Smart Specialisation: monitoring and evaluation
State of the play and next steps
Committee of the Regions

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The challenge of national coordination of regional S3 monitoring

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Smart Specialisation in Italy: regional and national dimension

1 National S3

- 5 thematic areas
- Integration of Funds
- PON R&I – I&C
- Strategic Plans (FSC)

STRATEGIA NAZIONALE
DI SPECIALIZZAZIONE INTELLIGENTE

21 Regional S3s

5 Less Developed - GDP < 75% EU27 avg

3 In Transition - 75% =< GDP < 90% EU27 avg

13 More Developed - GDP > 90% EU27 avg

A heterogeneous picture of how each of the Regions defined their S3.

Different objectives, timing, approaches

The 21 regional S3s

- Regions are characterized by different:
  - levels of administrative abilities;
  - implementation structures;
  - levels of experience in managing and monitoring R&I policies.

- Regional S3s were approved with different timing (from 2014 to 2017)
  - different stages

- Each Italian Region has its own monitoring system following EC Regulation
  - different skills and monitoring capabilities;
  - variety of methods and indicators;
  - different degree of stakeholder engagement in S3 monitoring.

The Monitoring and Control Unit of the Agency for Territorial Cohesion gives methodological support to regions for S3 monitoring

National coordination of regional S3s monitoring

- **Governance**: we need a **national vision** on what is happening

- Developed a monitoring system at central level containing information on :
  - calls (in coherence with S3s)
  - aspects of governance and the roles of stakeholders;
  - Priority areas and developments paths;
  - strategy and project indicators;
  - budgetary frameworks.

- Survey June 2017: Regions asked for **information comparable across regions** by **priority area.**

National Agency for Territorial Cohesion and State General Account Department (IGRUE) launched an activity with regions: **Identifying S3 projects in the National Monitoring System (NMS)**

Identifying S3 projects in the National Monitoring System

Agreement with State General Account Department (IGRUE) to:

• identify the projects contributing to regional and national strategies **by priority** (projects financed by national and European cohesion policies);

•monitor these projects, indicating the evolution of project, output and result indicators;

• create **specific reports** on projects financed by priority.

Challenges:

- Not required at EU level
- An intermediate level of the monitoring process: to avoid further burdens
- Large heterogeneity: more than 80 priorities in regional S3s

Need of a harmonization proposal

Harmonizing priorities across the regions

- The Monitoring and Control Unit of the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion guided Regions to define a model to trace back their **84 priority areas** to a unique taxonomy, to allow comparison and a shared codification of the regional choices.

- Model proposal based on a specific question of the survey conducted by the Monitoring Unit in June 2017.

- It was intended to trace back the regional priorities to the **12 areas** selected by the National Research Plan 2015-2020.

12 areas selected by the
National Research Plan 2015-2020

AGRIFOOD

HEALTH

CULTURAL HERITAGE

GREEN CHEMISTRY

AEROSPACE

S³ SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGY

DESIGN CREATIVITY

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTS OF LIFE

SMART MANUFACTURING

BLUE GROWTH

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

SMART, SECURE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Harmonizing priority areas across the regions

- 1 Feb 2018: Proposal shared and discussed with regions;

- 1 Feb-July 2018: work with regions and IGRUE to link regional priorities and their development paths with the 12 areas;

- July 2018 : Defined a Context Table required by NMS;

- 31 October 2018: a joint operational note was sent to regions to give indications on inserting and tracking each project in National Monitoring System distinguishing National from Regional S3s.
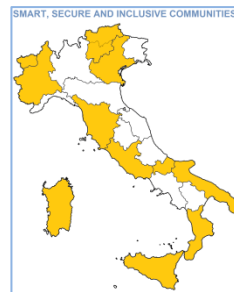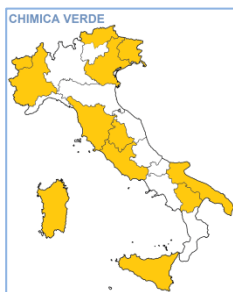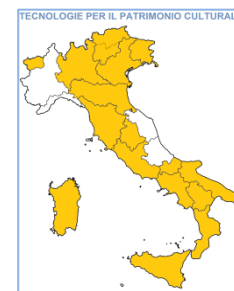
Context Table required by NMS (regional S3s)

