

**Interregional partnerships in the
BRIDGES project,
insights from the project implementation
1.4.2016 - 8.6.2018**

BRIDGES summary



- **Full title:** Bridging competence infrastructure gaps and speeding up growth and jobs delivery in regions
- **Priority:** 1.1 Improving innovation infrastructure policies
- **Budget:** 1 978 468€
- **Duration:** Phase 1, 1.4.2016-31.3.2019; Phase 2 1.4.2019-31.3.2021; 60 months total
- **Objective:** Improve RIS3 implementation effectiveness
- **Problem:** Mismatches between the economic and knowledge bases at regional level & lack of RIS3 implementation “tools” on the ground (not referring to coordination issues)
- **Aim:** Visible & replicable impact of RIS3 implementation
- **Tool:** Research-to-business based solutions, tools, policies, options,; if possible activation of Article 70 of the CPR.
- **Partnership strategy:** 1) RIS3 baseline reference, common: bio-based economy; 2) 1 advanced x 5 less advanced regions; 3) national R&I strategy explicitly stressing commercialisation of research and internationalisation as priorities.

BRIDGES partnership

	Partnership (member states -MS, project partners -PP, regional -RP, advisory -AP, status: public equivalent -PE, ESIF bodies -MA/IB)			
Partners	MS	Designation in the project	Regional/ advisory	Status
Kainuun Etu	FI	PP1	RP	PE
Regional Council of Kainuu	FI	PP2	RP	IB
Lubelskie Voivodship	PL	PP3	RP	MA
Regional Council of Helsinki-Uusimaa	FI	PP4	RP	IB
ANKO	GR	PP5	RP	PE
Soca Valley Development Centre	SI	PP6	RP	PE
Pannon Business Network	HU	PP7	RP	PE
CEEI Burgos	ES	PP8	AP	PE
CERTH	GR	PP9	AP	PE
ALTERRA (withdrew)	NL	PP10	AP	PE

BRIDGES strategy (4 steps to results)

1. Diagnosis

Innovation map

From the RIS3 industries, identification of the most promising industries

Assessment of state of play of technological connectivities in the region

2nd readings

Good practices

Examples of technological connectivities

2. Opportunities

3. Localisation

Optimisation question (-s) = localisation of the GP to regional opportunities and needs (innovation map findings)

Analysis of the policy instrument

Feasibility study

4. Action plan
(RIS3 path, 4 kinds of unique or / and overlapping possibilities, see last slide)

Interregional partnerships, state of play 8-6-2018

- **OVERALL FINDING:** Options for **interregional** “innovation on demand” a general request.
- **HOW THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED:** Through the innovation maps and the importance of research-to-industry identified as an additional category (next slide)
- **IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH:** Projects + associated policy instrument change for longer term.
- **IMPLEMENTATION BY REGIONS:** **Goriska:** On going CLLD opening through acceptance of research-to-business interregional options; **Kainuu:** S3P, BERRY+ platform; **Uusimaa:** Criteria and score for cooperation beyond the region in the ESIF; **West Macedonia:** On going ESIF opening through acceptance of research-to-business interregional options.
- **BOTTOM LINE** 4 out of the 6 regions have tested / are testing more stable, more permanent types of interregional cooperation beyond the project.

The plus

The core finding of the innovation maps

<p>BRIDGES innovation maps</p>	<p>Research-to business</p>	<p>Research-to-industry</p>	<p>Research to regional innovation system</p>
<p>Types of actions</p>	<p>1) Joint product development; 2) commercialisation of research; 3) Interregional value chains</p>	<p>1) Comprehensive modernisation programmes (strategic documents); 2) Ad hoc research services to businesses; 3) Programme and projects for KET applications; 4) Introduce systematic 'upstreaming' and 'downstreaming', Annex I CPR 2014-2020; 5) improve TRL, 6) Standardisation, 7) IPR-based branding,</p>	<p>1) Centres of competence (programme level); 2) project linking centres of competence research to businesses; 3) Innovation management chain;</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>1) H2020, EUREKA umbrella..; 2) ZIM (cross border, BRIDGES GP) national innovation funds and/or Article 70</p>	<p>Article 70 (e.g. eligibility of interregional research into local projects; innovation vouchers (BRIDGES GPs) with interregional eligibility)</p>	<p>Article 70 (e.g. eligibility of interregional research into local projects; innovation vouchers with interregional eligibility)</p>

