



# SWD 2021 on evaluation findings of ESIF programmes

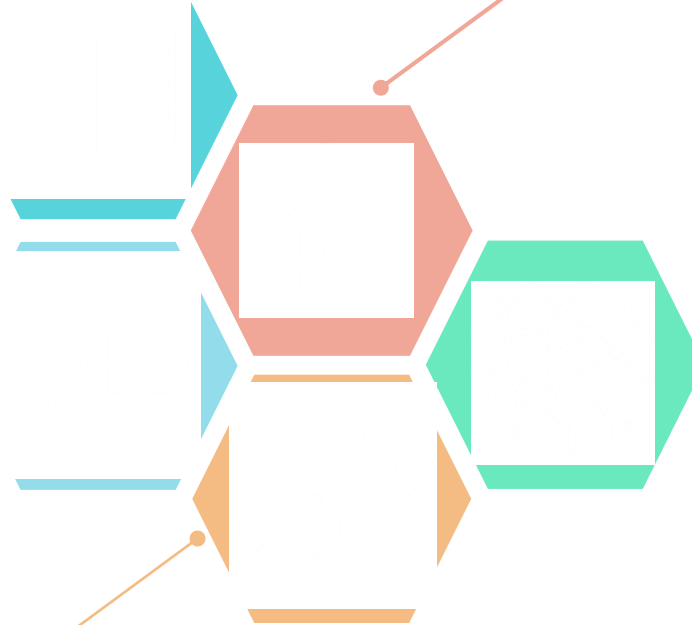
*REGIO B2*

# SWD on evaluation findings

**Regulatory requirement**  
art. 53 CPR

**Accompanies Annual Summary Report**  
adoption planned 17/12

**Aligned with Cohesion Report**



**Covers all ESIF programmes**

REGIO, EMPL, AGRI, MARE  
