Science and Technology parks and regional innovation strategies – the EU experience

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Outline

Financial support for R&I and in particular for STPs in the EU

The policy behind and the role of STPs

Policy consideration for STPs: risk factors and success factors
The Financial support
EU support crucial to build and develop STPs in the EU

- *Total capital investment of close to EUR 12 billion in the period 2000-2012*
- *EUR 1.6 billion investment by the European Regional Development Fund secured EUR 5.6 billion total capital investment in buildings (3.6 leverage ratio)*
- *EUR 3 billion revenue expenditure by STPs on innovation and business support services*
How much do we invest in 2014-20?

- **Total EU budget for R&I:** EUR 43.7 billion of ESIF
- **Plus national EUR 22 billion**

Source: Final ESIF partnership agreements as of December 2015

Soon all open data available at: [https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/](https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/)
Broad range of financial support is offered to all EU regions for research and innovation

Research and innovation processes in large enterprises
Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in SME
Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in large
Research and innovation infrastructures (public)
Research and innovation infrastructures (private, including science parks)
Research and innovation activities in public research centre
Research and innovation activities in private research centre
Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation
Cluster support and business networks
Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher)
Research & innovation processes, technology transfer in low carbon economy
Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs
SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation
Support to social enterprises (SMEs)

Source: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/synergies-tool
The policy behind the financial support
Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation = Key feature of the reformed Cohesion Policy

• set priorities

• in order to build competitive advantage

• by developing and matching research and innovation own strengths to business needs

• in order to address emerging opportunities and market developments
Business
manufacturing and services, primary sectors, financial sector, creative industries, social sector, large firms, SMEs, young entrepreneurs, students with business ideas, cluster and business organisations

Research
public and private research bodies, universities, science and technology parks, NCPs, Technology transfer offices, Horizon2020 committee members, ESRI roadmaps etc.

Entrepreneurial Discovery Process

Public administration
Different departments, if relevant at different government levels, agencies e.g. for regional development, business advice, public procurement offices, incubators, etc.

Civil society / Users
NGOs and citizens’ initiatives related to societal challenges for which innovative solutions would be helpful, consumers associations, Talents! etc.

STPs are:
- A relevant stakeholder in the EDP
- Create an environment where all relevant stakeholders can interact
- Provide an ecosystem for the development of pilot innovation activities
- Add an external and outward looking dimension
Policy consideration for STPs
STPs risk factors

- Too small STPs
- Entrusting an STP with too many goals and activities
- Public funding can be a risk factor
- Absence of good management
STPs success factors

• *STPs as part of the regional innovation system*

• *STPs need to develop business and innovation strategies*

• *STPs are successful in not fully matured sectors*

• *Public funding is crucial*
For more information:

- on Cohesion Policy:  
  http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

- on Smart Specialisation Strategies:  
  http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3pguide

- Guide on Setting up, managing and evaluating EU science and technology parks  

_Thank you for your attention !_