



Regional Innovation System and S3 Governance

Experiences from the Northern Netherlands

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The Northern Netherlands Alliance

- Alliance of 3 provinces in North of the Netherlands:

Groningen, Fryslân, Drenthe

- Regional public entity

- Coordinating role RIS3

- Managing Authority ERDF Regional Programme



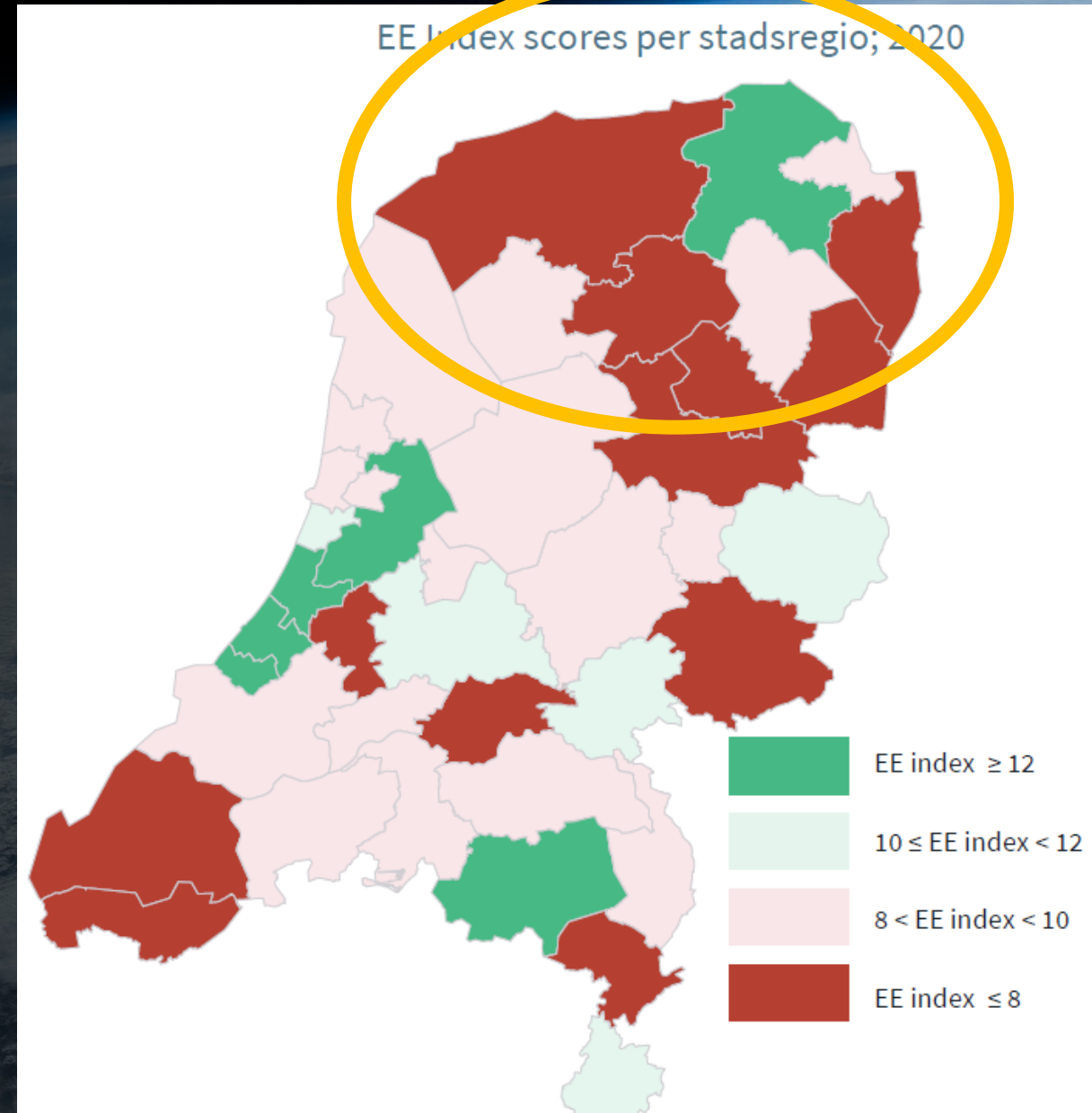


The Northern Netherlands

- 1,7 mln inhabitants (10% NLs; 25% territory NLs)
 - Strong Innovator (Regional Innovation Scoreboard)
 - Groningen: “powerhouse” (OECD) ← University of Groningen (#66 Shanghai ARWU)
 - > 50% R&D by Universities
-
- 96% of businesses SME’s
 - 5% highly innovative ; 25% not innovative

