

# Regions and Universities: Building strategic partnerships for Smart Specialisation

Alessandro Rainoldi

Head of Unit, B3 Territorial Development

Joint Research Centre - European Commission



# Time flies when you are having fun!

**February 2013:**

Workshop with  
the EUA at JRC  
Seville

**March 2016:**

Launch of the  
HESS project

**June 2014:**

High Level Conference  
on 'Mobilising  
Universities for Smart  
Specialisation'

**May 2017:**

Communication  
on a Renewed  
Agenda for HE

# A Renewed Agenda for Higher Education

## FOUR PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:

1. Tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development;
2. Building inclusive and connected higher education systems;
- 3. Ensuring higher education institutions contribute to innovation;**
4. Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems.

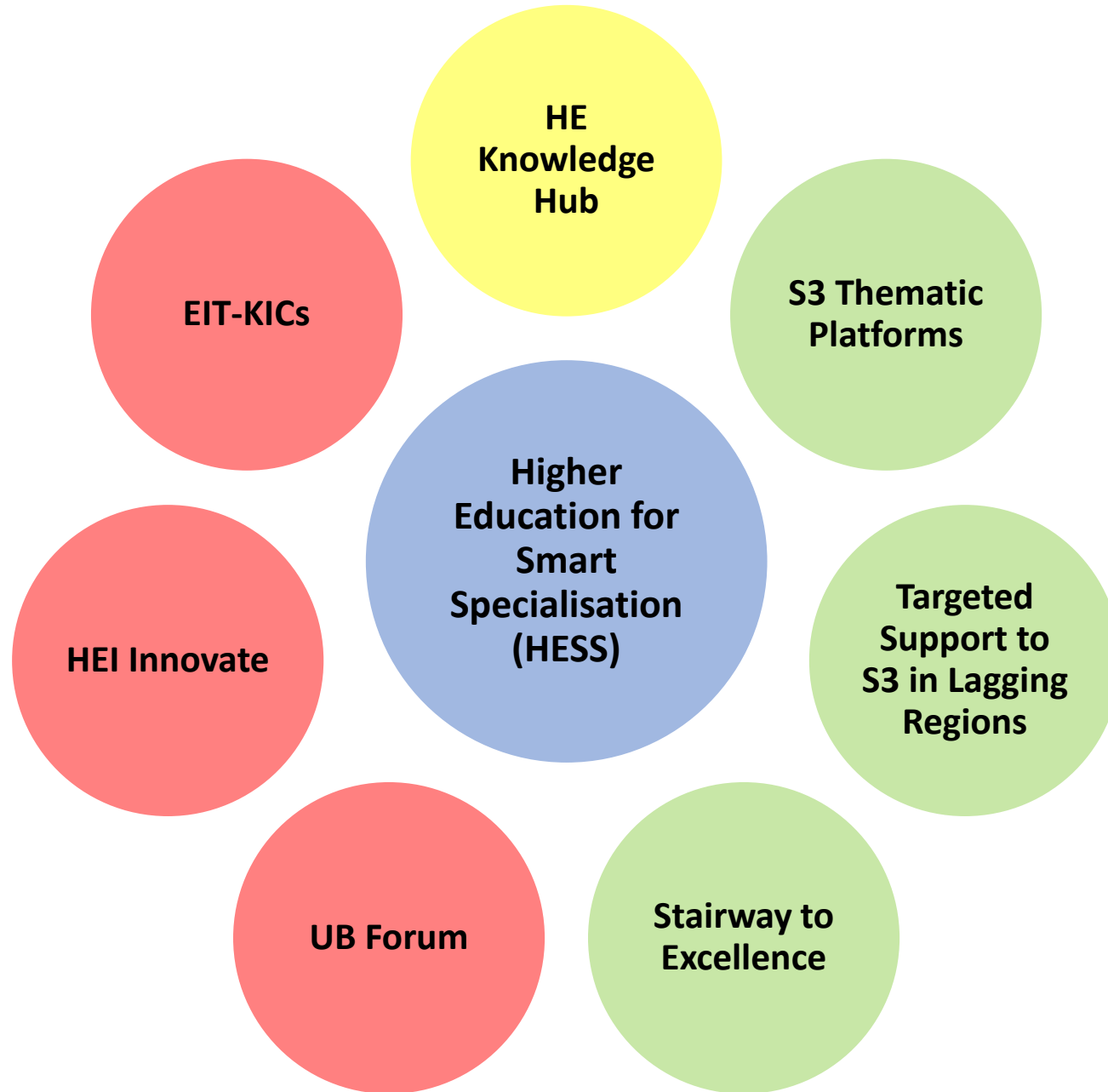
and...support evidence for policy-making and practice

The Commission will :

12. Further roll out Higher Education for Smart Specialisation, to provide advice to public authorities to involve HEIs and, where possible, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), closely in the design and implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies.

