



**P2L2**  
**PUBLIC POLICY LIVING LAB**  
 Study Visit & SGM  
 Rzeszów  
 22-24 Nov 2016

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**First Day – Tuesday, 22 November 2016**

**Venue - Rzeszów University of Technology - <http://portal.prz.edu.pl/en/>**

**Panel Debate on the Podkarpackie RIS 3 learning experience: Tracing the Policy Instrument**

**Panel Debate:**

- Andrej Ripka, Managing director of the Aviation Valley Association;
- Janusz Fudala, President of Rzeszow Innovation Agency;
- Piotr Czerepiuk, Director Marshal Of-  
fice;
- Maciej Chranowsky Rzeszów Tech-  
nical University;



**Introduction to the debate:**

There has been a historical strong regional focus on Aviation and Defence industries. During the last years these industries are shifting from military to multi-purpose use.

Change since 1990ies, former main Russian market was lost. Challenge to look for new customers in other countries. Many jobs, especially of older generation were lost. Investments from Western companies brought new technologies and new markets. Research project involvement in H2020. The creation of clusters was then completely new in Poland. Bring entrepreneurs to co-operate and to develop local supply chains. Based often on family business.



**Aviation valley** was created to join forces and negotiating with politicians in Warsaw. It was a private initiative. There was also an interest to cooperate in the supply chain. Currently the association is composed of: 15 companies, RTU and 2 public agencies. It is a bottom up approach and was created even before anybody started talking about clusters in Poland.

The **regional S3 strategy** started in 2012, but it was the result of a long cooperation. Currently this strategy is already being updated. In this update a fourth priority must be added: automotive industry.

Regional government is responsible for the operational programme. Podkarpackie Innovation Council: This council is a forum for big and small companies and science. Composed of around 30 representatives deciding on instruments for supporting S3 specialization. This council also identifies new areas for cooperation projects and formulates recommendations for national or regional authorities in areas of regional development.

The agency is supporting start-ups in the field of aviation. They created a new accelerator and at the RTU there is a pre-incubator for ideas at an early stage. After 2 years in the pre-incubator, you have access to the Aeropolis Science and Technology Park, where the start-ups also have support from the Science and Technology Park during 3 years. After 5 years, they have access to buy a space at the park. Currently there are a couple of projects financed by EU and the innovation agency.

Polish development is supporting 60 start-ups with a max. of €250.000 per company. Programme support business ideas in the fields of smart specialization (including new materials and aviation/aeronautics). Most of the 1.000 ideas do not get access to finance but anyway they receive mentoring services and other kind of support.

The start-ups are put in connection with investors and trained about how to organise the pitch meetings. Currently 100 companies in the science parks and 10% belong to aviation and aeronautics.

Building trust is one of the key success factors for an association like Aviation valley. Another is the cooperation between science and entrepreneurs-

Aeronet is a separate consortium (not a formal entity) with around 158 members of aviation valley. There are several Polish universities and institutions related to aviation that are members of Aeronet. In total there is something like 300 people cooperating in different projects and ideas and promoting cross-sectoral projects (cleantech, automotive, energy sometimes apply overlapping technologies).

Another key factor is the connection with international organizations. EU clusters in aviation, defence & security... are key partners of Aeronet and aviation valley.

Connection with regional government is also essential, even when started as a private sector initiative they receive support. 3 people are working in the **administration of the cluster**. They are financed by membership fees (their contributions depend on the dimension of the member) and the projects they are running (they are also EEN members).

Co-operation exists with Fraunhofer Dresden, EU programmes, CORNET, etc.

Performance Indicators: no. of jobs, sales, 9.000 people in 2003, now 25.000 jobs (thereof 6.00 engineers), new A320 engines are 5-10 % value share from Rzeszów.

But Aviation Valley does not receive direct funds for financing the structure.

In order to support KETs, a new technology panel was created. Companies work in the framework of this panel together on new KETs applicable to aviation. Currently cooperating in a project selecting 15 "super key" technologies out of 35 the next 20 years in Poland. With a budget of 120 € mio project allowing 300 scientists to collaborate. Depending on TLR the results are transferred into production in companies of the Valley, where they are able to involve companies and academia around this issue.

Aviation valley goes beyond Podkarpackie and therefore it is necessary a cooperation between Podkarpackie and Lubelskie, for example in practical training centres.

Other clusters like organic food, medical, automotive are being created in the region: benefits are technology overlap, widening of perspective for the region, quality of living, clean energy, foreign investments.

Why aviation valley is helping supporting other clusters? Because it is good to have other clusters

around for the members of aviation valley (medical science, clean energy... because there are technologies overlapping). Good quality clusters may improve also the quality standard of living in Rzeszow. This also attracts investors and talent. For example there is a good example in Gdansk creating a purchase group for a regional cluster, benefiting its members because of savings.

Marshall Office is Managing Authority for ERDF (R&D and Investment): R&D project must fit into S3. Marshall allocates additional points if compliance with RIS, Innovation Council took part in consultation for regional ERDF and RIS3. Members of AV contributed. System project are being implemented, also to monitor the EDP.

