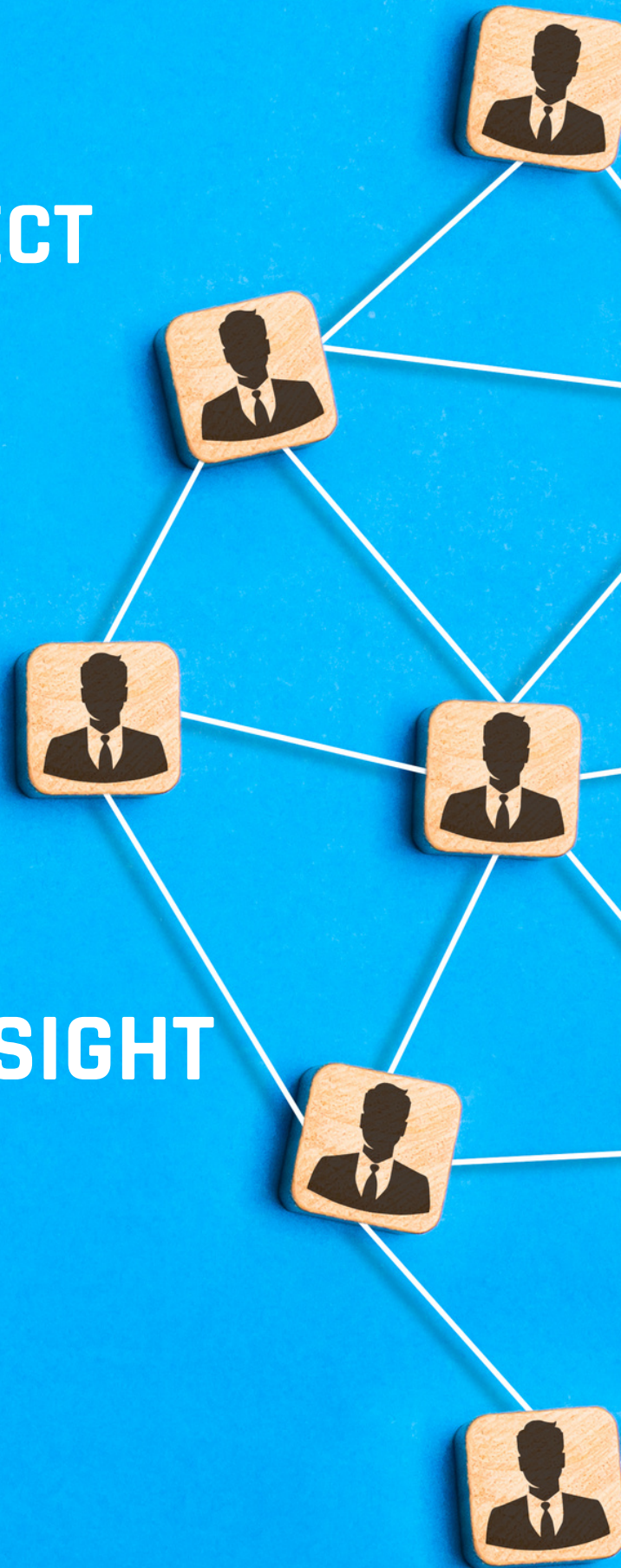




# S3HUBSINCE PROJECT

# FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE FORESIGHT FORUM





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

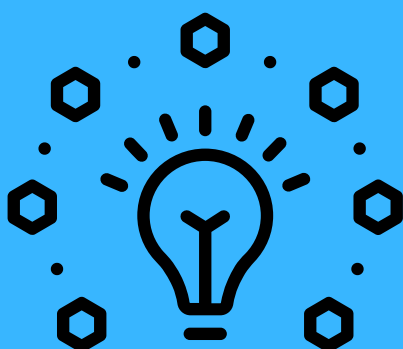
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S3HubsinCE aims to utilise the model of the Digital Innovation Hub, and linkages between these hubs created through collaborative exchange on smart specialisation thematic priority areas, to create a common transnational support structure. This structure has a goal to generate stronger connections between RIS3 stakeholders to promote value creation and enhance competitive advantage in Central Europe.

Ultimately it creates and tests a common method to help regional and national strategy-responsible institutions, understands how RIS3 value-creation can be fostered through a connected network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH). The project focuses on:

- transnational innovation network to enhance collaborative RIS3 exchange and identify RIS3 Champions
- DIH alignment through a common pilot-program to promote market-focused RIS3 Excellence and RIS3 Value-Creation
- future-orientated policy learning with closer-to-market activities.

