Monitoring and Evaluation
The case of Poland:
The Polish multi-level system for S3 monitoring

The Polish regions and the national level in Poland have created a coherent national-regional system for the design and implementation of their smart specialisation monitoring, based on **interconnected regional and national monitoring schemes**.

The national level in Poland coordinates both the national S3 strategy as well as the 16 regional S3 strategies, including their monitoring. **The National Group for Smart Specialisation** in Poland is an informal body consisting of both ministries, all Polish regions, the Ministry of Science, the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development and the National Centre for Applied Science. This group decided **to adopt a coordinated monitoring system for smart specialisation**, ensuring a reciprocal dialogue and feedback system between the national and regional levels and creating **a platform for suggesting changes and discussing the results of S3 monitoring**.

The national-regional monitoring system of Poland gathers basic and advanced indicators along the four main and **most popular intervention categories**: innovativeness, R&D, internationalisation and cooperation. The indicators are collected according to the intervention logic which refers to the logical framework and targets of regional smart specialisation programmes and projects: general and smart specialisation context, result, strategic result, output and input. These indicators are used mostly for comparisons and benchmarking of regional performance and change.

Apart from that, **each region has a set of monitoring indicators specific to their S3**. Certain regions have specific bodies overseeing the smart specialisation from a monitoring and evaluation perspective. For instance, in the region of Wielkopolska the regional Innovation Observatory is responsible for S3 monitoring activities, while the overall S3 evaluation is performed externally to generate independent expert opinions. Both for the regional and national level, the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system aims at providing reliable, comparable and up-to-date data. This enables a responsible governance of S3 implementation and revision.

A number of indicators have been developed covering different levels, including:
- Policy and Strategy Goals (context indicators)
- Strategic Objectives (Results Indicators)
- Actions and Instruments (Output Indicators)

The case of S3 monitoring in Poland also illustrates well **the need to tackle certain common challenges related to the monitoring and evaluation systems for smart specialisation**, including: competence building for S3 actors in terms of monitoring and evaluation; convincing the decision-makers to use the monitoring and evaluation results; institutional capacity building for monitoring at national and regional levels; and difficulties in making changes to the regional development and innovation programmes even though monitoring and evaluation would indicate it necessary.

Read more:

PXL Feedback Report on Monitoring:

http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/20182/149513/PXL_Monitoring_Feedback_Report_full_final_CLEAN.pdf/2a73443d-31e0-4caf-8972-8bbde5cf4893