



Marie Skłodowska- Curie RISE  
MAPS-LED  
Multidisciplinary Approach to Plan Smart Specialisation Strategies  
for Local Economic Development



# Smart Specialisation Strategy: the territorial dimension of research and innovation regional policies

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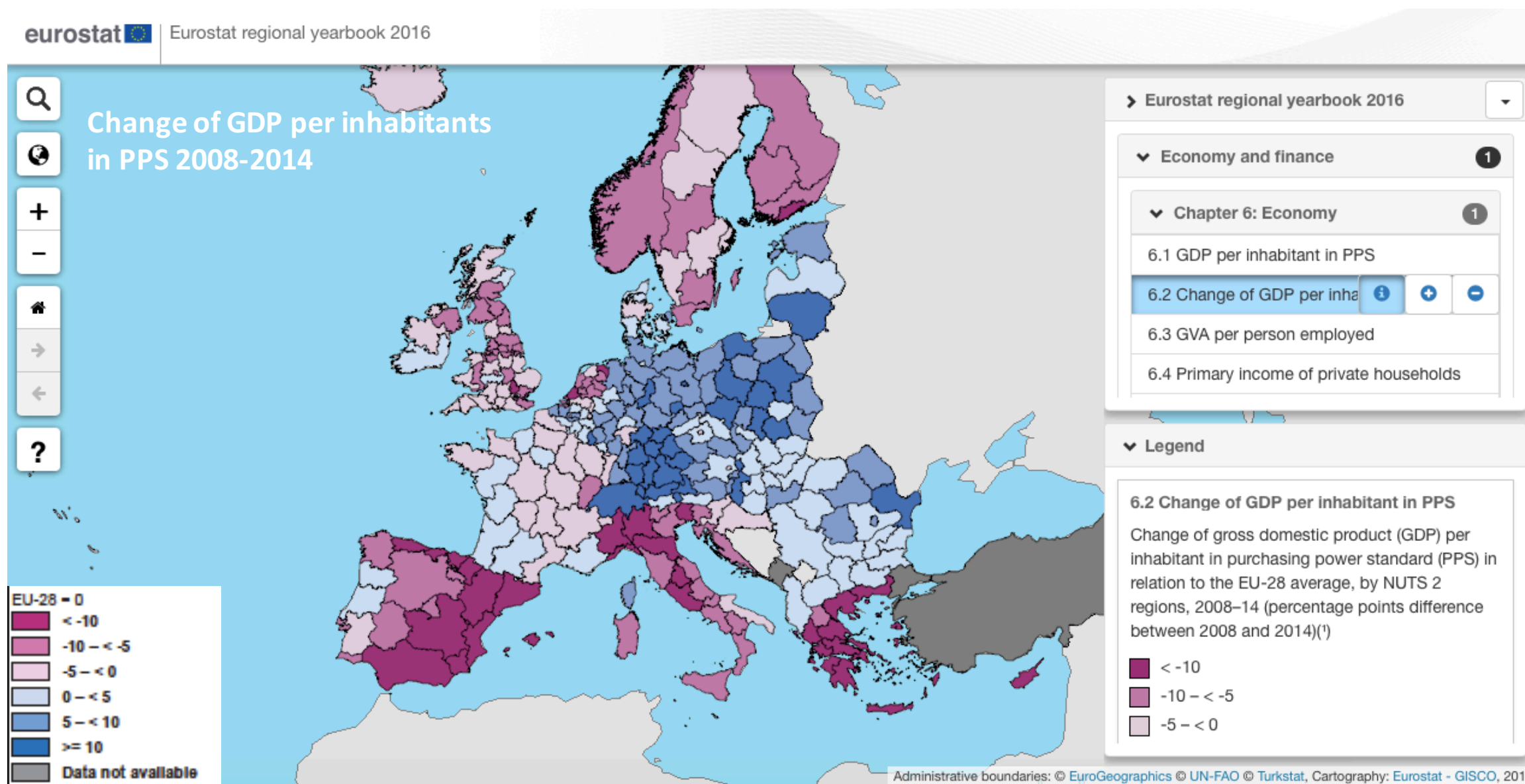


## Outline

- I. Territorial Dimension and Cohesion Policy: From polycentrism to place-based approach
- II. The introduction of Smart Specialisation Strategy as Policy paradigm: from a theoretical concept to European policy
- III. The territorial dimension in Research and Innovation Policies: the RIS3 plans
- IV. Territorial and spatial dimension in S3 implementation: the MAPS-LED Project Perspective

## Conclusions

## Background: Differences among EU Regions



## Background

- Despite the efforts fo the EU to reduce differences and disparities among EU regions, the gap still persists!
- National and Regional governments are called to set up innovative solutions in order to boost economic growth and development aiming empowering Cohesion Policy.
- The “new” approach based on Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) drives toward this direction, no more a perspective designed within the Operational Programmes just in response to the general requirement of European Commission.
- The link envisaged between **S3** and **place-based approach** is based on their characterization of a development policy, and on the value of the different geographical, social, economic features that territories can express (Foray, 2000).
- The transformation of these two theoretical approaches into policy is recognizable in two drivers for programming the Agenda 2020.
  - The first is the Theory of Change, which implies the use of “indicators” related to the value that different territories can express to control and measure the expected change.
  - The second is more related to stimulate at regional level an integrated approach to reach a critical mass of the investment effects/impacts.
- ***How European Regions have incorporated the Place-based approach to plan their Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) within the current Programming Period 2014-2020 taking into account the “territorial dimension”?***
- **The MAPS-LED Research Project (Horizon2020) perspective is described as a way to investigate how is possible to regenerate local economic areas through S3 considering place-based approach**

