

# The European Commission's science and knowledge service

Joint Research Centre



# Monitoring Smart Specialisation Strategies: recent evidence from a survey

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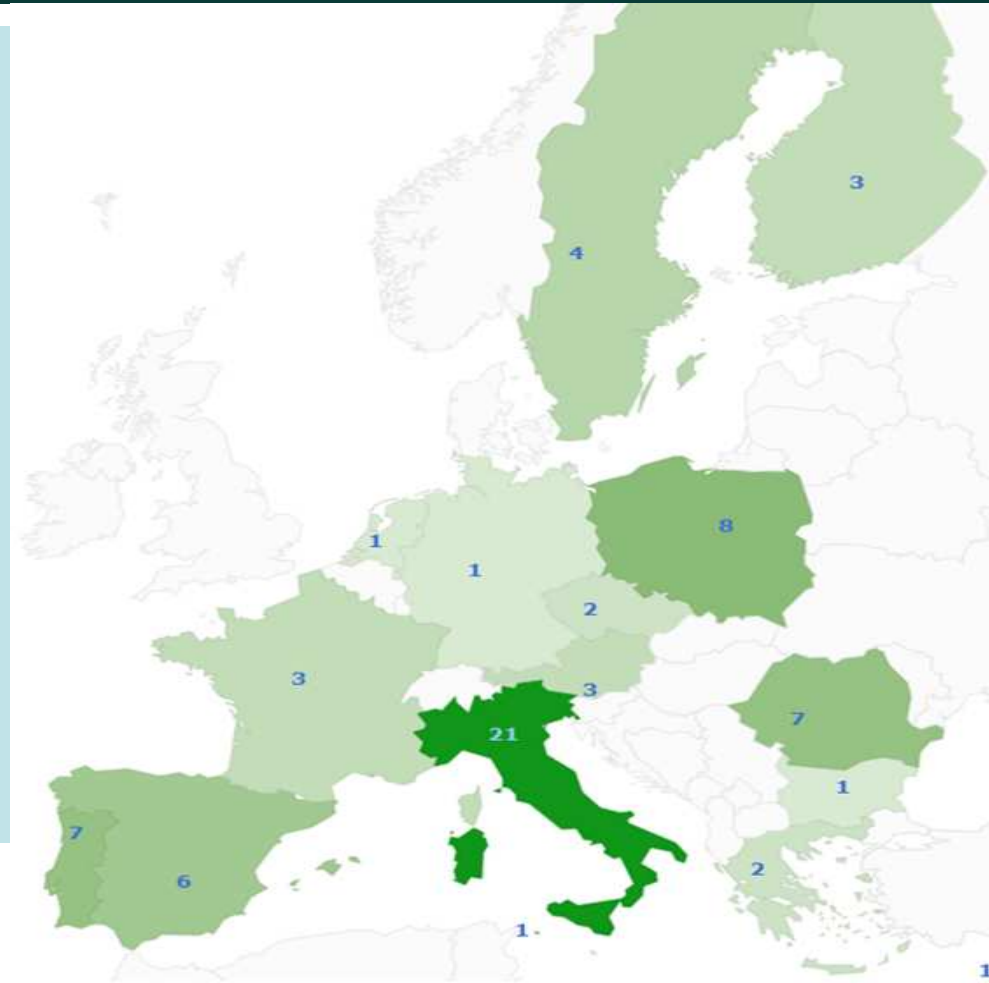
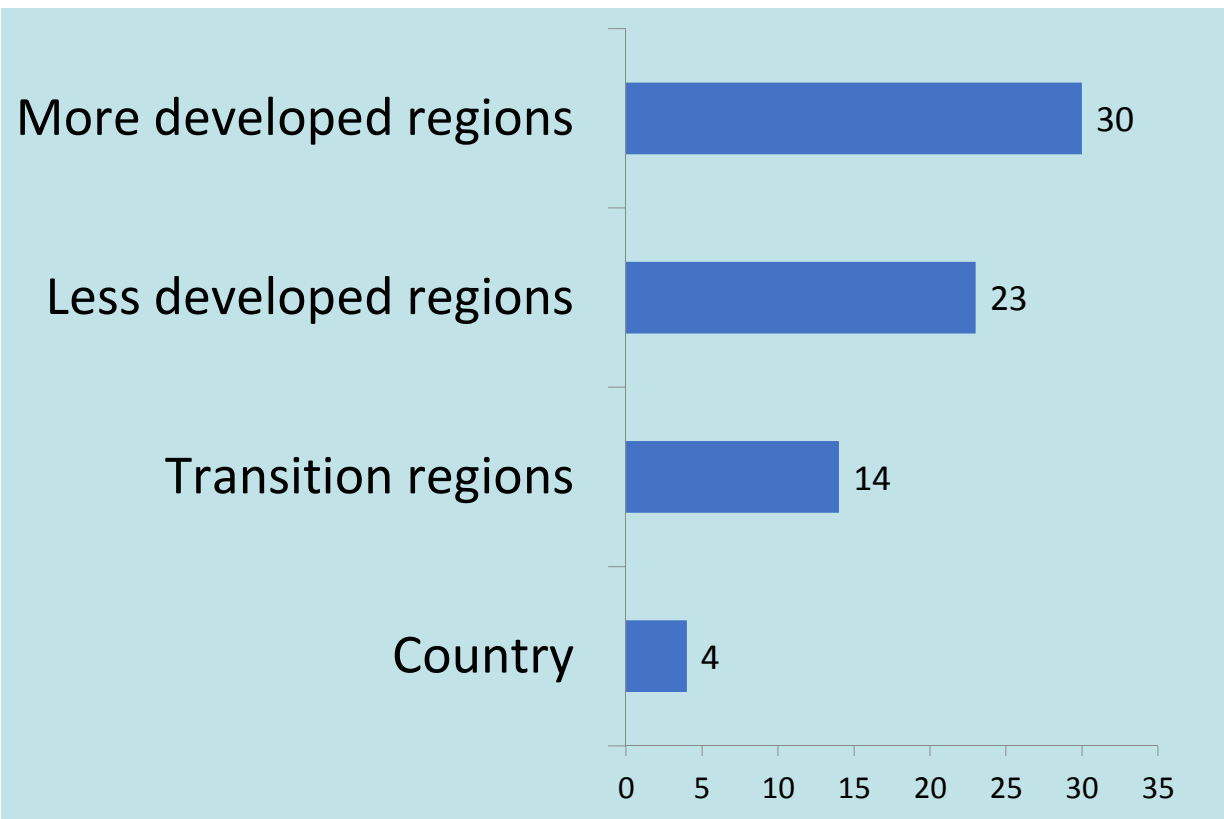
Vilnius, 23 October 2018

