

Unveiling Serbia's Smart Specialisation Strategy and exploring the role of incubators, accelerators and S&T Parks in delivering sector specific support in the Western Balkans and South East Europe

15-16 October 2019

Science Technology Park Belgrade

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Objectives of the 2 day meeting:

- Day 1: To present the draft of Serbia's Smart Specialisation Strategy (4S) resulting from a country-wide Entrepreneurial Discovery Process, by taking the wider regional perspective of the Western Balkans and South East Europe, and to explore the potential of regional cooperation in the 4S priority areas.
- Day 2: To promote a dialogue and EU good-practice examples of how science parks, incubators, accelerators and financial instruments in the Western Balkans and South-East Europe regions can be developed to have a sector specific nature, in order to play an active and key role in supporting emerging Smart Specialisation priorities. To bring together key players from the region and promote possible future sector focused partnerships, twinning and soft-landing.

Background

Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) are now at the heart of the plan for smart economic growth in the EU MS and important steps towards development of S3 are already underway in the Western Balkans (WB) region and also South East Europe (SEE) including the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. These have been led by the European Commission through its Joint Research Centre (JRC) together with the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and DG for Regional Policy (DG REGIO). Ongoing support for S3 development from JRC is confirmed from 2019. The commitment of the WB6 and EaP economies to developing S3 underscores their commitment to European integration, regional cooperation and smart growth through R&D&I.

As S3 priorities emerge for each country it will be important that the innovation ecosystem can pivot and evolve in a way to support and reinforce the selected priorities. This offers an increased role for S&T Parks, incubators and the like to specialise by offering sector specific services, focusing their support on start-ups from high priority sectors and extending high value hard and soft services to more established companies in the priority sectors. There is also a clear role for other sector specific support including funding instruments and accelerators that can be developed to align with emerging S3 priorities. Acceleration of

progress will come if WB6 and EaP organisations can form alliances with EU organisations and transfer sector specific knowledge and good practice.

The priorities of 4S deriving from the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process for specific areas and subsectors have been recently announced as: *ICT* (custom software development, software solutions development); *machines and production process of the future* (machines for specific purposes, information in smart management service - Industry 4.0, smart components and tools, combustion devices for eco-friendly and sustainable fuels); *food for the future* (high-tech agriculture, value-added food products, sustainable food chain); *creative industries* (creative audio-visual production, video games and interactive content, smart packaging). Examples of successful ecosystems addressing some of these areas will be presented in the second day as well as recent work on the use of soft-landing and twinning to improve internationalisation of incubators and start-ups in sector specific areas.

Maximum number of participants: 180 for physical participation (the event will also be live-streamed).

Target audience: The target audience for the first day are, in particular, the actors directly involved in developing S3 and the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process while the second day will be most relevant for stakeholders in the design, operation and promotion of the wider innovation ecosystem. These include policy makers interested in S3, innovation support, science, research and technological development domains, managing authorities and institutions; national and regional agencies and bodies managing investment funds for innovation, technology transfer practitioners, start-ups and SMEs, practitioners from both the supply and demand sides, financial intermediaries, start-up support organisations and associations and other relevant practitioners from the Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership countries and the EU, as well as international incubators, accelerators and science parks who have evolved from incubation generalists to sector specialists.

Travel and subsistence support: Invited speakers will have all their travel and subsistence costs covered. Other attendees may be eligible to obtain financial support to cover the costs of attending this conference, depending on their background, affiliation and country of origin. Nationals from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo^{*}, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, Republic of North Macedonia, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Tunisia and Israel may apply for accommodation and travel costs. All applications will be assessed on the basis of motivation, background, geographical balance and organisation. Please note that we may give priority to the nationals whose actual residence is in these countries. However, given budget restrictions, this will be granted on a case by case basis and those concerned will be notified through an official letter in mid-September.

^{*}This designation, and all other designations in this programme, is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Day 1 - Tuesday 15 October 2019
Opportunities for Regional Collaboration within
Smart Specialisation Priority Domains

09:30-10:00	Registration of participants
10:00-10:30	Opening and Welcome speeches
10:30-11:00	4S – Smart Specialisation Strategy for Serbia
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30-12:30	Panel discussion: Sharing experiences – feedback on Serbian Smart Specialisation Priority Domains
12:30-13:00	Serbian Smart Specialisation priorities and the regional value chains - main findings from the JRC and OECD reports
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00-15:30	<p>Panel discussion: How could cooperation on Serbian Smart Specialisation priorities enhance regional value chains in the Western Balkans and beyond? <i>The panel discussion will be focused around the identified preliminary Smart Specialisation priority domains for Serbia:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);</i> • <i>Food for the future;</i> • <i>Machines and production process of the future;</i> • <i>Creative industries.</i>
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00-17:00	Panel discussion: Challenges for the governance of innovation strategies in the South-East Europe
17:00-17:15	Support of technology transfer instruments and tools to the implementation of the smart specialisation in the South East Europe <i>Introduction to the second day of the conference</i>
17:15-17:30	Wrap-up of Day 1
17.30	Buses to Belgrade

Day 2 - Wednesday 16 October 2019 Supporting Service Specialisation: the role of incubators, accelerators, and S&T Parks in delivering sector specific support	
9:00-9:15	Registration of new participants
9:15-9.30	Introduction to the second day (DG NEAR JRC and EU4TECH)
9:30-10:30	Developing Sector Specific Services and Instruments EU Keynote speakers representing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S&T Park • Accelerator • Incubator • Soft-landing • Financial Instruments
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-13:00	Parallel Workshop with examples of innovation ecosystems in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICT and Digital including AI</i> • <i>Agriculture, Food and Tourism</i> • <i>Health technologies</i>
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00-15.30	Parallel Workshop with examples of innovation ecosystems in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Energy efficient/ green energies</i> • <i>Creative industries</i> • <i>Supporting hardware start-ups</i>
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00-17:00	Panel Discussion Horizontal Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Legislative structures • Institutional Development • Sector Specific Internationalisation (soft-landing and twinning)
17.00-17.15	Closing
17.45	Buses to Belgrade