

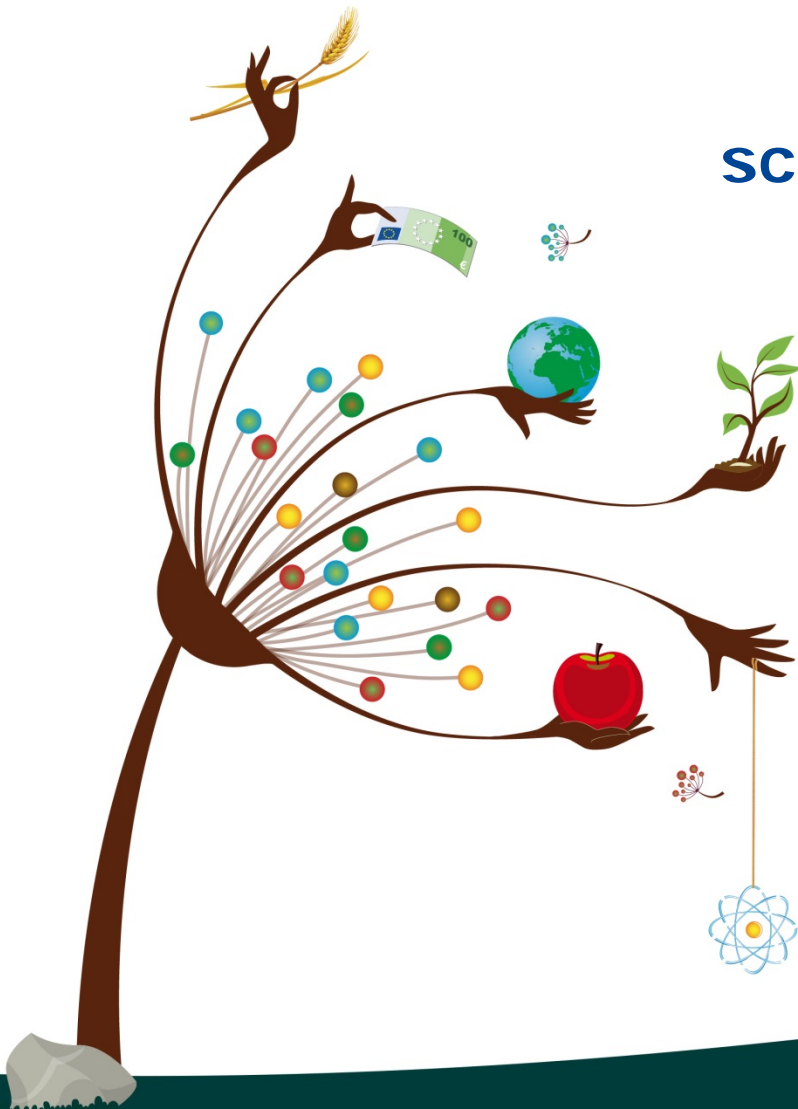
The European Commission's science and knowledge service

