27 · NOVEMBER 2024

TOOLS FOR CLUSTERING

HOW TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ECOSYSTEMS FOR REGIONS AND TERRITORIES

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EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

European Commission

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How to accelerate economic and scientific ecosystems for regions and territories?

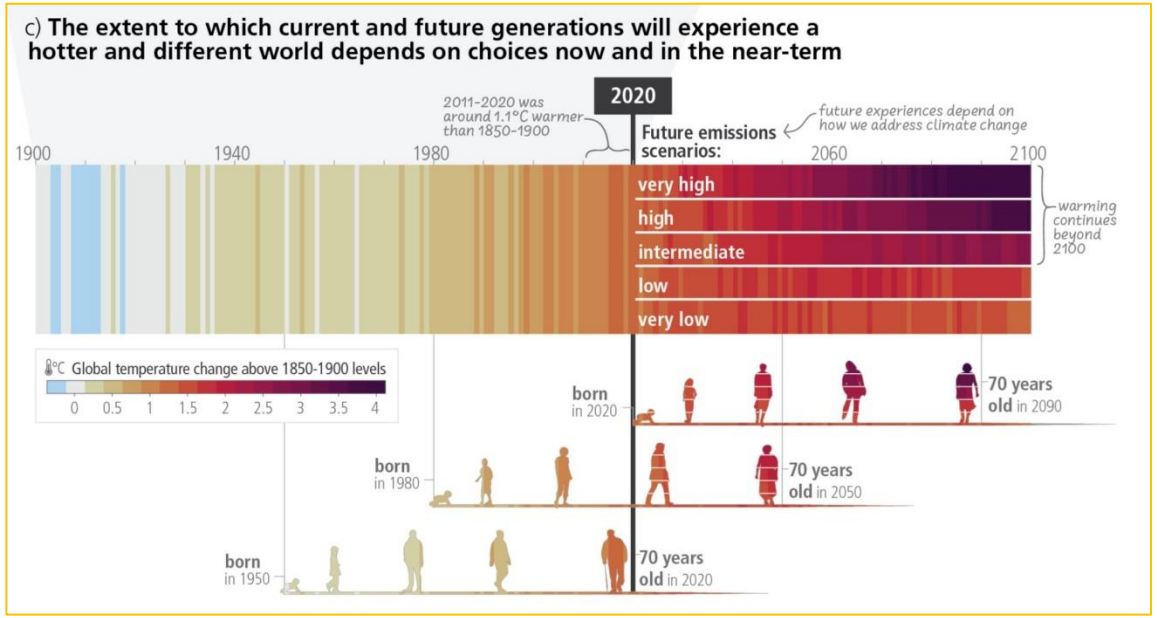
A place-based innovation approach

Carlos TORRECILLA SALINAS, Joint Research Centre

Clusters meet Regions, 27 November 2024

Setting the arena

- As the planet warms, many dangerous extreme events have become more frequent and intense
- Recent crises and disruptions have widening the **socio-economic gap** and have evidenced **EU vulnerabilities**
- Addressing complex challenges requires a new set of tools, mind-sets and



UN IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report

What is JRC role in this scenario?

ANTICIPATE

INTEGRATE

IMPACT

Our purpose

The Joint Research Centre provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.

