S3-Innovation Model
Test Model on Pilot Cluster
Policy Memo

April 2019
The S3-Innovation Model introduces a systematic process to generate transformative activities. It offers a set of tools for cluster initiatives and regions to explore opportunities for transformation and to develop actions to create critical mass in innovative new domains.

The involvement of clusters in the process is beneficial, since they embrace relevant actors of the innovation process and provide important information about needs, opportunities and ongoing transformations.

The final work package (WPT3) of the project provided further experiences and validation of the services and tools of the S3-Innovation Model by the means of pilot testing with pilot clusters in the regions.

The participating regions were asked to identify at least 10 pilot clusters. A Pilot Cluster conducted testing of one or more of the new services of the S3-Innovation Model. Finally, pilot tests were executed by 30 pilot clusters.

It is important to mention that each step of the complex process of the S3-Innovation Model was practically applied during the project life time. With exception of the synchronized funding scheme and the evaluation action for these actions a proposal and methodological approach was developed.

The Training Tool Kit provides guidance on how to implement the process, the instruments and services in a region.
Implementation of S3-Innovation Model

➢ A New Way to implement S3 together with Clusters

The S3-Innovation Model comprises a systematic process, implementation services and tools, which help regions to identify and further develop real Transformative Activities most likely to turn into emerging industries. This new way to implement S3 together with clusters and the related services have been tested in the pilot phase of the project.

➢ Implementation with Pilot Clusters across the Alpine Space

The entire development of the S3-Innovation Model was continuously accompanied by practical application of the relevant instruments and services, e.g. 4 Synergy Diamonds and 12 Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops.

30 pilot clusters were involved in pilot testing. The synopses of the executed pilot activities showed diverse shapes of application as well as methodologies which validated the services as applicable for a variety of Transformative Activities and as adaptable to regions specific needs.

The S3-Synergy Diamond, Action Development Workshops (ADW/cADW) as well as the bunch of cluster services summarized in the Transformative Activities Cluster Toolbox (TACT) have proven as valuable support in the implementation S3 focusing on Transformative Activities.

The concept for the Alpine Cluster Innovation Express (ACIE), a synchronized funding scheme that supports cross-regional actions, has been designed as well as the Transformative Activities Evaluation Toolbox for monitoring the implementation of the S3-Innovation Model with Cluster Initiatives.

➢ The Training Tool Kit

The Training Tool Kit comprises 8 training tools and provides guidance on how to implement the process, the specific instruments and services. The practical application and the pilot tests delivered valuable input to the development of these training tools.


➢ Discover the S3-Innovation Model and its Tools

The new programming period is just around the corner therefor the time is wright to discover the S3-Innovation Model, introducing a systematic process for cluster initiatives and regions to explore capacities and opportunities for transformation and to facilitate the identification and development of transformative activities. Background information, tools and relevant documents are available here: [The S3-Innovation Model](http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/s3-4alpclusters/en/project-results/downloads/training-tools).

More information is available in the final publication of the project: [Final Publication](http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/s3-4alpclusters/en/project-results/downloads/training-tools).
S3-4AlpClusters in a nutshell

Smart Specialisation with Smart Clusters

Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) are a lever of EU Cohesion Policy. One of the biggest challenges is to make use of the interplay between S3 and clusters. How can S3 be used to foster innovation processes and spark entrepreneurship within clusters? How can S3 be implemented through clusters to gain sustainable and inclusive growth? There is a lack of experience among regions on how to use clusters in the implementation of S3 and how to develop implementation tools to fully benefit SMEs. In addition, alignment between and knowledge about other regions’ strategies are very limited.

This is exactly the focus of the S3-4AlpClusters project, which believes that the interplay between S3 and clusters is an innovative approach that could spread innovation in the whole Alpine Space. S3-4AlpClusters will launch cross-regional coordinated actions between the different sectors/regions involved and enhance transnational cluster cooperation. The final aim is to generate critical mass for SMEs and to improve the framework conditions for innovation in the Alpine Space.

S3-4AlpClusters will develop:

- A joint transnational cluster action plan to improve transnational, cluster-based cooperation
- An S3-based innovation model for cluster development
- A fully synchronized call scheme
- New services validated by pilot clusters

The S3-4AlpClusters community includes cluster managers, entrepreneurs, academics and policymakers, and is supported by public authorities and S3 experts.

The NUMBERS of S3-4ALPCLUSTERS

15 Partners
9 Observers
830 SME

35 decision makers
11 Alpine Regions
10 pilot clusters to be involve