



Smart Specialisation in Västra Götaland



Smart Specialisation

Smart Specialisation or RIS3 (Research and Innovation strategies for Smart Specialisation) is a key feature of the European Commission's overall growth strategy EU2020. It is a strategic approach to economic development through targeted support for research and innovation. It involves a process of developing a vision, identifying place-based areas with the greatest strategic potential, developing multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms, setting strategic priorities and using smart policies to maximise the knowledge-based development potential of a region.

Västra Götaland

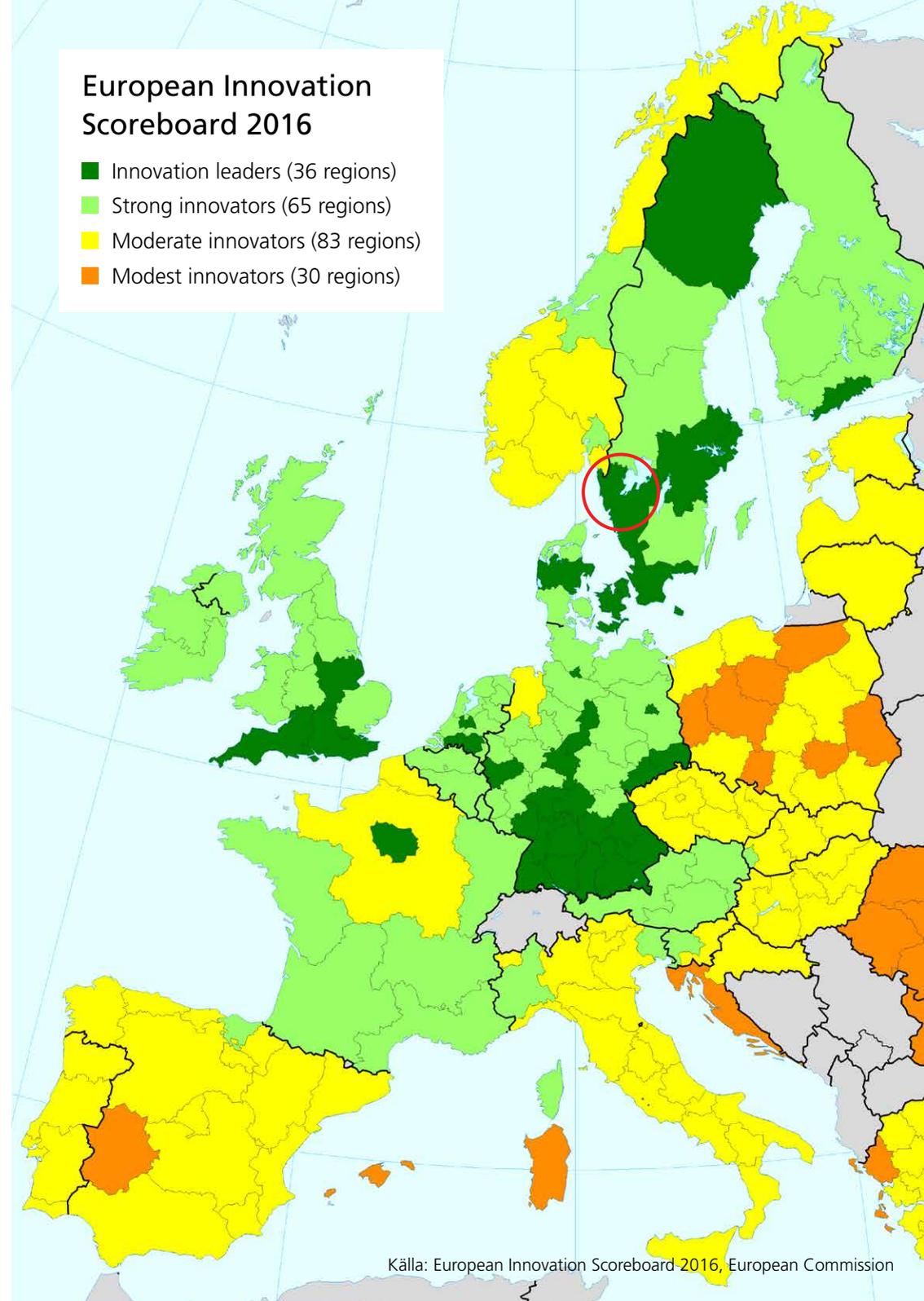
– 49 municipalities, 1,7M inhabitants, 130 nationalities

