



RIS3 design and implementation in Podlaskie, and preparation for 2021-2027 programming period

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Objective of the Report

to conduct an analysis of the status of RIS3 implementation and the level of preparation of the Podlaskie region in relation to the fulfilment criteria for the 2021-2027 enabling condition of good governance.

Methodology – three major phases

- *desk analysis of available documentation*
- *interviews with representatives of major stakeholders in the region (companies, intermediary organisations, public regional administration)*
- *formulation of the draft report with presentation of analysis results and recommendations*

Structure of the Report

- *Overview of RIS3 in the region to date*
- *Preparation in relation to the varying fulfilment criteria for 2021-2027 enabling conditions (FC):*
 1. *Up-to-date analysis of challenges/bottlenecks for innovation diffusion and digitalisation*
 2. *Existence of competent regional institution or body, responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy*
 3. *Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy*
 4. *Effective functioning of “entrepreneurial discovery process”*
 5. *Actions necessary to improve regional research and innovation systems*
 6. *Actions to manage industrial transition.*
 7. *Measures for international cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the S3.*

Overview of RIS3 in the region to date

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *need to review and/or update the choice of smart specializations (both core specializations and emerging specializations).*
- *need for more qualitative information to be collected and analyzed.*
- *positive assessment of the EDP process which has taken place when the present documents were developed and need for new activity and a stronger engagement of partners in the review and update of RIS3.*
- *the EDP must be reinvented and strong engagement of all type of stakeholders must be secured.*
- *choice of four core smart specializations is still relevant, whilst the IT sector should remain a horizontal priority that contributes and strengthens the digitalization process in Podlaskie Region*

FC 1: *Up-to-date analysis of challenges ...*

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *strong evidence base present in all recent official documents (e.g. Diagnosis for Podlaskie 2030) and project reports, provide more than enough quantitative data and observations/opinions about the innovation ecosystem in Podlaskie.*
- *moderate innovation capacity, relatively low position in many rankings, as well as some of obstacles and barriers for R&D&I activity in the Podlaskie region are well identified and documented*
- *strong quantitative analytical base should be supplemented with more qualitative data and information. (role for the Regional Territorial Observatory)*
- *more participative process is necessary for the identification and collection of information on barriers for R&D&I activity in the region and bottlenecks/challenges for innovation diffusion and digitalization.*
- *There is a strong potential of social and economic partners in the region in the collection and communication of more quantitative data and information (e.g. Mechanical Cluster Barometer)*

FC2: *Existence of competent regional ...*

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *Without any doubt, a competent regional institution responsible for the management of the smart specialization strategy exists in the Podlaskie and plays an adequate role.*
- *overall positive assessment in particular of the activity of the Regional Development Department and in general the broader activity of the MO.*
- *some reservations and critical opinions, in particular related to monitoring process,*
- *analysis of documents, as well as opinions from interviews does not confirm sufficient activity and full engagement in realization of Working Group tasks.*
- *formal evaluation of the implementation institutional system has not happened*

FC3: *Monitoring and evaluation tools to ...*

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *in the present implementation period reporting and monitoring system of the RIS3 was integrated with relevant activities under Strategia 2020.*
- *for Strategia 2030 the continuation of the current monitoring and reporting system is planned, however some modifications to the list of performance indicators were introduced indicators to adjust them to new goals.*
- *it is strongly recommended to implement monitoring and evaluation tools, which will allow for more detailed, sector specific monitoring of progress and results of implementation of the RIS3.*
- *the Marshal's Office, with its DRR and Regional Territorial Observatory have the capability to design and implement such a tool /system.*
- *modification of the monitoring and evaluation system must be also reflected in the structure and activity of the WG for economic specialisation of the region.*
- *the monitoring and evaluation system measuring performance towards the objectives of the RIS should equally take into account quantitative and qualitative indicators and data.*
- *formal evaluation of the monitoring and evaluation system has not happened.*

FC4: *Effective functioning of EDP*

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *it is clear that the EDP was very seriously and very successfully introduced in the preparation of the present RIS3,*
- *the EDP has been slowed down during the implementation period of the RIS3, Without a doubt, individual, bilateral communication between the Marshal Office and stakeholders has taken place continually, and number of actions (project based, meetings etc.) were performed, but EDP in an institutionalized, structured form was not exercised.*
- *the Working Group for economic specialization of the region was inactive (except one meeting in 2017), but members of the Working Group were approached on an individual basis,*
- *the structure and work modality of the Working Group must be reviewed and reinvented. (e.g enlarge the WG and create sector specific sub-groups as a platform for more in-depth discussion).*

FC5: *Actions necessary to improve ...*

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *careful review of the Strategia 2030 suggest, that high-level EU recommendations (more relevant for national level) are adequately addressed at regional level,*
- *Strategia 2030, in particular Operational objective 1.2 addresses very well needs for improvement of Podlaskie regional innovation ecosystem,*
- *more in-depth discussion on regional challenges and needs of the innovation ecosystem is necessary,*
- *there is a need for the revision of existing instruments supporting R&D&I activity in the region (portfolio should be better tailored to the sector-specific needs of stakeholders, in particular from core specialisation sectors),*
- *Available reports, in particular the World Bank project, provide interesting proposals for a portfolio of instruments for further experimentation (piloting) and fully fledged implementation of the most successful.*

FC6: *Actions to manage industrial ...*

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *analysis of strategic documents for the current financial perspective suggests, that industrial transition was not recognized as an important strategic issue. However, globalization and global trends relevant at the moment of preparation of these documents are suitably visible and addressed.*
- *in recently adopted Strategia 2030 the global context is well reflected and topics related to industrial transformation, in particular Industry 4.0 concept are fully addressed. Specific actions planned to address the transition in sectors challenged by globalisation, digitalisation and low carbon economy are present under different Operational objectives of the Strategia 2030.*
- *for the successful implementation of actions mentioned above, proper operationalisation will be the key factor.*

FC7: Measures for international cooperation...

Summary and recommendations for further actions

- *different aspects of internationalization, in particular measures for strengthening international collaboration are much more visible and elaborated on the level of Strategia 2020 and Strategia 2030, than on the RIS3 level,*
- *approach to select core smart specialisations in present RIS3 is interestingly based on the concept of “value chains”, which may refer in an indirect way to international cooperation, but it is not reflected explicitly in the RIS3,*
- *in a process of renewal of the RIS3, in coherence with the Strategia 2030, international cooperation should be reflected more explicitly.*

Conclusions

Key elements:

- *refreshment and relaunch of the EDP,*
- *restarting the Working Group for sector specialisation in the region to secure institutionalisation and streamlining*

Reinvented EDP with a relaunched Working Group in the heart of the process should support directly the fulfilment of three criteria (enabling conditions):

- **FC 1, FC 3, FC 5**

and indirectly support fulfilment of two other criteria:

- **FC 6, FC 7**



Thank you!

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