

Executive Summary

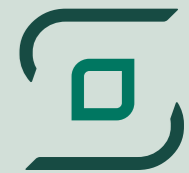


Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Specialisation in the Region of Murcia 2021-2027 of the Region of Murcia 2021-2027

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“Una manera de hacer Europa”
Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional





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01.

Background



01. BACKGROUND



The first Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy, RIS3, of the Region of Murcia, took place during the 2014-2020 period.

The RIS3 allowed for the concentration of resources in areas that, given their comparative and competitive advantages, were key for the Region. By prioritising these areas (food and agriculture, health, tourism, housing, transport and logistics, water and environmental, and ICTs), several advantages and benefits were obtained, enabling the design and implementation of more efficient regional development policies to ensure economic growth through R&D and innovation. As part of the Strategy’s deployment, a new opportunity associated with the footwear and fashion industry was detected and, upon in-depth analysis, was included as an opportunity space.

This first implementation of the RIS3 strategy in the Region of Murcia provided a guideline for a new process of analysis on the regional smart specialisation model for the years 2021-2027.

There are new challenges for this period, including the industrial transition that the European Union is pursuing with its aim on digitalisation and sustainability, but it is also an opportunity for regional innovation strategies to adapt and include new goals linked to the creation of value both economically, socially and environmentally.

The Region of Murcia is demonstrating its commitment to the research and innovation for Digital Transformation, and particularly for Sustainability through the development of the new **Research and Innovation Smart and Sustainable Specialisation Strategy of the Region of Murcia 2021-2027, RIS4 Region of Murcia.**

This new RIS4 reflects the stakeholders’ common perspective and takes into consideration the remaining initiatives of the Region of Murcia, both in the national and European contexts. The methodology used for its development is based on the RIS3 2014-2020 and four other elements: the new European guidelines, the mid-term evaluation of the RIS3 2014-2020, the updated evidence baseline from the present context and the conclusions drawn from the participatory processes of the R&D and innovation ecosystem conducted at an early stage of 2022.

Additionally, the RIS4 Region of Murcia 2021-2027 governance model has been updated taking into account the seven eligibility criteria of the enabling condition **“Good Governance of the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy”**, introduced by the ERDF Regulation 2021-2027. The model is also considered **highly participatory.**

Hence, actions carried out to update the strategy have served to define the vision and mission of the RIS4 Region of Murcia and to define **3 strategic**

guidelines and 7 key goals to achieve them. In turn, the analysis of the most competitive economic sectors or those with growth potential within the knowledge economy has led to confirm that **the priority areas of the RIS3 2014-2020 of the Region of Murcia and its design are still relevant.**

Consequently, the areas of specialisation that constitute the RIS4 Region of Murcia 2021-2027 are separated into “leadership” areas, “potential” areas, “driving-force activities” and “enabling and disruptive technologies, ICT and more” areas.

The **activities classified as “leadership”** represent a specialisation in which the Region of Murcia already excels, and must continue to excel, and that will allow it to stand out and compete with other regions. This leadership is embodied by the **food and agriculture sector**, which is the driver of sectors such as **Water, the Environment and Transportation and Logistics.**

