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**The importance of the local in the
regional, and the significance of
smart specialization**

Laura Capel, Manager at FI Group

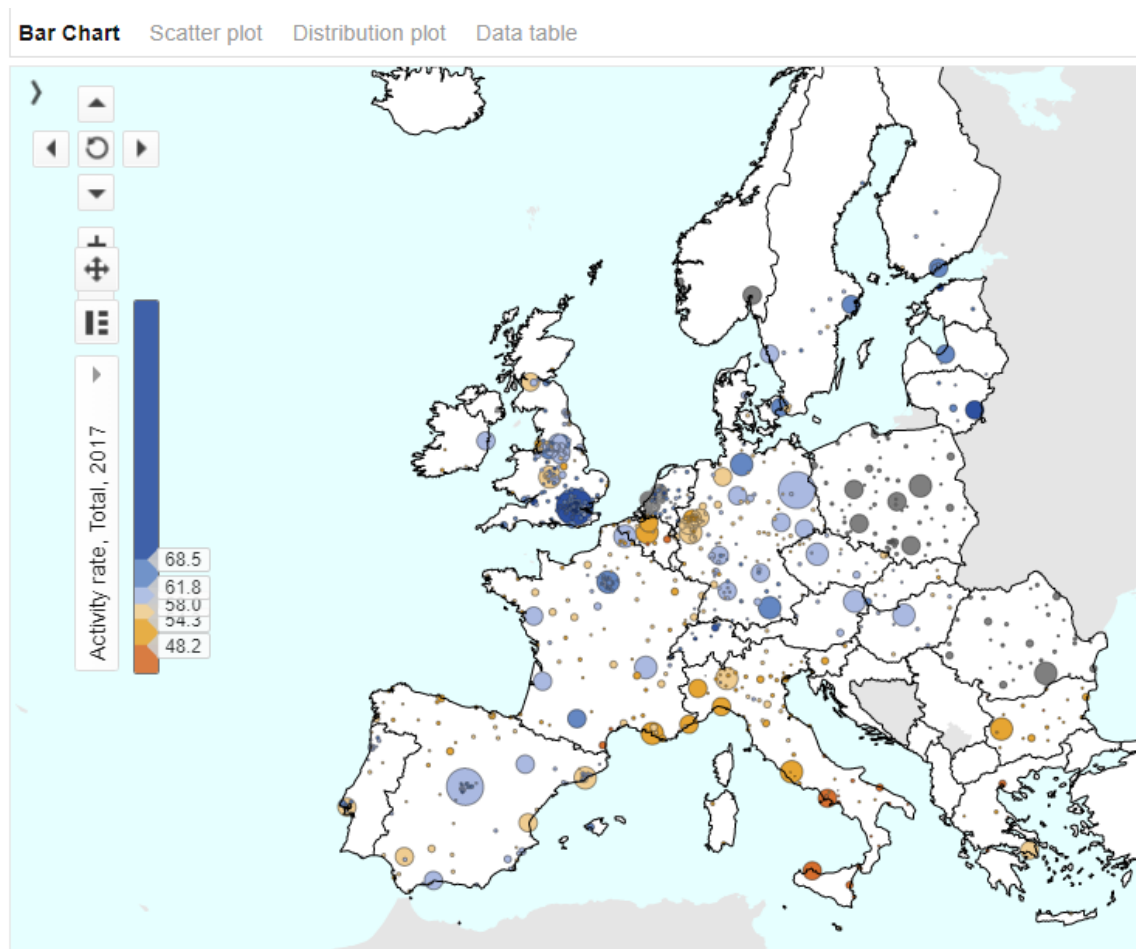
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- The theory: The role of the local level in the S3
- The reality: Challenges and opportunities to involve the local level in the S3
- What's next: the local level in the RIS3 in the programming period 2021-2027

