



METROPOLE

RUHR

BUSINESS

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ESSEN | GELSENKIRCHEN | MÄGEN | MÄMM | HERNE | KREIS RECKINGHAUSEN
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Smart specialisation strategy for the Ruhr Metropolis

Dmitri Domanski, 21 July 2023

- For European regions, prerequisite for ERDF funding in research and innovation
- Promise of higher competitiveness through strengthening the strengths
- How to achieve a real strategy beyond the obligation?
- How to balance political bargaining (interests) on the one hand and scientific evidence (facts and figures) on the other hand?
- Who is involved and how much bottom-up is possible?
- What is the role of subregions and how is multi-level governance supposed to work?

SMART SPECIALISATION SO FAR CHANCES AND CHALLENGES



S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION



- In order to continue attracting ERDF funding or to be even more successful in the future in the face of intensifying competition, the Ruhr Metropolis must focus more specifically on its strengths
- By setting priorities and sharpening its profile, the region can better position itself at the international level (attract investment, internationalise the regional economy, expand research cooperation)
- Paradigm shift for the Ruhr Metropolis: from funding a structurally weak region to funding based on strengths

- Ruhr Metropolis: Subregion of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Implicitly considered in North Rhine-Westphalia's smart specialisation strategy (very broad, no subregional focus)
- Developing S3 for the Ruhr Metropolis is a voluntary task
- The Ruhr Metropolis itself is a big, polycentric and heterogeneous region
- 15 municipalities (11 cities and 4 independent districts) are the key stakeholders
- Relatively complex governance process

S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

REGIONAL CONTEXT



S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

THE PROCESS

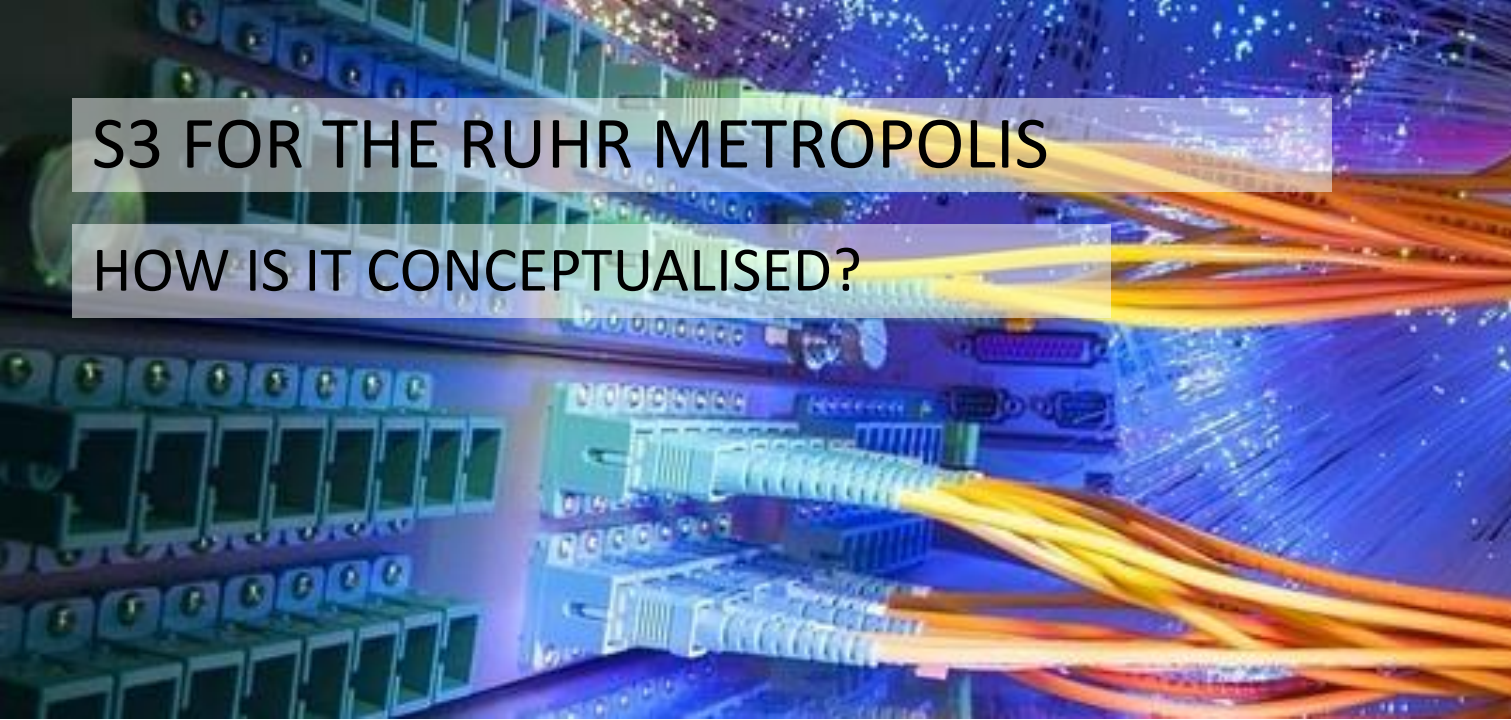
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- Interreg Europe Project COHES3ION (2019-2023)
- International S3 conference (June 2020)
- Regional agenda setting (June –August 2020)
- Bilateral talks with municipalities (September – December 2020)
- Processing information (January 2021)
- External report (February – June 2021)
- Multilateral working group (April – June 2021)
- Finalising strategy document (July-October 2021)

