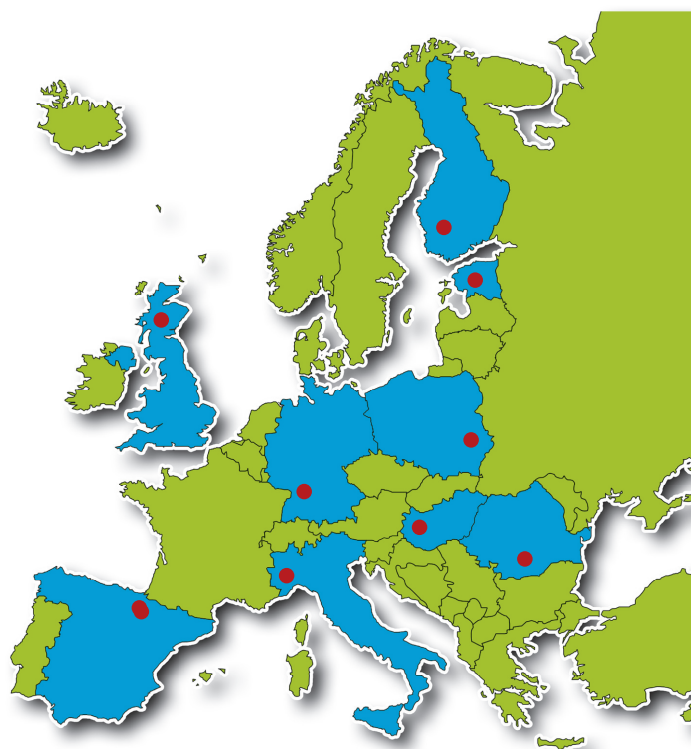




Towards Regional spEcialisation for Smart growth spirit



Newsletter No. 3

Apéritif:

Dear Readers,

There is a long history of smart specialisation strategies in Finland. The first generations of strategies were created within the launch of the Centre of Expertise Program in mid-1990's. The processes and contents of smart specialisation policy have evolved based on the lessons learnt. Currently we understand smart specialisation as a capability to identify new opportunity spaces and to mobilize regional resources for the realization of these opportunities. Smart specialisation provides regions with a pathway to structural changes and industrial renewal.

In Finland, regional smart specialisation strategies are created within the national regional planning systems. This system comprises of three elements: strategic regional plans, regional implementation programs and annual plans of regional investments. Strategies and programs are created in a collaborative process, covering all regional stakeholders. Strategies are discussed, guided and approved by the highest political authorities of the regions.

During the last few years, instead of traditional cluster development, more and more emphasis has been put to policies that focus on renewing capabilities. The new policy tools currently include e.g. innovation platforms, collaborative change programming, systemic demonstrations and trials and international policy learnings with key partner regions. While regional policy focuses more on the R&D environment, utilisation of key enabling technologies and innovative capabilities, companies and markets are expected to make the choices for new clusters and success factors needed in the global ecosystems.

Bon Appétit!

The Tampere Region



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

The TR3S project is funded by the EU's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVC programme

Innovation Morning Coffee – Tampere, 23 August 2013

In June 2013 the Tampere Region and Region Skåne (Lund and Malmö) were both granted national innovation program status in the field of (smart & sustainable) city innovations. This status enables cities to go ahead with longer term and more systemic development as opposed to a purely "project financing basis". Both programs are, by their nature, city-demand driven and innovation ecosystem oriented.



Based on several earlier connections between the regions (e.g. linked to Demola, city and regional level) and the new programs the workshop on *Towards a Globally Distinct and Collaborating City region – Innovation Morning Coffee* was to investigate how the collaboration could be integrated into the programs. Both regions have invested in leading Baltic Sea Region level collaboration and the notion of smart specialisation. The collaboration is supported by Vinnova (Sweden) and Tekes (Finland), who are also interested in developing their competences in supporting this type of ecosystem/demand-driven work.

The regions seek a way to work on collaborative systems level development with focus on smart sustainable cities. The following fields were discussed in-depth: Internet of things/smart sustainable cities and smart traffic. Also in health sector there are a number of fields where regions share common interests e.g. green/reinvented hospitals, health management of suburbs and advanced care.

