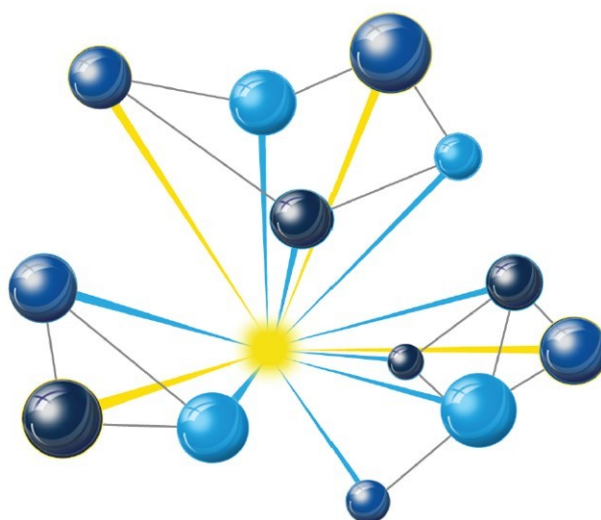


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VANGUARD INITIATIVE

New growth through smart specialisation

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[Vanguard Initiative Local Event in Wales: EU Collaboration in Advanced Manufacturing and the Bioeconomy](#)

The Welsh Government's Horizon 2020 Annual Event on 15 March will highlight how an outward-facing Wales benefits from engagement with the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. We will explore how continued commitment to collaborate with Europe and the rest of the World will drive Wales' competitiveness and growth. Researchers, businesses and policy-makers alike will have the opportunity to hear presentations from key note speakers such as Patrick Child, Deputy Director General in European Commission DG Research and Innovation, and Mark Drakeford AM, Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Finance.

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As part of the programme, Michael Johnsson of Skåne region, Vanguard Initiative Board Member, will be presenting to Welsh university and industry representatives about the opportunities presented by the Vanguard Initiative.

Michael's presentation will be part of an expert workshop about EU regional collaboration in the context of Wales' smart specialisation strategy. We know that there are many benefits of EU collaboration, in particular opportunities to secure funding, but finding the right partner is not always easy. As well as Michael's presentation outlining the Vanguard Initiative and pilot projects, Bangor University (Biocomposites Centre) will talk about their experience of international collaboration, and the Welsh Government will also highlight the support available to organisations seeking collaboration opportunities.

Through this workshop we hope to encourage greater participation by Welsh universities and industry in the Vanguard Initiative, of which Wales has been a member since 2017.

For more information about Horizon 2020 in Wales, and links to the Annual event / workshop, [click here](#).



[The Policy Influencing Task Group has drafted its Action Plan for 2018... many activities ahead!](#)

The Policy Influencing Task Group has drafted its Action Plan for 2018. It identifies key priorities for actions in the coming months, with the next MFF proposal as main perspective. Beyond main lines of action, some concrete actions are already identified. The action plan is available on the Intranet. Please remember that policy influencing activities relies on the activation of the whole network, and that your support for passing our main messages is key.

A first concrete action for 2018 was a meeting with Jean-David Malo at DG RTD, on the 23rd of February. It allowed an open discussion on the financing solutions that could be provided under FP9 for networks of demonstrators. The slides used as background for discussion are available [on the intranet](#), and the summary of discussion will be made available soon. The meeting opened the door for pursuing informal discussions with DG RDI about financing solutions.

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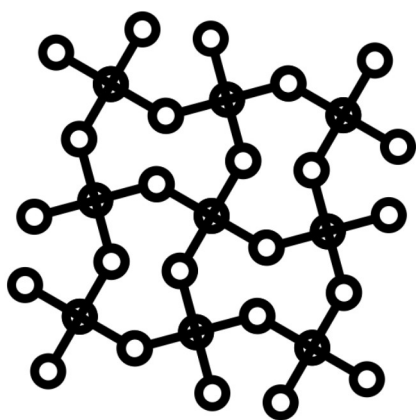
Call to the network: Possible VI contribution to the [2018 SMARTER Conference on Smart Specialisation and Territorial Development](#) (organised by the S3 Platform)?

