

# Group Discussions

Advancing Trial-and-Adopt & Using Data  
in Practice



# Advancing Trial-and-Adopt Approaches

## Key Takeaways

### EC-level

#### **Create stronger structural support for experimentation**

- Endorse and support experimentation in EU Cohesion Policy regulation.
- Ringfence EU funds specifically for *prospective* impact evaluations (not just ex post).
- **Build an IE “incubator”**
  - Offer targeted trainings for decision-makers and technical staff.
  - Create networks linking government teams with academic partners to co-design evaluations.
  - Support continuous engagement between researchers and policymakers.
  - Host tailored conferences to showcase successful evaluations and shift perceptions.
  - Foster friendly competition and peer learning between managing authorities.
  - Reward and build a culture that celebrates experimentation

### Country-level

#### **Make experimentation easier and more acceptable**

- Begin with small, low-resistance pilots to build trust in randomized approaches.
- Engage leaders who champion learning and support experimentation

# Improving Data Use

## Key Takeaways

### EC-level

- **Support modernization of MA data systems**
  - Guidance to improve interoperability and automation to make data reporting more efficient
  - Peer learning on MA experiences with automation to reduce reporting burden
- **Establish precedent for successfully modernizing data systems within GDPR**
  - Case studies of successful data integration within GDPR boundaries
- **Celebrate innovations to improve efficiency and integrate data systems**
  - Guidance, training, and digital tools to facilitate standard data flows from MAs to EC

### Country-level

- **Streamline and automate data systems for next programming cycle**
  - Write automated data transfer into contracts for IT systems
  - Encourage open-source software and systems
- **Innovate and experiment to improve efficiency and impact of data systems**
  - Experiment with AI tools to automate reporting and reduce beneficiary reporting burden
  - Explore digitizing databases and integrating real-time dashboards for adaptive learning.