

FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Work Programme – 2012&2013

GENERAL PRESENTATION

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➤ Objective:

To stimulate the *realisation of the full Research Potential* of the European Union by integrating the *excellent* research entities established in the EU's convergence and outermost regions into the **ERA**

➤ Very *well understood* activity with stabilised approach:

- ✓ High quality proposals
- ✓ Excellent beneficiaries selected to implement *strategy oriented projects*, in collaboration with several Partnering Organisations
- ✓ Very low success rate (5.5% in 2010, 6.8% in 2011)

RESEARCH POTENTIAL

WP 2012-2013 (2)

- 1 Work Programme for the last 2 years (2012-2013) of FP7, 1 call for proposals (ongoing, deadline: 03.01.2012), 2 selection lists - one per year
- To integrate the additional measure on *Innovation & IP* management, the EC financial contribution will increase up to 5 M€ per project
- *Mono-contractor* Grant Agreement integrating at least 3 *partnering organisations* from 3 different countries per project
- Beneficiaries should demonstrate *excellence in S&T* in the proposal

The **Action Plan** must include the set of **4 coherent** measures:

1. **Exchange of know-how** and experience through two-way secondments of research permanent staff between the applicant and the partnering organisations.

The organisation of **workshops** and **conferences** as well as dissemination and promotional activities for knowledge sharing, networking and for better **visibility** at national and European level might be envisaged.

Partners from the applicant's country (including stakeholders like enterprises, SMEs, hospitals, etc.) can be involved in addition to the mandatory partnering organisations.

- 2. Recruitment by the applicant of *experienced researchers* to enhance their S&T research capability. Experienced engineers, scientists or technicians for running the newly acquired equipments are also eligible**
- 3. Upgrading, development or acquisition of *research equipment***
- 4. Elaboration of a *strategic Intellectual Property development plan* for IP management and protection and *innovation capacity building* of the applicant.**

To ensure the highest impact of « Research Potential » call 2012-2013:

- ***S&T Excellence*** of the applicant is a driving force
- « Typical » beneficiaries are ***University Departments, Faculties*** and ***Specialised Research Institutions*** (significant size applicants)
- Activities to ***organise and manage IP & innovation capacity building*** of the applicant should be included in the Action Plan proposed for funding
- A ***Steering Committee to*** discuss applicant's research & innovation strategy
- ***Sustainability*** of excellence: National and regional authorities as well as end-users associated to the projects.

Calls' Key features (1):

- **Publication date :** 20/07/2011
- **Deadline :** 03/01/2012
- **Budget for 2012:** 67,67 M€

A slightly higher amount will serve for 2013 proposals funding (new financial EC decision)

- **Evaluation:** as of February 2012

DELICE Final Conference
Magurele, 29 September 2011

Regional aspects of research and innovation

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Content

- Some facts and figures...
- Factors shaping EU research and innovation system/policy response
- Smart Specialisation
- Common strategic frameworks (CSF) for Research and Innovation and for Cohesion
- Synergies: making it all work

Some facts and figures...