The event was organised just in August 2013 to give input to the Tampere INKA (Innovative City) application preparation process. With INKA programme Tampere is seeking for global competitiveness and new business. What could new international cooperation be and with whom we should collaborate to achieve our targets?

The event was also organised to help in structuring, mobilizing and directing the system level innovation development. Tampere is a leader of the national innovation program in the field of (smart & sustainable) city innovations. Transition phase from cluster based innovation policy to the totally new way of doing is challenging. Skåne could be a good partner in cooperating, changing experiences and ideas, and in going ahead together in longer term system development.

The objective of this event was to try to seize synergy from Tampere-Skåne collaboration in Smart City development. In the next phase of collaboration the capability building (Tekes/Vinnova collaboration and next calls) and positioning BSR globally in Smart Sustainable Cities are envisaged.

OPEN DAYS 2013 – 11th European week of Region and Cities, Brussels, 8 October 2013

During the Open Days 2013, on 8th of October 2013, Regione Piemonte, Directorate for Research, Innovation, University and Sustainable Energy Development and TR3S partners took part in a side event named "Place-based innovation: Living Labs and Smart Specialisation Strategies" hosted by Apulia region.

The workshop stressed the links between place-based innovation and the definition of smart specialisation strategies. With reference to that, evidence was given that Living Labs can boost different types of innovation (technological, institutional, organisational) and make better understand what the strengths and difficulties of a territory are.

After a general presentation of what place-based policy mean, a representative of the IPTS highlighted what the new challenge of smart specialisation for the European regions is. After that three examples of Living Labs were depicted: namely the experience of Apulia region, Alcotra Innovazione and Centralab projects. At the end of the afternoon a fourth project co-funded under the Med programme was presented: CreativeMED trying to investigating the links and interconnections between creativity and innovation. To conclude, an intervention from the Italian NUVAL (Unità di valutazione degli investimenti pubblici = Assessment Unit of public investments) explained how complex and multi-faceted the assessment and monitoring of innovation processes is.

Political representatives from 10 European regions start a Vanguard Initiative for new growth to influence the European Council

On 8th of November, 2013, the Minister-President of Flanders, Mr Kris Peeters, announced the launch of the 'Vanguard Initiative New Growth by Smart Specialisation' during the conference "Regions as motors of new growth through smart specialisation" in the European Parliament.

The political representatives from the Basque Country, Flanders, Lombardy, Lesser Poland, North Rhine-Westphalia, Scania County, Tampere Region, Scotland, Southeast Netherlands and Wallonia have gathered at the invitation of Minister-President Kris Peeters to articulate their intention to play an active role in the debate regarding a new industrial growth initiative for Europe.

The 10 regions issued a joint Declaration that presents the dual principle for their engagement for the future of industry in Europe. On the one hand, this new growth has to build on true bottom-up dynamics of innovation and entrepreneurship in eco-systems at the regional level. On the other hand, political leadership is needed to formulate the common goals in order to respond to the great societal challenges of our age and to find solutions that bring about new industrial activities.

Therefore, the Vanguard Initiative proposes to take 'smarts specialisation' as a core policy approach to encourage an entrepreneurial driven growth strategy in the priority domains where Europe will develop new industrial lead-markets such as: bio-based industries, advanced manufacturing and key-enabling technologies, sustainable building, clean vehicles, smart grids, personalised healthcare. Smart specialisation around these common priorities can bring about a new wave of co-investment in these emerging industries, help to restore confidence and develop an endogenous growth dynamics in Europe.

The Vanguard Initiative will further develop these principles in concrete proposals to promote common roadmaps, focus investments in pilots in smart specialisation focus areas and develop world-class clusters in Europe in internationally competitive industries for the future.

The 10 regions will therefore invite other regions with ambitions for the industry of the future to edit a joint Letter to the President of the European Council in anticipation of the Industrial Compact. This Letter will propose the Council to develop a multi-level governance with European, national and regional support for entrepreneurial and innovation-driven partnerships in the regions that co-invest in complementary components of the industry for future in Europe.

