



“IWATERMAP: a Blueprint for place-based Innovation Ecosystems”

The innovation ecosystem in the water technology sector and the Regional Strategy for Smart Specialization

Alina Silva Veloso | Norte Regional and Development Commission (CCDR-Norte)

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1. CCDR-Norte: brief presentation

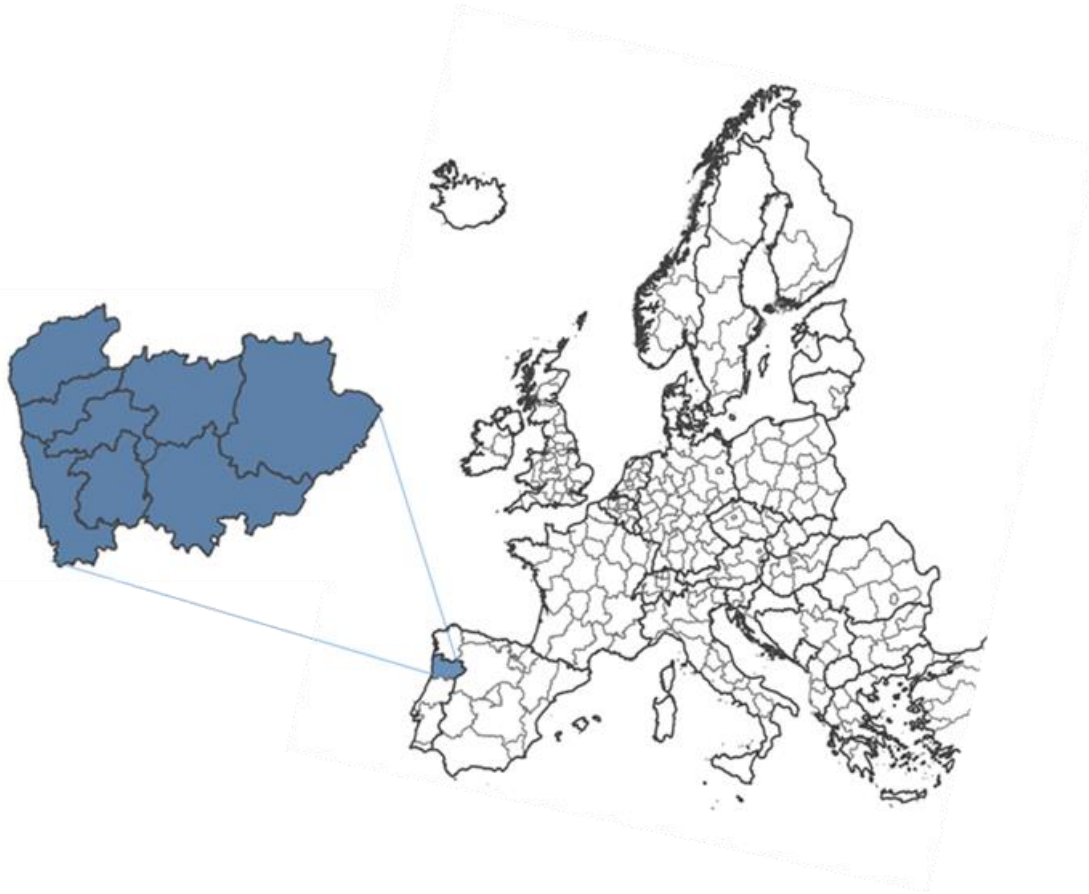
Intervention Areas



Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-Norte) is a decentralised body of central government whose activity, since 1969, aims the integrated and sustainable development of the Portuguese Norte region, contributing to the competitiveness and cohesion of the national territory.