Possible breakthroughs, discussion points

- 1. Research-to-business, research-to-industry** as a strategic approach works.
- 2. The notion of interregional added value:** GPs good backbone, worth building more on (knowledge, pilots, and linking clear funding tools) and also linking to a larger framework to have multiplier effect & especially mobilise regional resources.
- 3. Feasibility study, i.e. optimisation question (-s)** as a way to identify & select projects, and focus funding; a way to minimise risks of waste of efforts. Feasibility studies, optimisation question: a 'missing link' in the RIS3 implementation process. Feasibility studies could be used when programming, to assess need for research beyond the regional level, and assign project options and associated funds.

Possible breakthroughs, discussion points

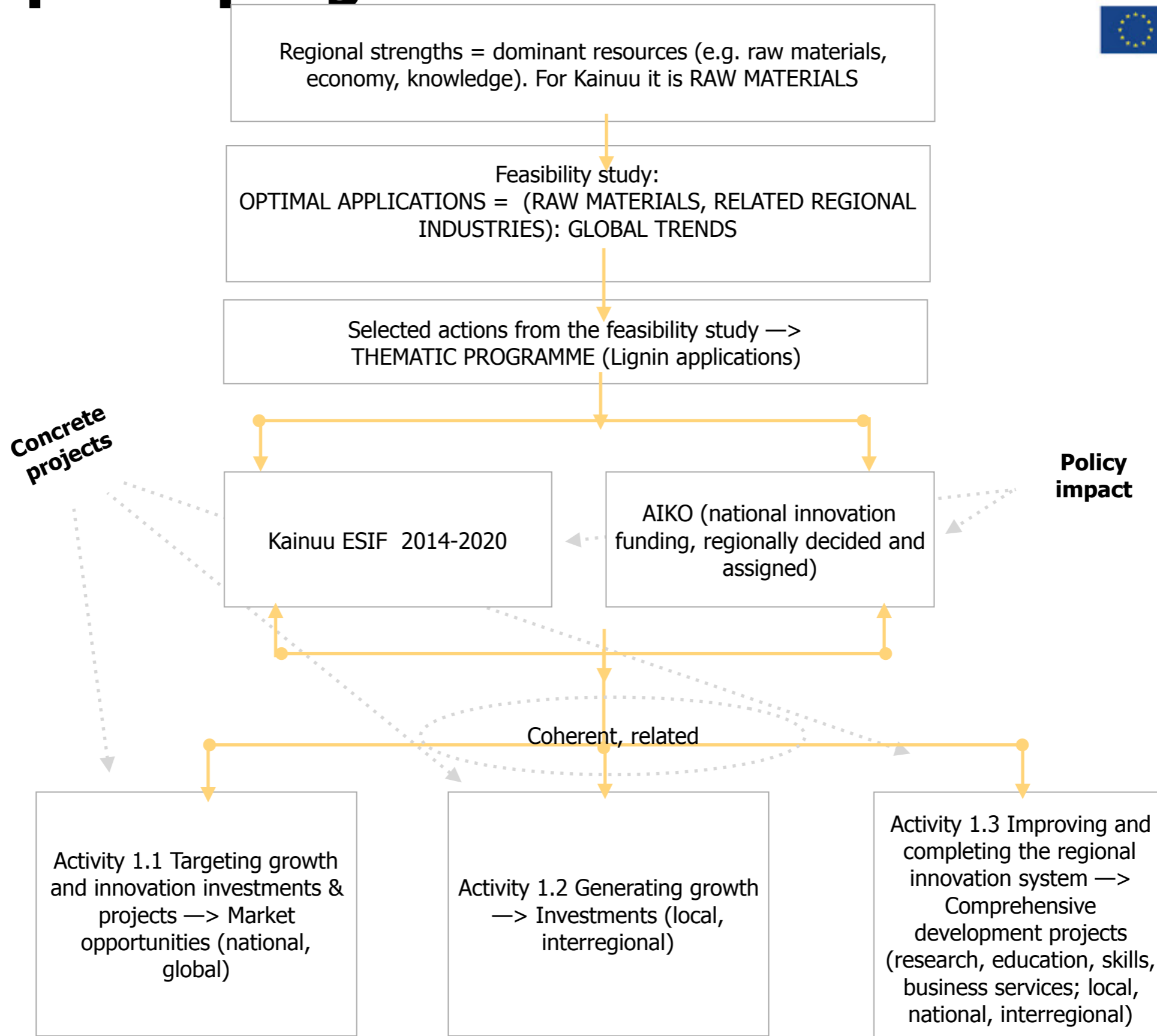
- 4. Opportunity vs needs** (inductive vs deductive) **approach: usually we try to “close gaps”, “what we need”.** In BRIDGES we made needs relevant to potential per region —> importance of feasibility studies.
- 5. Partnership composition / engagement: 1)** MA/IB: public equivalent development company; **2)** actual involvement of MA/IBs posing problems in a number of cases; not only letters of support do not suffice, even communication between departments is an issue sometimes; some kind of ‘package solution’ would seem relevant.
- 6. Funding & financing: 1)** Policy without funds = wishful thinking; **2)** clear funding commitments for mobilisation of regional actors; **3)** linkages to national level decision making appear important.

