



Investigating the Impact  
of the **Innovation Union**

I3U Work Package 6: Commitments 24/25, 26, 27 and 28  
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# Commitment 24/25

## Improve the use of structural funds for research and innovation

Allocate **substantial** cohesion policy resources to RDI and do it **more efficiently** with the help of smart specialisation strategy (S3)

- The S3 **internet platform**: online since 2012, relevant in **assisting MS and regions** to elaborate their S3 strategies. Support by the EU's **ex-ante conditionality** requiring the existence of such strategies for participating in ESI Funds allocation for research and development.
- The S3 platform has **grown out** of its original online existence and increasingly asserts itself in the genuine (non-virtual) reality.
- **Stakeholders' perception** of S3 is predominantly positive. Public consultation results show that a large majority of respondents think that it is important 'to a great extent' or 'to some extent' to put in place S3 strategies.
- Implementation of the smart specialisation strategy is principally **work in progress**. An established picture of the intervention's impact will emerge only gradually. Improved growth performance will become visible only in the medium and longer term.

# Commitment 24/25

## Improve the use of structural funds for research and innovation

Allocate **substantial** cohesion policy resources to RDI and do it **more efficiently** with the help of smart specialisation strategy (S3)

- S3 is in place in most MS and regions of the EU. From 2017 on **new era, new focal points**: S3 evaluation and innovative enhancements like facilitation of world-class clusters and value chains, fostering synergies with Horizon 2020, encouraging the entrepreneurial discovery process, support for cross-border investment, etc.
- Allocation of '**substantial financial resources**': of the 28 MS only 7 will likely increase the share of expenditures allocated to RDI within their total cohesion policy related expenditures. But: take the **broader context**: resources allocated to Horizon 2020 will be 30% higher in the current MFF than in the previous one.

# Commitment 26

## Launch a Social Innovation Pilot, promote social innovation in European Social Fund

Initiative	State of implementation (all initiatives have been completed!)	Expected impact and impact achieved
Launch of the Social Innovation Europe Platform (SIE)	The platform was launched in 2011 and ran until 2016	SIE is followed up by the Social Innovation Community (SIC)
Launch of the European Social Innovation Competitions	The competition was launched in 2012 and has taken place annually since 2013.	Several other competitions with a focus on social innovation emerged throughout the last years in Europe and beyond. Probably, the European Social Innovation Competition was used as a role model for some of the new competitions.
Adoption of the Guide to Social Innovation	The guide was adopted by DG Regional and Urban Policy and DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in 2013.	The document 'is a political statement of the EC. Some developments within the Member States can be related to the guide. For example, social innovation is named in the German 'High Tech Strategy'. Probably the guide was, amongst others, an inspiration for that.
Launch of a pilot action on networks of incubators for social innovation to support two European networks to assess, support and scale up social innovations in Europe, supported through FP7	Implemented between 2013 and 2016, the two incubator projects BENISI and TRANSITION focused on the role of incubators in empowering, incubating and scaling social innovation in and across Europe.	The European Social Innovation Incubation Network (ESIIN) and the Social Innovation Accelerators Network (SIAN) resulted from BENISI & TRANSITION.

# Commitment 26

## Launch a Social Innovation Pilot, promote social innovation in European Social Fund

Initiative	State of implementation (all initiatives have been completed!)	Expected impact and impact achieved
Adoption of the Social Investment Package (SIP)	The EC adopted the SIP in 2014.	Conclusions in terms of the achieved impact are hard to draw as the SIP is divided into manifold measures which are clustered in different sub-themes: e.g.: 'Strengthening the social investment approach through the European Semester', 'Making the best use of EU funds to support social investment', 'Streamlining governance and reporting'.
Launch of the Employment and Social Innovation programme (EaSI)	EaSI started in 2014.	EaSI should contribute to the increase of the impact of social innovation – in fact through the funding of project-base social policy experimentation. At the moment, "only" empirical social researchers primary recognise these activities as useful instruments to produce novel policy options that are injected into official policymaking and then replicated on a larger scale.
Social innovation should be mainstreamed under the ESF programming period 2014-2020	According to Article 9 'Social innovation' of Regulation 1304/2013, 'The ESF shall promote social innovation within all areas falling under its scope' (European Parliament and Council, 2013: 477).	The measurement of effects with respect to the mainstreaming of social innovation under the ESF programming period 2014-2020 should be possible in the forthcoming years. A comparison of socially innovative measures of the different Member States might be difficult, as well as a measurement of the overall impact of the mainstreaming of social innovation within the ESF

# Commitment 27

Support a research programme on public sector and social innovation; pilot a Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard - State of Implementation

All the milestones set for Commitment 27, but one, have been completed.