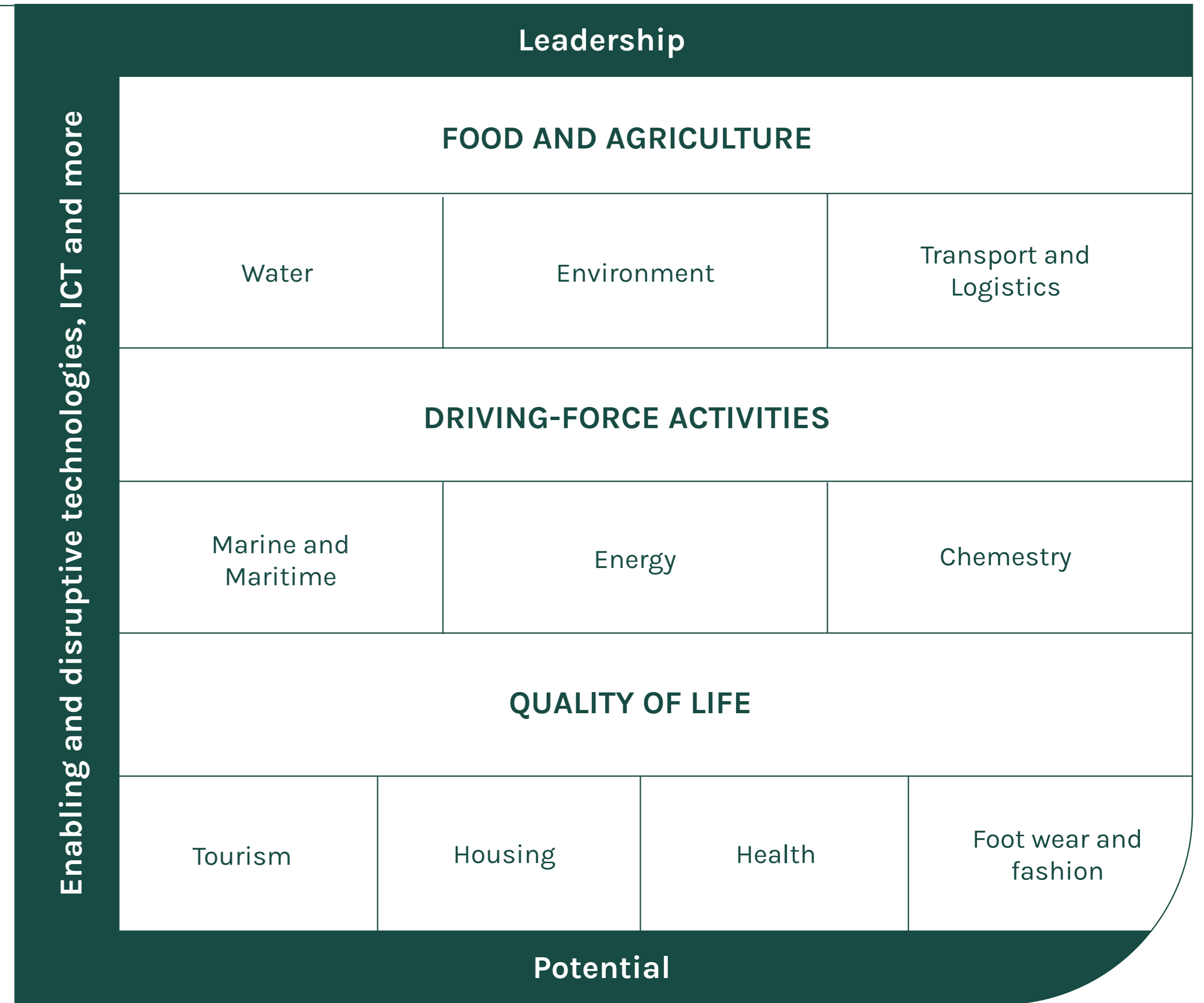
Areas of intelligent specialization in the Region of Murcia.



The **areas classified as “potential”** include activities that are associated with relevant trends and technologies used to position themselves in the global market and, at the same time, spread their knowledge into other areas, taking advantage of new market opportunities. As far as the Region of Murcia is concerned, these activities are associated with “quality of life” and include **tourism, health, housing, footwear and fashion.**

Regarding **priority “driving-force” activities**, the Region of Murcia has identified areas of specialisation in which a considerable “carry-over” can be generated in the business network. Particularly the **energy- marine and maritime- and chemistry areas**, along with other areas that could potentially be developed in the Region, stand out.

The **“enabling and disruptive technologies, ICT and more”** area aims to identify, develop and apply advanced and disruptive technologies that help boost the strategy’s areas of specialisation. Among these, the **new ICTs (AI, Big Data, Cybersecurity, etc.), robotics and smart automation or additive manufacturing** are worth noting.



02.

Strategy
Deployment.
Action plan



02.

STRATEGY DEPLOYMENT.