- Second largest region in Sweden
- Export-driven and diversified economy
- Knowledge intense and competitive industry with the capacity for renewal
- Strong universities with leading research and education
- Largest port in Scandinavia
- Metropolitan - Industrial - Rural



European Innovation Scoreboard 2016

- Innovation leaders (36 regions)
- Strong innovators (65 regions)
- Moderate innovators (83 regions)
- Modest innovators (30 regions)



Västra Götaland's strategy for smart specialisation

Region Västra Götaland's Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) is an integrated part of the regional strategy for growth and development in Västra Götaland 2014-2020, also known as VG2020.

The work complies with the six practical steps recommended by the European Smart Specialisation Platform guide.



A leading knowledge region

Vision Västra Götaland – A good Life

Aims to provide the best environment for people to live and work and for future generations to grow up in.

VG2020 - Strategy for growth and development in Västra Götaland 2014-2020

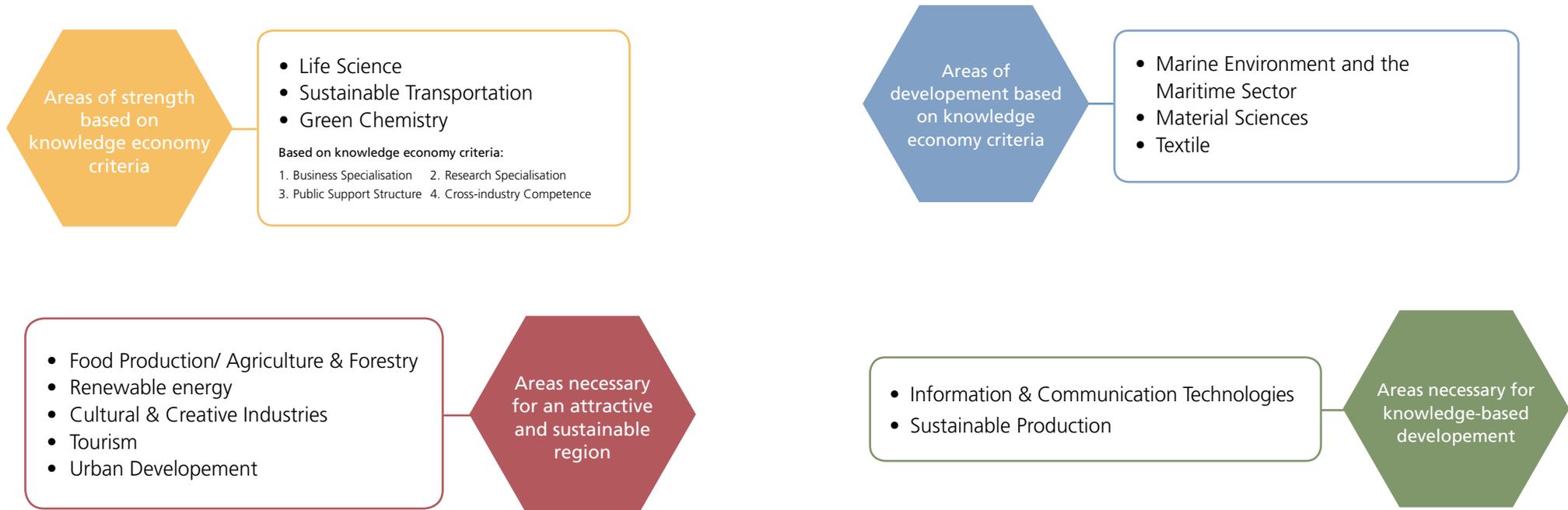
Sets out the ambition to become a leading knowledge and industrial region with world renowned research and innovation within prioritised sectors.

Target

The total regional research and innovation investments should count for a minimum of 5% of Gross Regional Product.



