

NETIM New Tools for Innovation Monitoring

How to improve the monitoring of SMEs innovation support measures effectiveness?

NETIM project partners tried to answer to this question **designing efficacious and easy to implement practices for monitoring** the delivery of public **policies supporting innovation** in SMEs and creating a **joint guidance document** presenting findings and solutions, a **Design Option Paper**.

This document contains outlines and details on **possible methodologies** (design options) **and application proposals** for monitoring schemes and proposes a new monitoring tool to **interested European policy makers**.

WHO

NETIM project partners are innovation agencies having very similar missions, that is supporting the regional and national governments for policy making and operating in geographical areas with different characteristics and in different institutional levels. They aimed to capitalize their experiences concerning the most effective and simple to apply methods for collecting, elaborating and rendering data related to the implementation processes of innovation policies and measures.

The NETIM project consortium is composed by three European partners:

- **ARTI Puglia - Puglia Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation - Italy (Lead Partner) - www.arti.puglia.it**
ARTI is the Regional Agency of Technology and Innovation of the Italian Region of Apulia. Its activities are based on the fundamental role of research and innovation for the achievement of economic growth and social cohesion. Its actions are part of a more comprehensive strategy of economic development pursued by the Region Apulia. ARTI promotes and stimulates innovation and development of local enterprises and production systems.
- **FUNDECYT PCTEX - Fundacion Fundecyt Parque Cientifico Y Tecnologico De Extremadura - Spain - <http://www.fundecyt-pctex.es>**
FUNDECYT PCTEX is a non-profit organization aiming at contributing to the social and economic exploitation of science and technology in the Extremadura region. It supports and promotes scientific and technological development and a better use of research and innovation outcomes. It hosts more than 50 innovative companies in its facilities and supports regional entrepreneurs and SMEs.
- **IFKA – Iparfejlesztési Kozhasznu Nonprofit Korlatolt Felelossegu Tarsasag - Hungary - www.ifka.hu**
Since 1990 IKFA plays an active role in the economic, technical and innovational life of Hungary, bringing together the fields of logistics, quality assurance and environmental protection. It actively participates in the development of comprehensive domestic strategies and, thanks to its extensive networks, operates as a bridging institution.

HOW

NETIM is a **peer learning project** following a two-way approach, a reciprocal learning activity. It involved the **sharing of knowledge, ideas and experiences** among the project partners and aimed at the **development of new approaches and ideas through interdependent learning**.



WHAT

The NETIM project partners produced a Design Options Paper entitled “**A novel monitoring tool for S3 policies**” aiming at finding an effective mechanism for monitoring policies for innovation and designing a tool for collecting systematically information, without excessive costs and through procedures easy to implement.

The paper provides a background on the monitoring and evaluation of innovation policies and a specific focus on highly integrated policies like those encompassed by Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3); a synthetic description of the good practices already developed by the three partners of the NETIM consortium follows. The results of this first step have helped to clearly identify the main criticalities in the monitoring of innovation policies and the requirements for a monitoring tool.

The choice to apply the tool to the specific case of innovation policies implemented under Smart Specialisation Strategies has added additional challenges, linked to the need to take into account the specialisation dimension and to disaggregate the gathered information across Specialisation areas.

The proposed approach in the Design Option paper is based on the following principles and instruments:

- ❖ disaggregation of all collected indicators across the different RIS3 priorities, according to a three-tier classification (Priority Areas, Innovation Value Chains, Innovation Fields)
- ❖ use of different indicator sets: input, output, result, transition
- ❖ monitoring based on information mandatorily provided by the participants to public calls and beneficiaries
- ❖ monitoring data collected through questionnaires, at project submission time, at project conclusion and in later follow-up phases.
- ❖ direct surveys, focus groups and other qualitative approaches used for impact evaluation.

The resulting monitoring tool is presented in terms of a general framework (service delivery system), which has three major cornerstones: the **actors** targeted by the service (target groups), the **framework** conditions and organisations within which the service is delivered, and the **process** that makes up the service design, implementation and follow-up.

To test the feasibility of the approach, in a pilot exercise the tool has been applied to the Apulia (Italy) and Extremadura (Spain) RIS3.

TO WHOM

Innovation agencies, ministries or similar organizations involved in monitoring and evaluation of public policies for innovation and **interested European policy makers** who **may use and adapt it** when designing or re-designing innovation monitoring activities

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