Uncompleted milestone: „**New European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard will be published in 2015**”

Reason for the delay - **a lack of relevant and solid data.**

Key questions:

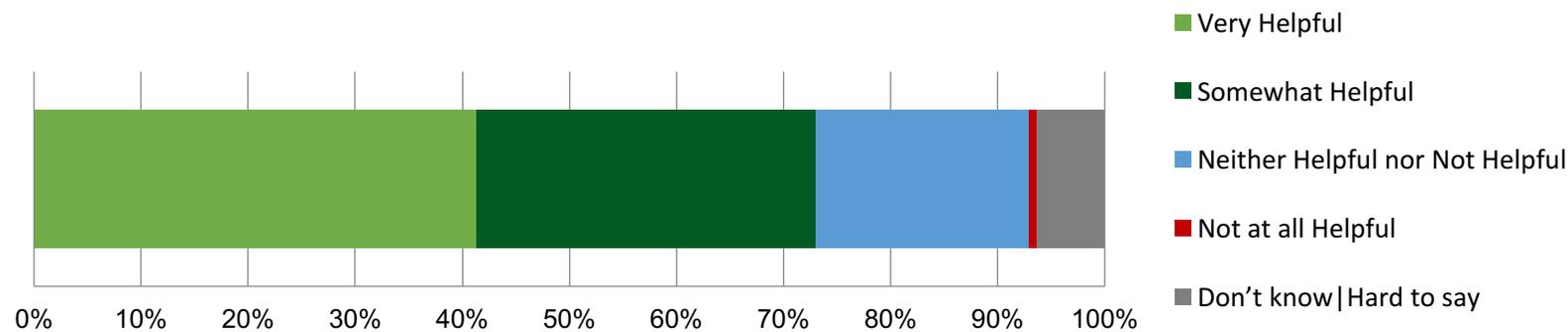
Is the rationale for implementing C27 still valid? **YES**

Will the ideas disseminated under C27 be sustainable? **YES**

Is C27 useful for the MS? **YES**

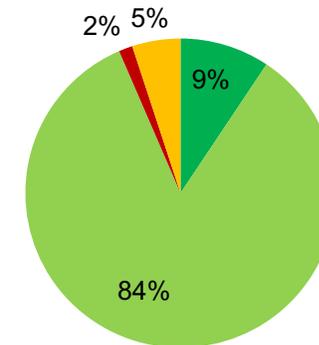


EPSIS's role in benchmarking and knowledge sharing in the public administration



Are you planning to sustain partnerships established for FP6, FP7 and H2020 research programmes?

- Yes, with all partners
- Yes, with some partners
- No
- Don't know/Not applicable