In the following slides 9 to 14 discussion on action plans and some concrete examples, including the policy impact approach

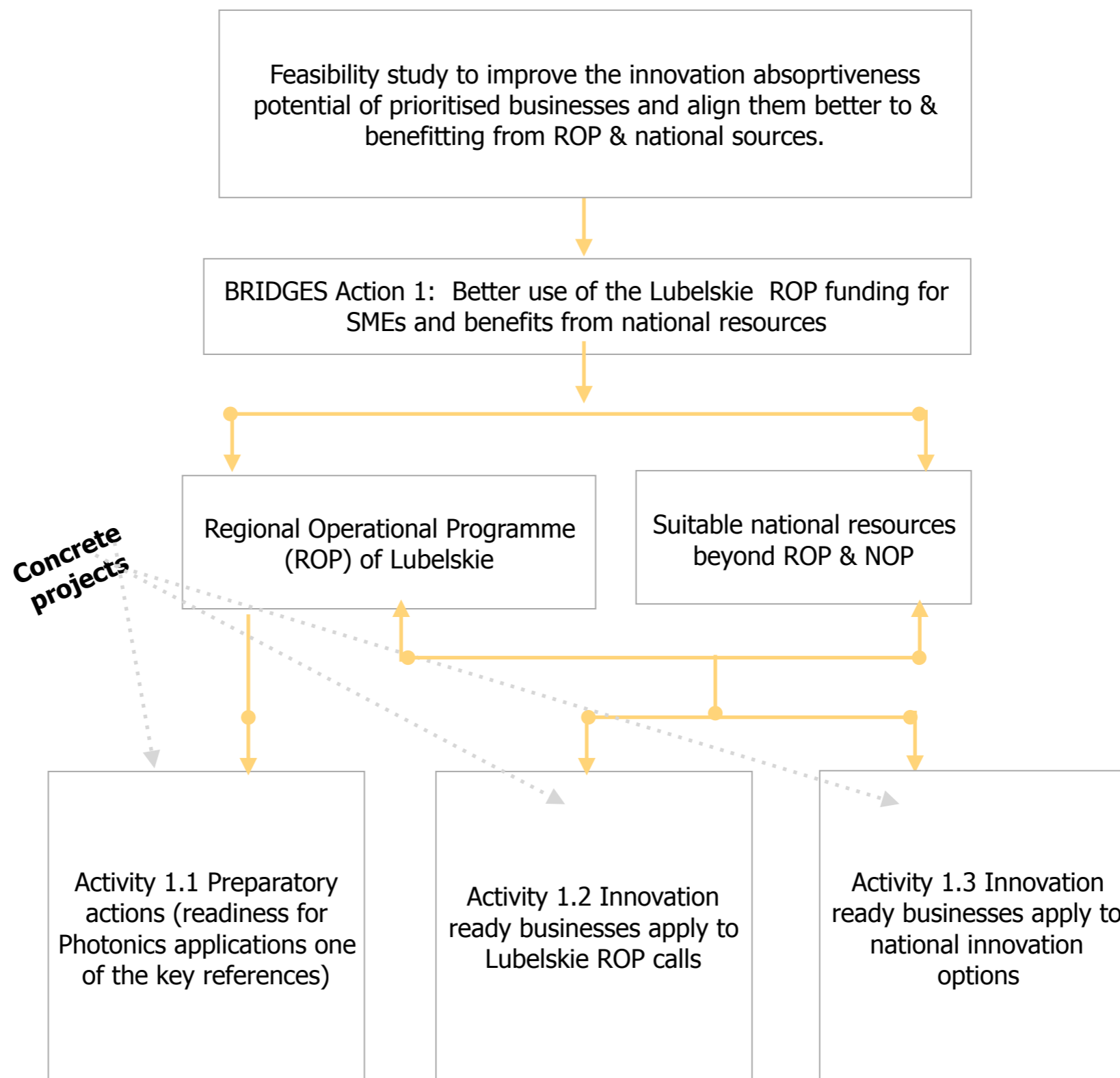
Action plans focus 18-5-2018 evolving

Region & Action plan component focus (AC, see last slide)	Action	Policy instrument
Kainuu, FI AC4; AC3/AC2	1) Lignin valorisation 2) Scaling up raw materials processing (berry industry) + S3 application in process.	ROP, RIS3 + AIKO
Lubelskie, PL AC2	Improving absorptiveness of RIS3 industries (especially apple juice, beer, and berry processing) to align them better towards utilising ESIF , e.g. 1.1 (innovation), 1.2 (targeted research) or 1.5 (innovation vouchers) measures.	ROP, SME competitiveness
Uusimaa, FI AC2/AC3	Internationalisation of research as regional policy Improving conditions for facilitating research internationalisation. It requires a lot of institutional activities and initiatives including the national level.	ESIF, RIS3 + Uusimaa 2.0 (regional development plan)
West Macedonia, GR AC2 /AC3; AC1	1) Improving absorptiveness of RIS3 industries towards utilising ESIF TO1.1 (innovation), measure.; 2) Improving RIS3 institutional operation through the adoption of a GP from Uusimaa and improvement of the existing interactive online tools. 3) Opening of the ESIF to interregional partnerships.	ROP, Opening of the ESIF, not art.70
West Slovenia, SI AC1	Aquaculture Centre of competence involving smaller businesses, explicitly addressing excellence (sustainable repopulation of local fish species) & commercialisation actions towards upscale consumer markets. Opening of the CLLD to interregional partnerships.	CLLD Opening of the ESIF, not art.70
West Transdanubia, HU AC1	Centre of competence in sensor technology for additive manufacturing applications to the wooden furniture industry, as a department of the partner institution.	NOP 2014-2020

