

# EU Structural Fund Support to Innovation: to what extent, when and what investments are effective? Insights from evaluations

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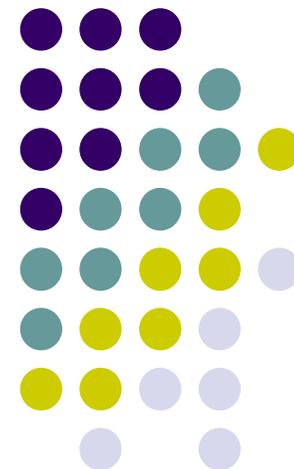
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- The funding for innovation from ERDF is increasing in both groups of EU countries, competitive and convergence states
- Innovation is broadly defined concept and risky and complex issue
- Still, given the amount of funding and the importance for the EU development strategy, effective evaluation approaches and methods are important

# The new approaches towards innovation policy and evaluation



- The collection of evidence on the single measure level, but also the need for complex assessment for complementary effects of interlinked (?) measures and policies, also within given national and regional contexts
- Key question: what is the missing link between the measures leading to the pure policy performance in general or at the level of selected indicators (NTB start ups)
- How we can answer it with the help of evaluation?



# Evaluation issues

- Some measures are evaluated easier than the others (RTD funds vs promoting innovation friendly environment)
- Focus on innovation promotion:
  - Direct support for RTD capabilities building (converging states)
  - Support for knowledge transfer and knowledge poles (competitive state)
- In both cases technological specialization/ focus on selected societal challenges becomes an issue
- Towards smaller and more efficient set of indicators and evaluation practices

# Does assistance make difference? How do we measure it?: Hungary



- Can we assign the success of support recipients in the market to the success of the measure?
- are the counterfactual evaluation methods reliable and to which extent?

# New innovation policies for converging countries: Lithuania



- Towards *entrepreneurship* and *experimentation*, i.e. more evaluation and more complex evaluation
- How policy mix should promote larger impacts on the economies – R&D (easy to measure, little impact) vs other type of innovation (complicated measurement related risks)
- Quantitative targets are easily met, but what about quality and policy objectives?

## Finding from bottom up based evaluations: findings from S&T parks in Lithuania



- National funds in some cases are replaced by SF
- Funding schemes shape actual innovation services provided, and further impact the competence base and service packages
- Getting money vs mission
- State aid regulations vs real needs
- Lack of complex approach: financing + other measures and supporting regulations