

# Turning Cities into tier-One RIS3 Developers

## MAKING SMART SPECIALISATION WORK (AT CITY LEVEL)

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# In focus

SMART SPECIALISATION AT CITY LEVEL



# Assumptions

- For many (big) cities S3 has little to do with them. A matter of the regions
- Now at the implementation stage, there is an imperious need for RIS3's territorial embedment
- Major cities are widely acknowledged as key actors in the world economy and by large a successful scale to organize innovation ecosystems

**Smart  
specialisation**

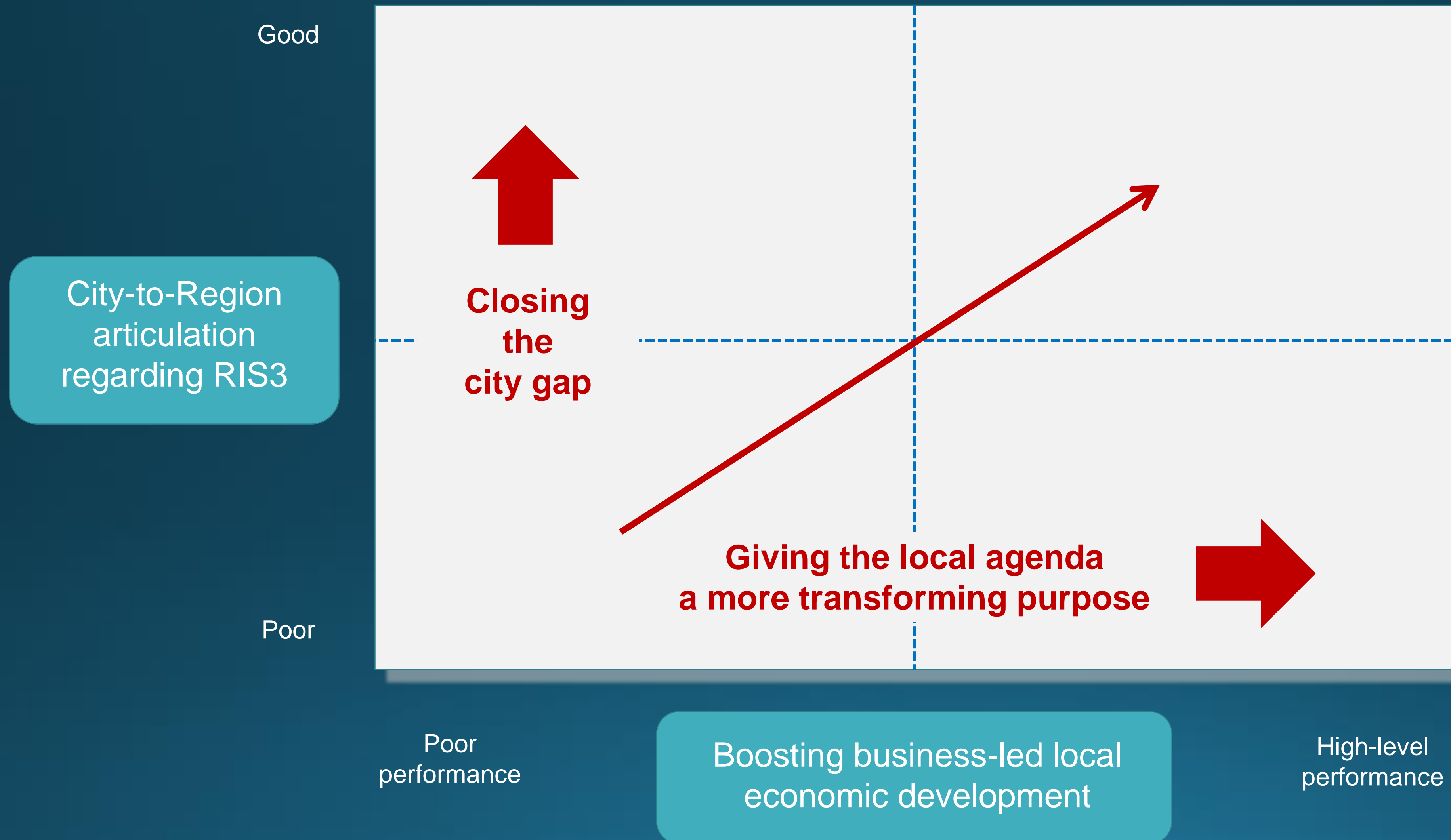
*The concept*

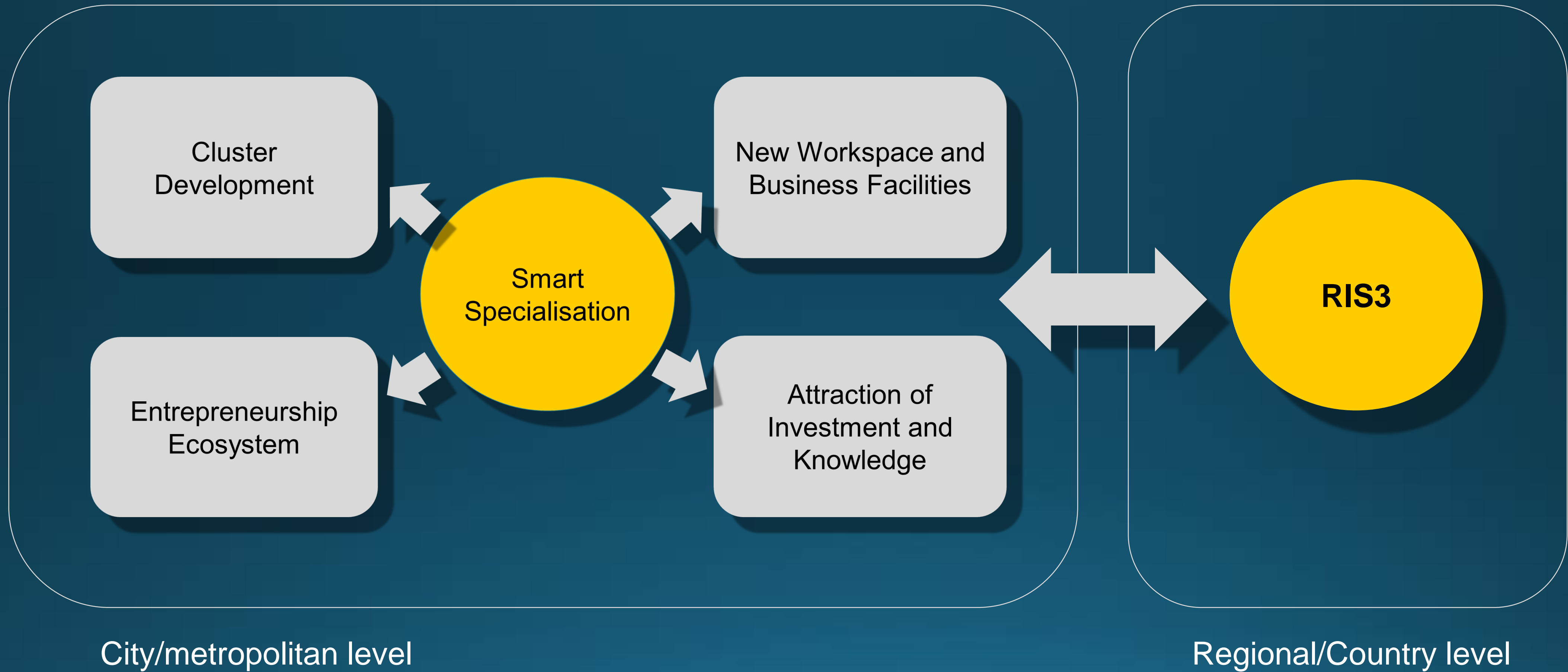
