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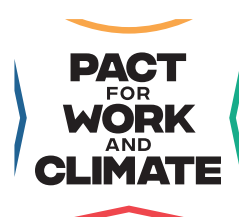
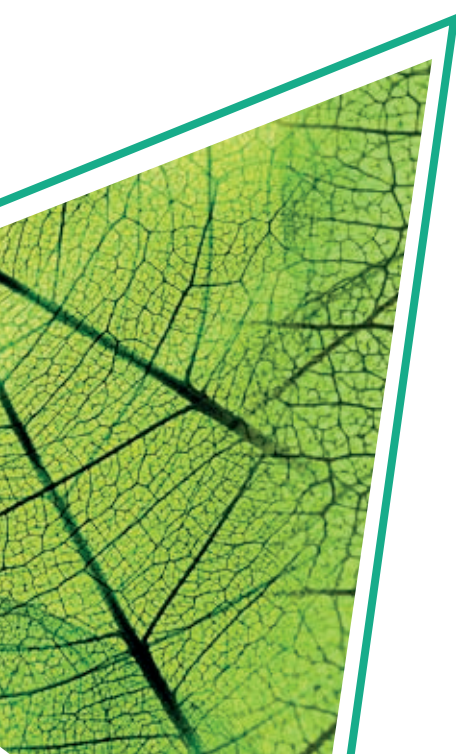


Regione Emilia-Romagna



ART-ER
ATTRACTIVENESS
RESEARCH
TERRITORY

Smart Specialisation Strategy S3 Emilia-Romagna Region 2021-2027





In Emilia-Romagna We make the future, together

Emilia-Romagna is facing the future challenges, with focus on research and innovation

A European region where research, innovation and skills are the strategic levers of change for sustainable and inclusive growth. This is the Emilia-Romagna we want, a region where research and business interact to ensure innovation in all industrial sectors and a territory where skills really count for quality employment. Now more than ever, in this moment of resilience, **we are ready to face the great challenges of the future, given in the Pact for Work and Climate**, the new deal of the Emilia-Romagna Region. Signed with all social partners, employers, institutions, universities and representatives of associations and volunteering organizations, the Pact is created for a better tomorrow, leaving no one behind.

This is the reason why the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3), that along with the Regional Strategic Document delineates the programming of European funds till 2027, represents an extraordinary opportunity for Emilia-Romagna. We can outline the new strategic framework for innovative growth, involving universities, companies and startups, training institutions, research laboratories of the High Technology Network, Technopoles, Clust-ER associations and business academies, creating ideal conditions for new structural growth opportunities. **A strategy inspired by the shared vision of Emilia-Romagna's future** that emerges from the Regional Strategic Document, focused on the great challenges of digital and ecological transition, Industry 4.0, social innovation and full participation of women and young people.

As it aims to be a more innovative and more attractive leader in the country and in Europe, the future of this region is built together, as demonstrated by our Pact for Work and Climate. For this reason, to face future challenges together, the **Strategy S3 2021-2027 is defined with all regional system stakeholders as well as our communities** and has the concept of sharing as one of its most prominent features.

Big data, artificial intelligence, ecological transition, space economy, automotive, health, culture, agri-food business, building and construction, and tourism are at the heart of this Strategy. We have identified priority lines of action, intersecting thematic areas and sectors where research and innovation investments will be focused. Our industrial sectors will be at the core of this investments, strengthened with new research activities, strategic innovation projects, partnerships for participation in European programmes, system actions, development of skills and higher education, support for the creation and consolidation of innovative startups as well as implementation of the Digital Agenda of Emilia-Romagna.

With this Strategy, for the next seven years, we have over five billion euros in public and private resources to invest in an ambitious path, based on the ecosystem of research and innovation. A path where we walk together, we participate and contribute, because future is made together.

Stefano Bonaccini

Emilia-Romagna Region President

Smart Specialisation Strategy: Future is now in Emilia-Romagna

The **Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)** is the tool that, since 2014, the EU Regions and member States must adopt in order to identify objectives, priorities, actions capable of **maximizing the effects of investments in research and innovation**, by **focusing resources on the specialisation areas of each territory**.

