



S3 Couple Net (S3CN) - indicative project proposals for cross-border cooperation

Output: A.T2.5.1

December 2022



EUROPEAN UNION



Content

- About S3 Couple Net 1
- 1. Introduction 3
- 2. Cross-border workshop (1) “Cooperation Potential in the triangle of Megatrends | SDGs | Smart Specialization” 3
- 3. Cross-border Workshop (2) “South Bohemian and Upper Austrian Cooperation Potential in Start-up Support” 6
- 4. South Bohemian and Upper Austrian Cooperation Potential Spotting on Resilient Economic Systems, Green and Digital Transition, cross-border meeting (3) 9
- 5. Indicative Set of Project Ideas 10
- 6. Annex I 13

About S3 Couple Net

Project summary

Project identification

Programme priority	Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation
Programme priority specific objective	4a
DTP Project Code and Acronym	S3 Couple Net
Project title	Cross-border network for activating the S3 strategy of the South Bohemian Region and Upper Austria
eMS Project Number	ATCZ262
Name of the lead partner organisation	Jihočeský vědeckotechnický park, a.s.
Project duration	16 months
Start date	1. 9. 2021
End date	31. 12. 2022

Description of the project

The South Bohemian Region and Upper Austria have long supported the development of innovative entrepreneurship - whether through various support schemes, the development of a regional innovation ecosystem, cooperation with other institutions in the region or the implementation of measures in accordance with its S3 regional strategy. In both regions, these development documents for the coming period have recently been revised and updated (RIS3 Strategy of the South Bohemian Region 2021-2027 / Strategic economic & research programme for Upper Austria "#upperVISION2030").

It is a strategic approach to the economic development of the region in the field of research and innovation, which is a process of identifying opportunities and positive aspects of the region, which can benefit from specialization in a particular field of science or technology. The concept of smart specialization recommends regions or states to create the content and design of their innovation strategy so as to maximize the impact of regional policy together with other EU policies. It is based on the Commission Communication entitled "The contribution of regional policy to smart growth in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy" of

October 2010, which refers to these strategies as Smart Specialization Strategies. In principle, therefore, these strategies address the needs and innovation potential of both regions concerned (South Bohemian Region and Upper Austria). Attention is paid to the existing infrastructure (R & D & I, production and tertiary spheres), specific trends derived from the economic profile of the region and new technological directions (so-called megatrends), which are again based on innovation profiles of the area, but also on current economic challenges.

Thanks to the harmonized RIS3 methodology, it is possible to effectively analyze both documents, create a cross-border network of key actors and find common needs, complementary capacities, specific measures and activities. A unique opportunity is also the upcoming new programming period, which will be prepared by the preparation of potential projects and cooperation potentials of the network members.

On both sides of the border, this project is approached by partners who are directly responsible for the successful implementation of these regional strategies and at the same time represent entities with a region-wide scope. The main goal of the project is to activate an effective cross-border network of actors based on a detailed comparative analysis of S3 strategies in the South Bohemian Region and Upper Austria, which will prepare a set of measures for the development of cooperation in key areas for the regions.

Partners

<i>Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Country</i>
Jihočeský vědeckotechnický park, a.s.	Lead partner	Czech Republic, South Bohemia
Business Upper Austria - OÖ Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH	Project partner	Austria, Upper Austria

1. Introduction

The presented document has been part of the task „Network Building“, activity “Indicative project proposals for cross-border cooperation” (A.T2.5) within S3CN project.

The presented document at hand shows compilation of indicative set of project potentials as well as concrete project proposals which at the same time fulfil the S3 strategies and the priorities of the future programming period of the cross-border funding programme.

The project potentials defined are based on the comparative analysis and discussions with potential network members and key stakeholders in the fields covered by the RIS3 strategy of both regions. Moreover, the analytical work was complemented with a deeper thematic analysis of international trends, current EU priorities and programmes, especially with regard to the resilience of economic systems and measures of the Twin Transition (Green and Digital Transition) and key economic policy fields of action etc.

Two cross-border workshops (June and September 2022) supported networking, discussions with key stakeholders and bottom-up elaboration of project potentials. Finally, innovation stakeholders and representatives from the programme offices of the Interreg AT-CZ programme were invited to peer review the potential cooperation topics and action fields for cross-border collaboration elaborated in the analytical work as well as bottom-up in the third cross-border meeting in November 2022.

2. Cross-border workshop (1) “Cooperation Potential in the triangle of Megatrends | SDGs | Smart Specialization”

The 1st cross-border workshop presented cooperation potentials based on the comparative analyses of the RIS3 strategies of Upper Austria and South Bohemia. Further input for discussing cross-border collaboration potentials was given by an external key-note on “Megatrends & UN SDGs”.