Geography of Innovation

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Index



NNLs Regional Innovation Strategy: RIS3

Synergies between societal and economic objectives
→ societal challenges at its core

Prioritizes societal challenges ('Transitions')

- sense of urgency
- inclusiveness ('no-one excluded in advance')
- commitment

Specialisations outcome of a continuous process of entrepreneurial discovery ('refinement')

"Narrowing down by trying and doing"



NNLs Regional Innovation Strategy: RIS3

“What question” → priority choices

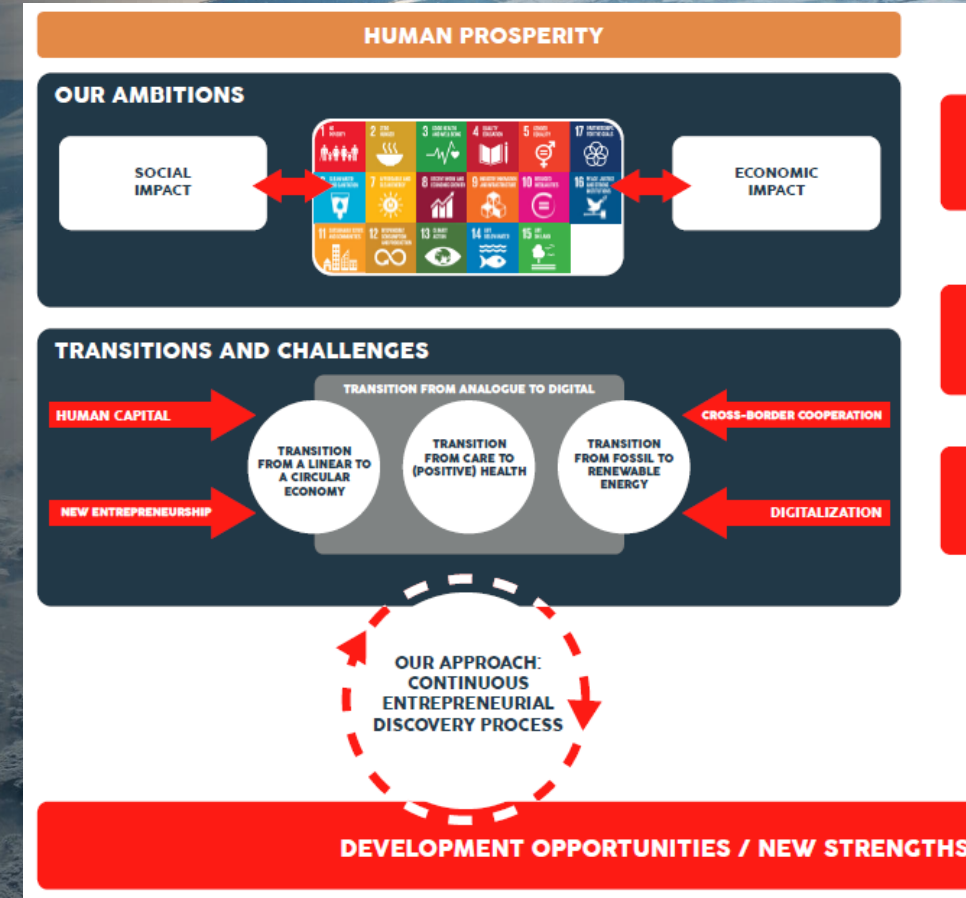
“How question” →

the innovation ecosystem



- more openness
- shorter links between actors
- culture of trying and doing
- peer exchange, peer learning

‘How to create a climate in which actors are inclined to search for the ‘goose with the golden egg’?