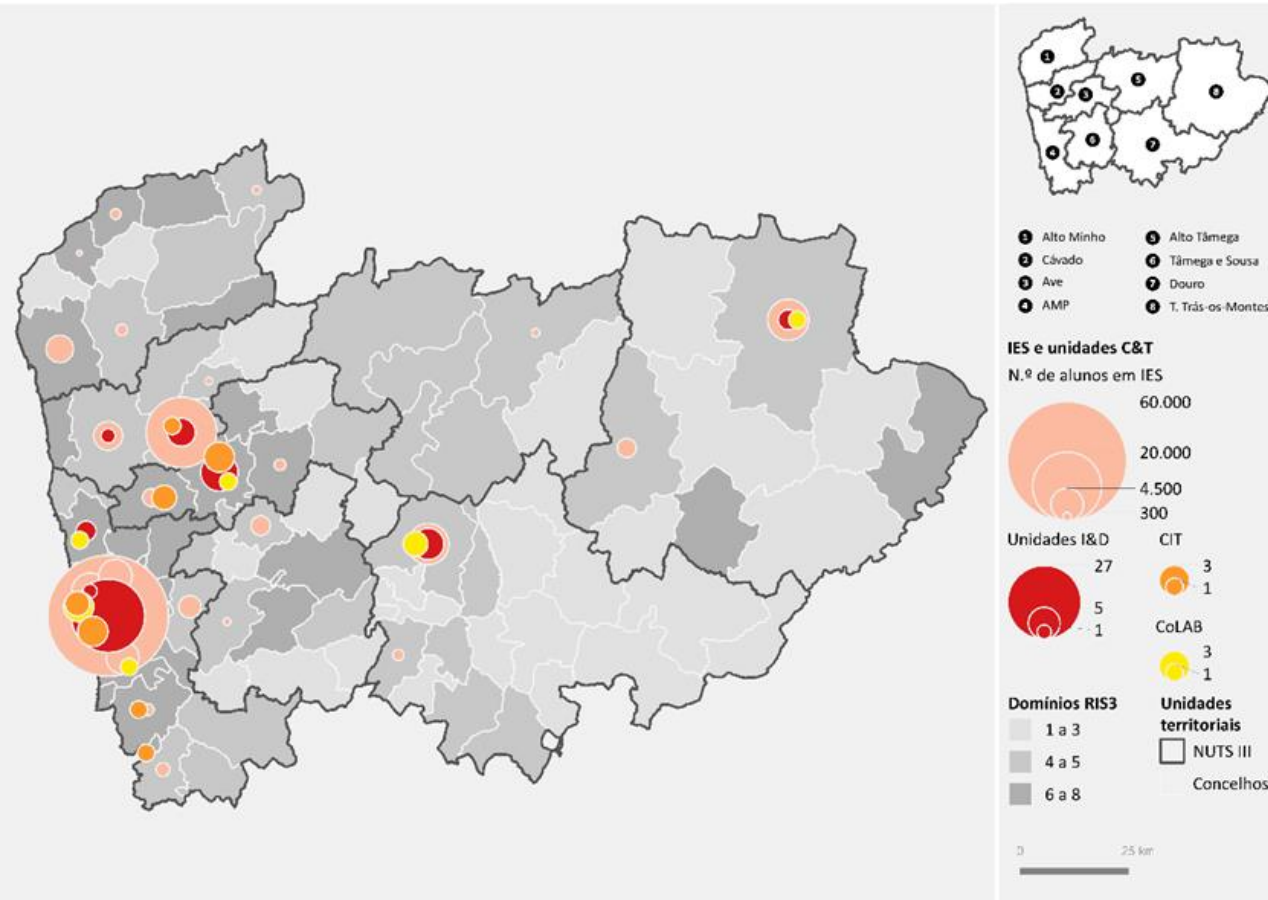
2. Norte Region: basic figures



- The most populous region in Portugal: 3,5 million inhabitants representing 35% of the Portuguese population
- A strong industrial tradition: 11th most industrialized region in Europe
- The leading Portuguese goods exports region: 38% in the total Portuguese exports of goods
- Main exporting sectors: automotive components, textile, clothing, furniture, machinery, footwear
- Science, technology and excellence: Relevant critical mass for high quality RTD activities
- A unique cultural and historical heritage: several world heritage sites classified by UNESCO
- Still a lagging territory: GDP per inhabitant below the EU-28 average (< 75%)

