



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The Future of Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies: Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient

(Report Presentation)

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KEY FIGURES

- 10 interviews with the S3 LRAs
- 49 regional S3 analysed
- 1 index to measure the S3 acceleration towards the new dimensions
- 9 recommendations presented

The study

Part 1

An inventory of regional policy initiatives related to the S3.

Part 2

Case studies on the S3 implementation and PRI Initiative participation.

Part 3

Conclusions and recommendations for the future of Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

The methodology

For scoping the study at geographical level, the study relies on the Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS) 2021 and its grouping of the regions according to four innovation categories, i.e., Emerging Innovators, Moderate Innovators, Strong Innovators and Innovation Leaders.

The methodology proposed within this study is to analyse the Smart Specialisation Strategy for the period 2021 – 2027, exploring within each Member State, the region with the same level of innovation as the national level and either the best or the least performing region.



The new dimensions for the regional

The future of the S3 is strictly intertwined with emerging dimensions deemed crucial at the European level to achieve sustainable growth.

1 **Sustainability**

2 **Resilience**

3 **Inclusiveness**

The S3 acceleration index

For assessing the current implementation of the new dimensions of the S3, it is crucial to develop dedicated indicators.

D1 – Human Capital: Growth in number of people employed in ICT (2017-2021).

D2 – Value Added: Growth in Gross Value Added at basic prices in ICT (2016-2019).

D3 – Education: Growth in number of employed people with tertiary education in Science and Technology (2016-2019).

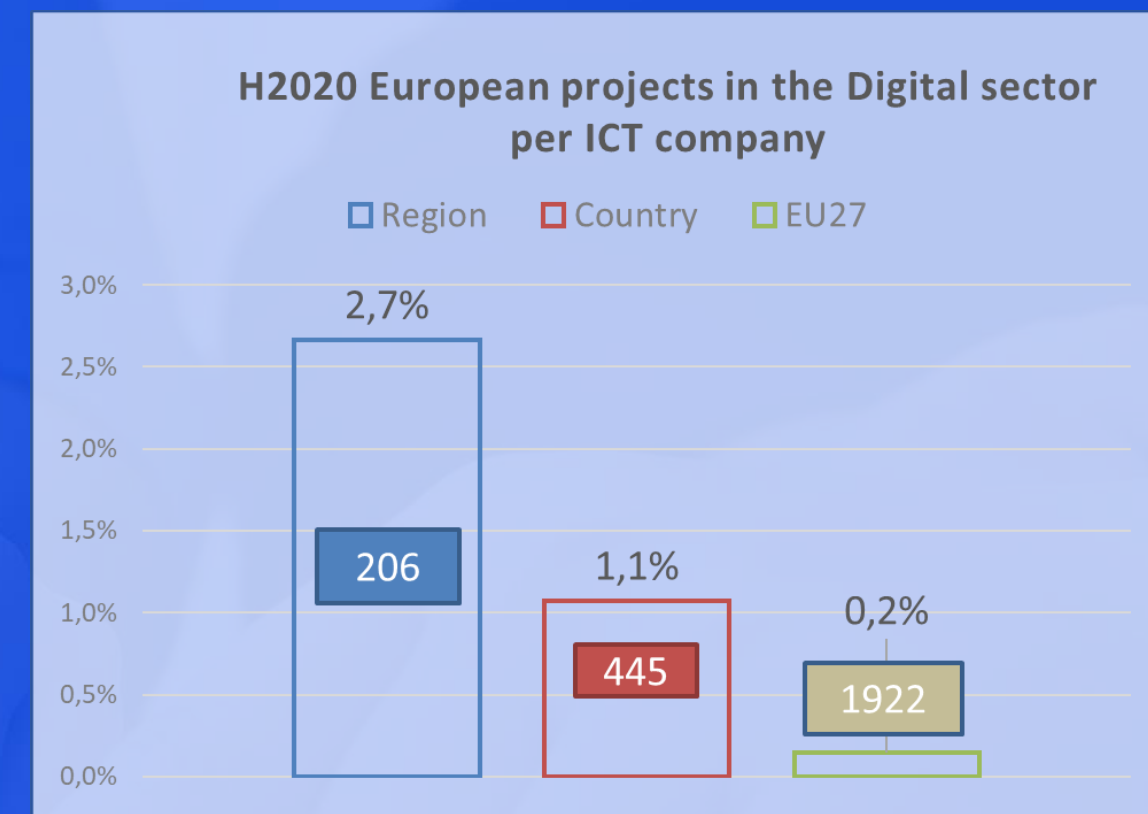
D4 – Research: Share of H2020 European projects in the Digital sector.

G1 – Waste: Growth in Waste facilities (2016-2020).

G2 – Air: Decrease in Air Pollution (2016-2020).

G3 – SDG: S3 2021-2027 alignment with Green SDGs.

G4 – Research: Share of H2020 European projects in the Environmental sector.



The S3 Acceleration Index (S3AI) considers each of the 8 indicators, performing a 'Min-max Normalisation' of values of the population, and removing outliers before standardisation. As a result, the value of each indicator ranges from 0 to 1.

Finally, the S3AI is computed as the average value of the 8 indicators.

The S3AI is a synthetic index which provides essential information on the level of S3 convergence in each region and allows regions to be classified.

Recommendations

1

The European Commission shall convey efforts to provide regions, through an appropriate body, with more guidance on effective models to engage civil society in the S3 EDP, to broaden the stakeholders base and achieve full involvement of the quadruple helix into regional programming.

2

The European Commission shall build on the momentum towards the Partnerships for Regional Innovation Initiative to cooperate with LRAs for the integration of the sustainable, resilient and inclusive dimensions in the S3 implementation by promoting a practical framework that leverages best practices and knowledge transfer.

3

The European Commission shall, through its appropriate body, implement a common repository for exchanging LRA S3 best practice related to the EDP across European regions.

4

The European Commission shall, through its appropriate body, devote specific resources to the provision of foresight analysis training. This will be directed towards the LRAs in charge of S3 design and implementation, to ensure that all the European territories can consider future regional scenarios when addressing their regional programming. LRAs shall create specific roles for such activity.

5

The European Commission shall, through its appropriate body, seek closer collaboration with Eurostat and Member States' statistics services to strengthen collection of relevant data at the regional level. This will enable better measurement and monitoring of the impact of S3.

6

CoR shall promote the clarification of the concepts of resilience and inclusiveness in the context of the S3 to support the LRAs and to further align with the European strategy.

7

The LRAs shall promote the integration of workforce training and upskilling actions in the S3, to bridge the gap within regional research and innovation human capital and to achieve Twin Transition and sustainable growth in Europe

8

The LRAs shall seek better collaboration and alignment with national governments concerning resources, models and approaches for the implementation of the S3 at the territorial level.

9

The LRAs shall pursue involvement in the EDP of the European structures and initiatives present at local level. This is viewed as crucial for a synergic and aligned use of European resources and expertise.