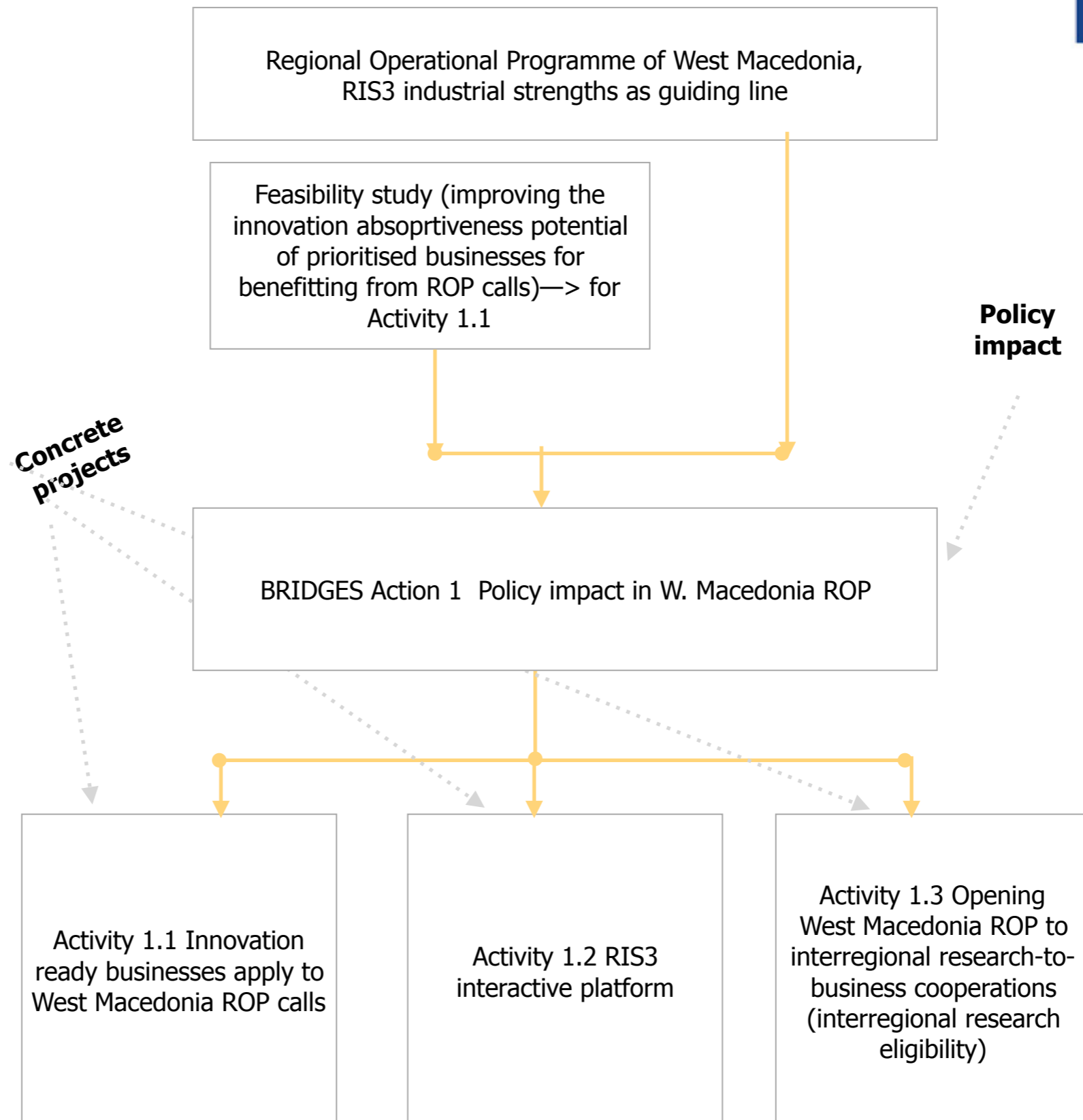
Action plans progress: Kainuu 8.6.2018



Action plans progress: Lubelskie 8.6.2018



Action plans progress: West Macedonia 8.6.2018



The notion of policy impact

Policy impact, relevant issues	Policy instrument, implementation				
	Light interventions		Revision		
	Criteria	Score	Implementation strategy / approaches	Eligibility of interregional funding	Interregional innovation partnerships, S3P and so on
Policy concept			X		
Programme			X		
Project	X	X	X	X	X
Tool (e.g. feasibility action, innovation voucher,...)	X	X	X	X	
Ensuring economies of scale (Interregional partnerships, inclusive of joint program-ming, joint implementation – but not 'EU projects' as this is already covered)			X	X	X

Action plan typology

● Action plan concept in the approved BRIDGES AF:

A document addressing 1 to 4 types of key themes, we call action plan components (ACs 1,2,3,4).

The four ACs are listed below:

- **AC1:** Reinforce innovation agencies as industry-led CC to serve the RIS3 Bio-economy investments; reinforced by GP theme contributions 1 & IWG1 results.
- **AC2:** Adoption of tools to leverage innovation resources towards RIS3 impact; reinforced by GP theme 3 contributions and IWG2 results.
- **AC3:** Inter-regional innovation co-operations, activation of Article 70.2 of the CPR & research-to-industry framework partnerships; reinforced by GP theme 2 contributions and IWG2 results.
- **AC4:** 'RIS3 paths', comprehensive investment paths to improved or new products in RIS3 Bio-economy industries, integrating research2industry inputs; reinforced by GP theme 2 contributions and IWG2 results.

Thank you

For the BRIDGES project

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