



Interreg Europe eWorkshop: Islands
testbeds for innovation?

Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) of Malta

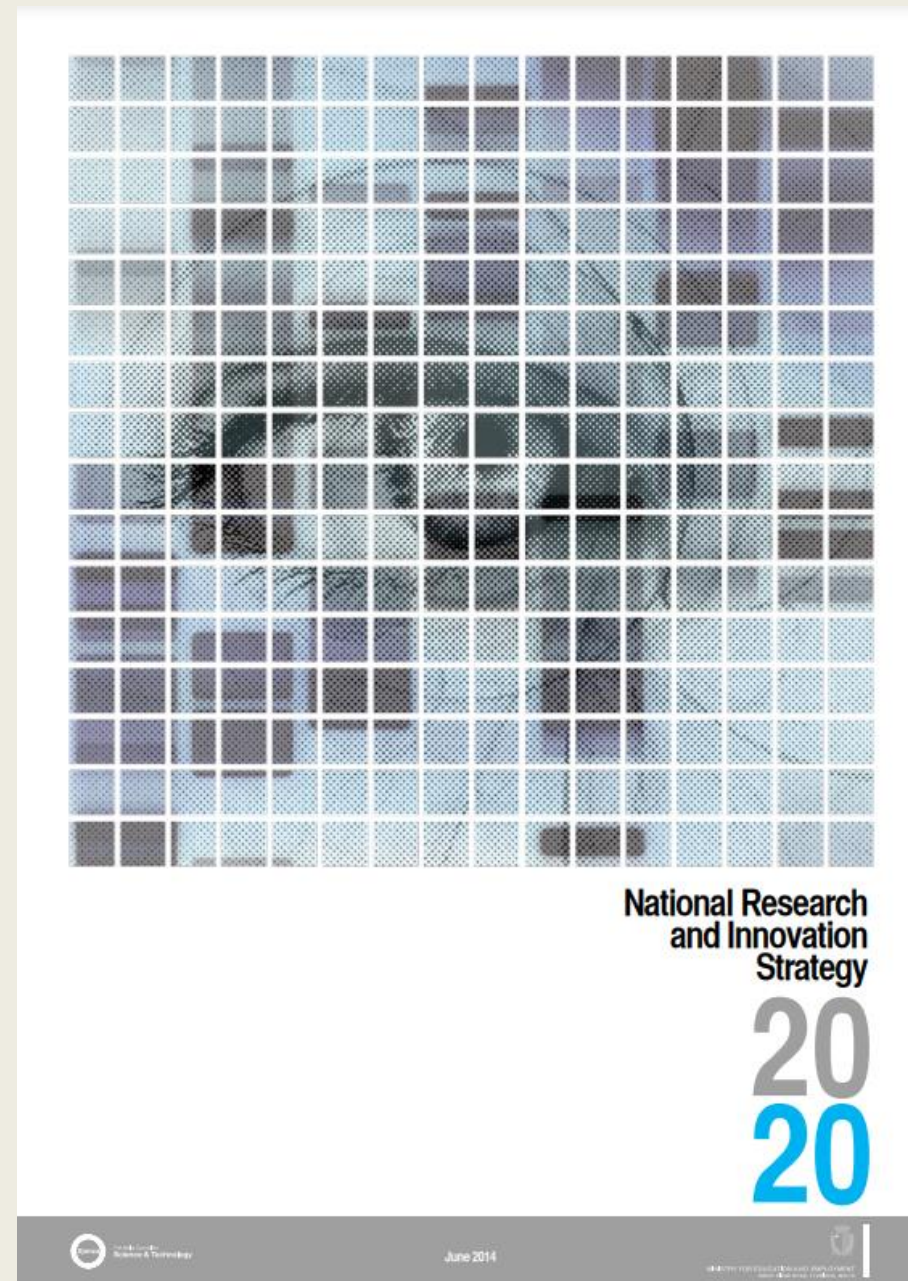
Smart Specialisation Strategy

- Key principle underpinning the European Commission Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 & enabling condition for access to ERDF
- Place-based Regional Innovation policy which identifies economic strengths and areas with the most potential for growth via R&I, and prioritises investment in these sectors.
- Addresses societal needs, such as sustainable development, digital transformation and industrial transition.
- Drafting and implementation with engagement from Government, Academia, Business Enterprise & Civil Society in a bottom-up Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)



