

SMART WASTE - Innovation in Waste Management Policies

Template to report on final results of local evaluation activities

Draft 1.0

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Table of contents

1. Policy instrument(s) evaluated	2
2. Evaluation process	2
3. Evaluation results	3
4. Next steps	4

1. Policy instrument(s) evaluated

Operational Programme for European Regional Development Funds of Tuscany Region for the programming period 2014 - 2020

2. Evaluation process

The first step of the process was the development of a shared evaluation methodology, thanks to SMART WASTE partners and partners stakeholders contribution.

SMART WASTE main goal is to support innovation in waste management, so the main aim of the evaluation methodology was to assess the policy instrument specific support to innovation concerning:

- Waste streams involved;
- European waste hierarchy step;
- Specific kind of support;
- Quantitative evaluation of policy instrument capacity to reach environmental targets, if any such target were included in the policy instrument.

Two activities were especially relevant in developing the evaluation methodology, namely interregional exchange of relevant experiences among SMART WASTE partners and local stakeholder group contributions:

- Interregional exchange of relevant experiences was relevant to share each partner's experiences in the evaluation of Policy Instruments, taking in due account structural differences among SMART WASTE partner's Policy Instruments of choice. On a general basis, these activities were the foundation of the methodological side of the evaluation methodology development;
- SMART WASTE partnership took into proper account relevant Policy Briefs from the Policy Learning Platform of the Interreg Europe Programme.
- Tuscany local stakeholder group contributions were the main source of insight into general failures and successes of the policy instrument in supporting innovation in waste management. Local stakeholder group includes representatives from Tuscany Region, Universities, public and private research centers and companies associations.

Taking into proper account the outcomes of the above listed exchanges, LP applied the evaluation methodology to the policy instrument, through desk analyses. LP shared both the evaluation methodologies and the evaluation results via email with the local stakeholders group for feedback.

In the following list is a brief recap of the evaluation timeframe:

- 04-06/09/19 Kick-off meeting in Florence, including partners stakeholders. LP developed the Draft Shared Evaluation Methodology and shared it with partners before KO;
- 23 stakeholders attended KO and 1 representative from Tuscany Region (ERDF OP R&D&I Department) attended PM2. LSG held on 29/11/19 (Florence), with representatives from 8 university/research institutions, trade / industry associations and public authorities;
- 23-24/01/20 Partner Meeting 2 PM2 – Kolding, including partners stakeholders;
- Regular contacts via email / phone to share results of local evaluation and GPs with stakeholders and to identify Good Practices to submit to Interreg Europe for approval;

- Mid 2020: finalization of the Policy Instrument evaluation

3. Evaluation results

To summarize very briefly, Tuscany ERDF OP main good practices specific support (through RIS3, priority axis, thematic and specific objective, and Action) to projects regarding innovation in waste is funding of projects for innovation in waste recycling. To this aim, OP granted total public funding of 17.4 million, to 29 projects with total eligible expenditures of 41.4 million euros.

On the other hand, both RIS 3 & OP lack specific support neither to innovation in waste prevention projects nor to innovation in municipal waste management. These potential failures turned out in only 0.02 million euro to municipal waste management public funding to just 1 project on this theme with 0.04 million euro eligible expenditure.

Below a detailed list of main findings.

Innovation in Waste Management support	Potential Good Practice	Possible Failure
Tuscany Smart Specialization Strategy for Research & Innovation (RIS3)	Support to Research, Innovation, and Development includes support to material recovery and recycling	No specific support to innovation in waste prevention projects
OP Priority Axis, Thematic Objectives, specific Objectives and Actions	Priority Axis 1 and Thematic Objective 1 “Strengthening research, technological development, and innovation” include specific objective RA 1.1 “Increasing Industry Innovation” through Action 1.1.5 “Support to companies’ technological development” which in turn includes funding to projects from the green sector, where the green sector includes, specifically, material recycling	No specific support to innovation in waste prevention projects
Specific support	Public funding of 29 projects related to innovation in waste management	-
Waste streams addressed	15 different waste streams (most of Tuscany main manufacturing industries waste streams)	Only 1 municipal waste related project funded
European Waste hierarchy	Waste recycling most funded projects main focus	Only 3 waste prevention-related projects funded
Funded projects total eligible expenditure	41.4 million euro	Only 0.04 million euro related to municipal waste management
Total approved projects public funding	16.7 million euro	Only 0.02 million euro to municipal waste management

4. Next steps

ARRR is working in close contact with Tuscany Region offices in charge developing the Operational Programme for European Regional Development Funds of Tuscany Region for the programming period 2021 – 2027.

ARRR specific support includes LP support includes next ERDF OP target definition, indicators proposals & overall amount of public financing envisioned, taking into account SMART WASTE overall results so far.

The main aim is to provide ERDF OP local authorities in delivering an OP that can support further development of innovation in waste management in Tuscany, also capitalizing SMART WASTE main results