

Bench-Learning Conference for Pioneering Innovation Regions

Smart Specialisation Strategies: Implementing European Partnerships

Organised by
The Committee of the Regions,
the S3 Platform and the Helsinki-
Uusimaa, Province of Utrecht and
Valencia regions

**Committee of the
Regions, Brussels**

June 18th 2014



The Committee of the Regions, S3 platform and the Helsinki-Uusimaa, Province of Utrecht and Valencia regions organise this one-day Bench-Learning conference to examine concrete possibilities for European partnerships and offer an interactive participatory platform for regions and cities to explore relevant collaboration methodologies and important thematic issues.

The focus is on both regional and city collaboration. Short presentations and relevant examples will serve as a starting point for practical and creative conversations about activities already in progress, innovative methodologies in use and concrete further steps for developing partnerships.

The working methods are interactive and will include the facilitated use of the Meshmoon online virtual reality worlds before, during and after the conference.

Why is this conference special?

This is a conference about integrating content with creating partnerships, and it is **not** like others you may have attended before.

This conference is organized to stimulate conversations and create partnerships. It brings together people from cities and regions concerned with exploring practical suggestions for implementing their RIS3 programmes and finding serious partners to work with their initiatives.

“Bench-learning”: International experts and practitioners will present recent and relevant insights from work-in-progress to inspire discussions. Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences and examples, discover common interests and explore plans to work together. The majority of conference time during the parallel sessions is devoted to this.

“Purposeful conversations”: The conference is designed to be highly interactive, and facilitators will be available both in the parallel sessions and during the networking lunch to help people participate fully, bringing together people with similar interests, experience and requirements.

“Working with virtual worlds”: In addition to this, the innovative Virtual Worlds provided by Meshmoon will support people in working together *before, during and after* the conference. So the conversations can continue in an on-line space for facilitating collaboration and partnerships.

This conference is part of an on-going initiative, carrying on from work begun at the Committee of the Regions' "Innovation Union" conference last year (on the 27th November); and there will be follow-through sessions later in 2014.

This event is part of a process to stimulate conversations between people, and the people who come are central to its success. We look forward to your active participation.

08.30 – 09.00 | Registration & Coffee

9.00 – 10.00 | Opening Plenary

Room JDE52; Interpretation EN, IT, ES, FI

- **Mercedes Bresso**, First-Vice President of the Committee of the Regions

Keynote Speakers

- **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Máximo Buch Torralva**, Regional Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce for the Valencia Region
- **Markku Markkula**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Conference Chairman

10.00 – 10.15 | Break & Relocation

10.15 – 12.00 | Parallel Sessions I

1. RIS3 as a process Room JDE52	2. Instruments for implementing RIS3 collaboration Room JDE53	3. Open Innovation 2.0 Room 3253	4. The role of universities in entrepreneurial discovery Room JDE70
The regions have created their RIS3 programmes, but the real question is how they can be put into practice. This session explores recent insights regarding how to make smart specialisation an on-going and iterative process.	This session explores the practical instruments used for facilitating collaboration in the implementation of RIS3.	Open Innovation 2.0 is a new paradigm based on integrated collaboration, co-created shared value, cultivated innovation ecosystems, unleashed exponential technologies, and rapid adoption. How is this done in practice?	How can universities contribute to the creation of an entrepreneurial mentality and accelerators for renewal, while supporting start-ups and scaling innovations?

<p>Chair: Manuel Palazuelos Martinez, S3 Platform</p> <p>Keynote: Claire Nauwelaers, Expert from the S3 Platform</p> <p>Perspective 1: Richard Tuffs, Director, European Regions Research and Innovation Network ERRIN</p> <p>Perspective 2: Jan Larosse, Flemish Government, Vanguard Initiative New Growth by Smart Specialisation</p>	<p>Chair: Inger Midtkandal, S3 Platform</p> <p>Keynote: Joaquin Rios Casanova, Director General for Industry, Regional Government of Valencia</p> <p>Perspecivel: Katja Reppel, DG Regional & Urban Policy</p> <p>Perspective 2: Petteri Vahla, Easy Procurement Ltd</p>	<p>Chair: Tuula Antola, Director, Economic and Business Development, City of Espoo</p> <p>Keynote: Elmar Husmann, IBM and European Learning Industry Group ELIG</p> <p>Perspective 1: Pieter Ballon, Creative Ring, iMinds-iLab, Vrije University of Brussels</p> <p>Perspective 2: Jarmo Eskelinen, President of the European Network of Living Labs ENoLL</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Alfonso Molina, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Keynote: Professor Ilkka Niemelä, Provost, Acting President, Aalto University</p> <p>Perspective 1: Mattia Tarsi, Member of the CoR, Councillor of Pesaro Province, Marche Region</p> <p>Perspective 2: Takis Damaskopoulos, Executive Director EIRR</p>
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12.00 – 13.30 | Networking lunch with facilitated round-table discussions, which will also make use of online virtual reality worlds.
Venues:
RIS3 as a process - Atrium 5;
Instruments for Implementing RIS3 - Foyer 5, the part towards room 53;
Open innovation 2.0 - VIP Room 5th Floor;
Entrepreneurial Discovery - Foyer 5, the part towards room 51.

