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Regional Dimension of the 7th Framework Programme

Regions of Knowledge

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RTD-B.4 - Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential



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FP 7- specific programme « *CAPACITIES* »

1. Research Infrastructures
2. Research for the benefit of SMEs
3. *Regions of Knowledge (RoK)*
4. *Research Potential (RP)*
5. Science in Society
6. Coherent Development of policies
7. Activities of International Cooperation





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Before Regions of Knowledge



- **Pilot Action in 2003**

- ✓ Objective: implementing the Lisbon strategy at regional level, stressing the central role of knowledge for regional development
- ✓ Instrument: networks of European regions, including universities, research entities and enterprises.
- ✓ 14 projects financed for € 2,5 M

- **Call for proposal in 2004**

- ✓ Objective: promote more and better regional investments in research – devise policy recommendations
- ✓ Instrument: mutual learning, coordination and collaboration between regional policies and initiatives through foresight, benchmarking, networking and coordination activities
- ✓ 18 projects financed for € 9 M



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Regions of knowledge Policy context

The ***"Regions of Knowledge"*** initiative responds to a need to **increase the overall capacity of regional players** to foster **science and technology-based economic development**, by better integrating research to their regional strategies

- ✓ Within the framework of the Lisbon strategy for a performing knowledge-based economy
- ✓ To help reach the Barcelona objectives



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Regions of Knowledge

Two objectives for all European regions:

**Strengthen their capacity for
investing in RTD and carrying
out research activities**

**Produce research strategies
that contribute
to regional economic
development**

**Through the development of (existing or
new) regional ‘research-driven clusters’
and their trans-national cooperation**



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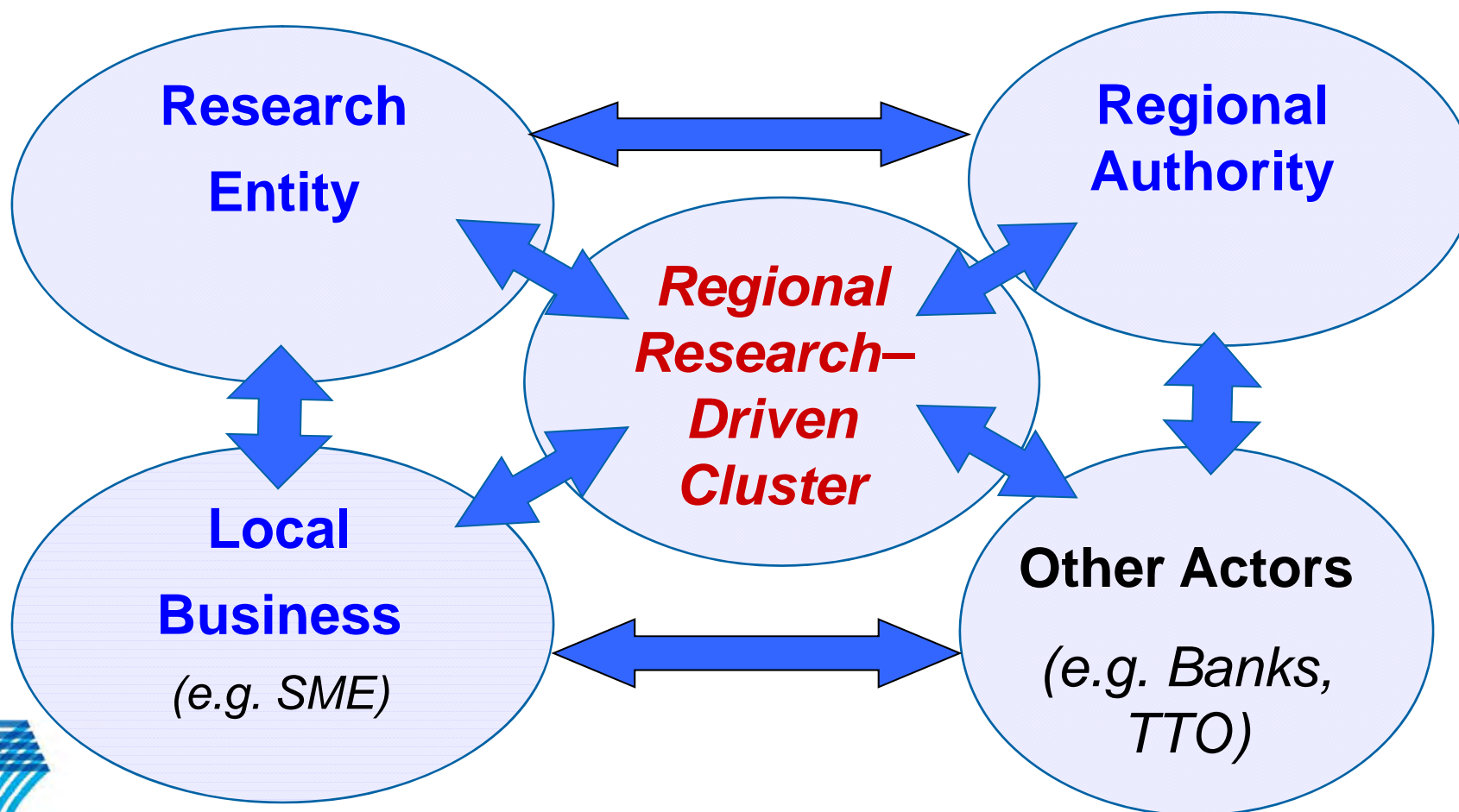
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What is a regional research-driven cluster?