European Commission

Innovation for place-based transformations

https://place-based-innovation.ec.europa.eu/index_en

2022 → 2024

The ACTIONbook

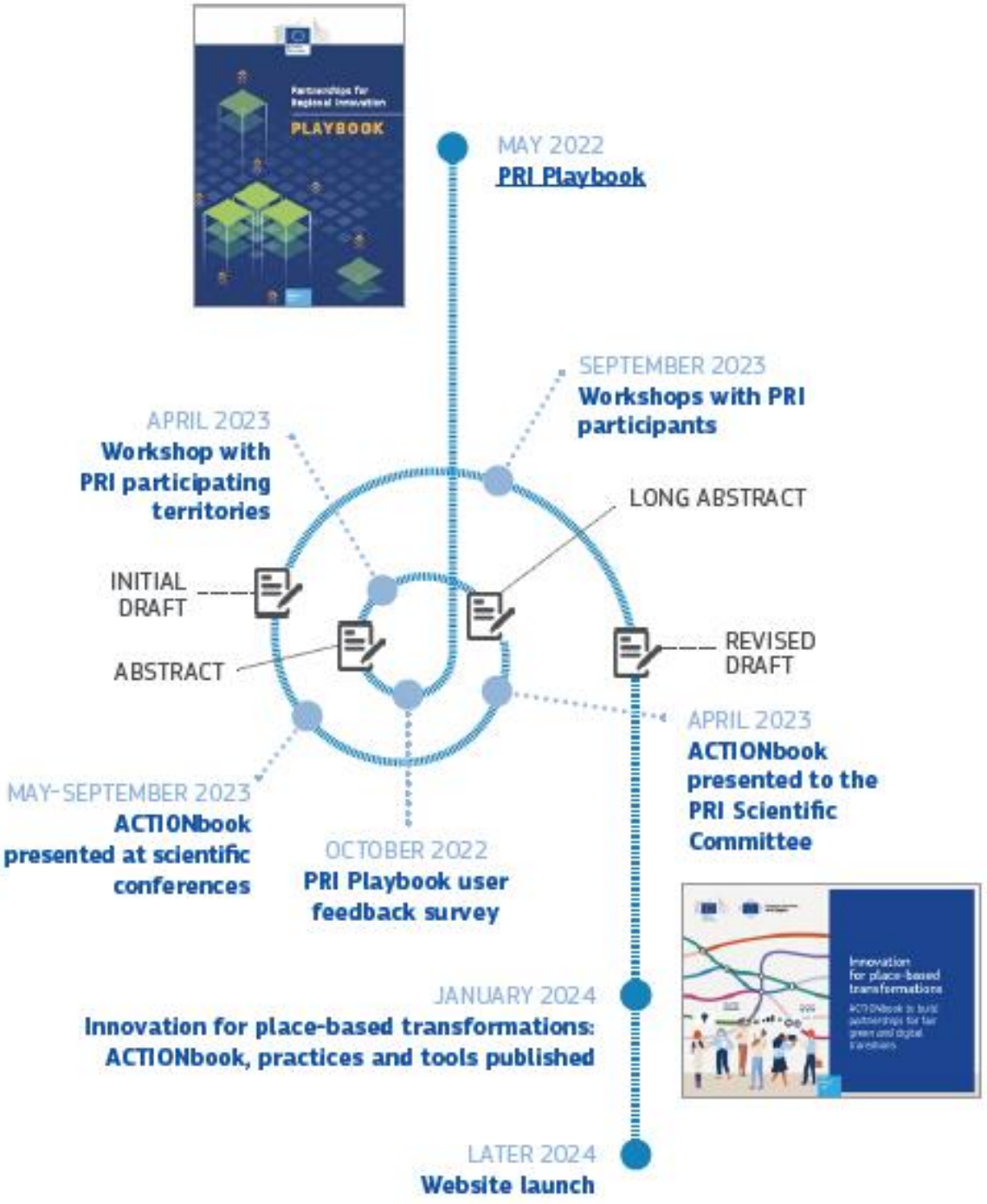
27 activities

P29

32 practices

T46

74 tools



Co-creation for action

chapter:
Engaging

activities:
Identifying stakeholders for given societal goals
Continuously engaging with stakeholders
Setting up a network governance
Building legitimacy

chapter:
Envisioning

activities:
Diagnosing and developing a vision
Conducting participatory foresight
Developing transition pathways and roadmaps
Setting milestones and targets

chapter:
Orchestrating

activities:
Agenda setting and sharing
Enabling multilevel cooperation
Collaborating across departments
Collaborating across territories

chapter:
Designing

activities:
Developing a strategy
Developing the policy and action mix
Mobilising resources
Designing ecosystem support
Designing local missions

chapter:
Implementing

activities:
Deploying a strategy
Coordinating the policy and action mix
Prioritising funds
Experimenting and demonstrating
Scaling and mainstreaming

chapter:
Learning

activities:
Managing and transforming knowledge
Continuous monitoring
Evaluating impact
Learning from experimentation
Mobilising competences

chapter: **Envisioning** / activity:

Diagnosing and developing a vision

WHAT ▪ This activity seeks to answer the question: **'Where are we now and where can we go from here?'**. It does so, initially, independently of where we want to go. A diagnosis can have many aspects. It can look at how the system performs now to gain an understanding of its strengths and weakness. It can also look prospectively at opportunities and threats, which also means looking outside the system and into the future. This is how vision development begins, and it should feed into a broader process of engagement, deliberation, alignment, exploration and a conscious pursuit of positive transition pathways. **System-level innovation**, or territorial transformation, is the far-reaching reconfiguration of a system to serve new or changed societal needs in response to a strong impulse for change. Therefore, to identify promising pathways, it is important to match territorial assets with strong impulses for change. Some of these will be global impulses, typically referred to as megatrends (e.g. sustainability, geopolitical tensions, emerging technologies), whereas others will be local.

WHY ▪ **Diagnostic methods** are necessary to inform policy debates about transformation. Good diagnostics can help you to act as focusing devices, targeting limited policy attention and resources. Diagnostic tools and methods aiming to address transformation require looking in detail at specific needs to create new anticipatory capabilities. This helps balance the traditional strong focus on the supply-side/production sector with a strong focus on the demand side and user needs. In addition, it also reveals more important factors that may shape the global context in the coming years. **Positive collective visions** are in short supply in a world facing many escalating crises. The challenge lies in that these positive visions may not be apparent to any one stakeholder, and accepting them may require an independent mediator. Supporting the creation of positive visions may well be one of the most valuable public goods governments can provide.

HOW ▪ Diagnostic methods combine gathering evidence with stakeholder discussions and collective imagination. Methods for a system-level diagnosis include system mapping (such as network analysis), policy evaluation inspired by system dynamics (such as causal loop diagrams) or policy reviews with a transformative framing (such as the POINT methodology developed by the Joint Research Centre). To choose the right diagnostic method to try and answer our first question (Where are we now and where can we go from here?), you should first answer the following questions.

1. What is the policy objective of the diagnostic? Link the diagnostic to planned or ongoing processes of policy development and/or reform (e.g. a new innovation strategy).
2. What is the diagnostic approach or method to be used, considering the policy objective?
3. How will the findings of the diagnosis link back to policy development and/or executive decisions?
4. How will the findings of the diagnosis feed into developing a vision?

competences

- AI Identifying & framing policy problems
- C6 Working with data & models
- D2 Scanning for change
- G5 Dealing with mis and disinformation

practices

P10 P14 P22 P28 P29 P30

tools

T05 T15 T24 T28 T43 T53 T60 T61 T62 T63 T65 T73

more

Causal loop diagrams (course)

Evidence-grounded positive future visions

Projecting Opportunities for INdustrial Transitions (POINT)

Systems based methods for research & innovation policy

System mapping toolkit (dashboard)

Colour code

Competences for innovative policymaking (EC framework)