Joint Research Centre

**RIS3 Support to Lagging regions –
Focus on Romania**

Piatra Neamt, 7 December 2017

**Dr. Marina Ranga
Dr. Elisabetta Marinelli**

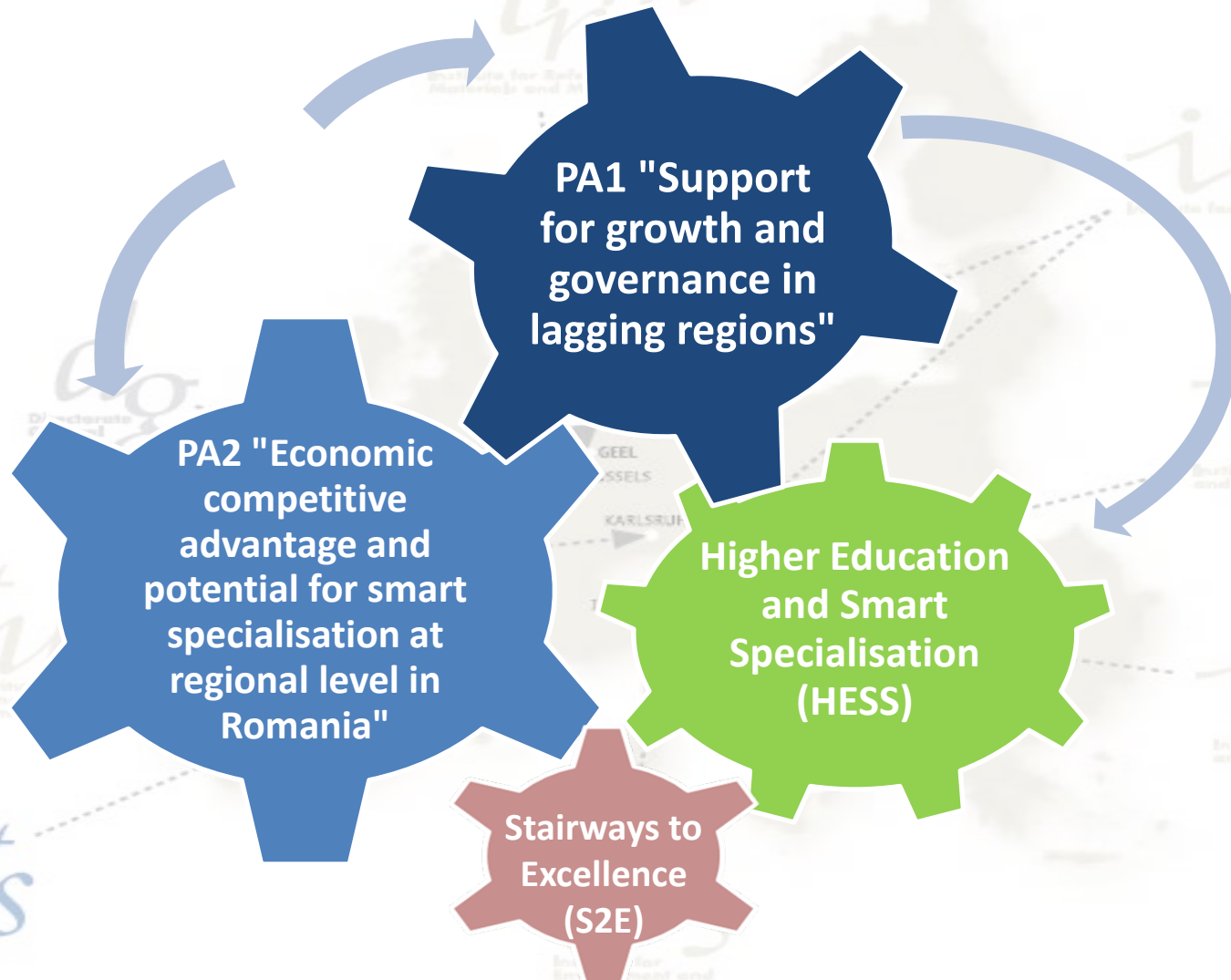


Outline

1. JRC project "RIS3 Support to Lagging regions"
2. Romania focus: "Targeted Support to RIS3 implementation in Romania" (NE and NW regions)
3. Possible next steps in 2018



"RIS3 Support to Lagging Regions"