## I. Territorial Dimension and Cohesion Policy: From polycentrism to place-based approach

- Territorial Cohesion principle is about ensuring the harmonious development of all places and about making sure that their citizens are able to make the most of inherent features of these territories (EC, 2008)
- 1999, European Spatial Development Perspective - ESDP
- 2007, Territorial Agenda of EU
- Leipzig Charter
- 2009, Barca Report
- 2011, Territorial Agenda 2020
- Spatial Approach at European Level: Polycentric development aiming at “a spatial balance designed to provide a more even geographical distribution of growth across the territory of the EU (aiming at cohesion)”.
- Integrated Urban Development. Urban Development and Cohesion Policy. urban dimension and the need of an integrated urban development policy, making possible the integration between (urban) development policy and territorial cohesion policy in order to achieve a sustainable development.
- Place-based approach. “territorial potentials” and the “equal opportunities” principles
- Supporting polycentric development
- Partnership and cooperation of urban & rural
- Territorial integration in cross-border transnational
- Improving territorial connectivity for individuals
- Global competitiveness based on strong local economies
- Place-based policy-making
- 2000-2006  
**Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the European Union**  
(regeneration of cities – social inclusion)
- 2007-2013  
**Competitive and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions**  
(attractiveness – urban.rural – SME – entrepreneurship – financial mechanisms)
- 2014-2020  
**Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions** (Integrated sustainable urban development ITI – CLLD – Financial Instruments – Knowledge – Research – Innovation – Education – digital society)

# I. Territorial Dimension and Cohesion Policy: From polycentrism to place-based approach

## Integrated investments for sustainable urban development 2014-2020

### Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)

ITI can only be used if a specific geographical area has an integrated, cross-sectoral development strategy which addresses its development needs. In the 2014-2020 programming period many European cities will use ITI to execute their sustainable urban development strategies that tackle the economic, environmental, climate and social challenges of the urban areas and take into account urban-rural linkages.

### COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

CLLD is a tool which can allow reaching a set of complementary goals. First, it encourages local communities to take action and to shape development paths, this, in turn, helps to build and enhance community capacity. Secondly, active involvement of different local agents helps to promote the community ownership of interventions implemented which, in turn, helps to increase their effectiveness.

CLLD promotes the implementation of integrated and multi-sectoral operations through financial support from the different European Structural and Investment Funds.



## I. Territorial Dimension and Cohesion Policy: From polycentrism to place-based approach

- The Barca Report emphasised the need to focus on fewer priorities, to be more transparent, to make sure that programme success is verifiable and to better coordinate place-based policies (Barca, 2009). This step has contributed to transform smart specialisation from a technology and research concept to a place-based concept attuned to regional policy (McCann and Ortega-Argilés, 2013)
- “a place-based policy is a long-term strategy aimed at tackling persistent underutilisation of potential and reducing persistent social exclusion in specific places through external interventions and multilevel governance. It promotes the supply of integrated goods and services tailored to contexts, and it triggers institutional changes” (Barca, 2009)
- place-based means that:
  - a) these policies must be designed to suit specific territories (people needs and institutions are different) and
  - b) that local actors must have a leading role in their elaboration and implementation
- If we consider the theoretical background of S3 (Foray, 2000), the link envisaged between S3 and place-based approach is based on their characterization of a development policy, and on the value of the different geographical, social, economic features that each territory can express.
- In these processes Local knowledge is crucial but is not readily available. It is fragmented in a variety of individuals and bodies. It must be extracted, socialized, concentrated and increased through deliberative decision making processes

## I Territorial Dimension and Cohesion Policy: From polycentrism to place-based approach

Accessibility  
Service of General economic  
interest  
Territorial  
capacities/endowments/assets  
City networking  
Functional regions

### Spatial Dimension

Governance/Territorial  
Asset Knowledge

### Territorial dimension Territorial Agenda 2020

#### TA 2020 Priorities

- Supporting polycentric development
- Urban and Rural Partnership and cooperation
- Territorial Integration in cross-border transnational
- Improving territorial connectivity for individuals
- Global competitiveness based on strong local economy

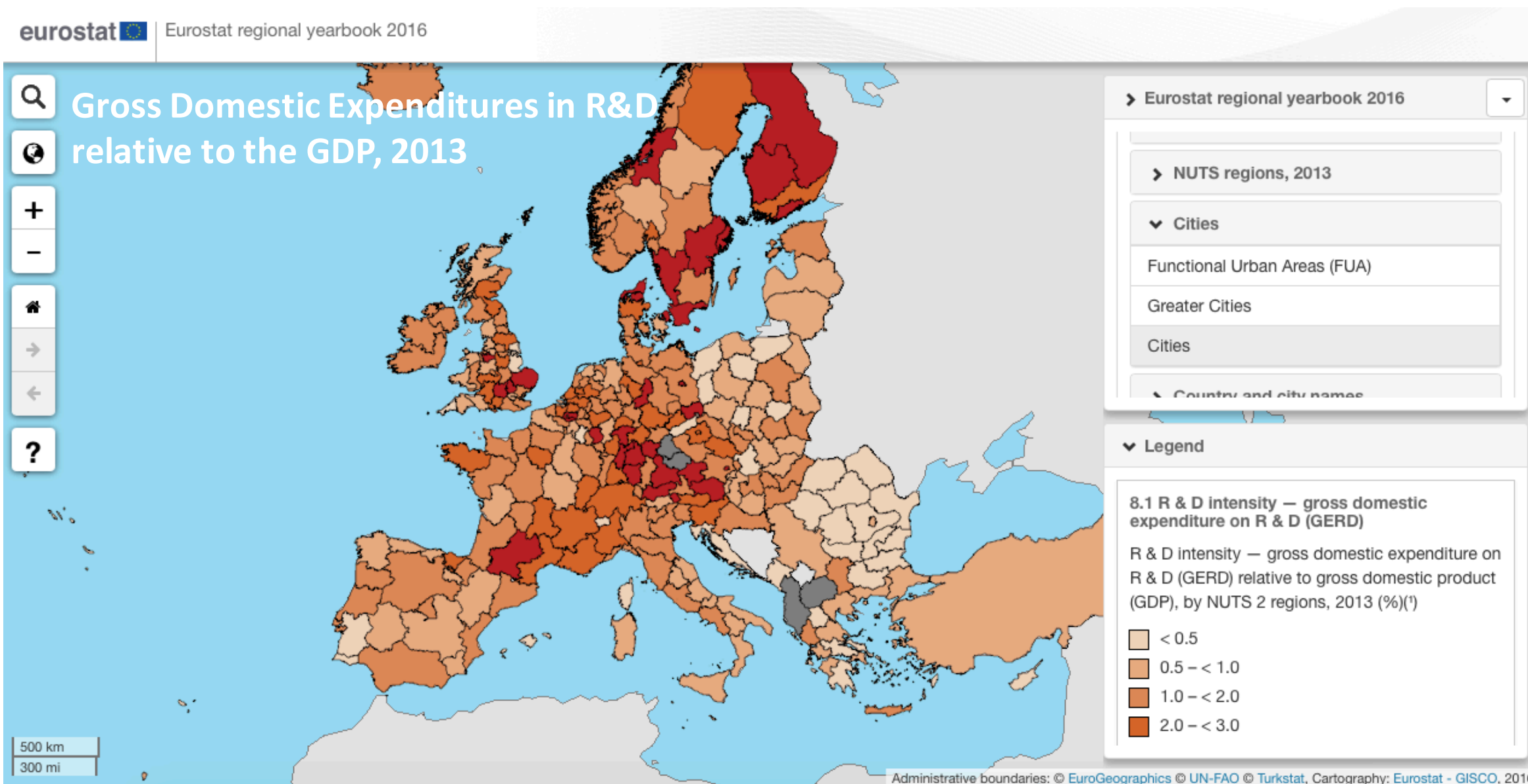
### Place-Based Approach (Barca Report)