Before defining cooperation fields, a SWOT Analysis was conducted by the participants in order to become a better understanding about the status quo of both regions. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were elaborated according to the action fields of their RIS3.

Based on the SWOT analysis of both regions’ potential cooperation topics and cooperation fields were discussed.

S3	#upperVISION2030	South Bohemian RIS3
vertical topics	Digital Transformation Efficient and sustainable industry and manufacturing Systems and technologies for people Connected and efficient mobility	Engineering and mechatronics Electronics, electrical engineering and IT Biotechnology for the sustainable development of society Automotive Textile and clothing industry
horizontal topics	Education, skilled labor, specialists Key enabling technologies and core competences Digitization as enabler for all business sectors Sustainable solutions	Quality human resources Cooperation and technology and knowledge transfer Business development and innovation Development & Integration of Digitization, smart Solutions and Industry 4.0

Topics with potential for cross-border cooperation based on comparative analysis and stakeholder discussion / workshop 22.6.22, Linz

Comparative Analysis – proposals/conclusions

- Continue the cooperation whose basic parameters are set by the S3 CN project
 - Facilitating RDI cooperation network in the AT/CZ border region (whole region) – coordinated by the relevant regional intermediaries
 - Further maintenance of project outputs, exchange of experience and information
 - Follow-up project(s)?
- To link more intensively the sub-implementation structures of the S3 strategies
 - reciprocal participation in relevant meetings within the implementation of S3 strategies
 - cooperation between the structures existing within the ERDV
- Further develop existing or emerging cooperation networks and projects
 - Further development of the cooperation networks established in Interreg projects
 - Follow-up project(s)?
- Promote entrepreneurship, innovation and healthy competition in a cross-border dimension
 - Cross-border competitions (e.g. based on Czech-Austrian "Cross-Border Idea & Start-up Contest")

-
- Cross-border hackathons, start-up camps, presentations of innovative business ideas
 - Contribute through activities linked to S3 to address societal challenges and global megatrends
 - Digitalisation, automation, AI...but also: poverty and inequalities, energy resources, climate change...
 - Joint cross-border projects
 - Support trilateral cooperation on the regions of SB, UA and Bavaria
 - The S3 strategy of Bavaria (ICT, efficient production technologies, mechatronics, automation and robotics, biotechnology and systems biology, new and intelligent materials, nanotechnology and microtechnology)
 - Emerging thematic networks (Open Data or cultural and creative industries)
 - Follow-up project(s)?
 - Promote more awareness raising and popularisation of topics related to the S3 strategies and their objectives
 - e.g. joint workshops, conferences, working groups and other forms of networking
 - In addition to cross-border cooperation, encourage greater regional involvement in international activities
 - e.g., participation in S3 platforms at EU level, international projects (Interreg, Horizon Europe etc.)

Potential cooperation themes identified at 1st cross-border meeting, 22.6.22

- Lack of skilled workers: challenge not to compete for qualified workers and find joint beneficial solutions
- Joint start-up support: intensify cooperation/exchange, develop instruments, common events, start-up competition (based on pilot 2022)
- More cooperation for cross-border technology transfer, e.g. supportive activities for researchers to find SMEs for applied research or implementation of their research results and vice versa support for SME to find solutions for its problem/issue
 - Platform/network for researches to meet companies
- Cooperation on S3 level: exchange between US&SB, implementation & evaluation
- Joint initiative to support municipalities towards sustainability in terms of e-mobility, alternative energy and to develop technologies for sustainable municipalities, best practice research
- Cooperation on educational level: know-how exchange, use/train NEW technical equipment at schools, new methods of learning, exchange programs for students & teachers,
- Hydrogen
- B2B-meetings
- Limonology AT/CZ: concrete project interest of Food Cluster Upper Austria & JCTT

3. Cross-border Workshop (2) “South Bohemian and Upper Austrian Cooperation Potential in Start-up Support”

The 2nd cross-border workshop was focused on cooperation potential in start-up support. Representatives of the start-up incubators of both regions presented the status-quo of existing start-up support in both regions. Further external input was given by Pöchhacker Innovation Consulting on international examples of start-up support with special focus on Circular Economy.

The goal of the interactive part of the workshop was to generate potential project ideas that promote cross-border cooperation to strengthen the regional start-up scenes. The Walt-Disney method was chosen for this workshop part. For the following project ideas, a rough action plan was developed.

