# Partneship for Regional Innovation (PRI), Influence on innovation in forest-based sector?

5th Edition Forest Innovation Workshop: The role of innovation in managing new challenges in the forest-based sector at regional level in the EU”

EFI Bioregions Facility

*Xabier Goenaga*

*Head of Unit B7-JRC*

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# The right moment

- The implementation of **Green Deal** is indispensable, being **circular bioeconomy** one of its pillars.
- Secure **Europe's position** in the economy of the future
- Confluence of maturing trends:

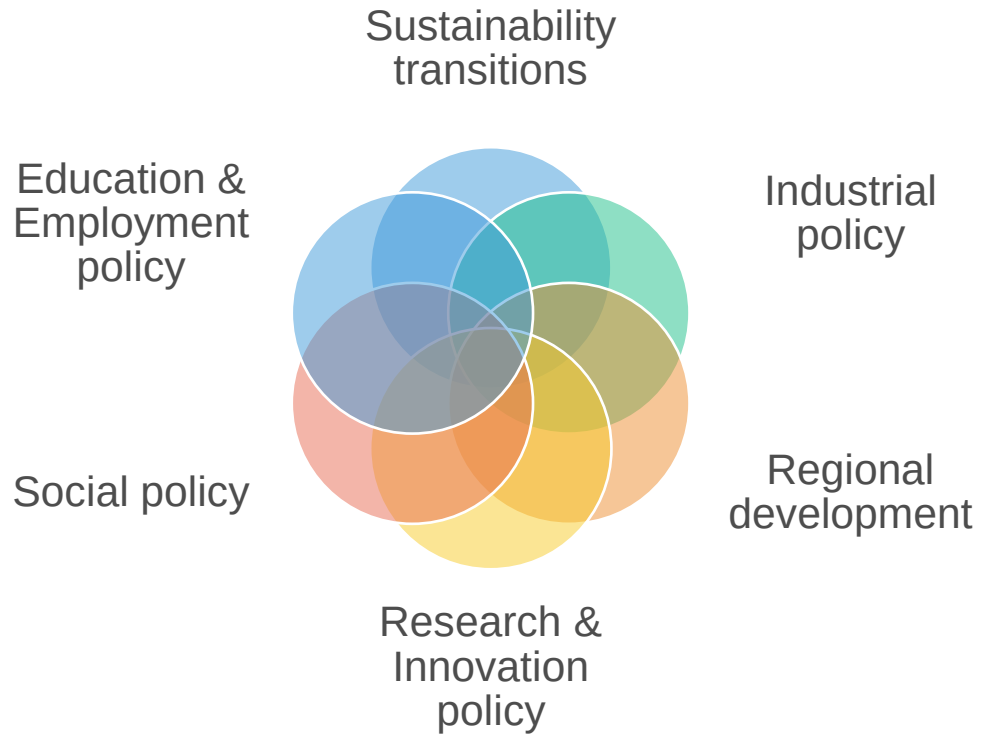
  Deep global **transformations in socio-technical systems**;

  Return of **industrial policy: EU competitiveness through sustainability**; Circular Economy

# Partnerships for Regional Innovation

A new strategic approach to innovation-driven **territorial transformation**, based on the experience on Smart Specialisation, linking **EU priorities** with national plans and **place-based** opportunities and challenges

- **To mobilise innovation funds beyond ERDF**
- To mobilise **other policies** beyond innovation funding to accelerate the green transitipon
- **To connect better regiona and EU innovation funding initiatives**



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# PARTNERSHIPS FOR REGIONAL INNOVATION