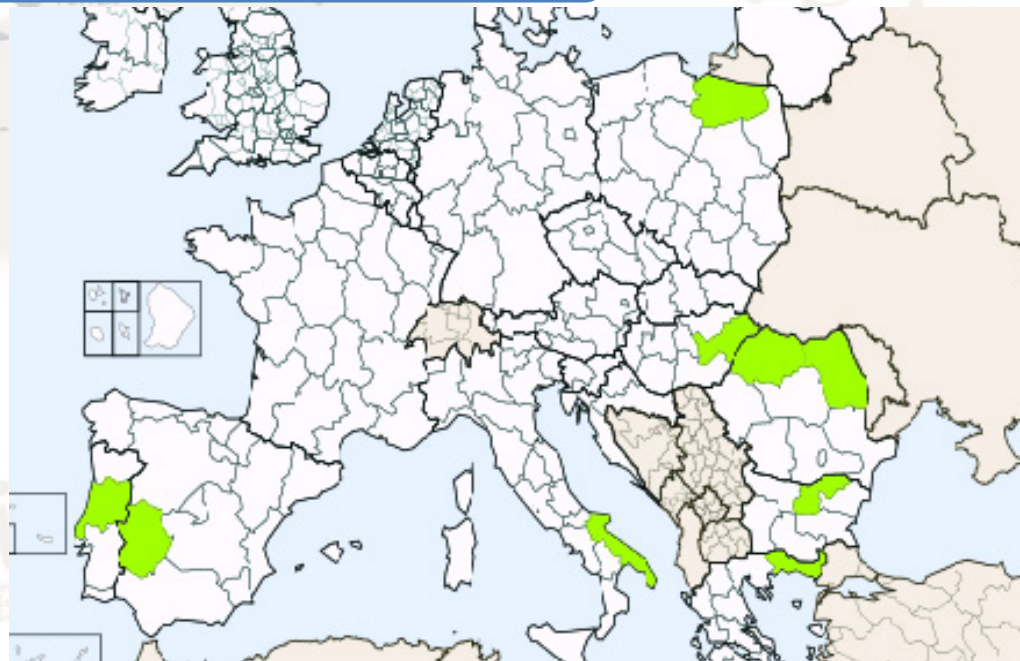
Regional coverage

1. Low-growth regions - GDP/capita below EU average

- Greece: Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
- Italy: Puglia
- Portugal: Centro
- Spain: Extremadura

2. Less developed regions - GDP/capita <50% of EU average

- Bulgaria: Severen Tsentralen
- Hungary: Észak-Alföld (Debrecen)
- Poland: Warminsko Masurskie
- Romania: Nord-Est and Nord-Vest



PA 1: Support for growth and governance in lagging regions



PA1 "Support for growth and governance in lagging regions"

- 9 regions from 8 EU Member States
- QH stakeholder engagement through EDP, communication, mutual learning
- RIS3 monitoring and governance
- Technical support for RIS3 implementation
- Refinement of RIS3 model
- Practical support to other EU regions

Administrative Agreement between DG REGIO and JRC, 24 months, 2016-2018

PA2: Economic competitive advantage and potential for smart specialisation at regional level in Romania




PA2 "Economic competitive advantage and potential for smart specialisation at regional level in Romania"

Deeper engagement in NE and NW RO for:

- Development and implementation of RIS3 strategies
- QH stakeholder engagement through EDP
- RIS3 governance and monitoring (coordination national / regional RIS3 levels)
- Specific activities within regional innovation systems

Administrative Agreement between DG REGIO and JRC, 24 months, 2016-2018

Higher Education and Smart Specialisation (HESS)



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- Align HEIs' missions with RIS3 priorities
- Strengthen HEIs' role in RIS3 and regional innovation systems
- Dissemination of results to inform EU and national policy-making
- 1st phase (pilot): NE RO, Navarra (Spain)
- 2nd phase: Puglia (Italy), Centre Val de Loire (France), Severen-Tsentralen (Bulgaria)

Administrative Agreement between DG EAC and JRC, start spring 2016

Stairway to Excellence (S2E)



Stairway to Excellence (S2E)

- Supports EU13 MS and their regions in exploiting synergies between ESIF, H2020 and other EU programmes
- Stimulates implementation of national and regional RIS3 strategies



2. "Targeted Support to RIS3 Implementation in Romania"

Stage 1

- Exploratory visits
- Priority-setting
- QH collaborations (EDP, PDL, governance structures)

Stage 2

- Region-specific actions
- Regional-national RIS3 coordination
- Communication of results

Stage 3

Possible extension Dec 2018

- Conclusions
- Recommendations
- Dissemination

Stage 1

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1. Exploratory visits

- North West (Cluj-Napoca), North East (Piatra Neamt), Bucharest – February 2016
- Meetings with RDAs, chamber of commerce, county administrations, universities, RDI institutions, business, local clusters (IT), NGOs, ministries, EIB – JASPERS

2. Support to EDP (methodology, Focus Groups, experts, etc.)

- EDP Focus groups on RIS3 priorities in NE and NW (June 2016-Feb 2017)
- Methodological support, conference participation (Transylvanian Cluster Conference, June 2016, TAIEX event in Bucharest with all RDAs, June 2016)
- Mobilisation of EU and international experts in the EDP focus groups
- Contributions of NE and NW RDAs to the JRC survey on continuous EDP

3. Project Development Labs (PDL)

- North East (April 2017), North West (tbc)
- Further develop project ideas from EDP Focus Groups, identify suitable funding sources by inviting national and regional experts in EC funding, RO NCPs
- Study of ICT proposals in the NE, identify funding sources and implementation