*NB: Presentation focused on Cohesion Policy*

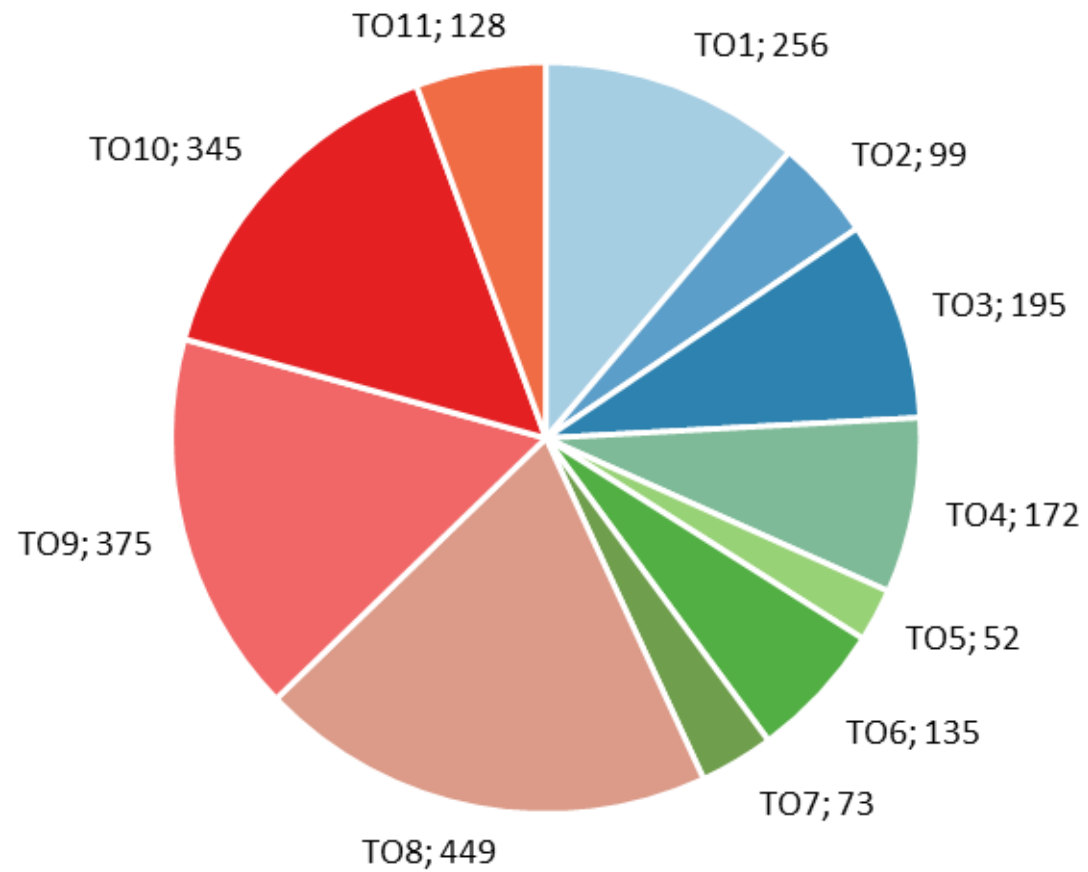
**Organised by policy area and theme**

# Evaluation work in the Member States

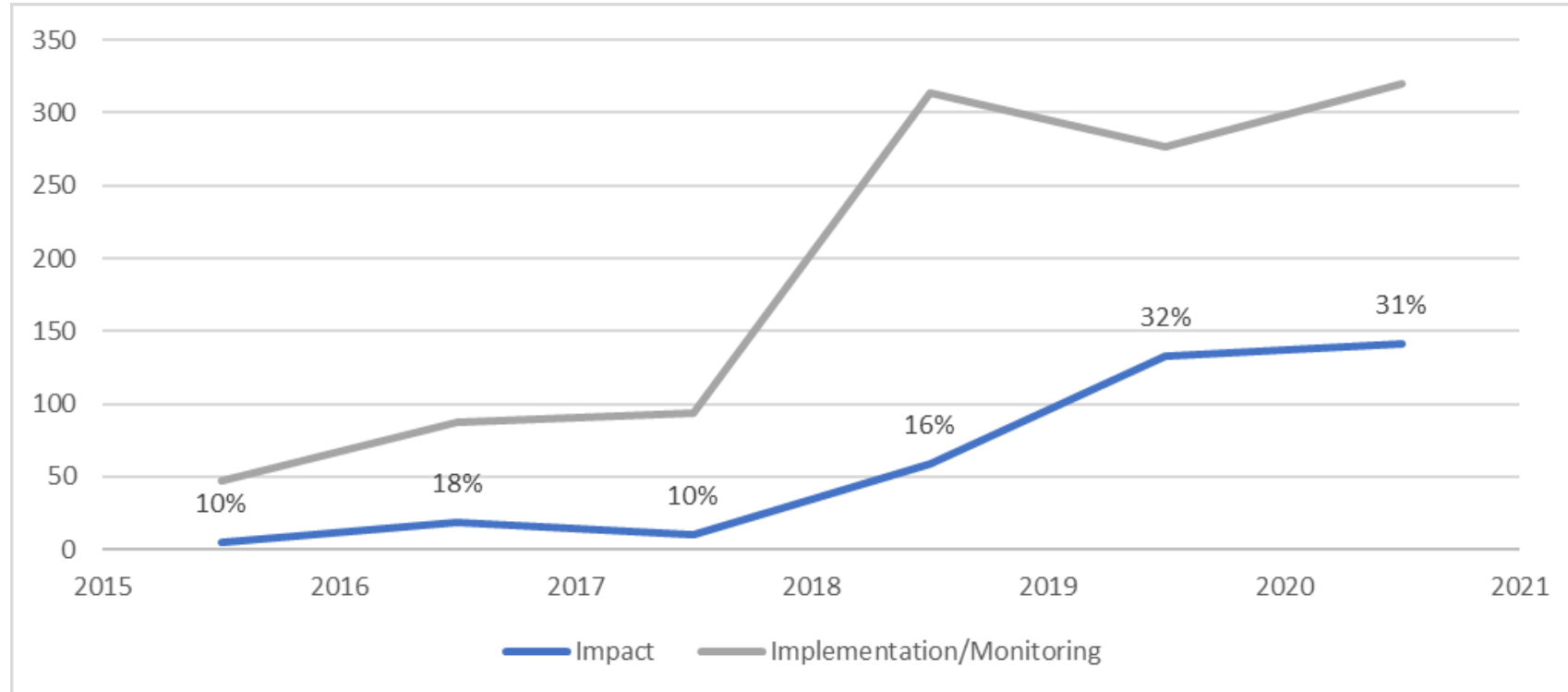
## More than 1500 MS evaluations on 2014-2020

