

9th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

16-17 September 2021 Porto, Portugal

Shaping Transitions with Evidence



Treasure Hunting: Evaluation review on Enterprise and Innovation



Italy's Network of Evaluation Units

FUNDS COVERED

- ▶ ERDF, ESF, EAFRD

PROGRAMMING PERIODS

- ▶ 2000-2006; 2007-2013; 2014-2020

PROGRAMMES COVERED

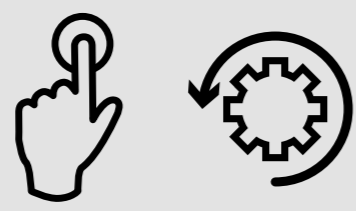
- ▶ Regional and National Operational Programmes

THEMATIC OBJECTIVE

- ▶ TO1

TYPE OF EVALUATION

- ▶ Narrative Evaluation Review of both impact and process evaluations



YEAR OF COMPLETION

- ▶ 2019

MAIN OBJECTIVES

Goal: to capitalise on evidence from Cohesion Policy evaluations to improve 2021-2027 programmes

Questions:

- ▶ How to select between automatic and selective procedures in giving aid for research and innovation? How to ensure that National and Regional Programmes complement each other?
- ▶ Which tool worked best, under which conditions, and for which type of business?
- ▶ What produced complementarities and synergies?

METHODOLOGY USED

A Collective Narrative Evaluation Review, part of a collective inter-institutional research project. Combination of

- Method and techniques to identify and analyse evidence from evaluations
- Techniques to create and facilitate group work

DATA SOURCES

Evaluations and studies collected from "Osservatorio dei processi valutativi" and from further research

MAIN FINDINGS

- ▶ Outcomes of similar interventions widely vary across areas in Italy. In the South, research and innovation interventions worked for low-tech industries and compensated for the banks' inability to fund innovative industrial projects
- ▶ Rather than inducing new innovation projects, aid accelerated and increased the dimension of projects that firms had already planned. Mostly, the same pool of industrial firms accessed aid schemes—probably the ones that learned how to master access procedures
- ▶ Delays between the application for aid and delivery have been known to erode the innovative edge of projects
- ▶ Collaborative aid scheme, being focused on merely formal requirements, fail to induce the creation of new networks between research centres and firms. They work best on existing networks. First-come-first-serve procedures further increased the advantage for pre-existing networks

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Although a high number of evaluations scrutinize state aid, they do not compare different policy tools and procedures
- ▶ Evaluators sometimes have to devise evaluation questions for themselves, for lack of a full-fledged dialogue with programmers, implementers, or stakeholders
- ▶ Changes in implementation sometimes fail to be captured in the evaluations
- ▶ With the appropriate collaborative methods, Evaluation Units are able to self-organise to produce valuable knowledge for the Cohesion Policy community



REGIONAL AUTHORITIES AND PARTNERS



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NUCLEO VALUTAZIONE E VERIFICA INVESTIMENTI PUBBLICI REGIONE SARDEGNA



RETE DEI NUCLEI NUCLEI DI VALUTAZIONE E VERIFICA DEGLI INVESTIMENTI PUBBLICI

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