



Regional Dimension of the 7th Framework Programme

Regions of Knowledge

European Commission
Research DG
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PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Regions of Knowledge-1&2

- **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
- ✓ 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

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 **regional 'research-driven clusters'**

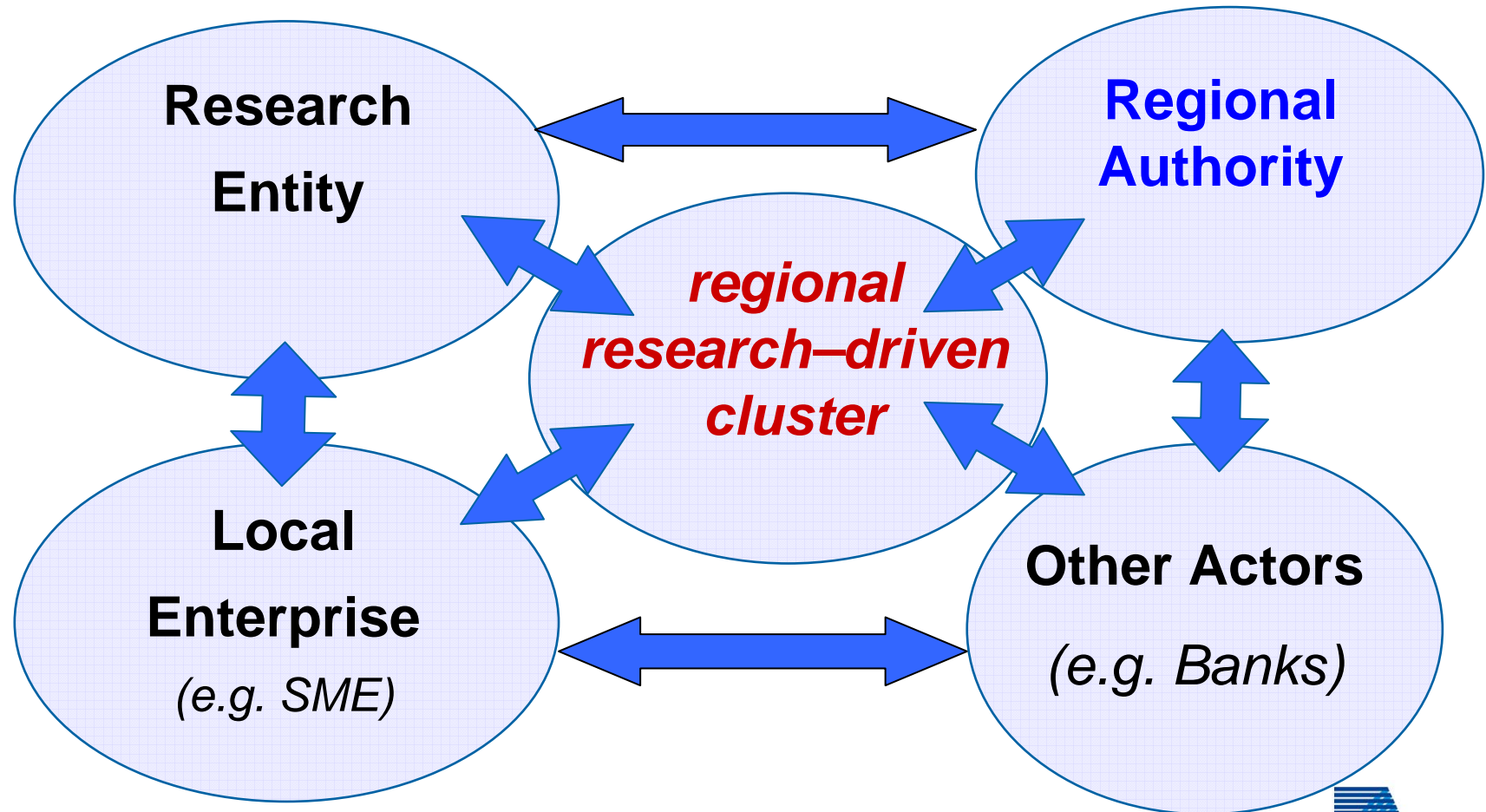
Associated and Candidate Countries are also eligible



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What is a regional research-driven cluster?





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Two Types of CLUSTERS

European
research -driven
CLUSTER

Consortium of
regional research-driven
CLUSTERS



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Main activities 2007

Three calls for a total of **10 M€**

- **REGIONS-2007-1** (8.8 M€)

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

- **REGIONS-2007-2** (0.8 M€)

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

- **REGIONS-2007-3** (0.4 M€)

Transnational cooperation among **NCPs**



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Thematic priorities in 2007

for the first two calls:

1. Bringing the benefits of research to SMEs

Action aimed at **increasing integration of SMEs in regional research driven clusters** and **awareness about the potential benefits of research for SMEs 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.



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REGIONS-2007-1

*Supporting analysis, mentoring and **integration**
of research actors*

Activities

- **Analysis**, development and implementation 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

Participants

- **Consortia** of regional research driven clusters
- or a **single** transnational regional research driven cluster
... and always **at least 6 partners from 2 countries**



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REGIONS-2007-2

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

Activities

- creation of **new research driven clusters**
- Analysis, workshops, roundtables, expert group meetings, dissemination activities, including web-based initiatives

Participants

- **at least 3 participants** (one research entity, one public authority, one enterprise) or **one research driven cluster** (for mutual information activities)



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REGIONS-2007-3

Transnational cooperation among NCPs

Activities

- **Reinforcing the network of National Contact Points (NCP)** by focussing on identifying and sharing good practices (*benchmarking, joint workshops, training, and twinning schemes, trans-national brokerage events*)
- **Specific approach** to be adapted to the nature of the theme, capacities and priorities of the NCPs concerned
- Special attention to **helping less experienced NCPs**
- Proposals to **include all officially appointed NCPs**
- Action to **involve official FP7 contacts from Associated Countries**.



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Instruments

Projects will be implemented through **Coordination and support Actions (CSAs)**.

➤ **Coordination actions** promote the creation of added **value** by bringing together on-going activities in a given field in different countries and providing them with a European dimension.

→ for *REGIONS-2007-03*

➤ **Support actions** will be used to provide support to **promote systematic mutual information exchange and joint activities** (analysis, workshops, roundtables, expert group meetings, mentoring, dissemination activities)

→ for *REGIONS-2007-01, REGIONS-2007-02*



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Funding scheme overview

	<i>funding scheme</i>	<i>duration</i>	<i>Community contribution</i>	<i>% of total eligible cost</i>
REGION-2007-1 <i>Analysis, mentoring and integration</i>	coordination and support action	up to 36 months	approx. 1 Mio. €	up to 100%
REGION-2007-2 <i>New clusters</i>	coordination and support action	up to 24 months	Approx. 200.000 €	up to 100%
REGION-2007-3 <i>NCPs</i>	coordination and support action	max. 5 years	indicatively 400.000 €	up to 100%