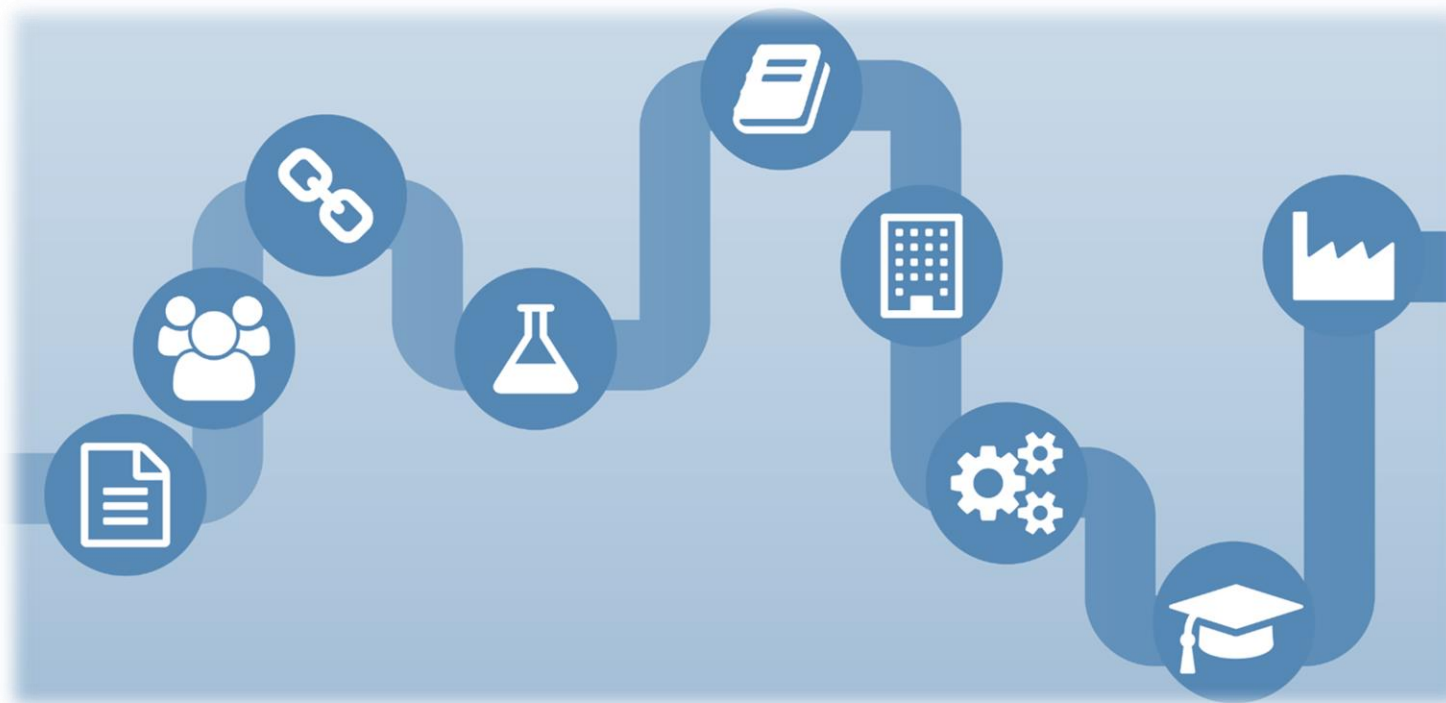




Universidade do Minho



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Project achievements and next steps Norte-PT Region

Gilberto Martins
March 8, 2023

Our challenge at beginning of iWATERMAP May 2018

- Register a water focus in the policy priorities of North of Portugal, in connection with the agri-food industry.
- Increase cooperation projects related with Water Science and Technology
- Increase innovation and patents submissions in WST
- Connect with European research and water networks

Project achievements



Action 1 – “iWaterStart” Mentoring programme for Startups creation

- The goal of iWaterStart is to support the development of new projects and startups, through mentoring, technical support and training actions, thus increasing the R&D&I investments in private companies.
 - Until the moment it was not possible to launch this initiative;
 - A new edition of Startup Braga's Acceleration Program will start soon (**Application deadline: March 26, 2023**) and will support two new verticals: **Biotechnology and Sustainability**;
 - It is expected that these new verticals results in more effective **stimulus and mapping of new business ideas in the water science and technology sector**, hoping that this new flow of projects can boost iWaterStart.

