MANUMIX

Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Action Plan

FinPiemonte

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PART 1 – policy context

Objective

The objective of the Action Plan is the:

“Definition and implementation

in regional evaluation system

of three indicators

selected from those of FESR ROP 2014-2020

in order to verify the implementation of regional policy, its coherence and impacts”.

Policy Context

The **ERDF ROP 2014-2020** was defined according to three priorities for action (*strengthening dimensions of enterprises*, *innovation* and *internationalization*).

Afterwards, a regional **Smart Specialization Strategy (S3)** was developed, with the aim of strengthening research, technological development and innovation.

The overall vision behind all these programs is the need to support and accelerate a regional industrial transformation process grounded on research and innovation policies in specific areas of innovation and facing new challenges and new needs by investing on strengthening of human capital and personal skills.

Advanced Manufacturing

Within the strategic plan outlined in ERDF ROP and regional S3, a special role is attributed to the interventions related to the **Advanced Manufacturing**.

In particular, the axis 1 of ROP 2014-2020 provides several tools related to support for research and innovation in the areas of specialization of the S3, and specifically to advanced manufacturing systems (Advanced Manufacturing).

On this particular theme is also operating MESAP, a specific regional Innovation Pole for mechatronics and advanced manufacturing systems, which link more than 250 public and private actors; enterprises (SMEs and large enterprises), research centres and universities.

S3 and evaluation

The S3 underlines the importance of **policy evaluation** and the Evaluation Plan of the ERDF ROP aims at assessing the effectiveness of these policy measures.

The availability of complete ad reliable monitoring information is a pre-condition for conducting any meaningful evaluation and the AM evaluation activities need systematic data gathering and information processing.

The regional administration in the past two years set up a structured path from the definition of the S3 policy indicators to the planning of ad hoc surveys and panels.

In the Piemonte S3 document it is presented a monitoring and evaluation logical framework, with:

- Strategic objectives (expected results)
- Result indicators with baselines and targets
- Output indicators and targets

PART 2 – lessons learnt

Lesson learnt (1)

During the Phase 1 of the project Manumix, the initial objective has been defined a) confronting with the other partners; b) learning from the experiences presented by the partners and in the study tours organized on the sidelines of the meetings, and c) with the materials and scientific and technical support provided by Orkestra, which identified and analyzed some evaluation cases.

This path, shared by FinPiemonte with all regional stakeholders through regular meetings at the local level, has allowed to better define the initial idea, setting up a planning of the regional evaluation system and of the indicators relating to innovation policies and in particular at the Advanced Manufacturing policy-mix

We received also many useful insight and ideasfrom prtners action plan..

Lesson learnt (2)

a. **A better understanding of how to connect monitoring and evaluation of individual instruments and regional programmes to the overall assessment of S3. How to evaluate the contribution of strategic policy instruments objectives.**

In both the Basque and the Lithuanian presentation an interesting issue was highlighted which is how to link monitoring of the individual programmes with the S3 as a whole. The importance of measuring with a specific goal was also a learning from the discussion. On this issue some other important lessons have been learnt from the benchmarking proposed by Orkestra.

Lesson learnt (3)

b. Need to use qualitative and quantitative techniques.

The team received confirmation that the triangulation of methods (quantitative and qualitative) is the best approach for dealing with complex policy interventions and an important learning from the Orkestra benchmarking is that even if evaluation of an intervention should be always designed to provide assessment on net outputs, outcomes and impacts - which requires sophisticated evaluation methods - evidence from other evaluations or secondary data can be used as substitute information when this is not possible.

Lesson learnt (4)

c. Importance of data visualization tools.

This point is particularly important because Finpiemonte decided to add to this Action Plan a reference to "Arloesiadur", the experience of monitoring and displaying data presented by NESTA and the Government of Wales.

d. Need to take into account the interactions between the different mechanisms of the context in which the policies operate, the specific features and objectives and local actors and stakeholders.

As suggested in a case study proposed by Orkestra, any policy-mix should be seen as the result of a in-depth analysis of the existing interactions between contextual mechanisms, specific features, distinct challenges, and particular stakeholders.

PART 3 – the action

Objective of the Action

The **policy instruments** addressed are the Regione Piemonte “ROP ERDF 2014-2020” and “Smart Specialization Strategy (S3)” and there is only one Action.

The **operative responsability** for the implementation will be on behalf of Ires Piemonte, the regional research institute, that is responsible for the evaluation of ERDF ROP and S3.

The objective of the Action is the “Definition and implementation in regional evaluation system of three indicators selected from those of FESR ROP 2014-2020 in order to verify the implementation of regional policy, its coherence and impacts”.