THE THEORY

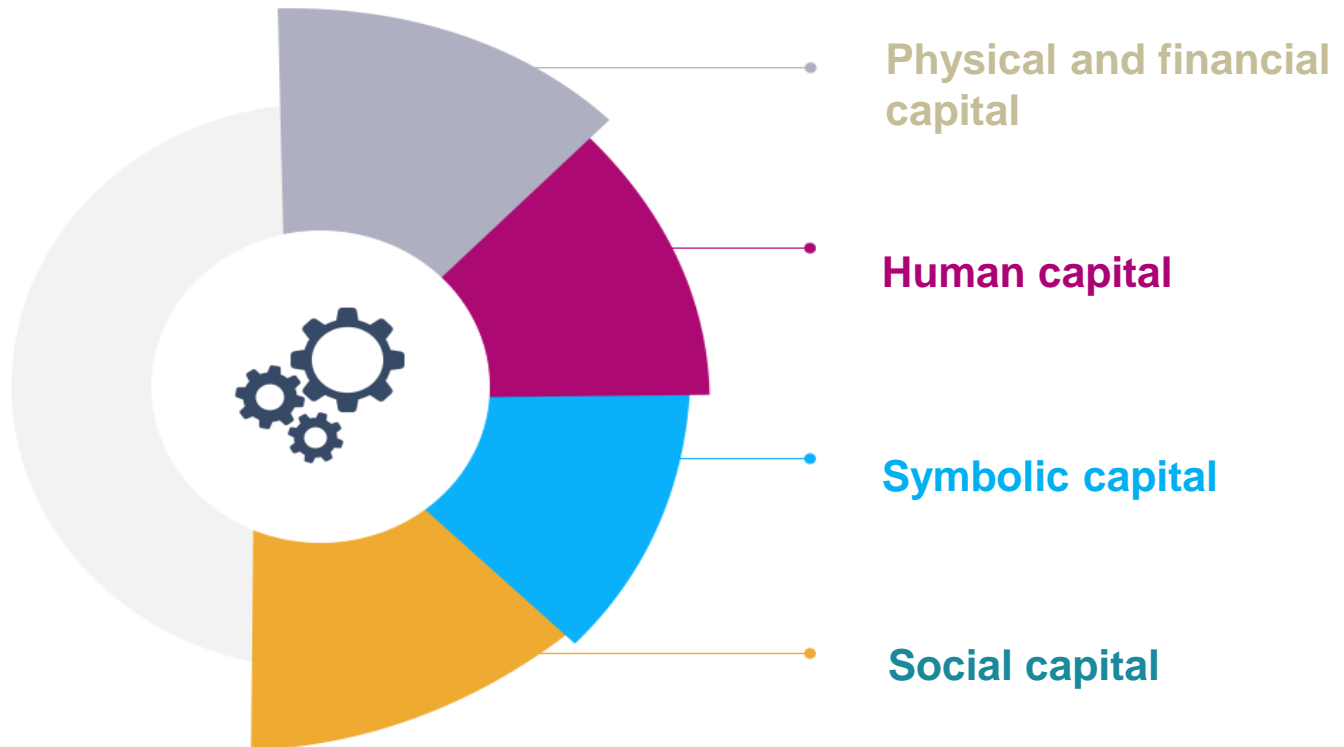
The theory: The role of the local level in the S3

- **Geography matters to explain differences in economic growth and innovation**



The theory: The role of the local level in the S3

- The territorial capitals theory summarizes the factors that explain differences in innovation and growth



The theory: The role of the local level in the S3

- However, Smart Specialization Strategy paid little attention to the role of the local level, even if it was embedded in this local economic growth theories
- Some reasons why:
 - Fear for greater fragmentation and difficulties of coordination in the design and implementation of the S3
 - Great differences in administrative and political role of the local level in European countries and regions
 - Lack of uniform and comparable statistical data at subregional level