The JRC has opened a call for contribution, that can take the form of a paper submission of a session proposal. It could be a valuable forum for the network. We are therefore calling for an interested region to take the lead on this possible activity.

The EU calendar pointing to recent policy developments and upcoming meetings and publication is also available on the [Intranet](#).

To be highlighted:

- MFF proposals will be published on the 2nd of May
- [Open public consultation](#) on the sectorial regulations to be developed post-2020
- [Call for feedback](#) on EU missions in the FP9
- Conclusions on EU industrial policy strategy for competitiveness, growth and innovation to be adopted at the next COMPET Council, on the 12th of March



Created by Gyan Lakhwani
from Noun Project



Created by Gan Khoon Lay
from Noun Project

[New nano-enabled Products Pilot](#)

A steering group meeting for the nano-pilot was held the 20th of February and included thoughtful discussions about both the past and the future. The action plan for 2018 and the Progress Report for 2017 was presented. Plans for the year include a number of matchmaking events between relevant actors within nano technology.

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A workshop within the demo-case for Nano-Enabled Printed Electronics will be held in Karlsruhe 18th of April and will provide a useful meeting for SMEs and pilot lines to expand their networks and exchange ideas. Within the demo-case Nano-wires for energy and ICT applications a matchmaking event is planned in May, more information will follow soon. In June, a matchmaking event is planned within the demo-case NeMs4Bio.



[New Industrial Value Chains For Growth](#)

On 15 March the S34Growth project will hold an expert roundtable debate on the state of play of the insights from the project, share findings relevant for the current programming period and the post-2020 timeframe, and discuss EU's innovation and economic growth agenda.

With the project half-way through its delivery, S34Growth will hold an expert roundtable debate on the state of play at the Committee of the Regions on 15 March. The timing of this event provides a critical reflection point in emerging project learning and an opportunity to review early, growth-related policy considerations in light of current EU discussions regarding the post-2020 MFF.

The debate on March 15 aims to:

- provide an update on insights from the project, following its first major phase of activity in relation to the inter-regional dimension of S3, how this relates to EU growth and competitiveness ambitions and how new models and approaches to EU industry collaboration can deliver growth and competitiveness
- share findings with a strong EU and domestic policy relevance for the current programming period and the post-2020 timeframe
- test out direction of demand (with attendees) for the EU's innovation and economic growth agenda, in the context of:

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the future growth-orientation of the EU's post-2020 Regional Policy especially in relation to ESIF, S3 and projects such as Interreg Europe which support industry-led, inter-regional collaboration"

The draft agenda can be found [by clicking here](#)

To register for the event, [click here](#)

Please note that due to limited capacity of the conference room, we try to take a balanced approach and reserve the right not to accept registration above that capacity

[S34Growth, background](#)

In 2016, the Vanguard Initiative originated Interreg Europe project "[Enhancing policies through interregional cooperation: New industrial value chains for growth \(S34GROWTH\)](#)", involving 10 VI regions, was launched. The project has the bold ambition to explore and define how industry-led, inter-regional collaboration can accelerate EU ambitions to improve industrial innovation and competitiveness.

Specifically, the project:

- aims to improve the effectiveness of EU interregional cooperation through the development/improvement of existing regional policy instruments
- supports the renewal of Europe's industry and competitiveness through industrial innovation across EU borders
- is seeking out new approaches to co-specialisation in smart specialisation which can be replicated across the EU and across EU industrial domains



[Vanguard Initiative asbl related activities](#)

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"Out in the Woods"

On 12 – 13 February, Vanguard Initiative asbl Board escaped the grey office life of Brussels and explored the lovely city of Leuven. Not quite "Out in the Woods" but nonetheless a great opportunity for the Board to reflect on the great successes that Vanguard has accomplished, the challenges we would like to address in the coming year and to set new goals and visions. Under the safe and stable leadership of moderator Carl-Albert Hjelmborn, Skåne European Office, the Board was guided through discussions on topics such as "Governance & Organisation", "Communication & Transparency", and "How do we see the Vanguard Initiative developing, beyond 2020?".

