

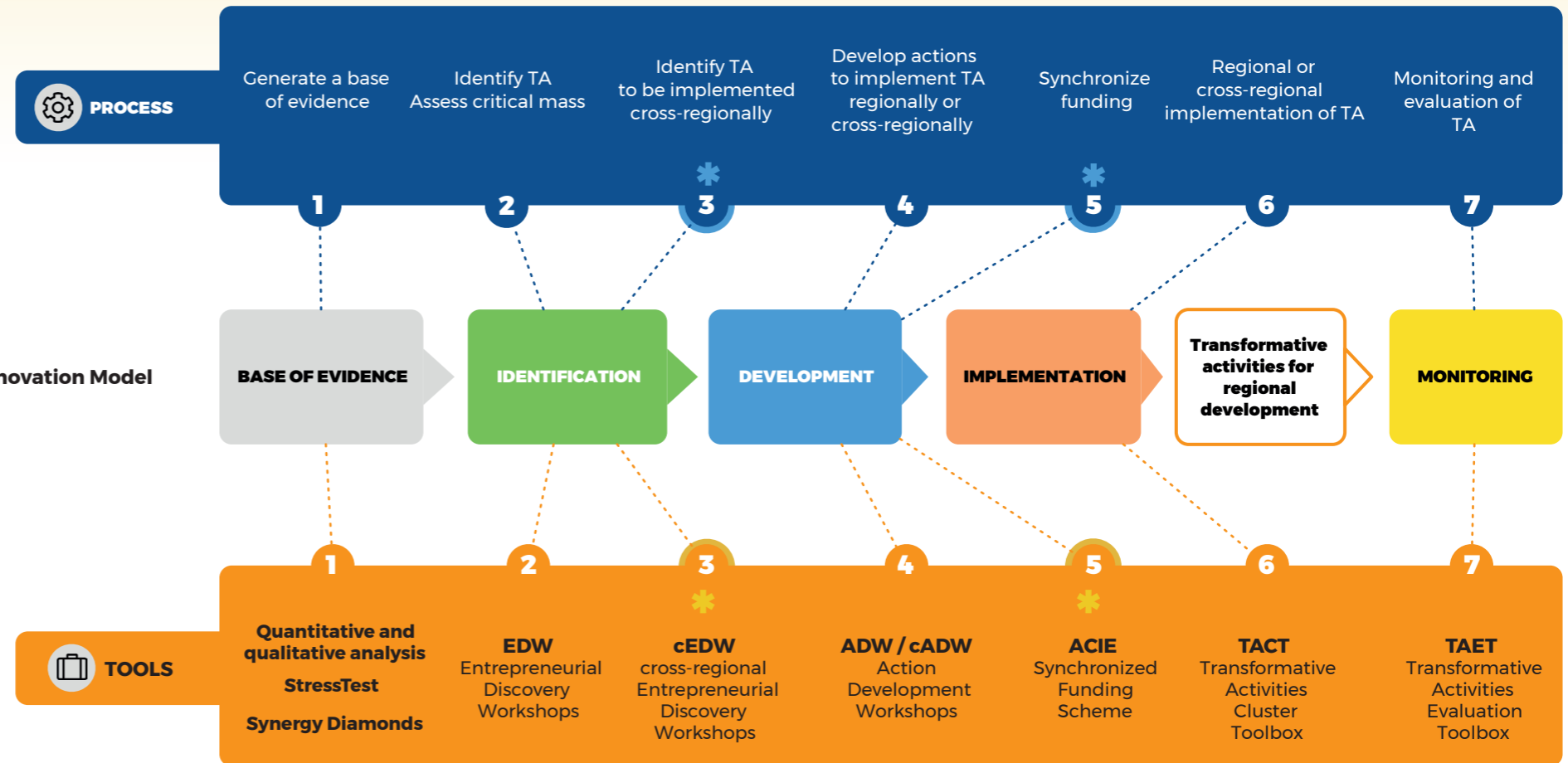
S3-INNOVATION MODEL

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The S3-4AlpClusters project aims at enhancing smart industrial transition in the regions of the Alpine Space by facilitating innovation through cluster initiatives and initiating interregional cooperation. Recent experiences show that the identification and development of transformative activities - i.e. the innovation capacities and actions that have the potential to lead to structural change - remain a significant challenge in the practical implementation of Smart Specialization Strategies (S3). The S3-Innovation Model introduces a systematic process for the identification and development of transformative activities. It offers a set of tools for cluster initiatives and regions to explore capacities and opportunities for transformation and to develop actions to create critical mass in innovative new fields. The involvement of clusters in the process is beneficial, since they embrace relevant actors of the innovation process and provide important information about needs, opportunities and ongoing transformations.

Transformative Activities can be understood as an accumulation of innovation capacities and actions of a group of actors targeting related (technical, market or industrial) areas and having the potential to significantly transform existing industries. They provide huge potential for regions to develop and ultimately to create jobs in innovative new fields with high growth potential.

S3-Innovation Model



PROCESS AND TOOLS

BASE OF EVIDENCE

Generating a base of evidence based on qualitative and quantitative analytics is needed to guide the entrepreneurial discovery process. At this stage, the S3-Innovation Model promotes two main tools: a StressTest to systematically analyse the role of clusters in the implementation of regional strategies, and S3 Synergy Diamonds, an innovative methodology representing existing capacities in a way that facilitates the identification of transformative activities and captures opportunities for need-based interregional cooperation.

IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIVITIES

Transformative activities are identified in Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops (EDW) based on a reflection about existing capacities on the one hand and opportunities represented by new technologies and challenges that can support and drive the process of structural transformation on the other. This includes an assessment of existing critical mass and detecting and specifying needs for cross-regional cooperation. If necessary, cross-regional Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops (cEDW) then propose a methodology allowing to identify complementary competences and needs from several regions and to identify transformative activities that can be developed cross-regionally.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIVITIES

