

ACTION PLAN

Podkarpackie



European Union
European Regional
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POLAND



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Part I – General information

Project: **PASSPARTOOL**

Partner organisation(s) concerned: **RZESZOW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Country: **POLAND**

NUTS2 region: **PODKARPACKIE**

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) programme
- Other regional development policy instrument**

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed

- **Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation – 2021-2030**

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instrument:

In 2020, the Podkarpackie Voivodeship Development Strategy - Podkarpackie 2030 - was adopted, which is the main document defining the directions of the regional policy. The adoption of this document and the upcoming new programming period of the European Union also required the development of new programming documents for the period until 2030 (for example Regional Operational Program (ROP), RIS3 Strategy with action plans for each smart specialization, etc.). **One of the most crucial document is the Regional Innovation Strategy of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship for 2021-2030 (RIS WP, also known as Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)) which is revised and updated version of strategy for the 2014-2020 period and in accordance with social and economic challenges created by global pandemic and overall unstable European PESTLE environment.** The initial policy instrument addressed was Regional Operational Program but because it was basically prepared and the program itself is not under wide social discussions process and because the RIS3 Strategy is strictly correlated with ROP, it was decided that RIS3 strategy monitoring system (within RIS3 strategy) is the best policy instrument which can influence required change within the regional policies.

RIS3 WP will be adopted by the Voivodeship Board - the main regional political decision maker body. RIS 3 WP is a development program which is a key instrument for the implementation of the priorities of the Voivodeship Development Strategy - Podkarpackie 2030 - in the area of the development of the competitiveness of enterprises, research and innovation, as well as in the field of staff training for the needs of the labor market. **Lately, so in the early 2022, the document is under social discussions process and overall monitoring system is widely consulted** in order to prepare fundamentals for such monitoring

system which is essential for the process of RIS3 update every two years. That is why first, and second quarter of 2022 is most important for the creation of regional policy fundamentals for next EU period 2021-2027.

Smart specializations for Podkarpackie Voivodeship are as follows:

- Aviation and aeronautics,
- Automotive (industry)
- Quality of life
- Information and telecommunication (ICT).

First three ones are the main ones and ICT is the horizontal one.



Quality of life, as one of the leading (main) smart specializations of the region, is the specialization within which social innovations activities can be found under the wide definitions of the specialization overall and under the definitions of its support areas. That is why this very one specialization is the one on which the attention of this document is focused in terms of monitoring social innovations aimed at increasing the activity in the social innovation, non-technological innovations.

When analysing the main goal of the thematic area within both regional strategies (RIS3 and PVDS) one can find that it is "*Strengthening the potential of the regional economy and increasing the share of science and research for innovative and sustainable socio-economic development of the voivodeship*". It was assumed that the above goal would be achieved through the implementation of activities undertaken within the framework of the priorities:

- 1.1 Science, research and higher education supporting the economy,
- 1.2 Smart specializations of the voivodeship,
- 1.3 **Competitiveness of the economy through innovation and modern technologies,**
- 1.4 **Circular economy.**

The main goal of the PASSPARTOOL Action Plan for Podkarpackie Voivodeship is to develop a simple and “user friendly” the monitoring system for social innovations under quality of life smart specialization as part of the RIS3 monitoring system for Podkarpackie Voivodeship, which is under social discussions.

The goal should be met by implementing benchmarked monitoring activities found during first phase of PASSPARTOOL project as Monitoring Survey from Netherlands and from Spain.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged [to be completed for each action]

ACTION 1

Name of the action: Social innovation monitoring indicators within smart specialisation monitoring system for Podkarpackie Region

1. **Relevance to the project** *(please describe how this action derives from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experience. Where does the inspiration for this action come from?)*

The regional government of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship attaches great importance to constant monitoring of the socio-economic situation of the region. The issues related to the functioning of the regional innovation system are the elements of many analyses and reports prepared over the years; incl. commissioned by the Department of Regional Development of the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Province. Topics related to research and development activities as well as with the innovation and competitiveness of the region is discussed in the Regional Review reports, prepared on request of Podkarpackie Voivodeship decision makers, and are mostly prepared annually. The Regional Territorial Observatory (RTO), which is a body working under Podkarpackie Marshall Office supervision, prepares reports on monitoring the implementation of the Voivodeship Development Strategy. Moreover, every two or three years the RIS3 monitoring reports are prepared by (mostly) external experts and since 2014, the analyses entitled “Leading industries of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship - smart specializations of the region” are delivered, analysed to take an action. **But still, there is a big gap in monitoring social innovation within the region.**

That is why, thanks to all good practices which have been shown during study visits within PASSPARTOOL project and all events, and the relevance to the project goal and priority of social innovation, it was decided to take an action and fulfil the gap of social innovation monitoring within the monitoring of smart specialisation and regional innovation.