NNLs Regional Innovation Strategy: RIS3

RIS3 builds on main competences region:

- strong knowledge economy
- engaged SME's
- collaborative attitude
- bottom up energy



“Getting most out of these”



NNLs Regional Innovation Strategy: RIS3

Good in 'bottom up', but :

- directionality & overall coordination

- three provinces (different characteristics, different governments)
- Dutch culture: dislike of hierarchy, consensus driven

Address innovation policy overgrowth in the Northern Netherlands. The RIS3 process is based upon a sense of focus and strategic orientation to produce a single innovation strategy that unifies other innovation approaches. The Northern Netherlands has a range of innovation forums and funds that have proven extremely difficult to align with each other. This hinders creating a strategic centre for regional innovation policy, diffuses concentration and undermines effective signalling of priorities. Pruning back this innovation policy overgrowth is a necessary condition of achieving coherent regional innovation governance in the forthcoming RIS3. The EBNN could play a central role in the governance structure of the new RIS3, which should be accompanied by a broad political consensus to provide strategic directions to the strategy, and with a stronger focus on implementation rather than mainly on flagship initiatives.



JRC TECHNICAL REPORT

Higher Education for Smart
Specialisation:
The Case of the Northern Netherlands

Paul Benneworth
Arregui-Pabollet, Eskame

January 2021



Better integration of the provincial knowledge economies



University of the North:

- University of Groningen

- Universities of Applied Sciences

- VETs

To utilize our combined expertise to create broad prosperity in the Northern Netherlands. And inspire the rest of the Netherlands and whole world with our solutions. This is why the University of the North exists (UvhN). To achieve these objectives we will be working together with partners on solutions to the transition challenges.

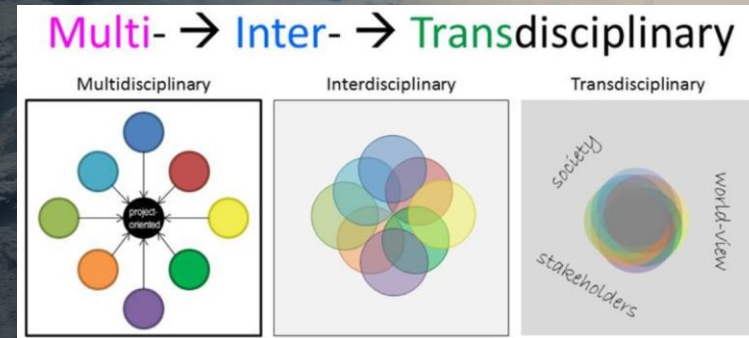
Based on the conviction that together we will be able to achieve what we cannot achieve separately, the five Northern knowledge institutions are intensively working together in the fields of teaching, research, and innovation. Through unique collaboration with the business community and societal organizations, our research, teaching, and innovation stimulates transitions in our region. We bundle existing knowledge, develop new knowledge and create practical applications: we discover, know, make, and do!

One common knowledge agenda – directly connected to RIS3



Hybrid research groups

Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health	Wubbo Ockels School for Energy & Climate	Jantina Tammes School of Digital Society, Technology & AI	Rudolf Agricola School for Sustainable Development



