



S3 and Widening participation

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Quick overview of Horizon 2020 - Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

Objective:

Enhancing economic growth and competitiveness in Low **Research** Performing Countries.

Beneficiaries:

- **Member States (MS: Eu13 + PT and LU):**
Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
- **Associated Countries (AC):**
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine

Through cooperation with leading R&I performing EU Member States & Associated Countries.

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Composite indicator of Research Excellence

Widening countries were chosen based on a composite indicator based on four variables:

- the share of highly cited publications in all publications where at least one of the authors has an affiliation in a given country
- number of top scientific universities and public research organizations in a country divided by million population
- patent applications per million population
- total value of ERC grants received divided by public R&D performed by the higher education and government sectors

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

- **Principle of excellence:** continue to allocate funding on the basis of competitive calls, selecting only the best projects.
- **Clear division of labour** between **cohesion policy** and **Horizon 2020**.
 - **Cohesion policy:** support for regions in building up their research and innovation capacity.
 - **Horizon 2020:** widen participation, better coordination between the two Union funding programmes, support policy learning reforms.
- **Measures to ensure that excellence prevails wherever it exists, through: teaming, twinning, ERA chairs,** support for access to international networks, development of smart specialisation strategies.

Quick overview of our Smart specialisation process



What is Smart Specialisation?

- = **fact-based**: all assets + capabilities + bottlenecks in a region, incl. external perspective, cooperation potential, global value chains
- = **differentiation**: focus on competitive advantages, potential for excellence, emerging opportunities, market niches, at the level of activities - granularity
- = no top-down decision but **dynamic entrepreneurial discovery process** uniting key stakeholders around shared vision
- = **concentration of resources** on priorities, problems and core needs, for critical mass/critical potential
- = **all forms of innovation**, not only technology-driven, existing / new knowledge
- = **synergies** across different departments and governance levels (EU-national-regional); cross-sector/technology links – **NO Silos Thinking!**
- = **ecosystem** approach: creating environment for change, efficiency of institutions
- = **place-based economic transformation**: rejuvenate traditional sectors through higher-value activities; aiming at developing a strategic approach to territorial development

Malta's National R&I strategy

1. National R&I Strategic Plan 2007-2010
2. Draft R&I Strategic Plan 2011-2020
3. 2012 – Ex-ante conditionality for ESFI: start of Smart Specialisation pillar
4. **R&I Strategy 2020**
5. **Action Plan 2020**

RIS3 ex-ante conditionality

EU Member States and regions must have a smart specialisation strategy in place that:

- » is based on a **SWOT or similar analysis** to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;
- » outlines **measures to stimulate private** research, technology and development (RTD) **investment**;
- » contains a **monitoring** and review system;
- » sees a Member State has adopted a framework outlining available **budgetary** resources for research and innovation; and
- » a Member State has adopted a multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to EU priorities (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures – ESFRI).

Key objectives of Malta's Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

1. Build a sustainable R&I ecosystem which will attract talent and skilled labour
2. Focus investment on key areas of competitive advantage through and **entrepreneurial process of discovery**
3. Support R&I for higher value added growth and jobs
4. Reduce fragmentation and build critical mass
5. To draw up policies and measures which adequately address the needs of the private sector towards economic development

Backed by the highest level of political endorsement, to ensure a coherent, common vision.

Malta's National R&I Strategy 2020

- R&I strategy is focused on three main goals:
 1. Achieving a comprehensive R&I ecosystem
 2. Achieving a stronger knowledgebase
 3. **Achieving smart, flexible specialisation**
- Highly business-driven focused on increasing indigenous growth in R&I and supporting all forms of innovation.

Process Phase 1 – Economic Analysis

- Desk-based economic analysis of sectoral sizes and trends in terms of GVA and employment
- Analysis of participation in
 - FP7,
 - CIP,
 - ERDF R&I grants for industry,
 - national R&I Programme,
 - graduate numbers in different disciplines, etc.