What are the criteria for selecting the companies participating in the incubator The incubator is financed by the EU. Innovation degree and matching the S3 strategy were pre-conditions for accessing the incubator. Incubator is funded by ERDF programme.

What is the connection between the S3 strategy and the operational programme. Mid-term review to adapt to the needs of the industry?

Clear connection, because only S3 related projects are prioritized and supported with additional points. The region is going to create a new system for monitoring the implementation of the s3 strategy.

### **Implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategy: Krzysztof Mieszkowski Expert from JRC, Seville**



Mr Mieszkowski presented the guidebook "Implementing Smart Specialization Strategies" (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). For accessing the document please visit following [link](#).

In the design phase it was decided to include stakeholders (entrepreneurial discovery process) what was quite innovative.

Now in the implementation there is a new guide, pragmatic, useful and practical. The handbook has a structure:

#### 1. The entrepreneurial discovery process

Double approach (top down and bottom up) with participation of government (inclusive governance) and stakeholders (trust and participation).

#### 2. Good Governance: seven principles

- Leadership and participation
- Cohesion to implement a collective vision
- Independence and transparency
- Integrated implementation
- Embedding S3 in regional policy-making
- Multi-level governance
- Reflection and learning

### 3. From priority to projects

There used to be specific calls for smart specialization. Challenges in the implementation of the S3 successfully.

Messages on project selection:

- S3 should be considered as an integral part of local RTDI policy;
- Stakeholder's feedback on the selection process can improve or advance its results;
- The economic impact for the regions and countries must be assessed in due course;
- The selection of limited areas for investment may cause reaction from those who feel 'excluded' as well as those who have been included.

### 4. Transnational co-operation and value chains

Graphic with the stages of transnational cooperation in S3

As a good example it was mentioned the Vanguard initiative:

<http://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/>

The Vanguard Initiative - new growth through smart specialisation is driven by a political commitment made by regions to use their smart specialisation strategy to boost new growth through bottom-up entrepreneurial innovation and industrial renewal in European priority areas. The political leadership in every partner region has undertaken this commitment by signing the Milan Declaration.

### 5. Monitoring

- Evolution and effects of transformation processes: early warning to reorient policy measures;
- Stakeholder participation & trust building;
- Support the EDP;
- Provide intelligible narratives for innovation

In a nutshell:

- Entrepreneurial Discovery Process should be a continuous process requiring inclusive governance, sustained stakeholder's commitment and participation;
- Transnational learning can help regions to design better governance structures but different regional context demand tailor made solutions;
- S3 should be considered an integral part of local RTDI policy;
- Transnational collaboration and learning are crucial for fostering economic growth;
- Continuous stakeholder involvement and the provision for reorienting strategies underlines the importance of re-inventing monitoring

### Visit to Pratt & Whitney <http://www.pwrze.com/en/>

During the Study visit the project had the opportunity of visiting the premises of Pratt & Whitney, one of the most relevant players of the region. The participants learned about the benefits of being part of the regional ecosystem and how the interest of the company and the whole sector are represented by Aviation Valley Association.

Founded in 1937, WSK "PZL - Rzeszów" has become one of the leading players in the Central Europe aerospace industry. It was state owned for over 60 years and joined the United Technologies corporation family in 2002. WSK "PZL - Rzeszów" employs almost 4000 workers in one facility located in the city of Rzeszów, on the Wisłok river bank. Company facilities house our head office, manufac-

turing, engineering, service center, customer support, finance and procurement.

WSK is involved in the following activities:

- manufacturing
- overhaul and post-sale services
- special order services
- design and research

Podkarpacie is a region with rich aviation tradition. In the year 2003 WSK Rzeszów came up with an idea of creating an association for aerospace industry producers called the “Aviation Valley”. At first with only 17 subjects, currently it associates over 90 of them. The main goal of the association is a consolidation of the industry and creation of a joint development strategy and co-operation with other, similar clusters in Europe and around the world. The association and the companies in it continue to develop, launch ambitious programs and attract home and foreign clients. The long-term development perspectives are of major importance here. The creation of the “Aviation Valley” and its development, current position, influence on the economic landscape of regions, multitudes of initiatives concerning i.e. education at any level, prove that the creation of the association was a clear success.

### Rzeszow University of Technology - presentation of Martian Rover “Legendary IV”



During the visit to the RTU, the partners had the opportunity to attend the presentation of Martin Rover “Legendary IV” by Rzeszow Legendary Rover Team, one of the examples of a result obtained from the R&D activities carried out in the laboratories of the University .

This team won the competition Mars rovers University Rover Challenge 2016. Legendary IV prepared by the students of Rzeszów University of Technology won first place at the prestigious contest University Rover Challenge 2016.

The competition was played for the tenth time on the American desert in Utah, near the analog base Martian MDRS. This is yet another success of this team in the competition, because in 2015 they also won the competition and in 2014 they stood on the third step of the podium. Current version “Legendary IV” presents some improvements compared to their predecessors, like a more stable platform and a better connectivity and manoeuvrability.



