

NETIM

New Tools for Innovation Monitoring Newsletter no. 1 – December 2016

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Editorial

Welcome to the experience of NETIM, the H2020 project aiming at developing and sharing methodologies and tools for monitoring the implementation of policy measures supporting innovation in SMEs, with a specific focus on indicator definition and data collection systems.

The two issues of the NETIM newsletter will inform you on the European consortium working on the project, the approaches applied, and the relevant advances.

Enjoy your reading!

The project in brief

NETIM, standing for “NEw Tools for Innovation Monitoring”, is a 12-months project (01/02/2016 – 31/01/2016), funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, through a call specifically addressed to national and regional innovation agencies (H2020-INNOSUP-2014-5).



NETIM aims at **designing efficacious and easy to implement practices** for **monitoring** the delivery of public **policies supporting innovation** in SMEs. The project objective is to set up an easy and effective tool, providing policy makers and interested stakeholders, in effective and immediate forms, with concise and targeted information that allow the evaluation of how innovation support measures are performing in the field.

Through the identification, analysis, and further development of good practices, the NETIM partnership is creating a **joint guidance document** presenting findings and solutions. This **Design Options Paper** will contain outlines and details on **possible methodologies** (design options) **and application proposals** for monitoring schemes. Distributed with **gold open access**, it will propose a new tool to **interested European policy makers** who **may use and adapt it** when designing or re-designing innovation monitoring activities.

The NETIM project is led by **ARTI Puglia**, the Apulian Regional Agency for Tecnology and Innovation (Italy). Partners are **IFKA**, the Public Benefit Non-Profit Ltd. for the Development of Industry (Hungary), and **FUNDECYT PCTEX**, the Foundation FUNDECYT Science and Technological Park of Extremadura (Spain).

The participating agencies are using a “**peer learning**” methodology for the implementation of their work on sharing and designing monitoring options for support mechanisms aimed at improving innovativeness in



SMEs in Europe.

Peer learning follows a two-way approach, it is a reciprocal learning activity. Hence, the objective of a peer learning project is to be mutually beneficial. It involves the sharing of knowledge, ideas and experiences among project partners and aims at the development of new approaches and ideas through interdependent learning. The European Commission has specifically promoted peer learning for innovation agencies, to support the cooperation for identifying better SMEs innovation support and develop tools and approaches that may be adopted all over Europe.

Progress of the NETIM project

Good practices review, assessment and selection on monitoring of public policies supporting innovation in SMEs

After a thorough research of monitoring methodologies for the evaluation of innovation support policies, both in their reference territories and generally around Europe, the Consortium has finalised the selection of the good practices to be presented in its final Design Options Paper.

The Consortium is now proceeding with the elaboration of the final Project output, the NETIM Design Options Paper, and is evaluating possibilities for pilot applications.

During the first months of project activities, there has been an intense exchange among the participating agencies for the identification of effective and commonly applicable tools and procedures on monitoring of public policies supporting innovation in SMEs.

The partners identified 3 main **challenges** to be considered for designing a monitoring tool for SME innovation policies. The first relates to the **quality and reliability of the data** collected through monitoring of SME innovation measures. The second challenge identified is the **timeliness of the gathered information, that is the need** to have data available on time for understanding the effectiveness of measures. The third challenge refers to the **financial sustainability** of this kind of data gathering tools.

Following, the partners identified and described two good practices on monitoring, using a standard form in order to assess them along different dimensions, such as **cost, scope, needed expertise, advantages**.

The good practices selected by the partners are the following:

- “In process monitoring & ex-post evaluation of public aid schemes”: a tool developed by ARTI in 2011, aimed at collecting information about the input additionality and the behaviour additionality of R&D subsidy beneficiaries.
- “Impactscan Tool, applied to the assessment and impact evaluation of services offered by ILO (Industrial Liaison Offices)”: a tool implemented by ARTI in 2011 and adapted from the Lower Austria three matrices structure methodology for monitoring innovation intermediaries.
- “Extremadura RIS3 Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation System”: this is a comprehensive system design within the regional strategy in order to assess the adequacy of the actions developed and the Strategic Priorities defined. The system is based in a governance structure that guarantees a multi level involvement in the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, both quantitative and qualitative.
- “Regional RDI Plan of Extremadura Monitoring System”: this monitoring system was designed to properly assess the achievement of general and specific objectives of the Plan, in connection with foreseen regional programmes. It has been developed by the regional government and it is



connected with other monitoring systems in the region.

