OpenCoesione data: chances and challenges for Evaluation

Simona De Luca – Paola Casavola

20 June 2019 - Bucharest, Romania
8th Evaluation Conference of EU Cohesion Policy
Workshop on “Impact evaluation and the data revolution”
The OpenCoesione initiative

OpenCoesione is the open government initiative on cohesion policy in Italy. www.opencoesione.gov.it provides access to searchable data on:

- Implementation of cohesion policy in Italy (projects financed by the European Structural Funds, the National Development and Cohesion Fund and the National Cohesion Action Plan)
- Resources planned and spending
- Locations
- Thematic areas

The information includes data on authorities in charge for planning and implementing, the implementation timetable for individual projects and the associated bimonthly series of cumulative payments.

Programming Period
2007-2013
2014-2020

downloadable open-format data
OpenCoesione: administrative data on...

- **Projects**
  - Programming period
  - Funding (national and EU)
  - Theme and type of investment
  - Status (completes, settled, open, not started)
  - Expected/effective start and end date

- **Entities**
  - Planning Body
  - Implementing Body
  - Beneficiaries

- ** Territories**
  - Where does the funding go?

In-depth thematic analyses on implemented projects
  - (Research and Innovation, Tourism, Culture and Nature, Confiscated Assets)
From a general picture to single projects

Granular information on projects is frequently used for impact evaluation on business.
Evaluation and public data availability

- Relevance of data terms of use
- Awareness of evaluation questions
- New challenges for researches

Data availability on projects’ content and implementation does not replace the need of an in-depth knowledge of the policy under examination.
Data utility for the evaluation “client”

Data help in expressing better/more focused evaluation questions

i.e Research sector: a NUVAP pre-evaluation analysis based on data on over 21,000 projects selected considering procedural information in order to extract a sample as a basis for an in-depth evaluation on effects of different forms and length of procedures for enterprises support

Data utility and challenges for researchers

- In-depth understanding of the meaning of each single variable → relevance of metadata + initiatives to deepen data knowledge
- Administrative data are not statistical ones and are not released for an explicit research purpose!
- OpenCoesione Data Study Groups – OpenCoesione Evidence Labs to be launched within the National Evaluation System
- Need of data integration with other sources
- Use of standardization techniques to compare data
- Relevance of temporal references
- Team with multidisciplinary skills: policy and data analysts
- OpenCoesione releases relational databases whose size is of the order of a million records with more than 200 variables
Some studies based on the OpenCoesione data

European structural funds during the crisis: evidence from Southern Italy
TERRITORY OF INTEREST: ITALY – OPENCOESIONE DATA ON PAYMENTS AGGREGATED AT THE LEVEL OF LOCAL LABOR MARKETS (LLM) FOR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS

Local policy effects at a time of economic crisis
Augusto Cerqua e Guido Pellegrini - Working paper
TERRITORY OF INTEREST: ITALY – OPENCOESIONE DATA ON INCENTIVES AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Cohesion Policy Incentives for Collaborative Industrial Research. The Evaluation of a Smart specialisation Forerunner Programme
Crescenzi Riccardo; de Blasio Guido; Giua Mara - Regional Studies, 2018
TERRITORY OF INTEREST: ITALY – DATA AT BUSINESS LEVEL (SIRIO AND OPENCOESIONE FOR INPUT POLICY; CERVED, INPS, ORBIS FOR PERFORMANCES)

The influence of the local context on the implementation and impact of EU Cohesion Policy
Julia Bachtrögler, Ugo Fratesi & Giovanni Perucca - Regional Studies 2019
TERRITORY OF INTEREST: 7 EU STATES – DATA ON INCENTIVES FROM LISTS OF BENEFICIARIES (here a paper on the construction of the dataset)