**MALTA'S
SMART SPECIALISATION
STRATEGY** 2021 - 2027

National R&I Strategy 2014-2020



Malta's 1st National R&I Strategy

“Embedding research and innovation at the heart of the Maltese economy to spur knowledge-driven and value-added growth and to sustain improvements in the quality of life.”

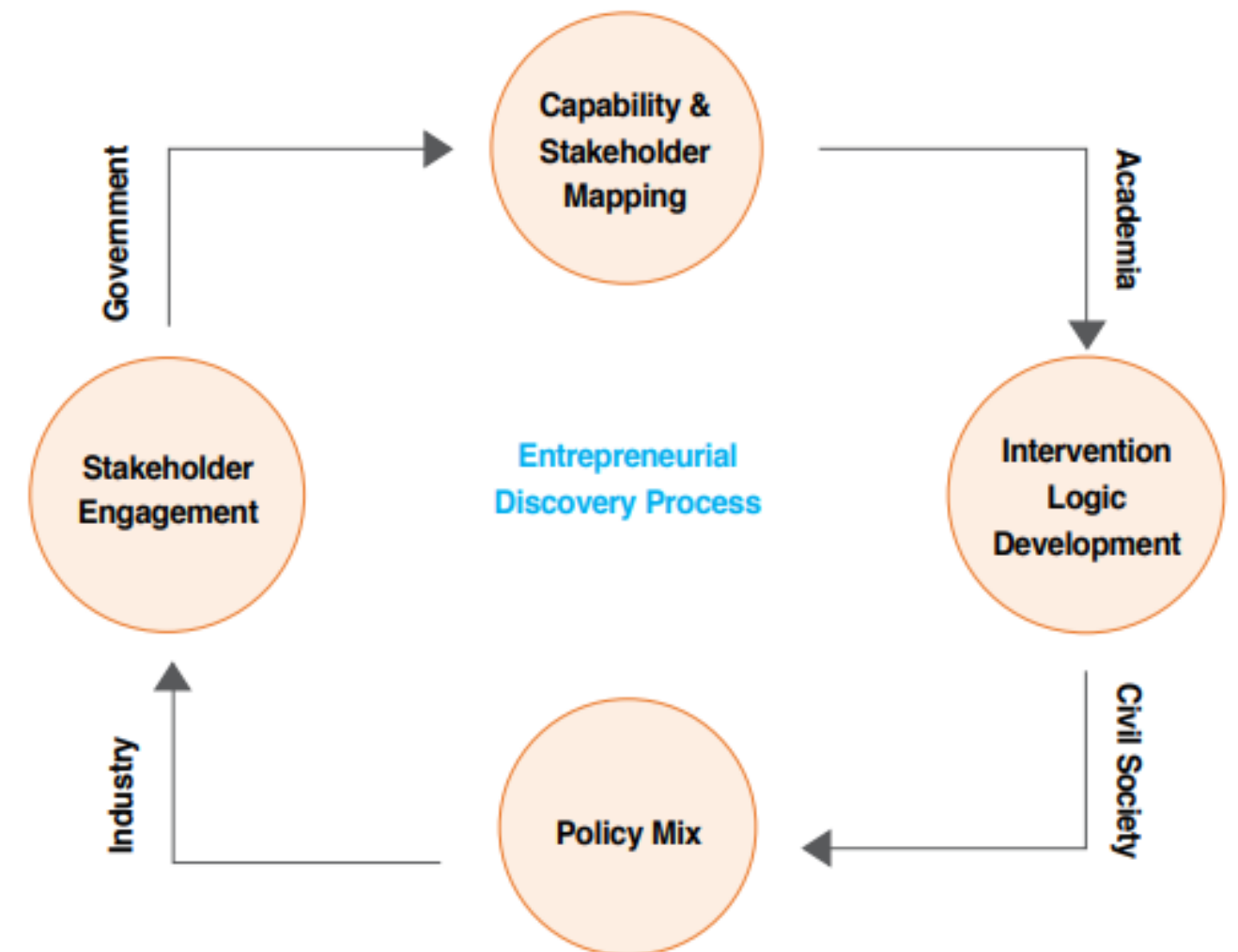
Strategy outlined measures to improve enabling ‘framework conditions’ and capacity building measures