- “Start-up Extremadura Monitoring and Evaluation System”: the monitoring and evaluation system of Start-up Extremadura Programme was designed to evaluate in a quantitative (by means of a set of indicators) and qualitative (by means of a peer review system) way the development and outcomes of this support programme.
- “New Hungary Rural Development Programme 2007-2013”: prepared by the Ministry of Agricultural Rural Development in accordance with Article 15 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, the Monitoring and Reporting System became operational in 2008 and still alive. The monitoring system applies outputs, outcomes and impacts indicators as well as sets up independent body (e.g. Monitoring Committee) supporting the Managing Authority (State Secretary for EU Affairs assisted by the Department of Rural Development), and by the ARDA Agricultural and Rural Development Agency. Monitoring is performed by annual progress reports, mid-term and ex post evaluations established as a unique System of Ongoing Evaluation.
- “Monitoring of the Integrated Settlement Development Strategy 2014-2020”: the monitoring system represents a unique combination of “traditional” and “comprehensive” solutions. Monitoring is performed on a bi-annual basis making use of statistical - econometric models and results are published in Monitoring Reports. Monitoring is performed at strategic and operational levels.
- “National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development of Hungary 2012-2020”: based on the Government Resolution, the monitoring serves double purposes. On the one hand, it provides a summary every two years for the Parliament through the National Council for Sustainable Development about the governmental measures aimed at implementing the Framework Strategy. Moreover, it contributes to the further development and tailoring of a set of indicators measuring sustainable development and ensure the regular establishment, calculation, assessment and reconsideration of the indicators.

Considering that most policies for SME innovation are being implemented under the Smart Specialization Strategies, a focus and comparison among analogous policies from Apulia and Extremadura, dealing with the support to R&D&I in companies and to innovative companies start-up, was implemented.

The comparison aimed to identify and highlight policy actions sharing the same specific objectives, with particular reference to the impact on the Smart Specialization Strategies, such as sets of common result and output indicators and new kinds of information and/or indicators whose inclusion could be useful for the monitoring and evaluation systems.

After these preliminary phases, the partners agreed on the approach to be proposed in the Design Option Paper, which will contain suggestions on **possible monitoring methodologies and tools, with application examples** and will be delivered at the end of the project.

Partner Focus: FUNDECYT-PCTEX

The NETIM project brings together European partners from three different countries: Italy, Hungary and Spain. This geographical and cultural diversity represents a great added value and a significant opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise and to learn more about the specific socio-economic context of each partner. Let’s meet one of the three partners, the Foundation FUNDECYT Science and Technological Park of Extremadura.





FUNDECYT-PCTEX is a body governed by public law based in Extremadura (Spain) with the aim of contributing to the social and economic exploitation of science and technology in the region, supporting and promoting scientific and technological development and a better use of research and innovation outcomes.

It offers spaces and services to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, science and technology in Extremadura.

FUNDECYT-PCTEX hosts around 70 innovative companies in its facilities and, in addition to the assistance provided to tenants, it supports regional entrepreneurs and SMEs in the development and consolidation of business ideas.

Moreover, it provides technical assistance to the Regional Government for the design and implementation of policies, such as the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) or the Digital Agenda of Extremadura, and works in close relation with enterprises, the University of Extremadura, R&D centres and other regional stakeholders to foster innovation.

Of its staff of 40 people, more than 20 professionals are working directly in European projects, in areas such as entrepreneurship, SMEs sustainability and competitiveness, innovation, technology transfer, social innovation, mobility and training, etc., paying special attention to the five priority areas of the RIS3 of Extremadura: agrofood, clean energy, tourism, healthcare, and ICT.

FUNDECYT-PCTEX has been appointed by the Regional Government of Extremadura as the body responsible for the Technical Office of the RIS3 Extremadura. Therefore it is currently working in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy.

In line with this activity, FUNDECYT-PCTEX is part of the NETIM project in order to work in the design of a new tool for innovation monitoring. FUNDECYT-PCTEX will be responsible for the dissemination activities in order to present the Design Option Paper produced by the project to the relevant stakeholders.

Local Working Groups involved by the project

The project partners set up Local Working Group, one per partner region, made by the Innovation Agency staff members plus representatives from the regional authority and other key stakeholders and experts in policy monitoring.

