TeRRItoria's policy recommendations: RRI through the involvement of local R&I actors

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Policy Recommendations

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Selection of some of TeRRItoria's Policy Recommendations

Part A: Recommendations

- design stage
- implementation stage
- monitoring and evaluation stage

Part B: Suggestions

- overall
- enhancing sustainability

Recommendations for integrating RRI principles into the design stage of regional innovation policies and S3 (incl.EDP)

Collaborative R&I agendas and inclusive engagement

recommendations that address the integration of RRI principles and dimensions into the design and development stage of the regional innovation policies (addressing EDP too)

In order to engage citizens, who have been repeatedly proven to be the most hard-to-get audience, the territory should firstly initiate the appropriate capacity-building activities. These can be short-term activities (e.g. single training events) and/or long-term activities (e.g. developing relevant university curricula in regional universities).

The development of collaborative R&I agendas [Gb] can build on the challenge-based approach, thus ensuring that regional needs and problems are genuinely considered.

Different fields and disciplines [ER] should be represented in the consultation activities; one should **avoid** involving representatives coming exclusively from STI-related fields or natural sciences.

Target stakeholders [RCM] should be engaged from early in the design process, and a follow-up communication with them should always be pursued (if possible, follow-up synergies as well); it is then easier to retain or even extend the regional connections and build networks.

New coalitions can be formed through various consultation meetings, events, or workshops. Regional Open Innovation Platforms (ROIPs) can particularly create an encouraging environment.

The sample of involved actors can be widened through the following: capitalizing on organisational mapping; capitalising on territorial networks (strategic networking); providing incentives to the various stakeholders in order to participate in the R&I processes.

Openness and Transparency

The design processes of regional R&I policies should be open and transparent to the wider public (e.g. open consultation initiatives); in this case, the public and interested stakeholders can be genuinely involved in the construction of their territory's vision –thus not allowing regional agendas to be hijacked by established interests and "experts".

Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP)

The benefits of RRI and Public Engagement (PE) on EDP outcomes should be promoted; it should be systematically highlighted that the integration of RRI principles in EDP facilitates the unlashing of local creativity, thus ensuring greater competitiveness and economic growth.

Recommendations for integrating the RRI principles and dimensions
into the implementation stage
of regional innovation policies and S3

Policy recommendations have been formed with reference to the integration of each one of the four dimensions.

Anticipation

S3 and other regional innovation policies can enhance anticipation by:

- Realising foreset exercises (e.g. future scenarios exercises) and forecasting, so that the S3 decision-making is based on a set of logical and anticipated assumptions.
- Developing anticipatory governance mechanisms, by integrating features/principles of technology assessment.
- Employing theories of change when setting new goals.
- Consulting mission-oriented approaches –in this way RRI is also integrated into S3 in a sustainable way.

Inclusiveness

Inclusiveness of S3 and other regional innovation policies can be enhanced by ensuring that the R&I agendas developed are truly collaborative, building on intra-regional collaboration and that the different actors' perspectives and interests are represented.

When attempting to include different actors' perspectives and interests, potential conflicts may emerge; these should be managed at all times and turn into sources of knowledge. To manage the conflicts, present the target topic as a win-win situation to all sides, or a priori initiate something that is beneficial to all sides –even for different reasons.

Inclusiveness of S3 and other regional innovation policies can be enhanced by ensuring that a reference to equality principles and inclusiveness is included in the S3/regional policy and its strategic document.

Reflexivity

To foster the reflexivity of S3 and regional innovation policies, 'self-analysis' and 'self-criticism' should always be made while designing and implementing such policies; feedback received should be appreciated at all times, and be accompanied by a receptive-to-change attitude.

Responsiveness

Responsiveness signifies keeping up with the new developments; particularly new EU / national / local policies, priorities and directions, new scientific, technological and societal trends as well as new societal/political pressures (e.g. on gender issues) should be considered for updating or re-adjusting the content of the policies.

Recommendations for integrating RRI principles and dimensions
into the monitoring and evaluation stage
of regional innovation policies and S3

RRI-driven monitoring and evaluation

Principles of social responsibility can be integrated into the S3 impact assessment since social responsibility attempts to ensure that there is balance between economic growth and the welfare of society and the environment.

Monitoring and evaluating the RRI impact

Evaluation criteria for the funding of R&I projects could also assess the impact specifically related to the RRI keys (i.e. RRI-related evaluation criteria).
In that case, an appropriate RRI-oriented capacity-building of the evaluators is advised to take place.

Overall suggestions for RRI integration into regional innovation policies and S3

Regional size matters and particularly urban and rural areas follow different paths. Such regional features should always be considered when developing (RRI-driven) regional policies.

Changes to regional structures, including political shifts, may create implications; one should be prepared for effects of such changes on regional policies.

Suggestions for enhancing the sustainability of RRI-driven regional policies and their results

Finding an actor in charge of 'anchoring' the results is a prerequisite. Official bodies are considerable allies for undertaking this role and contributing to the continuation of achieved results

Funding and follow-up activities can considerably enhance the results' sustainability. Emphasis is primarily placed on EU and national funding. Alternatives are private-public partnerships/funding, crowdfunding etc.
It should be reminded, however, that follow-up funding is not a panacea for everything. Regional ('improvised') actions may be more effective for an effective knowledge spill-over.

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