[WWW.INTERREG-CENTRAL.EU/CONTENT.NODE/S3HUBSINCE.HTML](http://WWW.INTERREG-CENTRAL.EU/CONTENT.NODE/S3HUBSINCE.HTML)





# WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE FORESIGHT FORUM?

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The Foundation for Future Foresight Forums (F3) represents a virtual series of workshops used to discuss on how to optimize transnational engagement in order to promote regional competitive advantage. Within the project 10 organisations from partnering countries hosted 20 regional F3 Forums, that brought together 772 participants, mostly SME. The F3 Forums involved the partners' DIH Network and key policy-influencing stakeholders who are important for developing the territorial area's RIS3.

The purpose of these meetings was:

- to raise awareness of every partner organisation's actions to promote RIS3 implementation and to raise awareness about the Regional Innovation Strategy Champions (RIS3 Champions)
- to promote reflective communication regarding the needs of the territorial area's key organisations and the ways which every partner's organisation is supporting these entities (and also ideas on how to support them in the future) to overcome these needs-gaps.
- to brainstorm key ideas on how to promote further actions and extend benefits to other regional stakeholders

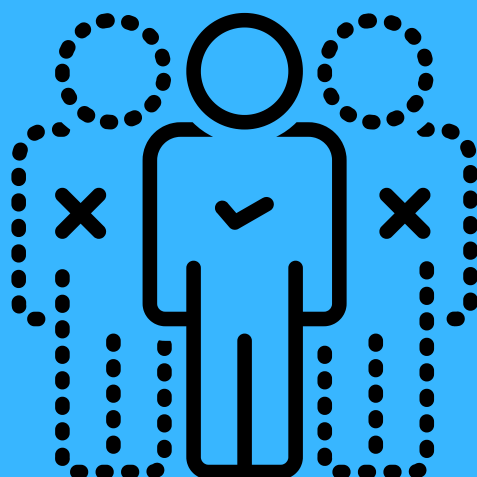
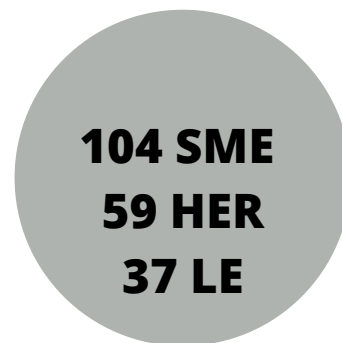
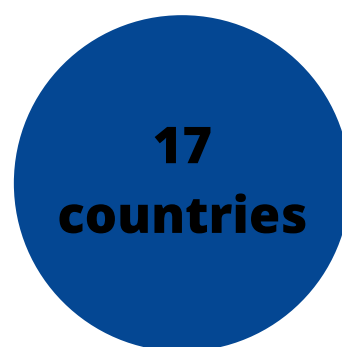




# FIRST F3 FORUMS

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The 1st Forum focused on RIS3 value creation and actions. They had to introduce their RIS3 Champions and to briefly present their actions to their Regional DIH Network, policy-influencing stakeholders, high-performing regional target group representatives and their key stakeholders from their transnational network.



# SECOND F3 FORUMS



The 2nd Forum provided a deeper analysis, focusing on RIS3 actions. During this workshop, the Partner was asked to develop a facilitated dialogue with their DIH network, and thereby were asked to jointly review the success of the actions within the CERIS3 Excellence Model that each Partner was implementing as part of their Digital Innovation Hub Pilot Programme. 10 Mobility Actions were implemented (1 per partner) and 34 Transfer & Cooperation Actions were created by the partners. Mobility Actions covered different topics in Industry 4.0 such as digitalization, process automation, smart material... during an event whereas Transfer & Cooperation Actions referred to long-term projects deployed to foster cooperation towards RIS3 implementation. Moreover, RIS3 Champions were asked to reflect upon the value which was created through the network and whether these structures were effective at addressing their needs to foster their competitive advantage. The main numbers of forums are:

- 338 participants from 7 EU countries
- 136 SMEs, 53 LEs, 42 HER
- 10 Monility actions
- 34 transfer& cooperation actions



