

Smart Specialization Strategy of the Centro Region and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: light connections or deep mismatches?

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To which UN sustainable goals does this work contribute to?

RIS3 Priority 1



RIS3 Priority 2



RIS3 Priority 3



RIS3 Priority 4



Smart Specialization Strategy of the Centro Region and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: light connections or deep mismatches?

1. Research background
2. Research goal and methods
3. Results
4. Discussion and conclusions

Preliminary

1. Research background

Smart Specialization Strategies

- Boost growth and jobs in Europe;
- Place-based approach to identify regional strengths and comparative assets and prioritise research and innovation investment in competitive areas
- Engagement of different stakeholders (bottom-up approach)

Novelty

Mandatory under the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

2. Research Goal and Methods

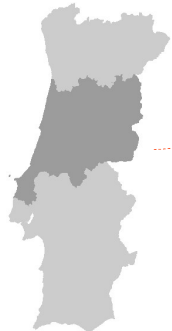
Goal

Assess and discuss the **degree of embeddedness of the Sustainable Development discourse in smart specialisation strategies** of less developed regions of the EU, using the Centro Region (Portugal) as a case study

2. Research Goal and Methods

Case study

Centro Region, Portugal



Methods

Regional Smart Specialization Strategy – Centro RIS3 (October 2017)

- developed between 2013 and 2017
- 125 stakeholders engaged
- Priority Areas: (1) sustainable industrial solutions, (2) enhancement of natural endogenous resources, (3) technologies for quality of life, (4) territorial innovation
- 17 sub-priorities and 59 action lines

Content analysis

Pre-defined set of categories using SDG targets and indicators

2. Research Goal and Methods

Methods

Content analysis

1st LEVEL CODING

Is the action line related to any SDG, taking into account the overall aim of the SDG and its specific keywords?

- Centro RIS3 action lines were coded against the 17 SDGs

2nd LEVEL CODING

Could the action line help enhance a specific SDG target?

- Centro RIS3 action lines were coded against **163 SDGs** targets (6 excluded since were exclusively focus on developing countries)

2. Research Goal and Methods

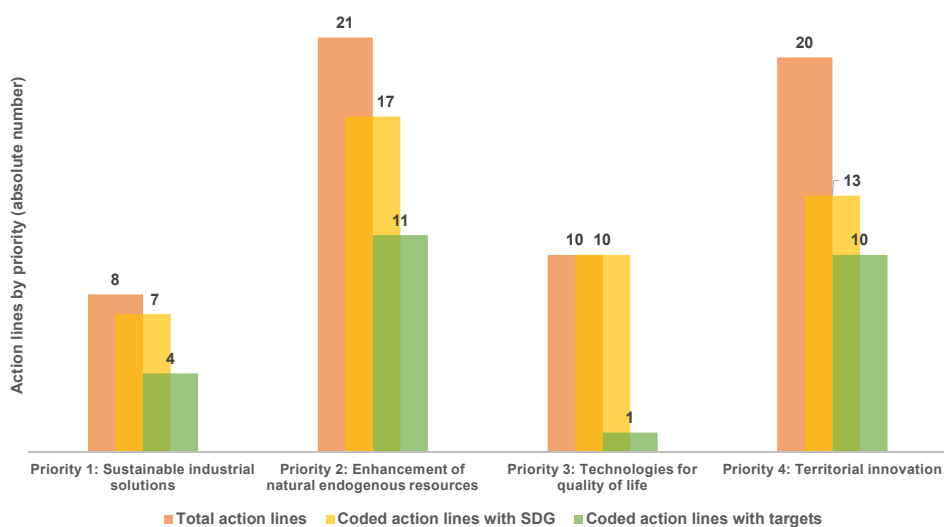
Table A.1 – Detailed results for the first and second level coding of the Centra RIS3 action lines