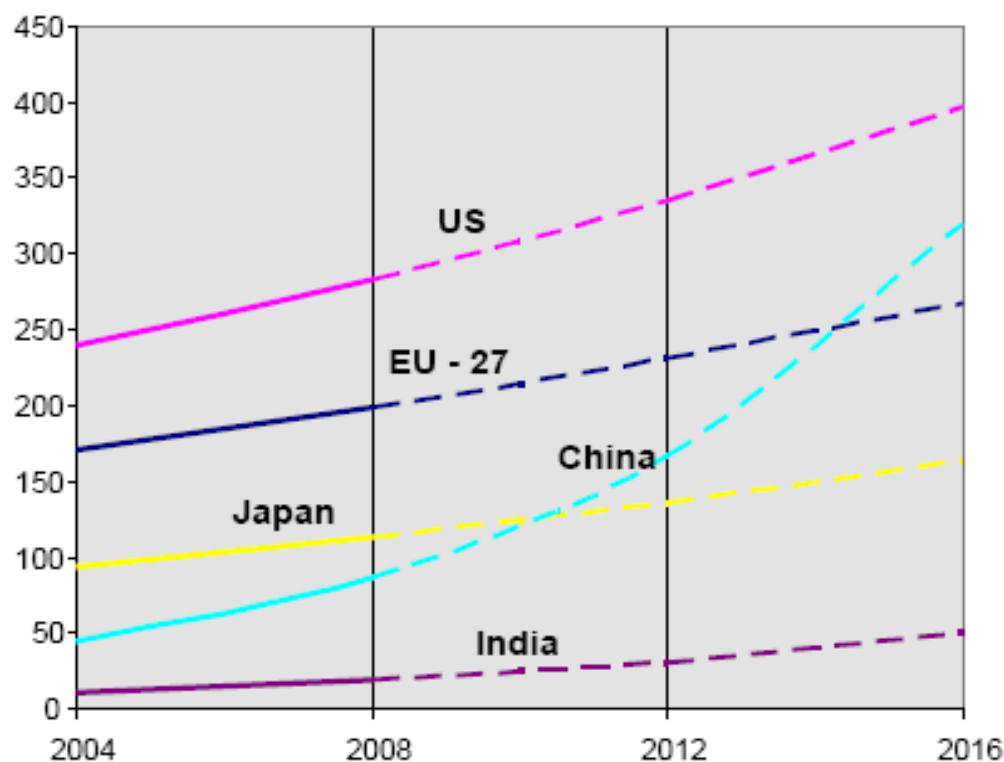
Europe risks losing ground

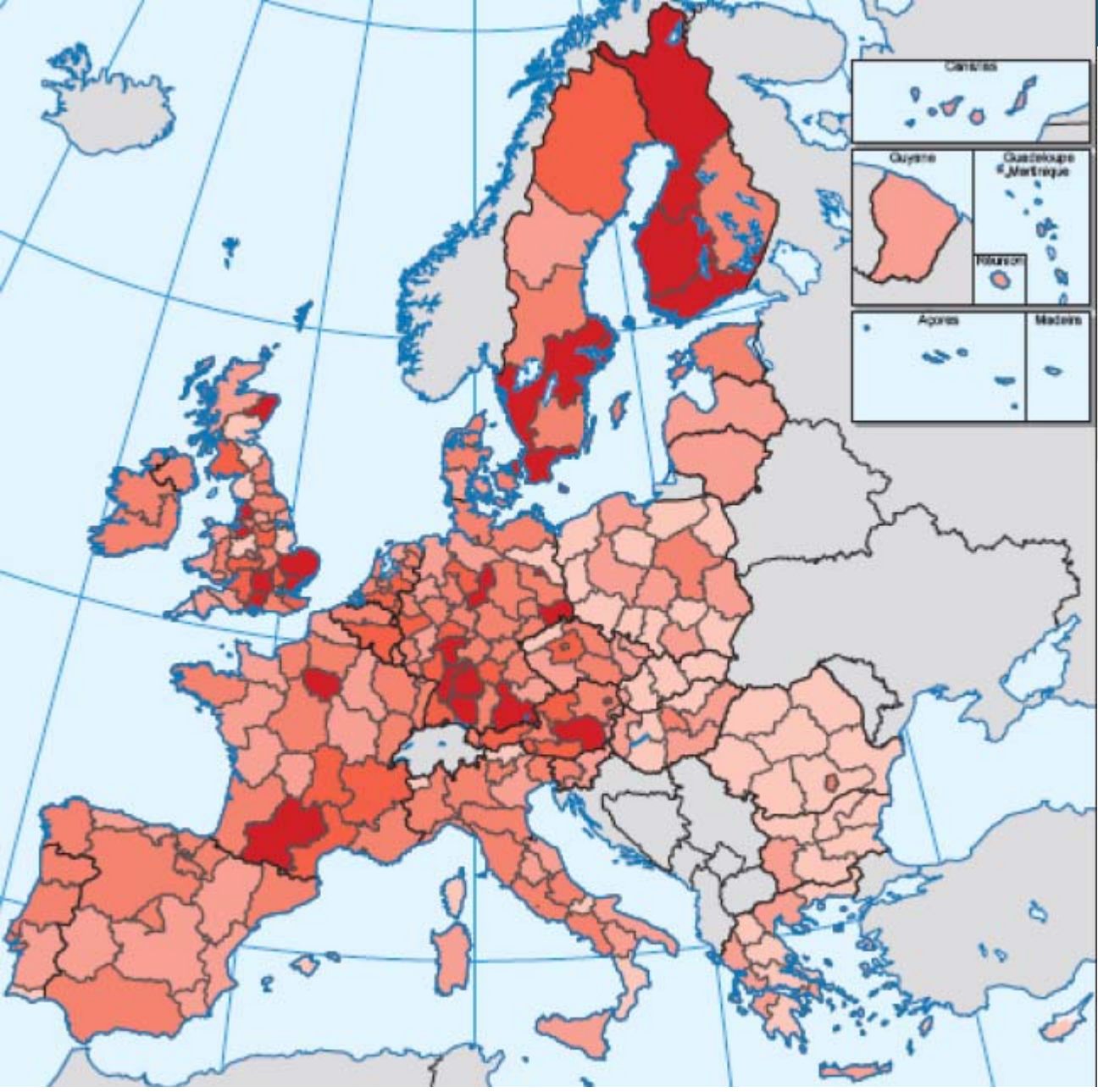
- Share of GDP on R&D:
 - EU: 2%
 - US: 2.8%
 - Japan: 3.4%
- Our target = 3% in 2020
- Current national targets only 2.7-2.8%
- In net spending, China will spend more than the EU in 2014
- Share of persons aged 25-34 with a university degree:
 - EU: 34%
 - US: 42%
 - Japan: 55%

