ARIES4

Alliance of Regional Innovation Ecosystems based on Smart Sustainable Specialization Strategies

Lot1: Alliances for Education and Enterprises

General objectives

- Foster innovation in HE, VET, enterprises and society.
- Create reliable and sustainable relations among enterprises, HE and VET providers from one or several economic sectors.

Participants

- 8 full partners of at least 4 programme countries.
- 3 labour market actors + 3 education providers (at least one HEI and one VET)

Supported activities

- Boosting innovation
- Developing entrepreneurial competences and skills
- Stimulating the flow and exchange of knowledge
- Identifying market needs and emerging professions

Funding

- Maximum grant: 1M (2 years) or 1.5M (3 years).

Partners

FULL

ASSOCIATED

HEI

RIS3 Coord.

Labor Market

HEI

Labor Market

HEI

RIS3 Coord.

VET

Labor Market

HEI

RIS3 Coord.

VET

Labor Market

Partners

Coordinator & Full partners

Associate partners

Project: From S3 to S4
Background and rationale

Background

Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) is the European policy that enables each region to identify and develop its own competitive advantages

Smart specialization is now facing a major evolution with the proposal of moving from the current smart specialization strategy (S3) to smart **specialization strategies for sustainable and inclusive growth (S4+)**.

Rationale

Transition from S3 to the new S4+ requires the **cooperation and alignment** of all actors involved in smart specialization strategies:
(1) education, (HE & VET)
(2) the public sector (S3 managers)
(3) the business sector (prioritized sectors)
(4) society in general.

Also, benchmarking and mutual learning **between regions** is essential.

Alliances for Innovation promote **both**.

Set-up a scheme of **cooperation and flow of knowledge among the main actors of smart specialization strategies** (HEIs, VET providers, the public sector, the business sector, and the broader society) in European **regions pioneering the introduction of sustainability in their strategies**, to ensure the provision of the **skills, tools and attitudes** required for an effective transition to sustainable strategies, setting a model for other regions to follow.

Project: From S3 to S4

Need analysis
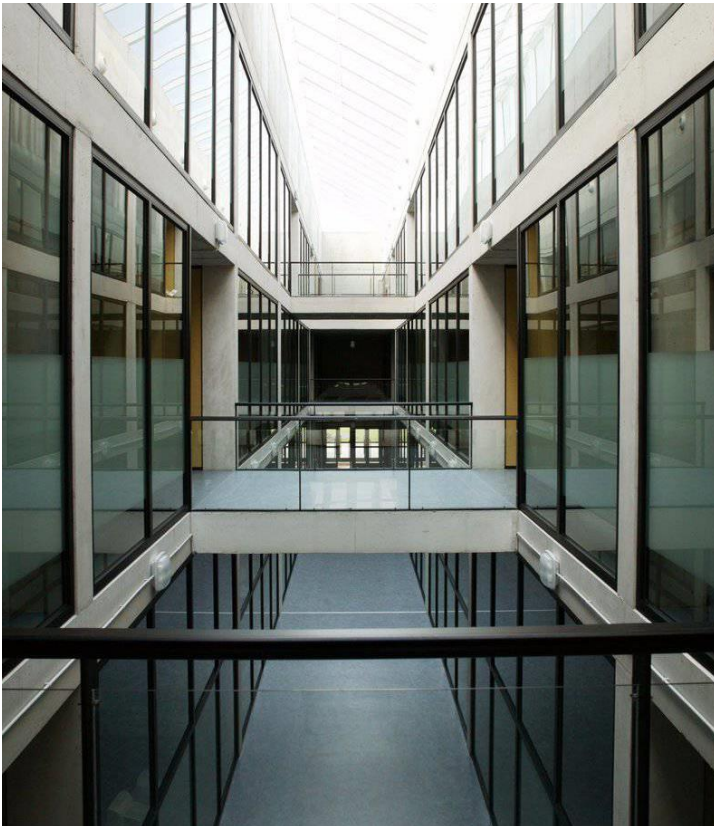
Regional actors must develop the necessary skills, tools, and attitudes:

- S3 strategists: **guidelines** in policy/incentive design (S4 rollout), as well as **measuring tools** to monitor the evolution of sustainability in the region and within each sector.