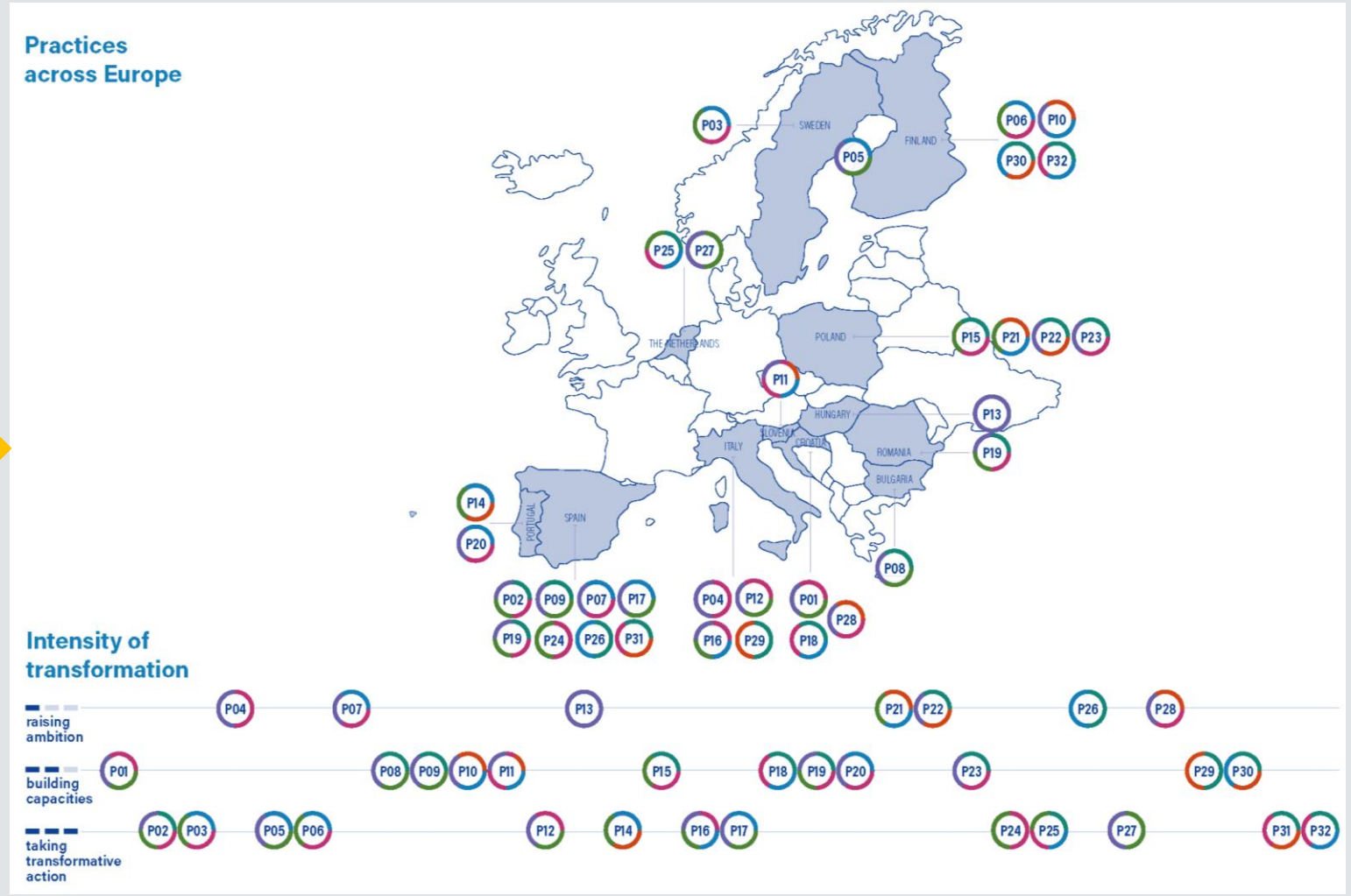
Examples from territories

(JRC) tools

Additional resources

Practices

European Committee of the Regions
ISSN 1831-9424
Innovation for place-based transformations
Collection of practices
EUR 31214 EN


Practices across Europe
SWEDEN
FINLAND
POLAND
THE NETHERLANDS
HUNGARY
ITALY
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
ROMANIA
BULGARIA
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
P01 P02 P03 P04 P05 P06 P07 P08 P09 P10 P11 P12 P13 P14 P15 P16 P17 P18 P19 P20 P21 P22 P23 P24 P25 P26 P27 P28 P29 P30 P31 P32
Intensity of transformation
raising ambition
building capacities
taking transformative action

Tools

European Committee of the Regions
ISSN 1831-9424
Innovation for place-based transformations
Tools for ACTION
EUR 31816 EN

Tool types
concept
methodology
eu policy initiative
example

S3: Smart specialisation strategies

Filters

ACTIONbook activities

Authors and contacts

T60

TYPE
concept
methodology
eu policy initiative
example

LEVEL
local
regional
national
european

S3: Smart specialisation strategies

PURPOSE Providing an outline of the s3 concept and its perspective

USE Developing smart specialisation strategies

ACTIONBOOK ACTIVITIES Continuously engaging with stakeholders
Diagnosing and developing a vision
Developing a strategy
Deploying a strategy