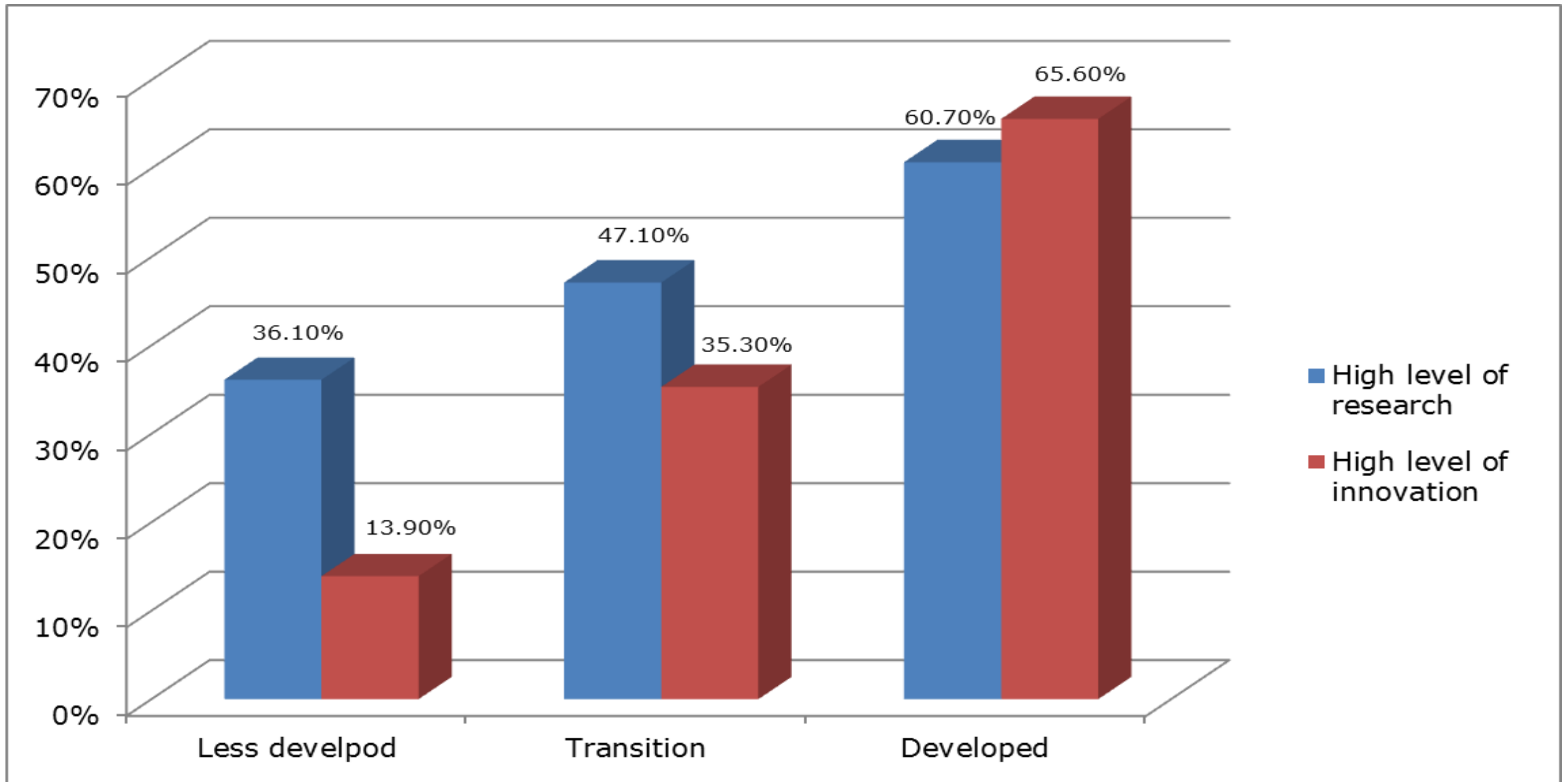
The Commission will :