## A new Playbook is out

Out 17 May 2022

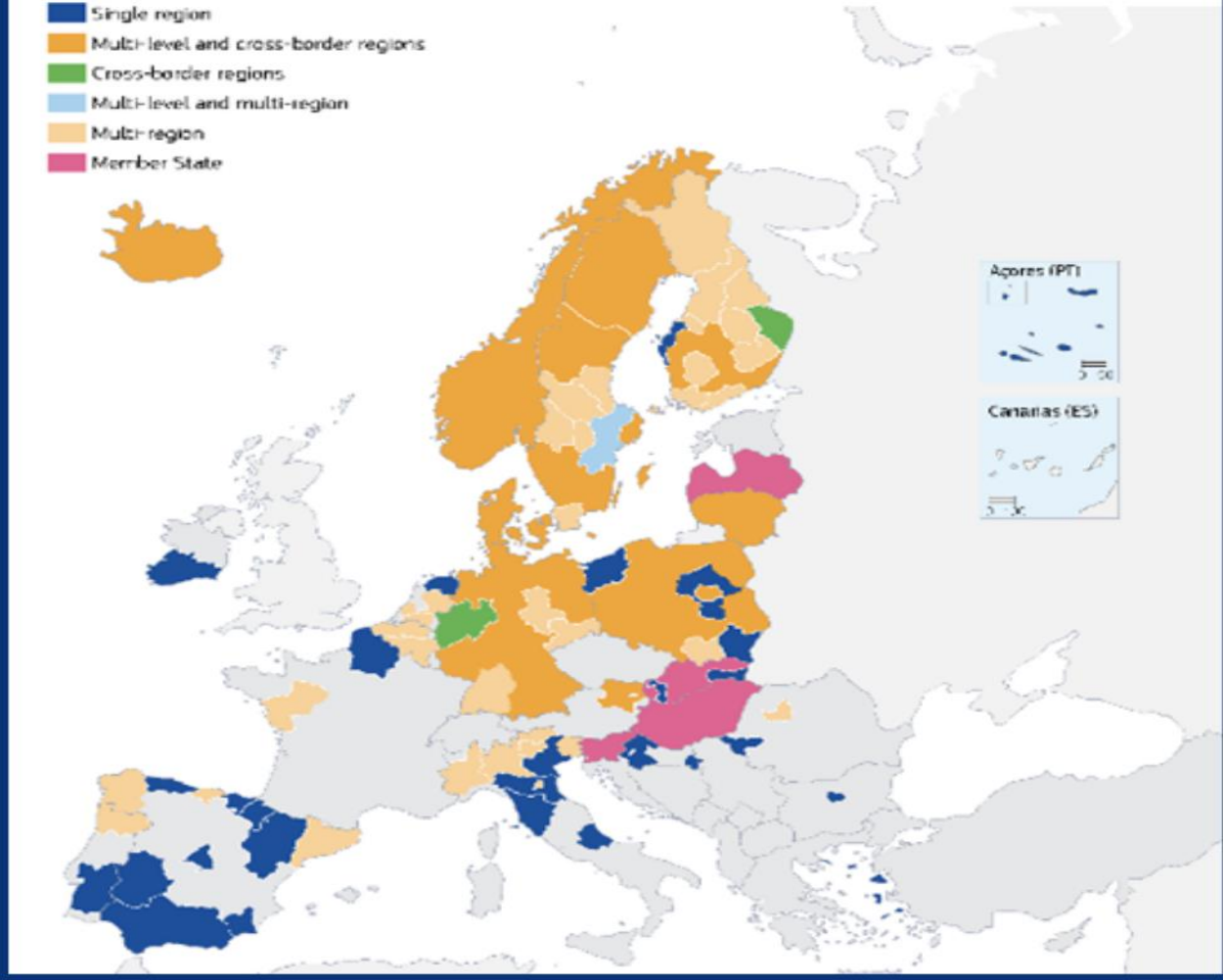
**68 tools** to foster
innovation for sustainability in territories

## Pilot

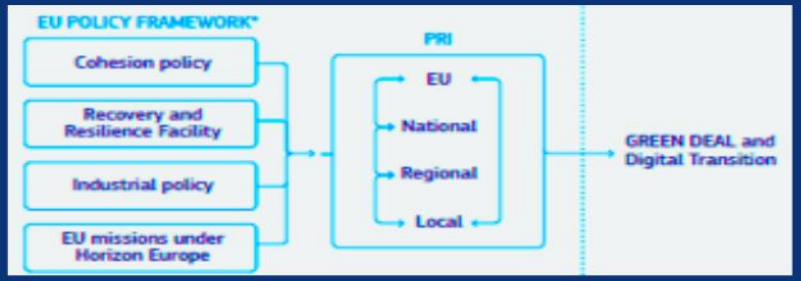
(May 2022-June 2023)

