

Enhancing multi-stakeholders' capacity to engage in regional smart specialisation strategies

Module 2

The stakeholders of RIS3: Who? To whom?

AUTHORIZATION



Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Understanding roles and potential benefits for RIS3 stakeholders and the benefits of cooperation with HEIs
- Getting to know the self-assessment tool HEInnovate and understanding how to support the self-assessment process of an HEI
- Reflecting upon best practices in stakeholders engagement

Agenda

1. Quadruple helix cooperation: Roles and potential benefits for RIS3 stakeholders
2. HEInnovate: from self-assessment to bridging HEIs with the world
3. Best practices
4. Conclusions

CHAPTER 1

Roles and potential benefits for RIS3 stakeholders

Stakeholders of the quadruple helix

- Manufacturing and services, primary sectors, financial sector, creative industries, social sector, large firms, SMEs, young entrepreneurs, students with business ideas, cluster and business organisations

- Public and private research bodies, universities, education and training, science and technology parks, technology transfer offices, etc.



- If relevant at different government levels, agencies, e.g. for regional development, business advise, public procurement offices, incubators, etc.

NGOs and citizens' initiatives related to societal challenges for which innovative solutions would be helpful, consumers associations, talents, etc.

RIS3 and the Quadruple Helix

RIS3 entails a collaborative process among public authorities, the academia/researchers, the business community and the innovation users (“civil society”).



Source: <http://www.s3platform.eu/1-governance/>

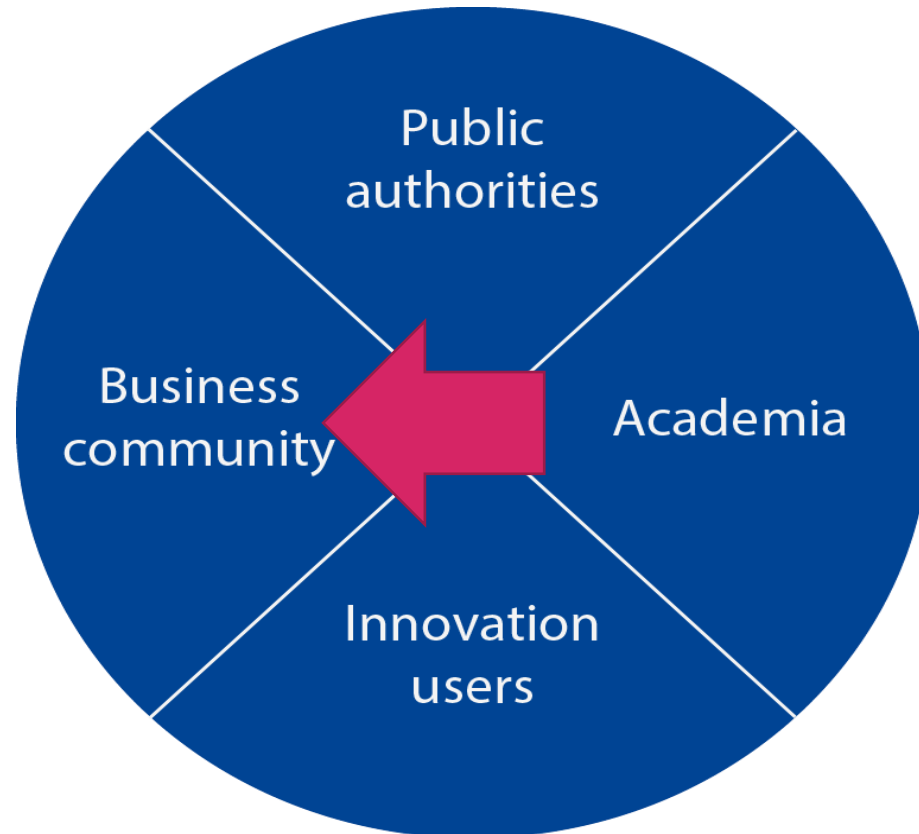
Public
Administration

Local/ regional
public
authorities

The role of governments/public authorities

- For the development of effective innovation systems, governments and public authorities play a vital role at all levels, national, regional and local.
- To create innovation-conducive framework conditions, governments and public authorities act in various roles as primary regulator and funder, policy-maker, infrastructural developer as well as strategy moderator and facilitator.
- Regional and national governments also play a vital role in **safeguarding regional attractiveness for innovation** by ensuring international accessibility (traffic connections), building infrastructures, digital connectivity and quality of life for internationally mobile talents.
Reichert, S. (2019). The role of Universities in Regional Innovation Ecosystems. European University Association
- They can also contribute to building demand for knowledge and innovation (innovative public procurement, investing in education, skills and innovation, assuring public spaces for interaction, etc.).
Edwards et al. (2020). Factors influencing the potential of European Higher Education Institutions to contribute to innovation and regional development.

