SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY OF NORTH-EAST ROMANIA
"Project cofinanced by European Regional Development Fund through POAT 2007 – 2013"

MONITORING METHODOLOGY OF SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY

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Methodology of monitoring of Smart Specialization Strategy

The monitoring of the implementation of the strategy will be developed according to the following schedule of activities:

1. Activities of monitoring of the implementation of Smart Specialization Strategy will be realised in 2017, respectively in 2019, on correlation with the process of reviewing of performances at national level, required by European Commission for all Member States (in terms of providing, for the first time, of a performance reserve).

2. North-East RDa will have the atributions of documentation of the selected context, output and result indicators, as per the above schedule, as follows:
   - *for context indicators*: the values of indicators will be obtained from secondary sources – statistical data from the National Institute for Statistics (for example Database TEMPO Online);
   - *for output and result indicators*: the values of indicators will be obtained from Annual Implementation Reports of Operational Programs related to period 2014-2020, elaborated by Management Authorities/ Intermediate Bodies (based on data from SMIS), in the context that all prioritary projects (see Annex 1) will be proposed to be financed from Operational Programs.

3. The monitoring activity of the implementation of Smart Specialization Strategy of North-East Romania can be subsumed, from financial, informational and human perspectives involved, to monitoring activity of implementation of Regional Development Plan 2014-2020, which will be (most probably) the subject of technical assistance contracts concluded between RDA and Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, in the context that the two processes, implicitly and the programmatic documents results were correlated even since the phase of conception.

4. In the context in which it is found that the information available on the existing information sources (NIS databases, annual implementation reports) are not sufficient to reflect the progress of implementation of the strategy, you can choose complementary to application of monitoring questionnaires by those organizations which are implementing projects relevant to the strategy. However, we have to bear in mind that the process of collecting information from primary sources, based on a questionnaire, is a difficult process and results can be tainted by the high rate of non-response. In the context that it will still opt for this complementary method, is recommended the application of these questionnaires by established regional clusters, already responsible for monitoring the implementation of projects undertaken by their members.

Attached below, an indicative model of questionnaire, which can be detailed for each measure.

Model of monitoring questionnaire

The questionnaire aims to gather data for documentation of indicators for monitoring the progress of implementation of smart specialization strategy of the North-East Region.

Please specify the values achieved by the following indicators in the period since the last monitoring within your organization. In this context, we specify the following methodological details:

- if the indicators can not be calculated at your organization level, please indicate NA - Not applicable;
- if this is the first action monitoring:
  - in the column "last monitoring indicator value" – reffering to the moment of start of implementing appropriate strategy (01/01/2014) you will automatically switch value 0;
  - in the column "current value of the indicator" you will pass a value different from a zero value if effective actions have been taken in that direction in the period since the last monitoring.

Indicators	Last monitoring indicator value	Current value of the indicator
• Indicator 1*		
• Indicator 2*		
• …		

5. The results of both monitoring actions proposed (2017 and 2019) will be centralized in a Monitoring Report.

The main purpose of the Monitoring Report is to highlight progress on the implementation of smart specialization strategy and propose recommendations for improving the implementation of it. Therefore, it will have the following minimum structure:

- **Introduction**: The Monitoring report will have an introductory section in which it will be provided information on the monitoring period covered by the report, the sources of data used to assess progress in implementing the strategy, difficulties encountered.
- **Chapter 1**: This chapter will describe the activities developed during the monitoring process.
- **Chapter 2**: This chapter is an overview of measures and actions which habe been taken during the monitoring process. There will be, then, listed recommendations to streamline the implementation of each measure and action, each party;
- **Final conclusions**: The report concludes with an overall assessment on progress in implementing smart specialization strategy.

6. The Monitoring report will be discussed at the plenary Regional Consortium for smart specialization to analyze progress in implementation and identify recommendations for improving the implementation of the strategy.

To ensure the representativeness of the participants, to the meetings of the Consortium can be invited and other stakeholders who have a direct interest or influence the proper implementation of smart specialization strategy.

Methodology of evaluation of Smart Specialization Methodology

In the development of Smart Specialization Strategy 2021-2027, North-east RDA will include a section dedicated to assessing the regional impact of the implementation of Smart Specialization Strategy 2014-2020.

This study will generate an ex-post evaluation report, which will include an analysis of:
- the achievement of the indicators included in the strategy;
- effectiveness of its implementation;
- actual impact in terms of elimination of problems or valorization of chances that underlying the Strategy;
- sustainability of results;
- causal mechanisms underlying the success or failure in implementing of the strategy' priorities;
- possible unplanned side effects;
- lessons learned from the implementation of this strategy for future planning exercises - identifying, for example, the registering and indicating the weaknesses in relation to the initial design priorities, measures, actions, targets, indicators and listing the recommendations to reduce or eliminate these deficiencies on future planning periods.

The assessment of regional impact on implementation of the Strategy will be based on the following set of *context indicators*:

No.	Indicator	Value at time t0 - January 1, 2017	Value at time t1 – January 1, 2019
1.	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) / capita (EUR PPS)		
2.	Expenditure on Research and Development in regional GDP (%)		
3.	The employment rate of the labor force (%)		
4.	Employment rate of population aged 15-64 (%)		
5.	Number of SMEs per 1,000 inhabitants		
6.	The value of foreign direct investment (FDI) / capita (Euro)		
7.	Number of registered patents /100.000 inhabitants		
8.	Number of employees working in research and development sector at 10,000 civil employed		
9.	Average labor productivity in industry in the four sectors of smart		

	specialization (Euro / person employed)		
10.	Coverage of imports (CIF) Exports (FOB) (%)		

Observation:

To assess ongoing / final evaluation lies to Regional Consortium for Smart Specialization to establish any importance weights of indicators to capture as accurately as possible the successful of the implementation of the Strategy.