NNLs RIS3 Governance Model

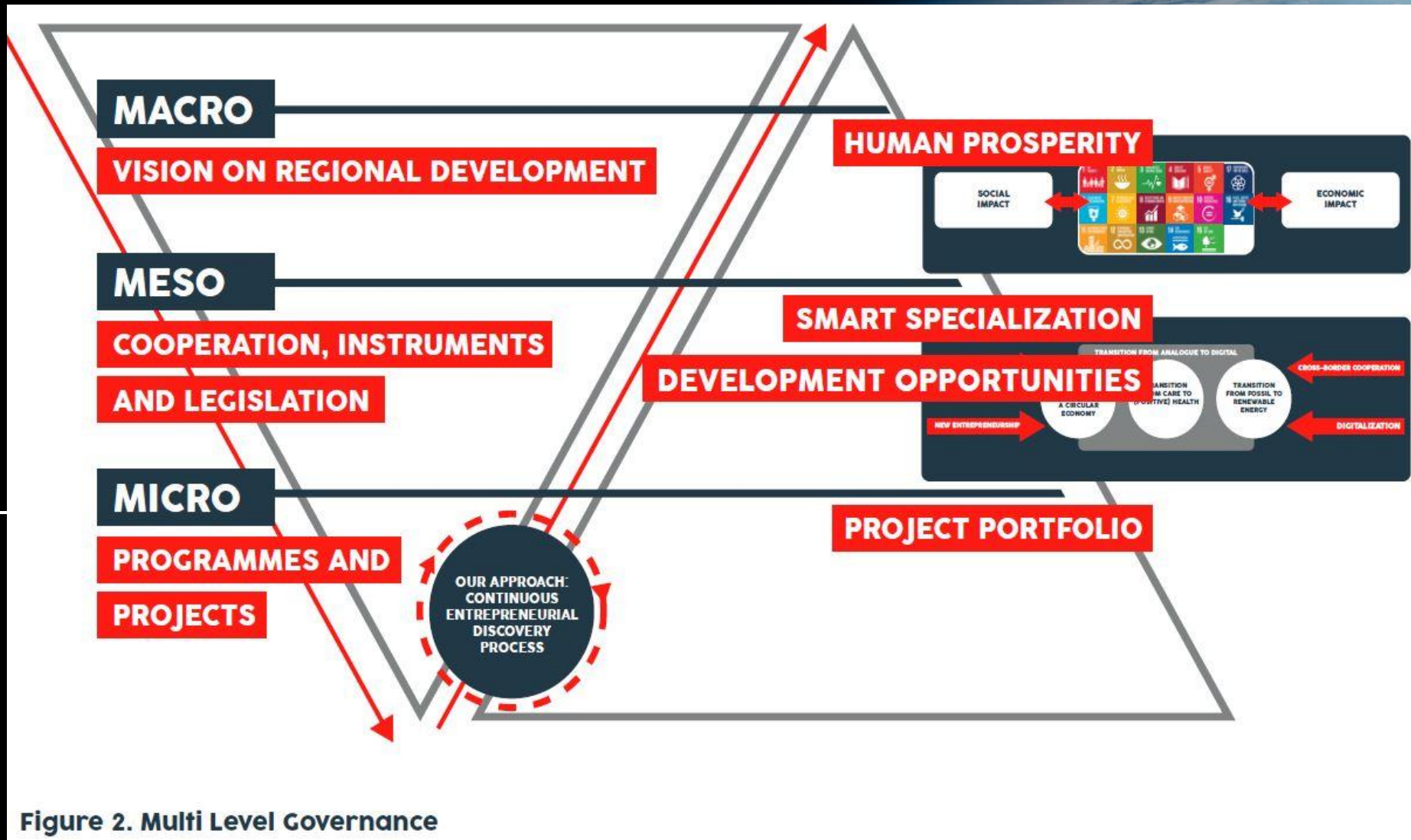


Figure 2. Multi Level Governance

NNLs RIS3 Governance Model

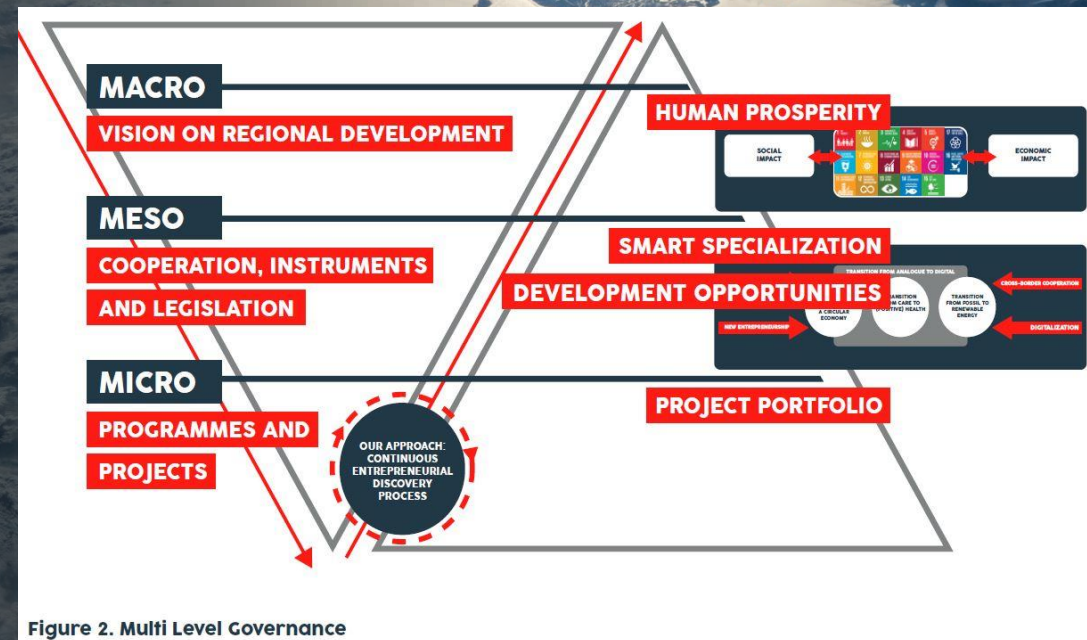
‘MESO’- level

To large extent informal structure → at base: “RIS3 Core Team”, with Extensive stakeholder involvement:

‘circles of informal stakeholder groups’

brought together based on:

- vision
- enthusiasm, willingness to act
- weight



NNLs RIS3 Governance Model

‘MESO’- level

‘Circles of informal stakeholder groups’

- main circle ± 15 people (‘sounding board group’)

- several ‘surrounding circles’

Transitions, but as well, a.o.

- SME innovativeness

- (ERDF) support instruments