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REGIONS' calls for proposals

Supporting analysis, mentoring and integration
of research agendas

Four activities need to be covered

Logical process, yet weighting might differ

- **Analysis**, development and integration of research agendas
- **Mentoring** of regions with a less developed research profile or mutual learning
- **Initiatives to improve integration: definition of joint action plans**, together with business plans – following SWOT analysis and definition of RTD needs
-  **Dissemination** activities



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Expected outcome

Expected Outcome

- Improve links between research actors and business community
- Foster transnational / cross-border cooperation
- Enhance mutual learning and exchanges of experience and best practices between regional actors





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Expected impact

- **Regional economical growth** in selected domains
- **Response to the needs** of regional business communities
- **Mobilisation** of local, national and community funds (especially Structural Funds and FP 7) to implement defined **regional “action plans”**





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FP7 and the Structural Funds: more synergies

- **FP 7** has a new regional dimension, under “Capacities”
- ... while **Structural Funds** will reinforce R&D investment
 - Earmarking: 75% of funds for Lisbon priorities in Competitiveness & Employment Objective, 60 % in Convergence regions
 - R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship as the first **priority** in Convergence regions
 - Innovation and the knowledge economy as the first priority for the competitiveness and growth objective
 - Complementary funding to be encouraged ... but no double funding.

Practical Guide in Spring 2008.



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I - Funding scheme

Projects will be implemented through **Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)** to promote joint activities (analysis, workshops, roundtables, expert group meetings, mentoring, dissemination activities).

Duration: up to 36 months

Average budget: 1 M € ; total **call budget** in 2008: 9.3 M €

Eligible costs : running costs ; financing up to 100 %



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No research activities can be funded !



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I – RoK: Main activities

Two calls in 2007 and 2008:

- **REGIONS-1**

Analysis, mentoring and **integration** of research agendas

- **REGIONS-2**

Facilitating the emergence of **new clusters** and mutual information

Along two common thematic priorities

NB: for 2008, these themes were :

- Maximising the benefits of research infrastructures for regional economic development
- Regional contributions to the reduction of CO₂ emissions





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For more information

On the internet :

On the capacities programme

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/home_en.html

To find a call for proposal

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

For any question related to FP 7

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=fr&pg=enquiries>

Thank you for your attention



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