- **Long-term strategy backed by politicians**

Here came the wish from the workshop participants that there is a need for a clear strategy for the cooperation between Upper Austria and South Bohemia, which must be supported especially by politicians. The strategy should address funding instruments that enable cross-border start-up cooperation. Further activities comprise analyzing best practices of successful cross-border start-up cooperation, representation of interests on regional and national levels, and deriving recommendations of action for Interreg 2028+. This project specifically needs project partners from the regional authority. Due to the manageable complexity of this action plan the project period was estimated as mid-term.

- **X-industry workshops to stimulate e.g. ideas**

The main idea is to organize cross-industry workshops to generate potential project ideas between South Bohemia and Upper Austria. Possible project partners are industry representatives, politicians, and researchers. The exchange between the partners from South Bohemia and Upper Austria helps to identify the challenges of the two regions, address problems, and discuss possible solutions which result in potential project ideas and common activities. In addition, the research perspective must not be missing here. For the implementation of this action a large network is needed. For this project, it makes sense to have partners who have a large network, who are not only close to the companies and start-ups, but also cover a huge network of the research landscape. Thus, on the Upper Austrian side, Business Upper Austria and tech2b could be possible project partners and on the South-Bohemian side JVTP can support the project as well. The project is less complex, which is why a project period is estimated as short-term.

- **R&D Focus = Industry Focus**

Similar to the project idea described above, the idea came up that industry and research should have common focus topics. Often it is not easy to bring both perspectives to a round table, as both sides speak different languages. Industry and research must support each other to bring faster and innovative solutions to market. The goal is to share common resources and have the same understanding and focus. The close cooperation of business and science is a win-win situation for both. The economy benefits from research, because they often lack the competencies themselves, and on the other hand, science benefits from the economy, because they often lack the technical equipment to implement the research results. Other activities that have been discussed in this context are, e.g. the creation of a joint RDI catalogue¹ in Upper Austria and South-Bohemia and then the comparison of the services. Potential project partners are universities, industry representatives and the regional authority. Due to its complexity, the project was concerned as a longer-term project.

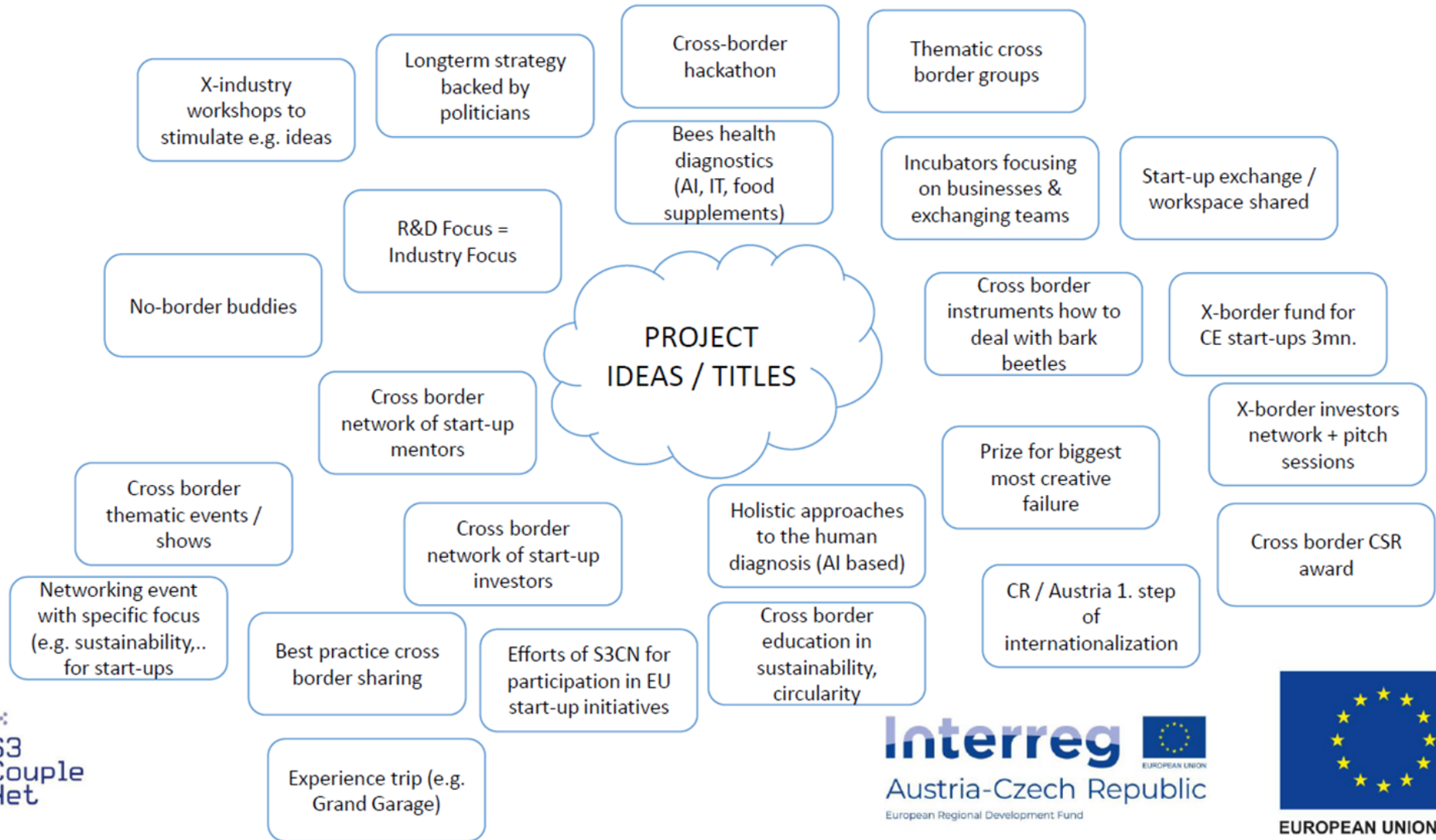
- **No-border buddies + Cross border network of start-up mentors + Best practice cross border sharing**