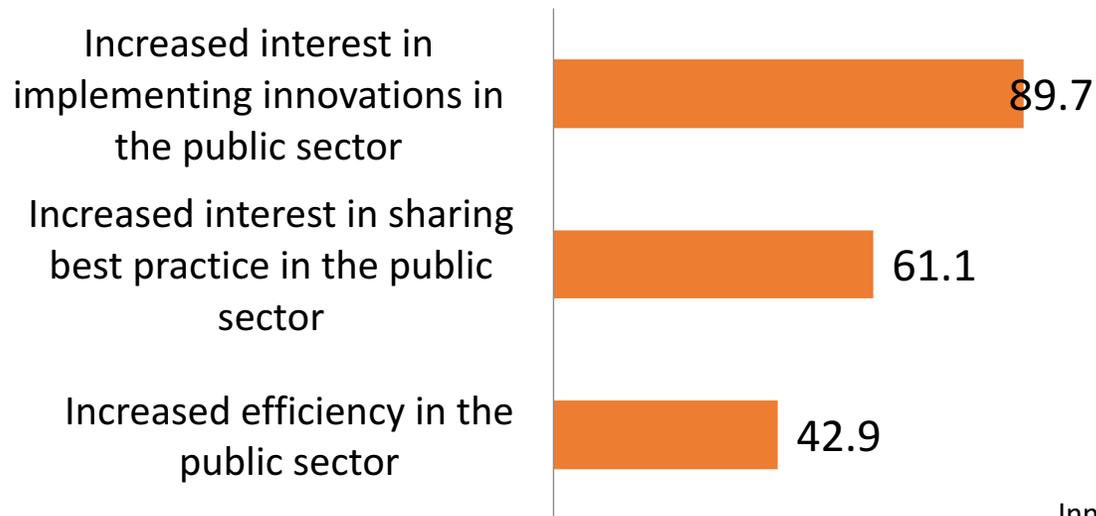


# Commitment 27

Support a research programme on public sector and social innovation; pilot a Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard – Impact achieved

## Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard

The effects of publications / rankings like EPSIS with regard to public sector innovation

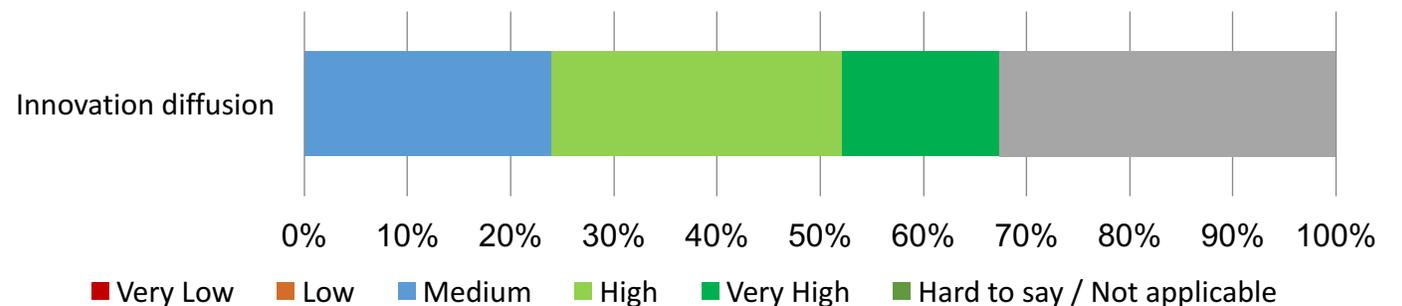


EPSIS is helpful in benchmarking and knowledge sharing in the public administration.

## Research Program on Public Sector and Social Innovation

- One of the assumptions related to C27 was the need to promote the role of social entrepreneurship and networks of practitioners.
- A wide range of indirect effects, e.g. **network building, involving stakeholders, innovation diffusion,**
- High **knowledge transfer,**
- Enhanced **awareness of social innovation.**

Respondents' views on innovation diffusion within financed projects



# Commitment 28

## Consult social partners on interaction between the knowledge economy and the labour market

- C28 is still in an **early stage** of implementation.
- Two key actors are involved in C28: **DG Employment**, representing the European Commission, and, as a group, the **European social partners**. The Commission informs social partners about its sector-specific and innovation-related initiatives and consults the social partners in the Liaison Forum. The **social partners** for their part are **autonomous** when defining their work programme and their various activities.
- The implementation failure of C28 is the result of various deficiencies, such as the **lack of clear formulation**, the **insufficient information** of the social partners about their role plus the **highly fragmented organisational structure** of the social partners at EU level.
- Feasibility of the future implementation of C28 will depend on the strength of the social partners in the **individual Member States**. Implementation would be highest in countries with both **high union density** and **employer organisation rates** and in countries with a **long tradition of consultations** between social partners.
- Regardless of the failure to implement C28, social partners are very active with respect to **digitalisation** both at **national** and **EU level**, which is considered as one of the major future challenges in terms of work and social security, but **not under the heading of C28**.

Thank you

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