Partnership with

Action 2 – “iWaterLink” Online platform for linking research and business institutions in the area of water science and technology

- The goal of iWaterLink is to gather the knowledge and capabilities of the Norte-PT region in Water Science and Technology (WST), by joining, in a single online platform, offers and demands in the field of WST, including at research, innovation, training and technological surveillance levels.
 - The final version of the online platform was only published a few time ago – very few visits and interactions;
 - Increase visibility and content improvement together with MoU signatories;
 - Exploitation and Business plan is under development.

Project achievements - Now

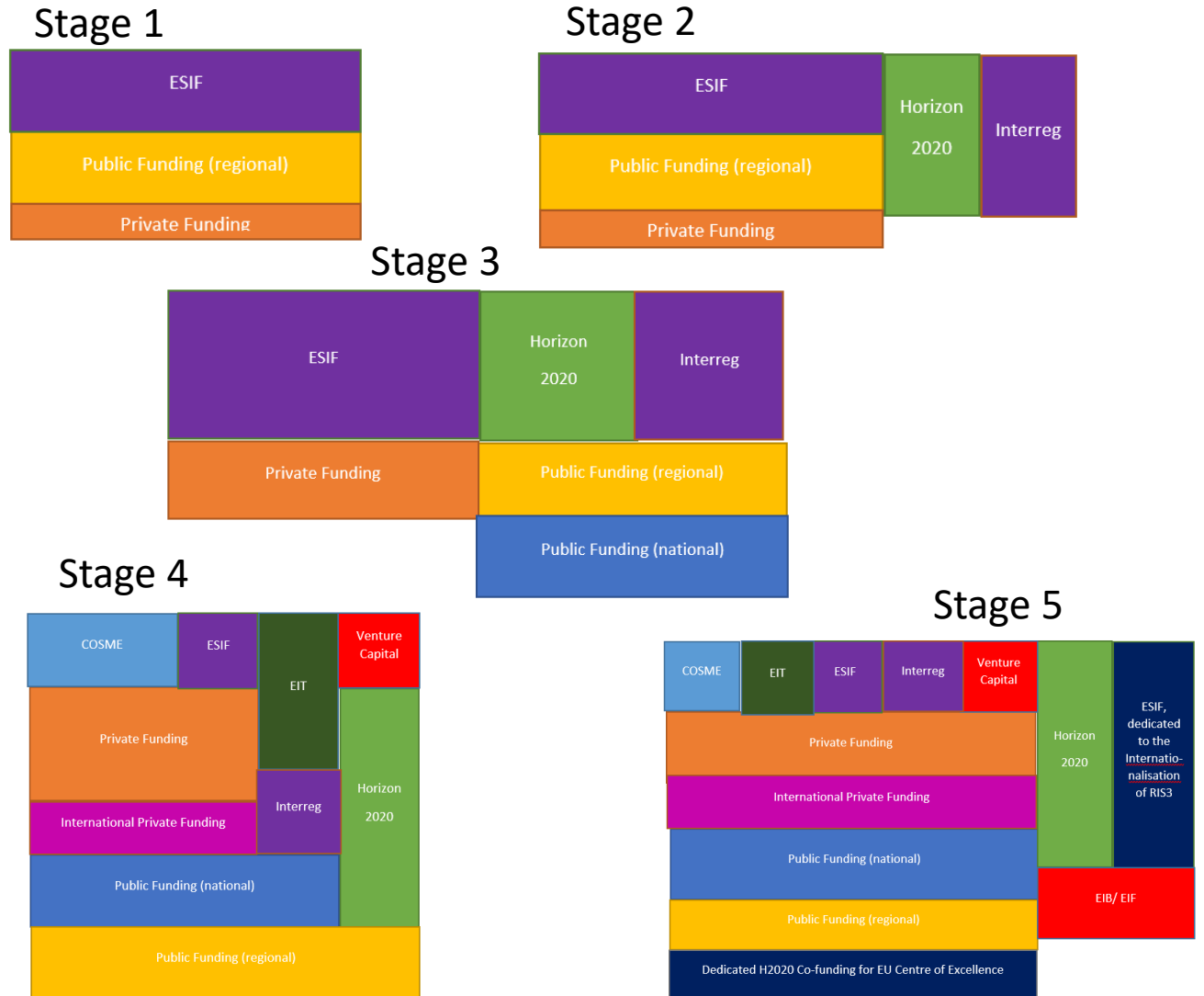
- Water is present in the policy priorities of North of Portugal
- We have more regional and international research projects, in collaboration with regional private companies
- Portugal contributes to Water4All
- UMinho represents Norte region in the RIS3 smart specialization platform “Water Smart Territories”
- iWaterlink try to transfer the WaterCampus Leeuwarden concept to the Norte PT region



