Bridging competence infrastructure gaps and speeding up growth and jobs delivery in regions

**Challenges**
Regions across Europe face challenges deriving from the effectiveness of their RIS3 implementation. In some cases, challenges relate to the process of valorizing research results, while in other cases to the transformation and renewal of regional economies. The challenges addressed in BRIDGES are:

- Mismatches between RIS3 productive & knowledge & research bases.
- Distance from & better exploitation of research excellence as a path to further specialization.
- Restricted resources towards RIS3, the combined result of which is shown in the weak impact of the RIS3 implementation. Issues 1 & 2, are very common in less advanced and/or peripheral regions, issue 3 is more relevant to innovation leader regions as they have much less structural funds than the less advanced regions

**BRIDGES Overall Objective**
BRIDGES wants to primarily break the vicious circle of regional lock-ins, dominant in less advanced regions, and restricting the RIS3 impact. By addressing knowledge asymmetries through networked solutions it also contributes to the uptake of commercially unexplored excellence results of the more advanced regions. Thus the RIS3 performance is improved in both types of regions. And thus awareness, methodological and resource gaps between advanced and less advanced regions are bridged, concretely and for the long run. Thus we create or upscale existing paths, i.e. upscaled sources of increasing returns for all the regions.

**Hypotheses**
RIS3 is about innovation-based growth in regions. It builds on relatedness, embeddedness, and critical mass. While innovation leader regions are endowed –at least for the most part, with all three conditions, other types of regions lack one or more. Moreover, innovation leader regions might suffer from lock-ins not allowing their research to be fully valorised. With this background, BRIDGES makes two hypotheses:

1. **Less advanced regions can renew towards more advanced status** by adopting advanced processes & seeking required knowledge where it exists, provided absorptiveness capacity is ensured.
2. **More advanced regions can benefit from new innovation partnerships** by diffusing their by diffusing their research & innovation solutions, leading to more income and possible new fields of research.

**Methodology**
**POLICY LEARNING**
Innovation absorptiveness capacity maps identify the innovation performing industries and businesses in the regions. Research opportunities from the innovation leader region outline the potential innovation partnerships with the less advanced regions.

- Good practice exchange and transfer builds capacity coherently, around the innovation performing industries.
- Regional stakeholder groups participate, analyse, support, and benefit from the regional and interregional policy learning.
- Intergional working groups to strengthen the good practice transfer and path out potential interregional cooperation after the project.

Action plans are formulated, peer reviewed, and endorsed by regional policy makers.

**Good Practice Themes**
- Industry-led centers of competence, as RIS3 implementation infrastructures.
- Business innovation partnerships.
- Leveraging of funds and interregional partnerships (multilevel synergies), strategic research to business partnerships and the tools to support them.

**Key Facts About The Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Project Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Learning</td>
<td>Policy Implementation</td>
<td>€ 1,970,450,00</td>
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7 regional 2 advisory PARTNERS

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