Codice raggrup-pamento	Descrizione Raggruppamento	Codice Classificazione	Descrizione Classificazione
SR_01	Strategia Regionale - Aerospazio	S 01_*regione1*_01	*traiettoria di sviluppo 1*
		S 01_*regione1*_02	*traiettoria di sviluppo 2*
		S 01_*regione1*_03	*traiettoria di sviluppo 3*
		S 01_*regione2*_01	*traiettoria di sviluppo 4*
		S 01_*regione2*_02	*traiettoria di sviluppo 5*
		S 01_*regione2*_03	*traiettoria di sviluppo 6*
		S 01_*regione2*_04	*traiettoria di sviluppo 7*
		S 01_*regione2*_05	*traiettoria di sviluppo 8*
		S 01_*regione3*_01	*traiettoria di sviluppo 9*
		S 01_*regione3*_02	*traiettoria di sviluppo 10*
		S 01_*regione3*_03	*traiettoria di sviluppo 11*
		S 01_*regione3*_04	*traiettoria di sviluppo 12*
		S 01_*regione3*_05	*traiettoria di sviluppo 13*
		S 01_*regione...*_01	*traiettoria di sviluppo* n
		.....	.....
SR_02	Strategia Regionale - Agrifood	S 02_*regione...*_01	.....
		S 02_*regione...*_02	.....
SR_03	Strategia Regionale - Blue Growth	S 03_*regione...*_01	.....
SR_04	Strategia Regionale - Chimica Verde	.....	.....
SR_05	Strategia Regionale - Design, creatività e Made in Italy	.....	.....
SR_06	Strategia Regionale - Energia (e Ambiente)	.....	.....
SR_07	Strategia Regionale - Fabbrica Intelligente	.....	.....
SR_08	Strategia Regionale - Mobilità sostenibile	.....	.....
SR_09	Strategia Regionale -Salute	.....	.....
SR_10	Strategia Regionale -Smart, Secure and Inclusive Communities	.....	.....
SR_11	Strategia Regionale -Tecnologie per gli Ambienti di Vita	.....	.....
SR_12	Strategia Regionale - Tecnologie per il Patrimonio Culturale	.....	.....

Identifying S3 projects in the National Monitoring System

- **All projects financed in OT1** (at least) must be inserted according to a development path.

- The priorities and the devopment paths must be updated **following a S3 revision process.**

- **Specific report on S3** implementation **by priorities** will be provided to regions.

- The NMS provides information on **indicators by S3 priorities**

The choices of Regions by priority

Identifying S3 projects in the National Monitoring System

The continuous insertion of projects in the NMS allows us **to gather comparable information** for:

1. **Integrated vision by priority** of the S3s implementation through the analysis of:

   ➢ financed projects by priority and by development paths;
   ➢ gap implementation programming.

2. **Sharing information with regions** supporting:

   ➢ **Monitoring and evaluation** activities;
   ➢ **Revision process**;
   ➢ **Cooperation between administrations and stakeholders**;
   ➢ **Comparison and benchmarking** with other Italian and European regions;
   ➢ Definition of **common indicators by priority;**
   ➢ **Synergies** with the national S3.

Final considerations

- **Significant effort made by regions** for a monitoring task that is not "compulsory";

- As for each new monitoring system, a period of transition is necessary to work on the **quality of data** and provide reliable and meaningful data;

- **Long term investment** useful for **next programming period**: greater attention to governance of monitoring and evaluation activities.

Is monitoring by priority the right approach?

- **From the surveys conducted (2017 and 2018):**

- Evidence of regional involvement in territorial investigations and research to define **specific indicators for priority areas**;

- Diffusion of **platforms and thematic working groups** at regional level **to involve stakeholders** in monitoring activities;

- Need of common **indicators by priority comparable across regions** for benchmarking purposes;

- Need of methodologies **to define the perimeter of priorities** and the enterprises included in each of them.

Methods and Statistics supporting S3 (Project on "Territorial Statistics" involving National Institute of Statistics and stakeholders)

National Operational Programme «Governance and Institutional Capability»

Thank you for your attention!

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