Innovation Morning Tea – Lubelskie Voivodeship, 12 September 2013

Innovation events in Lubelskie were held in two terms, the first meeting – innovation morning coffee was dedicated for open innovation issue and was held on 5th of July, 2103, and the second one – held on 12th of September, 2013, focused on UDI – User-Driven Innovation. The first step of the meeting agenda was to identify UDI in Lubelskie region and all over the world, to give more knowledge for entrepreneurs, local authorities and development organizations about smart specialisations and user-driven innovation, to get feedback from entrepreneurs on tools to be expected in regional strategic documents 2014+. And at the beginning of the meeting, participants had the opportunity to get known with TR3S project focused on good practices and possibilities to benefit from TR3S regional experiences.

Next Mr Korneliusz Pylak of Lublin University of Technology presented in details the topic of UDI – how it works all over the world and a distinction between example ideas of innovation approaches. During the discussion it occurred Lubelskie companies actively participate in the UDI implementation and a wide range of activities are provided starting from market research, internet communication with customers, facilities for customers in order to get feedback on products ending with product developing according to user demands and monitoring of results.



The companies of the Lubelskie region still develop their innovation potential by introducing new technologies. To make our companies more competitive, it would be necessary to strengthen the cooperation between them in order to generate innovative ideas and solve important problems. To achieve this goal, it is vital to engage scientists in this process as the academic sector has a great potential to support business sector in Lubelskie when comes to research and product/service developing.

Good Practices from...

Scotland Food and Drink & Food and Health Innovation Service

Food and Drink is one of the key sectors for growth in Scotland. A refreshed strategy was launched in December 2009 with the ambition to grow turnover from £10 billion to £12.5 billion by 2017 and to build Scotland's reputation as a "Land of Food and Drink", thereby increasing exports by £1.4 billion to £5.1 billion. Scottish Enterprise works with partners under the leadership of the Industry leadership group Scotland Food and Drink to bring about a step change in industry performance. Scotland Food and Drink is a market driven innovation mechanism to provide a range of practical support to help businesses realize growth opportunities in the healthy food and drink products marketplace.

The project provides an understanding of key themes in terms of ingredients, manufacturing, reformulation, performance and ageing. The service is active across all sub-sectors of the food sector in Scotland. Since the project was formally launched in February 2010, over 250 companies have been in touch requesting further information on food and health opportunities. The project provided direct, one to one assistance to over 110 of those companies, and a further 50 companies have gone on to receive intensive support to develop a new healthy product. So far, 37 of those companies have worked intensively with FHIS to develop new products and there are examples of companies moving forward with pace (see below for case study examples). Furthermore, there have been 4 recent examples of companies securing further innovation funding to take the projects forward to completion and launch. Also, the integration of FHIS with other projects such as the INSIGHTS that provide vital market information, Interface – Food and Drink, that ensures easy access to academic partners

and funding, ensures companies have access to the all available resources to help them reach a commercial result.

Scotland has significant research strengths in animal health and genetics, human nutrition and health and life sciences. This positions Scotland as a world class location for food and health research that attracts global investment. However, there is an important opportunity to do more – in particular, to use this research to support new and existing companies more effectively to make a significant impact on the global health market. There is a significant prize to be won from addressing this development area with Scotland Food and Drink (the industry leadership organisation for Food and Drink in Scotland) estimating that growth in sales within the health market could be worth an additional £685m for Scotland by 2017.

The Food and Health Innovation Service was launched to complement various existing food and drink initiatives, such as the Interface Food and Drink, Scottish Food and Drink Reformulation Service and Scottish Enterprises' own Innovation support mechanisms. The project engaged in extensive upfront consultation with these partners and continued to work alongside them during the implementation to ensure any synergies were maximized.

Polli Horticultural Research Centre – Estonia

Polli Horticultural Research Centre is the experimental fruit and berry product development centre preserving genetic resources of berries and fruit, breeding new sorts, developing and experimenting fruit and berry storage and processing technologies in order to enhance regional business activity in alternative economic area and increase competitiveness of Estonian and Latvian food industry. The Polli Research Institute for Horticulture was founded in 1945. Since 1994 Polli Horticultural Research Centre was

included to the Estonian Agricultural University. Polli is a practical basis for provision of horticultural education in fruit science for the students: introducing the diversity of cultivars and fruit crops, experiments in fruit gardens, and supervision of post-graduate students, and applicants for doctor's degree. The Polli Research Centre is responsible also investigation and preserving of genetic resources of fruit and berry cultivars and selections bred in Estonia.