The S3, a conditionality linked to the approval of the ROP-ERDF, is a **cross-sectoral strategy**, an integrated set of tools and actions to strengthen the capacity of the regional system to attract resources from national and European programmes for the support to research and innovation.

The new Strategy for the 2021-2027 programming period takes into consideration the results of the previous seven years, the evolution of technology, production systems, the regional research ecosystem, but in particular taking into account the new global challenges, as highlighted by the objectives of the new EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 and Agenda 2030.

The new S3 is also in line with the objectives of the Pact for Work and Climate, signed by the Emilia-Romagna Region, and the Regional Strategic Document 2021-2027.



Objectives and contents

The new S3 2021-2027 of Emilia-Romagna Region:

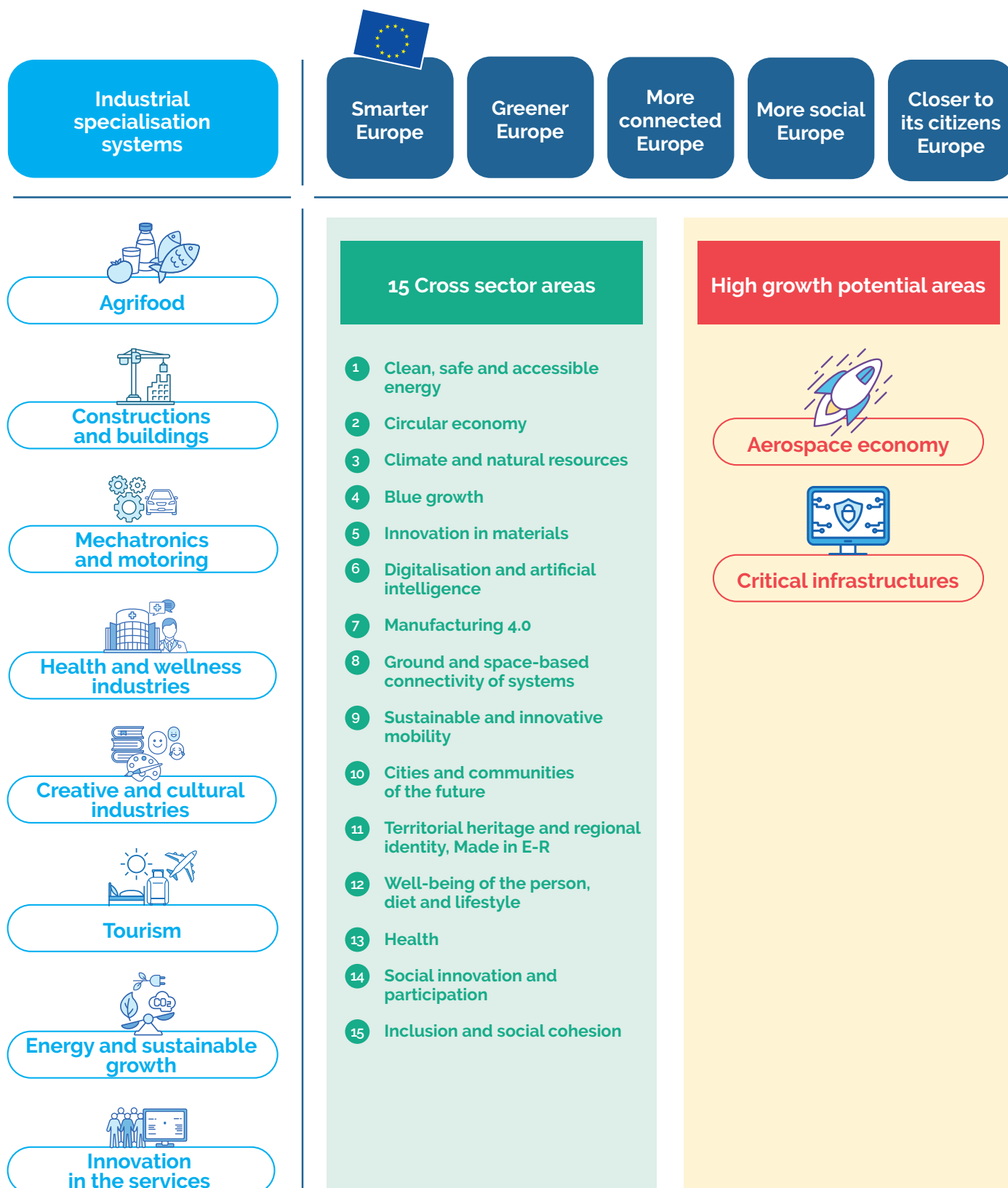
- defines the **priorities** according to the **key challenges**: sustainability, digitalisation, social inclusion, well-being and quality of life, safety, transformation of the public administration, through the identification of **cross-sectoral priority thematic areas**
- confirms the **7 regional specialisation production systems**, already identified in the previous S3 2014-2020, as priorities: **Agri-food, Building and Construction, Mechatronics and Motor Engineering, Health and Wellness Industries, Cultural and Creative Industries, Energy and Sustainable Development, Innovation in Services**
- identifies the **Tourism Industry** as an independent area (previously included in Cultural and Creative Industries), which, due to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, needs to be relaunched and more oriented towards innovation and new solutions
- identifies additional **productive areas with high development potential**, specifically **Aerospace** and **Complex and Critical Infrastructures**, characterised by a significant development in recent years, as a result of considerable public investments in these areas
- the **development of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence** represents a completely new cross-cutting challenge, due to the strong impact on the policies and solutions implemented, as well as the great **green transformation**, concerning technologies, behaviours and transformation of the economic and social system
- focuses on the **role of innovator of the public administration**