Stage 2

European
Commission

1. Analysis of technology transfer supply and demand (NE, NW)

2. Analysis of institutional capacity to manage RIS3 (NW, NE RDAs)

3. Evaluation of the third mission of universities (evaluation study in NW, HESS in NE)

5. Working Group on human resources quality and mobility (NE, NW)

Stage 2

European
Commission

6. Horizontal activities of the "Lagging Regions" project (NE and NW, next to the other project regions):

- Working Group on RIS3 monitoring (2017) and MOOC
- Working Group on RIS3 governance (Nov 2017 – May 2018)

7. Participation in transnational cooperation activities

- Participation of NE and NW in the S3 thematic platforms
- Connecting NE with the EU neighbourhood countries (Moldova, Ukraine)
- JRC assessment of NE's cooperation with Northern Netherlands (April-July 2017)
- JRC workshop on transnational cooperation (tbc)

8. Interaction with national RDI authorities

- Various JRC meetings with national RDI authorities, other central government agencies, MAROP (Oct. 2016-May 2018)
- JRC feedback on the ex-ante conditionalities 1.1 Research and Innovation and 1.2 Research and innovation infrastructures (Dec. 2016- June 2017)

Stage 3

1. Communication of results

- **U-B Forum: two JRC sessions on regional innovation and RIS3 (Brussels, April 2017)**
- **UIIN Conference: Workshop on "RIS3 in Lagging regions" (Dublin, June 2017)**
- **Regional Helix Conference: 2 presentations and RIS3 session (Portugal, June 2017)**
- **Conference "European models of capitalising the structural funds for the implementation of the Regional Smart Specialisation" (Alba Iulia, October 2017)**
- **6th National Clusters Conference (Bucharest, November 2017)**
- **Session on Romania's RIS3 experience at the High-level Conference of the Bulgarian EU Presidency (2018)**
- **Several research papers on RIS3 in Romania for academic journals**
- **Policy briefs on several aspects of RIS3 implementation in Romania (June 2018)**
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2. Project closing conference

- **Project closing conference in Romania**
- **Webpage of the "Lagging Regions" project, updated continuously**