# Presentation outline

- Presentation of the main results
- Focus on "monitoring"

# 71 valid responses

## Mostly RIS3 management team



# The RIS3 experience: a challenging but satisfactory exercise

RIS3 is a **demanding policy** in terms of **policy intelligence**, **skills** and **capabilities** for public authorities and stakeholders (89% of respondents agree or strongly agree)

Smart Specialisation experience is **positively valued** (66% of survey respondents are very or extremely satisfied; 77% more developed regions )

# Improvements promoted by the RIS3 process

## Radical/Substantial improvements

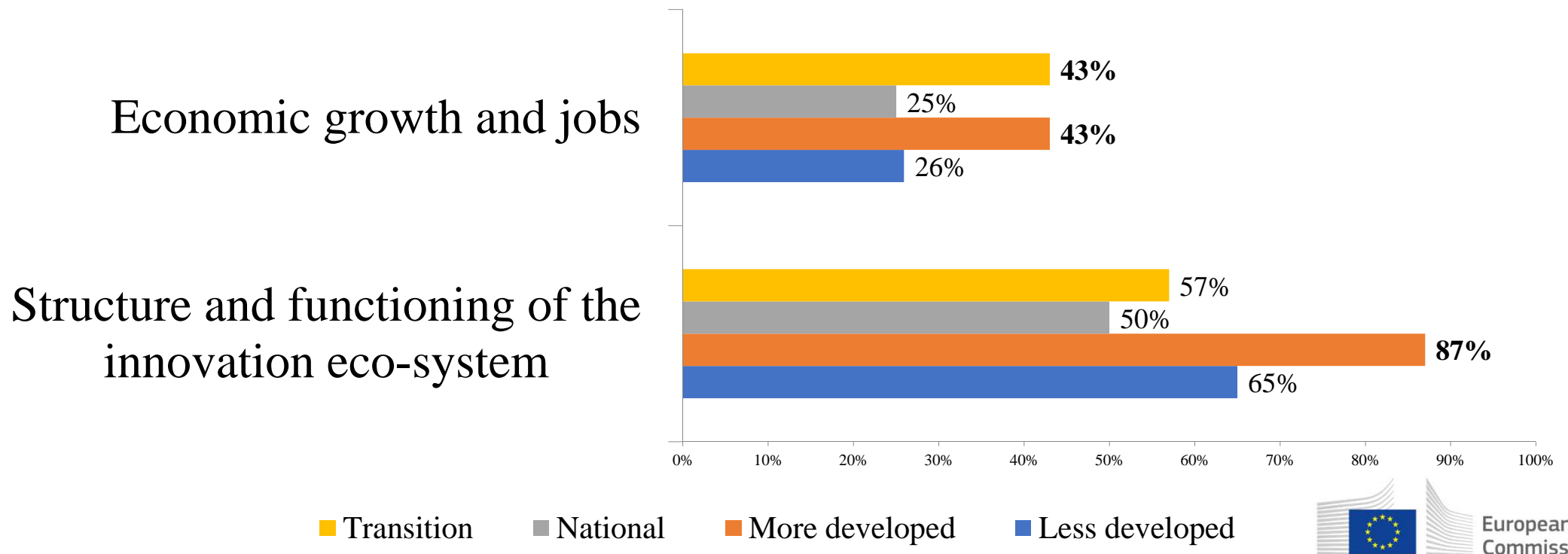
- Stakeholder engagement
- Prioritisation process
- Concentration of funding
- Level of trust

