

# ASSET Eurodelta

## A d a p t i v e   S u s t a i n a b l e   S m a r t   S p e c i a l i s a t i o n   f o r   E c o n o m i c   T r a n s i t i o n

Joint project developed by:  
The SURE Eurodelta Network



# WHY?

## The West's political economic model is running out of steam

- Unsustainable growth: weak growth, negative social and ecological outcomes undermining prosperity, democracy and security (e.g. inequalities, climate change)
- Ill equipped to address present crises (e.g. Covid pandemic)

## Geopolitical rivalry puts future of Europe at risk

- Since GFC Atlantic liberal order is being challenged by China and Russia.
- Europe is vulnerable, lagging behind in the Third Industrial revolution
- Europe's geopolitical decline will compromise its sovereignty, social peace and prosperity

## Europe's city regions are faced with mounting challenges

- Urgent need for strategic investment in areas including energy transition, affordable housing and skills/education programs
- Chronic lack of funds > fierce competition for national grants and economic activities
- Running out of physical space



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# In response, Europe is adapting her agenda ...

- Create a green, inclusive and digital economy
  - Adapt to new geo-economic power configurations
  - Build in resilience to negotiate change
  - Be a global leader by example
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- *Long term developments shows our necessity, to act together now:*
  - *from global economy ... to (inter)regional economy*
  - *from fossil fuels driven continent ... to climate neutral continent*
  - *from pandemic crisis ... to fast economic recovery and resilience*

# Smart specialization of regions is an important ingredient of the economic transition

The European Commission has pushed regions to develop and implement a '**research and innovation strategy for smart specialisation**' (RIS3). ... and pursuit of targeted investments in science, technology and innovation priorities together with actors from business, research and civil society.

A RIS3 document is mandatory for applying to EU Recovery Fund



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# Problem definition

Regions such as in the Eurodelta have worked on smart specialization by identifying and developing their own competitive advantages, but there is room for improvement

Specialisation strategies could

- be more based on specific and complementary competences
- Be supported by interregional cooperation
- take global and European economic developments into consideration

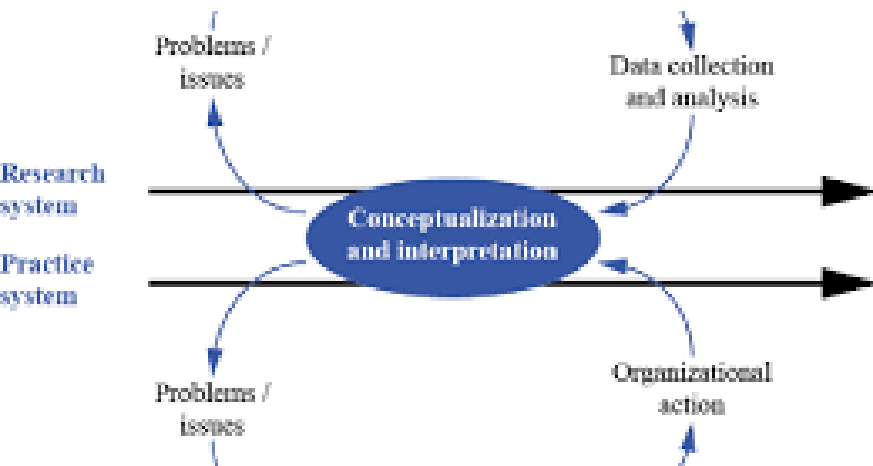
In addition, urban regions could

- share knowledge about the actual situation of competences of and cooperation between regions
- Target broader goals of well-being in stead of narrow contributions to GDP ('RIS4')
- Establish common governance, frameworks and instruments.



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Building a strategic community

# Four Steps

## 0 Prepare Proposal

- Establish scope and premises
- Analyse RIS3 documents, relevant EU policies/strategies
- Consult experts
- Establish **coalition of the willing**, scientific advisory board

## 1 Building a narrative

- Elaborate the rationale (economic and governance narrative = Mission-oriented vision and cooperation governance)

## 2 Interactive analysis (surveys and interviews)

- Map the spatial-economic situation; governance, frameworks, instruments; ambitions and conditions
- Map potential regional pilots (e.g. innovation hubs, developing skills for smart specialisation)

## 3 Proposal of cross regional joint investment projects



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