

The role of EU Structural Fund interventions in boosting RTDI potential in CEECs

European Parliament, Public Hearing “Experience of Central and Eastern Europe in implementing Cohesion Policy: lessons learnt and future perspectives”

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Jacek Walendowski, Technopolis Group Belgium

Key observations

- Policies were largely focused on a supply-side, investment grants to individual beneficiaries and evidence of a too generic imitation of cluster policies. Only few examples of support to governance, human capital for innovation, market and innovation culture.
 - Innovation governance could not be assessed as fairly effective.
 - Several barriers encountered during the implementation stage.
 - The availability of robust evidence-based assessments leaves room for improvement.
 - Regions in the process of finding a new balance (vertical coordination).
 - So far a preference given to traditional methodologies when it comes to identifying the areas of smart specialisation.
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How innovation policies are changing regional innovation systems in EU regions?



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Based on the work of a network of experts, RIM Plus provides detailed information on regional innovation policies for 20 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The core of the RIM Plus service is a knowledge base of information on some 200 regions, including

- An online 'inventory' of regional innovation policy measures, policy documents, organisations
- A single access point for good practice dissemination on regional innovation policy in Europe
- A network of regional experts with thematic specialisation and provision of Knowledge hub services*
- An organisation of a series of policy events
- A new communication platform for innovation stakeholders