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Carmen Sillero Illanes
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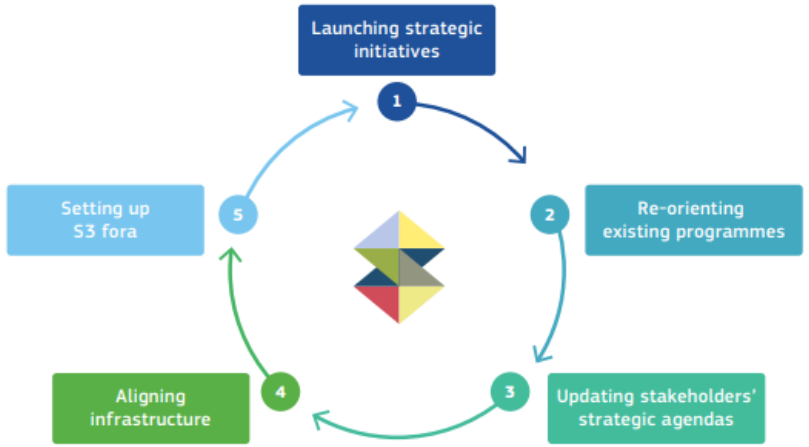
MORE
→ S3 Community of Practice
→ Smart Specialisation Platform
→ European Regional Development Fund
→ Smart Specialisation Strategies and Regional Productivity

Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) are regional innovation strategies established for a more effective use of Cohesion Funds in the 2014-2020 programming period. They became an ex-ante conditionality whereby the design of a smart specialisation strategy (S3) was a prerequisite to access the European Structural and Investment Funds devoted to research, technological development and innovation, and maintained for the 2021-2027 period as a so-called enabling condition. They aim at focusing R&I efforts on a limited number of priorities based on an assessment of opportunities of the regions and full involvement of local stakeholders (mainly business, research organisations and the public sector) via an entrepreneurial discovery process. The S3 experience reshaped the innovation policy process as illustrated below. S3 has promoted a methodical approach to regional economic development. Furthermore, S3 has enhanced participatory governance in the identification of priorities and the overall design, as well as in the implementation of the strategy, leading to a more open, market-oriented and inclusive decision-making process. S3 has led to a cultural change in many regions, territories and Member States. The Smart Specialisation Community of Practice (S3 CoP) is the central node on guidance, networking, support and peer-learning on S3, covering its conceptual development and its implementation in the EU. The S3 Platform (S3P) covers implementation of smart specialisation outside the EU.



Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs)

Filters

ACTIONbook activities

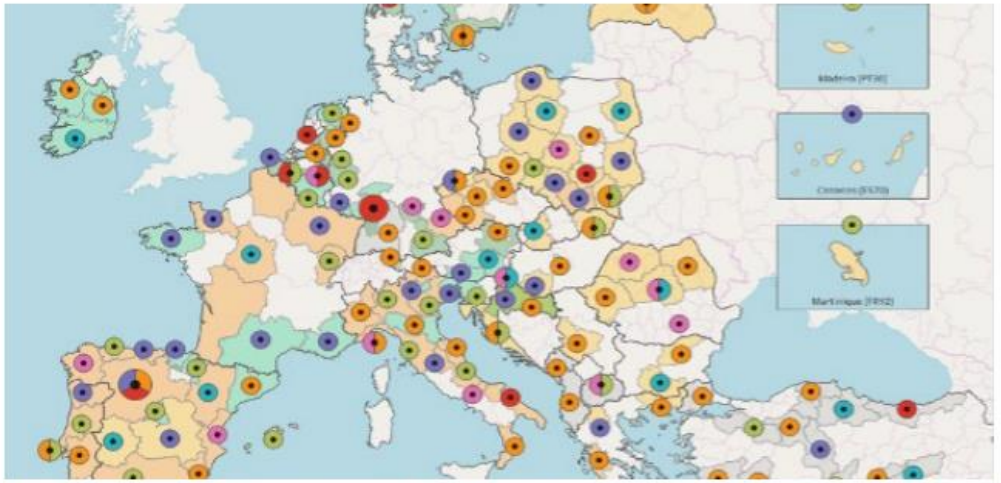
Authors and contacts

T57

TYPE
concept
methodology
eu policy initiative
example

LEVEL
local
regional
national
european

Regional Innovation Valleys



PURPOSE Bridging the innovation divide and spreading Europe's leadership in innovation