**Was bleibt**

Neue Kooperationen

**smart** materials solutions growth

- Erschließen neuer Kooperationen/Märkte
  - > Möbelindustrie (Deutsche Werkstätten Hellerau, Agentur Trendfilter)
  - > Ansprache neuer Projektpartner (Deutsche Bahn Zug der Zukunft, Volkswagen Kooperationsprojekte)
  - > Internationalisierung über Interreg-Projekte
- Bildung fester Forschungspartnerschaften entlang horizontaler & vertikaler Wertketten
  - > Vernetzung Forschung und KMU
  - > Etablierung nachhaltiger Kultur der Zusammenarbeit
- Ausbau der Einsatzmöglichkeiten von smart materials
  - > Branchenweiterung
  - > Überführung bislang unbeachteter Materialeigenschaften in Forschungsgegenstände (vorantreiben FGL-Sensork)



# LESSONS LEARNED

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## FROM DIH MANAGEMENT

Fostering connections between DIHs and RIS3 is a priority. It is done by understanding the regions' needs especially in the digitalization sector and defining DIHs role according to these needs. Therefore, DIHs should be included in RIS3 definition and implementation. Their services should then be aligned to business needs and not only on research topics. DIHs should therefore support businesses and especially promising start ups by sharing best practices and enhancing knowledge & technology transfer.



*"Creating events such as this first F3 Forum enable RIS3 Champions to increase their understanding of the ecosystem. It even enables them to acknowledge and see the potential of new topics such as Circular Economy, Green Tech, AI. Knowledge transfer should thus be fostered through diverse formats events such as Webinars, Workshops and Study Visits"*

## FROM SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

DIHs should provide not only Business Support but also Technical Support which means helping RIS3 Champions and other Businesses with community building, strategy development, ecosystem mapping, project development, lobbying, searching for appropriate partners, access to finance, developing skills through trainings. The overall objective is to create a common/ aligned portfolio of services between DIHs before integrating cooperative companies or RIS3 Champions. DIHs also have a role in the definition and implementation of RIS3 and therefore should understand regional/ policy needs as much as the main interests and needs for companies which lies in building a strong Innovation and Technology Network.

# LASTING ROLE OF THE DIH NETWORK



DIHs network should first foster Digitalization through events aimed at sharing best practices to support RIS3 Implementation and Thematic priority area service provision. Using **DIHNET.EU** as a good way to raise awareness on the potential of building a strong network of DIHs. DIHs Network should therefore be expanded by the enhancement of best practices and data exchange. Then DIHs should develop their services according to market needs. It is crucial that all the actors and especially DIHs remain flexible and adaptable to market trends.

Moreover, policymakers should involve all types of stakeholders while defining and implementing their RIS3. Therefore, common strategies should be developed and harmonization between all the existing initiatives and offers should be engaged.

Finally, not only awareness on the potential of digitalization should be raised but also on new topics such as Circular Economy and Artificial Intelligence. This awareness should be raised especially targeting SMEs. Added to this, trainings and testing facilities should be developed by DIHs to lower risks for SMEs to engage change.

*"DIH Network should help companies to improve their processes, products, or services through the use of digital technologies. DIHs should develop services according to market needs and especially targeted to SMEs. In this objective, it will be very valuable to develop testing infrastructure to lower the risks SMEs face when implementing such changes. The DIH network should also foster the gathering of good practices, demo cases, concepts, and ideas to be used for the definition and the implementation of future actions."*







# NEXT STEPS

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In the three years of cooperation all Project Partners contributed to the development of actions focused on developing new projects to generate closer-to-market value-creation opportunities for RIS3-critical organisations. The goals and tangible effects of the project were achieved by introducing Transnational Policy & Technology Blueprint for CERIS3 Excellence. The document served as a foundation for further reflections on the success of navigation crew strategy statement and objectives to bring value to the stakeholders critical to RIS3 implementation. Globally, partners and stakeholders involved in the actions have agreed on the need to foster and provide a follow-up plan to these actions. Moreover, they highlighted the need to involve all types of stakeholders to enhance digital transformation. We expect that after the project ends, direct cooperation undertaken by the partnering DIHs will be in great demand, especially nowadays, when many enterprises have been devastated by the pandemic outbreak, and lost clients and markets, and can now be developed under the eDIH initiative. We continue the development of the partnership created as part of S3HubsinCE project by focusing on complementary technologies, joint demonstrations and pilot projects, opening and sharing areas of each partner's expertise, and dedication to technological infrastructure. As a reader, if you are interested to participate in the definition and implementation of future actions we would recommend you directly contact the partner you are interested to cooperate with. Partners and products of our work are useful resources that can be found on our project website.

*"Together we have undertaken action for a better Europe, and we start today!"*