17. Optimise synergies between EU evidence tools by creating a Knowledge Hub on higher education.



# Development of the HESS Project

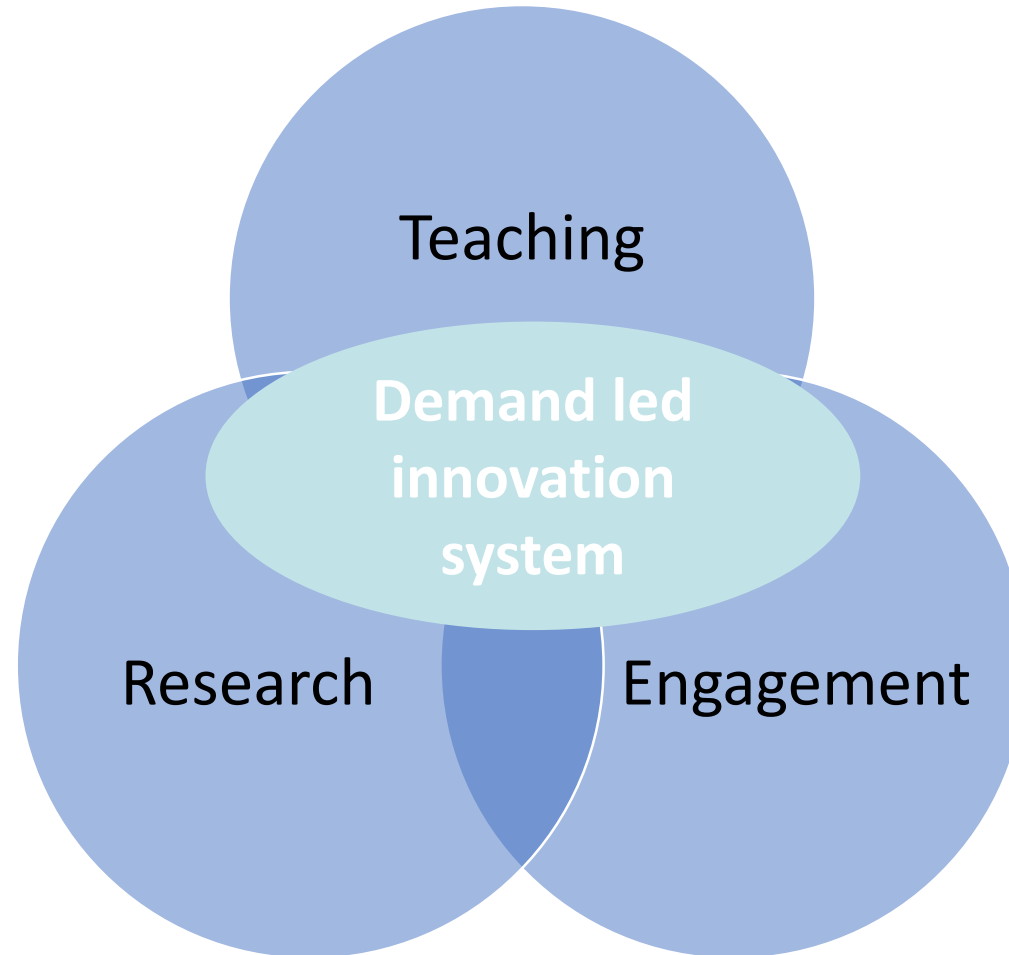




**Perception of levels of research and innovation in S3 Platform regions**  
 (% of respondents giving a score of five or above from seven)

*Edwards et al (2017), Higher Education for Smart Specialisation: Towards strategic partnerships for innovation*

# HESS project – conceptual basis



# HESS Action Research - Results

## Navarra (Spain)

- ✓ Existing Industrial PhDs now linked to S3 priorities and four new degrees at public university designed around strategy
- ✓ Medical research at two main universities coordinated through new research centre

## Centre Val de Loire (France)

- ✓ Region engaged for the first time with the vice rectors for teaching and learning
- ✓ *Le Studium* as good practice in linking talent attraction to S3

## Puglia (Italy)

- ✓ HESS methodology adopted by national Cohesion Agency to work with other regions

## North East Romania

- ✓ First time HEIs met to discuss smart specialisation together with S3 managers
- ✓ Increased role of HEIs in governance, EDP focus groups and resulting ESIF calls for knowledge transfer devolved to RDAs





## **The HESS Handbook**

(Higher Education for Smart Specialisation) provides guidance on how to involve Higher Education Institutions into the design and implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies



# Any questions?

You can find me at [Alessandro.Rainoldi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Alessandro.Rainoldi@ec.europa.eu)

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>



@s3platform @alrainy