



An Overview of Smart Specialization Strategy in Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area, Poland



March 2020

Metropolitan Area of Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot Association

Department of Economic Development of Marshal Office of the Pomorskie Voivodeship

Output 2.6

RIS3 in Pomorskie region from the perspective of Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

PSS - Pomorskie Smart Specializations

R&D - Research and Development

RIS3 - Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation

ROP PV - Regional Operational Programme for the Pomorskie Voivodeship

ITI - Integrated Territorial Investments

RSP - Regional Strategic Programme (s)

1. Describe the regional/national RIS3: how is it shaped within a regional/national frame, how is it organized, structured, what are/have been the steps in the process?

In response to the requirements specified by the European Union in relation to the selection of smart specialisations, the Self-Government of the Pomorskie Region has initiated a process leading to their identification. The process began in 2011 with the updating of the Pomorskie Regional Development Strategy. As a result, the smart specialisation principle was included in the Strategy as one of the key principles for its implementation. In accordance with this principle, public intervention concentrates on enabling and utilising potentials relevant to the region and selected smart specialisations. The smart specialisation principle was then transposed into the provisions of the “Pomorskie Creativity Port” Regional Strategic Programme (RSP) for Economic Development and the Regional Operational Programme for the Pomorskie Voivodeship for the years 2014-2020 (ROP PV). In accordance with those provisions, development enterprises falling within the areas of Pomorskie Smart Specialisations (PSSs) will be prioritised when granting financial support for research and development during the programming period of 2014-2020.

The Pomorskie Region has adopted a bottom-up approach to defining smart specialisations. The approach has consisted in inviting business and scientific circles, organised into partnerships and interested in developing specific specialisations, to submit concrete proposals under the Call for proposals for the selection of Pomorskie Smart Specialisations. The regional authorities selected proposals with the highest development potential among those submitted. The process of selecting PSSs was carried out with the involvement of independent experts comprising the Selection Board, in the period between 14 May and 20 November 2014. The proposals for smart specialisations were assessed through the prism of the following criteria:

- A. Challenges, tendencies, potential market
- B. Economic and technological potential
- C. Benchmarking (domestic and international)
- D. Strategy and action plan
- E. Partnership and activities undertaken thus far in support of the development of specialisations

The Self-Government of the Pomorskie Region supports the development of PSSs on many levels. F.ex. entered into negotiations with Partnerships representing areas of Pomorskie Smart Specialisations, which led to the conclusion of Agreements on Pomorskie Smart Specialisations on 28 January 2016, in order to specify the scope of smart specialisation areas, concentrate efforts on the most attractive and prospective segments (development directions), and facilitate the assessment of R&D and innovative

projects applying for financing under operational programmes utilising EU funds.
Pomorskie Smart Specializations introduction, 2017,

2. Current regional (national) S3 priority areas;

In April 2015, the Voivodeship Board decided to choose four Pomorskie Smart Specializations (PSS):



Off-shore, port and logistics technologies which will foster on the economically effective and environmentally safe exploration and exploitation of maritime resources



Interactive technologies in an information-saturated environment which will improve the effectiveness and security of various human activities in the economic and social sphere



Eco-effective technologies in the generation, transmission, distribution and consumption of energy and fuels and in construction which will contribute to decreased energy consumption of the economy and lower its negative impact on the environment



Medical technologies in the area of civilization and ageing-associated diseases which will contribute to the reduction of social and economic costs of civilization and ageing-associated diseases

Entities identifying with the above in January 2016, the Agreements with the Pomorskie Voivodeship, in which the scope of individual PSSs was clarified were signed. In 2018, these scopes were reviewed and updated, and in January 2019 the Second Agreements were signed. Support of the four above mentioned the areas determine the main axis of activities of the Innovation Development Department of the Economic Development Department.

Under the Agreements on PSSs, Councils of PSSs were chosen from among the signatories. They constitute a “channel of communication” between the business, scientific sectors and the administration with regard to any activities within the given area of PSS. The Councils determine the direction of specialisation development and take measures to strengthen the area of PSSs.

The negotiations between the PSSs Partnerships and the Self-Government of the Pomorskie Region also led to agreeing on specific undertakings (so-called horizontal projects) which are relevant for the development of the PSS as a whole and which may be given preference in access to finance within the framework of the ROP PV 2014–2020 or support in applying for financing at the national level. The idea behind horizontal projects is to create an adequate critical mass of human and financial capital aimed at implementation of development investments in the specialisations. More specifically, the process of identifying PSSs was carried out in six steps:

STEP 1: Reviewing and supplementing analyses concerning the region's economic profile to specify its characteristic (endogenous) resources, advantages, development barriers, and economic activity areas with high growth potential.

STEP 2: Inviting circles that identify with the issue of development of the above-mentioned economic activity areas to present initial proposals for smart specialisations and actions aimed at strengthening their potential and improving the region's competitive position in the call for proposals (first stage of the Call for Proposals).