The **regional research and innovation ecosystem** is at the core of the Strategy, characterised by public and private entities, able to cooperate and generate not only research and innovation activities, but also new infrastructures, new networks and full participation in national and European opportunities, with a renewed ability to attract research initiatives and international talents.



Thanks to a **participatory process**, with the involvement of all the actors of the regional research and innovation ecosystem, local firms, as well as citizens and associations, **15 cross-sectoral thematic areas** have been identified.

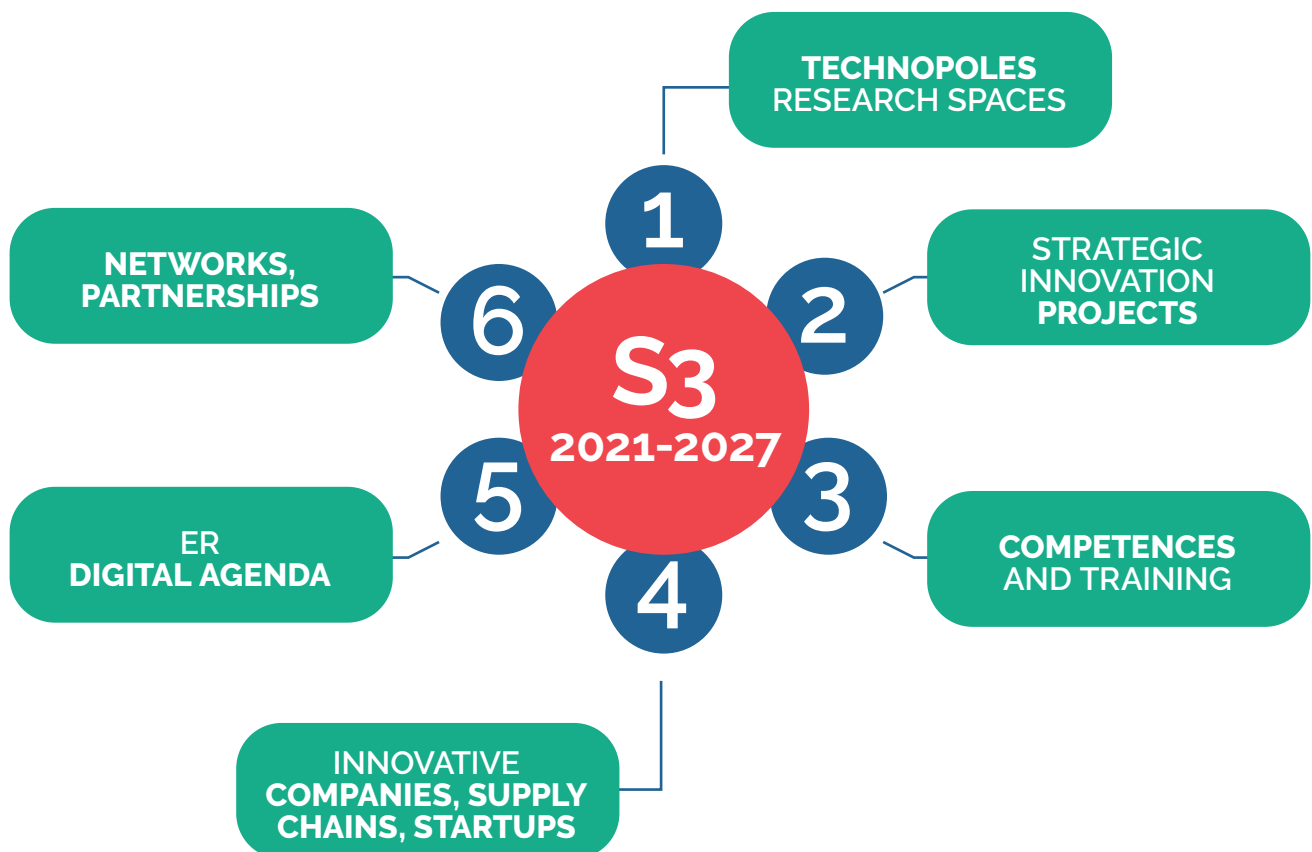
The **S3 2021-2027 PRIORITIES** arise by crossing the **regional specialisation production systems** and the challenges of EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027:



