of experience & **capacity building** through identification and transfer of good practices
- **Duration:** 2 phases in **4-year** implementation

Who is **eligible?**

- **Public authorities**
- **Public law bodies**

  (bodies governed by public law)
- **Private non-profit bodies**

Policy relevance of partnership

Policy responsible authorities must be involved in the project:

- As **partners** for at least **50%** of the policy instruments addressed
- As **‘associated policy authorities’** for the remaining policy instruments

Creation of a **stakeholder group** in each region

Geographical **coverage**

- **Four areas** to be covered
- Mix of more and less advanced regions

Geographical areas	Countries covered
North	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden
East	Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
South	Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
West	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland

Co-financing rates

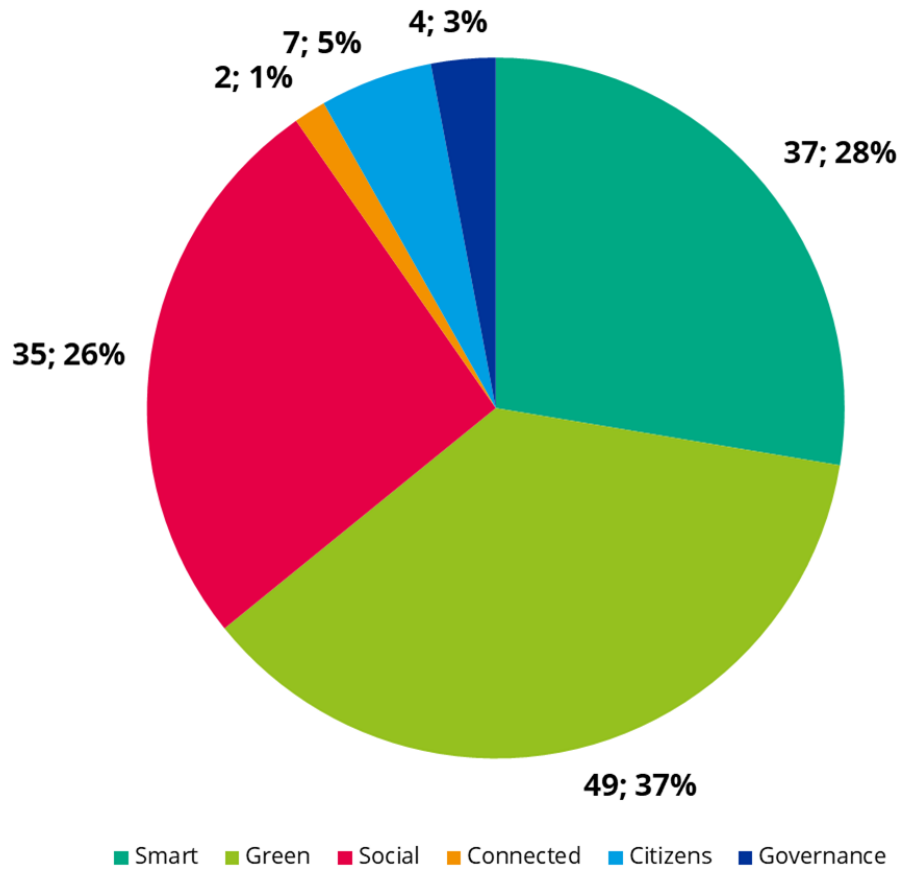
Co-financing rates	According to legal status or location
80% ERDF*	Public or public equivalent from the EU
70% ERDF*	Private non-profit from the EU
50% Norwegian funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway (NO)
Swiss funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland (CH)

* ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

First call **key figures**

Closed on 31 May 2022

134	project proposals
1,073	partners coming from all partner states
EUR 1.4 million	average budget per project proposal
EUR 192 million	total ERDF budget requested



First call - **first lessons learned**

- Ensure that partnership goes **beyond transnational** cooperation areas (e.g., MED covers Slovenia, Bulgaria and part of France)
- Check carefully the **'policy responsible authority' status** of the organisation involved in the project
- Select carefully the **policy instrument addressed** in each region
- Ensure that at least **one** instrument is an **Investment for growth & jobs goal programme**

