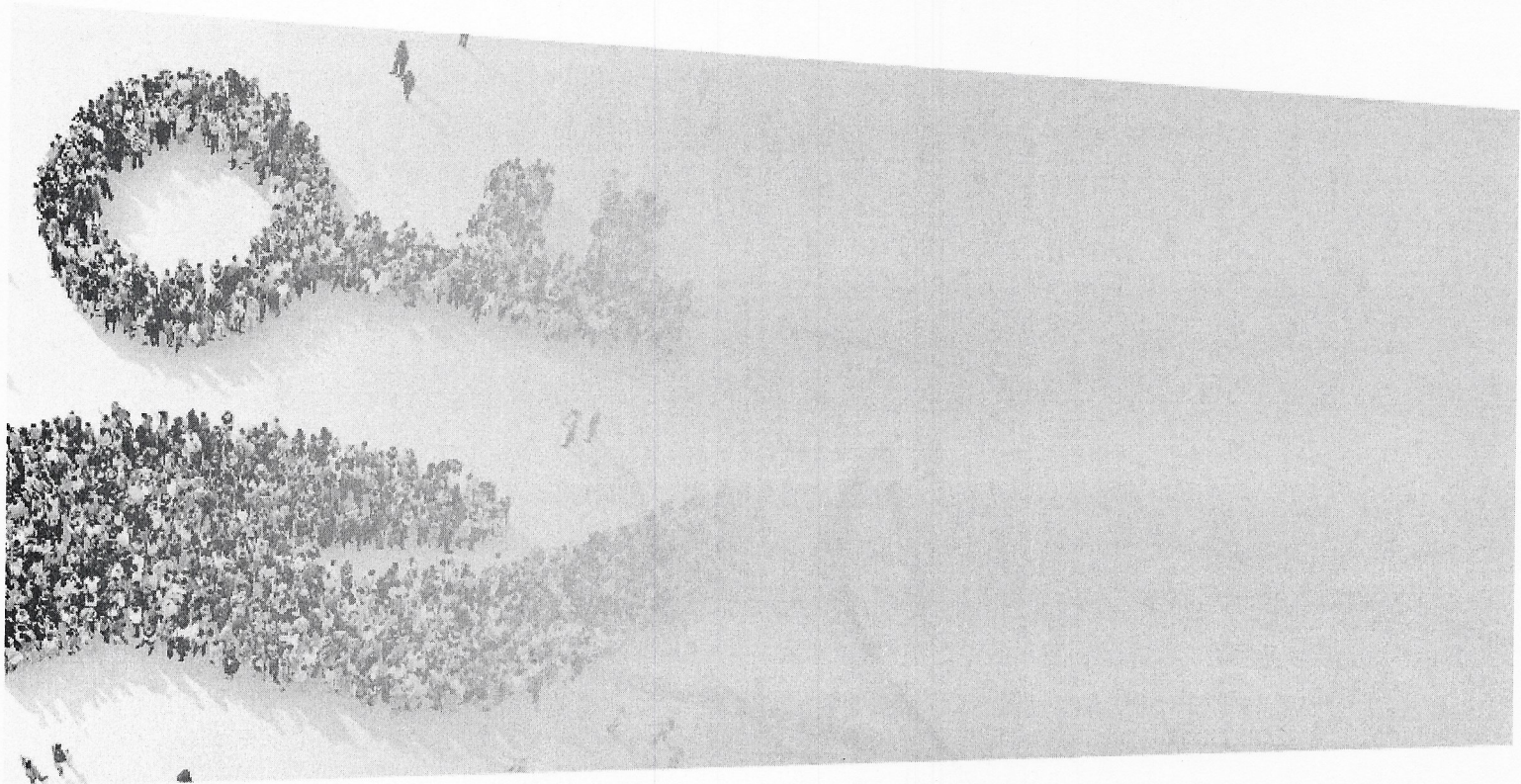


## ACTION PLAN



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



LITHUANIAN  
INNOVATION  
CENTRE

**Lithuanian innovation center**  
**LITHUANIA**



Key tools to assess and improve  
soft innovation policies

[www.interregeurope.eu/passpartool](http://www.interregeurope.eu/passpartool)

