

NETIM

NEw Tools for Innovation Monitoring

Newsletter no. 2 – February 2017

A newsletter published by NETIM

A project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme

Editorial

Welcome to the second and last newsletter of **NETIM**, the H2020 project that aimed 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.

This issue will introduce you to two of the three partners working on the project, ARTI and IFKA, and will inform you about the NETIM final deliverable, the **Design Options Paper**.

Enjoy your reading!

Partner Focus: ARTI

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 two of the three partners, the Apulian Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation (Italy), Coordinator of the NETIM project, and **IFKA**, the Public Benefit Non-Profit Ltd. for the Development of Industry (Hungary).



a.r.t.i.
Agenzia regionale
per la tecnologia
e l'innovazione

ARTI - Apulian Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation (Italy) is the coordinator partner of the NETIM project.

Established in 2004 and fully operative since 2005, the Agency is a main tool to realize the specific objectives set in the Apulian regional Innovation Strategy, based on the role of Research and Innovation for economic growth and social cohesion.

Therefore and in line with the national and European policies, ARTI's activity aims at promoting and satisfying both the demand for innovation expressed by the regional productive system and the qualification of human resources, its main function being the strengthening of the regional innovation players and of the relationships among them, in order to help and develop the stream of innovation between research and enterprises.

The Agency **supports local R&I policy-making**, by cooperating in the definition of policy documents and monitoring and evaluating regional R&D programmes, activities and actions.

ARTI pursues its mission through activities in the fields of:



- valorisation of research results and promotion of innovative business
- monitoring and evaluation
- internationalization of Apulian innovation
- dissemination of innovation culture.

Over the years, ARTI has gained a strong expertise in the field of monitoring and evaluation of innovation policies, even joining international projects and numerous groups with national and international experts, (ARTI and Apulia Region join the Seville Platform and the S3 Pilot Monitoring Group).

Since 2014, ARTI has been supporting the Apulia Region in the definition and implementation of the monitoring system for its Smart Specialization Strategy, contributing to the definition of suitable indicators, adequate monitoring tools and data collection system implementation.

Partner Focus: IFKA



IFKA Public Benefit Non-Profit Ltd. for the Development of the Industry www.ifka.hu is the auxiliary organization (government agency) for the Ministry for National Economy (Hungary). For over 25 years, IFKA's extensive network of connections has promoted liaisons between the supply and demand sides of the economy in the fields of education, improving job opportunities, research and innovation. IFKA is strategic

partner of the Hungarian Enterprise Europe Network, dealing with technology transfer between stakeholders, and of the Hungarian Association of Innovation.

IFKA is a strategic partner of the Hungarian Association of Innovation as member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Assessment Department and sponsored the István Harsányi Award as well as the Business Plan Competition. As part of the Hungarian Government now IFKA is designing an overarching approach on how to connect formal education into the needs of the labour market in support of enhancing entrepreneurial spirit. Due to its expertise, IFKA has been actively contributing to the finalization of the RIS3 Regional Smart Specialization Strategy of the Central Hungary Region as well. Moreover, IFKA has been deeply involved in the programming of the Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme of Hungary in support of the Ministry for National Economy, the largest Hungarian OP with a total budget of € 8,813,195,514.00 that is managed by the Ministry as Managing Authority.

At national level, IFKA also promotes knowledge transfer to industrial actors, collaborating through tenders and international cooperation projects in the development of science and technology-driven sectorial strategies in Hungary, such as the Mid-term Logistics Sector Policy Strategy (2014-2020) accepted by both the Government and the trade.

Hungary represents a wide portfolio of research and innovation strategies addressed to boost the knowledge-based economy in Hungary. The policy framework builds on two mainstream policies, namely the Innovation Strategy (2013-2020) and the Science Policy Strategy (2014-2020):

- the new Innovation Strategy 2013-2020 focuses on three main areas of intervention: knowledge creation, knowledge transfer, and knowledge utilisation. Encouraging smart specialisation, building a sustainable system able to create equal opportunities, providing stable financing conditions, raising public awareness and strengthening the acknowledgment of knowledge and technology, and creating a stable, innovation-friendly economic and regulatory environment – these could all lead to rising levels of R&D intensity in the coming years. The strategy and its implementation are being supplemented by the Strategy of Smart Specialisation (S3) which has been adopted.
- the Science Policy Strategy 2014-2020 aims to enhance the attractiveness of the research environment, increase scientific excellence, and reverse the brain drain.



Progress of the NETIM project: the Design Options Paper

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

The NETIM project partners tried to answer to this question and 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.

The Design Options Paper is available to [\[this link\]](#).

Progress of the NETIM project: the final conference

On 26th January, the Office of Extremadura in Brussels (Belgium) hosted **“NETIM project: final results presentation”**, the final public conference of the NETIM project, organized by **FUNDECYT-PCTEX** – Science and Technology Park of Extremadura (Spain). During the event, the project partners - ARTI (Italy), IFKA (Hungary) and FUNDECYT-PCTEX (Spain) - thanks to peer learning activities developed in the framework of the project, presented knowledge, ideas, experiences and recommendations on effective mechanisms for



monitoring the implementation of measures supporting innovation in SMEs.

The conference began with the presentation of the project, by Giuseppe **Creanza** on the behalf of ARTI Puglia. Afterwards, the first session took place, dealing with challenges and problems of the RIS3 evaluation: the speakers were Jennifer **Grisorio** (Project leader) for ARTI Puglia, Lucila **Castro Rovillard** for FUNDECYT-PCTX and Peter **Kiss** for IFKA.

The second session was focused on the presentation of the NETIM monitoring tool, described by Giuseppe **Creanza**; Jennifer **Grisorio** and Lucila **Castro Rovillard** then presented the pilot applications of the tool respectively in Puglia and Extremadura regions.



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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