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COMMISSION

Community research

Opportunities for Turkish Participation in the FP7 Regions of Knowledge Programme

Regions of Knowledge 2009 Call

« Research Potential (REGPOT) 2009 Calls – Turkey Event »

TUBITAK/Bogaziçi University – Istanbul – Turkey – 6th and 7th of November 2008

Jean-David MALO – European Commission – Directorate General for Research – Directorate B - Head of Unit B-04

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Structure of presentation

I - Regions of Knowledge

- Overview : objective, cluster definition, impact
- Lessons learned from the first two years and main evolutions
- Work programme for 2009: foreseen call, funding scheme

II - Some implementation issues

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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

Through the development of regional 'research-driven clusters'

Associated and candidate countries are also eligible

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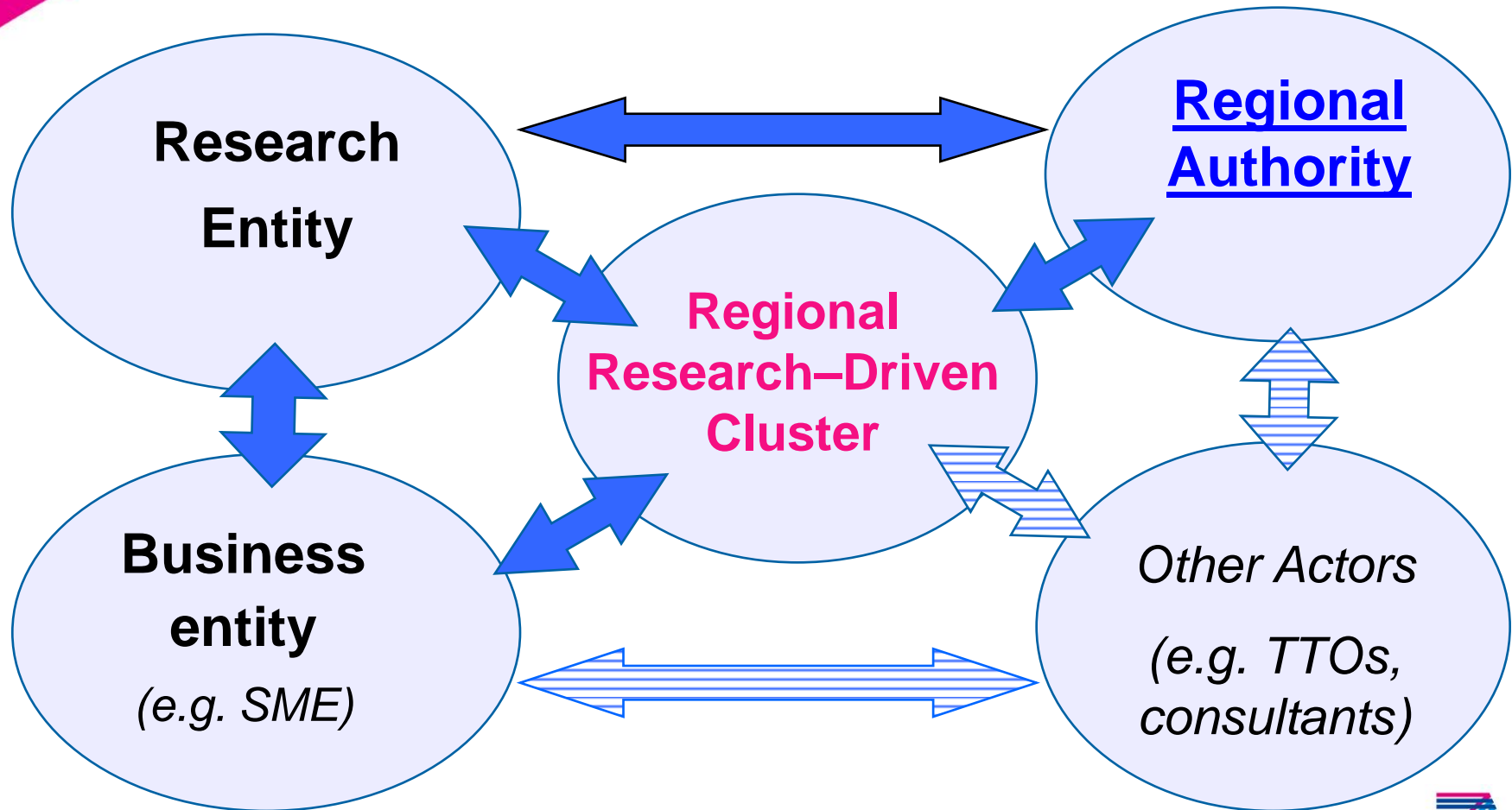
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I - What is a Regional Research-Driven Cluster?



