

th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

16-17 September 2021 Porto, Portugal

Shaping Transitions with Evidence



Treasure Hunting: Evaluation review on place-based policy instruments



Italy's Network of Evaluation Units

FUND(S) COVERED

- ▶ ERDF, ESF, National Resources, EAFRD

PROGRAMMING PERIODS

- ▶ 2000-2006; 2007-2013; 2014-2020

PROGRAMMES COVERED

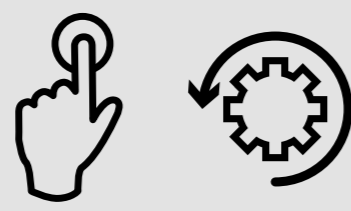
- ▶ Regional, National and InterReg Programmes

THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

- ▶ T03; T05; T08; T09

TYPE OF EVALUATION

- ▶ Narrative Evaluation Review of both impact and process evaluations



YEAR OF COMPLETION

- ▶ 2020

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Capitalize on the evidence from Cohesion Policy evaluations
- ▶ How to develop effective place-based instruments? How to set up an effective multilevel governance? How to strengthen the match between local strategies and public policies?
- ▶ What have we learned from past local development strategies? Why are territorial instruments so demanding in term of actors, process and time?

METHODOLOGY USED

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

DATA SOURCES

Evaluations and studies collected from "Osservatorio dei processi valutativi" and from other administrative documents and sources.

MAIN FINDINGS

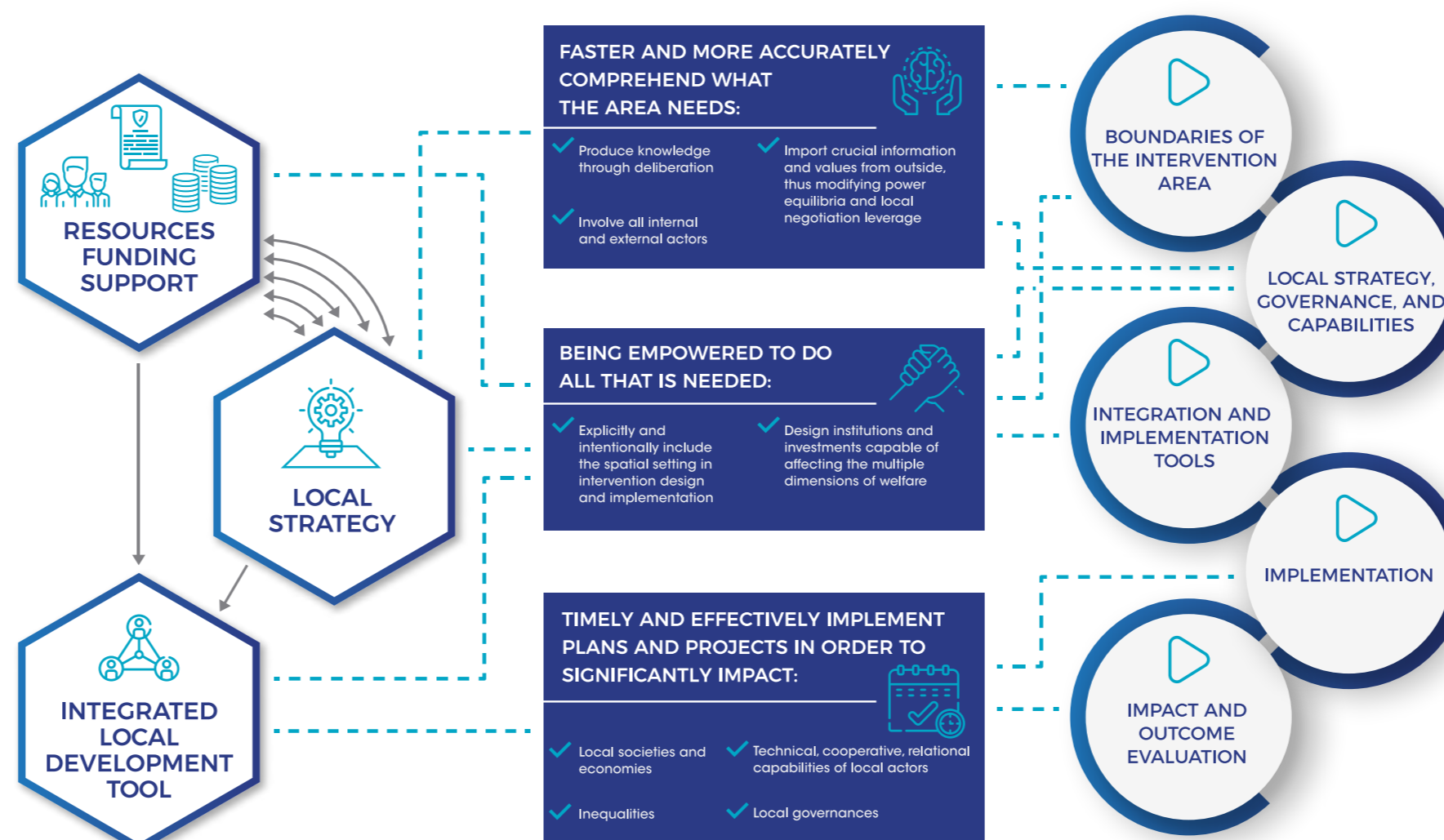
- ▶ In some cases, disagreements arose between the need to identify precise territorial areas where to implement local strategies and the goal to promote functional integration with other areas
- ▶ Place-based instruments require the activation of various, complex and time-consuming operations (identification of stakeholders and activation of a deliberative process, definition of a local governance, development of the territorial strategy, integration of different funds etc.)
- ▶ Place-based instruments are characterized by Multilevel Governance, which requires a committed and well-coordinated organization at every institutional level and the improvement of administrative capacity, particularly in inner areas, to be ensured during the whole intervention cycle
- ▶ Since territorial strategies are multidimensional (different needs and policy sectors involved), their implementation calls for flexible devices capable of overcoming the widely differing rules of European Funds and national resources. Integration is the approach meant to overcome tradeoffs between multi-dimensionality of local needs and rigidities of programs and funds.

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ There is a interdependent relationship between the perimeter of the area and the territorial strategy
- ▶ Although the collective conception of a territorial strategy is time-consuming, it creates consensus, promotes commitment and ensures learning
- ▶ Central, regional, and local authorities need to
 - adequately design governance structures with an established system of rules
 - strongly monitor and steadily support local processes and local-central interactions
- ▶ Implementation arrangements must be flexible and ensure the integration of different sources of funding

Follow up actions:

More impact evaluations will be needed to analyse the results of territorial instruments in the 2021-2027 programming period.



AUTHOR(S) OF THE EVALUATION

Evaluation Group on place-based instruments - Evaluation Units of Emilia-Romagna (coordinator), Abruzzo, Calabria, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Valle d'Aosta, Evaluation Unit of Department for Cohesion Policy, Team ASSIST

LINK

<http://www.pongovernance1420.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Rassegna-Valutativa-Strumenti-Territoriali-20-febbraio-2020.pdf>