Another interesting idea is to create a network with mentors who consult and support cross border activities. The mentors are specialized in consulting and mentoring start-ups who want to cooperate on cross-border activities. To realize this idea a clear frame is needed and also communication activities. The first basic idea is to create a network with the start-up competitors who participated in the start-up competition and to constantly expand this network. Possible project partners are tech2b, JVTP and the regional authority. The implementation of this idea could be started immediately and therefore the project duration was classified as short-term.

- **Cross-border network of start-up investors**

A similar idea is to create a network of start-up investors. One of the activities is to establish a network system that will run independently in the future. The network should enable investors to exchange their expertise on the one hand, but also offer training for start-ups on the other. The Upper Austrian model with tech2b is already working very well. The model is to be used for the former and, building on it, to be developed further and further. Potential project partners are tech2b and JVTP. The project duration was classified as short-term for this project idea.

¹ RDI catalogue has been established, please see [S3CN - R&D&I Services](#). It is not a closed book, further entries are welcomed.



4. South Bohemian and Upper Austrian Cooperation Potential Spotting on Resilient Economic Systems, Green and Digital Transition, cross-border meeting (3)

The 3rd and final cross-border meeting performed in frame of S3CN project focused on the presentation and peer review of the potential cooperation topics and action fields for cross-border collaboration elaborated in the deeper analytical work supported by external expert Pöchhacker Innovation Consulting (see presentations slides Annex I).

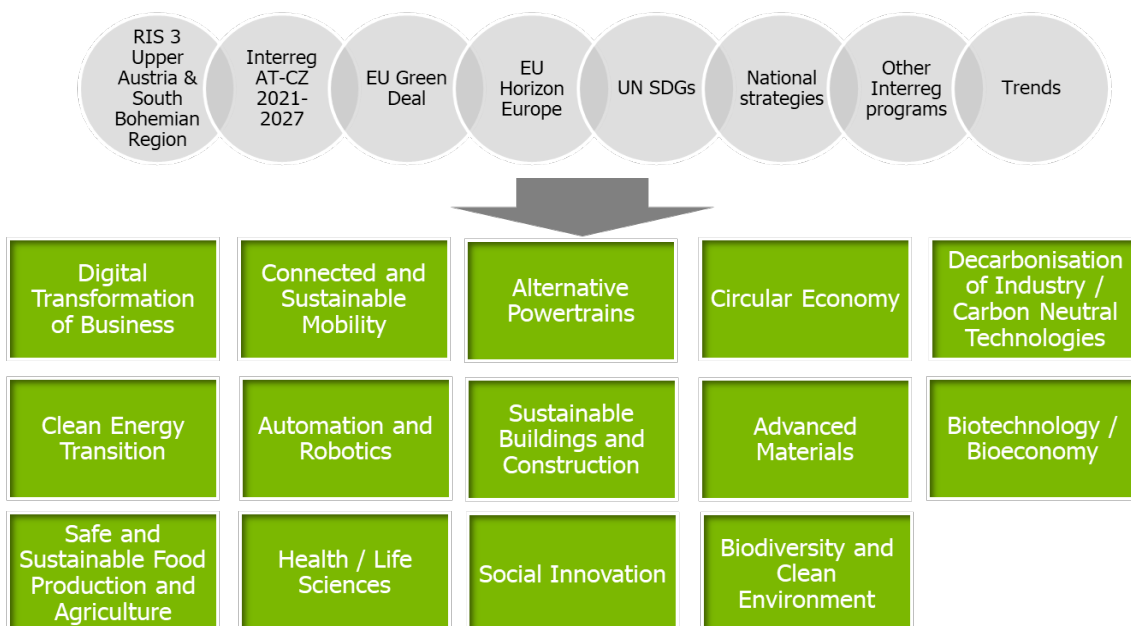
Aim was to identify and define common themes that could be pursued in concrete projects from 2023 onwards in the course of cross-border cooperation between Upper Austria and the South Bohemian Region.