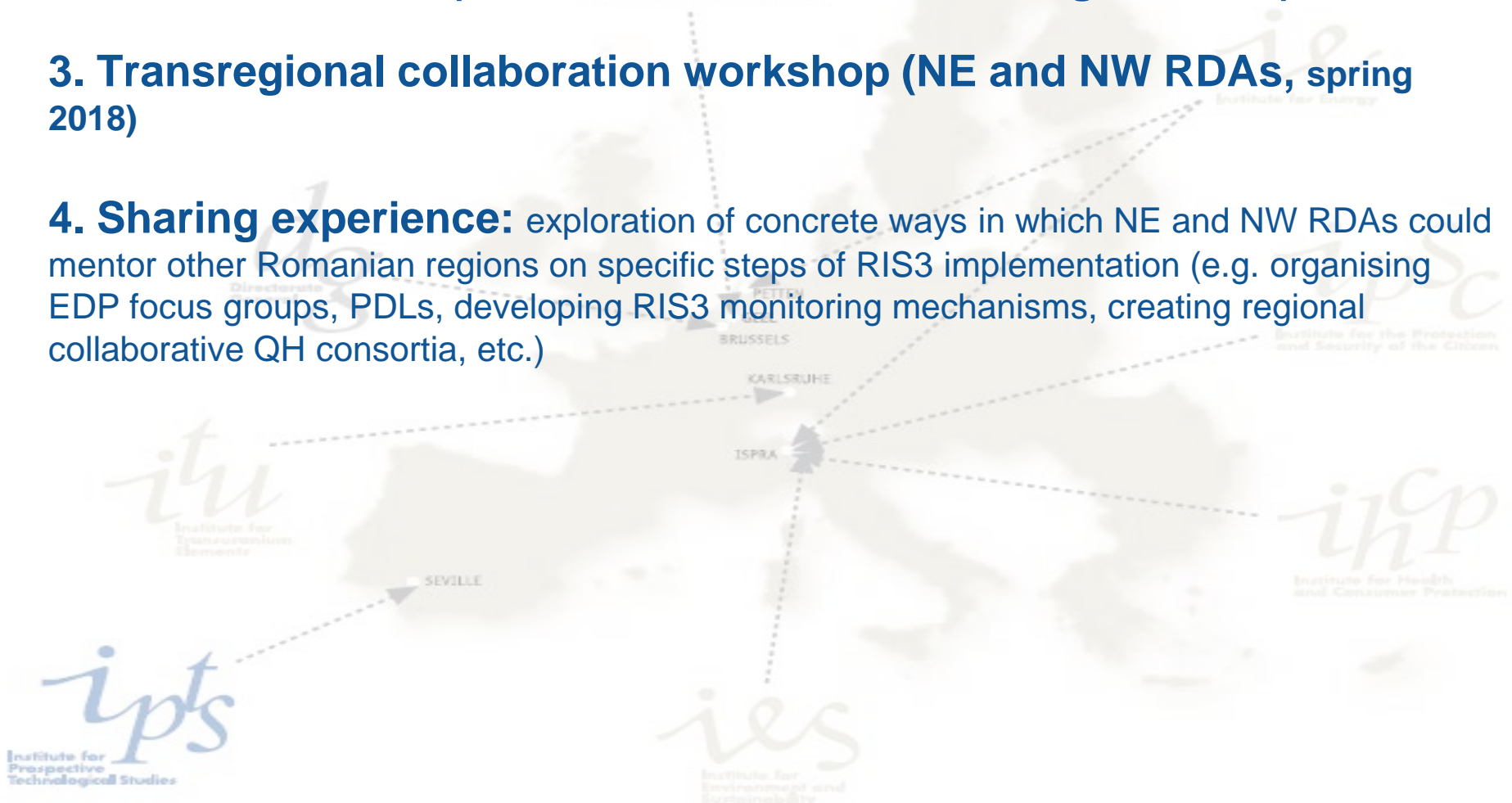
Possible next steps in 2018

1. Developing experiences in NW and NE
2. Extending activities to other Romanian regions
3. Horizontal activities across Romania and at national level
4. Horizontal activities (with other "lagging" regions in other EU MS)
5. Dissemination and communication



1. Developing experiences in NW and NE

1. Finalisation of ongoing or already planned activities in the NW
2. WG Governance (NE and NW RDAs, 2-3 meetings in 2018)
3. Transregional collaboration workshop (NE and NW RDAs, spring 2018)
4. **Sharing experience:** exploration of concrete ways in which NE and NW RDAs could mentor other Romanian regions on specific steps of RIS3 implementation (e.g. organising EDP focus groups, PDLs, developing RIS3 monitoring mechanisms, creating regional collaborative QH consortia, etc.)



2. Extending activities to other Romanian regions

State-of-play in RIS3 implementation in each region:

- Assess the results of DG REGIO survey, analysis of bottlenecks;
- EDP focus group(s) and PDL in selected regions
- Support to RDAs: managing project ideas, establishment of collaborative RIS3 governance structures (e.g. Regional Innovation Consortia), RIS3 monitoring (MOOC)
- Increasing awareness on innovative financial instruments
- Functional communication/coordination tool (e.g. email list, an online platform) to ensure effective circulation of information among parties concerned

Improving technology transfer (TT) capacity at regional level (PA1 of ROP, national policy):

- Expansion of the TT study of supply and demand to selected regions
- Implementation of support measures to meet the needs highlighted by these studies