USE Strengthening and advancing European innovation ecosystems, connecting all EU territories to respond to societal challenges and fostering stronger cohesion

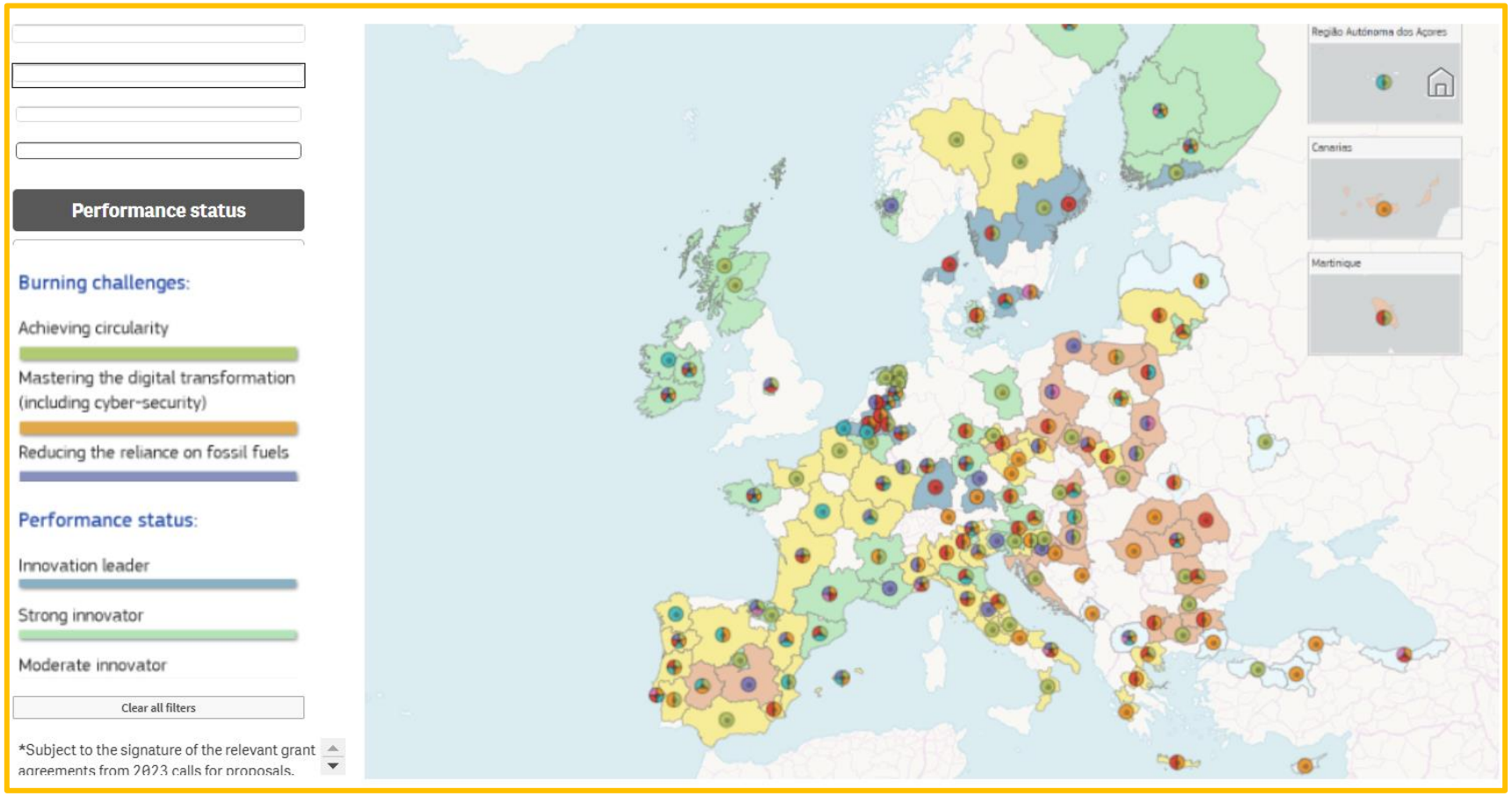
ACTIONBOOK ACTIVITIES
Setting milestones and targets
Enabling multilevel cooperation
Collaborating across departments
Collaborating across territories
Developing a strategy