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I - Expected outcome

Expected Outcome

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

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I - Expected impact

- **Regional economic growth and competitiveness** through the definition of strategies integrating research
- **Response to the needs of regional business communities**
- **Mobilisation of local, national and community funds** (including SF/IPA) to implement defined regional action plans in support of regional economic development
- Increase in and more effective **investment in R&D**
- **Inclusion of more regions into the ERA**

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I - FP7 and the Structural Funds: more synergies

- FP 7 has a new regional dimension, under “Capacities”
- ... while Structural Funds will reinforce R&D investment
 - 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
 - **Earmarking**: at least 60% or 75% of funds for Lisbon priorities
- Complementary funding where possible
 - ... but no double funding

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I - Lessons learned from first 2 years of implementation

- Risk of **low impact on European Competitiveness** due to
 - Many **small and/or locally oriented projects**
 - Lack of involvement of **regional authorities**
 - Difficulty to involve **business entities** directly
 - **Wide open and bottom up approach** in 2007
- Projects with a **clear thematic focus** more effective
- Distinction between **existing and new clusters** not always clear: no precise birth date
- **Mentoring activities** rarely taken up as an opportunity
- Often just vague ideas for **implementation and sustainability** of the clusters, as well for synergies

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I - Main changes introduced for 2009

- **Strategic repositioning of the targeted clusters**
 - Focus on **dynamic/mature clusters**, incl. cluster organisations
 - At least **three RDCs** involved from 3 countries
 - Focus on **a few networks**: bigger budget per project (1 to 3 M €)
- Alignment of **thematic priorities** with the Commission's ones, e.g Lead Markets Initiative
- **Mentoring** as a compulsory activity
- **Two-step approach** :
 - From analysis to JAP
 - **Accompanying the implementation** of the JAP
- **Internationalization** activities allowed

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I – 2009 Call for proposal

One call, REGIONS-2009-1, targeting the **transnational cooperation** of regional research driven clusters
- for a total of 16,1 M €

Participants

- Consortia of **at least 3 regional research-driven clusters** from 3 different Member States or Associated countries
 - Possible representation by one member - under conditions
 - Compulsory description of the full cluster

- **Coordinator** : either a regional authority or a fully fledged RDC (with legal entity)

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I - Thematic priorities

Enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources and of the natural and man-made environment, covering four themes:

- Water management,
- Forest management
- Soil and land management
- Waste management

... in support of the Lead Markets Initiative

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I - REGIONS-2009-1

Transnational cooperation of RDCs

Activities

- **Analysis**, development and accompanying measures for the implementation of research agendas
- **Mentoring** of regions with a less developed research profile for capacity building (compulsory)
- Initiatives to improve **integration**: definition of **joint action plans**, together with **business plans** – following SWOT analysis and definition of RTD needs
- Measures **towards the implementation of the JAP**
- **International cooperation** activities (optional)
- **Dissemination** activities

Beware: Neither the implementation of the JAP nor any research can be funded under Regions

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I - Expected outputs

Expected outputs

- Inventory of RTD offer and demand
- Analysis (incl. SWOT) from an economic and R&D perspective
- Analysis of complementarities with potential other partners (mentoring and international cooperation)
- Regional strategy for research-based economic development
- Joint Action Plan (JAP) with its financing plan
... and with indicators for the foreseen measures

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I - Funding scheme overview

Funding scheme: CSA –CA, coordinating action

Duration: up to 36 months

– the JAP being finalized during the first half of the project

Community contribution: approx. 1 to 3 M €

Financing rate: up to 100 % of eligible costs

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I - Selection and negotiation

Timetable of procedure

- ✓ Calls for proposals published : 3/9/2008
- Deadline for submission : 27/01/2009
- Selection, with help of independent experts – within 3 months of call closure
- Negotiation phase (May-September)
- Commission decision in October
- Signature of grant agreements from November

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II - Further information

- **Work Programme and associated documents for REGIONS-2009-1:**

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=167

- **Research Enquiry Service:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>

- **FAQs:**

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

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