



Smart Specialization for Sustainable Blue Economy

Stakeholders' thematic priorities for S3 partnerships

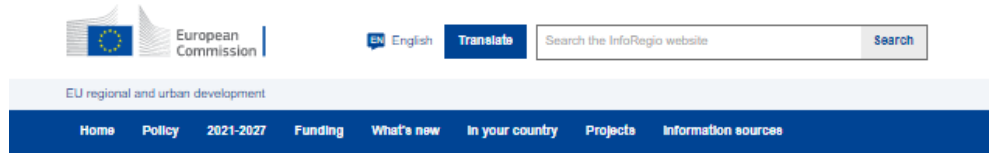
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outcomes of brokerage sessions that took place in 2022

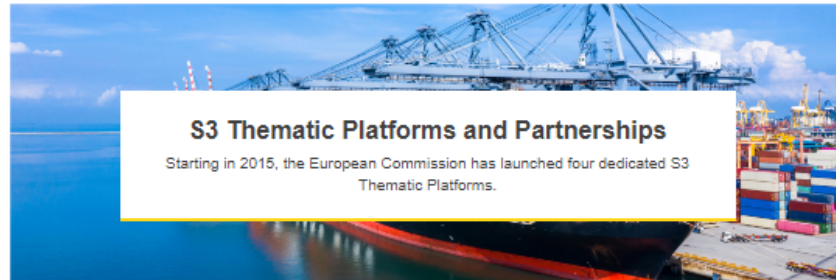
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Unit A3 Sea-basin strategies, maritime regional cooperation and maritime security

S3 Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy



Regional Policy > Policy > Communities and Networks > S3 Community of Practice > Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms



About the Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

Starting in 2015, the European Commission has launched four dedicated S3 Thematic Platforms related to Agri-Food, Energy, Industrial Modernisation and since March 2022 a new platform on the Sustainable Blue Economy.

The **S3 Thematic Platforms** are joint initiatives between several Directorates-General of the European Commission (including Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), Energy (ENER), Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW), Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO), and Research and Innovation (RTD)) and since 2020 their management has been transferred from the Joint Research Centre to the DG Regional and Urban Policy. They are instruments to support the creation of a transnational and interregional **collaborative network of strategic Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)**, promoting complementarity of regional funding for innovation in specific smart specialisation areas. The S3 Thematic Platforms are created as a result of regions' priorities in topical areas of their smart specialisation strategies in order to support regions to collaborate in shared smart specialisation areas.

Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs) bring together regions interested in initiating and exploring new value chains in specific priority areas based on a shared interest in their smart specialisation strategies. TSSPs target specific areas with high potential for technological, societal, and ecological return at regional and European level, underpinned by shared smart specialisation strategy priorities across committed regions, cluster organisations, businesses, and innovation actors as well as civil society. TSSPs are open to participation of regional authorities and/or quadruple helix actors with a mandate from their regional authority and have a smart specialisation strategy that has clear links to the topic.

TSSPs rely on regional commitment, through the participation of the regional authority, or other stakeholders from the quadruple helix with a mandate from the regional authority. Collaboration builds on a common interest and particular strength in the region with the ambition to look beyond regional borders for complementary expertise, new insights and explore opportunities for further advancement. Interregional collaboration can take the form of exchange of practices and experiences, alignment of policies, design of co-investment projects, among others. Regions involved in the TSSPs aim to strengthen core areas of expertise complementary to and in collaboration with other regions based on shared smart specialisation priorities. Outcomes of the TSSPs include the development of interregional investment projects, interregional collaboration projects, the alignment of smart specialisation strategies between various regions, among others.