## Status of the P2L2 Interreg Project

The LP presented the current status of the project, the work done until now and presented the next challenges the consortium will face during the second semester.

The Regional reports based on the limited mapping survey are quite advanced but some partners still have to deliver the final version. After reviewing these regional reports, the limited mapping methodology will be fine-tuned.

Hosting partners of study visits have to finalise the case study and start with the policy briefs. In order to ensure quality and a standardized content of these documents, task coordinators will be appointed. These task co-ordinators will provide guidance and support to the partners.

This session is closely connected to the presentation of the work plan during the Steering Group Meeting planned for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

## Visit to University Laboratories



The project partners had the opportunity to visit the laboratories of the Rzeszow Technical University.

Together with the infrastructure the partners learned one of the advantages of this infrastructure is the wide scope of their research activities, including the whole value chain from basic research to prototype tested in a real environment.

Being part of the university, also makes research for industrial partners.

Concerning the financing of this facility, their income resources are 50% public and 50% private. Currently counts with 50 employees apart from the students.



**Second Day – Wednesday 23 November 2016**

**Venue: Mielec - Regional Centre for Transfer of Modern Manufacturing Technology, Sikorsky a Lockheed Martin Company and Rzeszów - Marshall Office of the Podkarpackie Region**

**Visit to Sikorsky a Lockheed Martin Company** <https://www.pzlmielec.pl/>



During the study visit the project had the opportunity of visiting PLZ Mielec (Sikorsky Group) a Lockheed Martin Company. The partners learned about the role of this big company with a tracking effect in the regional economy in the Podkarpackie ecosystem.

During the visit the partners learned about the history of the company, the current research and innovation strategy, the involvement in the regional ecosystem (AERONET and Aviation Valley), the interactions with academic

and research institutions of the region (and the country), the supply chain alliances or the financing and IPR scheme.

Thanks to their participation in Aviation Valley the company is able to influence and contribute to the definition of the regional and national policy, including the Policy Instrument.



## Vocational Training Center



During the Study Visit, the partners also visited the regional training center in Mielec, focused on attending the needs of the local companies.

This training center has developed capacity building programmes adapted to the real needs of the companies of the region.

The idea is to develop talent in the region for improving employment opportunities and also attract talent to the city of Mielec.

One of the main challenges has been training the trainers. The center has participated in several European projects.



**Third Day – Thursday 24 November 2016**

**Venue: Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park “AEROPOLIS” -**  
<http://aeropolis.com.pl/en/>;

**Visit to Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park “AEROPOLIS”**

**Dawid Adamski**



Three elements of Aeropolis:

- Academic pre-incubation: Students
- Incubation
- Investment in zones

The incubator infrastructure and services were presented. Main goal is to support companies (start-ups, SMEs and large companies).

The incubator offers attractive space in an ecosystem of tech companies.

They organise networking like for example:

breakfast, without heels without ties, academy, start-up weekend... promoting the encounter and exchange of the entrepreneurial agents of the ecosystem.

Also count with expert services offering support in IPR, Biz Model, Promotion...

The incubator also counts with research laboratories (biotechnology and new materials for aviation).

One important challenge is to promote the cooperation of all related agents. In February will launch a new accelerator (running from February to April) inviting investors and accelerating business ideas.

Now 2 success stories will be presented:

**PNP SYSTEMS Communication technologies**

The project has the opportunity to meet representatives of tech companies located in the Tech park explaining their experience and also the reasons for the location at the park and their R&D activities (including a plan for submitting an application for a EU R&I action under the Horizon 2020 programme).

This company develops dedicated applications and technology consulting. They are looking for cooperation partners: Focus on the realization of innovative and technologically advanced projects.

**South Bay Solutions Europe**

Founded in 1992 its strategic machinery includes 60 modern CNC machines with automatization and palletizer systems. South Bay has more than 190 employees across global facilities in USA, Singapore, Malaysia and Poland. The reasoning for these locations is attending the customers.

The polish branch started in 2015 in the incubator. The product satisfy the needs of different sectors: automotive, aerospace, medical, oil, semiconductor and help them in the achievement of a competitive advantage.

The company offers high quality solutions with many types of materials including aluminium, titanium, steel, copper, bronze, brass and plastics.

Focus on manufacture complex sub-assemblies for aerospace, semiconductor, automotive, military, medical, oil&gas industries.

Their customers are big OEMs like airbus or Pratt and Whitney.

This company, also member of aviation valley association, offers services like heat treatment processes, engineering support and R&D services in cooperation with the partners including leading universities.

One of their competitive advantages is the Quality, distinguishing them from other production. This is possible thanks to strict quality processes and controls and advanced equipment.

**Technology Incubator - <http://inkubator.rarr.rzeszow.pl/en/>**

The consortium had the opportunity of visiting the infrastructure and the equipment accessible to start-ups.