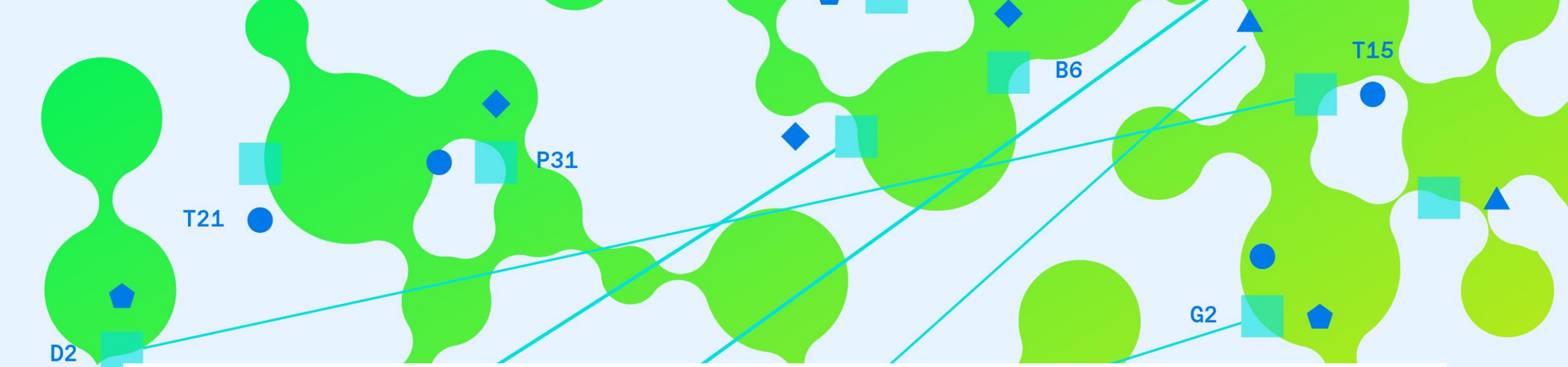
AUTHORS Solange Mifsud (JRC-PRI-PILOT@ec.europa.eu)
Magdalena Cymerys

MORE → Regional Innovation Valley - Matchmaking map

EU regions, irrelevant of their innovator-performance level, need to invest collectively with other regions during the next wave of innovation in a highly competitive, volatile and ever-changing geopolitical context. The Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs) initiative aims to create clusters of regions with different levels of innovation to support the development of a strong and diversified European ecosystem by creating interregional innovation projects including in deep tech innovation, linked to key EU priorities such as food security, energy, health, circular economy, and digitalization as defined in the New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA) . RIVs have an ambition to secure the EU leadership in the innovation trend by financing and broadening of the value chain in specific domains. Matchmaking with different partners will benefit access to new talent, knowledge and networks that are fundamental to create a robust innovation ecosystem. RIV is a bottom-up instrument bringing together cohesion and innovation policies, and the lessons to be learnt in this current pilot will be crucial for further design of upcoming calls. This initiative was designed as part of Flagship 3 of NEIA on Accelerating and strengthening innovation in European Innovation Ecosystems across the EU and addressing the innovation divide. RIVs aim to create connections that involve regions with lower innovation performances by building on strategic areas of regional strength and specialisation as indicated in their respective smart specialisation strategies. Until now, the European Commission has launched a Call for expression of interest enabling regions to express their interest to become RIV and work together. In addition, two complementary calls have been launched where the European Commission dedicated EUR 122 million under Horizon Europe (European Innovation Ecosystems) and under the European Regional Development Fund (Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument). To facilitate matchmaking and interconnections, the European Commission created a Matchmaking Map displaying regional authorities committed to tackle the most burning social challenges, as defined in NEIA.