13.30 – 15.15 | Parallel Sessions II

5. Universities and Smart Regions Room JDE52	6. Europe's Industrial Renaissance Room JDE53	7. Low Carbon Economy & Urban Planning Room JDE70	8. e-Health Room 3253
<p>What is the role of universities in creating smart regions through the modernisation of the triple helix?</p>	<p>Europe is renewing its industries as powerful drivers for jobs and prosperity. How can we use this societal transformation to bring high tech to traditional sectors, in order to create new jobs and industries?</p>	<p>This session explores the challenges of creating a low carbon economy to support urban planning and therefore a higher quality of life.</p>	<p>In the near future health care will be more individualised, self-organised, at distance and virtual. This session explores the concrete solutions being developed now.</p>
<p>Chair: Jan Wester, TNO, Economic Board Utrecht</p> <p>Keynote: Professor Jose Capilla, Vice-Rector of Valencia University of Technology UPV</p> <p>Perspective 1: Magnus Jörgel, Skåne Region</p> <p>Perspective 2: Professor John Goddard, S3 Platform expert, Newcastle University</p>	<p>Chair: Clara de la Torre, DG RTD</p> <p>Keynote: Leena Sarvaranta, Vice President, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland</p> <p>Perspective 1: Enrique Montiel, INESCOOP, Region of Valencia</p> <p>Perspective 2: Lorenza Badiello, Emilia-Romagna Region</p>	<p>Chair: Manuel Irún, EU Programme Manager, Climate KIC</p> <p>Keynote: Agustin Escardino Malva, DG RTD</p> <p>Perspective 1: Professor Ivo J. Opstelten, University of Applied Sciences Utrecht</p> <p>Perspective 2: Siegfried Rupprecht, Rupprecht Consult - Forschung & Beratung GmbH</p>	<p>Chair: Sirpa Hertell, Member of the Committee of the Regions</p> <p>Keynote: Tuija Hirvikoski, Laurea University of Applied Sciences</p> <p>Perspective 1: Loukianos Gatzoulis, DG Connect</p> <p>Perspective 2: Helena Wiedling Fernandes, Cluster 55, Skåne Region</p>

15.15 – 15.30 | Coffee & Relocation

15.30 – 16.30 | Concluding Plenary

Room JDE52; Interpretation EN, IT, ES, FI

Chair:

- **Victoria Palau**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Regional Government of Valencia

Closing remarks

- **Günter Clar**, Chair of the EU Expert Group on RIS3 Assessment
- **Ossi Savolainen**, Regional Mayor of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region
- **Hank Kune**, New Club of Paris Conference Main Facilitator
- **Markku Markkula**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Conference Chairman

16.30 – 17.30 | Cocktail Reception

Atrium 5

Matchmaking with current and potential partners continues

Introduction

Between 2014 and 2020 "smart specialisation strategies" (RIS3) will be a priority for every region within the European Structural and Investment Funds, as well as the Horizon 2020 programme and other initiatives. But what does this mean in terms of creating concrete partnerships and realising successful collaborative partnering arrangements?

This conference brings together people from across Europe so that they can learn from each other and engage in facilitated conversations about creating the next generation of partnerships and projects which could be used to translate smart specialisation strategies into practice.

The focus is on both regional and city collaboration. Specific examples of pioneering smart regional developments from Helsinki, Valencia and many other regions will serve as a starting point for practical and creative conversations about activities already in progress, innovative methodologies currently in use and concrete further steps for European partnerships.

Objectives

- Developing a clear understanding of what smart specialisation partnerships really mean: exploring concrete proposals for joint projects.
- Exchanging experience with and examples of relevant methodologies and existing activities, and learning together from this experience.
- Creating concrete platforms for potential partners to explore relevant ideas and make initial partner agreements.

Results

- The participating regions will start and/or deepen cooperation initiatives on the topics they jointly create and define (expanding, where relevant, on work completed before the conference). The target of these joint initiatives is to implement the Europe 2020 strategy according to the interests of the participating regions.
- The conference proceedings will be published by the CoR, describing the lessons learned and ways forward, as well as information about how to implement joint platforms for interregional collaboration and partnerships in practice.

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

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