**RIS3**

*The method*

The need for make a distinction

# A twofold goal



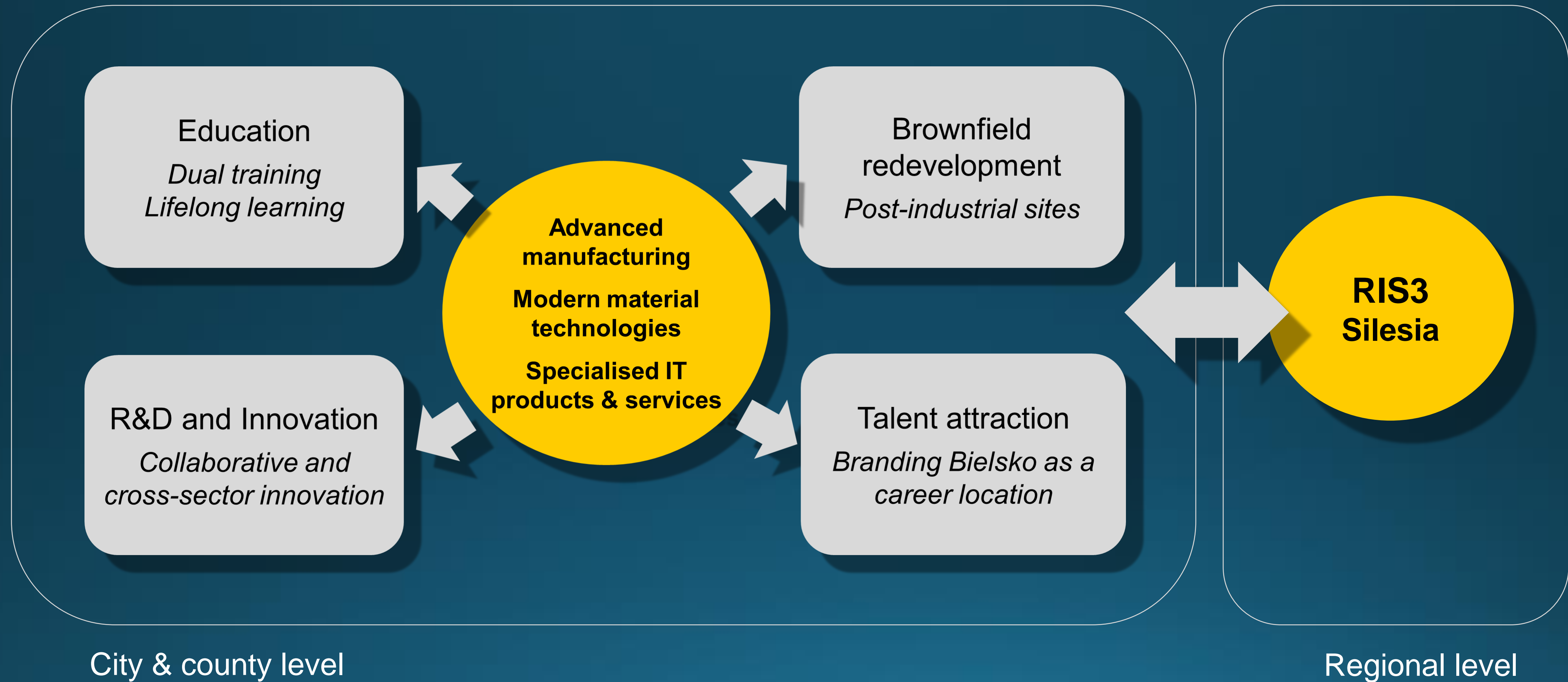








# BIELSKO-BIALA - Economy at High Level







CENTRO COMERCIAL  
ZUBIARTE

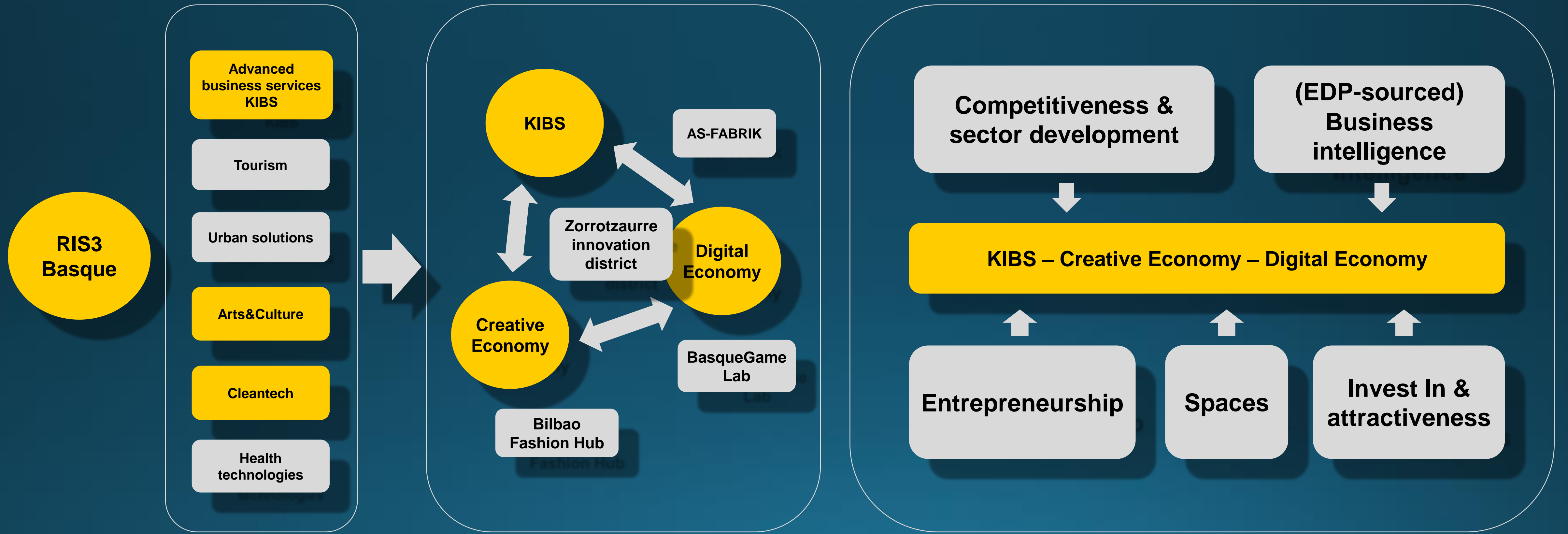


# Addressing BILBAO's next economy through smart specialisation

Bilbao's choice  
based on the prioritization  
exercise of 2014

EDP-driven platforms as a  
tractor project generators

Fine tuning  
the horizontal policy-mix

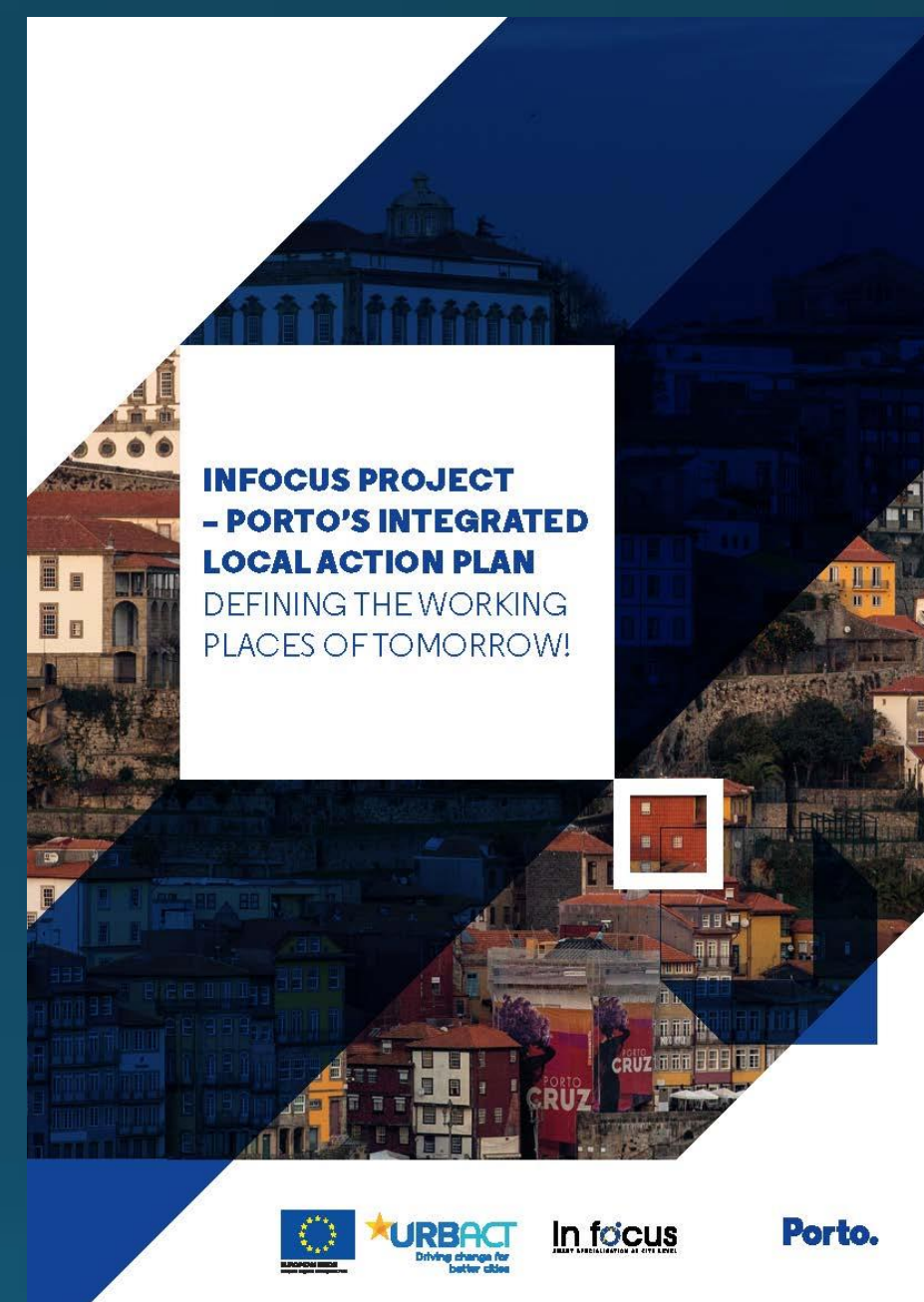




## S3 VALUES AND THE URBAN AGENDA

|                                  | <b>Prioritization</b>   | <b>Relatedness</b>  | <b>Entrepreneurial