



Brussels, 19 December 2011  
INFSO/D2 ILB/vdp D(2011)

## **Workshop on "Launching a Coalition for Action on ICT in regional programmes (ICTRegio CfA)"**

### **1. CONTEXT**

The Commission Communication on smart growth<sup>1</sup>, asks Member States and regions to develop smart specialisation strategies.

In the proposal for the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020, in Annex IV of the general SF draft regulation, COM(2011) 615, smart specialisation is set as a conditionality for two thematic objectives of the future Cohesion Policy:

- 1) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (R&I target)
- 2) Enhancing access to and use of quality of ICT (ICT target)

Regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) can be defined as integrated, place-based economic transformation strategies that: 1) concentrate public resources on innovation and knowledge-based development priorities, challenges and needs, 2) outline measures to stimulate private RTD investment 3) build on a region's capabilities, competences, competitive advantages and potential for excellence within European and global value chains, 4) foster comprehensive stakeholder involvement and encourage governance innovation and experimentation, 5) are evidence-based and include sound monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Coalition for Action on ICT in regional programmes (ICTRegio CfA) is a working group that will gather stakeholders from all Member States. The working group will develop common narratives to assist the regional services in charge of the development of regional programmes to include ICT in their future smart specialisation strategies (3S). The working group will contribute to the individual and customised strategies developed by regions, based on local evidences using a participatory process of strategic planning.

Smart specialisation is about making the right strategic choices based on hard evidences and consensus-driven processes of stakeholder involvement through what have been called an 'entrepreneurial discovery process'. ICTRegio CfA will provide a forum to offer such local evidences, opportunities and advice to the development services of the region to develop the innovation strategy of the region through a joint collaborative process.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/smart\\_growth/comm2010\\_553\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/smart_growth/comm2010_553_en.pdf)

Smart specialisation is a place-based approach to identify opportunities for selective technological diversification in each region based on their own innovation capacities and economic and institutional structures – i.e. their endogenous potential. ICTRegio CfA will facilitate the discovery process of the local innovation capacities by engaging with the local stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

There is no one size fits all solution. Individual regional approaches and local solutions will put the regions in the driving seat and encourage identification of new ways to integrate innovative ICT into the regions' development paths. The members of the ICTRegio CfA will engage with the regional development services in an open participatory process of strategic planning that will also facilitate and strengthen delivery and implementation because it creates a shared vision, a shared commitment and co-responsibility for Europe's development at the regional level.

## **2. COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ICTREGIO CFA AND THE 3S PLATFORM**

A mutual understanding between this coalition for action of stakeholders from all Member States and the 3S platform will catalyze a process to lead to a better use of Structural Funds in the service of smart, sustainable and inclusive jobs and growth.

The smart specialisation platform offers regions a forum and a tool to prepare for this. The 3S platform is hosted by the JRC Institute for Prospective Technological Studies of the European Commission in Seville<sup>2</sup>. The platform will only work with the support and commitment of the regions and stakeholders on the ground, such as those represented in this working group. The working group should also act as an information catalyst with other stakeholders and interested parties in the participants' regions.

A preliminary version of the RIS3 guide currently under preparation by the S3 platform is available at the website [http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities/research-and-innovation/s3\\_b.cfm](http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities/research-and-innovation/s3_b.cfm)

This version of the guide should be considered as work in progress and the first outcome of work developed by the authors and the S3 platform.

To note that the Platform as currently set up is conceived as an instrument to assist regional policy makers in the new process and, therefore, it is not intended to interact directly with regional stakeholders.

## **3. ICTREGIO CFA AND REGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGIES FOR SMART SPECIALISATION**

A national / regional innovation strategy for smart specialisation is a multi-annual strategy aimed at developing a well-performing national or regional research and innovation system. It defines a policy mix focusing on a limited number of priorities targeted at stimulating smart growth.

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<sup>2</sup> See <http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities/research-and-innovation/s3platform.cfm>

The ICTRegio CfA will help on building a realistic innovation strategy by engaging the local stakeholders and entrepreneurs from the design phase. Actually, a sound innovation strategy can only be based on a strong partnership between businesses, public entities and knowledge institutions. The "quality" of this partnership is essential for its success and this Coalition for Action can contribute to this partnership.

#### **4. AIM OF THE WORKSHOP**

This workshop launches the Coalition for Action on ICT in regional programmes (ICTRegio CfA). There are currently 70 members from 17 countries (15 MSs: France, Italy, Germany, Spain, UK, Poland, Finland, Netherlands, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Poland, Czech, Bulgaria, Greece), see details in annex 1.

The goals of the workshop are:

- (1) To organise the Coalition for Action (CfA): governance model, role of the support action Infinity, supporting collaborative online space
- (2) To develop common narratives among all the members of the Coalition for Action to help and assist the regional services in charge of the regional development programmes to include ICT in future smart specialisation strategies (3S).
- (3) To define processes to help the development of individual solutions for regions based on local hard evidences through a participatory process of strategic planning.
- (4) To define the process to engage at least one partner from each one of the missing MSs (Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuanian, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Malta, Cyprus).

#### **5. AGENDA**

Venue: European Commission, DG Information Society and Media  
25, avenue de Beaulie, B1160 Brussels/Auderghem  
Meeting Room: **BU25 0/S1**

<b>19 January 2012</b>		
13:30	Registration and welcome	
14:00	Opening, setting the scene	Ken Ducatel. Head of Digital Agenda: Policy Coordination Unit. DG INFSO
14:15	Smart Specialisation Strategies – the regional perspective	Markku MARKKULA. Member of the EU Committee of the Regions, CoR. CoR rapporteur on Digital Agenda for Europe.
14:45	Smart specialisation for Smart Growth	Luisa Sanches. DG REGIO,
15:30	S3 platform	Xabier GOENAGA BELDARRAIN. IPTS Seville
15:50	Regional Cooperation in the field of ICT	ERISA
16:10	Coffee break	
16:20	ICT in regional programmes	Guido Acchioni, DG INFSO – C1
16:50	CfA on ICT in Regional Programmes	Isidro Laso Ballesteros, DG INFSO – FI PPP Task Force
<b>20 January 2012</b>		
9:15	<b>Session 1. ICT in Smart Specialisation strategies for smart growth: possible common narratives for ICT</b>	
	Moderator: Jean Pierre Euzen / Peter Fatelnig. DG INFSO F and D	
	Brainstorming on the arguments, approaches, facts and data to support the value of including ICT within smart specialisation strategies by the regions.	
	Ranking on the main arguments. Search for supporting facts.	
10:45	Coffee break	

11:00	<b>Session 2. ICT in Smart Specialisation strategies: processes to assist regional services</b>
	Moderator: Carmen Ifrim / Isidro Laso Ballesteros, DG INFSO H and D  To define processes to help the development of tailor-made solutions for territories based on local hard evidences through a participatory process of strategic planning.
12:00	<b>Session 3. CfA ICTRegio. Governance model and organisation</b>
	Moderator: Federico Alvarez. Coordinator of the INFINITY support action.  Agreement on the governance model, role of the support action Infinity, supporting collaborative online space, steps ahead – process.
13:00	Wrap-up and next steps. Rapporteur (provided by INIFINITY CSA).
13:30	End

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