- Managers (esp. of SMEs): to **understand sustainability**, how it shapes their span of action and its potential to **improve competitiveness**.

- Students: become aware of the **relevance of S3** and the **challenges of S4**. Develop **entrepreneurial attitudes** to seize those challenges in the future.

- Society: be **informed** about the regional efforts towards more sustainable and competitive economies. Besides, it demands quick **dissemination** throughout the rest of Europe.

1. To promote knowledge creation and exchange among S3 agents (HEIs, VET providers, business sector, public sector and society in general) of several European regions, in order to **strengthen the evidence base for the design and implementation of regional smart specialization strategies**, and to provide tools for its monitoring

2. To foster corporate social responsibility and the transition to more sustainable business models, by **developing training material based on best practices**, building analysis tools for companies, and **identifying and providing the skills** required by company managers to drive the transition.

3. To stimulate entrepreneurial attitudes, mind-sets, and skills among the participant actors of regional innovation ecosystems, with a particular emphasis on HE and VET students, and to address this entrepreneurship to the challenges of the sustainable transition.

4. To generate communication structures to foster interaction within regions and among them, quickly communicating the generated knowledge and projecting it towards the rest of European regions.

Concept and methodology
Framed in a Quintuple Helix model of open innovation

WP2: Government

WP5 (Impact and dissemination): Public

WP3: Industry
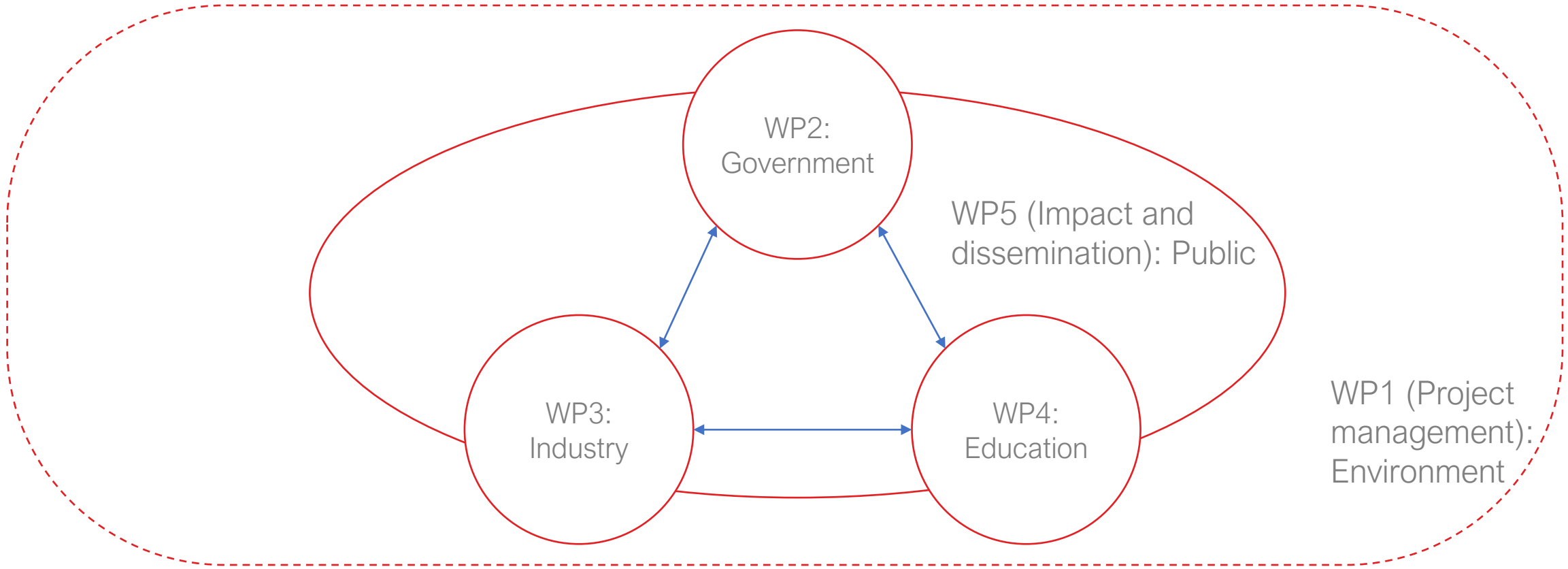
WP4: Education

WP1 (Project management): Environment

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Task 1.1 - Consortium agreement signature	▓											
Task 1.2 - Project planning	▓											
Task 1.3 - Project execution		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	
Task 1.4 - Project closing												▓
Task 1.5 - Project monitoring & control		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	