The EU is slowly falling behind on R&D

4

Evolution of world R&D expenditure in real terms (in € billion at 2000 prices)



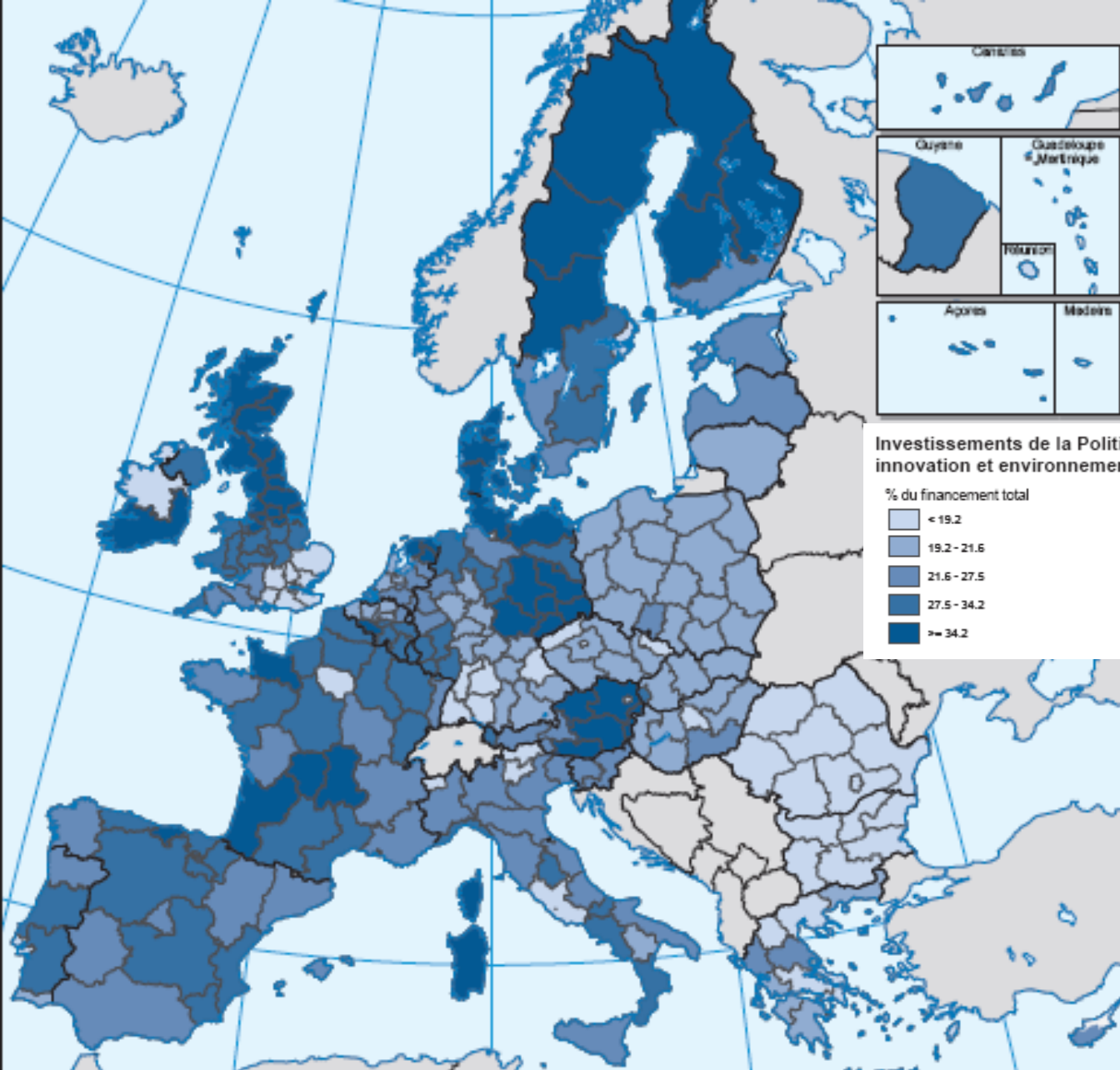


R&D spending, 2007

(Source DG REGIO, EUROSTAT)