- societal impact

- monitoring & evaluation

- in total ± 50 people

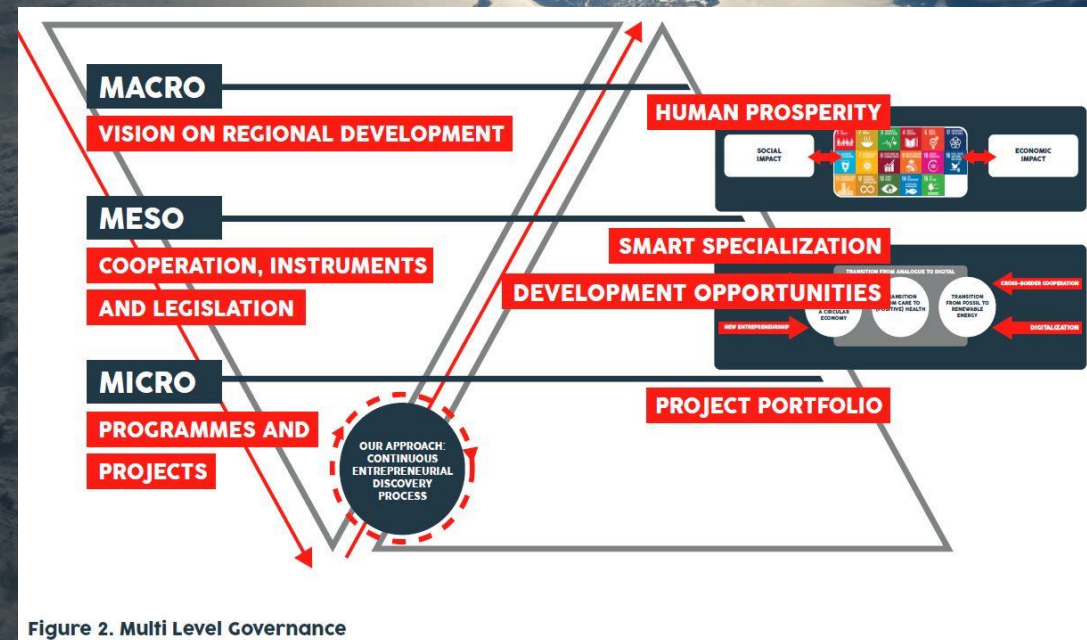


Figure 2. Multi Level Governance

RIS3 → NNLs ERDF 2021-2027

‘True implementation programme of RIS3’

Not only content, but as well, RIS3 vision/philosophy translated into ERDF implementation:

Looking for ways in which ERDF not only has impact on projects it supports, but as well on way actors work, interact with others and with MA

E.g.

- involving stakeholders in design of support instruments
- governance: external committee of experts, monitoring committee at distance from MA





Thank you !

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