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Les défis de développement pour les villes et les régions dans une Europe en mutation

Exploring underlying information flows and linkages in RIS3 strategic planning processes

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Résumé / Summary

Regional and national authorities are nowadays called to design and implement successful policies, whilst tackling complex and interconnected societal challenges. EU regions are called to design and implement Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3), leveraging private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well-performing national and regional research and innovation systems. The development of a RIS3 strategy is a prerequisite to receive funding for research

and innovation (thematic objective 1) from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which is the main tool for the EU Cohesion Policy. To facilitate and streamline this process, the European Commission has published a Guide to RIS3 (Foray et al., 2012) and a handbook for implementing Smart Specialisation (Gianelle et al., 2016), providing a set of 6 discrete methodological steps on how to design a RIS3 strategy. Although these publications provide valuable resources to facilitate RIS3 design, implementation and monitoring, their inputs are focused mostly on the methodological framework that regions should follow, without pointing out the required operational directions that could support an undertaking of the proposed methodological tasks in a streamlined and user friendly way. Under these circumstances, many EU regions tend to utilize only a fraction of the proposed methodologies, due to conceptual and organizational limitations (e.g. lack of knowledge and experience in the use or development of new tools, inability to mobilise the region's social capital and stakeholders etc.). The Online-S3 project, funded under the HORIZON2020, tries to address this challenge, by developing an online platform for policy advice. Under this framework, this study explores the links amongst a selected set of 29 methodologies, in terms of associated information flows across the six steps of RIS3 design process. More particularly, this study, based on the empirical results of the Online-S3 project, after providing an overview of the most commonly used methodologies across each step, outlines potential underlying relationships between them in a logical manner, based on the implied data and the information flows that are detected. The results offer an exceptional opportunity to derive an overall mechanism for RIS3 policy making processes, providing guidance to regional authorities and encouraging them to use additional methods throughout their RIS3 strategy-design process, that could be managed and delivered through online platforms and applications.

Bibliographie / Bibliography

Gianelle, C., D. Kyriakou, C. Cohen and M. Przeor (eds) (2016), *Implementing Smart Specialisation: A Handbook*, Brussels: European Commission, EUR 28053 EN, doi:10.2791/53569.

Foray, D., Goddard, J., & Beldarrain, X. G. (2012). *Guide to research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS 3)*. EU.