



**ReConfirm
Thematic partnership on**

Chemicals

24/10/2018

Rue du Champ de Mars 2, Brussels

Launch event



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The Workshop

Main features

- Information sessions on S3P-Industry, partnership paths and interactive sessions to develop focus areas;
- Half-day format.

Expected results

- Kick-start of the Chemicals Partnership;
- Discussion of draft mapping efforts;
- Identification of cooperation ideas;
- Alignment on ambitions of the partnership;
- Agreement on next steps.

Participant profile

- Regional representatives: The ones who are actively involved and committed to the partnership, in the position to express the position of the region they represent as well as potentially interested regions
- Regional Stakeholders: Opinion Leaders (Cluster managers, leaders from relevant business associations and organisations, managers of leading companies operating at international level).

It is expected to have up to 40 participants.



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Proposed draft agenda for the Workshop on the 24/10/2018

Time	Content of sessions
13:15 - 13:30	Registration – coffee
13.30 - 13.40	Welcome – Introduction (ECRN Director Renatka Krcova)
13.40 - 14.00	Smart specialisation partnerships for Industrial Modernisation (Nikos Pantalos , DG GROW) What have we achieved and learnt so far.
14.00 - 14.15	ReConfirm Initiative (Andreas Pauer, Ecorys-ReConfirm) Support provided to S3P-Industry partnerships
14.15 - 14.30	Developing a roadmap for the S3P-Industry Chemicals Partnership (Alasdair Reid – chief expert working with the partnership) Objectives and organisation of the workshop
14.30 - 16:00	Regional perspectives and ideas pitch of the 6 member regions Policy perspective & industry/technology needs/priorities
16:00 - 16.15	Coffee break
16.15 - 17.15	Interactive working session with all participants to discuss key regional priorities 3 to 4 thematic stations, where member regions will display in more details their priorities and project ideas
17.15 - 17.35	Report back to plenary (Moderated by Alasdair Reid)
17.35 - 17.55	Conclusions Which priorities for the S3P-Industry Chemicals Partnership?
17.55 - 18:00	Closing words (ECRN)



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What is an investment project?

Examples of possible investment projects

Type of projects	Example
Shared technology centre	Joint international centre for technological development (sustainability to be proved).
Shared service facility	Joint international centre for provision of services (sustainability to be proved).
Financial Instrument	Cross border financial instrument (equity/debt) to finance SMEs to incorporate new technologies and or start-ups to bring new solutions to the market.
Trans-regional support tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Voucher scheme for SMEs to purchase services abroad (sustainability to be proved); ▪ Fellowships for young graduates or employees of SMEs to attend stages abroad (in SMEs or RTD centres) - (sustainability to be proved).
Cross border platform	SMEs small projects bundled together (cluster- value chain with international dimension).
Large-scale project	Project by a single company but involving international value chains (incorporation of new technologies within suppliers' value chain)
Large scale infrastructure	Large scale infrastructure incorporating advanced technologies across at least 3 different countries.

Investment projects – some features

An investment project for European Industrial modernisation should correspond to the following criteria:

- **Foster Inter-regional Cooperation:** The regional dimension should be considered “systematically in the design of all EU policies, especially those concerning growth and investment”. Inter-regional dimension enables regions to find missing competences, create critical mass achieve sustainability and relevance and allows industries to develop joint investment projects.
- **Promote replicability / scale-up Opportunity:** To catalyse industrial modernisation there needs to be proactive actions and policies to support the generation and scale-up of ideas and projects within regional ecosystems. This indicates a need for suitable ‘matching’ mechanisms between those projects and funding opportunities. Capacity and capability that already exist within large scale initiatives can be emulated/ replicated with smaller, agile, regional actors that should be supported to be able to contribute with innovative ideas developed from the bottom up.
- **Leverage on Technological Market Readiness:** As highlighted in the EC report on Boosting the potential of Key Enabling Technologies Addressing Skills Needs in Europe, the EC considers that a rebalanced approach on supporting for close-to-market activities (such as pilot projects, prototypes and demonstrators), with a bigger focus on impact (and manufacturing) is/ should be priority. Figure 1 shows how varied sources of investment are strategically aligned to encourage closer-to-market KETs-related activities. Vanguard Initiative investment projects should all have a TRL level of five or above.



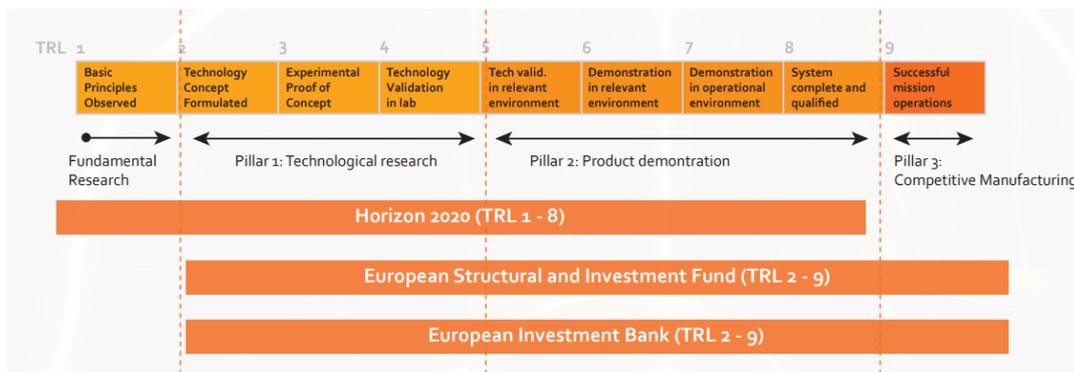
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- **Support for SMEs:** The EC has highlighted the importance of investing in SMEs that will grow and take up large companies' current positions in some value chain segments. While large companies face critical challenges, leverage could better be achieved by the partner regions at the level of SMEs. This does not mean that larger companies or Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) are excluded by the partnership activities, but that SMEs remain an integral target.
- **Involve Multi-actor:** The EC has recognised the role of smart specialisation in driving effective innovation policy and pushing inter-regional cooperation in new cross-border value chains. In order to be able to better exploit the complementarity that comes with such cooperation, various innovation actors can be further linked with industrial stakeholders in their own region as well as in partner regions with similar development ambitions and objectives.
- **Focus on Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) and Digitalisation.** Their importance makes them a key element of European industrial policy. The European Strategy for KETs aims to increase the exploitation of KETs and to reverse the decline in manufacturing (and other sectors) as this will stimulate growth and jobs.

Figure 1: Multiple European instruments to support closer-to-market activities



Source: EC



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Investment project summary table

Thematic area/project: _____

Proposed Investment project	Challenge	International dimension	Opportunity for collaboration	Region Region – Country	Organisation and role	Added value (what it is offered to the partnership)	Next steps (*)
				Region 1:			
				Region 2:			
				Region 3:			
				Region 4:			
				Region 5:			
				Region 6:			
				Region 7:			

(*) Highlight activities to be carried out at regional and international level. Note that regional activities are linked to measures envisaged in the current 2014-2020 programming period (OPs measures).



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