



RIS3 in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Category

- Less developed regions (GDP/head < 75% of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP/head between >= 75% and < 90% of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head >= 90% of EU-27 average)

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