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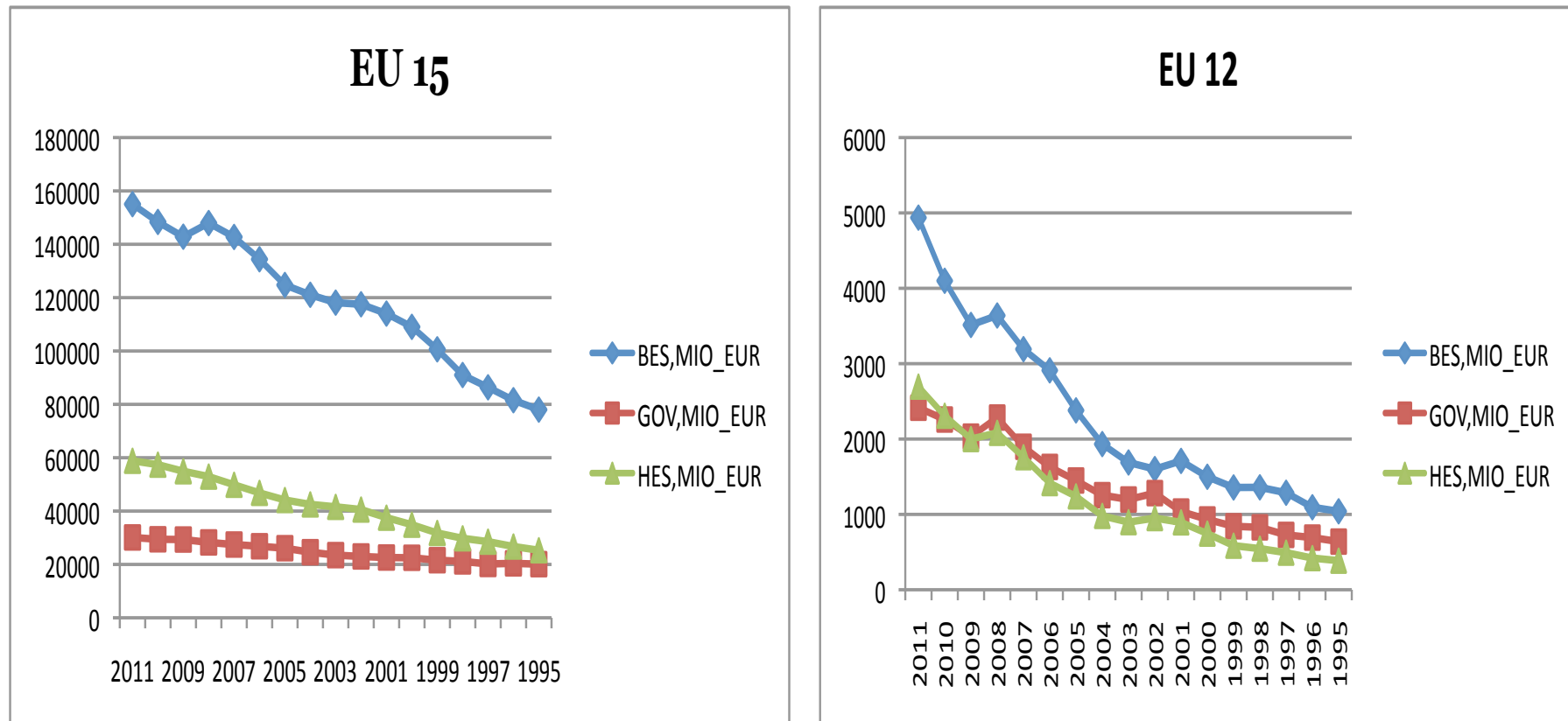
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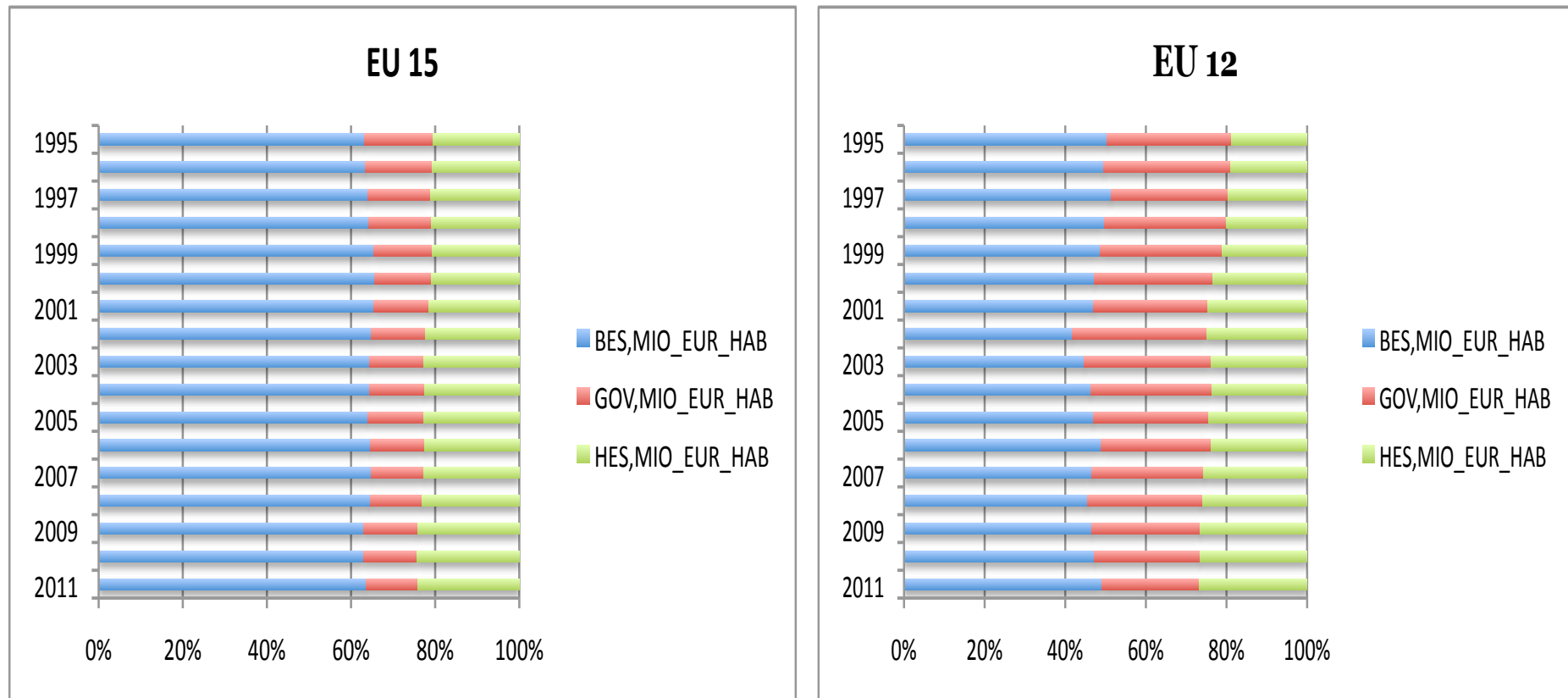
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Patterns in key performance indicators (I)



