

## ONLINE S3 – OPEN CALL FOR PILOTS – FAQs

### **WHO CAN APPLY?**

Participation is open to all regional/national authorities having responsibilities for the smart specialisation strategy. We also invite other legal entities such as consulting agencies to apply representing a regional/national authority. In this case it has to be ensured that the relevant Letter of Commitment on behalf of the regional/national authorities is attached.

Applicants must be registered organisations/legal entities in the European Union (EU), and not be any regional or national authority in the United Kingdom or Greece.

Applicants must accept the Terms and Conditions, comply to fulfil directives on ethical issues and open access to results, and sign the Declaration of Honour. In case they get selected, they will need to sign the Consortium Agreement including a declaration that intellectual property of their work belongs to the Online S3 consortium.

### **CAN I APPLY IF MY REGION HAS NOT YET A CLOSED RIS STRATEGY?**

The call has the precondition of an existing RIS3 strategy, which should be re-worked with the online tools we are developing. If RIS3 has not been implemented in your region, it is probable that you will not be able to compete with other regions that are applying.

Nevertheless, in case you are still interested, you do can apply and suggest to use the platform for the design your RIS3.

### **ABOUT GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE**

In principle, we have not an objective for a specific or wide geographical coverage; we would guarantee that the pilots within the project have highest relevance in relation to our objectives and expected results, and towards their future sustainability.

### **WHAT SHOULD THE REGIONS DO?**

Guided by a professional “pilot trainer”, the selected authorities will be able to experiment with a pioneering web based approach for improving the regional or national smart specialisation strategy

- inform the society at large and create awareness for your smart specialisation strategy;
- consult business actors for cooperation on the basis of common areas of interests;
- involve business actors and further public sector actors discuss possibilities of revising the smart specialisation agenda and if applicable improve the strategy; and
- reach out to and liaise with relevant stakeholders from the Quadruple Helix such as business actors, research actors to establish close contacts to identify related activities and support opportunities, to finally...
- be able to respond to global challenges and incorporate trends related to smart specialisation on a global level.

The following KPI should be achieved:

Levels of citizen engagement in the region/nation		Amount*
Inform	<b>Number of users participating in the pilots</b>	
	Any stakeholder incl. civil society via online engagement (e.g. newsletters, emails, informal presentations etc.)	700
Consult	<b>Number of users participating in the open consultation</b>	
	Any stakeholders from the Quadruple Helix (e.g. add-on/short presentations or methodological experiments with existing tools, services etc., online assessment questionnaire needs to be filled)	240
Involve	<b>Number of stakeholders participating in the pilots</b>	
	Any stakeholders from the Quadruple Helix (an organized workshop, online assessment questionnaire needs to be filled)	20
Collaborate	<b>Number of user validations in the pilots</b>	
	Regional authorities and consultants and other potential users within organized workshop (via in-depth interviews)	12

#### **WHAT IS THE AMMOUNT AND DURATION OF THE WORK REQUIRED?**

Duration of participation will be 9 months, starting from April 2017. Amount of work will be what you consider necessary to take part in the activities foreseen and prepare the expected deliverables in time and quality:

1. REVISED SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGY after using all available information, tools, apps and services via the Online S3 Platform (at least partially revision – national/regional circumstances can be taken into consideration). There is of course no requirement for it to be considered the final outcome of your RIS3 revision; the objective is to make pilot's participation worth it, and not just a theoretical exercise.
2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, including at least 200 web based assessment questionnaires to provide feedback to improve the quality of the stakeholder participation by an interplay of participation quality dimensions during the partnership phase. This online questionnaire is dedicated toward the quality assessment for improvement and NOT the development of RIS.
3. ASSESSMENT REPORTS. A final analysis report assessing www.onlineS3.eu from the pilot's perspective based on a provided template has to be delivered by 1st December 2017. This report should also include the core results of 10 in-depth interviews with the policy-makers and consultants.

#### **ABOUT BUDGET. IS IT ALRIGHT TO PROVIDE AN OFFER WITH A BUDGET LOWER THAN 85,000 EURO AS LONG AS THE DELIVERABLES WILL BE DELIVERED?**

Yes, there are no limitations in this sense as long as deliverables will be delivered in time and quality. As a matter of fact, this can open opportunities for a greater number of pilots, if it were possible.

