



Summary

Regional research and innovation strategy

2021-2027

COFINANCÉ PAR
UNION EUROPÉENNE
UNANIEZH EUROPA



**L'Europe s'engage
en Bretagne** / Avec le Fonds social européen

FOREWORD

Brittany, a land of explorers and innovation, has always had a thirst for knowledge. It has proved in the past that it was the crucible of major inventions that forged its fields of excellence. With its wealth of human skills which it has tapped to serve its development, it has set itself a new course with the Regional Strategy for Economic and Social Transition. Brittany must now adapt to the acceleration of major social, digital and ecological transitions. Based on the territory's assets, the **regional research and innovation strategy, known as S3 (Smart Specialisation Strategy) 2021-2027**, aims to accompany these ongoing economic and social transformations by relying on both high-tech and low-tech without opposing them, because Brittany will need both. A highly operational strategy, steered by flexible, reconfigurable governance, the S3 coordinates collective efforts to bring together players in training, research, innovation and economic development. Brittany is playing and must continue to play its rightful role in the implementation of European policies. By positioning itself in the top third of benchmark regions in terms of training, research and innovation, it must be identified throughout Europe as a natural partner region in its areas of excellence (sea, food, digital technology, etc.) and a leader in its cutting-edge segments (marine renewable energies, cybersecurity, photonics, etc.).

A RENEWED REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR MAJOR ECONOMIC CHANGE

* ————— *

The Regional Research and Innovation Strategy, known as S3 for “Smart Specialisation Strategy”, is geared to positioning Brittany in the European Research and Innovation Area. It aims to confirm and highlight the territory’s assets and opportunities to make it a real force in European and international competition, and to direct support for research and innovation to promote its development.

The S3 must define and affirm the region’s powerful strategic areas of innovation. It must also enable it to open up to the opportunities and constraints of tomorrow, particularly from the point of view of accelerating transitions, as a continuation of the work carried out by the Region through the Regional Strategy for Economic and Social Transitions (SRTES).

This strategy sets the framework for public policies to support research and innovation, up to training and economic development. It will make it possible to concentrate resources on sectors with a high impact for the territory, in terms of innovation, employment, attractiveness and economic transformation.

The S3, a powerful transformation tool for a shared regional ambition

- A regional ambition expressed and shared within the framework of the SRTES.
- A answer to the issues of sovereignty in cutting-edge sectors (food, digital, energy, health industry).
- A strategy that places Brittany in the European research and innovation space in order to :
 - Improve Brittany’s recognition and presence in European programmes ;
 - Increase Brittany’s attractiveness, influence and European visibility.



A STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL APPROACH



More than an orientation document, the Breton S3 offers both a strategic and operational framework, notably to support the transformation of the Breton economy and the acceleration of transitions.

As a tool for collective mobilisation and coordination of actions, the S3 constantly re-examines the priorities defined in 2020 throughout its implementation, between 2021 and 2027. This flexibility will enable the company to stay in tune with markets and economic, societal, environmental, technological and regulatory issues.

Then, the S3 is built on

→ **five structuring strategic innovation areas**, themselves covering specific sectors in which Brittany is going to invest :

