

RIS3 in Lagging Regions

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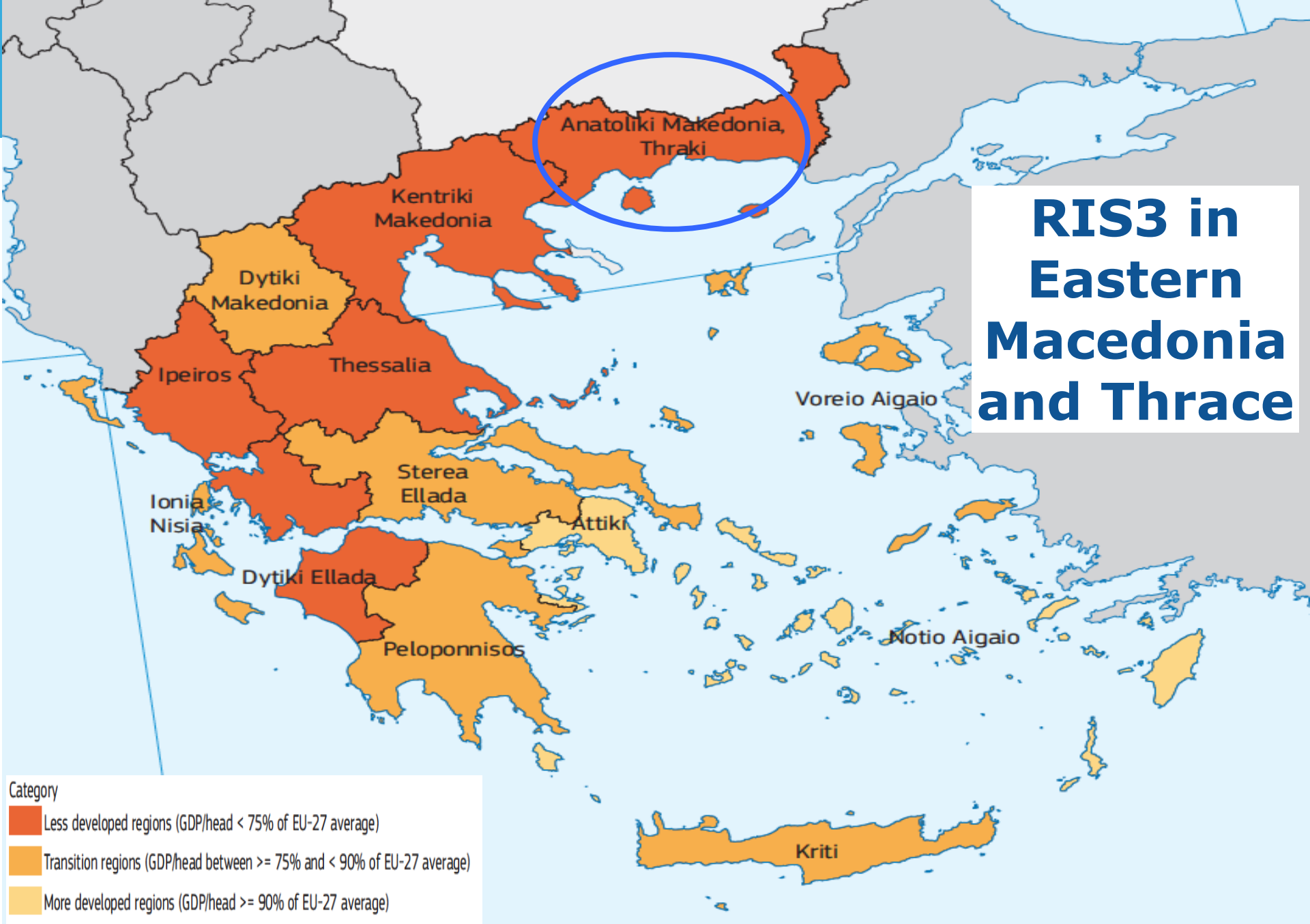
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Aims of preparatory action on REMTh

To support the refinement and implementation of the RIS3 of REMTh

To generate lessons and a model for other regions

→ *Launchpad for "Lagging Regions"*

To serve as a test-bed for theories on Smart Specialisation

Impacts of the Preparatory action

European
Commission

Trust building and commitment

- Willingness/openness to collaborate
- Increased trust in the quadruple helix
- Approach 'exported' to other regions

Enhanced understanding of RIS3

- Focus on the process and the ideas emerging
- Need to align regional strengths, international trends and opportunities

Participatory capacity building

- Increased participation of stakeholders in policy activities (EDP focus groups, working groups, online consultations)

Identifying Challenges

- Legal and administrative
- Capacities and experiences

Other

- Momentum created and sustained
- Sense of collaboration between actors
- Sustained commitment

Toolbox

| Objectives | Tools |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Idea generation, trust building and support cooperation | EDP focus group methodology |
| Open up to wider (online) communities | Online stakeholder engagement |
| Address brain drain, build skills | Mobility Working Group |
| Increase coordination between national and regional levels | Methodology Project Development Lab 1 |
| Widen funding sources to draw on for idea implementation | Methodology Project Development Lab 2 |
| | Online RDI Funding Guide |
| | Case descriptions |
| Optimise RIS3 governance structure | Governance working group |
| Support ongoing stakeholder engagement | Stakeholder round table discussions |
| Identification of barriers and possible solutions | Tailored peer review events |
| Mutual learning | Board of critical friends |
| Support international cooperation | Collaboration spotting tool |

