R&D INTENSITY CASE STUDY: GREECE

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Subnational targets have been set for groups of regions according to their development level (Developed, less developed, in transition)
The size of companies plays a critical role in measuring R&D. R&D spending is more difficult to be captured in small and very small firms (including spinoffs).

Low R&D activity in the Greek business sector is mainly due to structural characteristics of the Greek productive fabric, rather than on measurement deficiencies.

The current methodology of the Frascati Manual, does not include broader innovation activities such as the costs of commercialising solutions and scaling up production.
Increasing R&D intensity is not a stand-alone target and does not correlate directly to innovation and prosperity.

R&D intensity in Greece does not follow the developments of GDP; a rather inverse trend can be depicted because the increase in GDP was based mainly on non-technologically driven activities.
Policies to enhance R&D performance: Key lessons from Greece’s policy experience

• A holistic approach in growth strategies is needed. R&I policy mix and the relevant targets have to include both quantitative and qualitative aspects.

• R&D intensity can be affected not only by relevant policy measures but also by endogenous factors, especially in the business sector.
Specific remarks

- The public sector outperforms the business sector in R&D expenditure
- Until recently policies used to be horizontal with no sectoral dimension
- R&D intensity, innovation and GDP do not follow a parallel trajectory on a regional level
- Policy emphasis is given in regional development which sometimes is not also an emphasis on a sectoral level
- RIS3 strategies are expected to identify economic activities within sectors and/or value chains in order to increase competitiveness at national level