We are fully aware financial scenarios will be different for each region, and we do not want this to become a barrier for anybody's participation in the call. For this reason, budget has not been defined in terms of lump-sums or fixed at a concrete quantity.

**WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBLE COSTS? SHOULD THE BUDGET BE MADE BY DELIVERABLE ONLY OR ALSO BY COST CATEGORY? (E.G. H2020 ELIGIBLE COSTS)**

On one hand, costs are eligible in line with HORIZON2020 project guidelines and rules. On the other hand, resources should be used to reach the project deliverables as outlined in our Open Call Specifications.

Thus, the typical HORIZON2020 cost categories is advisable; however, an additional splitting per project deliverable is also vital.

**IS THERE ANY RECOMMENDED SHARE OF COST CATEGORIES? (E.G. COSTS FOR STAFF AROUND 50%, SUBCONTRACTING LIMIT, ETC...) WHICH ARE THE MOST RELEVANT COST CATEGORIES FOR THIS PROPOSAL? AS IT SEEMS THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE ON-LINE, ARE TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS EXPECTED?**

In principle, there are no specific guidelines. Nevertheless, you can consider the following recommendations:

- Given the nature of the work to carry out, we expect most costs will be related to personnel directly or indirectly involved in the activities.
- As most of the work will be performed in your region, travel and accommodation costs within your region can be considered. In addition, you will be kindly asked to take part in one consortium meeting during the pilot experimentation. Details are not planned yet (location and time frame) but we recommend you to plan 1,500 Euro per person for this meeting.
- Finally, there could also be some costs related to dissemination and communication activities.
- Please keep in mind there could be limitations to subcontracting depending on the final legal formula to use for your involvement in the project.

**HOW WILL COSTS BE CERTIFIED? DOES THIS WORK AS A TYPE OF LUMP-SUM? (E.G. ONCE DELIVERABLES HAVE BEEN REPORTED, AMOUNTS ARE PAID AS BUDGETED) OR DOES IT WORK AS A REAL COSTS CERTIFICATION? (E.G. CERTIFYING STAFF, TRAVEL, SUBCONTRACTING, INVOICES, ETC...)**

During project justifications, pilots' costs will need to be explained in accordance to H2020 rules and guidelines. Whether this will also be the formula for the certification of such costs depends on the final formula to arrange each pilot participation in the project.

In relation to payments, they will be implemented in similar terms than the EC pays the project itself (in the same proportion and timeline, therefore keeping 20% of total budget pending the final deliverance and/or review of project results).

Please keep in mind all pilots will at least sign our Consortium Agreement.

**ON THE APPLICATION FORM:**

**IT IS HARD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE THREE FIRST QUESTIONS. TO ME, THEY ALL SEEM ALIKE. WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERENCES?**

1st QUESTION: "Please provide details of your experience with the Smart Specialisation Strategy (maximum 5,000 characters). Please submit a copy of existing RIS". It means an overall presentation of the pilot: how and when did you revised your RIS, and how have you launched implementation so far. Main instruments, activities and, if any, preliminary results. It is more related on HOW DO YOU MANAGE RIS.

2ND QUESTION: Please summarize your current smart specialisation strategy. Additional documents or further links can also be provided (maximum 5,000 characters). It is related to the contents in your RIS. It is a short summary in English of the RIS itself.

3rd QUESTION: Please summarize the activities already carried out for the implementation of your smart specialisation strategy (such as calls for RIS3 projects, etc.) (maximum 5,000 characters). Additional documents or further links can also be provided. It gives you extra space to describe the on-going activities.

**WHAT DO YOU MEAN WITH "ENVIRONMENTAL AN SOCIALLY IMPORTANT IMPACTS THAT MIGHT BE RELEVANT TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION"? COULD YOU GIVE EXAMPLES?**

It means if there are context-related aspects that could become drivers for the pilot: foreseen policy measures, planned initiatives, expected entrance of a new relevant stakeholder, etc.

**REGARDING POINT 3: THE CV OF WHOM?**

At least of the person who will be responsible for the pilot. Preferable, the main personnel that will be involved in it.