Prioritised sectors



Sectors with regional competitive advantage

<p>LIFE SCIENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cancer - Metabolism - Inflammation - Odontology - Medical technology 	<p>SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Logistics - Fuels & Electrification - Safety - Automation 	<p>GREEN CHEMISTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bio-based Fuel - Bio-based Products - Recycling of Materials 	<p>MARINE ENVIRONMENT & THE MARITIME SECTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shipping - Seafood - Marine & Coastal tourism - Marine energy 	<p>MATERIAL SCIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nano Materials - Graphene 	<p>TEXTILES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smart Textiles - Circular Textiles within Fashion & Furnishing
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Inclusive process

Industry, academy and civil society participated in a comprehensive dialogue in the drafting of the regional growth strategy VG2020. The strategy is formally owned by the region and the 49 municipalities but the implementation is pursued in a broad partnership.

On-going analysis

Region Västra Götaland systematically monitors, evaluates and follows up its strategies, priorities and projects. As an important component of the smart specialisation effort the following analytic work has been conducted:

- Regional SWOT analysis
- Using the Skill-relatedness method to identify industries that use similar skills
- Identifying comparative advantages through measurements of regional specialisation
- Cluster analysis

Thematic Programmes

Region Västra Götaland finances thematic programmes linked to priority areas where regional stakeholders can seek funding for collaborative projects and research and innovation milieus, as well as test-beds and demonstration projects.

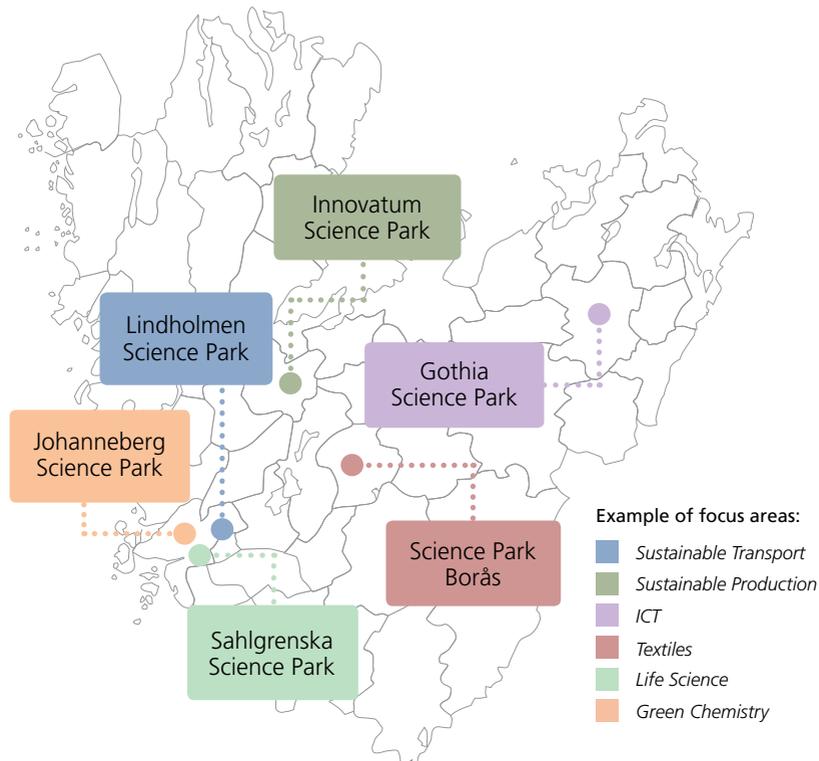
- Sustainable Transportation
- Sustainable Energy and Bio-innovation
- Life Science
- Food production/Agriculture and Forestry
- Sustainable Maritime Industries
- Circular Fashion and Sustainable Interiors
- Cultural and Creative Industries

The regional programmes complement national and European initiatives, investments and funds.



Science Parks in Västra Götaland

Science Parks in Västra Götaland are dynamic hubs for innovation within thematic focus areas linked to the regional growth strategy VG2020. They provide collaborative environments for joint research and innovation, entrepreneurship and support for start-ups and SMEs.



"These platforms place Västra Götaland on the European research map as a region that is innovative, entrepreneurial and "thinks outside the box".

– OECD Territorial Review Sweden

Innovation within Region Västra Götaland's own activities

Region Västra Götaland has around 50 000 employees and is in addition to regional development also responsible for providing health care and public transport for all inhabitants in Västra Götaland. As a large procuring organisation and employer, Region Västra Götaland has the ambition to act as a forerunner within sustainable development and as test bed for new ideas and innovations.