RIS3 and the Quadruple Helix

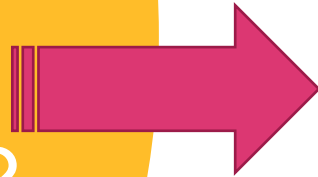


Source: <http://www.s3platform.eu/1-governance/>



Business sector

WHO?



Companies explore innovation potential and partnerships with other companies, supplier firms and start-ups, in networks with a complex and constantly changing give-and-take of ideas, knowledge, IP, and market opportunities. They exploit or use knowledge in a market-driven manner.

Universities are key partners in such external knowledge sourcing, as providers of knowledge, but also support company through the provision of qualified and skilled human resources.

Manufacturing and services, primary sectors, financial sector, creative industries, social sector, large firms, SMEs, young entrepreneurs, students with business ideas, cluster and business organisations ...

... especially if they operate in an area that represents a smart specialisation priority domain



RIS3 and the Quadruple Helix



Source: <http://www.s3platform.eu/1-governance/>



Innovation users Consumers/ Citizens

WHO?

Citizens and civil society are representing demand-side and can:

- initiate and lead innovation processes suggesting new types of innovation, or vocalising societal challenges,
- have a consultative or participatory role, including co-production of knowledge (co-creation) with other QH actors,
- participate in technology transfer, i.e. the development and testing of new ideas (products, services, and models)

Civil society is thus an important stakeholder in regional innovation process such as RIS3 in fostering the development of innovations addressing sustainable development goals.

Groups representing demand-side perspectives, such as innovation users and consumers, as well as non-profit organizations representing citizens and workers.

RIS3 and the Quadruple Helix



Source: <http://www.s3platform.eu/1-governance/>

Academia/ Higher Education Institutions

- Entrepreneurial HEI's are KEY to innovation-driven regional development. This is linked to HEI's two missions of education and research but also with the third one: **contribution to social, economic and cultural development**
- Universities should be actively involved in Smart Specialisation Strategies' design and implementation
- HEIs have an important role in **place-based development**: attracting talent, collaborating with local business, facilitating innovation, entrepreneurship and competitiveness, tackling societal challenges.
- **The innovative profile of HEIs** must go alongside cooperation with other quadruple helix actors and **involve joint work to respond to social challenges and industry/market needs.**