The analyze is based on:

- Analysis and cross-border workshops carried out within S3CN project activities (June & September 2022)
- S3-priorities of Upper Austria and South Bohemian Region
- Analysis of framework conditions setting the scene for innovation priorities in the coming years:
 - Megatrends and current events impacting innovation priorities
 - EU priorities (Twin Transition and Green Deal, Horizon Europe)
 - UN Sustainable Development goals
 - Interreg AT-CZ 2021-2027 and other relevant Interreg initiatives
 - National strategies

Result of the analysis has been an indicative set of potential cooperation topics and fields.

Potential focus topics for cross-border collaboration:



Potential activities to address focus topics (“Toolbox”)

- Support interregional access and connections to R&I facilities (esp. for SME) across borders – raise awareness of capacities and actors through brochures, missions, arranging contacts with R&I actors
- Support pilot actions, innovation projects and partnerships along thematic value chains (eg Circular Economy) through cross-industry workshops to stimulate project ideas
- Facilitate interregional technology and innovation transfer towards SMEs (Cross-border workshops, conferences, seminars)
- Cross border cooperation to facilitate entrepreneurship – joint start-up support measures (cross border competitions, hackathons, start up camps, presentations of innovative business ideas)
- Best practice cross border sharing
- Support cross border mobility and scientific exchange of researchers (missions, workshops, conferences)
- Develop and strengthen cross-border cooperation networks in defined thematic fields
- Cross border networks of start-up investors and/or mentors
- Joint capacity building and institutional learning of actors in the innovation system
- Adapt schemes for financing innovation and start-ups

5. Indicative Set of Project Ideas

From the above-mentioned activities carried out within the S3CN project, the following indicative set of project ideas can be further developed for submission to the upcoming INTERREG VI-A AUSTRIA - CZECH REPUBLIC 2021-2027 cooperation programme.

Depending on the thematic focus of the projects they mainly target priority 1: Research & Innovation and priority 4: Cross-border Governance, Type of action 4.3 networking and cluster activities. The duration is just a rough indication but depends on the intensity and thematic depth of the activities. Budget is needed for staff costs, travel and meeting expenses, external expertise and possibly investments in common equipment.

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES/MEASURES	PARTNER	LENGHT/DURATION
Long-term strategy backed by politicians	Strategy for funding start-ups	Best practices lobbying, offering a stage, next Interreg programme 2028+	Regional authorities	Mid –long term
X-industry workshops to stimulate e.g. innovative project ideas	Project & business	Stakeholder meetings between politicians & researchers, identify problems/goals/challenges in the 14 potential focus topics	Pier4 tech2b, JVTP and Biz-up, further research or industry partners	Short-term
R&D Focus = Industry Focus	Common focus, share resources	Comparison of RDI-services; create catalogue of services	Universities, applied research, regional authorities	Long-term
No-border buddies, cross border network of start-up mentors and best practice cross border sharing	Increase no. of start-ups engaged in cross-border business, increase sustainability of start-ups	A frame is needed, communication activities + exchange and access + create network with start-up contestants	Tech2b, Regional authorities, JVTP	Short-term
Cross border network of start-up investors/or mentors	Create a system for investors	Share know-how, offer trainings, presentation of the Upper Austrian model	Tech2b, JVTP	Short-Mid term

