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