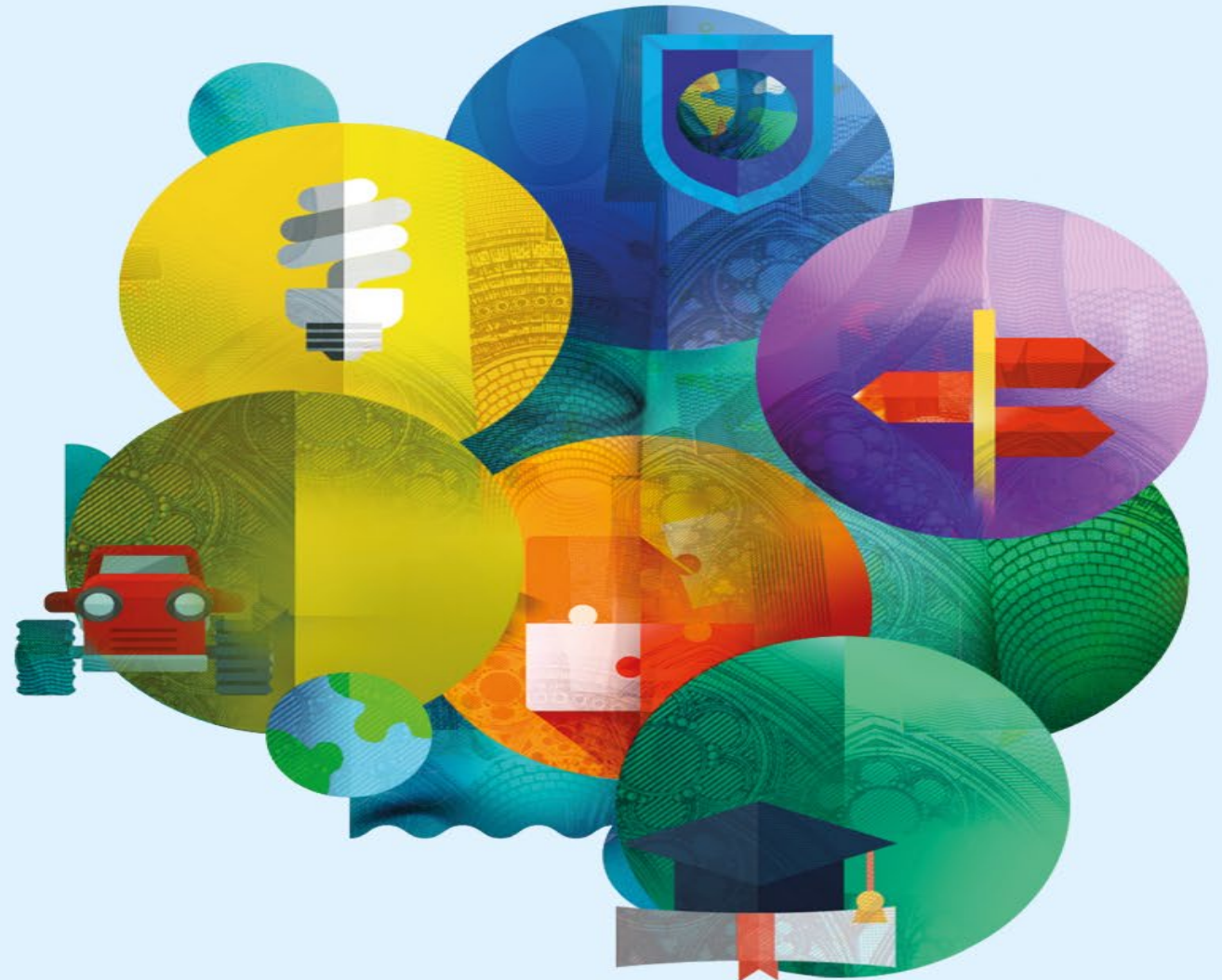
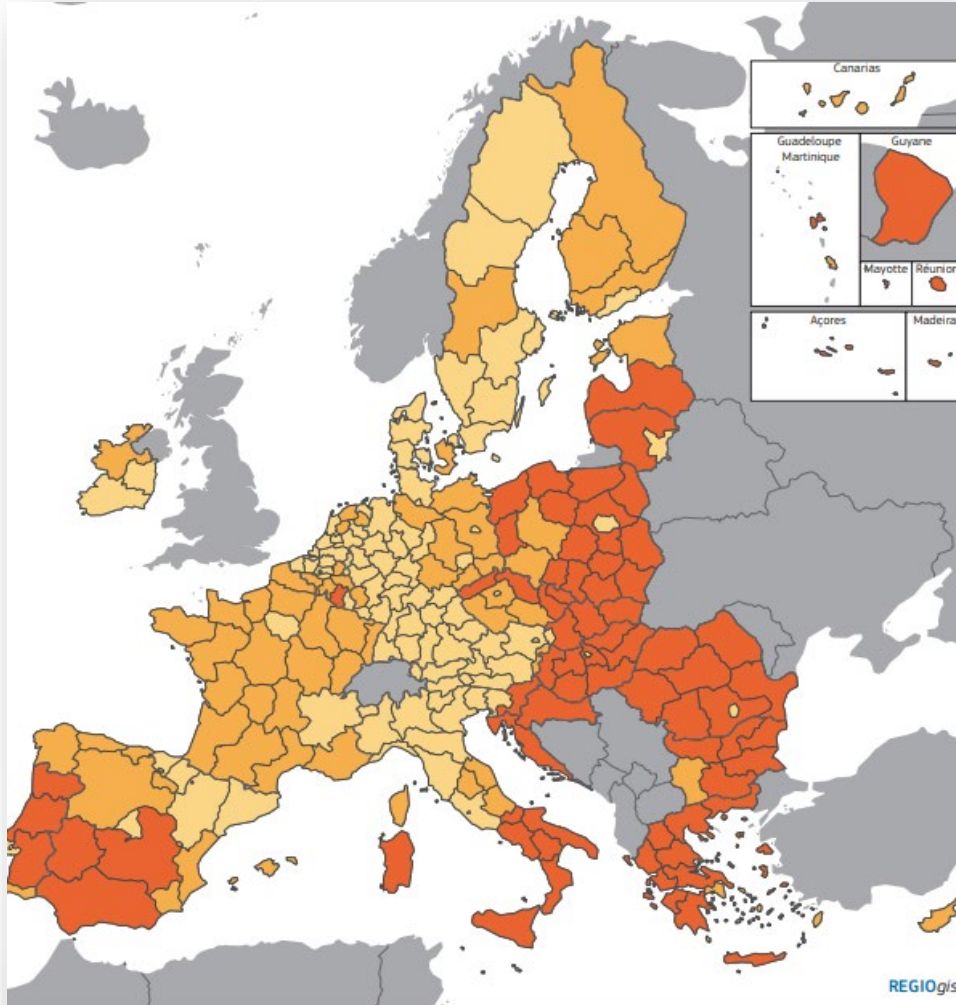