Second **call**

12 weeks

Opening: **15 March 2023**

Closing: **9 June 2023 at 12:00 CEST**

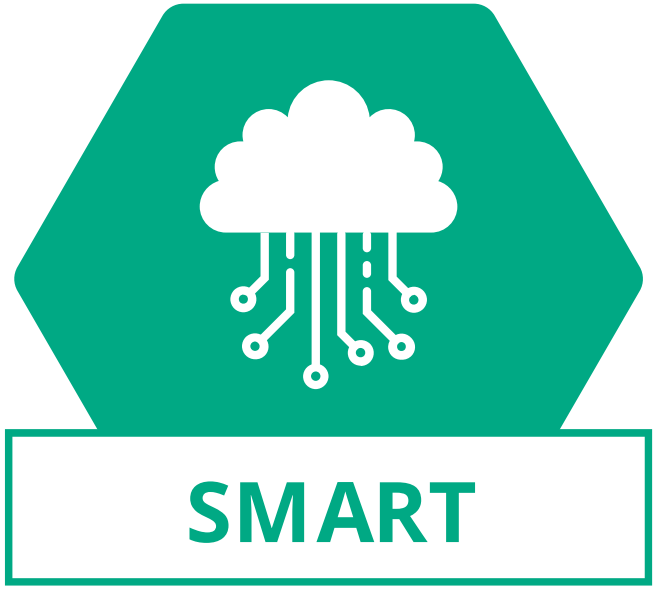
Decision: **end of 2023**

All topics open

Application pack available in **early 2023**

Smarter Europe

- **Research and Innovation** capacities, uptake of advanced technologies
- **Digitisation** for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities
- Sustainable growth and **competitiveness of SMEs** and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments
- **Skills** for smart specialisation, industrial transition & entrepreneurship
- Digital **connectivity**



Innovative character

What is the added value of your project?

Remember to check:

www.interregeurope.eu/approved-projects

Project examples 2014-2020

AERIAL UPTAKE
Interreg Europe

Innovation capacity of **Unmanned Aerial Systems** in the EU

START EASY
Interreg Europe

Smart tools for **start-ups support**

Medtech4 Europe
Interreg Europe

Research and innovation facilities in **medical technologies**

40Ready
Interreg Europe

Strengthening SME capacity to engage in **Industry 4.0**

www.interregeurope.eu/get-inspired/projects

Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Assistance

to applicants

Kristaps Rocans
Policy Officer | Interreg Europe Secretariat

15 NOV 2022

Thematic networking event
Online

Follow us on social media

Project development assistance

Discover the programme | **Look for funding** | Approved projects | Get policy advice | Find policy

Next call for projects
Discover our terms of reference

Country specific information
Check your country rules

1. **Check project relevance**
Use our self-assessment tool

2. **Get inspired**
See approved projects and project ideas

3. **Share your project idea**
Explain what you want to do with your project

4. **Find partners**
Look for relevant organisations

5. **Ask for feedback**
Get guidance before applying

6. **Apply for the call**
Submit your project proposal

Available during calls

www.interregeurope.eu/next-call-for-projects

Other assistance tools & channels

- **Programme manual**
- **Second call documents** (available in early 2023)
  - Terms of reference
  - Application form and declaration template
- **Website** (FAQ, contact form)
- **Points of contact**

Key to **successful project preparation**

- Thorough **preparation**
  - Read programme documents carefully (e.g. the manual)

- **Assistance** tools
  - Use self-assessment tool
  - Ask for JS feedback (during open call)
  - Join assistance events

- Get to know our **selection process**
  1. Eligibility = ineligible proposals get **no further assessment**
  2. Quality criteria = meet programme expectations

Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Time to start **networking!**

Follow us on social media

More **networking**

17 Nov: **Social**

29 Nov: **Green**

1 Dec: **Connected / Citizens / Governance**

5 Dec: **Policy Learning Platform**

15 Mar: **Europe, let's cooperate!** Call launch (Stockholm, SE)

Call dates: 15 March – 9 June 2023

Pre-submitted **networking ideas**... and more?

Group 1
Self-sustainable Digital Islands
4

Group 2
Investment readiness of early-stage SMEs
6

Group 3
Innovation in blue economy
4

Group 4
High-capacity communication in rural areas
1

Group 5
Ultra Wide Band for accessible tourism and intelligent mobility
4

Group 6
Prevention in health innovation ecosystems
2

Group 7
Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence
0

Group 8
Surface water hydrological monitoring
1

Group 9
Submit

Group 10
Submit

Group 11
Submit

Group 12
Submit

Group 13
Submit

Group 14
Submit

Group 15
Submit

Group 16
Submit

www.interregeurope.eu/table-reservation/42551

Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Thank you!

Follow us on social media