74 territories:
7 cities
63 regions
4 Member States

https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pri




## Key concepts

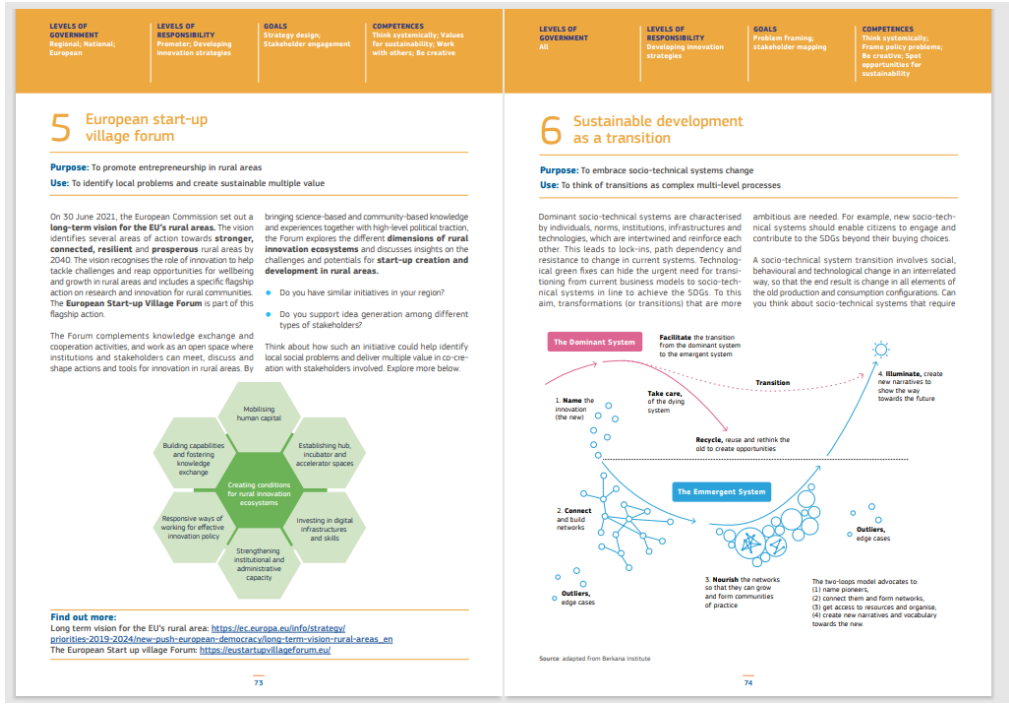


We need innovation in every region and in every country, **connecting with each other**, including between advanced and less advanced regions, if we are to succeed in the green and digital transitions.

# PRI Playbook

## Purpose & Scope

- Document leading thinking and practice on **innovation**
- Initial **guidance** for JRC-CoR Pilot (not prescriptive)
- Facilitate **exploration**, **experimentation, learning** & **co-creation**
- **Three building blocks**: initial approach to be co-developed through the pilot
- **Toolbox**, structured around highly-visual **68 fiches** (on concepts, principles, practices, methodologies etc.)
- **Pluralistic** yet **eclectic** drawing from state-of-the-art
- **Inputs and support** from JRC units (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, H1, I2) and **Scientific Committee**



LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT: Regional; National; European
LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY: Promotor; Developing innovation strategies
GOALS: Strategy design; Stakeholder engagement
COMPETENCES: Think systemically; Values for sustainability; Work with others; Be creative

5 European start-up village forum

**Purpose:** To promote entrepreneurship in rural areas

**Use:** To identify local problems and create sustainable multiple value

On 30 June 2021, the European Commission set out a **long-term vision for the EU's rural areas.** The vision identifies several areas of action towards **stronger, connected, resilient** and **prosperous** rural areas by 2040. The vision recognises the role of innovation to help tackle challenges and reap opportunities for wellbeing and growth in rural areas and includes a specific flagship action on research and innovation for rural communities. The **European Start-up Village Forum** is part of this flagship action.

The Forum complements knowledge exchange and cooperation activities, and work as an open space where institutions and stakeholders can meet, discuss and shape actions and tools for innovation in rural areas. By bringing science-based and community-based knowledge and experiences together with high-level political traction, the Forum explores the different **dimensions of rural innovation ecosystems** and discusses insights on the challenges and potentials for **start-up creation and development in rural areas.**

- Do you have similar initiatives in your region?
- Do you support idea generation among different types of stakeholders?

Think about how such an initiative could help identify local social problems and deliver multiple value in co-creation with stakeholders involved. Explore more below.



**Find out more:**
Long term vision for the EU's rural area: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas_en
The European Start up village Forum: https://eustartupvillageforum.eu/

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LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT: All
LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY: Developing innovation strategies
GOALS: Problem framing; stakeholder mapping
COMPETENCES: Think systemically; Frame policy problems; Be creative; Spot opportunities for sustainability

6 Sustainable development as a transition

**Purpose:** To embrace socio-technical systems change

**Use:** To think of transitions as complex multi-level processes

Dominant socio-technical systems are characterised by individuals, norms, institutions, infrastructures and technologies, which are intertwined and reinforce each other. This leads to lock-ins, path dependency and resistance to change in current systems. Technological green fixes can hide the urgent need for transitioning from current business models to socio-technical systems in line to achieve the SDGs. To this aim, transformations (or transitions) that are more ambitious are needed. For example, new socio-technical systems should enable citizens to engage and contribute to the SDGs beyond their buying choices.

