

## NOVEMBER 2017

Welcome to the third HIGHER newsletter!

Since you are working in or showed interest in the innovation policies, we thought you might want to know more about our project. Below you can find information about the mission, activities and the partners of the project.

## The HIGHER work in progress

### HIGHER Innovation experience hub

The project will launch early 2018 learning paths about innovative public procurement as a tool for innovation in the public administration and Smart Specialization Strategies. In particular, the didactic units will focus on topics like legal framework at European, National and Regional level, experiences carried out in the activation of innovative public procurement procedures, approaches to innovation and regional specializations and worst and best practices.

The lessons will be addressed to people employed in public administrations and in and in private businesses, university students from technical, scientific and legal faculties, anyone interested in enhancing knowledge on innovative concepts.

The contents will be available on the MARLENE (MarchE-Learning Network), and platform owned by the Marche Region and open to all citizens for online training upon registration.



### Smart Specialisation Map

HIGHER project is working to capitalise an online tool called Smart Map, developed by UAB Research Park and Marche Region in the scope of CITEK project (cofinanced by the MED Programme) and related to RIS3 drawing up and implementation monitoring. The Smart map will be an interactive map aimed to provide a complete overview of the RIS3 plans in, at least, regions involved in the project (Catalonia, Marche, Abruzzo, Central Macedonia, Cambridge, North Portugal, Stocolm, Slovenia, Greece, Slovenia and Lituania), using Google Maps technology.

This tool will allow the user to filter regions according some criteria, including the key enabling technologies (KETs) and economic sectors in which a region aims to specialize. Given the relevance of connecting different regions (and their stakeholders) European-wide, this instrument becomes very useful when detecting which territories are developing innovative activities in the same sectors, looking to promote synergies among them to design and implement further projects.

#### SMART SPECIALIZATION MAP



### Good practices collection of Smart Specialisation

The development and implementation of smart specialisation strategies can be a complex process; the HIGHER Good Practice Collection on Smart Specialisation is, therefore, designed to provide innovation stakeholders with an overview of good practices in the design and implementation of smart specialisation. The aim of the Collection is showcase different good practice examples from the HIGHER Partnership and other European regions, focusing on how to overcome some of the most common challenges faced when facilitating the smart specialisation process under four key themes: The Entrepreneurial Discovery Process, Good Governance, Transnational Cooperation and Value Chains and Monitoring and Evaluation.

[Read more](#)

## HIGHER events

### Workshop on 'Innovative good practices in the sectors of agri-food and tourism'



On Thursday 5th of October 2017, the Region of Central Macedonia organised this workshop, during which were presented selected innovative projects and good practices of public/private collaborations in the sectors of agri-food and tourism, that are a priority for RIS3 in the Region. The workshop was attended by 39 representatives from the HIGHER project partners and stakeholders from Spain, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Lithuania and Greece. The presentations of good practices were followed by onsite visits to the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) and to the American Farm School.

[Check out the presentations of the meeting on the web](#)

### Intermediate Event 'Regional/Interregional collaborations adding value to the local ecosystems'



On Friday 6th of October 2017 the Intermediate Event of HIGHER took place at N. Germanos Congress Centre in Thessalonki. HIGHER project partners' representatives and stakeholders from Spain, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Lithuania and Greece participated in the event, which aimed at highlighting the importance of public/private collaborations for effective innovative initiatives that can promote economic growth and competitiveness at regional level. In the 1st Thematic Session of the event, HIGHER project status, outputs and expected results were presented. The 2nd Thematic Session included presentations on innovation strategies and policies, good practices at regional level and tools for the promotion of public/private cooperation with emphasis in the sectors of agri-food and tourism in European countries (Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Spain and Greece).

[Check out the presentations of the meeting on the web](#)