- ❖ EC systematically reviews MS evaluations and provides tailored support to improve capacity (Evaluation Help Desk)
- ❖ Impact evaluations now 24% of 2014-20 (more than 50% in a few MS)
- ❖ Results are specific to the local contexts (by design), some common findings are starting to emerge

# Thematic distribution



# Impact evaluations



- ❖ 24% of 2014-2020 evaluations are impact-oriented
- ❖ 50% of them use advanced methods counterfactual, theory-based or cost-benefit analysis

# Emerging common findings – Smart Europe



- ❖ Strengthened cooperation between research centres and businesses
- ❖ EU Funding crucial for the investment in R&D
- ❖ ICT infrastructure helps closing the digital divide in less developed regions (in time)
- ❖ Digitalisation of services brought positive results for businesses and public authorities
- ❖ SME support led to increased competitiveness, product diversification (new markets) and increased export

# Emerging common findings – Green Europe



- ❖ Low-carbon economy investments effective, but full results in the long term
- ❖ Climate change adaptation and risk prevention measures effective beyond regional/national borders
- ❖ For water supply, wastewater treatment and waste management, it is crucial that users are connected to the infrastructure developed



# Inclusive Europe



## ESF: lessons learned

- ❖ Support tailored to seekers and labour market improves skills and outcomes
- ❖ Traineeships more effective to increase employability
- ❖ Important to support know-how of trainers



# Notable findings – cross-cutting instruments

## Territorial approaches

- ITIs facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and experience
- Public participation key success factor of CLLD (e.g. PL)

## Financial instruments

- Instrumental to firms growth, innovation and increased competitiveness (e.g. PL and DE)

## Interreg

- Instances of collaboration in multiple thematic objectives

# Findings on implementation

## Delayed implementation

- start-up phase, selection procedures

## Administrative issues may limit beneficiaries' participation

- application process
- lack of information
- size of financial incentives

## Data availability

- timeliness and completeness of monitoring data

**Simplification measures introduced in the new regulatory framework will contribute to improve implementation**

# Commission Evaluations

RTD infrastructures and activities

- ERDF 2007-13

e-Cohesion

- ERDF/CF 2014-20

Preparatory study on data and monitoring systems

- ex-post WP2

## ...and support to MS

Evaluation HelpDesk

- systematic reviews, methodological support, summer school

Evaluation network and online support

- SWD on performance, M&E

Evaluation conference

# Resources

## Open data platform

- ❖ Dataset: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/iz3t-u7bv>
- ❖ Story: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/suip-d9qs>

## Inforegio

- ❖ MS Evaluation library:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/evaluations/member-states/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/member-states/)

# Going forward

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Further evaluations will help  
**consolidate the common  
findings**

...including first results on the impact of  
the pandemic

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Commission ex post evaluation  
will investigate in more detail  
the **contextual factors**

...that contribute to or hamper the  
positive outcome of the interventions

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Commission committed to providing all necessary **support to MS**