Regional Dimension of the 7th Framework Programme

Regions of Knowledge

michael.white@enterprise-ireland.com
FP7 2007 - 2013

Cooperation – Collaborative research

Ideas – Frontier Research

People – Human Potential

 Capacities – Research Capacity

JRC (non-nuclear)

JRC (nuclear)

Euratom
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. Activities of International Cooperation
I – Regions of knowledge
Policy context

The "Regions of Knowledge" initiative – with a budget of €126 million under FP7 – responds to a need to increase the overall capacity of regional players to engage in R & D for economic development in all regions of the EU, candidate and associated countries.

Regions of Knowledge aims to

- improve links between the research sector and the local business community
- foster trans-national / cross-border cooperation
- enhance mutual learning of regional actors
- exchange experience and best practice
I – Regions of knowledge

Background

A Regions of Knowledge Pilot Action was launched in 2003 with a budget of € 2.5 million. It was followed by Regions of Knowledge 2 under FP6 that is ongoing with a budget of € 8.5 million.

Aim: Promoting increased and better regional investment in R&D through mutual learning, coordination & collaboration between regional policies and initiatives.

Main tools: Technology Audits & Regional Foresight; university-driven actions; mentoring & support activities
I - 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

Action Plan for the development of regional ‘research-driven clusters’
I - What is a regional research-driven cluster?

- Research Entity
- Local Enterprise (e.g. SME)
- Regional Authority
- Other Actors (e.g. Banks)

Regional Research-Driven Cluster
Regions of Knowledge will support:

- **Existing** multinational research-driven clusters or consortia of research-driven clusters from across Europe dealing with issues of common interest.

- **Creation** of new research-driven clusters: the aim is to stimulate regional or local research capabilities around which research-driven clusters could be set up.
I – Thematic priorities in 2007

1. Bringing the benefits of research to SMEs

Action aimed at increasing integration of SMEs in regional research driven clusters and awareness of the potential benefits of research in their business activities.

2. Research and rural economies

Action aimed at integration of economic actors into regional research driven clusters as a key challenge to allow the development of dynamic rural and maritime knowledge economies.
I - Expected impact

- Regional economic growth in selected domains
- Response to the needs of regional business communities
- Mobilisation of local, national and community funds to implement defined regional “action plans”
FP 7 has a new regional dimension, under “Capacities”

... while Structural Funds will reinforce R&D investment

- R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship as a key priority in Convergence regions
- Innovation and the knowledge economy as the first priority for the competitiveness and growth objective
- **Earmarking**: at least 60% (Convergence) or 75% (Comp & Empl.) of funds for Lisbon priorities

Essential to promote synergies in policy but also practical terms (relations between relevant authorities and project promoters). Complementary funding where possible... but no double funding
Selection and negotiation

• Timetable of procedure
  ✔ Calls for proposals were published 22/12/2006
  ✔ Selection, following independent evaluation – within 3 months of call closure (24/7/2007)
  ✔ Negotiation phase
  ✔ Commission decision
  ✔ Signature of grant agreement and entry into force, if possible before year end
Selection and negotiation

• Reminder: eligibility criteria, especially for
  ✓ Cluster composition (number and type of entities)
  ✓ Geographical location (Research Potential)

• Evaluation criteria:
  ✓ QUALITY: Scientific and technological excellence; relevance to topics of call
  ✓ IMPLEMENTATION: Quality and efficiency of implementation and management; adequacy of resources (financial & human)
  ✓ IMPACT: Potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results

  ✓ Each criterion will be scored out of 5; half points possible; threshold of 3 per criterion and overall threshold 10.
  ✓ Commission at present updating lists of evaluators in Expert Management Module on CORDIS
Implementation

• **Role of coordinator**:
  - Monitor compliance with obligations by partners, including formalities for accession
  - Receive and distribute Community grant without undue delay
  - Keep records and financial accounts for the grant implementation
  - Intermediary for efficient coordination with Commission

• **Financial issues**:
  - Reimbursement of eligible costs
  - Audit certificate may be requested if payments > 375 000 € per partner
  - Financial responsibility of each partner limited to its own debt
  - Participant guarantee fund

• **Model contract** – consortium agreement for coordination actions
2007 Calls - Statistics

**FP7-REGIONS-2007-1:** 8,8 M€ in 2007
97 proposals requesting 88 M€
3 proposals transferred (to REGPOT-2007-1 call)
Coordinators from 24 Countries (including 4 AC)
9 participants per proposal (average size)
Evaluations: from 24 to 29 June, 2007

**FP7-REGIONS-2007-2:** 0,8 M€ in 2007
28 proposals requesting 5,6 M€
200.000 € average size per proposal
Coordinators from 16 Countries (including 2 AC)
Evaluations: from 2 to 6 July, 2007
Information

- EU research: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research
- Information on research programmes and projects: http://www.cordis.lu/
- RTD info magazine: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/rtdinfo/
- Information requests: research@cec.eu.int