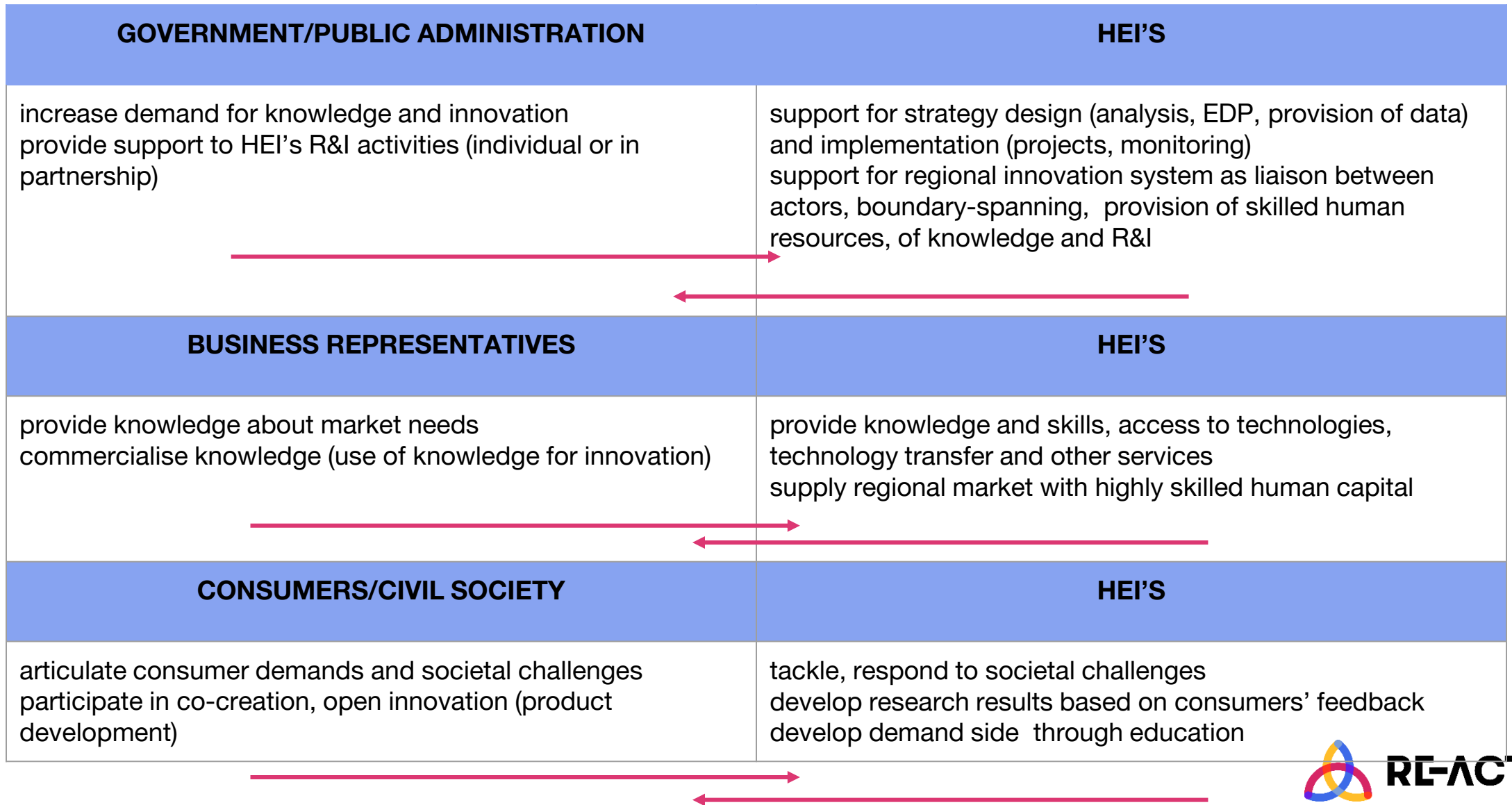
THE ROLE OF HEIs IN SMART SPECIALISATION

Element of Smart Specialisation	HEIs' related activities
Entrepreneurial Process of Discovery (EDP)	Contribute through applied and interdisciplinary research Horizontal skills among graduates
Support to a limited selection of priorities	Evolution of curricula and research portfolios to emerging priorities
Innovation for all regions – Place based approach	Embedded in regional governance Importance of the social sciences
Broader understanding of innovation and research	Respond to regional challenges Beyond third mission.

Source: Edwards, E., et al (2017). Higher Education for Smart Specialisation Towards strategic partnerships for innovation. JRC Science Hub



VALUE PROPOSITION - MAIN ADVANTAGES OF COOPERATION



What do you consider should be the role and contribution of the organization you represent in the Smart Specialisation strategy of your region?



CHAPTER 2

HEInnovate: from self-assessment to bridging HEIs with the world

HEINNOVATE – what is it? For what purpose?

Self-assessment tool used as basis and reference in RE-ACT



- **Aim:** support higher education institutions to empower students and staff to demonstrate enterprise, innovation and creativity in their teaching, research and third missions.
- **Resources:** guiding framework, additional resources and training materials
- **Self-assessment:** Users can rate statements related to each area on a scale from 'not applicable' (n/a) to 5, according to how much they agree or disagree with the statement in relation to their institution.




- **Follow up:** HEIs can capitalise on the results of the self-assessment along the eight dimensions in order to propose and implement actions and measures that help them in becoming more innovative and entrepreneurial



HEINNOVATE – dimensions for self-assessment

Expand the dimensions below to read more

-  Leadership and Governance
-  Organisational Capacity: Funding, People and Incentives
-  Entrepreneurial Teaching and Learning
-  Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs
-  Digital Transformation and Capability
-  Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration
-  The Internationalised Institution
-  Measuring Impact

DOWNLOAD CONCEPT NOTE



Select one of the dimensions below to start a self-assessment



HEInnovate is very beneficial for supporting a better involvement of universities in regional development through innovation and entrepreneurship. But is it fully **tailored to RIS3 as a new approach towards innovation policies?** RE-ACT aims to contribute for this!





Website:

<https://heinnovate.eu/en>



HOME PAGE



RESOURCES



TRAINING
MATERIALS



NEWS &
EVENTS



ABOUT
HEINNOVATE



SEARCH



SIGN IN

Sign in or create a new HEInnovate account

To start a self-assessment or use our new course assessment tool (see EPIC in our Resources section) please sign in below, if you already have an HEInnovate account. Alternatively, you can register a new account. **Registration is free and confidential.**



Registration is free and confidential but you can enter the self-assessment as a guest. So, no need to sign-in!

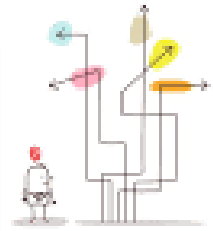
Continue as a guest

You can also use the website as a guest user. Continuing as a guest means that no information will be stored about you, your self-assessment completion will be anonymous and automatically removed from the system after 90 days. You have the right to have your information deleted at any time. For further information read our [privacy policy](#).

START NOW



Live demonstration of the HEInnovate website and the self-reflection tool



[CLICK HERE](#)

Although HEINNOVATE is primarily targeted at Higher Education Institutions, it includes several aspects/statements that explore the interactions of each HEI with other stakeholders. In fact, **HEINNOVATE should support Universities to understand**, among other issues, how well they fulfil their mission and **reach out to others**.

Universities in your region can reach out to other stakeholders when performing their self-assessment!

CHAPTER 3

Best practices in RIS3 collaboration

BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO STAKEHOLDERS COLLABORATION IN RIS3

One of the main barriers to a closer regional engagement is the **lack of dialogue and knowledge about “the other”**.

In order to build a sound S3 partnership the actors of the quadruple helix need to:



- Know and understand each other better as a basis for fruitful collaboration.
- Map the scope, focus, expertise and interests of each party.
- Understand the specific obstacles and challenges that are preventing a greater level of engagement between local universities and other stakeholders from the region.



Stakeholders need to understand each other before action can be taken

Such **good practices of collaborative partnerships** are possible and already exist across Europe.



GOOD PRACTICES

REGION/COUNTRY	NAME OF GOOD PRACTICE (MORE DETAILS IN ADDITIONAL MATERIALS)
Hungary, Central Transdanubia	The Introduction of the Role of the Corvinus University of Budapest in Central Transdanubian Region as a RIS3 actor
Italy – Apulia Region	<i>SmartPuglia2020</i> – Innovation and collaboration for RIS3 in Apulia Region
Centre (Centru) Development Region from Romania	Development of the third mission at the Transilvania University in Brasov
South-Moravian region, Czech Republic	Long-term commitment and leadership

See additional info on each good practice in the “self-study materials”!

CHAPTER 4

Conclusions and “take aways”

In order to help **develop common agendas** across the diverse cultures of different sectors, the new forms of connectivity have to feed on common values and narratives, on social ties and expectations, which are most easily established in regional proximity.

This new connectivity rests on five pillars:

- connective leadership
- common norms and narratives
- connective strategies
- connective institutional structures
- connective space

.... and additionally

**COMMON VISION ABOUT THE FUTURE
OF THE REGION**

Reichert, S. (2019). The role of Universities in Regional Innovation Ecosystems. European University Association

HOW COULD PARTNERSHIPS BE MORE EFFECTIVE?

Working together with stakeholders is key to successful innovative regions.

Thinking of your Organization/ Institution, which of these factors are a plus? Which ones could be improved?

- Social connection and networking
- Sharing information with stakeholders
- Knowledge of RIS3 institutions in your region
- Knowing your company's strengths and weaknesses
- Dispose of trained staff with adequate knowledge
- Build dynamic partnerships
- Having clear goals and knowing how the company may contribute to RIS3
- Knowing how other local stakeholders could support your innovation plan

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS TO TAKE AWAY

**Public authorities
should...**

Considering your region, how do you think stakeholders from the quadruple hélix should improve RIS3 involvement?

**Consumers
should...**

**The business
sector should...**

**Academia
should...**

Conclusions

- Entrepreneurial actors working together promote successful regional development strategies.
- Collaboration and cooperation bring value added for all actors and is of mutual benefit, a “quadruple win-win”.
- Self-reflection tools support the process of lining up stakeholders towards innovation goals and enabling HEIs to better support the regional innovation system.
- Best practices to improve local RIS3 development should include setting up common agendas and designate clear goals along a shared vision about the regions’ future.