

## Transnational Cooperation and Value Chains

# The case of Galicia (Spain) and Norte (Portugal): Joint Cross-Border Smart Specialisation Strategy

The objective of creating a common smart specialisation strategy for the border-region of Norte and Galicia is to define a framework for strategic cooperation in order to **provide a coordinated response to shared challenges that, within the framework innovation policies, can be handled more effectively and efficiently in a joint manner**, to mobilise new initiatives and projects and to facilitate the raising of funds from specific funding sources.

The regional innovation stakeholders in the border-region decided to align research and innovation goals and priorities in a joint cross-border smart specialisation strategy **to make better use of different funding frameworks** (e.g. regional operation programmes/cross-border cooperation funding) **and be more competitive in transnational research and innovation programmes** (e.g. Horizon 2020 and Era-net). This will help **develop a critical mass in an international value chain** by sharing knowledge and combing research and innovation capacities.

**In order to create a joint S3 strategy**, a cross-border working group between Norte and Galicia was established in 2014, acting as a technical secretariat for facilitating interaction between stakeholders from each region. The working group was made up of experts from the Galician Innovation and Northern Portuguese Regional Coordination and Development Commission.

The working groups carried out an analysis of individual regional S3 priority areas with the aim of **identifying synergies and cross-overs for collaboration between the two regions**. One of the central elements of the process was the **establishment of a participatory and integrative entrepreneurship discovery process**, which involved agents from the innovation systems of Galicia and Norte, focusing on transregional potential and scale. Carrying out a transregional entrepreneurship discovery process was deemed as a great opportunity to broaden expertise and knowledge of the markets, increase their complexity and discover hidden opportunities.

The joint S3 strategy developed a vision outlining shared research and innovation goals and priorities between Galicia and Norte and **identified common actions that could be conducted and funded across regions**. This was supplemented by **an evaluation system** with key indicators designed to monitor the implementation of common actions.

### **Read more:**

The joint cross-border smart specialisation strategy document: [http://www.ris3galicia.es/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/RIS3T\\_INGLES.pdf](http://www.ris3galicia.es/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/RIS3T_INGLES.pdf)

The case of Norte and Galicia in the S3 Implementation Handbook: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-implementation-handbook> (Gianelle, C., D. Kyriakou, C. Cohen and M. Przeor (eds) (2016), Implementing Smart Specialisation: A Handbook, Brussels: European Commission, EUR 28053 EN, doi:10.2791/53569 )