S3-Innovation Model

**Process and Tools**

**Base of Evidence**
Generating a base of evidence based on qualitative and quantitative analysis is needed to guide the entrepreneurial discovery process. At this stage, the S3-Innovation Model promotes two main tools: a StressTest to systematically analyse the role of clusters in the implementation of national strategies, and S3 Synergy Diamonds, an innovative methodology representing existing capacities in a way that facilitates the identification of transformative activities and captures opportunities for need-based interregional cooperation.

**Identification of Transformative Activities**
Transformative activities are identified in Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops (EDW) based on a reflection about existing capacities on the one hand and opportunities presented by new technologies and challenges that can support and drive the process of structural transformation on the other. This includes an assessment of existing critical mass and detecting and specifying needs for cross-regional cooperation. If necessary, cross-regional Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops (EDW) then propose a methodology allowing to identify complementary competences and needs from several regions and to identify transformative activities that can be developed cross-regionally.

**Development of Transformative Activities**
Action Development Workshops (ADW) allow working out concrete actions - such as R&D projects, networking, cooperation schemes or development of critical skills - in order to gain critical mass for the identified transformative activities, both regionally and cross-regionally (cADW). The S3-Innovation Model specifically supports cross-regional action development through the Alpine Cluster Innovation Express (ACIE). This interregional cooperation scheme aims at synchronizing existing funds from several regions who intend to support the development of the same transformative activities.

**Implementation of Transformative Activities**
The S3-Innovation Model supports implementation of the developed actions through cluster initiatives with a Transformative Activity Cluster Toolbox (TACT). Since both the identified transformative activities and the concrete developed actions are unknown ex ante, TACT consists of a broad set of best practices of cluster services covering transversal fields such as education, technology, growth, research or collaboration. Clusters typically reflect strong partnerships, vibrant communities and relevant connections between related businesses, suppliers and associated institutions.

**Monitoring**
The S3-Innovation Model also includes a Transformative Activity Evaluation Toolbox (TAET), which proposes a methodology for monitoring the process, measures, cluster services and policy interventions connected with the S3-Innovation Model.

**How to Read the Scheme Above**
Every stage of the S3-Innovation Model (in the middle) includes one or more steps in the relative Process and Tools path. The steps marked by an asterisk are specifically intended for the cross-regional identification and development of transformative activities.

- **TA** Transformative Activities
- **EDW** Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops
- **cEDW** cross-regional Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops
- **ADW** Action Development Workshops
- **cADW** cross-regional Action Development Workshops
- **ACIE** Alpine Cluster Innovation Express
- **TACT** Transformative Activities Cluster Toolbox
- **TAET** Transformative Activities Evaluation Toolbox

**S3-4AlpClusters** is cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space Programme.

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S3 Innovation Model

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How to read the Scheme above

Every stage of the S3-Innovation Model (in the middle) includes one or more steps in the relative Process and Tools path. The steps marked by an asterisk are specifically intended for the cross-regional identification and development of transformative activities.

Transformative Activities

Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops

cross-regional Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops

Action Development Workshops

cross-regional Action Development Workshops

Alpine Cluster Innovation Express

Transformative Activities Cluster Toolbox

Transformative Activities Evaluation Toolbox

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to learn more about the S3-Innovation Model and the developed tools