

**SCINNOPOLI Final Conference on 8th November 2011 in Győr:**

**WORKSHOP C: S<sup>3</sup> Smart specialization strategies and selection of  
impact indicators for Structural Funds 2014-2020**

**Result orientation 2014-2020 acc. EC-proposal:  
rationale & potential challenges for  
programme / priority level**

Andreas Maier

Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz

[www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik](http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik)

## Information sources

- EC proposals for Structural funds regulations 2014-2020 (Oct. 2011)
- Draft Guidance paper of DG REGIO: „Monitoring and evaluation 2014-2020: Concepts & recommendations“ (Oct. 2011)
- DG REGIO Evaluation Network Meetings (April & Oct. 2011)
- Pilot project of DG REGIO Evaluation unit conc. „Result indicators“ (participating regions from AT: NÖ & ST)

**Important to underline:**

**Early DRAFT / PROPOSAL phase!**

***„moving target“ => NOTHING is fixed yet!!***



Source: PPP Anna BURYLO, DG REGIO Evaluation Unit, on 2011/06/29 in Vienna

## Why a focus on results?

- **Policy Debate emphasises need for:**
  - Focus on demonstrable results (*and impacts on evaluation level*) rather than inputs;
  - Concentration to maximise effects and European added value of Cohesion policy;
  - Strong links with EU2020 objectives;
  - Better programming with clearer articulation of strategic objectives;
  - More impact evaluation.
- **Focus on results an even greater imperative with pressures on public budgets.**

## Key elements for concept 2014-2020

- **Common indicators (mostly outputs)** with agreed definitions and measurement units where relevant in OPs, ensuring aggregation
  
- **Result indicator(s) relating to priority** (Art. 24(3) Gen. Reg.)  
“What do you want to change?”  
 => baseline(s) required; quantitative & qualitative targets possible (Art. 6 ERDF Reg.; Art. 15 ETC Reg.)
  
- **Impact** (*evaluation level*): your OP's contribution to the change in the result indicator (effect of intervention):  
Change in result indicator = effect of intervention + effect of other factors  
 => **Impact evaluation** “how support from the CSF funds has contributed to the objectives of the priority”; needed to disentangle the effects of intervention from other factors.

## Challenges to Result Orientation

- Result indicator(s) **difficult to identify** (especially for small programmes / field of innovation):
  - Contributions of smaller programmes to effects at macro level are **marginal** and take place with considerable **time-lags**
  - Data for **result** will rarely be **available** at NUTS-2-level
  - Result indicators on macro-level as “percentage” of a baseline are often **not applicable** (but information is available e.g. about the “number of incubated firms”)
  - Result orientation has to bring a **visible “Added value” for the additional efforts also** for small (innovation) programmes to become an useful & accepted approach

## Challenges to Result Orientation [2]

- **Clear and quantifiable** strategic objectives are desirable, but in reality very **challenging**:
  - Often they are **compromises** to accommodate various interests
  - The desired situation will sometimes **emerge over time**
- Using **one (or very few) result indicator(s)** per priority is a rather narrow perspective for monitoring
  - Only some aspects (part of the priorities) can be captured
- Priorities / areas of intervention might be **defined in view of data availability** (result indicators) and not according to regional needs

## Possible starting points

- At programming stage **general indications** can be provided
- the “result” (= **desired change**) for some priorities can be expressed with a **qualitative result indicator** (not quantitatively) on **micro level** (not macro)
- **Directions or corridors** can be indicated, target values for result indicators **qualitatively** (often should/could not be defined quantitatively)
- Every programme is different => Result indicators have to be identified **case by case**
- **Learn from pilot projects** (e.g. Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme Case)

# Thank you for your attention!

Mag. Andreas MAIER  
Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz  
t: +43/1/535-34-144/19  
e: maier@oerok.gv.at  
[www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik](http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik)