



HIGHER

Interreg Europe

S3 priority setting process

Good practice, Lithuania

Future Business Centre
Cambridge
30 March 2017

Context

Lithuania is a small country
(3 mln inhabitants)

Considered as one region and
has only one S3 strategy

Has several niche islands of hi-
tech based innovation (biotech,
lasers), growing service sector
and catching-up SME
manufacture

Nordic orientation (strategy
Lithuania 2030 + influence of
Nordic capital)

Previous 3-5 attempts to select thematic priorities failed:

- Top-down approach, influenced by lobby groups
- Formal public consultations without co-creation process
- Were not sustainable after the change of the Government

Central questions:

- How to prioritize themes to have sustainable results?
(discovery)
- How to have balance between diversifying and prioritizing ?
(discovery)
- Ensure inclusive and democratic governance (governance)
- Get the business and other stakeholders on board
(governance)

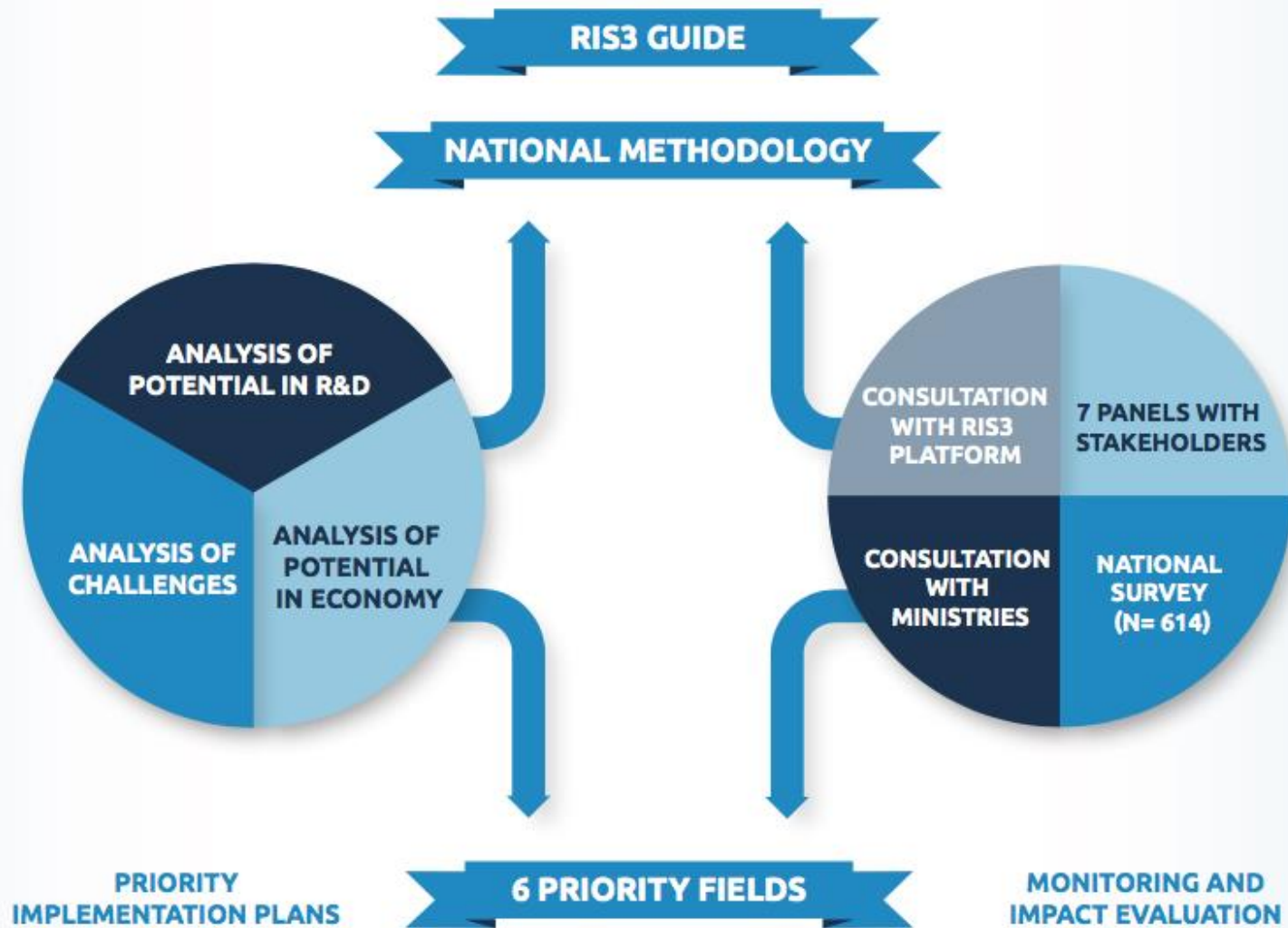
SOLUTION

- Sophisticated engagement methodology was prepared (see next slide)
- A lot of evidence was collected
- Detailed consultations with stakeholders performed

IMPACT

- Fundamental change how priorities are set up
- Showed value of the debate process
- Closest implementation of Quadruple Helix in practice for Lithuania

• IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY FIELDS •



- Theme prioritization and diversification: helped to have 6 clear priority areas, and to go from 82 sub-priorities (in the beginning) to 20 (in the end)
- Inclusion: all stakeholder groups had many opportunities to directly participate at „expert level“ (more than 100 experts in 6 working groups). Results were checked through public survey sent to around 2000 people (614 answered)
- We have got business and other stakeholders on board in up till 10 sub-priorities, which clearly helped further implementation at project level

- It was easy to engage experts from research community and public sector, but...
- It was very difficult to **engage business people**. We invited 2 times more business people than researchers, but still had problem with participation in some groups. That has led to some criticism from business lobby groups 1-2 years later
- Lesson learned: invite 4 times more business people than researchers. Pay attention **how** to engage them

Easy to transfer main principles:

- „**demand pull**“ **approach** shall prevail (start debate with market needs and potential startup companies, ground decisions with evidence from various studies)
- provide formal opportunities for participation to a **big community of experts** from various fields. Intensive engagement of experts was critical when the criticism arrived later (after 1-2 years) and the priorities were defended
- **public survey** was also additional measure to defend the process from various lobby groups.

Difficult to get funding for such long and difficult process.

Next step

High level Innovation Summit

**Strategies to Foster
Collaboration Between Science
and Industry and Reinforce
Private Investment**

May 17-18, 2017, Vilnius

**Site visits to research and
innovation hubs**

Possible B2B meetings

Contacts



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