Strengthening Regional Innovation Capacity and Interregional Cooperation through Cohesion Policy

*Wolfgang Munch
Deputy Head of Unit,
Directorate-General for EU regional and urban
policy
Unit G1 - Smart and Sustainable Growth*



Cohesion policy - the EU's main investment policy



- Invested €1,040 billion between the 1989 reform and 2023
- **€379 billion*** (EU) earmarked for 2021-2027
- By 2043: each euro invested is projected to generate three euros of GDP

* ERDF, CF, Interreg, ESF+ and JTF

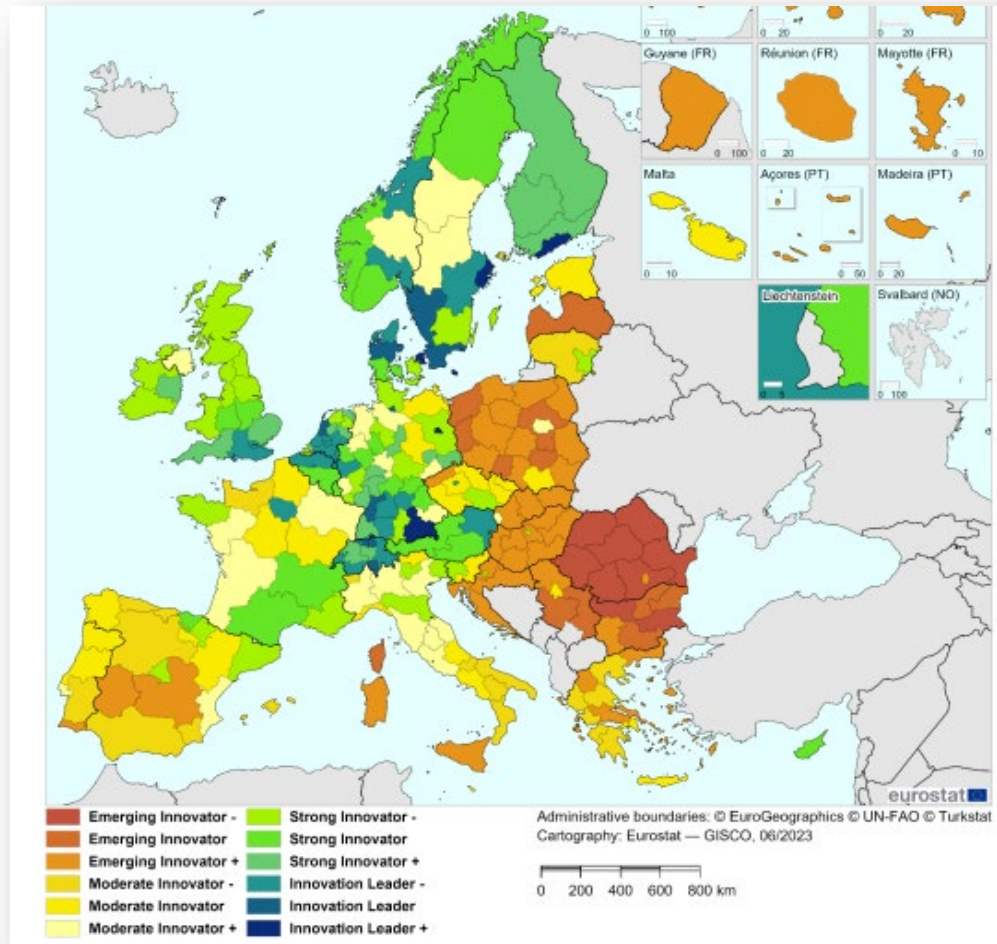
Category of regions for cohesion policy (ERDF and ESF+), 2021-2027

- Less developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) less than 75% of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP per head (PPS) between 75% and 100% of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) above 100% of the EU-27 average)