ACTION LINES	SDG CODED <i>first level coding</i>	TARGETS CODED <i>second level coding</i>
1. Sustainable industrial solutions		
1.1. Development of sustainable processes, materials and systems with higher added value for the region		
1.1.1. Promotion of projects involving the development of sustainable and innovative processes, materials, products or systems with greater added value for the industry and the region.	SDG 9	(unspecified SDG 9)
1.2. Efficient use of resources and reduction of the environmental impact of production processes		
1.2.1. Promotion of projects leading to the efficient use of resources (energy, water and materials) including decarbonisation and reduction of other impacts, as well as, valorisation of mineral resources of the region.	SDG 6; SDG 7; SDG 8; SDG 12; SDG 13	6.4; 7.3; 8.4; 12.2 (unspecified SDG 13)
1.3. Sustainability assessment of processes, products and systems		
1.3.1. Promotion of projects that focus on the principles of circular economy for the transformation and modernization of the various industrial sectors of the region, giving them greater added value and greater global competitiveness	SDG 6; SDG 7; SDG 8; SDG 12; SDG 13	6.4; 7.3; 8.4; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5 (unspecified SDG 13)
1.3.2. Promotion of projects that use the evaluation of the sustainability of processes, products and systems as an eco-innovation tool	SDG 12	(unspecified SDG 12)
1.3.3. Valorisation of waste in processes, products and systems in industrial symbiosis through recycling, reuse and recovery of waste and by-products as secondary raw materials	SDG 12	12.5
1.4. Industrial Modernization through "Human-Centered Production"		
1.4.1. Promotion of projects that contribute to the change of industrial production systems, according to the concept of valuing the human being in the factories of the future, adding the concepts of process dematerialisation (Industry 4.0) and highlighting the noblest and highest value tasks added to the human being in production and associated services	SDG 8; SDG 9	8.3; 9.2

3. Results

1. **80% of the 59 action lines** of Centro RIS3 (47 action lines) were coded at least with one of the **SDGs** (first level coding)
2. Only **44% of the action lines** (26 out of 59) were coded with specific **SDG targets** (second level coding)