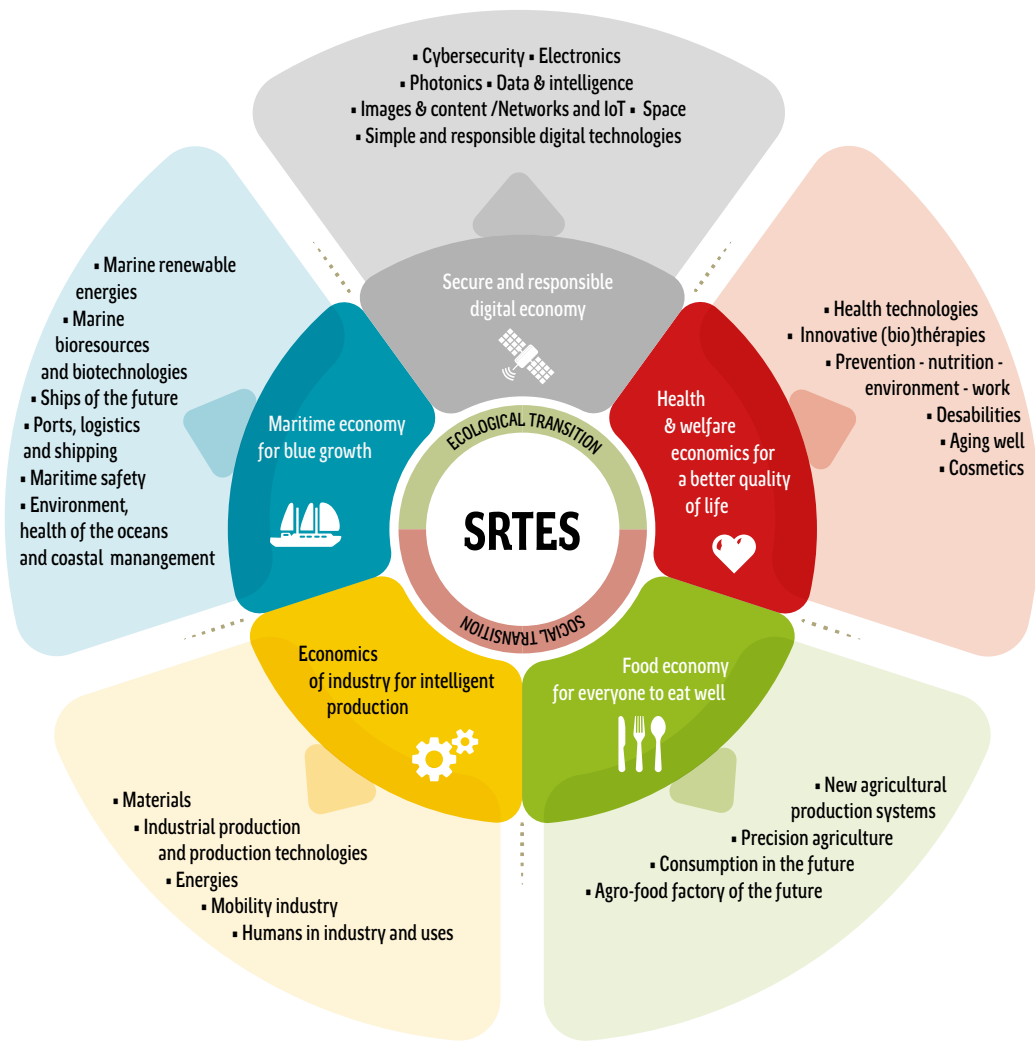
- The maritime economy for blue growth
- The secure, responsible digital economy
- The health and well-being economy for a better quality of life
- The food economy of eating well for all
- The industry economy for smart production

While the strategy is based on many support and funding mechanisms for innovation in all its forms, and thus involves a wide range of operators in the region, a monitoring and evaluation system ensures continuous monitoring.

→ **a support for transitions :**

- Accelerating and successfully implementing climate and ecological transitions in Brittany's economy and society**
- Raising awareness among economic stakeholders to prepare and adapt the economy to climate change
 - Intensifying the transition to an economy that consumes fewer resources and produces less carbon
 - Integrating ecological commitment as a distinctive feature of Brittany's economy
 - **Adaptation to climate change**
 - **Mitigation/decarbonisation and renewable energy**
 - **Circular economy and frugal innovations**
 - **Water**
 - **Biodiversity**
- Strengthening social cohesion and inclusion as factors in economic performance and individual fulfilment**
- Reducing social and territorial determinism
 - Developing, testing and deploying fruitful social innovations to support mutations
 - **Dialogue between science and society**
 - **Youth and student life**
 - **Culture**
 - **Equality and inclusion**

The Breton research and innovation strategy (S3)



Financial engineering mobilising all levels of government

The bulk of S3 funding comes from the multi-annual budgetary framework documents that make up the S3 :

- First and foremost the Operational Programme of the European Structural Funds **ERDF-ESF+ 2021-2027** : The planned budget for strategic objective 1 « A smarter Europe » will be €136 million, to which have been added the funds for the REACT EU recovery plan for the period 2021-2023 ;
- As well as the **CPER State-Region** (and collectivities) 2021-2027.