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES/MEASURES	PARTNER	LENGHT/DURATION
Efforts of S3CN for participation in EU start-up initiatives	Improve start-up support, raise visibility of the region as attractive business location	Research of best practice (cross-border) regions, study tours and exchange, action plan for adaption to owns region, dissemination of benefit for businesses, raise awareness for supportive measures available in the regions	Business support agencies, universities, business incubators	3 years
Circular Economy - Summercamp	Education / skilled workers for Circular Economy, cooperation between universities and entrepreneurs	Joint Czech-Austrian 'summercamp' for students, Cooperation/exchange of universities on education/research towards circular economy, involvement of companies with their specific problem to be solved by the student	Business support organizations, universities, entrepreneurs	Short-term
S3CN (2.0 – follow up))	Support innovation activities and strengthen the cross-border cooperation with focus on one or more of the 14 potential topics for cross-border cooperation.	Further activating and development the network (platform for RDI exchange), enlargement of S3CN to the entire funding area of Interreg Austria-Czechia, cross-border excursions & cross-border meetings with special thematic focus, linking projects and project-partners of related project topics, exchange on S3 amendments / reorientations, facilitating exchange, project development, partner search and technology transfer	Biz-up, JVTP, Kraj Vysočina, 2nd partner from (Vienna)	Mid-term

6. Annex I

Analysis of potential topics and action fields for cross-border collaboration (presentation at 3rd cross-border meeting of innovation stakeholders)

Analysis of potential topics and action fields for cross-border collaboration

Presentation at 3rd Cross-border meeting of innovation stakeholders

22.11.2022



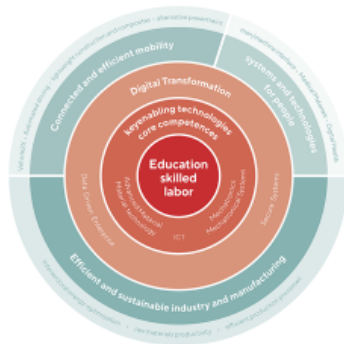
Potential cooperation topics and fields

- **Analysis of potential topics and action fields for cross-border collaboration**
 - Aim is to identify and define common themes that could be pursued in concrete projects from 2023 onwards in the course of cross-border cooperation between Upper Austria and the South Bohemian Region.
 - Result of the analysis is an indicative set of potential cooperation topics and fields.
- **The analysis is based on:**
 - Analytical works and workshops carried out within S3CN project activities (eg start-up workshop September 2022)
 - S3-priorities of Upper Austria and South Bohemian Region
 - Analysis of framework conditions setting the scene for innovation priorities in the coming years:
 - Megatrends and current events impacting innovation priorities
 - EU priorities (Twin Transition and Green Deal, Horizon Europe)
 - UN Sustainable Development goals
 - Interreg AT-CZ 2021-2027 and other relevant Interreg initiatives
 - National strategies



S3 strategy focus of Upper Austria and South Bohemian region

Upper Austria – Topics #upperVISION2030



South Bohemian Region – Horizontal topics RIS3

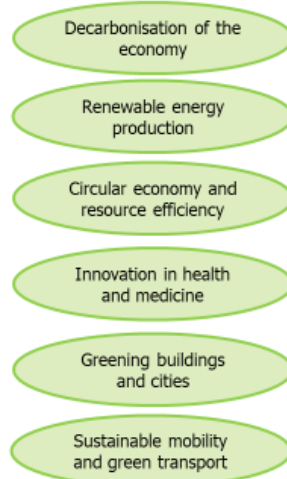
Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics	Electronics, Electrical Engineering and IT	Biotechnologies
Automotive	Textile and Clothing Industry	Circular Economy
Sustainable Food Production	Digitalisation and Industry 4.0 (Artificial Intelligence, VR/AR, IoT)	Smart Solutions in Energy
Social Entrepreneurship	Cultural and Creative Industries	Mechanical Engineering, Transport and Logistics, Construction



Megatrends and current events determining focus area for innovation

Megatrends

- Digital Transformation
- Climate change and pollution
- Demographic change
- Shift in global economic power
- Resource scarcity
- Health Society
- Urbanisation
- Connectivity
- New Mobility



Current events and challenges with longer lasting impact

- Russian war on Ukraine:
 - Massive disruptions on energy markets
 - Fostering investments in new and cleaner energy systems and renewable energy sources (eg RePowerEU Plan)
- COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Brought health in focus of innovation policies
- Resilience of economic systems as a major topic emerging from recent shocks and crisis
 - Aim of Strategic Autonomy
 - Development of strategic capacities in Europe (eg Microelectronics, batteries for e-mobility, defense)



S3 CN Priorities of the European Commission

- ✓ Three key EU priorities:
 - European Green deal
 - Europe's digital decade
 - Enhancing resilience and crisis preparedness