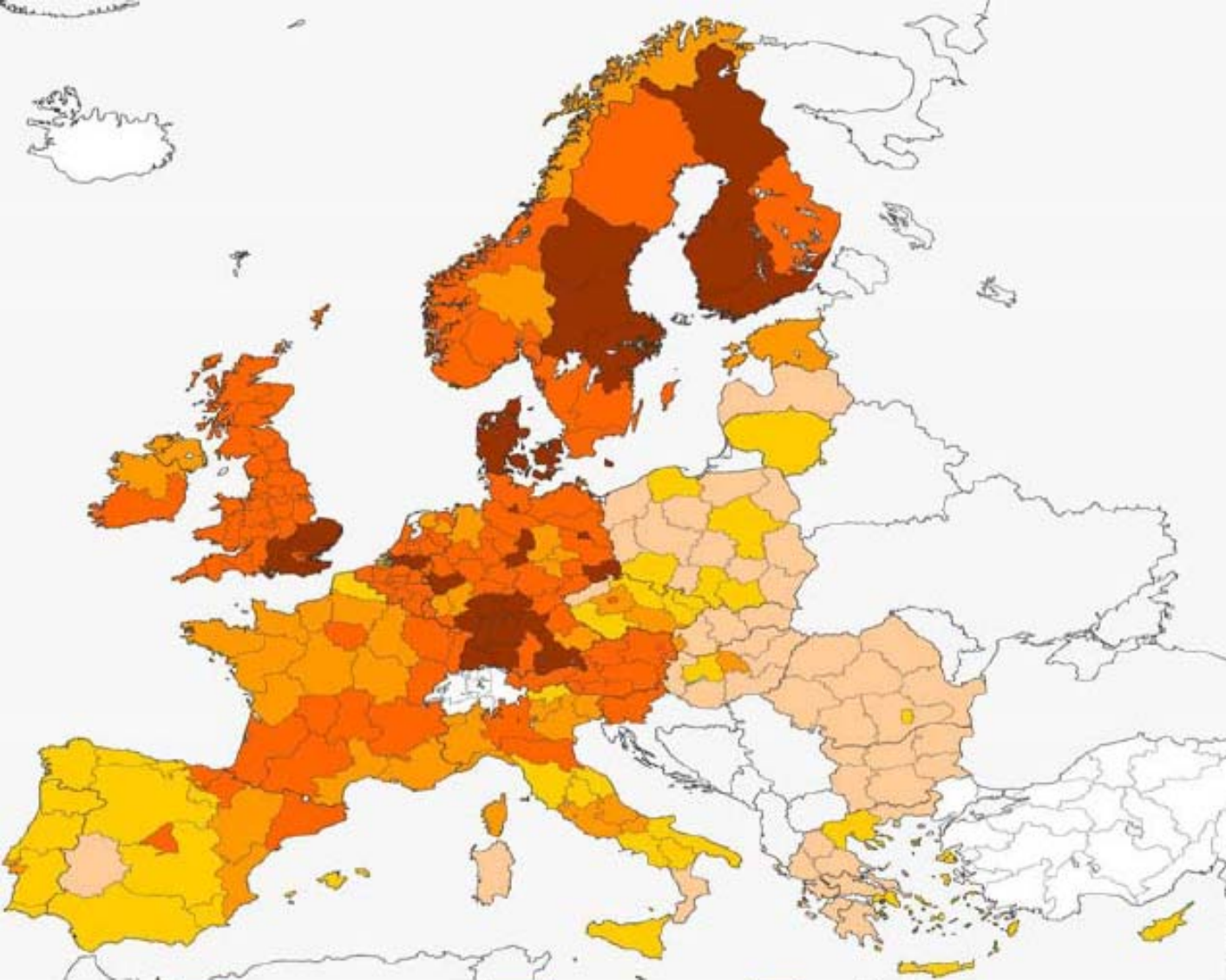


Foreseen investment in R&I in cohesion policy 2007-



Regional Innovation Performance

Source:
Regional
Innovation
Scoreboard,
2009



Factors shaping EU R & I system

- Unprecedented challenges requiring innovative solutions...
 - Globalisation reshaping balance of economic power across the planet and redefining competitiveness for countries and regions
 - Difficult road to economic recovery, return to growth and to higher levels of employment
 - combating climate change and moving towards a low-carbon society
 - demography
 - natural resources depletion and management
 - global security challenges growing in scale and sophistication
 - ageing population
 - persistent dependence on fossil fuel
- ...providing nevertheless powerful opportunities to develop innovative products and services, creating growth and jobs in Europe.

Policy response (i)

- EU Research and Innovation Policy and the Structural Funds can contribute to a more innovative Europe ...
- By improving structural conditions in the MS and by building capacity for a competitive Europe through knowledge and innovation (all Member States with priority spending in Convergence regions) : *role of the Cohesion policy, Structural funds*
- By stimulating excellence, industrial competitiveness and by tackling major societal challenges : *role of Research and Innovation policy*

Policy response (ii)

- **Europe 2020:** seven flagship initiatives
- Communications on “**Innovation Union**” and “**Regional policy supporting Smart Growth**”.
- **Budget Review/Multi-Annual Financial Framework**
- **5th Cohesion Report**
- **Common Strategic Frameworks for research and innovation and for cohesion**
- **Commission proposals by the end of 2011**

Policy response (iii)

- The Budget Review gave a clear message that **greater thematic focus and conditionality** are essential in the next round of Structural Funds, including in the domain of R&I.
- In the domain of research and innovation, conditionality is achieved through the development of **smart specialisation strategies**.