## No/Minor improvements

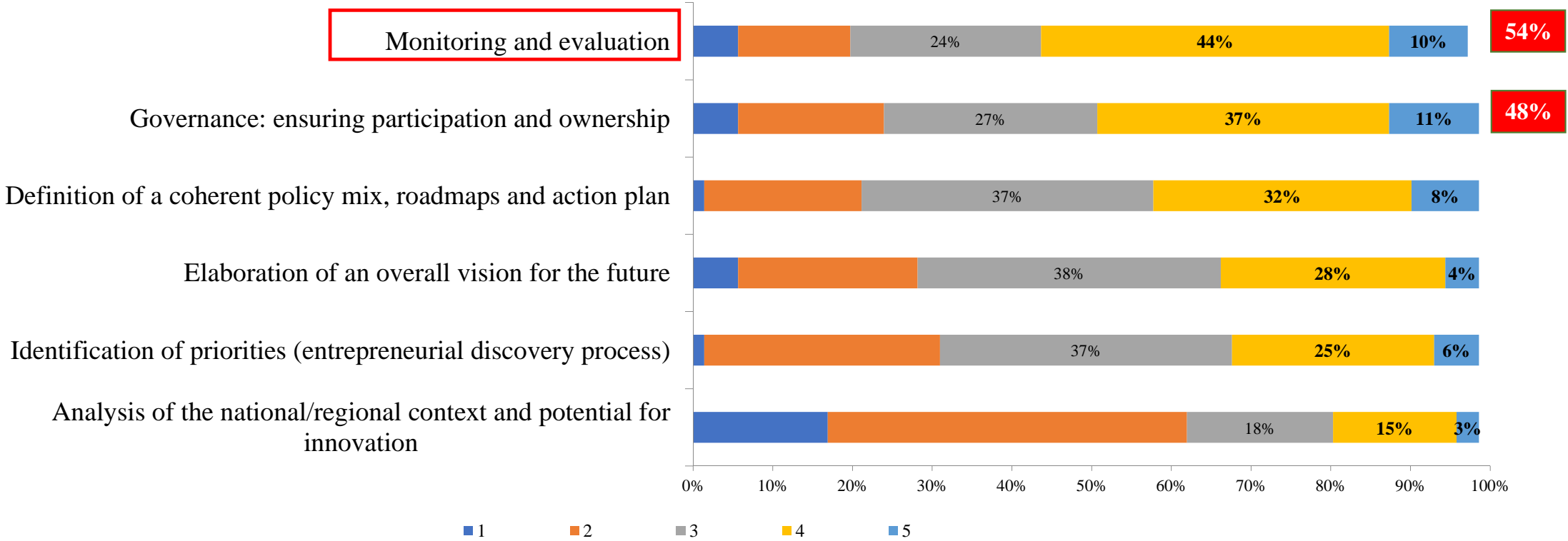
- **Quality and effectiveness of monitoring activities**
- Strategies' outward-looking perspective
- Progress toward economic transformation

# Perceived impact in the medium-long term

Strengthening of the regional innovation ecosystem but **not much progress in terms of economic growth and jobs** expected in the future



# Setting up a monitoring system is not easy!



Level of difficulty encountered with respect to the six steps of the S3 design process (5. very difficult - 1. very easy)





