

# Press Release



## *First thematic event RELOS3 success*

Last week, the first thematic event of RELOS3 was held in Malta. The meeting was hosted by the Maltese project partner Malta Enterprise. About 25 participants from 6 countries participated. The overall theme of the meeting was how to make most from of smart specialisation (RIS3)<sup>1</sup> at local level, or in other words: from regional to local.

For this, input was used from experts all over Europe. During the discussions, it emerged that focus is key. ‘A good RIS3 strategy means saying no’ said Manuel Palazuelos of the S3 Platform (Seville, Spain). Also, Academic Expert Jordi Garcia Brustenga argued that a common vision is very important, just like it was for the first mission to the moon.

This knowledge was applied to various regions around Europe in small working sessions, providing a productive and concrete outcome that can be applied with local stakeholders soon.

The overall aim of the project is to make expenditure on European funding more effective, particularly at local level. The project is going to meet its goals by comparing, evaluating and testing novel approaches that have not been tried before. For example, some regions are thinking about involving citizens in their strategy while others want to explore aligning European funds with other types of funding.

The project will run for five years, until the end of 2021. The combined budget is € 1.4 million, of which € 1.2 million are EU funds.

<sup>1</sup> Smart Specialisation or RIS3 (Research and Innovation strategies for Smart Specialisation) is a strategic approach to economic development through targeted support for research and innovation. All regions in the EU have chosen so-called Smart Specialisation Strategies.

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