The insights and outcomes of the discussions will briefly be presented at the 8 March Brussels Network Meeting (BNM). The continuous discussions and work will mainly be carried out in the different Brussels Network Task Groups. Please consult the calendar below to receive information on when the Task Groups meets.

If your region is interested in joining one of the Task Groups do not hesitate to contact the Task Group

Leaders:

[Mikel Irujo Amezaga](#), task group leader of the Future of Vanguard (FoV) Task Group

[Florence Hennart](#), task group leader of the Policy Influencing Task Group (PITG)

[Wim de Kinderen](#), task group leader of the Vanguard Pilot Monitoring (VPM) Task Group

[Johanna Bond](#), contact person for the Communication Task Group (COM TG)

8 March Brussels Network Meeting

On 8 March 2018 it is the Board's great pleasure to invite all Brussels representatives of the Vanguard Initiative Member Regions to the first Brussels Network Meeting (BNM) of 2018. The agenda and meeting documents can be accessed on Vanguard Initiative Intranet, [in the folder VI Brussels Network/Brussels Network Meetings – BNM/BNM 8 March 2018](#).

If you encounter difficulties accessing the folder, please contact [Johanna Bond](#).

Please register for the meeting by filling in [this form](#).

The Brussels representatives at the 8 March BNM are expected to vote on the approval of the pilots' 2018 Action Plans and 2017 Final Reports. All Action Plans and Final Reports are uploaded in the BNM 8 March 2018 folder on the intranet. In order to prepare the presentations and discussions at the BNM, the member regions are invited to send comments, feedback or questions, if any, to pilot leads before the end of Friday 2 March (see contact information to each pilot lead on [Vanguard Initiative website](#)).

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at the BNM will focus on answering your questions or comments.

A new feature in the 8 March BNM is "In the Spotlight", in which a member region gets the opportunity to present a project, work that is being carried out in the region etc., that could be inspirational to other member regions in their Vanguard Initiative work. At the first "In the Spotlight" the new member region, Värmland, will present their report on the mapping of regional structures for the Vanguard Intuitive involvement. In the mapping Skåne European Office, Central Sweden., Basque Country and Navarra were interviewed.



Vanguard Initiative Calendar First Semester 2018

March

8: Brussels Network Meeting

13 - 15: [S34Growth On Site Deep Dive, Flanders](#)

15: [S34Growth event New Industrial Value Chains For Growth, Brussels](#)

15: [Local Vanguard event, Wales](#)

20: Steering Group Meeting Nano Pilot

20: Future of Vanguard Task Group meeting (FoV)

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23: Vanguard Initiative asbl Board Meeting

27: Communication Task Group Meeting (COM TG)

April

3: Communication Task Group Meeting (COM TG)

10: Vanguard Initiative asbl Board meeting

12: [S3P on Industrial Modernisation, 3rd Steering Group Meeting, Lapland](#)

16: Nano Pilot Pleenary meeting

18: Workshop - Nano-Printed Enabled Electornics

19: Policy Influencing Task Group Meeting (PITG)

20: Vanguard Pilot Monitoring Task Group Meeting (VPM)

24: Brussels Network Meeting (BNM)

May

3: Communication Task Group Meeting (COM TG)

14: Future of Vanguard Task Group Meeting (FoV)

24: Vanguard Initiative asbl Board meeting

28: Policy Influencing Task Group Meeting (PITG)

June

3: Vanguard Pilot Monitoring Task Group Meeting (VPM)

5: Communication Task Group Meeting (COM TG)

12: Brussels Network Meeting (BNM)

14: Future of Vanguard Task Group Meeting (FoV)

18: Policy Influencing Task Group Meeting (PITG)

19: Vanguard Initiative asbl Board meeting

July

5: Vanguard Pilot Monitoring Task Group Meeting (VPM)

For more details on any of the events, [please contact the Board, Task Group or Pilot leads](#).

The Calender will be updated continuously. You can find the calender on the intranet in the folder "[VI Brussels Network](#)".



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