Link to specific objectives

1. Obj 1
2. Obj 2
3. Obj 3
4. Obj 4

Milestones

1. Project Handbook
2. Project Stakeholder Matrix
3. Project Work Plan
4. Mid-project report

Deliverables

1. Project-End Report

To ensure that the project implementation is of high quality and completed in time it will be managed under the principles of the PM2 Project Management Methodology, offered by the Centre of Excellence in Project Management (CoEPM2) of the European Commission.

WP2
Knowledge exchange for a successful S4 deployment

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Task 2.1 - State of the art on measuring sustainability		■										
Task 2.2 - Desk study with local agencies			■	■								
Task 2.3 - Critical analysis of sustainability indicators			■	■								
Task 2.4 - Synthesis of sustainability indicators for regions					■	■						
Task 2.5 - Synthesis of sustainability indicators for specialization areas							■	■				
Task 2.6 - Analysis of S4 rollout policies		■	■	■	■	■	■	■				

Link to specific objectives

1. Obj 1

Milestones

1. First compilation of sustainability indicators.
2. Compilation of measures

Deliverables

1. Catalogue of sustainability indicators
2. Report: effective policy tools in S4 rollout.

WP3
Training on sustainability for companies and organizations

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Task 3.1 - Sectorial debate forums		▉										
Task 3.2 - Case studies with pilot firms			▉	▉	▉	▉						
Task 3.3 - Self-assessment questionnaire on sustainability for companies			▉	▉								
Task 3.4 - Development of an online self-assessment tool						▉	▉					
Task 3.5 - Link to the regional S4 monitoring tool								▉				
Task 3.6 - Training program design							▉	▉	▉	▉		
Task 3.7 - Training program pilot											▉	▉

Link to specific objectives

1. Obj 2

Milestones

1. Design of the self-assessment questionnaire on sustainability for companies
2. Link of the self-assessment tool to the regional S4 monitoring tool

Deliverables

1. Case studies
2. Lifelong learning program for company managers on sustainability
3. Online self-diagnosis tool for companies

WP4
Organization of sustainability challenges for HEI and VET students

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Task 4.1 - Preliminary preparation of programme materials	▓	▓								▓	▓	▓
Task 4.2 - Selection of task-owners and identification of challenges			▓	▓								
Task 4.3 - Recruitment of training cohort(s)			▓	▓								
Task 4.4 - Regional CRE8® Workshops focused on Smart Sustainable Specialisation					▓		▓		▓		▓	

Link to specific objectives

1. Obj 3

Milestones

1. 'Train the Trainer' Workshop
2. Regional events concluded

Deliverables

1. CRE8® SSS Guidelines
2. Good Practice Report: Collected Tasks and Solutions from the CRE8® SSS Regional Workshops

WP5
Impact and dissemination

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Task 5.1 - Project impact and dissemination plan	■											
Task 5.2 - Impact and dissemination plan execution		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Task 5.3 - Project website		■	■									
Task 5.4 - Regional S4 monitoring tool					■	■						
Task 5.5 - Dissemination of the self-assessment tool for companies							■					
Task 5.6 - Communication toolkit for companies							■	■	■	■		
Task 5.7 - Workshop for regional S3 managers							■				■	
Task 5.8 - Regional sectorial workshops for presentation of main conclusions											■	

Link to specific objectives

1. Obj 4

Milestones

1. Project webpage
2. Dissemination of the self-assessment tool for companies

Deliverables

1. Upgraded webpage with an online S4 monitoring tool
2. Communication toolkit for companies

ARIES4

https://aries4.eu/en/

Thank you