S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

HOW IS IT CONCEPTUALISED?

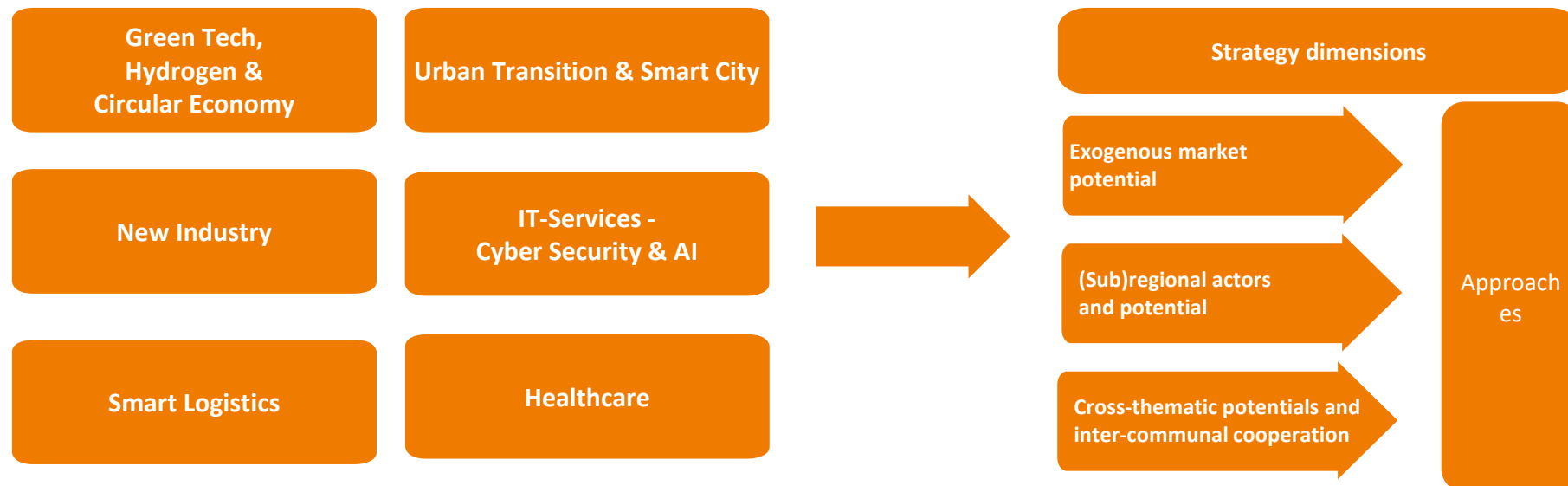


- Actors, potentials and action approaches in six key topics
- Connectivity to each other and to other topics (technologies, trends, economic sectors), approaches for cross-innovation
- All six focal topics are relevant to all 15 municipalities, but to varying degrees (three categories)
- The division into three categories (pioneers, development potentials, less in focus) enables a meaningful coordination and division of labor between the municipalities in order to make optimal use of the innovation potentials by distributing the resources in the region