# Main challenges/problems with respect to the RIS3 exercise

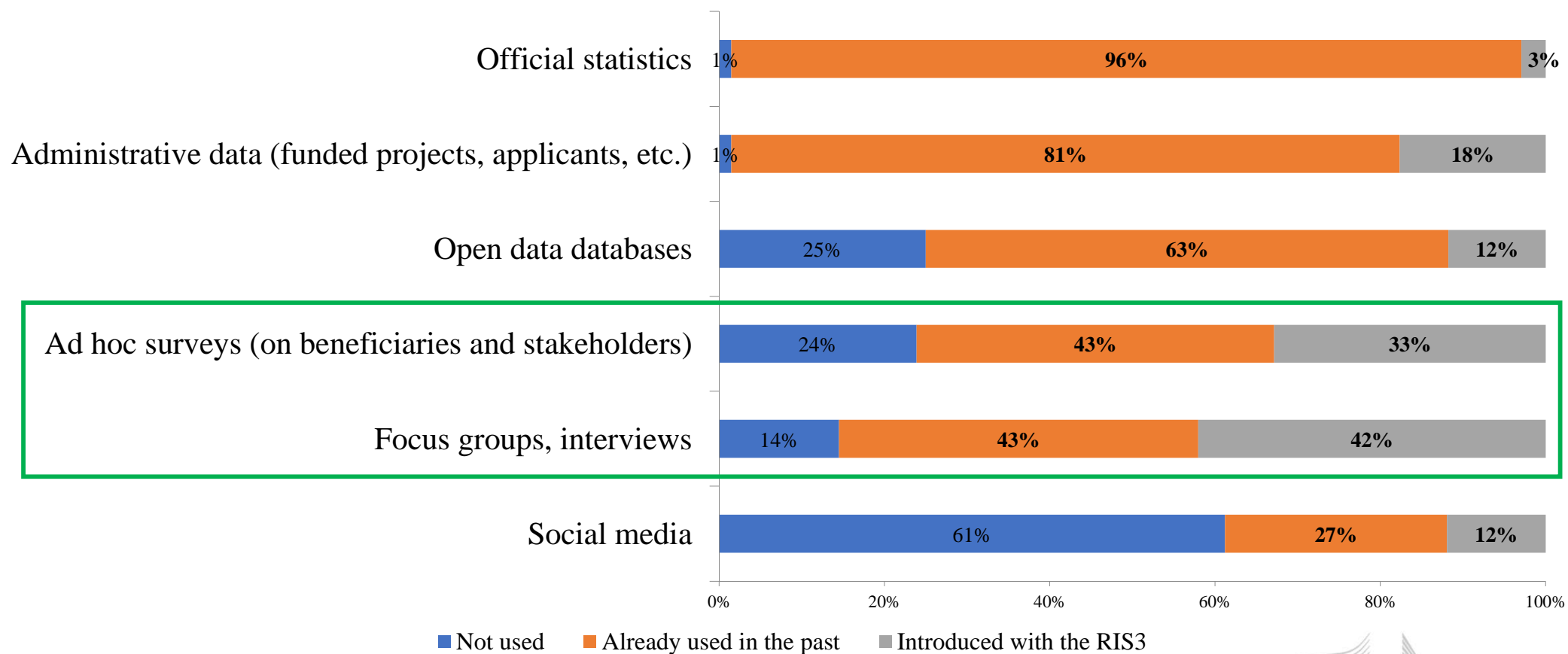
<b>Analysis of the context and potential for innovation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Lack of data and/or data availability when needed</li><li>2. Lack of evaluation studies and monitoring information on past policies</li></ol>
<b>Monitoring activities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Lack of data and/or data availability when needed</li><li>2. Lack of evaluation studies and monitoring information on past policies</li><li>3. Lack of skills and capabilities within the (regional/national) administration</li></ol>
<b>Policy-mix and policy instruments</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Obstacles associated with the different rules governing diverse funding sources</li><li>2. Synergies among policies and funding managed by different institutions placed on different level (EU, national, regional)</li><li>3. Difficulties in managing/financing interregional collaborative projects</li><li>4. Lack of skills and capabilities within the regional/national administration</li><li>5. Difficulties in getting enterprises involved</li></ol>
<b>Priority selection</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Difficulties in getting enterprises involved</li><li>2. Lack of skills and capabilities in some groups of stakeholders</li><li>3. Difficulties in getting civil society groups involved</li></ol>

# More resources devoted to monitoring

National and regional authorities are devoting **more resources to monitoring**: **three thirds** of respondents declared that a specific team is currently assigned to RIS3 monitoring. In several cases (32%), **new teams** for RIS3 monitoring were created.

