



Online S3 – Scottish pilot

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The Scottish context

Scotland doesn't have a smart specialisation strategy...

...But we have undertaken studies looking at how research and innovation strategies can contribute to the economic growth of the region

...Integrated a smart specialisation approach into our current economic strategy

...And played a key role in projects to stimulate collaboration and cooperation around cluster development



Scotland's economic strategy

Boosting economic competitiveness and tackling inequality through...

INVESTMENT

INNOVATION

INTERNATIONALISATION

INCLUSIVE GROWTH



Focusing on...

Scottish Government's response to EU Commission consultation on the Common Strategy Framework for R&I in 2014 identified seven priority areas:

Food & drink

Sustainable tourism

Finance & business services

Creative industries

Energy (particularly marine)

Life sciences

Knowledge exchange (industries/academia)



Key European projects

- Scotland is a founder member of the Vanguard Initiative
- We helped inspire EU Commission's thematic platforms
- Also involved in the Interreg projects S3 for Growth and CLUSTERS3



EC CI's role

- Part of the University of Edinburgh
- A hub for low carbon innovation, enterprise and project delivery
- Leveraged our networks to deliver:
 - A broad programme of engagement reaching more than 1,700 stakeholders across Scotland
 - 9 stakeholder workshops
 - More than 200 short questionnaires
 - Close collaboration with a smaller number of select individuals, with feedback collected via 16 long questionnaires
- ...gathering feedback on all but one of the applications



Consultation results

- Only a handful of respondents knew what smart specialisation is and even fewer had worked on related projects
- We had to work hard to engage people and explain the topic and the tools
- Nonetheless, a high proportion of respondents felt the platform had some excellent applications in it
- ...and with adjustment and refinement, had the potential to be a powerful tool



Streamline and group the tools

Don't aim to be a 'one-stop-shop'

Cut out simpler applications with little added value to professionals with their own expertise and resources

This would allow the platform to be realigned around a smaller number of tools that provide clear added value around the production of a RIS3 strategy

Focus on functionality, data and insight that can't be easily found elsewhere



Improve user experience

Platform design and functionality needs to start from the perspective of the user

Users aren't keen on long, technical guidance documents which must be studied before using the tools

They expect an intuitive, interactive user experience which leads them seamlessly through the application with guidance and next steps built in

Research on users' needs and perspectives could gain specific insights to inform future development



Integrate data and functionality

Users called for complete and integrated data so you don't have to import your own

Some users were looking for the functionality to allow all reports, statistics and graphs to be combined in one output or overview document



Create a clear journey to RIS3

Some users commented on potential gap between platform outputs and production of a smart specialisation strategy

They suggested this could be closed through clearer direction on how to use platform outputs, including links to evidence-based policy options

This chimes with other feedback about integrating reporting and data across back end of platform to produce clearer, unified output



Next steps

ECCI and our pilot trainer, Napier University, will share the conclusions of the Scottish pilot with key contacts in the Scottish Government and relevant agencies...

...so these insights can inform next steps on the approach to economic growth and smart specialisation in Scotland.



Over to you!