THE REALITY

The reality: The local level has a role in the S3

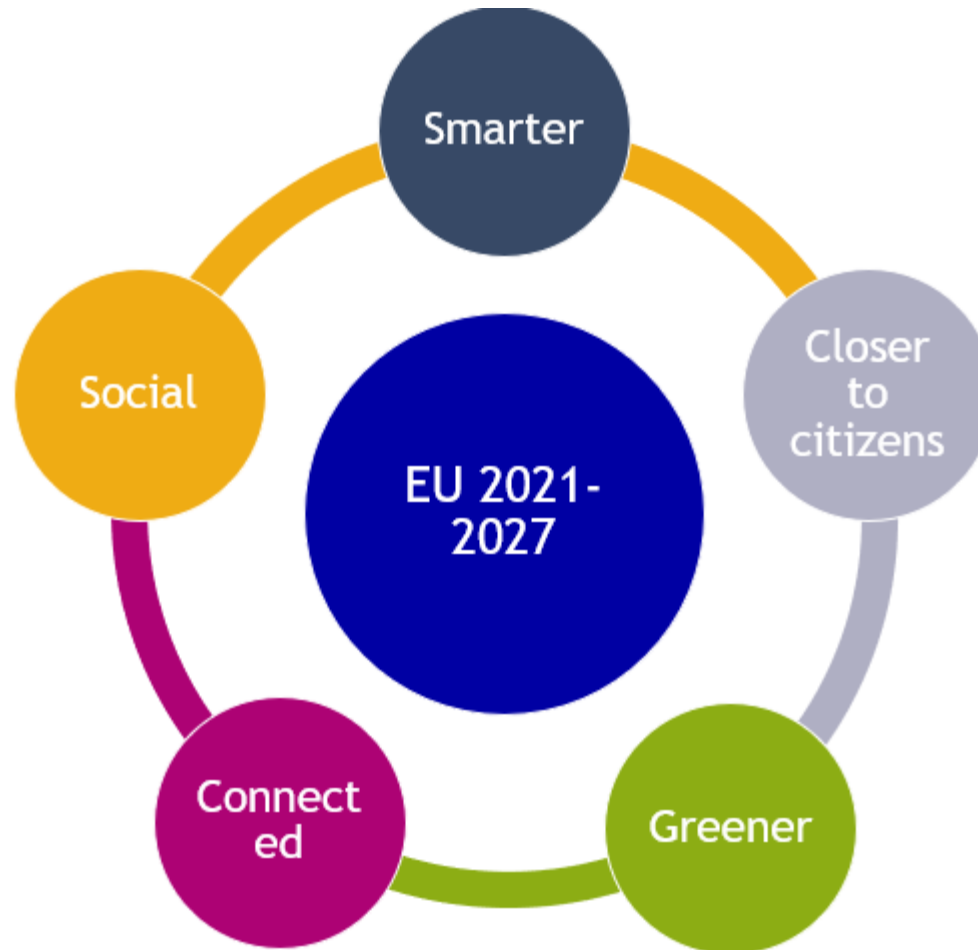
- The process of implementation of S3 proved that the local level has a role
 - Most regions defined several specializations, which reflected internal sub-specializations
 - Local governments can enhance the development of S3 and can make possible successful collaborations
 - The local level can provide the the context for innovations regarding the different regional specializations
 - It contributes to the creation of a culture of innovation among citizens and agents.

The reality: Opportunities and challenges to involve the local level in the S3

- Opportunities:
 - Better reaching needs and potential of the 4H agents
 - Support and “make real” the regional specialization sectors
 - Good partner to implement the S3, once designed
 - Can help to incorporate Responsible Research and Innovation in the S3
- Challenges
 - Different technical skills of local level officers responsible for the S3 implementation and knowledge of this strategy
 - Difficulties to implement an homogeneous EU local specialization
 - The interplay region-local is now always easy

WHAT'S NEXT?

The 2021-2027 objectives



The new Smart Specialisation Strategy

- More links with other European programmes and initiatives (Horizon Europe, Interreg)
- From S3 to S4: Strategies for Sustainable and Inclusive growth (S4+)
- Making it more responsive to societal challenges (mission oriented)
- Complementarities with the **Territorial Agenda 2030**
- More interconnections of similar specializations at European level

The new Smart Specialisation Strategy: the role of local

- **Key to implement the new elements of S3 (S4)**
 - Experimentation
 - Mission oriented
 - Socially and sustainability responsible
 - Closer to citizens and more agile to respond to unexpected changes



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Thanks for your attention

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