3. Regional Innovation Ecosystem: brief description

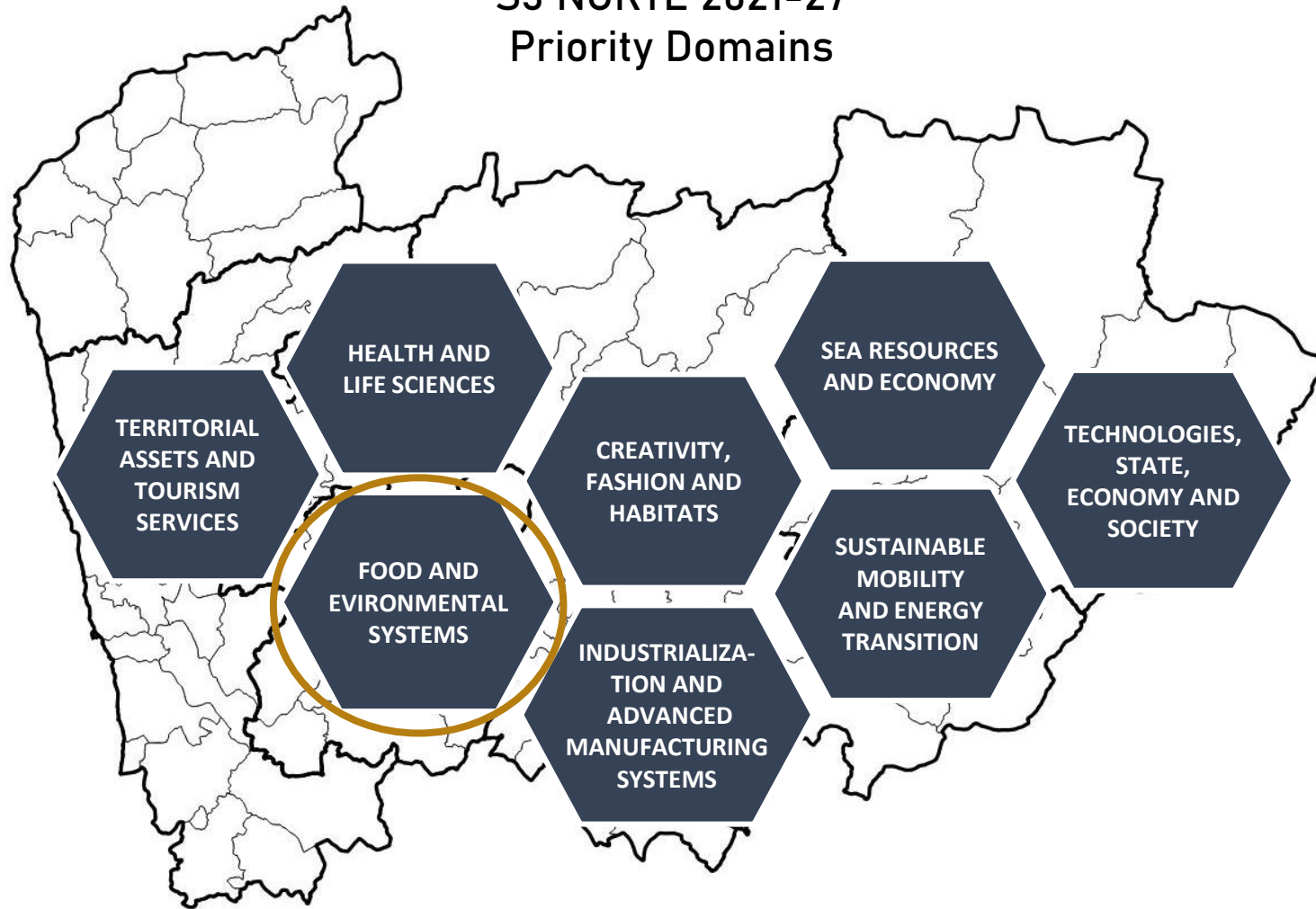
Norte Regional Innovation Ecosystem



- Norte region changed from the classification “Strong Innovator –” to “Moderate Innovator” from 2019 to 2021
- Norte occupies the 151st place in the ranking of the 240 innovative European regions, being the 2nd most innovative in Portugal. Between 2014 and 2021, the Global Innovation Index of Norte increased from 80.5% to 92.2% of the EU average, being the Portuguese region that increased the most in this period.
- There are still no structural changes to the RIS, with the main weaknesses remaining, such as: reduced investment in corporate R&D; low qualification of human resources; reduced connection between the scientific and business system; and low economic valuation of knowledge.