[InfoRegio - Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/regional-policy/policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice/call-partnerships_en)

Explore the thematic smart platforms



Agri-food



Energy



Industrial Modernisation



Sustainable Blue Economy

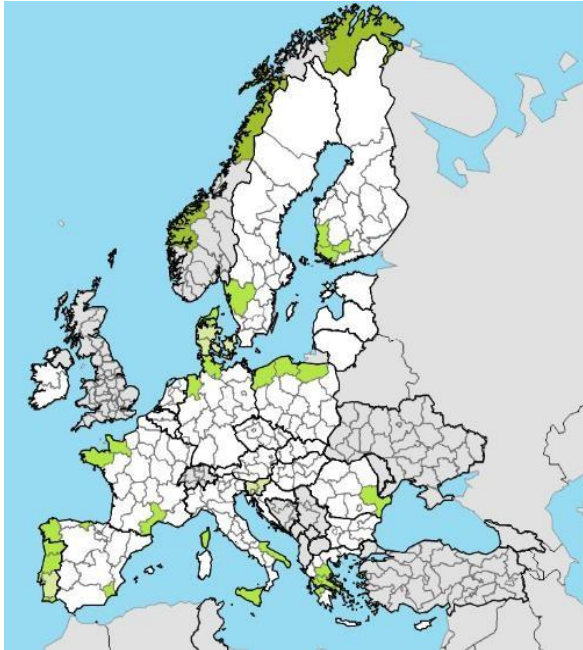
Interested in joining/forming a new partnership?

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice/call_partnerships_en

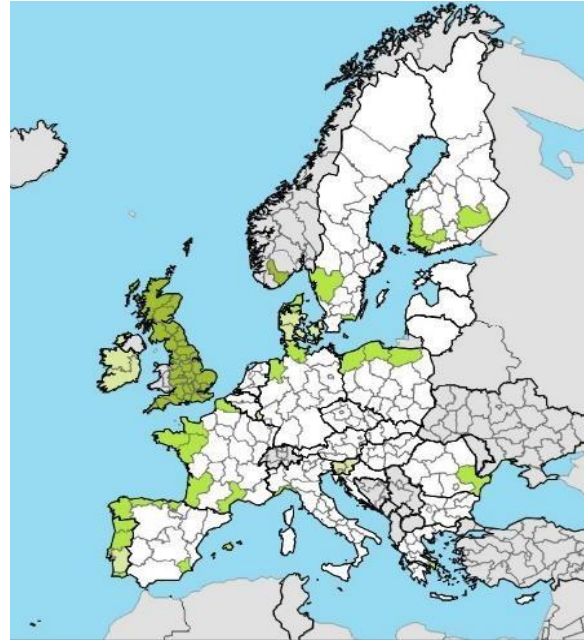
FAQ about the Thematic S3 Platforms (TSSP) and the partnerships

- + What is a S3 thematic platform?
- + What is a Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership (TSSP)?
- + How can I get involved in a Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership (TSSP)?
- + What is the role of regions in Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)?
- + What is the quadruple helix?
- + How does the EU support S3 Thematic Platforms and Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)?

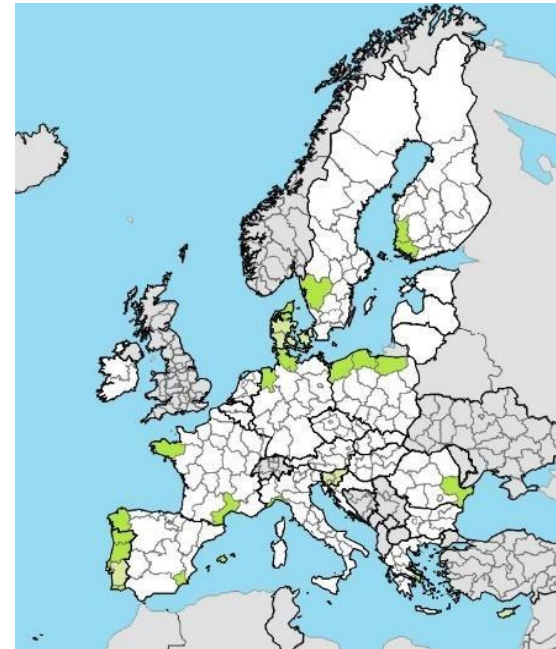
Regions with Blue economy priorities included in their Smart Specialization Strategies in the programming period 2014-2020