2. Good Practices that have inspired the action

Main good practice that has inspired the action planned to be implemented within the project were **Northern Netherlands Innovation Monitor**, which measures the innovation performance of SMEs in the Northern Netherlands, to provide tools to better align innovation policies.



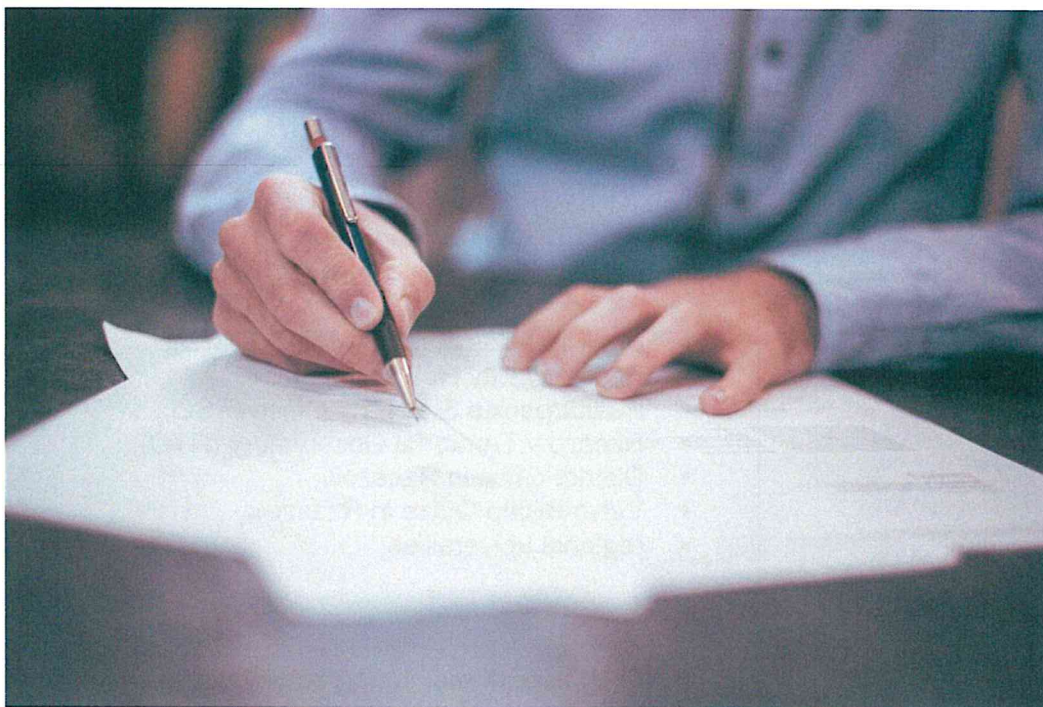
The Innovation Monitor (which from methodical point of view is a questionnaire completed by hundreds of SMEs every year) provides insight into the trends in the innovation ecosystem of the Northern Netherlands (NNL) over the years. This concerns both the innovation performance and the competences and needs of SMEs. The resulting insights contribute to a better innovation policy and a more effective use of subsidies in NNL.

The second good practice found during the phase one of the PASSPARTOOL project is similar monitoring survey which can be found in Spanish regions, also in **Extremadura, Spain** which is called **Regional Innovation Survey “Chair of Innovation”**.

3. Nature of the action and steps for implementation *(please precisely describe the content of action 1. What are the specific activities to be implemented?)*

- It is planned for Rzeszow Regional Development Agency to **develop a short questionnaire aimed at SME concerning creation, absorption, and diffusion of social innovation** and during the social consultations for smart specialisation strategy for 2021-2030 **propose it to put the questionnaire as a coherent part of the monitoring system on program for smart specialisation**. The body responsible for accepting such proposal is Podkarpackie Marshall Office as a main decision maker and Department of Regional Development as a department responsible for EDP within PMO.
- The main indicator of success of the action will be existence within the monitoring system as a coherent plan of widely discussed and prepared RIS3 monitoring system. It is planned that the developed questionnaire will be an expansion of the planned monitoring system.
- Furthermore, thanks to monitoring of the monitoring indicators and questionnaires concerning social innovations (especially within quality of life smart specialisation) within the planned action, it is assumed that after

every two/three years the data will be analysed and later on it will be changed within the documents and the region, based on that data.