RIS3 was incorporated as one of the three pillars of the National Research and Innovation Strategy 2014-2020

How was the Smart Specialisation Strategy formulated?

- Focus Groups & Consultations on the progress of the 2014-2020 National R&I Strategy
- Desk-Based Analysis
- Online & One-to-One Stakeholders Consultations
- Private Sector Engagement Event
- Thematic Focus Groups
- Bilateral sectoral consultations

The aim was to engage representatives of the quadruple helix (Government, Academia, Business Enterprise & Civil Society) in a bottom-up Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)



Thematic Areas

Digital Technologies as a cross-cutting innovation enabler

- Big Data & Data Analytics, Open Data, Smart Space Applications, Human-Centric Applications (Digital Health, Patient Data etc...), Digitizing Industries, Innovative Digital solutions for water and energy

Health and Well-Being

- Cancer
- Cellular Therapy
- Drug Development
- Digital tools to support healthcare, focusing on E-Health and Bioinformatics
- Biomedical Engineering

Sustainable Use of Resources

- Towards Net Zero Carbon Buildings
- Renewable Energy Generation and Energy storage solutions
- Resource Efficiency in Industry
- Turning Waste into Resource

Smart Manufacturing

- Sustainable Manufacturing
- Flexible Automation

Marine & Maritime Technologies

- Valorisation of Marine resources
- Renewable Energy and Offshore Technologies
- Shipping Logistics and Services
- ICT
- Ship Manufacturing and Maritime Engineering

Aviation & Aerospace

- MRO, Avionics, UAVs, Air Traffic Management
- Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAs) technologies
- Small aircraft design
- Operation of a flight test facility
- Space Applications

Digital Technologies as a Smart Specialisation Area

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Cybersecurity
- Chatbots
- Distributed Ledger Technologies
- High-Performance Computing (HPC)
- Digital Games