discovery</b>   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <i>Cluster development</i>       | Clearer legibility of urban economies   | Maximizing the capacity of clusters for matchmaking across sectors and technologies | Deepening into the quadruple helix model to enhance existing cluster initiatives           |
| <i>Entrepreneurial ecosystem</i> | Making feasible to organize business intelligence serving the local community       | Strengthening the ecosystem approach  | Sourcing new concepts on entrepreneurship, e.g., mission-based approach, social innovation |
| <i>Space provision</i>           | Activity focus to support an evolving portfolio of productive and innovation spaces | Co-location<br><i>e.g. IT / creative industries</i>                                 | Better response to space requirements from specific industries                             |
| <i>Branding &amp; marketing</i>  | More accurate segmentation of city's target groups                                  | Uniqueness by combining different productive/knowledge assets                       | Business-driven Invest-IN strategies   |





## 10 local actions plans

Bielsko-Biala – Bilbao – Bordeaux - Bucharest – Frankfurt – Grenoble – Ostrava – Plasencia – Porto - Torino



# Achievements

- Placing innovation at the core of the urban economic agenda, where smart specialisation can play a primary instrumental role
- A policymaking more open to co-production and exposed to experimentation
- RIS3 involved are now stronger thanks to these Local Action Plans  
*RIS3-Silesia, RIS3-Basque Country, RIS3-Piemonte, RIS3-Aquitaine...*



## Main questions

- How to operationalise the city as RIS3 developer? What is the urban dimension of smart specialisation?
- Are regional authorities (RIS3 leading teams) truly aware of the potential role of cities as RIS3 key actors? How to raise this awareness?
- How can the interest of cities be ignited or stimulated?



