

'New Options for Universities as Regional Lead Institutions post 2020'

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STOA: Ten policy options to pave the way for post-2020

1. ***New technology and productivity improvements***
2. ***Smart specialisation: knowledge for innovation-led growth***
3. ***Technology, big data and governance***
4. ***Bringing the regional authorities back in***
5. ***Dynamic positioning as a fast and flexible approach***
6. ***Regional innovation policy – revising the current framework***
7. ***Shaping markets through mission-oriented investments***
8. ***Outside-in approaches to innovation-led growth***
9. ***Science parks, areas of innovation and the importance of location***
10. ***Technology, regions and the digital platform economy***

STOA: New technologies and regional policy
Towards the next cohesion policy framework

- Cohesion policy as a way to promote European innovation-led growth
- Smart specialisation remains relevant for regional growth strategies
- Market creation: bringing the regional authorities back in
- Going beyond smart specialisation strategy: mission-oriented policy
- Dynamic positioning for achieving flexibility, synergies and fast-track activities
- Operational programmes designed to become more effective

Six Challenges in Practice in RIS3 implementation

CHALLENGE 1: **The "prioritization" challenge**: how to select (and justify) priority intervention domains for S3?

CHALLENGE 2: **The "integrated policy" challenge**: what are the adequate policies for S3?

CHALLENGE 3: **The "smart policy-making" challenge**: what tools for evidence-based policy (measuring, assessing and learning in S3)?

CHALLENGE 4: **The "multi-level governance" challenge**: how to align policies from national, regional, EU levels?

CHALLENGE 5: **The "cross-border collaboration" challenge**: what is the appropriate territory to conduct a S3 and how to conduct polices that conform to it?

CHALLENGE 6: **The "stakeholders engagement" challenge**: how to promote participation, engagement and commitment of the variety of stakeholders?

Summary: New Options for Universities

1. Universities are the knowledge and capability base – focus on research and education:

a) Building critical mass based on European-wide strategic partnerships & quadruple helix model.

2. Universities have innovation and societal option - focus on societal challenges and innovation:

a) Increasing a general motivation towards innovation;

b) Stressing the importance of the real-life & real-case approach;

c) Moving towards Open Innovation 2.0.

3. Universities have an entrepreneurial option – focus on entrepreneurial discovery:

a) Increasing entrepreneurial understanding and activities through science-society dialogue;

b) Creating platforms and other pre-conditions for start-ups;

4. Universities have an option to play a crucial role in creating regional innovation ecosystems – focus on co-creation culture and the networks:

a) Prioritizing the regional RIS3 strategies & activities;

b) Increasing smart city & smart region initiatives; innovation hubs

c) Creating living labs and innovation test-beds for knowledge co-creation; bottom-up

d) Moving towards experimentation, demonstrations and rapid prototyping.

5. Universities have an change option – focus on new culture creation and orchestration

For the Discussion: Societal Challenges Are Complex, Require Responses by Many Policy and Knowledge Disciplines



- *To solve the grand challenges facing society — energy, water, climate, food, health — scientists industry and politicians must work together.*
- *Universities are facing their own challenge: research that transcends conventional academic boundaries is harder to fund, do, review and publish — and those who attempt it struggle for recognition and advancement.*

Recommendations to the national and regional policy-makers

1. **Use the entrepreneurial discovery process to identify synergies.**
   - Work together with authorities and bodies involved in designing SME and industry policy and research and innovation policies, e.g. Horizon 2020 actors.
   - Include Horizon 2020 actors in the RIS3 development process and in the ESIF partnerships for Partnership Agreement and programme development.
   - Consult international research and business networks (not only the players from their own region/Member State).
2. **Evaluate as part of RIS3 the needs of industry and public procurers and involve all key actors, i.e. universities, research centres, ministries etc.**
   - Strengthen RDI capacity building, including research and innovation infrastructure, Living Labs etc. to increase the use of EU instruments.
   - Strengthen the capacity to provide innovation support services to facilitate getting innovations into the market, including the use of COSME etc.
3. **Focus the preparatory work for synergies on the strategic aim of their RIS3 in terms of economic transformation and the fields that emerge as smart specialisation priorities and on what individual Member States and regions can influence.**
   - Create governance mechanisms to optimise synergies, since substantial parts of the H2020 budget will be delegated to public-public-partnerships and public-private-partnerships, i.e. JTI, EUREKA, ERA-Nets etc.
   - Focus on building European Partnerships through H2020, INTERREG, Macro Regions