STEP 3: Presenting the submitted initial concepts and reviewing (analysing) them with the involvement of the Selection Board.

STEP 4: Inviting the Partnerships preparing initial applications to present final concepts of smart specialisations (second stage of the Call for Proposals).

STEP 5: Negotiations of the Board of the Pomorskie Region with PPSs Partnerships.

STEP 6: Concluding Agreements on Pomorskie Smart Specialisations between the Partnerships and the Board of the Pomorskie Region.

3. Existing roadmaps (a summary in English if the original document is very lengthy); by priority area?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has undertaken a case study of local entrepreneurship ecosystems and emerging industries in the region of Pomorskie, Poland, at the request of the Polish Ministry of Investment and Development and the Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship. The full report is available for consultation at the following web link: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/local-entrepreneurship-ecosystems-and-emerging-industries_8fd63992-en and the summary is available here: <https://drg.pomorskie.eu/documents/102005/2318026/OECD+Pomorskie+Report/639b1c33-ddb4-41ee-8307-a16199401001>

The report is part of a series of OECD regional case studies that examine the main dimensions of local entrepreneurship ecosystems affecting innovative start-ups, scale-ups and innovation in existing enterprises and available industrial path development opportunities. The case study work included a study mission by an OECD-led international review panel in September 2017 and a stakeholder workshop in October 2018.

it is possible that more documents will be created in the future for individual PSS as a result of cooperation with PSS Councils and PSS leaders who were selected as part of the Smart Progress initiative.

4. Current S3 implementation and monitoring mechanisms

1. Agreements on the Smart Specialisations – signed between Pomorskie Voivodeship and Partnerships representing areas of 4 Pomorskie Smart Specialisations, agreements specified the scope of PSS areas, research directions and so called horizontal projects (relevant for the development of the PSS as a whole partnership)

2. Pomorskie Smart Specialisation's Councils – created for each specialisations in order to organise permanent dialogue between entities operating under smart specialisations and regional government (*K.Lipińska, Pomorskie region, Aarhus 2018, Peer to peer review session on Innovation Camp*)

3. "Smart Progress - Animation of the development of areas of Pomorskie Smart Specialization as part of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process" - the project is implemented by the Economic Development Department of the Marshal's Office of the Pomorskie Voivodeship from the funds of the Regional Operational Program of the Pomorskie Voivodeship for 2014-2020. The project responds to the challenges emerging in the Pomorskie Innovation support system. The aim of the project is to increase the activity of entities (companies, scientific units, etc.) from the PSS areas through, among others creating specific thematic consortia around business ideas based on new technologies, looking for new ways to provide personnel for industries related to PSS, establishing international business relationships in which Pomorskie companies would act not only as subcontractors and consumers of other people's technological solutions but also suppliers own technologies. The subject of the project is also building a brand of Pomorskie business specialities, recognized on a national and international scale.

Project initiatives are focused on the following animation activities:

A. The Process of Entrepreneurial Discovery - includes: continuation of the process of entrepreneurial discovery, which in particular will focus on verification and deepening of existing and possibly discovering new innovative areas with high development potential, identification of projects and R&D projects in response to market needs (serving development new products and technologies), stimulating and animating cooperation between regional partners and the effective use of R&D support tools;

B. Internationalization of PSS areas - includes: stimulating PSS activities related to their internationalisation by, e.g. organizing export consortia/partnerships and implementing

support tools for companies in the PSS area aimed at internationalization of products and services, and animating supra-regional R&D projects;

C. Human resources development for PSS - includes: support for the development of staff and competences in response to market needs related to the operation of PSS and activities to facilitate the recruitment of staff necessary for the operation and development of PSS;

D. PSS monitoring - includes: implementing the PSS monitoring system, including evaluation of current public intervention;

In order for the monitoring system to fulfill its functions, it should be adapted to the current reality and specificity of a given PSS, and at the same time should ensure comparability of collected data. The PSS monitoring system was initially built based on the following tools: statistical analysis, analysis of the implementation of Agreements for PSS, research of PSS stakeholders and strategic verification panels. In relation with the bottom-up PSS selection process, it turned out to be impossible to monitor them through the Polish Classification of Enterprises (PKD) code system, which is a serious impediment to access to public data and a challenge in the further implementation of an effective PSS monitoring system. As part of the Smart Progress Project, it is planned to implement one, comprehensive and coherent PSS monitoring system, as well as to create a PSS Database and conduct quantitative research of entities from the PSS areas and analysis of the obtained data.

E. Management of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process - includes: strengthening the competences of public administration employees responsible for process management and promoting the Process and its effects in the Pomorskie Voivodeship;

6. Existing tools for involvement of quadruple helix stakeholders

Comprehensive activities under the “Smart Progress” Project should indirectly contribute to citizen involvement in the subject of innovation and increase the society's impact on the created new solutions tailored to their needs. As part of the “Smart progress” project, actions will be taken to organize competence development centers that will appear in critical areas of diagnosed competence deficits and will support existing and creation of new competences in the area of PSS. The project also anticipates activities related to entrepreneurship learning, which is necessary to stimulate the creation of new, innovative startups and to support entrepreneurial skills and attitudes among young people, who are future employees' potential for entities from the PSS. Activities will be conducted on the basis of cooperation with universities and academic business incubators, career offices, etc. To ensure continuity of activities and effects for the future, it is also necessary to support the academic staff educating students in topics related to entrepreneurship.