Process Phase 2 – Meetings with Public Entities

- **Meetings with public sector entities and social partners**, including the University of Malta, Malta Enterprise, Ministry of Finance, several regulators (energy, environment, transport, etc.) as well as social actors such as the major trade unions, MCESD and the Malta Chamber of Commerce Enterprise and Industry.
- **Analysis of the outcomes of these meetings** coupled with the **desk-based analysis** revealed possible strengths and/or to be explored further centred around **eight** areas: **TOURISM, ENERGY, ICT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH, MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORT** and the **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**.
- Existing **strategies in these areas were reviewed** to be included for discussion in focus groups.

Phase 3: Private sector consultations

- Initial **workshop** for the private sector in order to **validate the eight broad** areas identified in Phase 2 was held on February 2013.
- Series of focus groups
 - **1-4 groups** on each identified thematic areas + an “**other**” area.
 - **open** expression of interest
 - possible theme centred around ‘**Sustainability in building construction**’ identified,
 - to identify possible niches within the thematic areas or at the interface between different thematic areas as well as identify what measures could be put in place to ‘make it happen’.
 - completed by end Q2 2013.

Phase 4: Further consultations

- Further bilateral meetings which were identified as important through the focus groups
- Review of outcomes of the focus groups together with major stakeholders and DG Regio's assigned consultant to Malta.
- Joint Research Centre RIS3 platform **Peer Review in June 2013**.
- the draft national R&I Strategy was being reviewed and updated and then launched for public consultation from September to October 2013.

Outcome: Malta's smart specialisation areas

- Tourism product development
- Maritime services
- Aviation and aerospace
- Resource-efficient buildings
- Health, with a focus on healthy living and active ageing; and e-health
- High value-added manufacturing with a focus on process and design
- ICT-based innovation and ICT as an enabler of innovation
- Aquaculture



Rolling R&I Action Plan

- Identification of planned/ongoing activities, budget sources, owners and dates, etc. until 2020.
- 'Fit' with strategy action lines.
- Identification of budgets available and how best to use these.
- Will involve data gathering and several rounds of discussions with the owners/proposers of activities (presently ongoing).
- Will be a plan which is updated regularly over time.



Timeline (strategy):

- **August 2012:** Conclusion of first smart specialisation document – economic analysis undertaken
- **Sept 2012:** Malta joins **S3 Platform** by JRC-IPTS; First amendments to national R&I strategy proved not in line with S3 requirements
- **Jan 2013:** Expert contracted by DG REGIO to support/assess MT in preparation of S3. Meetings with top government officials and public entities
- **Feb 2013:** first meeting with private stakeholders
- **Feb 2013:** Experts contracted by DG RTDI to assess MT's S3 process.
- **Apr-May 2013** Ongoing focus groups with private stakeholders
- **June 2013 – JRC Peer review in Budapest**
- **June/July 2013** Consolidation of replies and first draft of National strategy
- **5th September-9th Oct 2013** – Public consultation
- **October 2013** – finalisation of strategy
- **November 2013** – presentation to Ministry
- **February 2014** – Cabinet endorsement
- **10 June 2014** – Launch of National Strategy

Timeline (action Plan)

- Nov 2015 – Final Draft Action Plan forwarded to MEAIM for feedback from DG REGIO
- Dec 2015 – Scoping Paper by CION appointed experts on a monitoring mechanism for R&I Action Plan
- Jan 2016 – **PSF** expert visit
- Feb 2016 – Development of Monitoring Mechanism
- Mar 2016 – Second Visit from PSF experts
- Mar – Apr 2016 – Finalisation of Monitoring Mechanism & KPIs
- Apr –July 2016 – Finalisation of Measures
- End July 2016 – submission to DG Regio
- Dec 2016: final approval

Issues with S3 and widening

- Cohesion funds vs Horizon 2020– two funding programmes, two fundamentally different rules
- Lack of agreement on what smart spec was about: philosophy, process, content...
- Research vs. Innovation
- Balance between economic diversification and smart specialisation
- Lack of flexibility, lack of understanding of a small, young R&I ecosystem



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