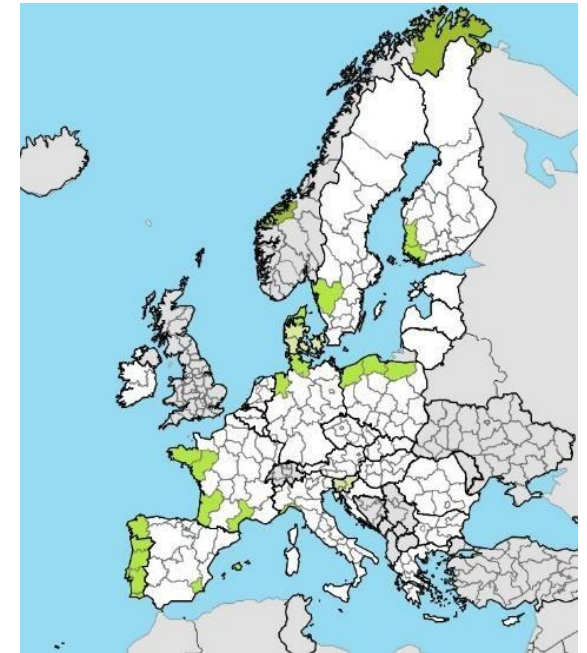
Fisheries/Aquaculture



Marine renewable energies



Coastal and maritime tourism



Blue biotechnology

Stakeholders' thematic priorities for S3 partnerships - outcomes of the 2022 brokerage sessions

Fisheries:



- **Social innovation:** Better **governance and organisation** of the fishing sector; **involvement of fishermen in decision making** and adoption of **new ways of working**; engagement of the **youth**;
- Reduce the **environmental impact of fishing**:
- **Pollution & marine litter**
- **Decarbonisation / electric engines**; use of **biodegradable materials**; **circular economy**;
- **Marketing and product innovation:** short circuits; traceability; product quality; use of under-utilised and/or invasive species; health and biotechnology
- **Data and digitalisation**; robotics; vessel monitoring systems; better use of data.

Stakeholders' thematic priorities for S3 partnerships - outcomes of the 2022 brokerage sessions



Aquaculture:

- **New types of energy** in aquaculture, lowering carbon footprint;
- **Aquaponics** is an area to explore as it provides a “basket of products”;
- **Regulatory and business models for IMTA** (Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture);
- **Space + Investments:** identify areas to develop aquaculture;
- **Mussel farming: more collaboration, research on “plastics”** in the material used;
- **Consider including frog farming** in the aquaculture sector activities

Stakeholders' thematic priorities for S3 partnerships - outcomes of the 2022 brokerage sessions

Marine Renewable Energy:

- **Clusters;**
- **Certification Services;**
- Lower the **costs of floating platforms** and **deep-water** foundations;
- **Corrosion** caused by water;
- **Climatology** – Meteorological assessment;
- **O&M-** Operations and Maintenance optimization;
- MREs and **ports;**
- **Digital twin** options;
- **Skills** - Skilling and upskilling;
- Testing and demonstration **in real environments;**
- **Environmental issues**



Stakeholders' thematic priorities for S3 partnerships - outcomes of the 2022 brokerage sessions

Coastal and Maritime Tourism:



- **Circularity** in tourism;
- **Digitalization** – digital transformation;
- **Data indicators**, use in decision making;
- **Ecotourism**-innovative packages for protected areas;
- Sustainable **Nautical Tourism** (cruise and yachting);
- **Fishing tourism**;
- **Sustainable Mobility** in tourism;
- **Seasonality**- elongation of tourism periods;
- **Skills**, upgrading and reskilling. **New skills for alternative forms of tourism and sanitary protocols** in tourism destinations, accommodation

Stakeholders' thematic priorities for S3 partnerships - outcomes of the 2022 brokerage sessions



Blue biotechnology:

Blue biotechnology : very promising blue economy sector with a significant innovation potential

- **Algae as a contributor for sustainable food systems;**
- Upscaling the existing industry **on microalgae;**
- **Bio products;**
- Bio products from **invasive species;**
- **Bioplastics** and farming waste materials, **circularity;**
- **Aquaculture to go hand to hand with blue biotechnology/research facilities**

Contacts

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