territory can be considered as an important topic for cross-governance dialogue within the place-based frame

Some elements of the place-based approach need strengthening, mainly: the way territorial knowledge is collected,  
multi-level governance dialogue and its instruments



## II. The territorial dimension in Research and Innovation Policies: the RIS3 plans



## II. The introduction of Smart Specialisation Strategy as Policy paradigm: from a theoretical concept to European policy

- The introduction of the concept can be dated back to the European Council of Lisbon (2000) where the European Union set the clear objective to develop a knowledge-based economy. Thanks to the “Knowledge for Growth Group”, in 2009 the “Smart Specialisation Concept” came out (Foray et al. 2009, 2011)
- Smart specialisation concerns “the capacity of an economic system (a region for example) to generate new specialities through the discovery of new domains of opportunity and the local concentration and agglomeration of resources and competences in these domains Foray (2015),
- The core of the “Smart Specialisation” concept is represented by the “entrepreneurial discovery” that can be considered a sort of pre-condition in materialising innovation. Foray (2009) defines it as an essential phase, the crucial link for reorienting and renewing a system. Thus, the entrepreneurial discovery phase is crucial for several factors
- Thanks to these information, governments have to choose new activities according with their potential impacts, feasibility, proximity to market, relevance for the regional economy, number of actors involved etc.
- Particularly, Article 2 of the General European Structural Funds Regulation no. 1303/2013 defines the Smart Specialisation Strategy as ***“national or regional innovation strategies which set priorities in order to build competitive advantage by developing and matching research and innovation own strengths to business needs in order to address emerging opportunities and market developments in a coherent manner, while avoiding duplication and fragmentation of efforts.*”**

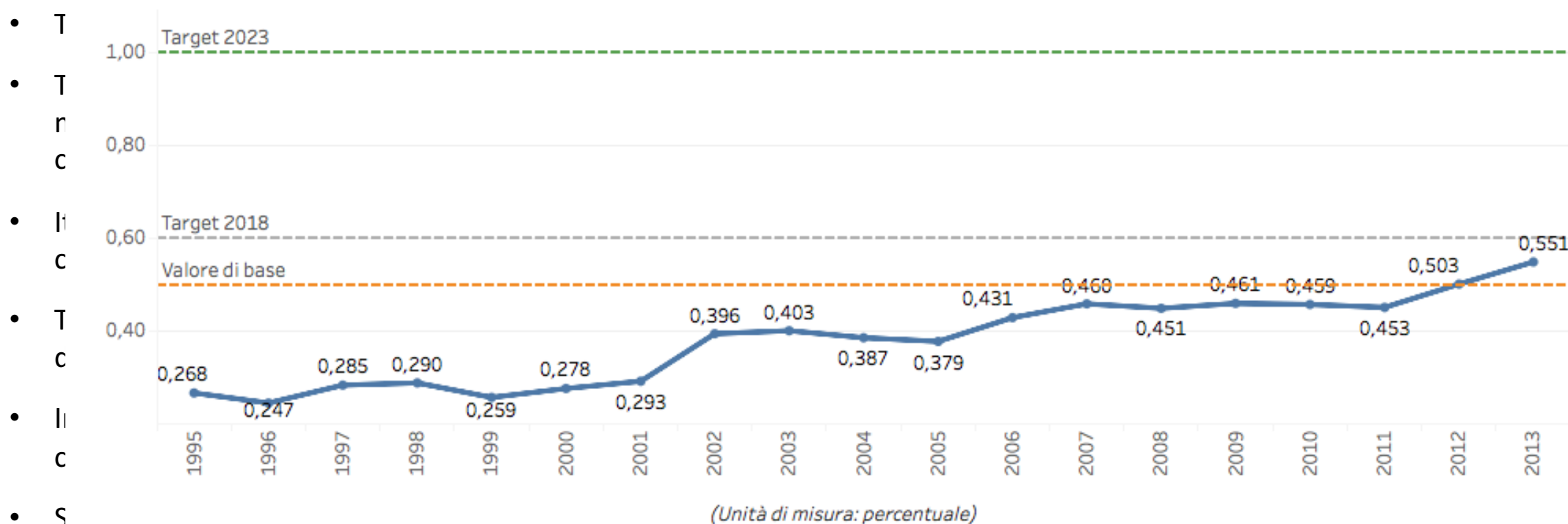
## II. The territorial dimension in Research and Innovation Policies: the RIS3 plans

- S3 are designed to capture knowledge and innovation dynamics closely connected with characteristics of context. In 2011, the S3 Platform was established with the aim to support regions in the preliminary phase of their Smart Specialisation Strategies, particularly for “Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation” (RIS3).
- The Platform provides information, methodologies, expertise and advice to national and regional policy makers, as well as promote mutual learning, trans-national co-operation and contribute to academic debates around the concept of smart specialisation (S3 Platform, 2015)
- It helps to highlight the scientific and methodological appropriateness of the plan, highlighting the peculiarities of the regional context according with the 3 critical factors selected for each step of the process (six steps)
- The main challenge is to reverse the current and persistent gap among lagging regions in Europe, which remain at same development stage despite long-term structural funds in research, innovation and technological development.
- In this sense, contexts conditions, especially in cities located in lagging regions, can significantly affect the implementation of complex policies such as S3 (MAPS-LED, 2017: 12)
- Some concerns arose among scholars and practitioners about the real consideration of territorial dimension in RIS3 plans proposed by national and regional authorities. This consideration leads to better understand and investigate the implications of the territorial (intended as the combination of economic, social and spatial factors) dimension of such policy paradigm