**Monitoring goes well beyond mere audit requirements**

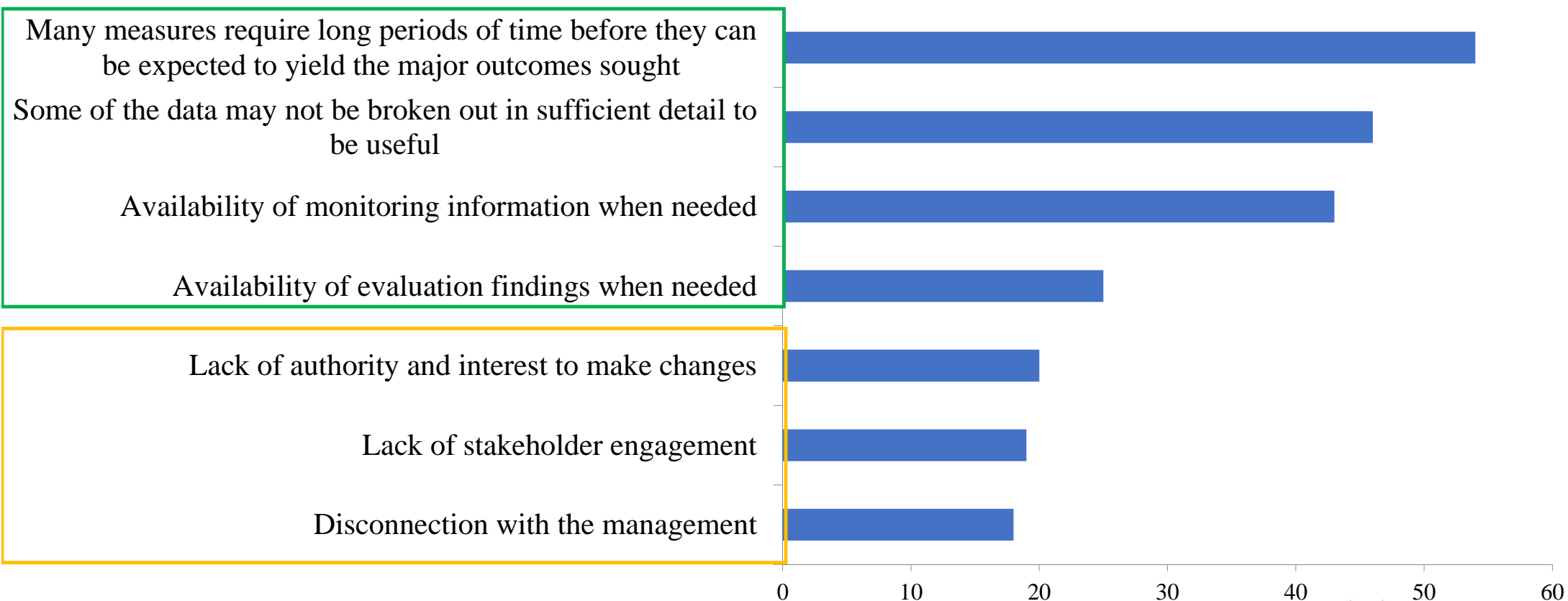
# Increased use of new data sources for monitoring



# Data collection methods: Pros and Cons

<b>Sources</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<b>Official statistics</b>	Reliable Cheap Comparable	Time lag Not necessarily priority-specific Distant for policy intervention
<b>Surveys</b>	Timely Flexible	Expensive Representability Response rate
<b>Other data collection methods (interviews, focus groups, etc.)</b>	Address specific issues Detailed explanations Focus on process	Expensive and time consuming Hard to replicate Interpretation bias

# Main obstacles to the use of monitoring and evaluation information to improve strategy performance and policy making



# Obstacles

- **Outcome data problems** (time lag, not broken out, measures requiring long period of time before they can be expected to yield the expected results)

.....but even with good data.....

- **Lack of authority and interest to make changes**
- **Fear of being perceived as running ineffective policy actions**

# New programming period: the role of monitoring

## ANNEX IV

### Thematic enabling conditions applicable to ERDF, ESF+ and the Cohesion Fund – Article 11(1)

Policy objective	Specific objective	Name of enabling condition	Fulfilment criteria for the enabling condition
1. A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation	ERDF: All specific objectives under this policy objectives	Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy	Smart specialisation strategy(ies) shall be supported by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Up-to-date analysis of bottlenecks for innovation diffusion, including digitalisation</li> <li>2. Existence of competent regional / national institution or body, responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy</li> <li>3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy</li> <li>4. Effective functioning of entrepreneurial discovery process</li> <li>5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems</li> <li>6. Actions to manage industrial transition</li> <li>7. Measures for international collaboration</li> </ol>

# Massive Online Open Course (MOOC)



  
Joint Research Centre

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## Monitoring Smart Specialisation Strategies

Build an effective monitoring system for your Smart Specialisation Strategy and help your region meet its long-term goals.

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# *Massive Online Open Course (MOOC)*

- Online since March 2018 (self-paced)
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- Target: policy makers, civil servants (regional and national level) and other stakeholders, practitioners, students and researchers
- More than 1,100 people enrolled so far



# Any questions?

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