METROPOLE
RUHR
BUSINESS

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Building a sub-regional strategy from the multi-level governance perspective: The case of the Ruhr Metropolis

Dmitri Domanski, 27 January 2023

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- Part (sub-region) of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia

- Approximately 5,1 million inhabitants

- One of Europe's biggest metropolitan areas

- Formerly one of Europe's biggest industrial locations

- Since 1960s: structural transformation from coal mining and steel production to new high-tech clusters (i.a., Greentech, IT, logistics)

- S3 means a paradigm shift for the Ruhr Metropolis: from funding a structurally weak region to funding based on strengths

RUHR METROPOLIS

ALSO KNOWN AS THE RUHR AREA

Location of the Ruhr Metropolis in North-Rhine Westphalia. Map: agiplan GmbH.
Data source: German Agency for Cartography and Geodesy.

- Implicitly considered in North Rhine-Westphalia's smart specialisation strategy (very broad, no subregional focus)

- Developing S3 for the Ruhr Metropolis is a voluntary task, out of conviction

- A real bottom-up strategy

- A sub-regional strategy
  - For Ruhr Metropolis as a part of a bigger region
  - Explicitly built around the economic strengths of the municipalities

- Interreg Europe project "COHES3ION – Integrating the territorial dimension for cohesive S3" an important factor

S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

REGIONAL CONTEXT

- The Ruhr Metropolis itself is a big, polycentric and heterogeneous region

- 15 municipalities (11 cities and 4 independent districts) are the key stakeholders

- Relatively complex governance process

- How to balance political bargaining (interests) on the one hand and scientific evidence (facts and figures) on the other hand?

- At the same time, corresponding to the overarching regional S3

S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

- From local to regional clusters
  - Corresponding to the „natural" geographical extension
  - Increasing expectations regarding the level of smart specialisation with excellence becoming a standard
- Innovation projects across the borders of municipalities and their local clusters
  - Opening up to new topics and actors
  - Achieving bigger projects
- Distribution of tasks between the municipalities
  - Recognising the others' strengths
  - Recognising complementarities

S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

FROM LOCAL TO REGIONAL

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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