

Improvement of R&I priority settings

Category: management.

Sub-objective: generation of innovation via addressing unmet needs identified by formal or informal providers of healthcare

Country: Lithuania.

Intro:

The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania introduced a new instrument to promote innovations in SME's – innovation vouchers in 2007. The aim was to encourage co-operation between business and research institutions. "Innovation voucher" - is a small credit that entitles SME's to buy R&D expertise or knowledge from research and educational institutions.

Problem:

The innovation vouchers scheme has started as very small programme, number of applicants from research institutions who wanted to provide the service for business was small, management of the scheme was simple. But each year the number of applicants was growing and further evaluation criteria needed to be introduced.

Solution:

MITA connected those vouchers to smart specialization strategy and narrowed down supported activities to areas, which were in the focus of that strategy. They have also used external evaluators and experts to streamline the evaluation criteria and formulate best evaluation practices, which were shared between all the evaluators for different programmes.

Impact:

The emergence of specialization regarding RIS3 directions resulted, that the Innovation vouchers projects proposals must comply specific specialization directions. Therefore their evaluation requires a smaller range of experts. For this reason, proposal evaluation period decreased by about 25 percent. According to the "Innovation vouchers" support programme conditions, only those projects could be funded, that comply with the smart specialization thematic priorities (6 areas, 20 priorities). This condition increased focus of support programme and increased the effectiveness of the funding.