Regional Dimension of the 7th Framework Programme

Regions of Knowledge

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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
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

RTD-B.4 - Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential
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
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
What is a regional research-driven cluster?

- Research Entity
- Regional Authority
- Local Business (e.g. SME)
- Other Actors (e.g. Banks, TTO)

Regional Research–Driven Cluster
REGION'S’ 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
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
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”*
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.

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%

No research activities can be funded!
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
For more information

On the internet:

On the capacities programme

To find a call for proposal

For any question related to FP 7
http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=fr&pg=enquiries

Thank you for your attention