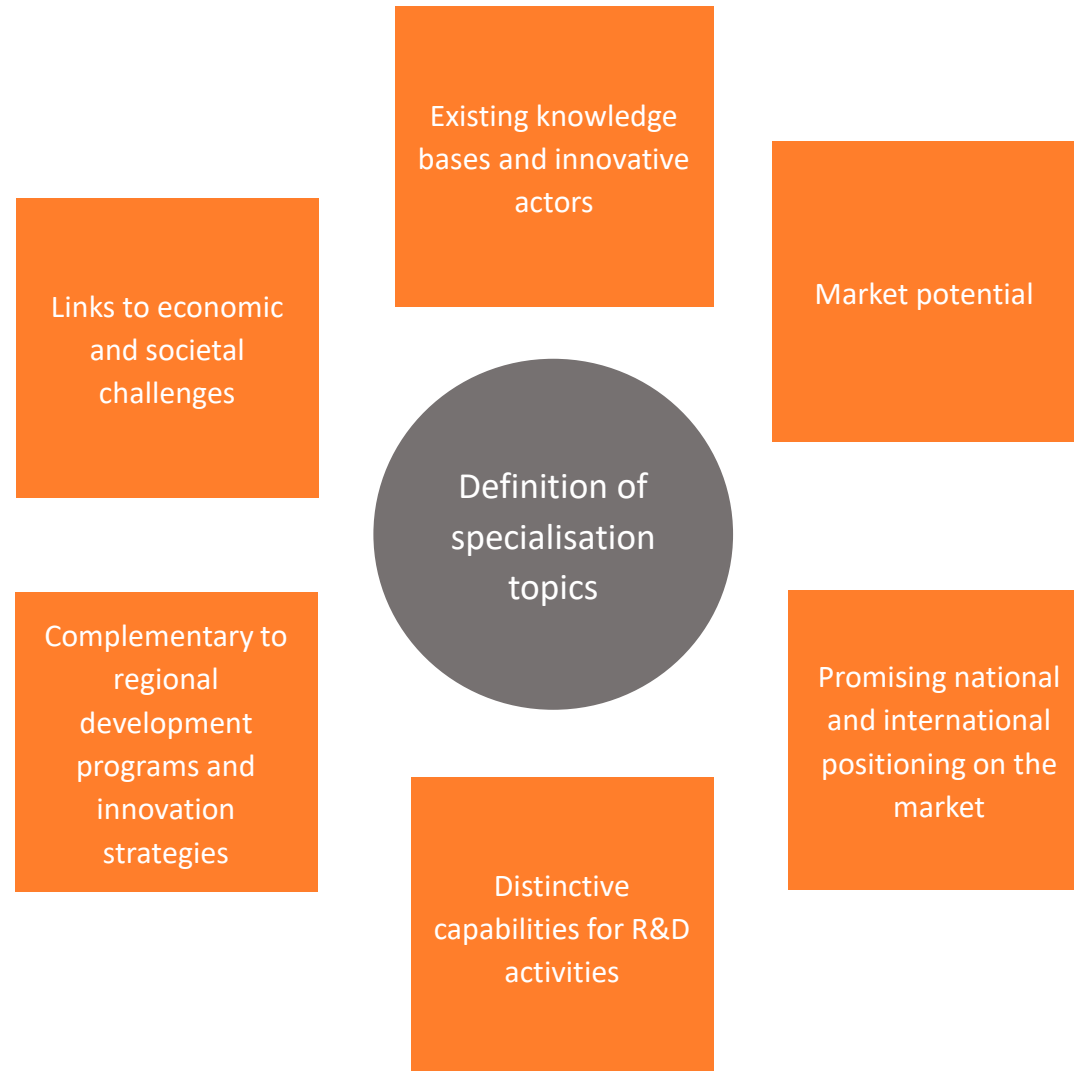
S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