The path of action

Through a shared path, the regional team identified a first set of indicators, which currently did not found use in monitoring and assessment of the programs.

Three of the selected indicators make direct reference to the research activities carried out by enterprises and to highlight the link with ESF a fourth indicator was added.

The indicator - still being defined – will try to describe the ability of regional development policies to virtuously link enterprises and research centres support policies with those actions aimed at improving individual skills, so as to ensure the presence of competences required by enterprises and research centers and a easier and quicker input of professionals vital to develop and spread innovation.

Indicator 1

1. **Enterprises that have carried out R&D activities in collaboration with external actors on the total of enterprises that carry out R&D** (*Imprese che hanno svolto attività di R&S in collaborazione con soggetti esterni sul totale delle imprese che svolgono R&S*)

The indicator is present in the database of territorial indicators for development policies ("Indicatori territoriali per le politiche di sviluppo") of Istat (National Statistics Institute), OT1 –indicator 417; but currently there are only data for the years 2010-2011-2012 (https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/16777).

Indicator 2

2. **Enterprises that have carried out R&D activities using research infrastructure and other services for R&D from public or private entities** (*Imprese che hanno svolto attività di R&S utilizzando infrastrutture di ricerca e altri servizi alla R&S da soggetti pubblici o privati*)

The indicator is present in the database of territorial indicators for development policies ("Indicatori territoriali per le politiche di sviluppo") of Istat, OT1 –indicator 432, although currently there is only data for 2013 (https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/16777).

Indicator 3

3. **Innovation rate of the manufacturing and service system** (*Tasso innovazione del sistema produttivo*).

The indicator is visible in the database of territorial indicators for development policies ("Indicatori territoriali per le politiche di sviluppo"), OT3 – indicator 148. In November 2018 are populated only certain annuities, 2008-2014 period, every two years (even years) (https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/16777).

Indicator 4

4. ***Competence/skill*** **indicator** (*to be defined*)

In addition to these indicators, the team is studying the use of a fourth indicator, capable of measuring progress in innovation with reference to the priority identified by the regional strategy trajectories.

The starting point is the demand for specific skills in the regional labour market coming from Advanced Manufacturing enterprises and on broad sense from Smart regional trajectory priority actors

The definition of this indicator started from the identification of these skills and then on their attribution to specific professionals (ISCO classifications) that are detected through communications required to job centers ("comunicazioni obbligatorie").

In this way Regione Piemonte could monitor the inflows in the employment for selected professions, as an indicator of the qualification of the regional productive system compared to the selected trajectories.

Challenges and future activities

Some of these indicators should be collected by ISTAT (national statistic insitute) recurring survey on research and development in enterprises, but ISTAT database indicators relate to the entire regional population and not at beneficiaries or recipients of regional measures support (not even "potentially" beneficiaries).

Using these indicators for the evaluation of policies related to the Advanced Manufacturing therefore presents some challenge that Ires Piemonte (responsible for ERDF ROP evaluation) need to deal with.

Update Istat indicators

a) first it is necessary **update the values of the Istat indicators** within a reasonable timeframe indicator of overall population to observe their evolution (but that's a lesser necessity sooner or later probably ISTAT will provide these data, existing special agreement at national level, see https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/221282).

Regarding this point, Piedmont region in coordination with other italian regions, is working to obtain the updating of data in the Istat database, albeit this actionit is not part of the project Manumix and the responsible is the statistical regional office and not the evaluator (Ires Piemonte)

Ad-hoc surveys

b) Secondly, Ires needs to collect data and information on enterprises benefiting from the Advanced Manufacturing policy-mix measures.

This second objective can be reached only through the holding of **ad-hoc survey** (timeframe and procedures to be defined). The different local actors are strengthenING the information system on regional innovation support policies, even including regular surveys to collect the information needed to construct the proposed indicators (Ires Piemonte is already developing the first of this survey).

Analysis of the border and content of the different areas (statistical definition)

c) Thirdly, a key point is that the quantification of indicators for specialty areas, requires an additional reflection and analysis of the **perimeter of the different areas**, and on how the assign enterprises to different areas and specifically to the Advanced Manufacturing area.

The areas of specialization of S3, in fact, do not coincide in any way with the classification of economic activities (NACE codes) as they identify companies in terms of production sectors that are not oriented to areas of specialization at the base of the strategies of Smart specialization approach

Ires Piemonte has created a research team working on this issue and the use of the results of this group for the evaluation of AM will be a crucial part of the Phase 2 of the project.

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Thank you!

Questions welcome

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