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## Part I – General information

Project: PASSPARTOOL  
Partner organisation(s) concerned: Lithuanian innovation center (LIC)  
Country: Lithuania  
NUTS2 region: Lithuania  
Contact person: Juste Rakstyte-Hoimian  
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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:**

- Lithuanian Smart specialization strategy 2014-2020;
- Lithuanian Smart specialization strategy 2021-2027;
- Financial support measure of the Lithuanian OP 2014-2020 priority No. 1 “Strengthening research and development and innovation” InoGeb LT (ERDF)

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

The action plan aims to improve the monitoring framework of Lithuanian smart specialization strategy 2014-2020 and to develop the monitoring framework of the Lithuanian smart specialization strategy 2021-2027 while incorporating the learnings from the project and strengthening the part of soft innovation monitoring and qualitative aspects of the monitoring. Development of the monitoring framework for the Lithuanian smart specialization strategy 2021-2027 will be funded under the Smart Innotech project by Financial support measure of the Lithuanian OP 2014-2020 priority No. 1 “Strengthening research and development and innovation” InoGeb LT.

## Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### ACTION 1

**Name of the action: Improving the monitoring framework of Lithuanian smart specialization strategies 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 through incorporating qualitative aspects to the monitoring**

#### 1. Relevance to the project

Lithuanian smart specialization 2014-2020 monitoring framework was mainly based on the analysis of quantitative information. It provided an opportunity to analyse main economic indicators, however it had some limitations as well, because there were many aspects which could not be measured very easily, such as benefits and challenges which the companies experienced, changes in cooperation patterns or competences. These challenges were discussed during the several Passpartool workshops (28-29<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021, 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021), where the monitoring of non R&D innovations had been presented.

Therefore, while preparing the methodology for the impact assessment of the Smart specialization strategy 2014-2027, it was realized that there is a need to search for new tools for improving the monitoring system in order to collect data which would cover not only R&D innovations, but other types of innovations as well. Lithuanian innovation center shared the learnings from the project with the stakeholders how the monitoring framework can be improved. In order to improve the monitoring framework qualitative and quantitative indicators has been included, which helped to collect information and answer questions like, for example: Are projects being implemented in the most effective and efficient way according to their goals and the changing environment they are subject to? How are the projects affecting the interrelationships among stakeholders of the innovation system? Are projects generating spillovers beyond the project boundaries? Are there systemic barriers which hamper the achievement of the common strategic objectives? If so, how can they be removed? What are the required changes in the role of managing authorities?

Based on the learning from Passpartool project, Lithuanian smart specialization 2014-2020 monitoring framework was improved by incorporating the use of the survey of SMEs and the questionnaires with the main stakeholders of Smart specialization strategy into the impact assessment methodology. The impact evaluation report of Lithuanian Smart specialization 2014-2020 has been prepared and presented for the Lithuanian innovation ecosystem and managing authority in December 2021.

It provided evidence, which will be used in framing monitoring system for the new Smart specialization strategy 2021-2027. While preparing the new monitoring framework different data collection methods will be foreseen. Qualitative measurement of the strategy implementation will be included aiming at understanding the regional dynamics, especially those related to the interactions of the stakeholders under the smart specialisation patterns, and their implications for improving the design of the policy instruments and the whole strategy. The objective is to help to measure not only the economic impact of the strategy, but taking into account the multiple dimensions of the implementation and its effects. Different activities take place during the implementation of smart specialization strategies, which can be discovered throughout an interactive and decentralised monitoring process involving all innovation stakeholders.

