MINISTERSTWO INFRASTRUKTURY I ROZWOJU

PARP

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NARODOWA STRATEGIA SPÓJNOŚCI
dla rozwoju Polski

MINISTERSTWO INFRASTRUKTURY I ROZWOJU

UNIA EUROPEJSKA
EUROPEJSKI FUNDUSZ ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO

Ex post evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013

Increasing Innovation in SMEs and SME development

Marielle Riché

Evaluation and European Semester

DG Regional Policy

Cracow, 28 September 2015

Why this evaluation?

- 21 million SMEs throughout EU 28
- 69% of employment, 58% of EU value added
- 55 Billion to SMEs support (+20% of total ERDF)
- Main source of funding in most of EU12, PT, GR (national budget in FR, AT, UK, IT)

European Commission

Ex post evaluation 2007-2013

- 3 related work packages: SMEs and innovation, Large Enterprises, Venture capital and loan funds
- All 3 use theory based impact evaluation approaches
- 18 months: June - December 2015
- CSIL (Italy) in partnership with CSES (UK) and ZEW (Germany)
- 5 experts: Brad Astbury (U. of Melburne), Harvey Amstrong (U.of Sheffield), David Audretsch (Indiana U.), Robert Picciotto (Kings College), Mateja Dermastia (Anteja ECG)

Ex post evaluation on SMEs

Achieved:

- Typology of main instruments funded in 50 programmes representing 62% of ERDF support to SMEs
- Literature review: prerequisites, rationale, evidence
- 8 case studies: Puglia, Castilla y Leon, Ile de France, Saxony, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic: 200 interviews with MA and stakeholders
- Seminar with managing authorities and experts

Ex post evaluation on SMEs

Still to come:

- 3 theory based impact evaluation on 3 policy instruments: business creation and development (IT), R&D projects (ES), support to innovation (PL)
- Most commonly used, importance in policy mix, sufficient number of beneficiaries and of data on results.
- A new approach: Bayesian network
- Final report with conclusions expected end 2015

European Commission

First Policy Findings

Importance of Context

- SMEs' performance depend on the socio-economic context, entrepreneurial behaviours
- Difficulty for MA to build comprehensive theory of change taking into account local characteristics and needs
- Most programmes provide a full set of support options
- There are conditions for this support to be effective (SMEs capacities, relevance of business services, cooperation with research providers…)

First policy findings

Policy instruments

- 648 policy instruments identified across the 50 OPs
- Two third of expenditure concentrated on business creation and development, R&D projects, support to innovation
- innovation is a priority, but shift of funding to support to growth due to crisis
- Input support is the most common logic of intervention (half instruments support investments in fixed assets or R&D activities)
- Little on instruments improving business environment

European Commission

First Policy Findings

Modes of Delivery

- No expected shift from grants to financial instruments
- Grants half of instruments, used in particular in convergence regions. Repayable financial support 9%
- Combination of modes of delivery (22%): more common in competitiveness regions
- 37% policy instrument delivered by intermediaries, mostly used in competitiveness regions
- Decrease time and costs, accompany SMEs' development strategies

First Policy Findings

Policy targeting

- Instruments not targeted to specific categories of SMEs:

  - only 12% of instruments target a sector (7% of sums)

  - priority given to SMEs catch up: 53% beneficiaries are low-tech micro entreprises, over representation of manufacturing sector (44%)

- Evidence show higher effectiveness when instruments supporting RDI target more capable enterprises

Challenges for evaluation

Uneven quality of monitoring systems

- Monitoring systems sufficient in 7 cases, poor in 11 cases.
- 12% of all instruments have robust evidence on achievements
- 30% policy instruments not monitored
- 53% still in implementation stage

Challenges for evaluation

Gaps in evaluations

- Many evaluation studies, at programme, axis, project levels but most focus on processes and outputs rather than on results.
- Few counterfactual to provide more reliable data than those provided by beneficiaries (indicators, survey) - quality questionable
- A miss opportunity to understand the role of policy instruments in regional development

Conclusions

- Relevance of evaluation approach (CMO, case studies): lessons learnt, good practices and conditions for effectiveness
- Theory of change: importance of context in which entreprises operate
- Policy instruments: more use of FI, of intermediaries, of targeted support needed
- Monitoring: more on results, at instrument level
- Counterfactual impact evaluations needed for more reliable data

Further information

on INFOREGIO:

Typology of instruments and literature review

By end October: Case studies

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/ec/2007-2013/