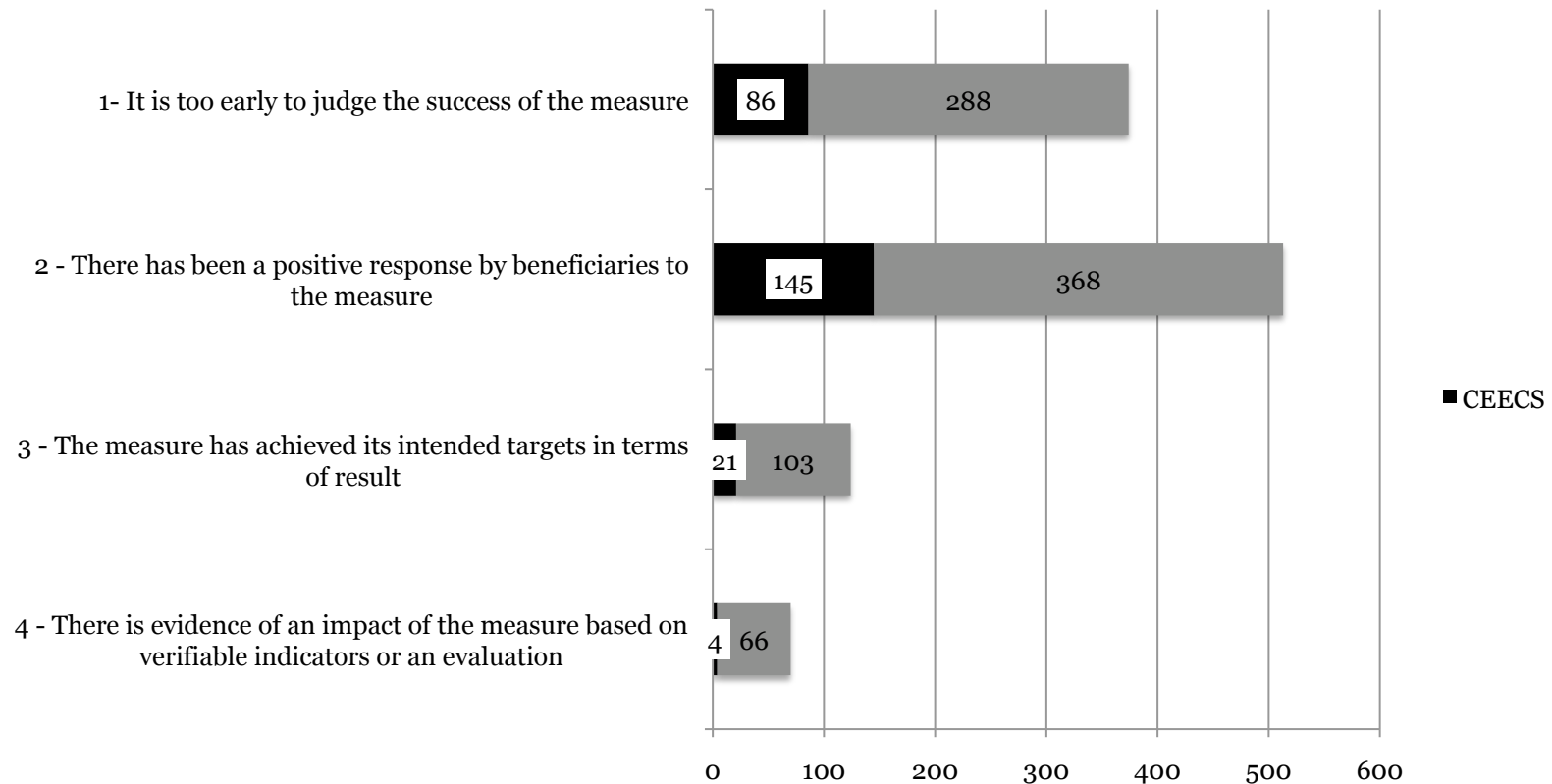
Source: Eurostat, own calculations.