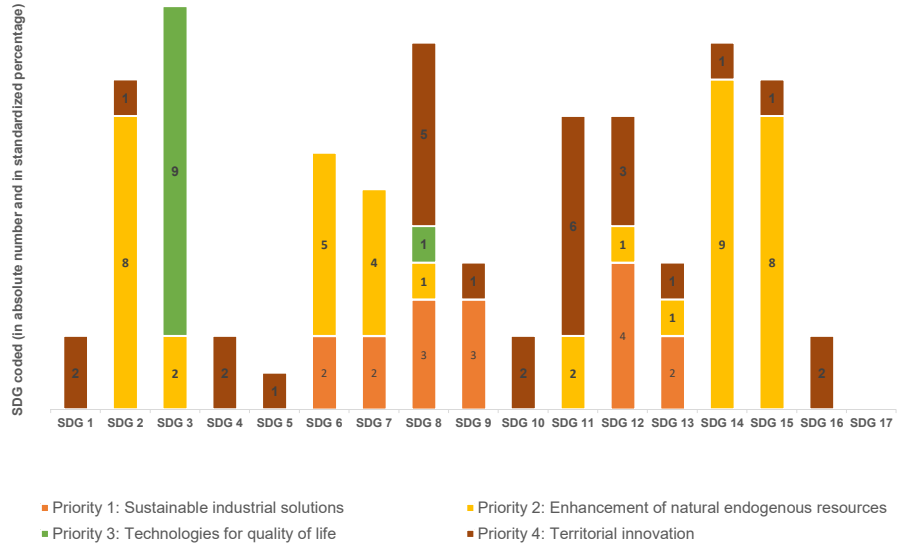
3. Results



3. Results

1st LEVEL CODING

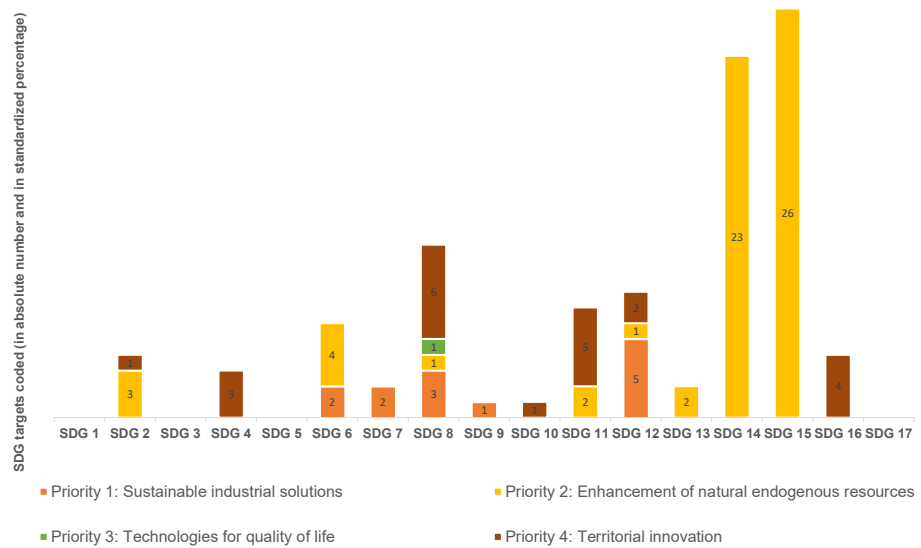
Is the action line related to any SDG, taking into account the overall aim of the SDG and its specific keywords?



3. Results

2nd LEVEL CODING

Could the action line help enhance a specific SDG target?



4. Discussion and conclusions



90% of targets (9 out of 10) are considered in the RIS3 action lines



75% of targets (9 out of 12) are considered in the RIS3 action lines



60% of targets (6 out of 10) are considered in the RIS3 action lines

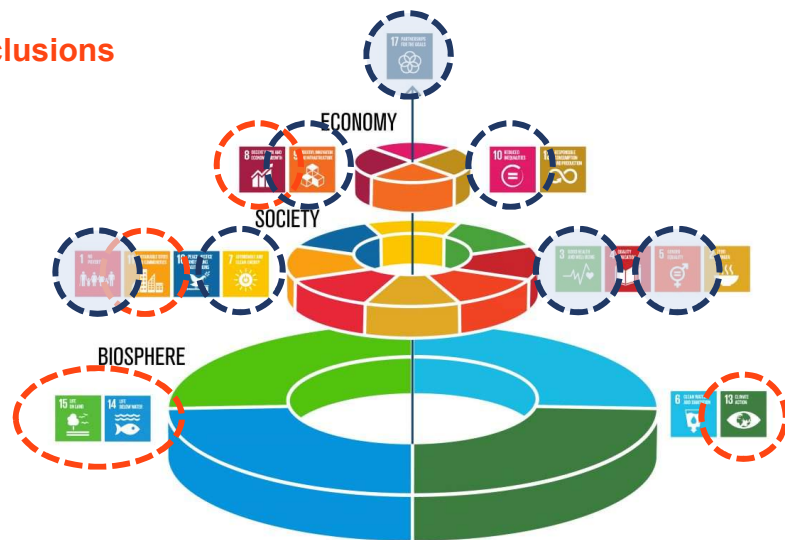


50% of targets (6 out of 12) are considered in the RIS3 action lines



50% of targets (2 out of 4) are considered in the RIS3 action lines

4. Discussion and conclusions



4. Discussion and conclusions

No mention to SDGs explicitly, but at least **one target from 13** out of 17 SDGs is implicitly fully or partially addressed

- However, only **44% of the action lines** (26 out of 59) were coded with specific **SDG targets**
- A certain mismatch from the SDGs fostered by the Portuguese Government, that assume that Agenda 2030 will be strategically implemented through **SDG 4 (Quality education)**, **SDG 5 (Gender equality)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure)**, **SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities)**, **SDG 13 (Climate action)** and **SDG 14 (Life below water)**

4. Discussion and conclusions

Further developments:

- 1) Compare results with the financial support actually given to the Centro RIS3 Action Lines
- 2) Workshop with the main Centro RIS3 stakeholders to assess what they understand as paramount from Agenda 2030 for the development of the region.

Thank you!

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