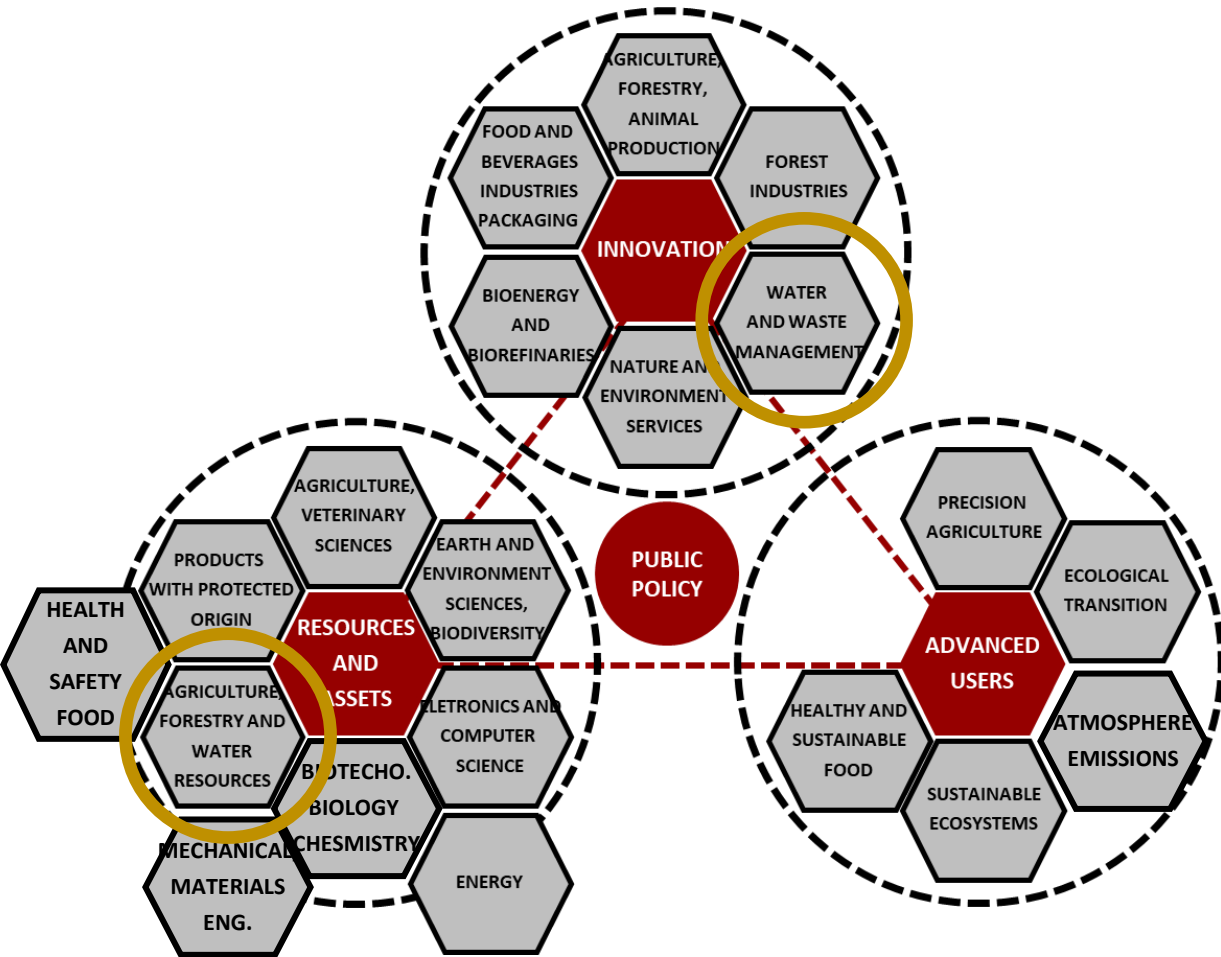
4. S3 Norte 2021-27: priority domains

S3 NORTE 2021-27 Priority Domains



Promotion of innovation and competitiveness in priority domains, where there is a relevant, or potential, regional critical mass in the context of the ecosystem of each domain, namely:

- Resources and Assets: Technological (graduates, scientific and technological basis) or non-technological (symbolic capital and endogenous resources)
- Innovation: Business bases that integrate and economically value resources and assets
- Advanced Users: Medium and long-term - technological and social trends and digital and energy-environmental transitions



FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

Articulate the strong regional agricultural potential, namely in products with high added value (wine, olive oil, chestnuts, Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGI), etc.), with scientific and technological skills (enology, engineering, biology, biotechnology, TICE, robotics, etc.) and business (food industries, agriculture and animal production, forestry, forest-based industries, etc.), capable of promoting an agri-food and forestry sector with greater added value, in a compatible way with the preservation and management of resources, such as water, forest and ecosystems, and contribute to a greater appreciation of endogenous resources as an opportunity to increase territorial competitiveness.

6. Summary: key messages

- For the 2021-2027 programming period the governance of S3 is an enabling condition for ERDF support to the Policy Objective 1 “A more competitive and smarter Europe”
- There will be an enhanced focus upon the development of human capital as part of the smart specialisation process, under the ERDF specific objective “Skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship”
- Food and Environmental Systems is one of the domains in the Smart Specialization Strategy and water technology systems is central in this domain
- International dimension of S3: Development of international networking activities to explore other European funding sources and to improve regional research and innovation systems
- Projects such “iWatermap” are very important to the structural changes in RIS of Norte Region. It contributes to changes in areas such the qualification of human resources and to reinforcement of the connection between the scientific and business system and therefore to the economic valuation of knowledge.



Norte Regional and Development Commission (CCDR-Norte)

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