

3 - 4 LUGLIO 2024

L'evoluzione della strategia

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**La statistica ufficiale
nel tempo
dell'Intelligenza
Artificiale**

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- 1. The Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) Titolo
- 2. The design and implementation of the strategy (2014-2020)
- 3. The design of the strategy (2021-2027)
- 4. Investment priorities in 2014-2020 and 2021-2027
- 5. Changes in investment priorities
- 6. Definition of investment priorities
- 7. Conclusions: “Smart but not specialized”
- 8. Further development

Since 2014-2020 programming period, the adoption of the S3 was an ex-ante **conditionality for ERDF funding** under the Thematic Objective 1 for Research and Innovation. (Regulation (EU) 1301/2021).

“Selecting priorities and clustering R&I initiatives should avoid fragmentation of investment efforts and ensure more effective budgetary management” (RIS3 Guide, 2012).

Selecting **investment priorities** is one of the key aspects of S3 design.

It was also the most challenging:

- from a theoretical point of view (criteria so select to most promising areas)
- from a practical point of view (reducing discretionality and span in allocating resources)

From the empirical literature referring to the 2014-2020 programming period it emerged a complex picture regarding the selection of priorities:

- **Absence of homogeneity** in the definition of investment priorities (industry sectors, clusters, technological domains, etc)
- **Proliferation of investment priorities** in some S3 strategies (Most S3 strategies included far too many areas of intervention)

Besides what was declared in S3 documents...

- Little changes in how regions have allocated Structural Funds in implementing S3 (*Gianelle et.al, 2019; Di Cataldo, Monastiriotis, Rodríguez-Pose, 2021; D'Adda, Iacobucci, Perugini, 2022*)

After the first S3 implementation, **regions were called to design an updated version of S3 for the 2021-2027** programming period (enabling condition).

Given the experience gained by the Regions from the 2014-2020 implementation, we **expected a better focus on investment priorities** in the 2021-2027 programming period

4. Investment priorities in 2014-2020 and 2021-2027

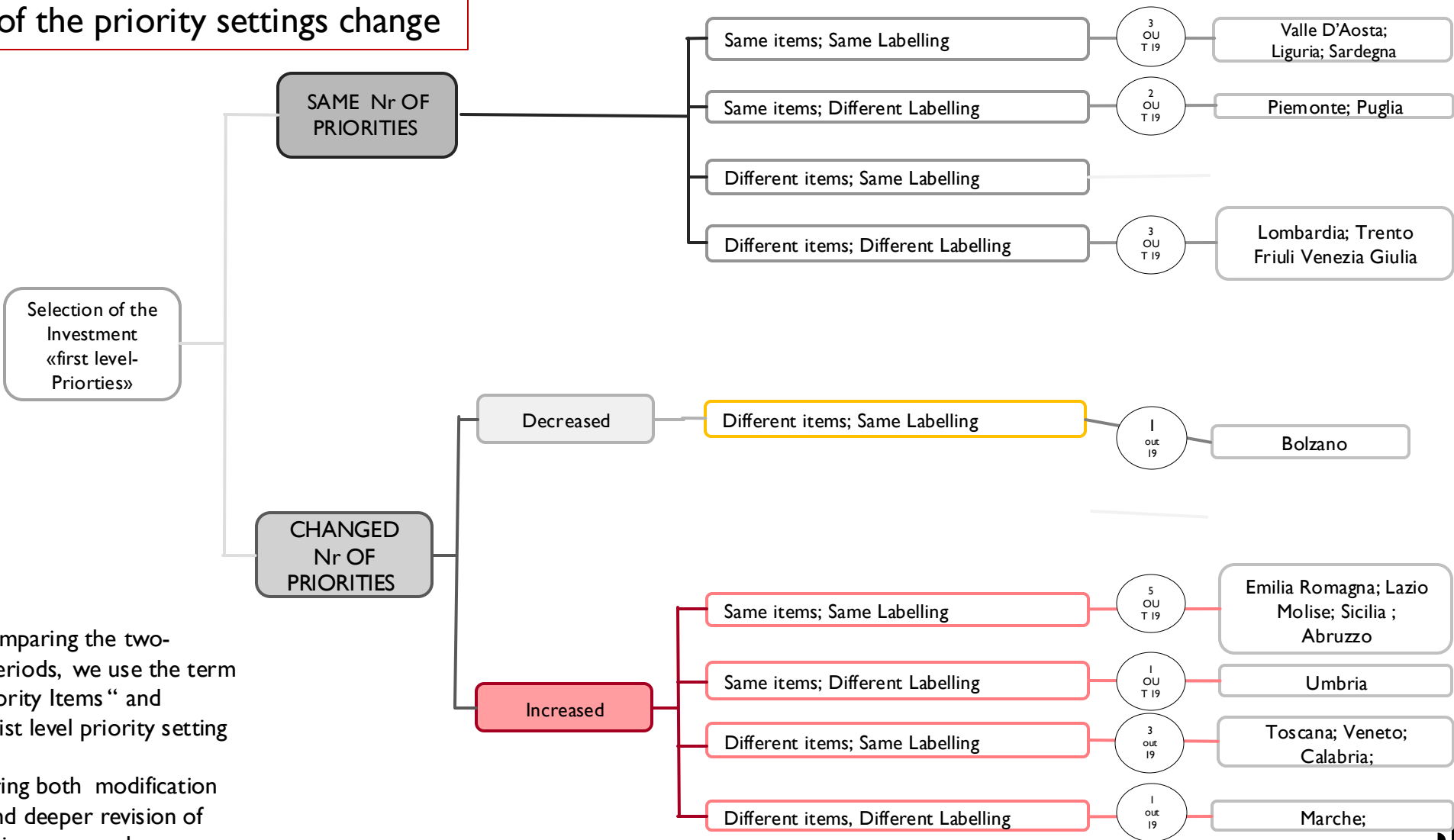
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A large majority of regions increased the number of investment priorities

