7th biannual international evaluation conference

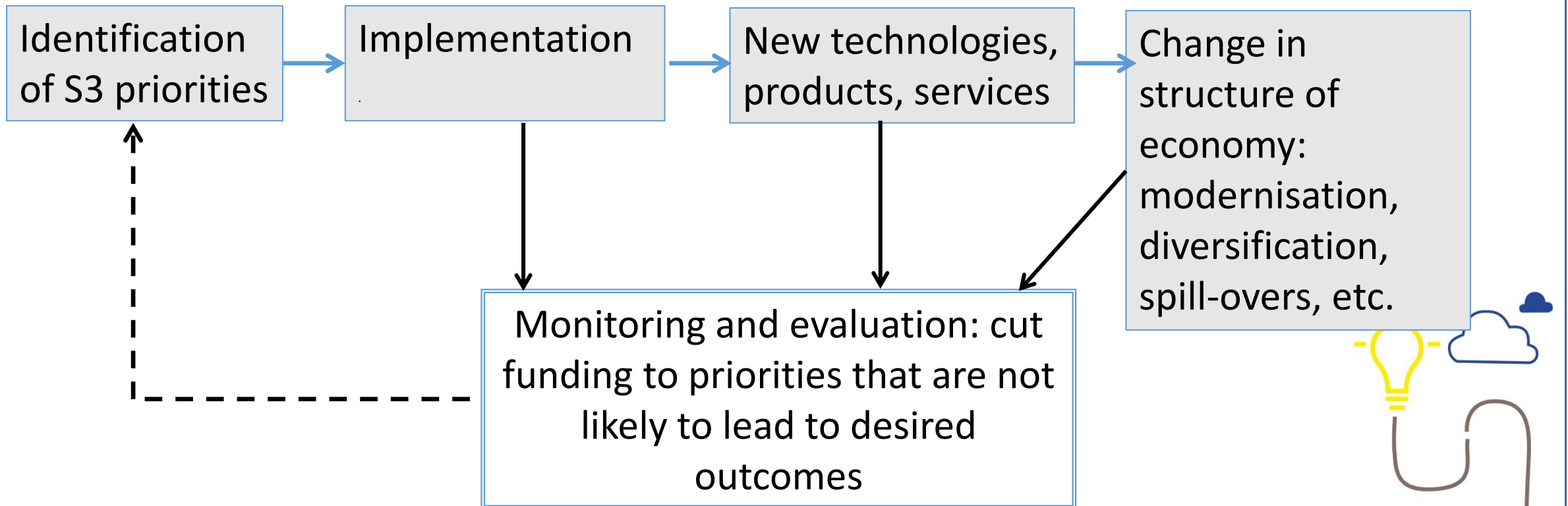# EVALUATION OF INNOVATIONS AND INNOVATIONS IN EVALUATION

18-19th of May 2017

Sapiegos Vilnius Tech Park | Antakalnio str. 17 | Vilnius, Lithuania

Dr. Žilvinas Martinaitis, Visionary Analytics

Evaluation of Smart Specialisation Strategy in Lithuania: Methodological Approaches

Logic of entrepreneurial discovery

Identification of S3 priorities → Implementation → New technologies, products, services → Change in structure of economy: modernisation, diversification, spill-overs, etc.

Monitoring and evaluation: cut funding to priorities that are not likely to lead to desired outcomes

Overall design of M&E

Monitoring:

- Based on explicit theory of change: what should we observe at early stages of implementation to assess likelihood of success?

- ESIF monitoring system focuses on implementation of OP and specific measures, whereas S3 focuses on implementation of priorities.

- Expert panels to interpret the results.

Evaluation:

- TBE for mid term evaluation;

- Counterfactual design for *ex post* impact evaluation.
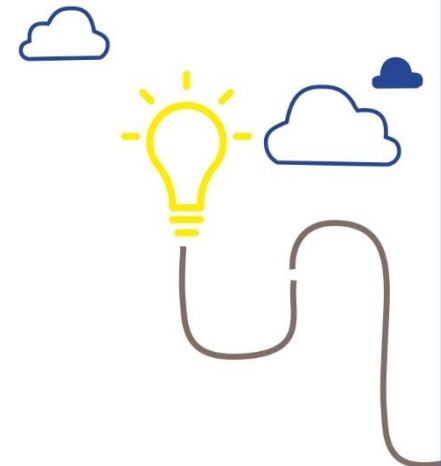
Challenges to M&E: how many sizes to fit all?

- Vast differences between priorities in terms of innovation strategies, challenges, research intensity, etc.

- Delayed implementation of some funding schemes.

- Monitoring system: implementation of priorities is significantly better than others. But does that depend on the relevance of launched funding schemes to the specific needs of priorities?

→ Cautious conclusions from the first monitoring results, but when is it too early or too late?

Challenges to M&E: linking data with priorities

- To encourage cooperation, priorities are defined as groups of technologies / products / services (rather than sectors, research fields, etc.).

- However, most of the contextual data relies on NACE, SITC, research fields and other classifications.

Two possible solutions:

→ Dissect the existing classifications and re-align the with priorities

→ Focus on specific research groups and companies that contribute to implementation of priorities.
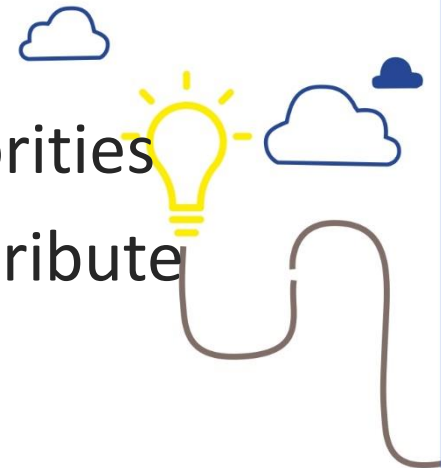
Challenges to M&E: net impact and spill-overs

- Counterfactual analysis of net impacts face significant challenges when spill-over effects are significant

- S3 is based on a premise that spill-overs will explain a bulk of structural change

Possible solution

→ Mapping of value chains (R&D performers, producers, consumers, etc.).

→ Target group should include direct beneficiaries AND their suppliers, customers, etc.

Other challenges to M&E

This is too complex and expensive:

- Why not simply use input, output and context indicators?
- Why not rely on standard ESIF monitoring system?
- Why bother, if we already know the answer?

Will policy makers actually use the results:

- Given inherent data and methodological limitations?
- Given that it is (always) too early to tell, but too late to recover sunk costs?
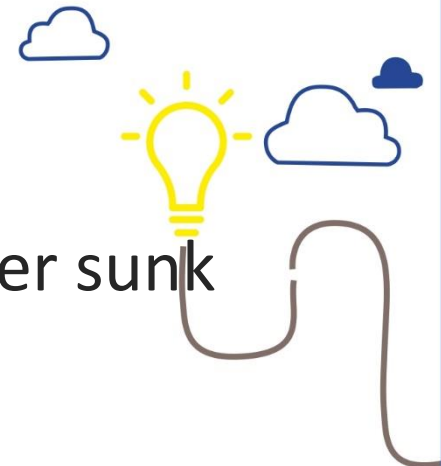
Thank you for your attention!
Let's discuss

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