Turning Cities into tier-One RIS3 Developers
MAKING SMART SPECIALISATION WORK
(AT CITY LEVEL)

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In focus
SMART SPECIALISATION AT CITY LEVEL
Assumptions

- For many (big) cities S3 has little to do with them. A matter of the regions
- Now at the implementation stage, there is an imperious need for RIS3’s territorial embedment
- Major cities are widely acknowledged as key actors in the world economy and by large a successful scale to organize innovation ecosystems
Smart specialisation

*The concept*

RIS3

*The method*

The need for make a distinction
A twofold goal

City-to-Region articulation regarding RIS3

Closing the city gap

Giving the local agenda a more transforming purpose

Boosting business-led local economic development

Poor performance

Good

Poor
BIELSKO-BIALA - Economy at High Level

- **Advanced manufacturing**
- **Modern material technologies**
- **Specialised IT products & services**

**Education**
- *Dual training*
- *Lifelong learning*

**R&D and Innovation**
- *Collaborative and cross-sector innovation*

**Brownfield redevelopment**
- *Post-industrial sites*

**Talent attraction**
- *Branding Bielsko as a career location*

**City & county level**

**Regional level**

**RIS3 Silesia**
Addressing BILBAO’s next economy through smart specialisation

Bilbao’s choice based on the prioritization exercise of 2014

EDP-driven platforms as a tractor project generators

Fine tuning the horizontal policy-mix

Competitiveness & sector development

(EDP-sourced) Business intelligence

KIBS – Creative Economy – Digital Economy

Entrepreneurship

Spaces

Invest In & attractiveness

KIBS

Creative Economy

AS-FABRIK

Digital Economy

Zorrotzaurre innovation district

Bilbao Fashion Hub

BasqueGame Lab

Advanced business services KIBS

Tourism

Urban solutions

Arts&Culture

Cleantech

Health technologies

Digital Economy

Creative Economy

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<th>Prioritization</th>
<th>Relatedness</th>
<th>Entrepreneurial discovery</th>
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<td><strong>Cluster development</strong></td>
<td>Clearer legibility of urban economies</td>
<td>Maximizing the capacity of clusters for matchmaking across sectors and technologies</td>
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<td><strong>Entrepreneurial ecosystem</strong></td>
<td>Making feasible to organize business intelligence serving the local community</td>
<td>Strengthening the ecosystem approach</td>
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<td><strong>Space provision</strong></td>
<td>Activity focus to support an evolving portfolio of productive and innovation spaces</td>
<td>Co-location e.g. IT / creative industries</td>
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<td><strong>Branding &amp; marketing</strong></td>
<td>More accurate segmentation of city’s target groups</td>
<td>Uniqueness by combining different productive/knowledge assets</td>
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10 local actions plans

Achievements

- Placing innovation at the core of the urban economic agenda, where smart specialisation can play a primary instrumental role.

- A policymaking more open to co-production and exposed to experimentation.

- RIS3 involved are now stronger thanks to these Local Action Plans: RIS3-Silesia, RIS3-Basque Country, RIS3-Piemonte, RIS3-Aquitaine…
Main questions

- How to operationalise the city as RIS3 developer? What is the urban dimension of smart specialisation?
- Are regional authorities (RIS3 leading teams) truly aware of the potential role of cities as RIS3 key actors? How to raise this awareness?
- How can the interest of cities be ignited or stimulated?