- The Budget Review also announced the development of a **Common Strategic Framework (CSF) for EU level research and innovation funding (FP, CIP & EIT), now called Horizon 2020**. This will link to a separate **CSF covering Cohesion policy (ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD, EMFF)**.

European Regions need Smart Specialisation!

- **Encourages regions to play to their strengths** by giving priority to investment in research and innovation programmes that complement their productive assets.
- **Helps regions** avoid tending towards strategies that just happen to coincide with the high-profile research topics of recent years unless this is justified.
- **Concentrates on research** relating to an existing, or emerging, area of regional economic strength.
- Links to Commission **Cluster initiatives** as clusters reveal opportunities for smart specialisation.
- Assisted by a **Smart Specialisation Platform** (type “**IPTS and Smart Specialisation**” in Google)

Example 1 :Specialisations and Technopoles in Lower Austria

Lower Austria has gone through extensive prioritisation processes thanks to several strategic exercises since the mid-nineties. In 1998, a project for the continuous improvement of its regional innovation system started. The regional government carried out a SWOT analysis, it sent questionnaires to its companies, organised workshops and carried out interviews with stakeholders. It also completed a survey of the activities of other similar regions.

Three 'Technopols' were launched 5 years ago in the areas where the region has a competitive advantage: Biotech and regenerative medicine; Environmental bio and agrobiotechnology; tribology and medical systems technology, microsystems engineering

Resilience to the crisis and advancing in competitiveness

The Economic Impact of Technopols in Lower Austria

(Research Report by ECONOMICA Institute of Economic Research, Vienna)

<http://www.ecoplus.at/>



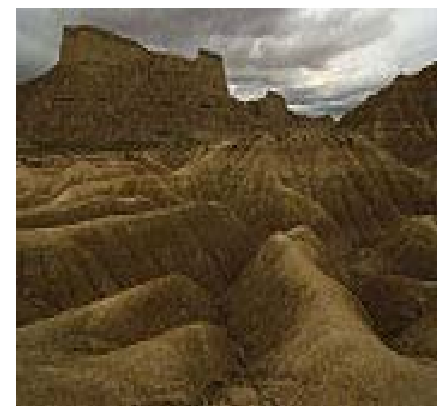
Example 2 : Macro-sectors and focus on education and talent in Navarra

Navarra's modernisation strategy was launched with the aim to maintain and improve not only its regional competitiveness and GDP per capita, but also its human development and its environmental sustainability levels by 2030.