Norte-PT Region – Critical Mass Innovation Ecosystem Roadmap

Critical Mass Development, 5 Stages

Stage 1: Getting started: Joining up in the region	✓
Stage 2: Joining up outside the region	✓
Stage 3: Enhanced collaboration (more business involvement and expanding national and European cooperation)	?
Stage 4: Advanced cooperation: Intensive cooperation on a European level	X
Stage 5: Join regional Pan-European Initiatives: corner stone for European competitiveness with global outreach	X



Critical Mass Innovation Ecosystem Roadmap

2019

<i>Critical Mass Development, 5 Stages</i>	
Stage 1: Getting started: Joining up in the region	✓
Stage 2: Joining up outside the region	✓
Stage 3: Enhanced collaboration (more business involvement and expanding national and European cooperation)	?
Stage 4: Advanced cooperation: Intensive cooperation on a European level	X
Stage 5: Join regional Pan-European Initiatives: corner stone for European competitiveness with global outreach	X

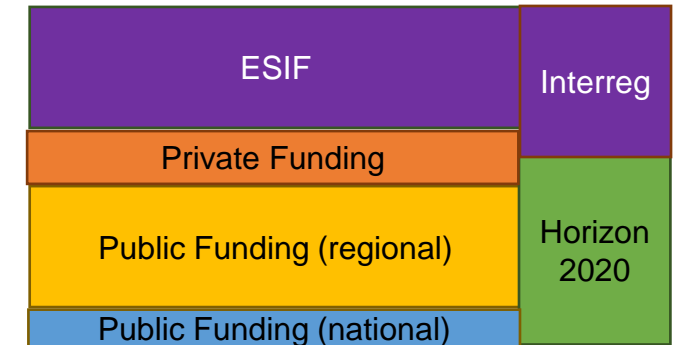
- ✓ Yes
- ✓ Yes, with doubts
- ? Maybe
- X No



Critical Mass Innovation Ecosystem Roadmap

2019

Stage 2: Joining up outside the region	
Well-developed Industry – Academia cooperation	✓
Branching out beyond the regional domain	✓
Participating in Interreg projects	✓
Participating in H2020 projects	✓
Establishing Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)	✓
Participating in science, innovation and demonstration projects (ESIF and Interreg)	✓
Research institutes/universities attract talent related to RIS3 topic; New products and services developed in RIS3 sector	✓
First start-ups developed in RIS3 sector	✓
Region concentrates funding sources on specific economic sector or societal challenge to enhance critical mass	?



- ✓ Yes
- ✓ Yes, with doubts
- ? Maybe
- X No



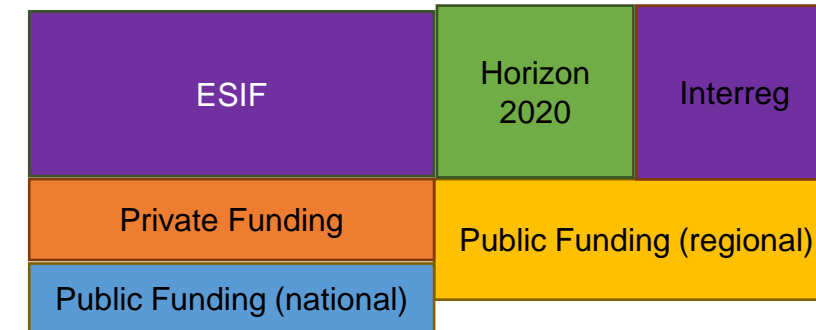
Critical Mass Innovation Ecosystem Roadmap

2019



Stage 3: Enhanced collaboration (more business involvement and expanding national and European cooperation)