European Green deal	Europe's digital decade	Enhancing resilience and crisis preparedness
<p>Investments</p> <p>Decarbonise the economy</p> <p>Clean environment, biodiversity and circular economy</p> <p>Key green technologies</p> <p>Fair and inclusive green transition, support vulnerable households, and support education and skills</p>	<p>Investments</p> <p>Networks and connectivity</p> <p>Digital transformation of businesses</p> <p>Digitalise the public sector</p> <p>Key technologies</p> <p>Education and skills</p>	<p>Investments</p> <p>Strengthen European capacities, secure the supply of strategic materials, and diversify supply chains</p> <p>Defence, space industries and cyber-defence</p> <p>Risk management and emergency response capabilities</p>

Source: EU Commission



S3 CN EU Green Deal

- EU aims to be the first climate neutral continent in the world by 2050 and to reduce emissions by 55 % by 2030.



Source: EU Commission



S3 CN Horizon Europe

- Key research and innovation programme of the EU for 2021-2027
- Major reference point for the identification of European priority fields, especially when it comes to innovation and research
- Topics can primarily be conducted from Horizon Europe's second pillar – "Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness":
 - Health
 - Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
 - Civil Security for Society
 - Digital, Industry & Space
 - Climate, Energy & Mobility
 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment



HORIZON EUROPE PILLAR II - Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness

CLUSTER 1: Health	CLUSTER 4: Digital, Industry & Space	CLUSTER 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility	CLUSTER 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Agriculture, ...
Innovative Health Initiative	Key Digital Technologies	Clean Hydrogen	Circular Bio-based Europe
Global Health Partnership	Smart Networks & Services	Clean Aviation	Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth
Transformation of health systems	High Performance Computing	Single European Sky ATM Research 3	Climate Neutral, Sustainable & Productive Blue Economy
Chemicals risk assessment	European Metrology (Art. 185)	Europe's Rail	Water4All
ERA for Health	AI-Data-Robotics	Connected and Automated Mobility (CCAM)	Animal Health & Welfare*
Rare diseases*	Photonics	Batteries	Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions*
One-Health Anti Microbial Resistance*	Made in Europe	Zero-emission waterborne transport	Agriculture of Data*
Personalised Medicine*	Clean steel – low-carbon steelmaking	Zero-emission road transport	Safe & Sustainable Food System*
Pandemic Preparedness* (co-funded or co-programmed)	Processes4Planet	Built4People	
	Global competitive space systems***	Clean Energy Transition	
		Driving Urban Transitions	

■ Institutionalised Partnerships (Art 185/7)

Source: EU Commission



S3 CN UN Sustainable Development Goals

- EU is committed to the Global Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.
- SDGs to be applied in all policies of the EU
- Contribution to SDGs increasingly important in innovation systems (eg funding criteria)
- Highlighted boxes: SDGs with particular relevance for innovation actions of SN3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: UN

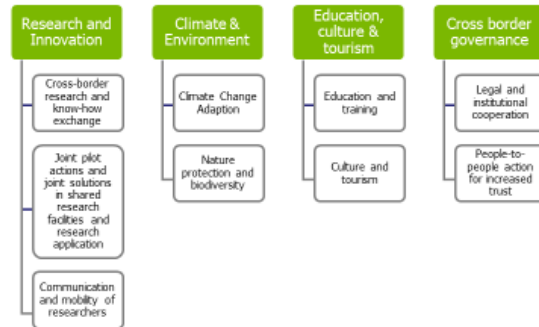


S3 CN Interreg Austria – Czech Republic 2021-2027

- **Cross-border research and know-how exchange – fields of interest:**
 - Circular economy
 - Bioeconomy, biotechnology
 - ICT and digital transformation
 - Environmental branches
 - Life sciences
 - Creative industries
 - Medicine
 - Building and construction materials
 - Introduction of eco innovation
- **Indicative Actions:**
 - Investments in new jointly used/shared R&I facilities
 - "Servitization" of industries to make them more innovative
 - Linking research institutions with SMEs, increase access of SMEs to R&I results,
 - Support cross border mobility of researchers
 - Science communication (informing, educating, raising awareness)
 - Joint set-up of innovation hubs