## II. The territorial dimension in Research and Innovation Policies: the RIS3 plans

### Indicatori di risultato S3

- S Obiettivo tematico  
OT1 - Rafforzare la ricerca, lo sviluppo tecnologico e l'innovazione
- I Indicatore  
Incidenza della spesa totale per R&S sul PIL



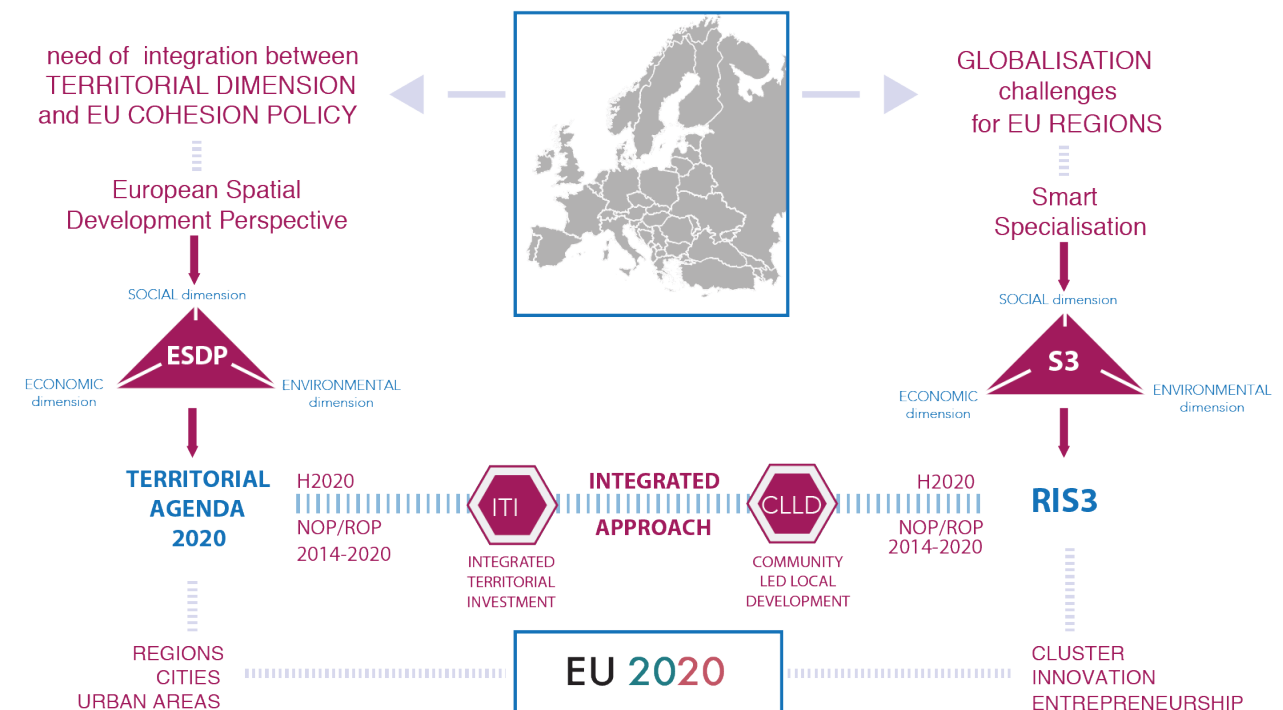
proposed by national and regional authorities. This consideration leads to better understand and investigate the implications of the territorial (intended as the combination of economic, social and spatial factors) dimension of such policy paradigm

### III. Territorial and spatial dimension in S3 implementation: the MAPS-LED Project Perspective

The MAPS-LED project is finalized to examine how Smart Specialization Strategies (S3) to regenerate local economic areas can be implemented, according to the new agenda of Europe 2020. MAPS-LED

The **MAPS-LED** process starts from a place-based framework and will include two important drivers:

1. **Cluster policy and cluster-based analysis,**
2. **Innovative milieu in terms of the local value chains based on the urban-rural linkages**



- The main objective of the MAPS-LED project is to build and test an evidence- based methodology for recognizing and assessing emerging and potential of S3 in terms of spatial, social and environmental factors. **The general track of the project is to implement smart specialization as a key element for place-based regeneration policies for local economic areas.**



## MAPS-LED Project Topics



### Topic

### Key aspects to investigate

Research and Innovation Strategies

Technology transfer based on "business process";  
Business models and partnership research groups and strategic action plan;  
Entrepreneurship in the research community and social innovation;  
Clustering entrepreneurial;

Spatial Planning Factors suitable to be mapped in physical terms

Proximity and accessibility (to gateway cities, to infrastructural nodes, to HEI Centres, to broadband facilities...);  
Spatial pattern ("boundary" of the cluster, network of connections, localisation of place of production and distribution...);  
Size (dimensional data of the cluster) Critical mass (number of enterprises, size of urban centres involved, number of jobs created....);

Cluster Policy Factors related to the governance systems of the clusters:

Institutional networks, entrepreneurial networks, the global-local nexus between the local area and global systems, the organisation of local value chains, a suitability to be mapped through stakeholder analysis;

Social Innovation Responses to social needs that are developed in order to deliver better social outcomes

(Spatial) identification and GIS mapping of new/unmet/ inadequately met social needs, related to vulnerable groups.