IDENTIFYING THE STRENGTHS

- The specialisation topics are the core of the strategy
- Strategic goals:
 - Authentic for the Ruhr Metropolis: Endogenous strengths combined with a lively landscape of actors
 - Located in growth markets
 - High innovation potential - Structural development and qualified jobs
- 6 specialisation topics have been identified:



CRITERIA FOR DEFINING SPECIALISATION TOPICS



SUBREGIONAL STRENGTHS

GREEN TECH, HYDROGEN & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Selection of local actors

- > Westfälische Energieinstitute
- > Fraunhofer-Umsicht
- > Zentrum für Brennstoffzellentechnik
- > Hy.Hub Duisburg
- > Wasserstoff-Anwenderzentrum Herten
- > Solar BioProducts Ruhr
- > Konventionelle Energieversorger
- > Remondis
- > Chemie-Park Marl



SUBREGIONAL STRENGTHS

URBAN TRANSITION & SMART CITY

Selection of local actors

- Connect.Emscher Lippe
- Diverse Smart City/Smart Region Initiativen
- Digitalcampus Essen
- Digitale Modellregionen
- Uni Duisburg- Urbane Systeme



SUBREGIONAL STRENGTHS

NEW INDUSTRY

Selection of local actors

- > ChemiePark Marl
- > Projekt Carbon2Chem
- > Industrieller Verbund Gelsenkirchen
- > Diverse Digitalisierungsinitiativen im Mittelstand



SUBREGIONAL STRENGTHS

IT-SERVICES – CYBER SECURITY & AI

Selection of local actors

- › ML2R - Kompetenzzentrum
Maschinelles Lernen Rhein-Ruhr
- › Fraunhofer ISST
- › Paluno Institute für Maschinelles
Lernen
- › Horst-Görtz Institut für Cyber Security
- › International Data Spaces Association
TU
- › Future Safe House
- › Breit gestreute Start-Up Landschaft



SUBREGIONAL STRENGTHS

SMART LOGISTICS

Selection of local actors

- > Fraunhofer IML
- > DuisPort/Startport
- > Digital Hub Logistics
- > Logistik Campus Ruhr
- > Zentrum für Logistik und Verkehr



SUBREGIONAL STRENGTHS

HEALTHCARE

Selection of local actors

- > Unikliniken
- > Biomedizinzentrum & Gesundheitscampus Bochum z.B.
- > Kairos GmbH; VISUS Health IT
- > Technologiezentrum Ruhr
- > Netzwerk MedEcon Ruhr
- > Fraunhofer ISST: Smart Health Lab
- > Erwin L. Hahn Institut für MRT-Technik
- > Smart.Hospital NRW – Uniklinik Essen
- > Kompetenzzentrum Bio Security
- > ZBZ Witten



S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

FROM LOCAL TO REGIONAL



- From local to regional clusters
 - Corresponding to the „natural“ geographical extension
 - Increasing expectations regarding the level of smart specialisation with excellence becoming a standard
- Innovation projects across the borders of municipalities and their local clusters
 - Opening up to new topics and actors
 - Achieving bigger projects
- Division of work between the municipalities
 - Recognising the others' strengths
 - Recognising complementarities

- From sectors to topics and markets
- All specialisation topics are intertwined
- Overcoming the silos
- Cross-innovation as a source of cluster growth
- Regional path dependencies as a chance for strengthening the strengths instead of setting up „clusters of wishful thinking“

S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

FROM FRAGMENTATION TO S3



COWORKING SPARK
M WISSENSCHAFTSPARK GELSENKIRCHEN

S3 FOR THE RUHR METROPOLIS

FROM QUICK WINS TO SUSTAINABILITY



- From repairing through quick problem-solving to a sustainability-oriented regional strategy that understands clusters as drivers of smart specialisation and places of creativity
- Within the clearly defined priorities, there is room for experimentation
- Applying for European and national funding that allows for testing unusual solutions and approaches (e.g., Transition Super Labs)

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!

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