NUTS CODE	NUTS2 Regions	N° Priorities (first level) S3_ 2014-2020	N° Priorities (first level) S3_ 2021-2027	Difference
ITF1	Abruzzo	5	6	1
ITF6	Calabria	8	9	1
ITH5	Emilia-Romagna	5	8	3
ITH4	Friuli Venezia Giulia	5	5	-
ITI4	Lazio	7	9	2
ITC3	Liguria	3	3	-
ITC4	Lombardia	8	8	-
ITI3	Marche	4	7	3
ITF2	Molise	4	5	1
ITC1	Piemonte	6	6	-
ITF4	Puglia	3	3	-
ITG2	Sardegna	6	6	-
ITG1	Sicilia	6	7	1
ITI1	Toscana	3	4	1
ITH2	AP of Trento	4	4	-
ITH1	AP of Bolzano	6	4	-2
ITI2	Umbria	5	7	2
ITC2	Valle d'Aosta	3	3	-
ITH3	Veneto	4	7	3

5. Changes in investment priorities

Outline of the priority settings change



***Item**: When comparing the two-programming periods, we use the term "investment priority Items " and investigate the first level priority setting

***Label**: considering both modification in vocabulary and deeper revision of the priority settings approach

6. Definition of investment priorities

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Diversity of label and concepts to define investment priorities.

General move towards a “systemic” logic

NUTS CODE	Region	2014–2020	2021–2027
ITF1	Abruzzo	Strategic priorities	S3 development domains and trajectories
ITF6	Calabria	Areas of innovation	Innovation areas and priority development trajectories
ITH5	Emilia-Romagna	Strategic priority	Production specialisations
ITH4	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Development trajectories in the areas of specialisation	Areas of specialisation
ITI4	Lazio	Areas of specialisation	Areas of specialisation
ITC3	Liguria	Macro-sectors of smart specialisation	Macro-sectors of smart specialisation
ITC4	Lombardia	Specialisation areas	Innovation ecosystems*
ITI3	Marche	Areas of specialisation	Areas of productive specialisation
ITF2	Molise	Vertical interventions	Priority areas for development
ITC1	Piemonte	Areas of technological innovation or specialisation	Priority innovation systems*
ITF4	Puglia	Areas of innovation	Innovation chains*

7. Conclusions: “Smart but not specialized”

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- a. The **design process** (R&D context analysis, EPD, strengths and weaknesses analysis) is **well established** and better implemented compared to the previous programming period
- b. The **prioritization** is characterized by:
 - the enlargement of investment priorities
 - a switch towards a systemic (inclusive) logic.

Justifications...

- Relevance of **horizontal innovation policy** (digital and ecological transformation)
- Need to **support existing sectors** hit by subsequent external shocks

Further Research Questions

- from specialization to a systemic approach
- from “transformation” to “transition”
- how to define priorities

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grazie
per l'attenzione

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