The background features a complex design. On the left, a circular area contains a detailed blue circuit board pattern with various traces, pads, and a central component-like shape. This is set against a backdrop of large, overlapping orange circles in different shades. In the bottom left, several concentric blue circles are visible. On the right side, three horizontal blue lines of varying lengths end in solid blue dots.

Support to
Innovation

Innovation gap across less developed and transition regions



European Regional Development Fund
support to research and innovation (2021-2027)

Total EUR 34.9 Billion

- ❑ Less Developed Regions
EUR 20.6 Billion (59.1%)
- ❑ Transition Regions
EUR 8.7 Billion (24.9%)
- ❑ More Developed Regions
EUR 5.6 Billion (16%)

Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2023

Smart Specialisation: concept and strategies

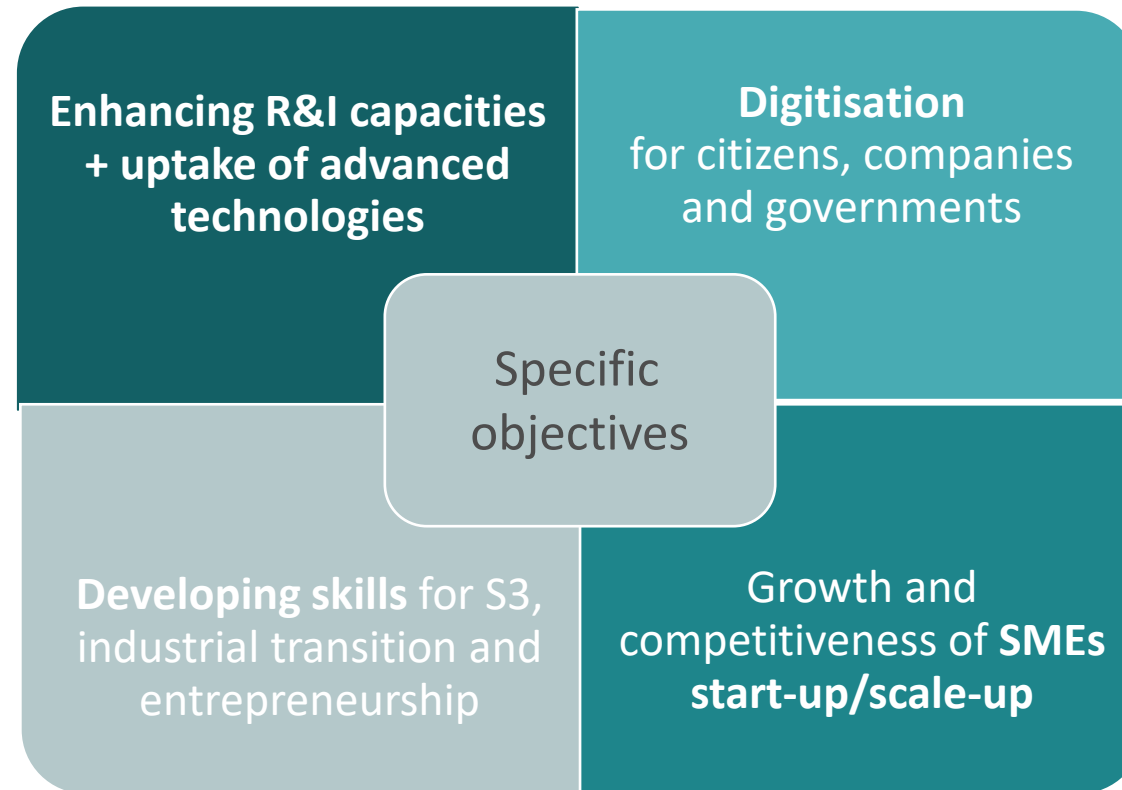
Smart Specialisation: An innovation policy concept designed to enhance regional innovation by enabling regions to focus on their strengths and comparative advantages.