Next steps

Focus on low growth / less developed regions

- Romania – national and regional levels
- Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Portugal, Spain, Italy,
- Greece - continue monitoring the experience in REMTh

Toolbox

- Customise 'implementation toolbox' for other regions

Targeted Support & horizontal support

- Develop common and specific activities for each territory

Lessons for other regions

Advance RIS3 theory

Lagging Regions: Policy issues

- **Slow and limited growth** – despite levels of investment – beyond general sluggish growth in Europe post-2008
- **Low growth regions** - GDP/capita in PPS below the EU average and that did not converge to EU average post-crisis (Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal)
- **Less developed regions** - GDP/capita in PPS <50% of EU average (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania)
- **Lack of understanding** of reasons for this → lack of effective actions to identify, understand, address issues

EP PA1: Support for growth and governance in lagging regions

- Building on positive outcomes of RIS3 in REMTh
- Support for activities in 8 lagging regions (4 low-growth & 4 underdeveloped regions)
- Stakeholder events, mutual learning/peer reviews, support for implementation of RIS3
- Developing cross-cutting approach to key issues regarding growth and governance
- Refinement of the RIS3 model
- Further development of practical support for regions across Europe

EP PA2: Competitive advantage and potential for smart specialisation at regional level in Romania

- To ensure coherent, coordinated and sustainable approach, to secure, develop and enhance engagement of relevant stakeholders
- To create linkages between regional and national RIS3 and to support their implementation
- Focus regions where no RIS3 has been developed or implemented and/or where RIS3 needs to be improved
- Identify, assess, and support exploitation of economic and innovation potential in selected regions
 - based on entrepreneurial discovery process
 - governance structure and framework for continuous collaboration
 - enhanced cooperation and coordination at all levels

Objectives

- appropriate and **specific support** to the implementation of RIS3 and related activities in selected lagging regions
- develop and implement **horizontal approach to key issues** in growth and governance of lagging regions
- improve **understanding of slow and limited growth** in EU regions and links to macro-economic framework conditions
- RIS3 - an entry point to **understanding broader structural problems** (e.g. in RDI, education, business environment and governance) - links with the 'lagging regions initiative'
- contribute to **advancing relevant theory** on (implementation of) smart specialisation by codifying hands-on experiences
- **develop and disseminate lessons** for other EU regions

Implementation

- **Partnership:** JRC, DG REGIO, national and subnational authorities of each region, regional stakeholders from business, research and civil society, and other EC DGs (GROW, AGRI, CNECT, COMP etc.)
- **Involvement of national government** an essential element
- **Flexibility** to tailor the approach to the needs and problems identified by actors involved
- **Transnational dimension** - to identify and share common challenges and solutions
- Optimal use of **synergies** with other ongoing activities - S2E, Lagging Regions initiative, Vanguard Initiative, S3P, as well as wider research and innovation initiatives in Europe

Work Packages

- **National/Regional Profiling** - stocktaking and assessment of state of RIS3 implementation in selected countries/regions
- **RIS3 implementation and refinement in Romanian regions** - reinforcement of linkages between national and regional RIS3 and support to development of EDP
- **Specific support activities** - undertaken in selected regions
- **Horizontal support and peer learning** - addressing common issues and with wider relevance
- **Analysis, tool development and policy recommendations**
- **Coordination, cooperation, and communication**

REGIONS (proposed/tentative)

- **Romania** - Nord-Est and Nord-Vest
- **Poland** - Podkarpackie, Lubelskie, Podlaskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie, or Świętokrzyskie).
- **Hungary** - Észak-Alföld or Dél-Alföld – possibly with focus of support at city level (Debrecen or Szeged)
- **Bulgaria** - region bordering REMTh (Yuzhen tsentralen, Yugoiztochen, or Yugozapaden)
- **Spain** – Extremadura – possible focus on interregional collaboration in selected lagging regions and relationship with national RIS3 on specific thematic priority
- **Portugal** - Centro or Alentejo (cross-border cooperation Portuguese and Spanish regions?)
- **Italy** – Puglia

Horizontal issues (i)

- **Governance** - Working Group on Governance
 - long-term sustainability of the EDP process
 - relationship between national and regional levels
 - synergies between structural funds and other resources
 - use of existing support schemes (e.g. Policy Support Facility);
- **Transnational cooperation** – essential to RIS3
 - Potential transnational collaboration
 - Cross-border cooperation within EU and with neighbourhood countries
 - Thematic cooperation across EU (Value chains/KICs/...)
 - Methodological cooperation/mutual learning

Horizontal issues (ii)

- **Implementation of RIS3** –critical issues for sustainable RIS3 implementation:
 - State Aid rules
 - Sustaining EDP
 - Instruments beyond the ROP (synergies between ERDF and H2020, but also with other (EU) funding opportunities)
 - Appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems
 - Components of the R&I system and design of the policy mix - Role of universities, RTOs, and research-active firms
 - Outward-looking orientation