Polli Horticultural Research Centre works consistently and year-round. The outcome concerning the effectiveness of the policy was number of visitors, services and product development projects. The project objectives did not change during the project cycle. The expected results have been achieved. The popularity of the Fruit and Berry Product development Centre with its storage and experimental laboratory has been bigger than expected. During last year 36 Estonian and Latvian companies used freezing and freezer storage services. Refrigeration storage services have been used by 3 Estonian companies. Maximum limit of the service is gained – no more free space for others.

Experimental laboratory was used for the first time by 96 Estonian companies, 12 Latvian companies, as regular customers by 78 Estonian companies and 6 Latvian companies. These numbers do not include numerous excursions by schools and organisations. Also this service is developed – excursion, introduction of services, exhibition of apples and degustation. In experimental laboratory several new pure juices, purees, nectars, jams, berry flours, dried berries have developed and produced (more than 26 tons). New technology allows not adding preservatives, chemicals or additives – this is pure production. Also maximum limit is gained – equipment capacity at the moment (1 ton per day) is not enough now. Interest and demand from companies is much bigger.

Dessert:

Must try...

Rim Plus – Bio-Economy Regional Innovation Strategies (13.6.2013 / Brussels)

Organised by RIM Plus and the ERRIN Bioeconomy, Food and Agriculture Working Group was the second in a series of four RIM Plus workshops in Brussels in 2013 and opened up the debate regarding the future opportunities and challenges for regions specialising in the bioeconomy. The aim of the event was to provide an outlook on the "Bioeconomy Strategy for Europe" and a debate on its implantation. A focus on future funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 and on Cohesion Policy was given, such as the Biobased Industries PPP, the EIP on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability, KICs, JPIs, SF and other European instruments.

More info: <http://www.rim-europa.eu>

WIRE 2013 – Week of Innovative Regions in Europe 2013 (6-7.6.2013 / University College Cork & Cork City Hall)

The Week of Innovative Regions in Europe (WIRE) Conference series, financed under the FP7 Capacities Research Potential work programme, is now recognised as a key element in facilitation of the European regional agenda. The conferences had succeeded in bringing together regional, national and European stakeholders including public organisations, policymakers, research communities and enterprises to address, develop and progress key topics of interest to the community.

More info: <http://www.wire2013.eu>

S3 Platform Peer-review workshop (14-15.5.2013 / Vaasa, Finland)

Building on the experience gained from the previous seven peer-review workshops organised by the S3 Platform, this workshop employed the peer-review methodology as an instrument to support EU regions and Member States in the development of their RIS3 (research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation). During the workshop, four European regions Ostrobothnia (FI), Languedoc-Roussillon (FR), Lubelskie (PL) and Piedmont (IT) presented their current work on RIS3.

More info: <http://www.tr3s-project.eu>

Thematic workshop on social innovation: Social innovation, creating value with and for people (28.6.2013 / Bizkaia Technology Park)

Social innovation might be the answer Europe is looking for to support a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This is well explained in the "European Guide to Social Innovation" that was presented along this conference organized by Innobasque, in collaboration with Kutxabank and S3 Platform. During the event, the audience had the opportunity to learn how other European regions have included social innovation in their smart specialisation strategies (S3). In addition to this, several social innovation good practices was presented together with a Basque cooperation platform to connect regional social innovation with European networks.

The 12th S3 peer review workshop (5-6.11.2013 / Potsdam, Brandenburg)

During this workshop, the following five regions presented their current work on RIS3 (Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation): Berlin-Brandenburg (DE), Greater Manchester (UK), Mazovia (PL), Prague (CZ). The other workshop participants acted as 'critical friends' and discussed the strategies of the five regions under review. All five regions have a number of shared challenges in their RIS3 and these were discussed widely during the peer review.

More info: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Get smarter together in the Baltic Sea Region – taking innovation and smart specialisation across borders (6-7.11.2013 / Malmö)

Get smarter together in the Baltic Sea Region – taking innovation and smart specialisation across borders. Two events to learn from experiences and find strategic partners for the future were held in Skåne on November 6th and 7th.

More info: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Not to miss...

Europe 2020 conference: Innovation Union (27.11.2013 / Brussels)

The conference organized by the Committee of Regions will focus on four main themes: 1) smart specialisation strategies; 2) innovation, enterprises and jobs; 3) networking across borders; 4) open innovations 2.0.

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