## MAPS-LED WP2 S3: Cluster Policies and Spatial Planning

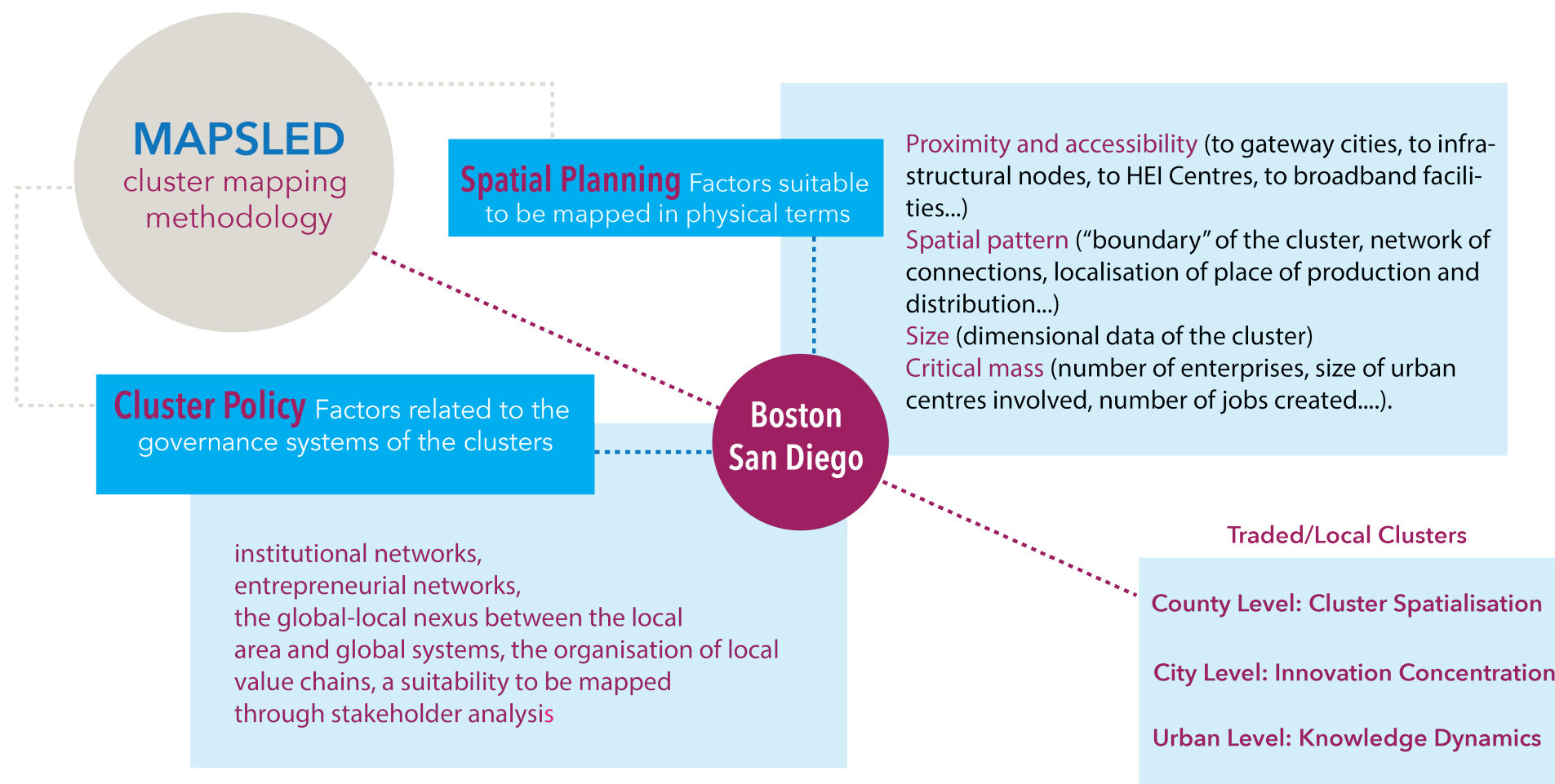
### MAPS-LED Topics

*Research and  
Innovation  
Strategies*

*Spatial Planning  
Factors suitable  
to be mapped in  
physical terms*

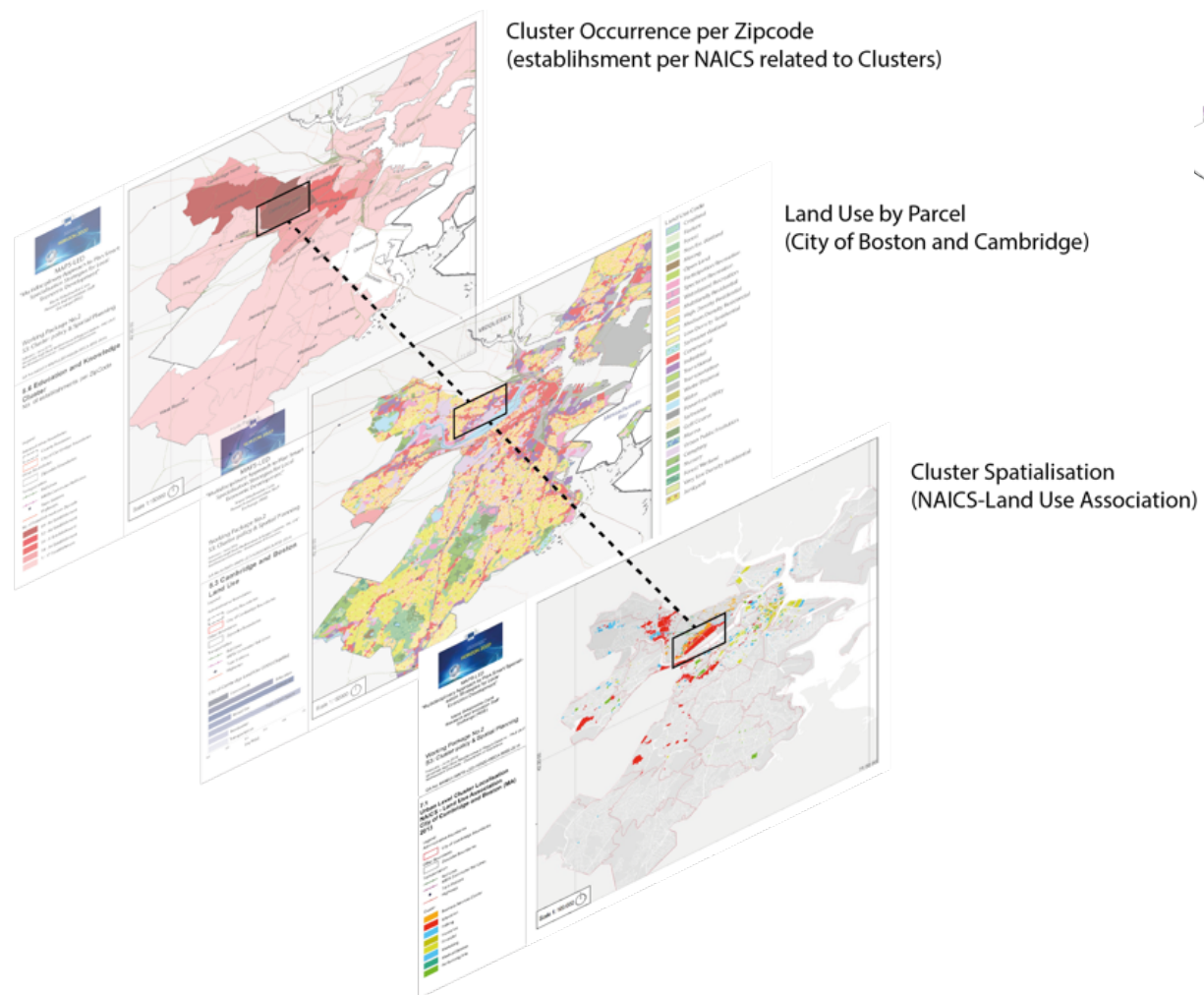
*Cluster Policy  
Factors related to  
the governance  
systems of the  
clusters:*