Action Development Workshops (ADW) allow working out concrete actions - such as R&D projects, networking, cooperation schemes or development of critical skills - in order to gain critical mass for the identified transformative activities, both regionally and cross-regionally (cADW). The S3-Innovation Model specifically supports cross-regional action development through the Alpine Cluster Innovation Express (ACIE). This interregional cooperation scheme aims at synchronizing existing funds from several regions who intend to support the development of the same transformative activities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIVITIES

The S3-Innovation Model supports implementation of the developed actions through cluster initiatives with a Transformative Activity Cluster Toolbox (TACT). Since both the identified transformative activities and the concrete developed actions are unknown ex ante, TACT consists of a broad set of best practices of cluster services covering transversal fields such as education, technology, growth, research or collaboration. Clusters typically reflect strong partnerships, vibrant communities and relevant connections between related businesses, suppliers and associated institutions.

MONITORING

The S3-Innovation model also includes a Transformative Activity Evaluation Toolbox (TAET), which proposes a methodology for monitoring the process, measures, cluster services and policy interventions connected with the S3-Innovation Model.

HOW TO READ THE SCHEME ABOVE

Every stage of the S3-Innovation Model (in the middle) includes one or more steps in the relative Process and Tools path. * The steps marked by an asterisk are specifically intended for the cross-regional identification and development of transformative activities.

- TA** Transformative Activities
- EDW** Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops
- cEDW** cross-regional Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops
- ADW** Action Development Workshops
- cADW** cross-regional Action Development Workshops
- ACIE** Alpine Cluster Innovation Express
- TACT** Transformative Activities Cluster Toolbox
- TAET** Transformative Activities Evaluation Toolbox

S3 Innovation Model

June 2018

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Go to www.alpine-space.eu/projects/s3-4alpclusters
to learn more about the S3-Innovation Model and the developed tools

