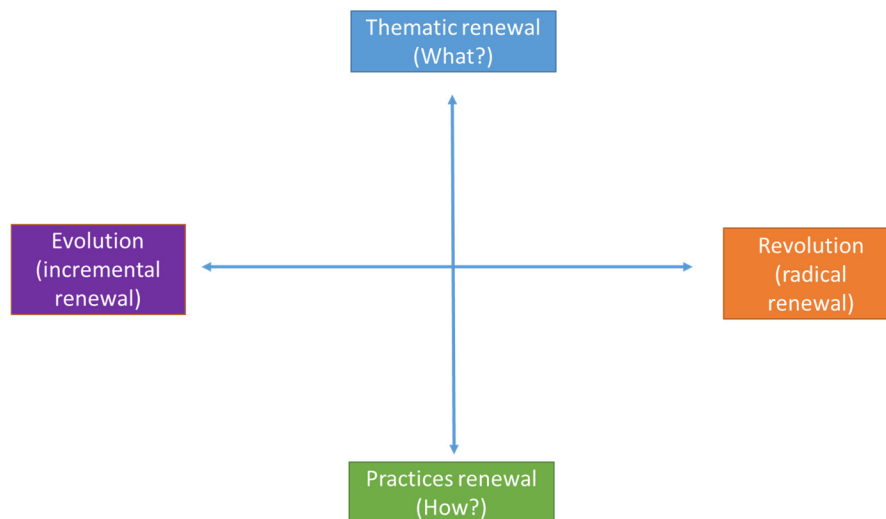


Discussion on general topics of RIS3 in Kaunas

Strategy revolution or evolution: the future of RIS3 in your region?

Partners discussed about the needs of the next strategy renewal process. Some of the regions need thematic renewal and others are focusing more on practices renewal, for example how to implement the strategy differently or what kind of processes to use to increase commitment among stakeholders. Mostly renewal was seen as incremental or slightly on the radical side. Partners also discussed the next steps of updating RIS3 strategy.

Dimensions of strategy renewal



Thematic renewal was among the regions both new uprising fields as well as cutting down from too many areas of specialisation. For example, in Satakunta region robotics is a new thematic area which is changing also the practices as it includes also different ways of working and affects the region in many different ways. On the other hand, in Lithuania, where the RIS3 is a national strategy, it has been seen from their mid-term evaluation (year 2018), that there are too many broad areas of specialisation and the strategy owner will most likely adjust/cut down two of them in the future. It was seen as a quite radical renewal, but not intensive. Many regions, for example Lubelskie, South-Savo, Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, considered themselves as being in the “safe corner” with small changes inside thematic sectors. Also some updating needs were considered as horizontal priorities, cutting all areas of specialisation, for example photonics in Lubelskie region.

Some partners also considered themselves as being more in the practices renewal side. The region of Gävleborg for example stated that they are currently focusing more on the process of leadership on the areas of specialisation. In South Ostrobothnia they are considering the need of a separate RIS3 document as such and the possible benefits of combining it with the regional strategy. In the region of Östergötland, they are still settling down from the last rather radical thematic update and are now

focusing on incremental practices renewal. Also in Tartu there is a different type of future renewal as the current RIS3 has no financial plan which they feel needs to be included in the future.

All regions are in a mature phase of working with the smart specialisations. The basic structure exists, both thematically and practices side equally. Partners continued discussing the next steps of updating the RIS3 and how to develop the strategy process. In the region of Gävleborg for example a large innovation system has been in place for a long time with a bottom-up approach. Now the next step is to get it to work more together on a regional level. They are continuing with the development of Smart Arenas in the large project "The Innovation Step" (2017-2021) which expands the involvements of stakeholders. Gävleborg is continuing work to improve commitment among the stakeholders by enhancing the regional leadership and involvement in each Smart Arena. They are focusing on creating common ownership and leadership among stakeholders. In Southern Estonia, Tartu more precisely, their first strategy was done by Tartu Science Park and now when updating the strategy has become current, their next step is to have a round table discussion with all the stakeholders about who is the correct actor to be responsible for it.

Two comments from the participants regarding the prioritising and selection process:

- If everyone's voice is in the final product, it is not necessarily good. However, everyone needs to be heard though.
- Picking only some sectors (=prioritise) won't make you friends everywhere, but you need to prioritize. Picking horizontal "enablers" instead might be more inclusive.

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