*Social Innovation  
Responses to  
social needs that  
are developed in  
order to deliver  
better social  
outcomes*

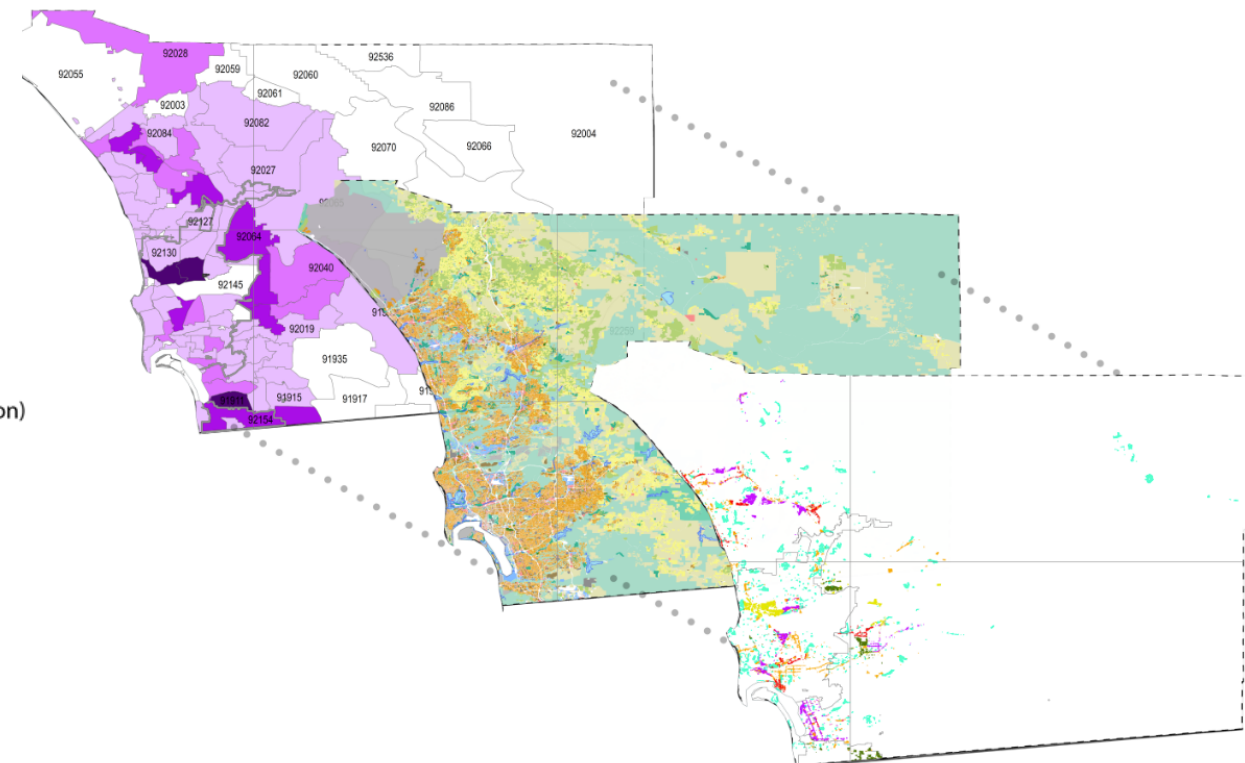