Patterns in key performance indicators (II)



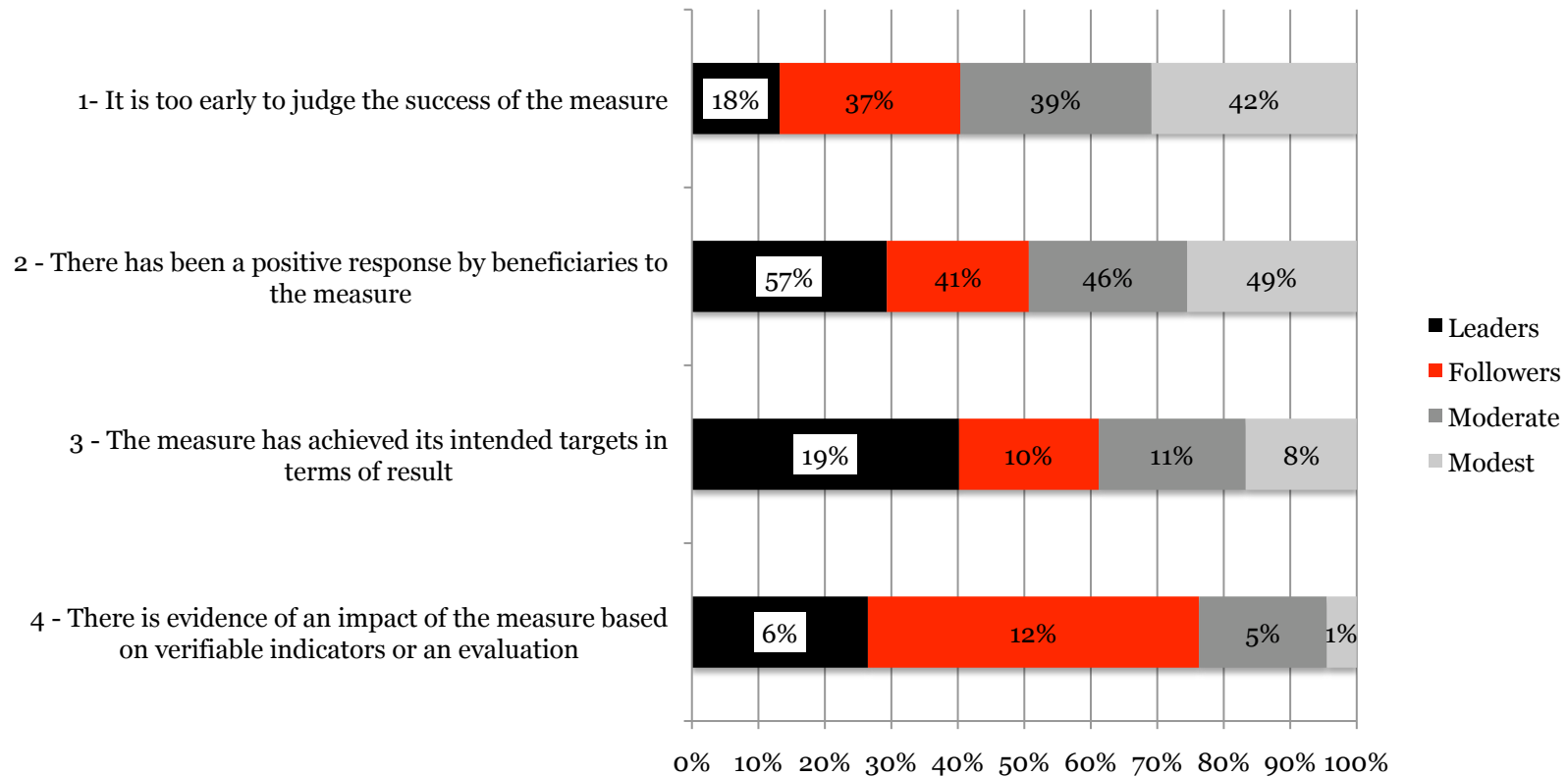
Source: Eurostat, own calculations.

Policy effectiveness in EU regions



Source: Based on Regional Innovation Monitor.

Policy effectiveness according to RIS typology



Source: Based on Regional Innovation Monitor.

Key messages

1. Closing innovation divide between EU regions remains to be a challenging task.
2. Effective policies can make an important difference with a view to a region's development.
3. A more responsive approach to governance will be required.
4. Still room for improvement with regard to evidence-based assessments and the way the results are incorporated in policy learning processes.



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