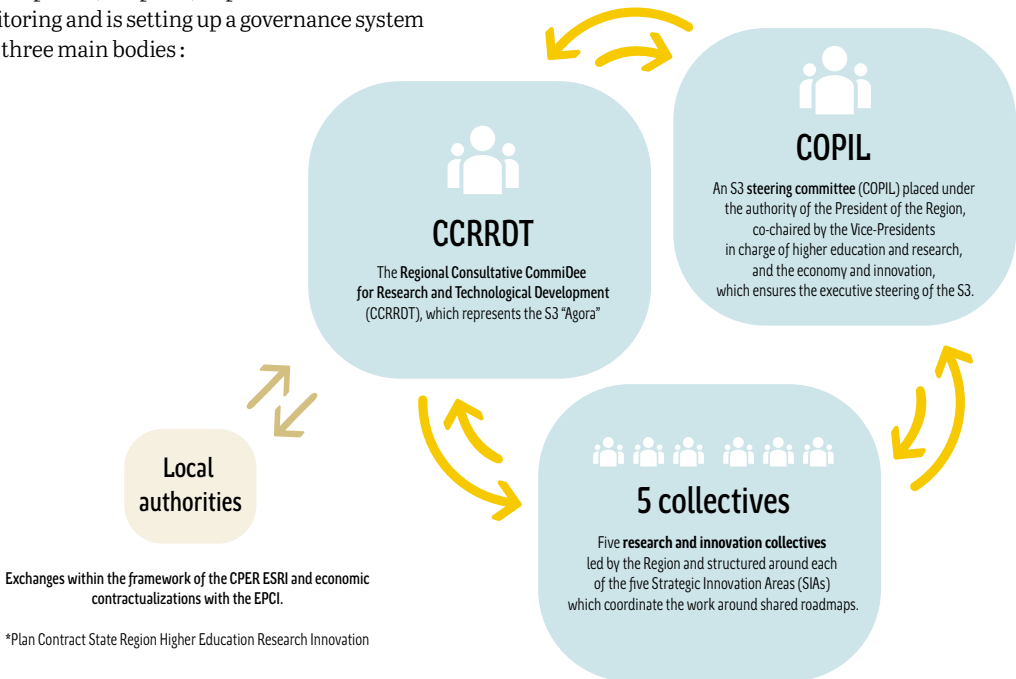
These budget programmes, which cover the same period as the S3, align the priorities of all funders with this new strategy dedicated to innovation and research.

This base will be complemented by other funding :

- 1st pillar** **European policies**, such as the Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programmes, cooperaKon policies (INTERREG, I3, etc.), the Green Deal and the European recovery plan REACT-EU ;
- 2nd pillar** **National policies**, in particular through the Investments for the Future programme ;
- 3rd pillar** **Regional policies**, in support of the research programmes of Breton laboratories, the engineering needs of higher education research and innovation ecosystems, collaborative projects between laboratories and companies, and innovative projects of SMEs ;
- 4th pillar** **Support from Brittany's local authorities**

Assertive governance

The Brittany Region fully assumes political responsibility for S3 development, adoption, implementation and monitoring and is setting up a governance system based on three main bodies :



The basis for development dynamics

The S3 represents the common basis of the regional strategy for higher education and research (SRESR) and the regional strategy for economic development, innovation and internationalisation (SRDEII). It is also one of the prerequisites for the implementation of the ERDF-ESF+ operational programmes (OP) for the period 2021-2027.



An ongoing and evolving R&I policy

The S3 is a toolbox for accompanying, supporting and financing innovation in all its forms. An “agile” strategy, it is based on development methods that make it possible to :

- Review the priorities defined in 2020 throughout the operational implementation, between 2021 and 2027 ;
- Stay abreast of markets and economic, societal, environmental, technological and regulatory issues.

This continuous evaluation is facilitated by a **reference set of indicators** in support of S3 governance.

A collaborative construction for a shared approach ?



Drawing on the lessons of the previous Regional Innovation Strategy covering the period 2014-2020, the S3 is geared to the future challenges facing Brittany.

Inspired by the Breizh COP process, the S3 2021-2027 has brought together a large number of actors, enabling them to share its main orientations and collectively define the various roadmaps, in a coconstruction process that has benefited from project management assistance and the support of the European Commission.

13
workshops

375
participations

80
companies interviewed

More information about

the Regional Research & Innovation Strategy (S3) in Brittany

<https://bienvenue.bretagne.bzh/breton-s3-strategy/>



Contact




BRITTANY REGION
Directorate for Economic Development
Department of Innovation and Economic Strategies
innovation@bretagne.bzh
02 99 27 15 82

September 2025



RÉGION BRETAGNE
RANNVRO BREIZH
REJION BERTÈGN

283 avenue du Général Patton – CS 21101 – 35 711 Rennes cedex 7
Tél. : 02 99 27 10 10

✉ @regionbretagne.bsky.social |  regionbretagne.bzh |  @region.bretagne |  Région Bretagne
www.bretagne.bzh

September 2025 – Conception: Communication department /Brittany Region