A socio-technical system transition involves social, behavioural and technological change in an interrelated way, so that the end result is change in all elements of the old production and consumption configurations. Can you think about socio-technical systems that require



Source: adapted from Berkana Institute

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https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pri-playbook



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# Circular Bioeconomy means a *systemic transformation*

*Clear European Directionality*

*Strong role of EU territories and large room for territorial collaboration*

*How can EU Instruments be combined in territories and contribute to this collaboration agenda?*



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# The EU interterritorial collaboration landscape

Twin Transition  Strategic Autonomy  Recovery and Resilience

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# 1st Plenary PRI Interregional Cooperation. 14/12/2022 Take Aways

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# General comments about PRI IC

| | |
|---|---|
| Long term Political commitment | The unbalanced level of capacities and maturity of cooperating regions. |
| Capacities | Complexity of instruments |
| Complexity of managing interregional bureaucracy. | A simultaneous administrative transition is needed |

**Critical factor for IC**

There is a very big spectrum of ‘need’ from more innovative / developed regions compared to those at the other end of the spectrum

Some territories continue to have very basic needs and have yet to overcome challenges which are related to a (lack of) innovation ecosystem status / culture / capacity within their territories.

Many noted that they cannot begin to consider interregional collaboration until they have improved ‘internal’ collaboration

Too many EU Instruments



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# Three Key elements analysed

- Mobilising Funding
- Accelerate transformation of Ecosystems: Services and Networks
- Policies and Tools



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# Some Ideas

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reflection about what Governance (From connecting to integration) | Long-term pathways for collaboration depending on stage of project or territory | Mapping of funding instruments | Address the Lack of continuity in initiatives such as those born under Horizon Projects | Good experience of ERA-NET and Innovouchers |
| Importance of shared access to infrastructures | Dedicated budget to through EC Technical Assistance for Coordination | Clustering end-user facilities including VCapitalists | Regional External Investment Plan (EIP) to cooperate outside of your own territory region encouraging regional ecosystem | Data intelligence to prioritize the support to provide is missed. |
| There is need for support beyond projects for promoting creating European value chains | The role of leadership and human capital | A flexible agile mode of multi-level governance is needed | Exchange of Ideas, experiences to copy in Green Public Procurement, ERDF use…avoid mistakes | SDG Adaptation |
| | Synergies among Agro, Cohesion, Digital, Environmental and consumer policies, both at multilevel governance | Whole of governance | EEN, DIHs rely on existing networks | |



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| INSTRUMENTS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|
| **I3** | - Quite new. Lack of experience<br>- Better for downstream innovation<br>- Require a very challenging set of conditions. It is difficult to understand<br>- Mostly I3 focused more transition for regions in more difficulties and Interreg program is tailored what is should be tackled.<br>- Administrative and work for topical policies. Point of capacities. |
| **Interreg** | - It provides a good way to set up partnerships on specific topics (but more difficult to involve the private sector)<br>- Instrument used to improve policy, so political commitment is crucial + managing authorities (also including consumer organisations).<br>- Good to make a foundation for other initiatives, analytics.<br>- Takes time to develop a project, finding pieces of existing value chain or creating a new one.<br>- Lower directionality towards transformative innovation<br>- Successful partnerships should be extended beyond the planned project, because of strategic importance of ongoing cooperation afterwards.<br>- Decision making process favours projects with many participants.<br>- Projects create good public resources, but do we know if they make it to the regional agendas? We need statistics for that. |
| **Euroclusters** | - Companies need assistance to be actively involved.<br>- Boost multistakeholder cooperation but need more capacities and cross-cluster collaboration is not here that is needed in TI<br>- We need more cross cluster and cross sectoral collaboration, new comers to collaboration |
| **Missions** | - The Missions also bring different sectors and departments together but not sure of intended impact and if the right one for TI; |
| **Deep Tech Valleys** | - Suggestion to focus not only on “tech” and “deep” innovation (valleys).Social innovation seems to be ignored<br>- The Missions also bring different sectors and departments together but not sure of intended impact and if the right one for TI; same with Deep Tech Valleys and also social innovation seems to be ignored; Horizon Europe |
| **Horizon Europe** | - The most fitting: private companies and research centres can implement projects with large impacts<br>- Time constrain – many deliverables are condensed in a short period of time.<br>- Resources provided and resources expected are different.<br>- Horizon Europe (European Innovation Eco-systems) also enable multi-stakeholders collaboration but regions not typical actors here;<br>- Partnerships, i.e. the example of M-ERA.NET was considered promising |
| **Other** | - LIFE programme, ERASMUS+ and Connecting Europe Facility<br>- Regional resouces are not alike. The drives for the issues might be the same, but the issues are different. Synergies ERDF -HE Memorandum of understanding Digitalisation E-Agro DIH LIFE programme |

# Conclusions

- Need to go beyond the current EU toolkit. The whole spectrum of engagement needs the right tools and systemic approach in place
- Multi-scalar Multi level Governance
- Overlapping of instruments is not likely to boost demand in a way that really delivers improved innovation performance.
- Default ‘project’ orientation does not help. Partnerships need to navigate and progress through the different stages of interregional collaboration.
- PRI can help to address the disconnect between supply and demand but only if policy makers are truly aware of territorial realities.



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# Thank you

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