ACTION PLAN

In order to boost these areas, a series of goals have been defined and an Action Plan has been set up in which **Transformation Roadmaps** are to be designed and executed in each of the priority areas of the RIS4 Region of Murcia, with a series of specific objectives **for economic transformation through R&D and Innovation**. They contain projects and initiatives to achieve them, including indicators that facilitate the monitoring and assessment of the desired outcome.

The Action Plan will incorporate, in addition to the Transformation Roadmaps, **transversal plans to raise the technological standard**, promote innovative culture and innovation training, among other topics. The aim is to increase the number of companies participating in RIS4, and to identify those “hidden champions” that might stand out in each priority area.

Additionally, the **RIS4 incorporates a comparative analysis against other European regions** (benchmark) which serves as a reference for the strategy’s development and is useful to **establish possible partnerships within the framework of the RIS4 2021-2027**.

The Region of Murcia has a range of potential areas, albeit with room for improvement, but as a whole and together with the opportunities offered by the regional R&D and Innovation assets, provide a good foundation to progress further in the smart specialisation of the Region during the coming years 2021-2027.



03.

Vision
Mission
Guidelines
Strategic goals



The vision, mission, guidelines and strategic goals

THE VISION

Murcia is an entrepreneurial Mediterranean region with a vocation for export, and with the desire to progress towards a sustainable and resilient economic and social development model that creates jobs, wealth and well-being. All that is based on knowledge and innovation around strategic areas for the future, public-private partnership and steady research & innovation support.

THE MISSION

Facilitate the economic transformation of the Region of Murcia through an »Entrepreneurial Public Administration«, alongside the regional research and innovation ecosystem. This will be implemented through specific policies and actions, centred around innovation and the use of knowledge, and the international placement of universities, research institutions and regional companies in global value chains.

STRATEGIC GOALS

To achieve this vision it is essential to develop a range of strategic objectives, which are divided into **three guidelines**:

Specialisation Guideline Skills

- 1st Goal: Boost the knowledge development and diffusion, and the adoption of cutting edge technology.
- 2nd Goal: Boost entrepreneurship and the creation of new business ventures by valuing knowledge.
- 3rd Goal: Foster Talent development, recruitment and retention.

Internationalisation guideline Open Economy

- 4th Goal: Support the economic and knowledge capabilities of the Region of Murcia and its integration towards the global economy.

Hybridisation Guidelines Collaboration and Network

- 5th Goal: Encourage collaborative and interdisciplinary R&D and Innovation amongst all public and private agents.
- 6th Goal: Encourage the development of, as well as involvement in, networks.
- 7th Goal: Foster innovative culture and social innovation.

04.

Estimated Budget Scenario



04.

ESTIMATED BUDGET SCENARIO

The budget allocated for the implementation, development, monitoring and assessment of the RIS4 Strategy Region of Murcia 2021-2027 is estimated to reach a total of 714 million euros, 40% more than the RIS3Mur 2014-2020 budget, and comes from the following funding sources:

- **Public funding:** structural funds such as ERDFs, EAFRD, ESF+, FEMPA; RRF as well as other regional funds.
- **Private sector funding:** the sum of corporate and non-profit private institution (IPSFL) investments.
- **Foreign funding:** notably the Horizon Europe Programme.

	TOTAL	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
PUBLIC FUNDING (estimate)	330.134,6	55.252,8	55.252,8	55.252,8	41.094,1	41.094,1	41.094,1	41.094,1
PRIVATE FUNDING (estimate)	323.863,6	51.826,2	52.034,1	53.086,0	40.280,3	41.094,1	42.771,4	42.771,4
FOREIGN FUNDING (estimate)	60.000,0	7.000,0	7.000,0	8.000,0	9.000,0	9.000,0	10.000,0	10.000,0
ESTIMATED TOTAL	713.998,2	114.079,0	114.286,9	116.338,7	90.374,4	91.188,2	93.865,5	93.865,5

Estimated budget summary (thousands of euros)

Research and Innovation
Smart and Sustainable
Specialisation Strategy
2021-2027