7. The results or achievements of current S3; with reference to the roadmaps

Creation of thematic groups and establishment of consortia in strategic themes for the future of the region, e.g.

(PSS1) Pomorskie Platform of Autonomous Ships - with the initiative of local government and stakeholders gathered around smart maritime specialization, at the beginning of 2019 an informal working group called Pomorskie Autonomous Ship Platform interested in the subject of ship autonomy.

(PSS2) Regional innovation center dedicated to the application of space and satellite technologies in the maritime economy - the Marshal's Office initiated the development of a cooperation model and the creation of an innovation center in the region dedicated to the use of space and satellite technologies in the maritime economy. The center focuses on the possibilities of using space and satellite technologies in various economic zones and in everyday life, based on, among others enablers that allow you to combine satellite data with Internet of Things (IoT) solutions. Regional partners are involved in the organization of the center, including Polish Space Agency, Gdańsk University of Technology, Maritime PSS and ICT PSS.

(PSS3) Initiative to create the Polish Hydrogen Valley - a letter of intent was signed in this matter between the Pomorskie Voivodeship, the Cluster of Hydrogen Technology and Clean Coal Technologies, PKP Energetyka, the City of Gdynia, the Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area, and the PSS1 and PSS3 Councils. The goal of the initiative is to build the Pomorskie Hydrogen Valley, enabling the use of potential in the production of hydrogen fuels and ensuring their use, in particular in transport applications.

(PSS4): Pomorskie Voivodeship together with Copernicus hospital and the Interizon Foundation joined the cooperation in the **"inDemand" project** from September 2018 to August 2020. The project promotes a cooperation model consisting in solving problems of healthcare institutions using new technologies. The project involves external companies that co-create digital solutions using public funds. The model has been developed and is currently being implemented in three EU pilot regions: Murcia (Spain), Oulu (Finland) and Paris (France).

8. Areas/goals for updating S3;

In 2019, the Strategy of Pomorskie update process began. In 2020 Regional Strategic Programs will also be updated, including the "Pomeranian Port of Creativity", which represent the RIS3 Strategy in

the Pomorskie region. However, as a result of analyzes and decisions of the PSS Councils, the areas of 4 Pomorskie Smart Specialization remain unchanged.

9. Perspectives to RIS3 from your OWN organization,

a. the description of the RIS3 process update from the implementing partners point of view

The Metropolitan Area is an association of over 50 municipalities and cities. As part of the association, we work with our municipalities mainly through the Thematic Commissions. One of the Commissions is the Strategy Commission, which is responsible for an input for the strategy in the area of the Metropolitan Subregion. Work on the report and diagnosis lasted for several months in 2019. Also as a broker institution in the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) instrument, we are a part of the implementation system of the Regional Operational Program in the Pomeranian Voivodeship.

b. role of the implementing partners in the overall picture. (Here we also recommend to include the challenges that were used in your local innovation camp, and how they correlate with your region and the regional or national RIS3)

From the very beginning of the project, we have undertaken cooperation with the Pomeranian Region, in particular with the Economic Development Department, which is responsible for the implementation of PSS in the region. One of the challenges we worked on during the Camp referred directly to PSS1 (maritime and logistics). The question was: how cities can cooperate with ports, as well as how new technologies can support inhabitants of port areas. All the InnoCamp challenges were related to the quadruple helix model in local metropolitan policies

10. Recommendations/roadmap for updating RIS3

With the analysis carried out (by Deloitte and OECD) and the recommendations of the PSS Councils, it was decided that the PSS areas were approved without changes.

At the same time there are some activities related to PSS animation and strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation that are recommended:

1. Animating cooperation aimed at creating innovative projects (launching of the project for animating the development of PSS and clusters)

2. Complementarity and diversity of the financial offer (all-in-one-process)
3. Creating platforms, cooperation networks - and enabling access to know-how
4. Observation of global trends (practical tools, models, PSS monitoring)
5. Expert support tailored to the needs of the business environment
6. Stronger involvement of the higher education institutions (using its potential)

(K.Lipińska, Pomorskie region, Aarhus 2018, Peer to peer review session on Innovation Camp)

Sources and Further reading:

1. https://www.submariner-network.eu/images/projects/smartblueregions/Multilevel_Implementation_Strategy-Pomorskie.pdf
2. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/local-entrepreneurship-ecosystems-and-emerging-industries_8fd63992-en
3. <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/regions/pl63/tags/pl63>
4. <https://drg.pomorskie.eu/documents/102005/2318026/OECD+Pomorskie+Report/639b1c33-ddb4-41ee-8307-a16199401001>