Therefore, the survey of SMEs and the questionnaires with the main stakeholders, which were tested for the impact assessment of Smart specialization strategy 2014-2020 will become part of the monitoring tools for the Smart specialization strategy 2021-2027. In addition, during the period of 2021-2027 it is foreseen to establish S3 facilitators for each of the smart specialization priorities. Their main role will be to develop stronger networks and ecosystems around each of the S3 priorities. However, based on the learnings from the project it was realized that they could also play a vital role in monitoring process. Therefore, one of the functions of the S3 facilitators foreseen is providing support and increase the understanding of the way in which the stakeholders of each of the priority operate and how the strategy could be improved to adopt to their needs. Furthermore, they would help to understand the learnings deriving from S3 development and to create a systematic way to capture these learnings.

## 2. Good Practices that have inspired the action

the Northern Netherlands Innovation Monitor was one of the good practices identified, which provided inspiration for the action. The tool aims to monitor and provide insights into the characteristics and behaviours of Northern SMEs and helps to understand the innovation competencies of a diverse group of SMEs from the region. The Innovation monitor is based on an online survey, which is sent once a year to the regional SMEs and covers broad range of topics such as barriers to innovation, collaboration aspects, human capital etc.

Although there are challenges related to the implementation of the tool such as lack of motivation to respond to the questions by respondents, difficulties in getting the contact information of the SMEs, it was decided that it would be important to incorporate the aspects of the Innovation monitor into the monitoring framework of Lithuanian smart specialization, which would help to understand the experiences of the SMEs better.

In addition, the O4iisan instrument led by the General Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Regional Government of Extremadura, through FUNDECYT- PCTEX provided the inspiration for the action. During the Monitoring café organized in the framework of Passpartool project (1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2021), a tool, that addresses the relation among key regional agents, by giving special attention to the effective connection between University and Research and Technological Centers as main actors in generating knowledge that will later be transferred into the business network, was presented. The good practice demonstrated how the intermediaries between companies and the policy makers can be involved into the monitoring framework while providing the feedback of the companies and helping to understand their needs. Therefore, these learnings will be used in defining the role of Smart specialization facilitators in the monitoring process.

## 3. Nature of the action and steps for implementation

Activities implemented were:

- Development of the survey for companies which have received the funding from the Lithuanian smart specialization 2014-2020 financial instruments;
- Development of the questionnaire for the main stakeholders, which have been involved into the implementation processes of the Lithuanian smart specialization 2014-2020;

- Data collection;
- Data analysis and preparation of the Lithuanian smart specialization impact assessment report.
- Development of the monitoring framework of Lithuanian smart specialization strategy 2021-2027 including the monitoring indicators, which would take into account the multiple dimensions of the implementation and its effects (It will be issued as a Decree of a Minister of Economy and Innovation).
- Definition of the roles and tasks of S3 facilitators in the field of monitoring of Smart specialization strategy (It will be issued as a Decree of a Minister of Economy and Innovation).

#### 4. Stakeholders involved

Lithuanian innovation center, Government strategic analysis center, Ministry of Economy and Innovation

#### 5. Timeframe

2021.01.01-2021.12.31

- Development of the survey for companies which have received the funding from the Lithuanian smart specialization 2014-2020 financial instruments;
- Development of the questionnaire for the main stakeholders, which have been involved into the implementation processes of the Lithuanian smart specialization 2014-2020;
- Data collection;
- Data analysis and preparation of the Lithuanian smart specialization impact assessment report.

2022.01.31-2022.12.31

- Development of the monitoring framework of Lithuanian smart specialization strategy 2021-2027 including the monitoring indicators, which would take into account the multiple dimensions of the implementation and its effects (It will be issued as a Decree of a Minister of Economy and Innovation).
- Definition of the roles and tasks of S3 facilitators in the field of monitoring of Smart specialization strategy (It will be issued as a Decree of a Minister of Economy and Innovation).

#### 6. Indicative costs

Staff costs for the personnel, 4 experts working full time, total 180 000 eur.

#### 7. Indicative funding sources

Action is funded by Smart Innotech project of Financial support measure of the Lithuanian OP 2014-2020 priority No. 1 "Strengthening research and development and innovation" InoGeb LT.

Date:	2022 06 30
Signature:	
Function:	Director, Mantas Vilys
Organisation:	Lithuanian innovation center
Stamp of the organisation:	