Implementation tools and policy mix

The **policy tools** for implementing the Strategy focus on **6 main pillars**:

1. Technopoles, spaces and research infrastructures
2. Strategic innovation, research and innovation, system actions projects
3. Skills development and higher education
4. Development and consolidation of innovative startups
5. Implementation of the Emilia-Romagna Digital Agenda: Data Valley
6. Networks, partnerships, cooperation and synergies with European programmes

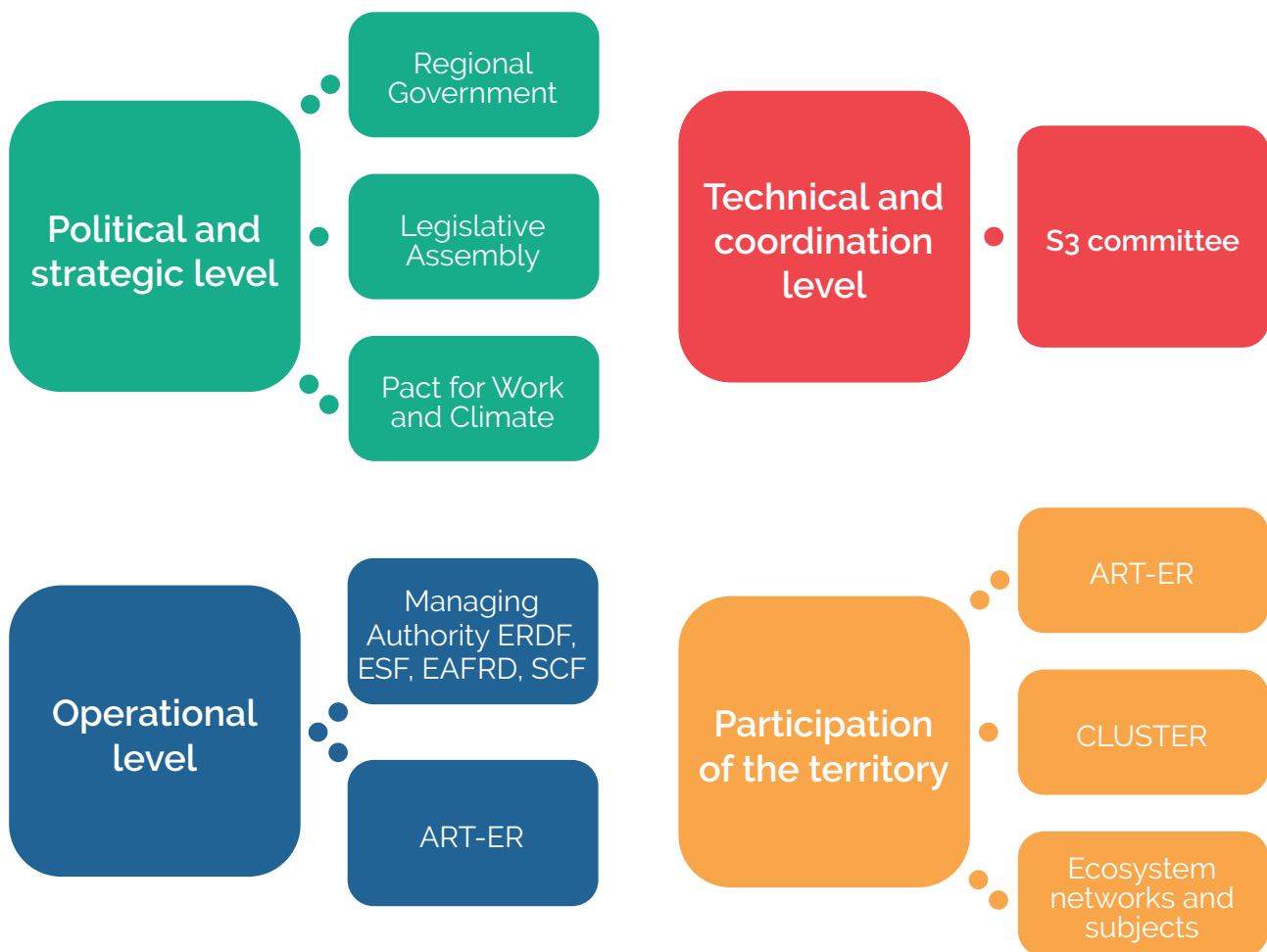


The S3 governance

The Strategy is characterised by a dynamic, inclusive and participatory **governance model** which ensures its effective implementation, through an articulation on **four different levels**:

- **political and strategic**
- **technical and coordination**
- **operational**
- **participation of the territory**

S3 governance structure



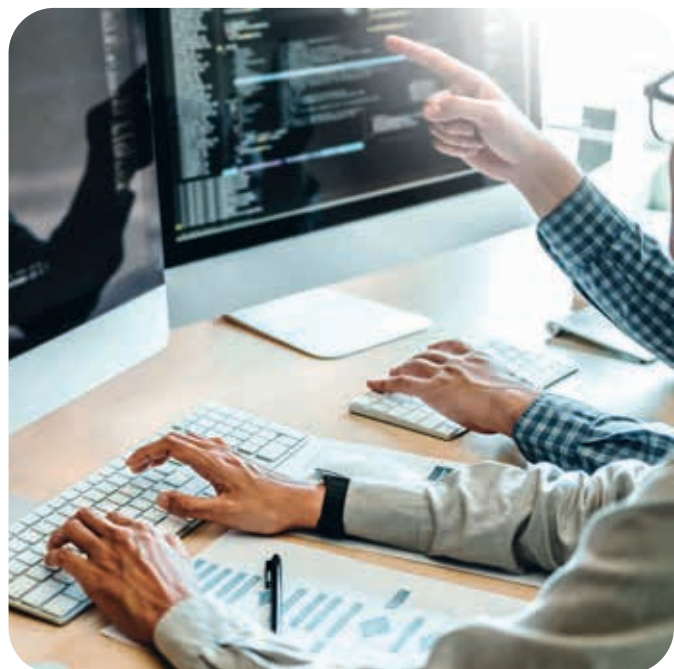
S3 monitoring and evaluation

The **S3 monitoring system** aims to provide useful data for measuring the implementation of the strategy and the results achieved, also in order to take any corrective actions.

It will be performed through two types of indicators:

- **output indicators**, for measuring the level of implementation of the policies and related actions put in place, that is the output of regional policies in terms of actions carried out;
- **specialisation indicators**, for measuring the changes taking place in the production systems compared to the objectives of the S3, in order to identify the thematic focus of the productive and technological system.

The **evaluation activity** will concern the effectiveness and the impact of the policies put in place compared to the strategic priorities of the S3, with particular attention also to the contribution to the achievement of the strategic objectives of carbon neutrality.







General Directorate
for Knowledge Economy,
Labour and Enterprise,
Emilia-Romagna Region

fesr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/erdf/s3/smart-specialisation-strategy