Thematic Committees

Six expert Thematic Committees

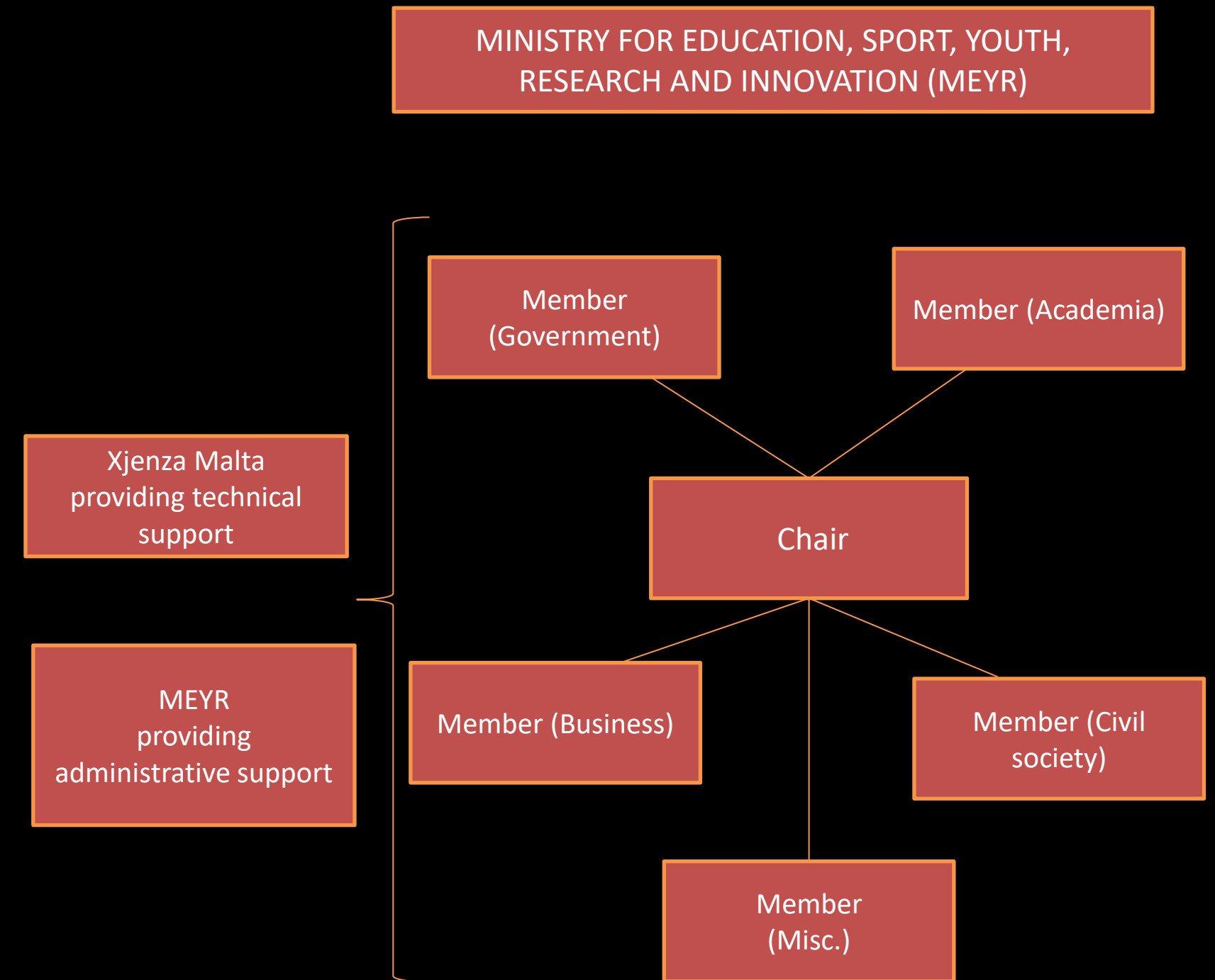
One for each thematic area to keep the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process ongoing

To Steer key actions in the sectors

Unlocking the innovation potential highlighted during the initial stakeholder engagement activities

Assess current measures & propose new ones

Are the current available instruments adequate? What else can be done?





The S3 CoP is DG REGIO's major source of support for S3 implementation and it is the knowledge hub on Smart Specialisation Strategies (2021-2027).

S3 practitioners and stakeholders benefit from networking, guidance and the below support services:

- Working Groups
- Thematic Platforms and Partnerships
- Analytical studies and policy briefs
- Expert Group
- Targeted Support Assignment (TSA)



S3CoP Targeted Support

Science Malta applied for a TSA on Interregional Collaboration in September 2023 with the aim to:

- Improve Malta's awareness of and access to interregional collaborative networks and platforms, such as the S3 Thematic Partnerships and the Interregional Innovation Investment (I3) instrument.
- Review the current practices followed by specific recommendations for improvements.

Overall Takeaways

● Moving Forward:

- Focus on interregional partnerships for scalability and capacity building.
- Strengthen stakeholder collaboration across sectors.
- Ensure alignment with EU funding opportunities like Horizon Europe.
- Identified synergies with the National R&I Strategic Plan



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