4. Stakeholders involved

RIS3 strategy can be called a second most important policy related document in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship at the level of impact on the direction of the transfer of funds allocated to the broadly understood development of voivodeships. That is why, like in the last EU financial periods, wide range of stakeholders will be involved in the process of preparation, discussion and acceptance of the action which is crucial for monitoring of social innovation, as a policy change thanks to PASSPARTOOL project.

Stakeholders involved in the design of action:

- Rzeszow Regional Development Agency experts in the field of projects, programs and project portfolios monitoring systems,
- External experts from Rzeszow University of Technology, which were involved or mainly responsible for preparation of RIS3 strategy for 2014-2020 period and were experts for consultation process concerning preparation of monitoring of RIS3 of last EU financial period,
- Experts from Podkarpackie Statistical Office, responsible on daily basis for preparation of mentioned Regional Reviews reports,
- Experts from Regional Territorial Observatory.



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Policy beneficiaries:

- Podkarpackie Marshall Office (PMO),
- Rzeszow City Hall,
- Podkarpackie Statistical Office (PSO),
- Rzeszow Territorial Observatory (RTO),
- District office in Rzeszow,
- Voivodeship Office in Rzeszow,
- regional universities.

Final users:

- Final user of monitoring survey within which social innovation monitoring indicators will be found are the bodies responsible for the RIS3 monitoring process which (as mentioned earlier in this very document) for the last years were external experts commercially selected from the market.

The role of stakeholders in the monitoring activities:

- The main role of the mentioned stakeholders of monitoring of the action, so monitoring of the effectiveness of social innovation monitoring survey under the RIS3 monitoring system, will be the acceptance or suggestions of changes for the indicators and so on the survey, that could be beneficial in the actions that will be undertaken as an effect of the data gathered and analysed thanks to the survey and indicators.

5. Risks and mitigation strategy of the action

When taking into consideration the implementation of the planned action, the main risk that can be observed are as follows:

- A. Complete failure to take into account the indicators and monitoring tools proposed by RRDA (social innovation survey) during the process of public consultations on the RIS3 strategy and its monitoring system, implemented by the Podkarpackie Marshall Office,
- B. Taking into account only selected indicators in the RIS3 strategy monitoring system by decision makers,
- C. Taking into account the indicators proposed by RRDA but choosing a different tool to monitor them (for example, desk research analyses).

Mentioned risks are crucial ones when considering action implementation and natural or standard risks were not mentioned because it is obvious for any policy change to take into consideration standard risks connected to the process like for

example change of the policy decision makers, crisis like pandemic or war, change of regional, national or EU law, etc.

The mitigation strategy for each mentioned risk:

- A. Propose indicators and survey as formal ask from RRDA to PMO to consider and accept it as a part of RIS3 monitoring system.
- B. Organizing policy meeting for PMO, RRDA, PSO, RTO after final RIS3 strategy and monitoring draft sent to social discussion process to negotiate the final version.
- C. Like in point B, organizing policy meeting for PMO, RRDA, PSO, RTO after final RIS3 strategy and monitoring draft sent to social discussion process to negotiate the final version.

6. Timeframe

Steps planned to implement the action:

- Preparation of indicators: 04/2022
- Preparation of indicator monitoring tool: 04/2022
- Consultation of indicators and tools: 09/2022
- Formal propositions of the action (questionnaire, indicators and research tool) to PMO under RIS3 consultation process: 10/2022 (if accepted, it is planned to be integrated within RIS3 monitoring system, for within first quarter of 2023)
- First monitoring activities: 03/2023

7. Indicative costs

Costs of the steps required to fulfil the planed action:

PREPARATION PHASE:

- Preparation of the indicators: 2 people working full time (100%) for 1 month: 4000 EUR
- Preparation of the monitoring tool (survey/questionnaire): 1 person working full time for 1 month: 2000 EUR
- *Preparation of the RIS3 meta-panel (Panel for Smart Specialisation stakeholders from each industry related to RIS3, policy makers, educators, etc) for consultation process: 12 000 EUR

EVALUATION PHASE:

- Monitoring activities connected to the action as part of overall RIS3 monitoring system: 4 people working 2 months every two/three years, thus around 45 000 EUR

*Action which will be proposed to PMO to be done before RIS3 2021-2027 formal acceptance by Marshall.

8. Indicative funding sources

Main funding source of the action is Podkarpackie Marshall Office, and to be precise: "RIS3 implementing systemic project" which is the project under which all actions connected to implementing, monitoring and promoting of RIS3 activities are funded.

Date: 22.06.2022

Name of the organisation(s): Rzeszowska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A.
(Rzeszów Regional Development Agency)

Signature(s) of representative of the relevant organisation(s):

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