

IMPACT AND INDICATORS OF INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS (INNOVA project)

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Innovation ecosystems are recognized to have an increasingly important role in the implementation of innovation and business policies at national, regional and EU level. However, the assessment of the impact of ecosystems is a complex task and the impact evaluation and indicators of innovation ecosystems are still underdeveloped internationally. Assessing the benefits, societal importance and impact of innovation ecosystems requires new approaches and indicators that take better account of the added value of ecosystems for businesses, research organizations and, more broadly, for economic and social renewal.

The INNOVA project commissioned by the Prime Minister's Office examines innovation ecosystems, especially from the perspective of their expected impacts and indicators, with which they are monitored and validated. The aim is to provide information and tools for understanding the impact of innovation ecosystems and the different paths from inputs towards various impact. Thus, the project will develop impact assessment and measurement of ecosystems that promote RDI activities. The project has a steering group consisting of ministries led by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

The working packages and the outline of the project is described in the following picture.

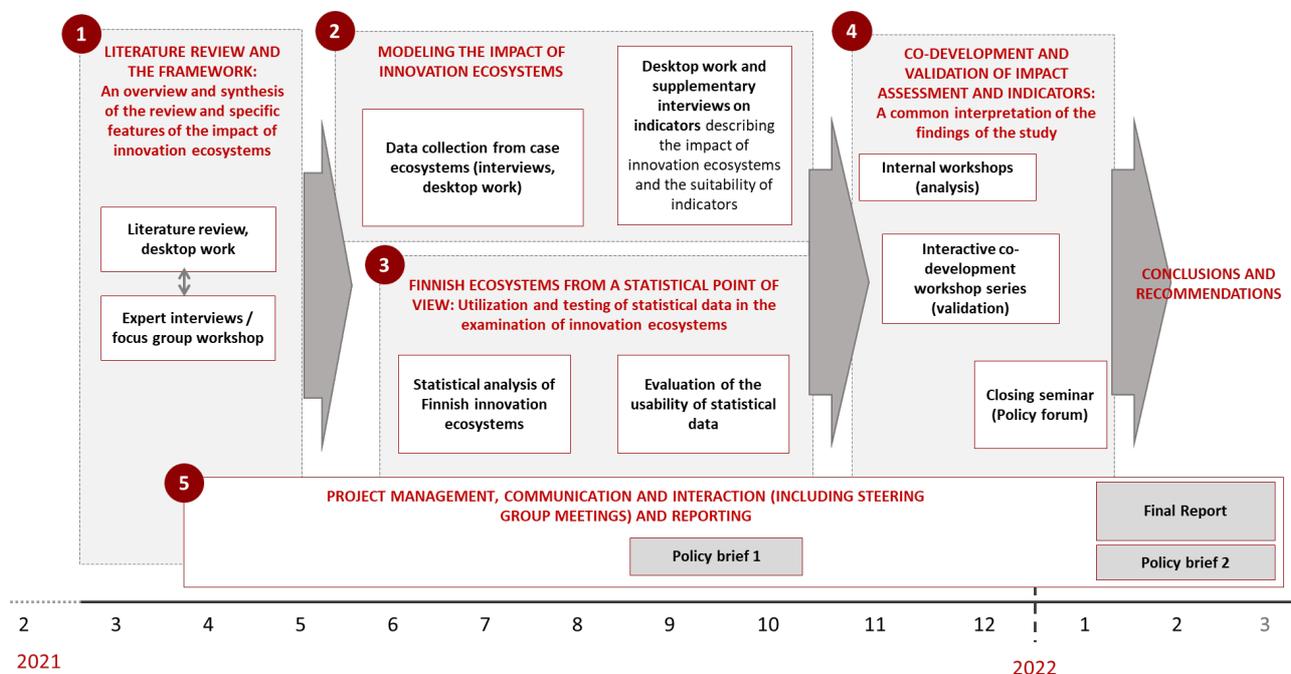


Figure 1. The working packages and the outline of the project

The working definition of innovation ecosystem in INNOVA -project is as follows:

An innovation ecosystem consists of a set of different actors (companies, customers / end-users, researchers, the public sector, investors, etc.) working towards a common goal of creating and exploiting new knowledge, and to achieve this goal, these actors are dependent on each other, their interaction and common learning. The actors in the innovation ecosystem therefore have:

- **a common goal** related to common value creation, i.e. the creation and exploitation of new knowledge. Actors are involved in activities on the basis of their own interests, and only if they benefit from the ecosystem.
- **strategic** (shared vision and / or ambition) **and structural / social forms of cooperation**. Actors are able to produce new knowledge, innovations by combining resources, capabilities and ideas.
- **different roles that change and evolve over time**. Innovation ecosystems can develop around one or more industries regionally, nationally or across borders.