Region Värmland, Smart Specialisation Strategies implementation: Priorities, Related Policies and Impact Assessment

1) **Stocktaking of regional priorities and linkages with policy measures implemented/planned on their basis.**

- Will the regional priorities be revised to refine the S3 strategy and/or to adapt to new market conditions and the global context?

Yes, the monitoring process that should have started earlier will now serve as a preparation of the next smart specialization strategy.

- How does consistency/coherence between the regional S3 priorities and related policy measures is being assessed?

By comparing what is written in the RIS3 about the vision for one and each of the specialization including the proposed actions and roles for different actors in the different specialisations and compare that with what has actually happened.

What data collection methods are being used?

We will collect data from projects related to RIS3, from reports from programs as The Academy for smart specialization and the Vinnväxt program initiatives in our region, from individuals being involved in RIS3 projects or activities by a survey and by self-assessment groups and from statistics (the latter to a limited extent).

In this moment we are analyzing the results from a survey on the actors in the regional innovation support system and another survey on the municipalities perception of the actors. We will conduct an evaluation on The Academy on Smart Specialisation.

We also intend to pull out results, conclusions and recommendations from the pilot Industrial Transition Regions, research projects for instance from The Nordic Councils of Minsters program on regional development, the GONST-project, evaluation of the ERDF-program for North Middle Sweden and others that relates to Värmland.

What is the role/involvement of regional stakeholders in the process?

The stakeholders will mainly be involved in answering a survey and in participating in self-assessment groups. We intend to carry out the process through co-creation, including in some extent, jointly designing the process. The intention is to focus on common learning, understanding and continuous improvements rather than on assessing and evaluating the actors. It should be a trust building exercise.

- What complementary policy measures may need to be contemplated (policy roadmapping) in order to boost the impact of S3?

The self-assessment groups will formulate recommendations to the actors on how to up-date or adapt ongoing projects and activities, recommendations on new calls, new initiatives and finally recommendations for the next RIS3.

It could also be recommendation addressed to the national level or the EU-commission.

This can potentially include roadmapping, user driven design methodology or other approaches.

- What do you see as important critical junctures on the road ahead?

Collecting and systemizing data will be a challenge.

Get people, including myself to set aside as much time as needed.

Not to make it to complicated and overwhelmingly. For instance restricting the number of indicators.

2) **How does your region plan/propose to assess the impact of S3 (beyond checking the levels of output/indicators proposed)?**

- For instance, changes in terms of funding decisions, or in terms of policymakers' and stakeholders' behaviour?
- And more broadly and importantly, towards the regional economic transformation that S3 is promoting?

Since we are late in putting the monitoring process in place it will in our case serve as preparation for the next smart specialization strategy.

We will discuss "signs of regional economic transformations" in the self-assessment groups. When we have the "whole picture" from all self-assessment groups there will hopefully be possible to make conclusion of the specialisations in relation to each other. In that phase we will be able to see if we have an appropriate portfolio of specialisations or not.