

# GABROVO INNOVATION CAMP 2022 RESILIENT CITIES

## Challenge Name: *Innovation and inclusivity for Gabrovo S3 implementation*

### GENERAL

<b>Theme</b>	Gabrovo Smart development to be sustainably based on innovations, inclusivity and place-based perspective shared by the stakeholders.  As sub-topics that will contribute to the theme exploring will be: S3 content and its understanding by the stakeholders, the smart specialization knowledge and understanding, S3 – S4 relation and transition and the general public response, involvement and engagement as well as the approach of Partnerships for Regional Innovations (PRI)
<b>Challenge-owner and Organisation</b>	Gabrovo Municipality; Regional Innovation Center “Ambitious Gabrovo”; Technical University – Gabrovo; Chamber of Commerce
<b>Contact person (if different than above)</b>	Desislava Koleva, Gabrovo Municipality

### Challenge-OWNER DESCRIPTION (background)

<p>The challenge owners will be Gabrovo Municipality and Regional Innovation Center “Ambitious Gabrovo”.</p> <p>The ownership of this challenge is co-shared by key stakeholders key for the strengthening of the innovational &amp; entrepreneurial ecosystem in Gabrovo. Gabrovo Municipality <a href="http://www.gabrovo.bg">www.gabrovo.bg</a> has a proven track record of effective implementation of policies and innovative societally-driven approaches aimed at sustainable territorial development and transition in synergy with the EU system-level transition.</p> <p>Regional innovation center “Ambitious Gabrovo”, <a href="https://ric-gabrovo.com/">https://ric-gabrovo.com/</a> supports the development of sustainable I&amp;R open ecosystem through efficient partnership among business, academia and LAs and realizes a continuous involvement of the quadruple helix actors in all its activities. It provides innovation capacity building for the business, start-ups/accelerators support, contributes to the development of innovative and technological culture, identifies, attracts and supports young talents/innovators/entrepreneurs, contributing along to the green and digital transformation of SMEs and the entrepreneurial eco-system in general.</p> <p>Technical University is crucial for the development of the industrial profile of Gabrovo. The educational institution has an extensive portfolio of successful projects and international cooperations and since 2020 enjoys excellent scientific facilities that defines the establishment of the first Center of competence outside the capital which was cofinanced by the European union.</p>
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### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT of the Challenge

<p>The challenge focuses on the involvement, engagement and provoking for active contribution the quadruple helix actors in the S3 implementation, evaluation and adaptation and in the transition pathway to S4.</p> <p>The context of challenge realization is preconditioned by the multifaceted efforts of Gabrovo and its main actors at regional level to direct the regional development to smart, innovative and green priority areas. Systematical efforts of various kinds have been continuously undertaken by Gabrovo to foster and sustain the development of a smart and innovative entrepreneurial eco-system. Gabrovo region has always aimed at setting any territorial transformation on the need assessment of the place and people and aligning at the same time any transformation with transitions, planned at system level in EU.</p>
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### DESCRIPTION OF MAIN ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES and OBSTACLES

<p><b>MAIN ISSUES</b></p> <p>How to engage a broader audience – stakeholders, general public, youth, etc. so that the main areas of Gabrovo S3 be widely realized and explored further in relation with Gabrovo Municipality?</p>
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What are the main steps so that Gabrovo S3 be jointly embraced and supported, engaging all the parties in the process and provoking a high interest and participation rate from local businesses, the scientific community and the wide innovation ecosystem?

What is the pathway from S3 to S4 – mechanisms, expectations and obstacles in achieving a more sustainable and inclusive model for growth in Gabrovo?

How to better evaluate the S3/S4 progress – focusing on the goals and indicators as written in the strategy, but also considering the feedback from businesses, public involvement and the youth output?

How to demonstrate the financial benefits of S3/S4 to the stakeholders and stakeholders organizations/formations?

How to build trust in the stakeholders to use to potential of RIC Ambitious Gabrovo?

### OPPORTUNITIES

Gabrovo Municipality has the capacity and practical experience in organizing participatory events. Gabrovo has been organizing Innovation Camps since 2016 ([www.gabrovoinniviatiocamps.eu](http://www.gabrovoinniviatiocamps.eu)) and has a proven track record that such an event can lead to successful local policies and practical solutions.

Gabrovo has been developing its S3 strategy for more than two years and is now entering the implementation phase, shaping policy instruments and debating the way ahead. Such an event is a big opportunity to move forward.

Acquired applicable assets that could facilitate the S3 implementation process:

- Gabrovo Municipality implements continuous policies relating the Green principals to the general public with demonstrative resource-efficiency and new generation technological solutions (Green Leaf Award 2021 winner)
- Gabrovo municipality implements a transformative territorial processes aligned with the overarching EU policies considering the local perspective and involving everyone along for which is awarded with 2021-2022 European Entrepreneurial Region award
- Regional Innovation Center “Ambitious Gabrovo” is an entity representative of the joint efforts of the quadruple helix that introduces digital, innovative and green solutions in the region and supports their acceptance and input by the stakeholders

### OBSTACLES

No specific obstacles could be foreseen at this stage of the planning.

Some of the potential hindrances could be:

- unwillingness on part of the participants to be actively engaged in the innovative process of co-creation;
- difficulties of understanding the relevance of the smart specialization, its importance, application and potential for the local/regional business context
- personal idiosyncratic specifics and irreconcilable differences among the participants in the group

### MAIN CHALLENGE OBJECTIVES

2 or 3 bullet point sentences describing each objective. Describe in more detail if necessary.

#### MAIN CHALLENGE OBJECTIVES

To involve the quadruple helix actors in S3 implementation with specific ideas, concrete solutions and policy instruments

To have a clear roadmap how to reach out to businesses and other beneficiaries of Gabrovo S3 to participate in the implementation process

To draw conclusions and set approaches that could be applied to achieve S3 –S4 transition

To achieve public engagement in Gabrovo smart specialization with co-created suggestions, approaches, ways, etc.

### Relevant Stakeholders and stakeholder organizations

Quadruple Helix actors and general public

Local, regional bodies, and relevant EU; Public sector’s intuitions and bodies, businesses and entrepreneurial community; youth organizations, NGOs, Civil Society formations, Citizens and Users.

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### CHALLENGE GROUP MEMBERS: Potential participants at the camp

**Group member suggested by Challenge-owner**

The Challenge owner should suggest participants who are responsible for / relevant to following through on the results after the Camp. We strongly recommend that 2 *people* from the Challenge owner's organisation take part in each Workgroup.

Name	Email	Position	Organization	Expertise