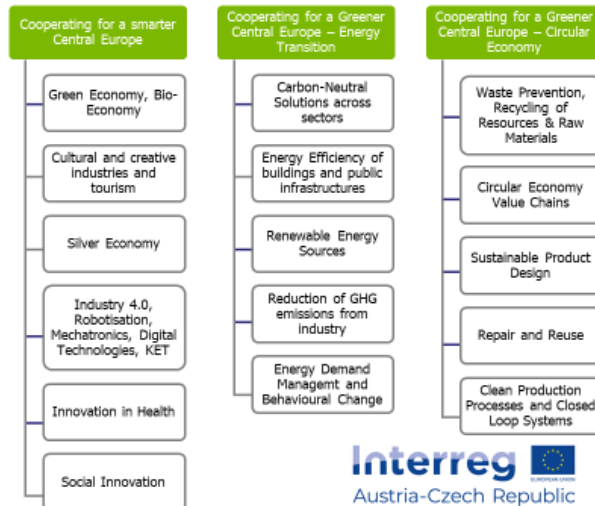


Programme priorities



S3 CN Interreg Central Europe

- **Vertical Topics / Activities:**
 - Technology and innovation transfer to SMEs
 - Innovative schemes for financing innovation
 - Interregional partnerships along value chains
 - Skills for sectors of relevance for smart specialization
 - Competences for innovation management in SMEs and Entrepreneurship
 - Capacity building and institutional learning for Smart Specialisation

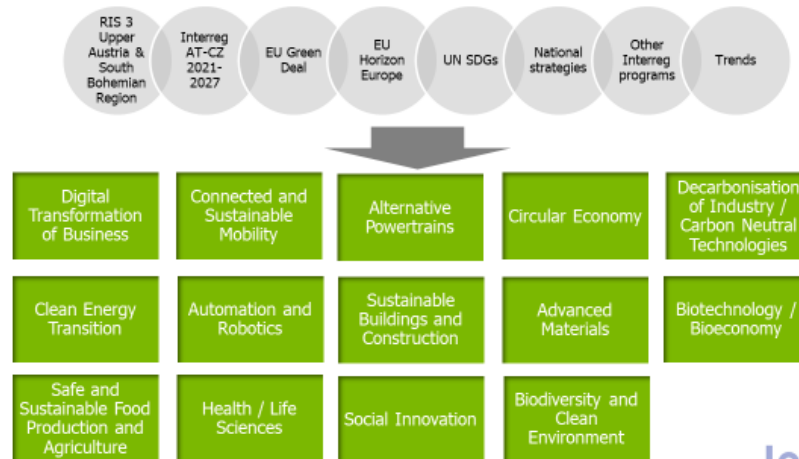


S3 CN National RIS3 Strategy of the Czech Republic 2021 - 2027

- The National RIS3 Strategy covers the RIS3 strategy of all regions of the Czech Republic
- Priority fields as domains of research and innovation specialization:
 - Advanced materials, technologies and systems,
 - Digitization and automation of production technologies
 - Sustainable transport
 - Technologically advanced and safe transport
 - Electronics and digital technologies
 - Cultural and creative industries as a tool for accelerating the socio-economic development of the Czech Republic
 - Advanced medicine and medicines
 - Green technologies, bioeconomy and sustainable food
 - Smart residences
- Four horizontal priorities are defined as key areas for change:
 - Research, development, and innovation for business
 - Public research and development
 - People and smart skills
 - Digital agenda



S3 CN Potential focus topics for cross-border collaboration



Priorities for focus topics for cross-border collaboration

- 8 pts - Digital Transformation of Business
- 5 pts - Safe and Sustainable Food Production and Agriculture
- 4 pts - **Circular Economy**
- 4 pts - Decarbonisation of Industry / Carbon Neutral Technologies
- 3 pts – **Biotechnology / Bioeconomy**
- 2 pts - Sustainable Buildings and Construction
- 2 pts - Automation and Robotics
- 2 pts - **Advanced Materials**
- 2 pts - Connected and Sustainable Mobility
- 1 pts - Social Innovation
- 1 pts - **Biodiversity and Clean Environment**



* Recommendations by Vanda



Potential activities to address focus topics ("Toolbox")

- Support interregional access and connections to R&I facilities (esp. for SME) across borders – raise awareness of capacities and actors through brochures, missions, arranging contacts with R&I actors
- Support pilot actions, innovation projects and partnerships along thematic value chains (eg Circular Economy) through cross-industry workshops to stimulate project ideas
- Facilitate interregional technology and innovation transfer towards SMEs (Cross-border workshops, conferences, seminars)
- Cross border cooperation to facilitate entrepreneurship – joint start-up support measures (cross border competitions, hackathons, start up camps, presentations of innovative business ideas)
- Best practice cross border sharing
- Support cross border mobility and scientific exchange of researchers (missions, workshops, conferences)
- Develop and strengthen cross-border cooperation networks in defined thematic fields
- Cross border networks of start-up investors and/or mentors
- Joint capacity building and institutional learning of actors in the innovation system
- Adapt schemes for financing Innovation and start-ups