'Moderna Navarra ' integrates more than 90 pre-existing plans and aims to lead the regional structural transition from an industry-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

Navarra's government played a pivotal role in providing the impulse for developing the strategy, in particular by facilitating the coordination of the main academic, business, social and political actors.

Niche sectors, such as bio-medicine or medical appliances, have been identified as specialisations. Regions with similar sectors were visited, in order to learn from them and to develop niche specializations while trying to avoid duplications.



Smart Specialisation : open questions

- Will smart specialisation be a condition for R&I support under future Structural Funds?
- Is there a limit to specialisation ? The need for diversity and balance.
- The link between smart specialisation and clusters

Common Strategic Framework for research and innovation (Horizon 2020)

Bringing together

- The 7th Framework Programme for research, technology development and demonstration
- The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
- The European Institute for Innovation and Technology

And strengthening complementarities with the Structural Funds

Why a Common Strategic Framework (1)?

Simplifying the programmes:

- **FROM** different rules in each programme and initiative
 - **TO more standardised rules** across all initiatives
- **FROM** a large number of funding schemes within and between programmes
 - **TO a rationalised toolkit** of schemes that are common to all programmes
- **FROM** multiple websites, guidance documents, applications
 - **TO common entry points**, one stop shops, common IT platforms

Why a Common Strategic Framework (2)?

Greater impact:

- **FROM** fragmented calls where projects cannot go from one stage to the next (R&D, demonstration, market take up, etc)
 - **TO** support for projects and organisations from research to market
- **FROM** research results sitting on the shelf
 - **TO** stronger support across the whole innovation cycle
- **FROM** different priorities in each programme and initiative
 - **TO** common strategic priorities, focusing on societal challenges, competitiveness and research excellence.

Common Strategic Framework for cohesion (i)

- Sets a comprehensive investment strategy for cohesion policy at EU level
- Translates the targets and objectives of Europe 2020 into investment priorities for Member States and regions
- Covers cohesion, rural development and fisheries policies and coordination with other EU instruments

Common Strategic Framework for cohesion (ii)

- Detailed investment priorities under the Europe 2020 headings
- Key territorial challenges (urban, rural, coastal areas and those with particular features)
- Horizontal principles/cross-cutting priorities
- Coordination among EU instruments
- Mechanisms for ensuring coherence and consistency with NRP recommendations and guidelines.

Synergies: How the Structural Funds can stimulate R&D and Innovation investment in European regions

- Funding R&D infrastructure and equipment (*conventional approach- still valid*)
- Favours the establishment of medium and long term **R&D and innovation investment strategies through Smart Specialisation (coupled with increased conditionality and clear thematic priorities)**
- Help **create the appropriate framework conditions** for stimulating R&D and innovation especially in **connecting academia and industry**
- Stimulating the emergence of **clusters of technological competence / excellence** involving especially SMEs
- Favours peer review through international expertise to raise quality in terms of strategy and delivery

Synergies: How to ensure complementarity between Research Innovation + Cohesion Policies

- Two sides of the same coin: both important for Competitiveness
- **main responsibility lies with the national /regional authorities**
- Guiding principles: the 7th Framework Programme strategic research priorities and its successor CSF, the developing ERA process, the recent Strategic Commission Communications (notably *Innovation Union*)
- No co-funding of the same costs, **but funding of different phases of the same project is always possible**

Synergies: What national and regional authorities can do **right now** !

- **Raise awareness** of all actors involved in planning at national and regional level about the **importance** of research and innovation investment strategies
- **Raise awareness** of local R&D and Innovation communities in business and academia about the **investment opportunities in the future Horizon 2020 and the Structural Funds**
- **Align to the maximum extent possible** **future Structural Funds programmes supporting R&I to *EU Research and Innovation strategies* (Europe 2020, NRP & Horizon 2020)**

Sources of information

Innovation Union

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?pg=home

Regional aspects of FP7

http://ec.europa.eu/research/regions/index_en.cfm?pg=map

Regions of Knowledge

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/regions-knowledge_en.html

Unlocking Research Potential

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/convergence-regions_en.html

Practical Guide to EU funding for Research and Innovation

http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm

EU Regional Policy

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

Thanks for your attention!