RIVs: matchmaking map





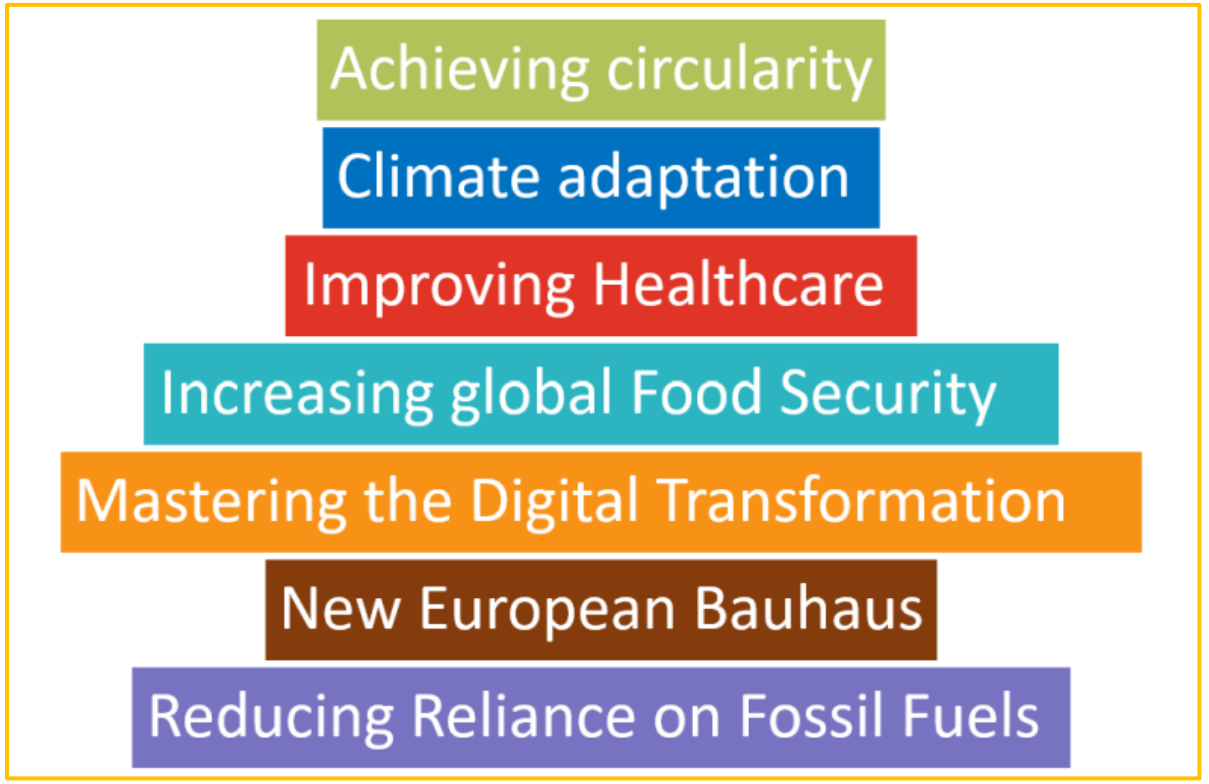
Where are we now?

The **Preparatory Action ‘Innovation for place-based transformation’** is dedicated to empowering territories to support policy practitioners through awareness raising, building capacities, and engaging into policy experimentation activities.

EU Preparatory Action:
Innovation for place-based transformation

- Partnerships to address urgent global challenges.
- Informing future actions, policies and programmes.

https://europa.eu/!tkpfQw



EU Preparatory Action:
Innovation for place-based transformation

Call for Expression of Interest

- **Raise awareness** and improve understanding of transformative innovation policies
- Enhance readiness through building **new capacities**
- **Experiment** with the use of innovative approaches

Apply before 16 December 2024

https://place-based-innovation.ec.europa.eu/projects-0/preparatory-action-2024-2026_en

Thank you

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