



VANGUARD INITIATIVE
New growth through smart specialisation

Annex – references

The Vanguard Initiative is a multilevel network launched in November 2013, and involving today 33 European Regions from 14 Member States (more details : <https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/partners>). The Vanguard Initiative is open to all regions sharing the same vision, ambition and commitment, as expressed in the Milan Declaration (https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/sites/default/files/contact/image/final_declaration_of_milan_final_27_10.pdf) and in the ASBL statutes (ASBL created in 2017 - https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/sites/default/files/docs/general/vi_statutes_en.pdf).

European Parliament resolution of 13 September 2016 on Cohesion Policy and Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) (2015/2278(INI) - <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2016-0320&language=EN>

(22). Calls for continued efforts to encourage a change of mentality and to promote innovative policy approaches to **boost intra-regional, inter-regional, extra-regional, cross-border and transnational collaboration**, including through macro-regions, by means of existing tools such as INTERREG, in order to continue boosting European added value in the strategies;

(25). Regrets the **lack of interregional cooperation on the basis of the smart specialisation** theme (...)

(26). Calls for the development of flexibility and coordination mechanisms to link the results of the RIS3 process to the implementation of Horizon 2020 and other programmes; encourages regions **to engage in forms of transnational cooperation such as the Vanguard Initiative**, the Seal of Excellence, the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP), the S3 platforms, the Stairway to Excellence, and the regional innovation schemes for the co-location centres of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT); calls for facilitation of the development of strategic cluster partnerships, with a view to boosting investment, enhancing coordination, creating synergies and promoting exchanges of views in order to avoid duplication and inefficient spending of public resources;

Council Conclusions (24 June 2016) on 'A more R&I friendly, smart and simple Cohesion Policy and the European Structural and Investment Funds more generally' - <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10668-2016-INIT/en/pdf>

(13) WELCOMES the numerous initiatives where **Smart Specialisation was used for cooperation with other countries and regions, which potentially not only improves the effectiveness of the relevant programmes but could also stimulate the development of cross-border clusters, innovation eco-systems and European value chains built across smart specialisation priorities;**



(14). INVITES the Commission to give continued support to Member States and regions when developing and implementing Smart Specialisation Strategies and by doing so explore in particular:

- a) promotion of the support for **RIS3 related cooperation between different countries and regions, including European Territorial Cooperation programmes**, where appropriate, for example via thematic programmes and thematic smart specialisation platforms, bottom-up approaches such as the Vanguard Initiative and in collaboration with existing European stakeholder platforms, while respecting the ETC programme logic ;
- b) ways to promote RIS3 that focus on a portfolio of specific themes leading to a better **concentration and coordination of resources**;
- c) assess how smart specialisation can help regions with particular barriers to research and innovation and economic development, including examples how to involve the different stakeholders in such regions;
- d) support for mutual learning and sharing of good practices in innovation policy implementation, governance and monitoring, in particular via the S3 -Platform.

EC Communication ‘Strengthening innovation in Europe’s Regions’ (July 2017):

“Stronger strategic inter-regional cooperation and sustainable linkages between regional ecosystems along smart specialisation priority areas can increase competitiveness and resilience, as illustrated by the **Vanguard initiative**. This led the Commission to set up, with support from its Smart Specialisation Platform, thematic platforms on industrial modernisation, energy and agri-food to help regions to work together on their smart specialisation priorities, involving policy makers, researchers, business, clusters and civil society.”

COMPET council conclusions (12/03/2018) on EU industrial policy strategy - <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/03/12/eu-industrial-policy-strategy-council-adopts-conclusions/>

(6) HIGHLIGHTS that the ability of the EU to make use of new technologies depends on its ability to innovate and that, therefore, achieving significant and more effective investments and the right framework for research, development and innovation is of crucial importance, also in the perspective of the next multiannual financial framework; CONSIDERS that a better knowledge transfer and uptake of advanced and key enabling technologies in the industrial base is essential to promote productivity gains and the overall industrial competitiveness; RECALLS that the links between businesses and research, development and innovation are essential for market application and uptake and turning knowledge into new products and services, and that **the creation, scaling-up and interconnection of innovation hubs throughout the EU should be accommodated to strengthen the innovation ecosystem**;



(7) CALLS for the further development of the European cluster policy, with the aim of linking-up and scaling-up regional clusters into cross-European world-class clusters, based on smart specialisation principles, in order to support the emergence of new value chains across Europe;

GAC Cohesion 12 April 2018 on 'Delivery and implementation of cohesion policy after 2020' - <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/04/12/delivery-and-implementation-of-cohesion-policy-post-2020-council-adopts-conclusions/>

(36) ACKNOWLEDGES the European added value of European Territorial Cooperation and STRESSES that cross-border, transnational and interregional territorial cooperation, including across maritime borders and with third countries, should continue to be part of Cohesion policy post 2020, while the implementation of Interreg programmes should be facilitated in order to increase their effects;

(37) WELCOMES the Commission Communication on smart specialisation, entitled "Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth" [7], including the **pilot actions to test new approaches for interregional innovation projects** and for areas undergoing industrial transition, as well as actions in favour of less developed regions;

Committee of the Regions opinion of 16 May 2018 on Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth (SEDEC-VI-032)

(10)... is convinced that **promoting the interregional and cross-border dimension by creating interregional investment opportunities will facilitate the expansion of regional and local innovation (...)**

27 (...) recommends that **more flexible use be made of Interreg to support the creation of industrial value chains.**

Council conclusions on "Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU" (29 May 2018) :

"RECALLS that the links between businesses, including SMEs, and research, are essential for market application and uptake and turning knowledge into new products and services, and that the creation, scaling -up and interconnection of research and training and innovation hubs throughout the EU could strengthen the innovation ecosystem" ...

"INVITES the Commission to explore **new solutions for establishing networks of demonstration and piloting facilities across all Europe** where companies, and notably SMEs, can try out their latest smart products and manufacturing systems, with the aim of a more effective deployment of new technologies"