Winning regional, national & European awards;	?
Coordinating H2020 projects;	?
Coordinating science, innovation and demonstration projects (ESIF and Interreg);	?
Establishing a Centre of Excellence (PPP in which industry is committed long-term and pays at least 25% in cash for pre-competitive research projects);	X
Forecasting the skills needs within the sector. Establishing strategic cooperation between Vocational Education and Training (VET) Schools and companies active in the RIS3 sector. Education profiles and traineeships optimised; Develop dedicated Master track in line with RIS3 topic and attract foreign talent to participate in excellent 2-year master education programmes;	?
Develop special training programmes for post-graduates, which include skills training for entrepreneurship and industry-academia cooperation;	✓
High interest of BSc and MSc students to perform thesis or traineeship in RIS3 region;	✓
Dedicated research programme and high amount of PhDs active in RIS3 topic;	✓
Cooperation with knowledge institutes, universities and companies, from other regions and other member states;	✓
Increasing amount of start-ups active in RIS3 topic;	✓
Connecting with other clusters, regionally, nationally and European wide;	✓
Region and member state concentrate funding on a specific societal challenge within the region, enhancing critical mass and creating attractive conditions for international cooperation;	?
Increased interest in scale-ups	?

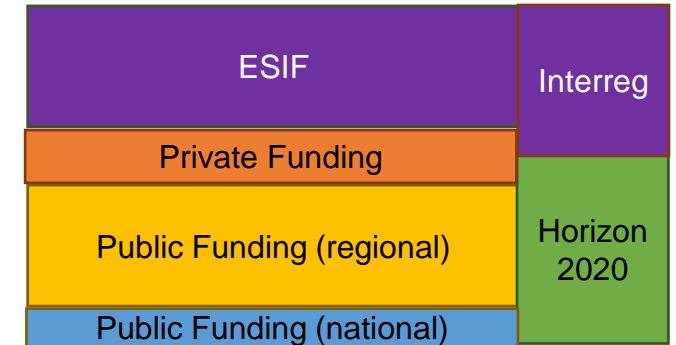


- ✓ Yes
- ✓ Yes, with doubts
- ? Maybe
- X No

Critical Mass Innovation Ecosystem Roadmap

Present

Stage 2: Joining up outside the region	
Well-developed Industry – Academia cooperation	✓
Branching out beyond the regional domain	✓
Participating in Interreg projects	✓
Participating in H2020 projects	✓
Establishing Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)	✓
Participating in science, innovation and demonstration projects (ESIF and Interreg)	✓
Research institutes/universities attract talent related to RIS3 topic; New products and services developed in RIS3 sector	✓
First start-ups developed in RIS3 sector	✓
Region concentrates funding sources on specific economic sector or societal challenge to enhance critical mass	✓



- ✓ Yes
- ✓ Yes, with doubts
- ? Maybe
- ✗ No

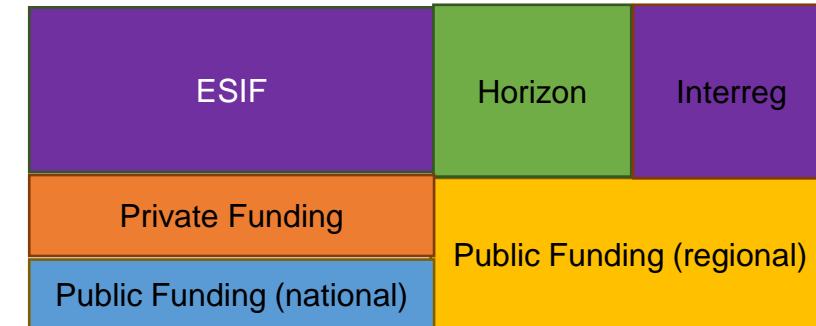


Critical Mass Innovation Ecosystem Roadmap

Present

Stage 3: Enhanced collaboration (more business involvement and expanding national and European cooperation)

Winning regional, national & European awards;	?
Coordinating H2020 projects;	✓
Coordinating science, innovation and demonstration projects (ESIF and Interreg);	✓
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Connecting with other clusters, regionally, nationally and European wide;	✓
Region and member state concentrate funding on a specific societal challenge within the region, enhancing critical mass and creating attractive conditions for international cooperation;	✓
Increased interest in scale-ups	✓



- ✓ Yes
- ✓ Yes, with doubts
- ? Maybe
- X No



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*Linking life and technology
to shape the future*



Thank you for your attention

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