

Partnership for Regional Innovation: Experiences from Ostrobothnia and Magallanes

This takeaway is based on a soon to be published article "**Learning Sustainable Smart Specialization in Practice - The case of Two Regions in Europe and Latin America applying the Partnership for Regional Innovation Playbook**" (Johnson, J. & Pinilla-De la Cruz, G.A., 2023).

The **Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) playbook** is a "strategic framework with a strong systemic transformative ambition, linking the European Green Deal to place-based opportunities and challenges". PRI also empowers territories to identify local challenges and define a mix of policies and actions to turn them into opportunities. PRI embraces co-creation and the autonomy of territories, advancing new pathways for territorial development and cooperation that takes full advantage of the twin transition. In the context of the collaboration of Ostrobothnia with Magallanes, the PRI framework is built for bridging the innovation gaps between regions in Europe and transnational endeavours.

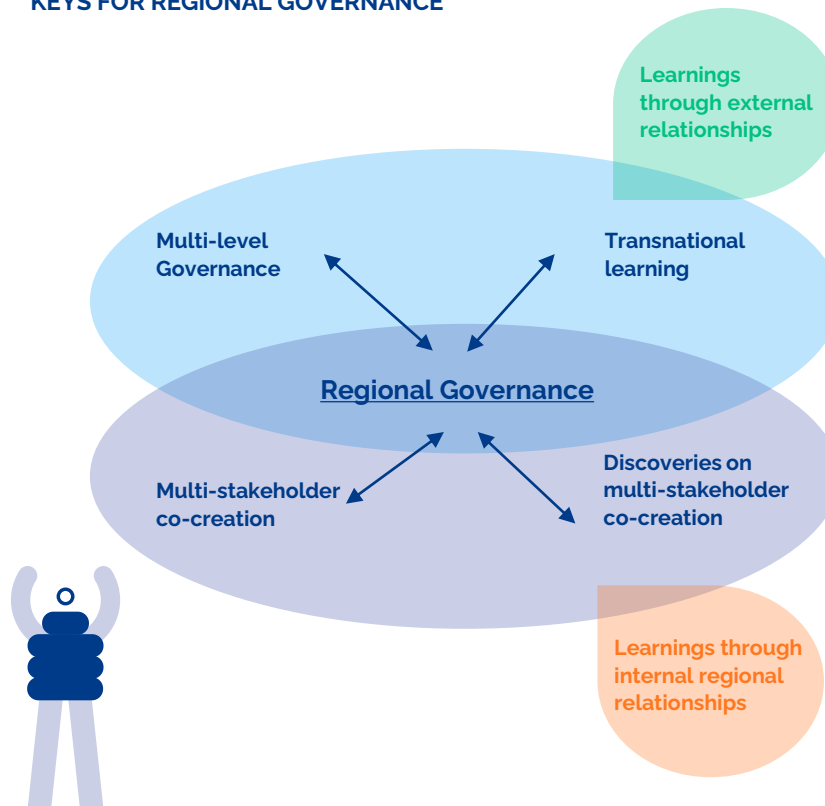
PRI OPERATIONAL AND INTERRELATED BUILDING BLOCKS

Strategic Policy Framework: lays the foundation for action in the following two 'building blocks' by identifying interconnections across diverse stakeholders.

Open Discovery Process: allows for engagement and path co-creation with variable sets of stakeholders.

Policies and Actions Mix: mobilise additional instruments to publicly-funded projects, as necessary for the desired outcomes, including private sector co-investments.

KEYS FOR REGIONAL GOVERNANCE



The paper explores the collaboration between the Ostrobothnia region in Finland and Magallanes in Chile, facilitated by the IURC-LA programme. Both regions face the common challenge of accommodating foreign direct investment in wind power associated with e-fuels.

The paper focuses on the twinning process, employing Sustainable Smart Specialization Strategies and Partnerships for Regional Innovation. It discusses the selection of the intervention team, the process, and short- and long-term development results in the dialogue with Magallanes.

It also emphasizes the role of regional capacities in acting as change facilitators and intermediaries amongst stakeholders, highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration for fostering the green hydrogen value chain and ensuring long-term commitment to the green transition. The European-Latin American twinning is seen as a platform for mutual learning and development, rooted in understanding the cultural dimension as a basis for interregional cooperation. The paper concludes by underscoring how the Partnerships for Regional Innovation, applied in a twinning exercise, can aid regions in addressing challenges related to the green transition.



KEY SUPPORTING FACTORS

Multi-level Governance's Approach:

EU Framework: The multi-level governance approach operates within the EU framework, where both EU countries and regions adhere to programmatic policies while engaging in collaborative regional discourse.

Fragmentation Challenges: Challenges exist in the directionality and effective regional implementation of policies, leading to potential fragmentation even with a common overall vision.

PRI Approach: The Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) approach requires recalibration of operational methodologies to address new circumstances, emphasizing the importance of dynamic exchanges and learning between regions.

Multi-stakeholder Collaboration:

Central Role: Multi-stakeholder collaboration is central in bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to address societal challenges and find multidisciplinary solutions, crucial in the context of the green transition.

Innovation and Integration: Collaboration is essential for technological innovation and its seamless integration into energy systems, involving research centres, universities, technology manufacturers, and public authorities.

Trust and Equitable Treatment: Trust and equitable treatment are critical in the innovation process, particularly in nascent technologies, emphasizing the need for effective collaboration and clear relationships.

Cultural Challenges:

Contextual Nature: Human actions and decisions are framed in cultural contexts, and understanding the influence of cultural context is essential for engaging in dialogue processes and fostering innovation-oriented interactions.

Holistic Approach: The cultural context provides a holistic approach, encompassing informal institutions affecting actions, political and social frameworks, and the interplay among actors, trust, and control.

Transnational Learning: Recognizing cultural differences is crucial for successful international cooperation, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, and mitigating barriers to mutual trust, enabling reciprocal learning amongst diverse regions.



Summary of Cooperation Benefits

- 1 Challenge-Based Setting:** Provides a common challenge-based setting for both regions as a foundation for policy learning.
- 2 Leverage for Multi-stakeholder Collaboration:** Acts as leverage for the regions in a broader multi-stakeholder collaboration between Europe and Latin America.
- 3 Mindset Shift:** Encourages a mindset of assuming a broader position on development, helping in unlocking traps.
- 4 Access to Knowledge Networks:** Provides access to international knowledge networks, aiding in policy development and execution.
- 5 Expectation of Positive External Effects:** The cooperation is expected to set the groundwork for positive external effects.