## Cluster spatialisation as innovation proxy

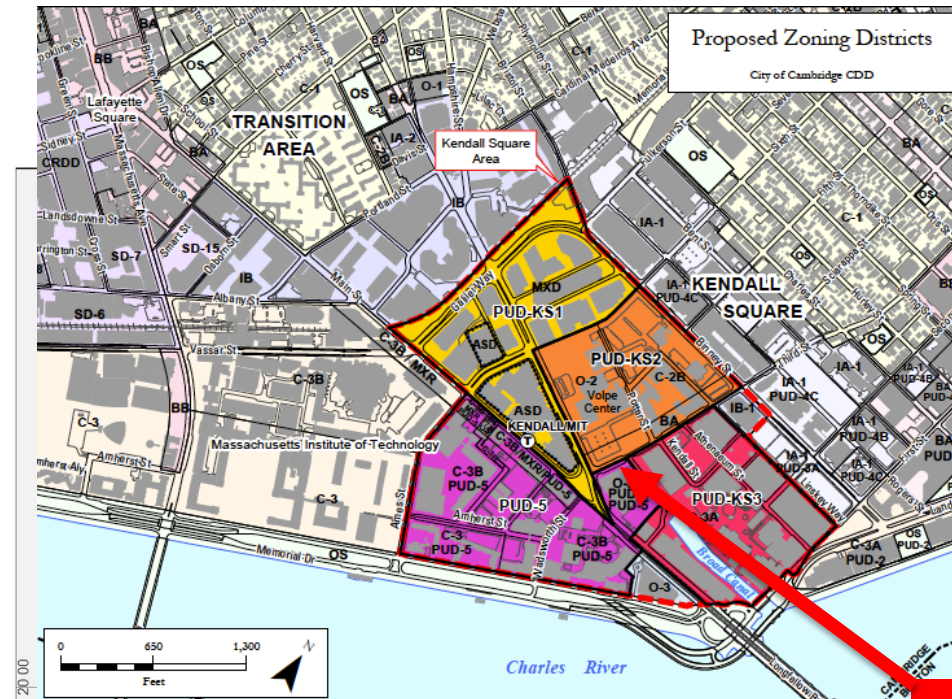
### BOSTON



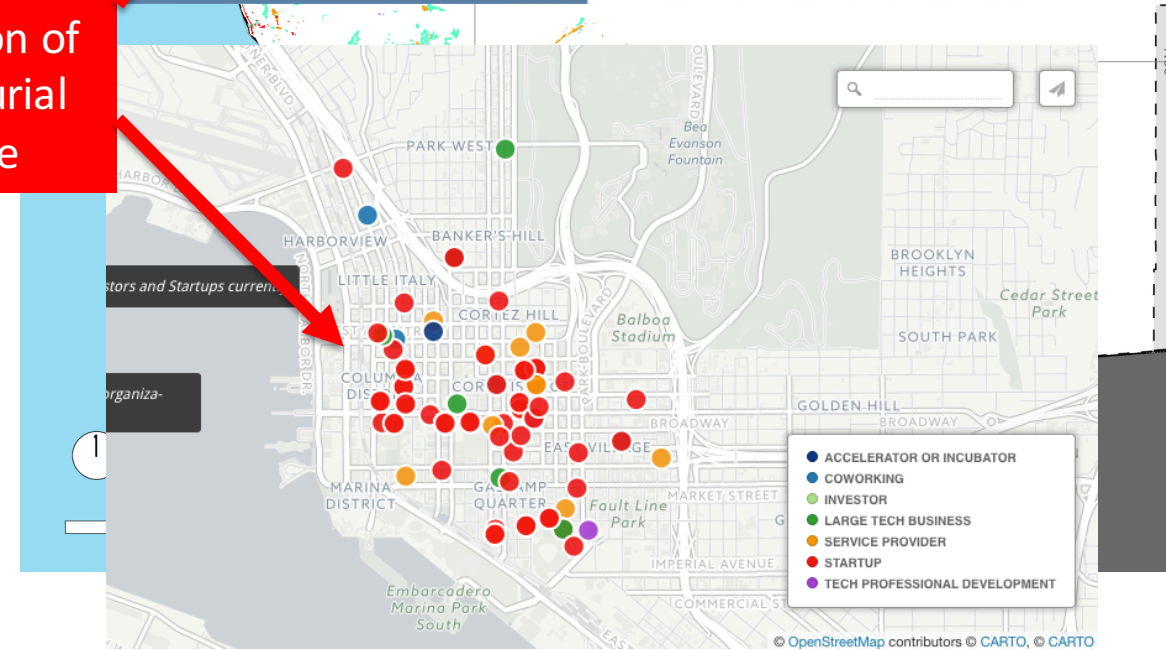
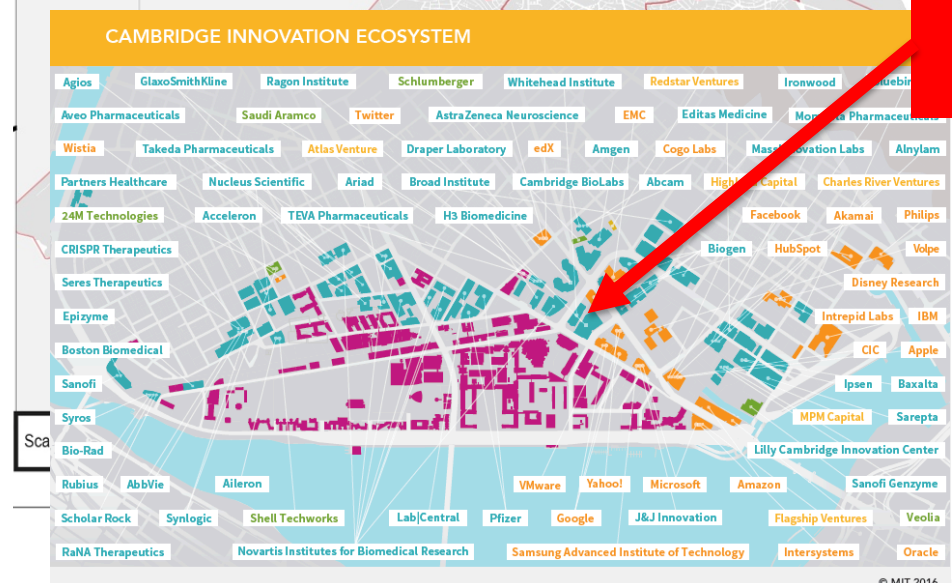
### SAN DIEGO