Apulia Local Working Group

Italian Agency for territorial cohesion (www.agenziacoesione.gov.it) – The National Agency for territorial cohesion aims to support and promote, according to the criteria of effectiveness and efficiency, programmes and projects for development and economic cohesion, and to strengthen the activities of programming and monitoring these measures.

In detail, the Agency's strategic objective is to provide support to central and regional administrations in the implementation of European and national Programme 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, as well as monitoring investments and supporting the promotion and improvement of planning and quality, timeliness,



effectiveness and transparency of implementation of interventions.

Puglia Region – Economic Development, Innovation, Education, Training and Employment Department – Research and Innovation Section (<http://bit.ly/2ghV8Td>) – It works for designing, updating and monitoring regional strategies for smart specialization, info-telematic infrastructure (broadband and ultra broadband), innovation, research and digital growth for smart, inclusive and sustainable regional communities; it ensures the integration of research, innovation and digital growth in economic, employment, human and social development, education and culture sectors, in cooperation with local, regional, national and European institutions; it promotes synergies among regional measures and European programs (H2020, COSME, etc.), in cooperation with the competent regional management authorities in charge for them.

InnovaPuglia S.p.A (www.innova.puglia.it) – InnovaPuglia S.p.A. is a company owned by Puglia Region and supports regional strategic planning in the theme of Digital Innovation, defining and implementing the Regional Digital System, through: management of databases and regional strategic information systems; design, development and implementation of a regional information system; design, implementation and management of public ICT infrastructures.

One of the InnovaPuglia tasks is that of implementing in Puglia the European Digital Agenda, according to an Open and Smart Innovation model, in order to simplify relationships with public administrations and limit and rationalise public spending. InnovaPuglia also supports public interventions sustaining research and digital innovation.

Hungary Local Working Group

Ministry for National Economy (<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-for-national-economy>) – IFKA - Public Benefit Non-Profit Ltd. for the Development of the Industry is the auxiliary organization for Ministry for National Economy. The Ministry is also the Managing Authority of the largest OP in Hungary, EDIOP Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme. Furthermore, the Ministry for National Economy is in charge of the development of the social enterprise landscape in Hungary in which IFKA provides the Ministry with its expertise gained in enterprise acceleration.

National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI Office) (<http://nkfih.gov.hu/the-office>) – The Office of Hungary started to work on January 1st 2015. The National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI Office) was founded with the aim to "create stable institutional framework for the governmental coordination of the national research, development and innovation ecosystem, provide predictable funding and implements an efficient and transparent use of available resources". Accordingly, the Office develops RDI policy and ensures that Hungary adequately invest in RDI.

Hungarian Academy of Sciences Institute for Computer Science and Control (MTA SZTAKI) (<https://www.sztaki.hu/en>) – The MTA SZTAKI is a research institute, governed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Upon the charge by the Secretary-general of the Academy, the supervision of the scientific activity pursued at the Institute is provided by the Board of the Institute. The Institute is one of the longest-standing and the most important IT research institute. The Institute was founded in 1964. Its staff consists of more than 300 full-time employees, more than 200 with university diploma and more than 70 with scientific degrees. The fundamental task of the Institute is to perform basic and application-oriented research in an interdisciplinary setting in the fields of computer science, engineering, information technology, intelligent systems, process control, wide-area networking and multimedia.



Extremadura Local Working Group

General Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (<http://www.gobex.es>) – It is the body of the Regional Government in charge of the RDI policy and therefore it is in charge of the implementation of the RIS3 strategy. The General Secretariat appointed FUNDECYT-PCTEX as the Technical Office of the RIS3 for its implementation, monitoring and assessment, as well as for its coordination with Structural Funds Programmes (ERDF and ESF) and other regional policies.

Extremadura Avante, S.L.U. (<http://www.extremaduraavante.es/>) – It is a public company of the Government of Extremadura that was born in 2010, in order to provide services to entrepreneurs and other economic agents who contribute to the economic and social development of Extremadura, and the accompaniment to the Regional Government for the implementation of its business policy. Extremadura Avante is in charge of several instruments developed in the framework of the RIS3 Strategy, as “Start-up Extremadura” among others.

Links/news

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

<http://www.arti.puglia.it>

<http://www.fundecyt-pctex.es>

<http://www.ifka.hu>

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