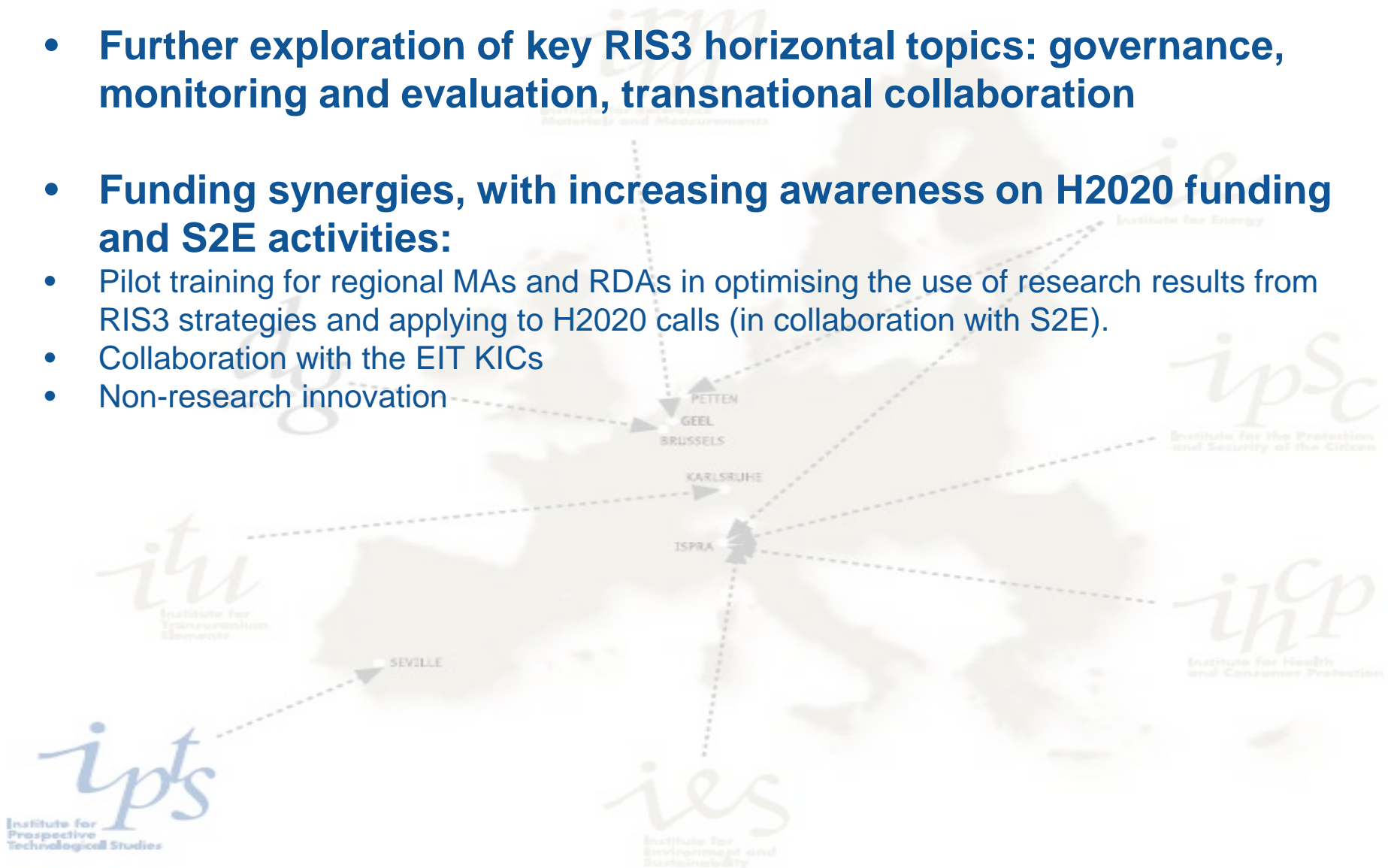
3. Horizontal activities across Romania and at national level

- **Support to HR mobility and development:** establishment of a cross-regional HR Working Group, based on the experience of such WGs in NE and NW.
- **Improved understanding of private sector's involvement in RIS3 (clusters):**
 - Improved use of thematic S3 Platforms (Industrial Modernisation, Agrofood, Energy)
 - Support for improving Romanian clusters' participation in and absorption of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) and Industry 4.0 technologies (workshop)
 - Support for technology development/modernisation and upskilling of cluster managers and members
 - Support for improving the capacity of cluster managers/members to participate in H2020, ROP and other EU-funded programmes (writing projects, finding international partners, etc.)
 - Support to various forms of enhancing UBC within clusters (linked to work on entrepreneurial universities).
- **RIS3 coordination at national level and at national-regional level**
 - Set up of an International Working Group on RIS3 monitoring



4. Horizontal activities (with other "lagging" regions in other EU MS)

- Further exploration of key RIS3 horizontal topics: governance, monitoring and evaluation, transnational collaboration
- Funding synergies, with increasing awareness on H2020 funding and S2E activities:
 - Pilot training for regional MAs and RDAs in optimising the use of research results from RIS3 strategies and applying to H2020 calls (in collaboration with S2E).
 - Collaboration with the EIT KICs
 - Non-research innovation



Project website

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Thank you!

marina.ranga@ec.europa.eu