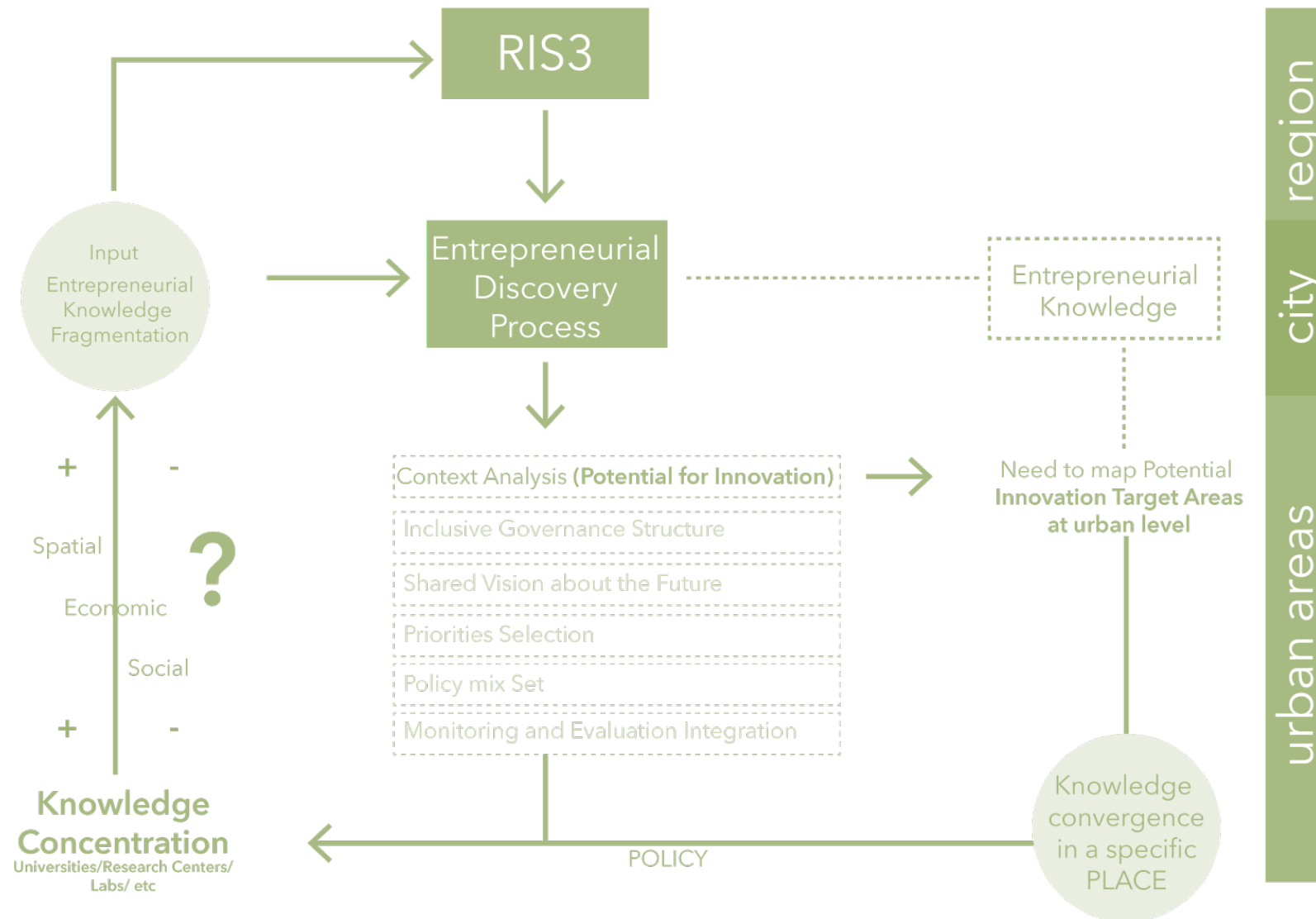




Concentration of  
entrepreneurial  
knowledge



## Knowledge convergence in S3 through entrepreneurial Knowledge



## MAPS-LED project

*Cluster spatialisation at county level (per zipcode). Preliminary cluster morphology*

*Cluster spatialisation and cluster dynamics at city level (zipcode)*

*Cluster spatialisation at urban level (NAICS-Land Use association).  
Cluster distribution (concentration/dispersion)*

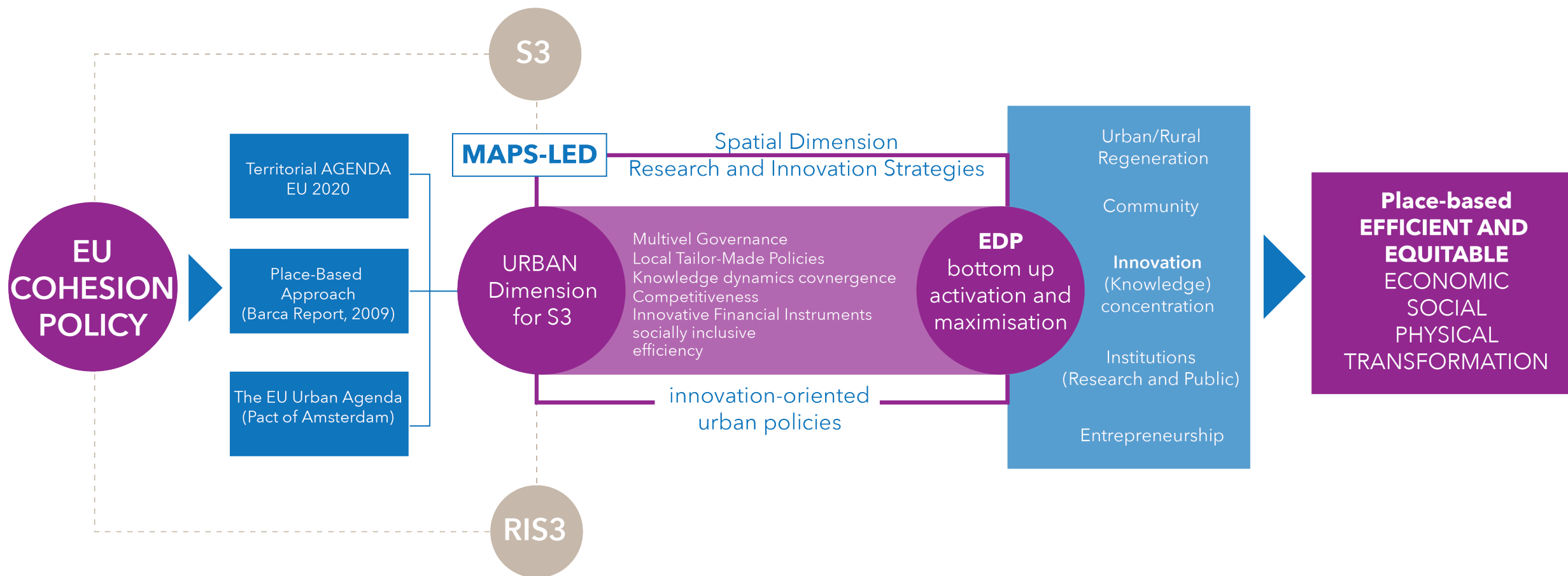
*Knowledge dynamics convergence*

*Innovation-driven transformation*

## CONCLUSIONS

- RIS3 are in their implementation phase and it is not possible at this moment to establish, clearly, what effects/impacts these strategies will produce in the mid and long terms (MAPS-LED, 2017).
- Two questions seem to be less investigated within RIS3 plan: the spatial perspective, in physical, economical and social dimension, and the social perspective, in terms of expression of continuously changing behaviours, which sometimes is not captured from the governance structures (MAPS-LED, 2017a).
- The “territorial” aspect of S3 Foray’s concept, lies in our opinion, on the “spatialisation” concept, which is understood as a specific activity in a specific space (region) that has the potentials in contributing to the regional economic growth.
- This renovated attention to the “place” could reach the overall aim to satisfy efficiency (the capacity of a region to exploit its territorial potential) and equity principles (capacity of each region to provide equal opportunities to their citizens).
- EDP (entrepreneurial discovery process) can be considered a sort of pre-condition in materialising innovation Foray (2009). Hence the entrepreneurial knowledge is the main driver for development, it is clustered and concentrated in specific areas where public and private actors are supported by public policies.









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# Thank You!

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