

SMART SPECIALIZATION: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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*The future of smart specialization
paradigm.*

Lessons learned & way forward

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M&E IN SMART SPECIALIZATION AIM & CHALLENGES

RIS3 – an experimentalist and result-oriented approach

- M&E needs to provide **timely, actionable and credible** evidence for policy design to RIS3 coordinating units

Esparza-Masana (2021) - “How to reshape something for the better when it is not clear what actually worked and what did not?”

Common challenges in the smart specialization context:

- Limited use of an explicit theory of change
- Lack of focus on actionability
- Inherent complexity of RIS3
- Insufficient guidance and capacity to build effective M&E systems

COMPLEMENTARY M&E SYSTEM: ACCOUNTABILITY-FOCUSED VS ACTION-ORIENTED

Complementary M&E system's aim:

- (i) improve operational *decision-making* in the short- to medium-term and
- (ii) improve *learning* about policy effectiveness in the longer-term.

Complementary M&E system's set-up:

- Build on CART principles
- Connecting two core policy levels in RIS3
 - **Measure-level**
 - **Strategy level**



Credible

Collect high quality data and analyze the data accurately



Actionable

Commit to act on the data you collect



Responsible

Ensure the benefits of data collection outweigh the costs



Transportable

Collect data that generate knowledge for other programs

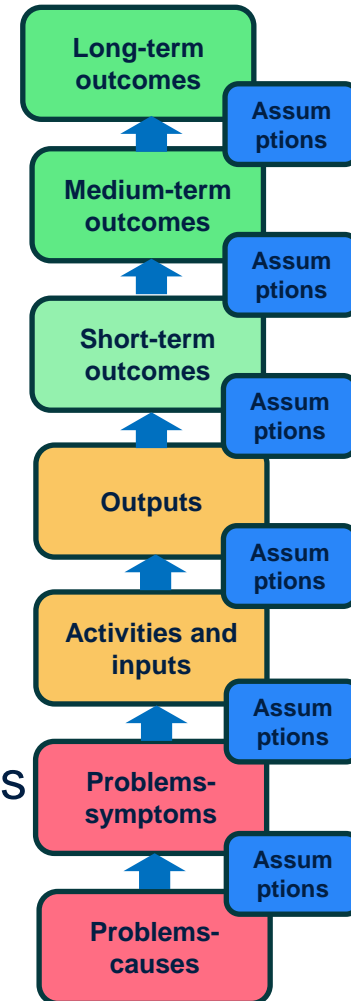
KEY FEATURES OF COMPLEMENTARY M&E SYSTEM

Key features of measure-level M&E framework:

- Theory-of-change based setting of objectives
- Clear sequencing of each step
- Concise set of harmonized, overarching **actionable** indicators for each element of the framework

Functions of strategy-level M&E framework:

- Derive strategy-level indicators from measure-level indicators
- Indicative evidence for attribution of RIS3 on specialization and development



MONITORING AT REGIONAL LEVEL

EVALUATION AT NATIONAL/EU LEVEL

Monitoring (improve operational decision making)

- in the hands of regional managing authorities...
- ...but harmonization and guidelines at national or European levels
- focus on actionability

Evaluation and impact evaluation (improve learning):

- require detailed firm-level data available only at Eurostat or statistical offices
- require highly-skilled team of methodological expertise

Recommendation

establish an **Innovation and Productivity Excellence Center**
- that plays advisory and research roles.

STRENGTHENING M&E OF SMART SPECIALIZATION DG REGIO AND WORLD BANK PROJECT

Phase 1: complementary M&E system with 2 regions.

Phase 2: design of two ex-post impact evaluations for one measure and one strategy

Phase 3: ex-ante impact evaluations

Aim: building capacity and supporting implementation of impact evaluations

1. Up to 10 teams invited for a week-long impact evaluation workshop in January 2022
2. Up to 5 Mini Awards to teams to develop concept note
3. WB assisting up to 4 teams to implement impact evaluation

THANK YOU

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