



# Higher Education for Smart Specialisation (HESS)

**S3 Platform**  
DG Joint Research Centre





## HESS: What?

*A new project launched by the European Commission's S3 Platform, in cooperation with DG Education and Culture*

*Broad aims in the context of smart specialisation:*

- **Align human capital supply with S3 priorities (regional demand)**
- **Strengthen the contribution of HEIs to regional innovation systems**

*Pilot starts now and lasts for twelve months; limited in scope*

*Launched publicly during the EWRC in October*





## HESS: Why?

*The S3 still do not have a sufficient understanding of human capital or how to fully involve HEIs*

*Prioritised domains will not be sustainable without adequate human resources*

*Risk that ESI Funds are not strategically spent in the area of HE*

*Lack of integration / synergies of policies within the 'Knowledge Triangle'*





# HESS: Objectives

- 1. Help regional authorities and development agencies to better integrate higher education into their S3 policy mix.*
- 2. Understand how HEIs can align their function of human capital development with S3 priorities.*
- 3. Promote change within HEIs to allow them to take on a boundary spanning role in implementing S3*
- 4. Facilitate external cooperation between HEIs and other actors in the quadruple helix.*
- 5. Analyse how the synergetic and strategic use of public funds can allow HEIs to better contribute to implementation of S3*
- 6. Co-produce knowledge within a Community of Practice and disseminate this knowledge to a large policy audience.*





## HESS: Who?

*S3 Platform is an analytical, advisory and networking hub for EU Member States and regions in the design and implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).*

*Based at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Seville, Spain*

*Synergies with other DG JRC activities: Lagging regions, Stairway to Excellence, Thematic Platforms (Territorial Development), OpenEdu, EntreComp (Human Capital and Employment)*

*Synergies with other DG EAC initiatives: UB Forum, Knowledge Alliances, HEInnovate...*





# HESS: How?

*Global analysis of relationship between Higher Education, S3 implementation and the ESI Funds:*

- *Analysis of OPs, Surveys and Interviews*

*Action research:*

- *Two cases: One in a less developed region (NE Romania), another in a more developed region (Navarre)*

*Dissemination to reach a wider audience*

- *Cooperation with stakeholders and international organisations*