- ❑ **Strategic Impact:** Smart Specialisation has significantly influenced the design of innovation strategies in European regions from 2010, fostering cooperation at various levels.
- ❑ **The three pillars of S3** - Participation, Prioritisation, and Localisation - are now integral to EU regional policy and development strategies.



European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

POLICY OBJECTIVE 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe



Interregional Innovation Collaboration: connecting regions

Cohesion policy seeks to foster interregional cooperation by:

- Inclusion of measures to enhance cooperation with partners outside a Member State in smart specialization strategies.
- Facilitation of cooperation through thematic **S3 platforms and partnerships**
- Opportunities for interregional collaboration through **INTERREG** programmes.
- Support for interregional innovation investments and capacity building via the **I3 instrument**

Smart Specialisation Thematic Platforms and Partnerships

S3 Thematic Platforms

Agri-food

Industrial
modernisation

Energy

Sustainable
Blue Economy

- Collaborative network of strategic Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships.
- **Mission:** To initiate and explore new value chains in specific priority areas.
Alignment of regional S3 → creation of European value chains → common investment project
- **Actors:** committed regions, cluster organisations, innovation agencies, businesses and innovators as well as civil society (quadruple helix)

Follow and join Smart Specialisation Community of Practice, flagship initiative of DG REGIO strategic services to S3 practitioners: →



The Sustainable Blue Economy platform

- ❑ **Regional Collaboration:** facilitating the cooperation among blue economy 4 helix stakeholders.
- ❑ **Innovation and Investment:** Initiating new value chains and investment projects in areas such as blue biotechnology, marine renewable energy, coastal and maritime tourism, aquaculture, and fisheries.
- ❑ **Societal Impact:** Targeting co-investment in areas with significant business, societal, and ecological benefits at both regional and European levels.



New Partnership Opportunities: If you are looking to join or form a new interregional value chain partnership, apply to the [Call for Expression of Interest](#) or contact the S3 CoP Secretariat at partnerships@s3-cop.eu for details.

I3 Instrument Overview & Achievements



Calls Launched:



Nov 2021: Innovation Support – 2 calls: Strands 1&2a



Dec 2022: Capacity Building – Strand 2b



May 2023: Innovation Support – 2 calls Strands 1&2a



Open calls:



Nov 2023 – Capacity Building call - Deadlines for submission: 15 February 2024 (first cut-off date) and 14 November 2024 (second cut-off date)



6 June 2024 - Innovation Support – new calls for Strands 1 & 2a, Deadline for submission: 5 December 2024



Achievements:



34 running projects: Granted from the 2021 & 2022 calls (consortium avg. size: 14 partners)



€133M: Funds allocated for innovation investment projects



€13M: Funds allocated for interregional innovations capacity-building



>800 participants from almost all EU countries applied for May 2023 calls, with nearly 50 proposals submitted

Thank you

Visit [INFOREGIO](#) for more information:

