



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

The Regions of knowledge programme

How can we support cooperation between
regional research driven clusters
from an EU perspective ?

Learning clusters, Jyväskylä, 13.10.09

Olivier BRUNET
European Commission, DG research





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) born from a pilot action in 2003***
- **4. *Research Potential (RP)***
- 5. Science in Society
- 6. Coherent Development of policies
- 7. Activities of International Cooperation



Regions of knowledge Policy context

The "***Regions of Knowledge***" 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**



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

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

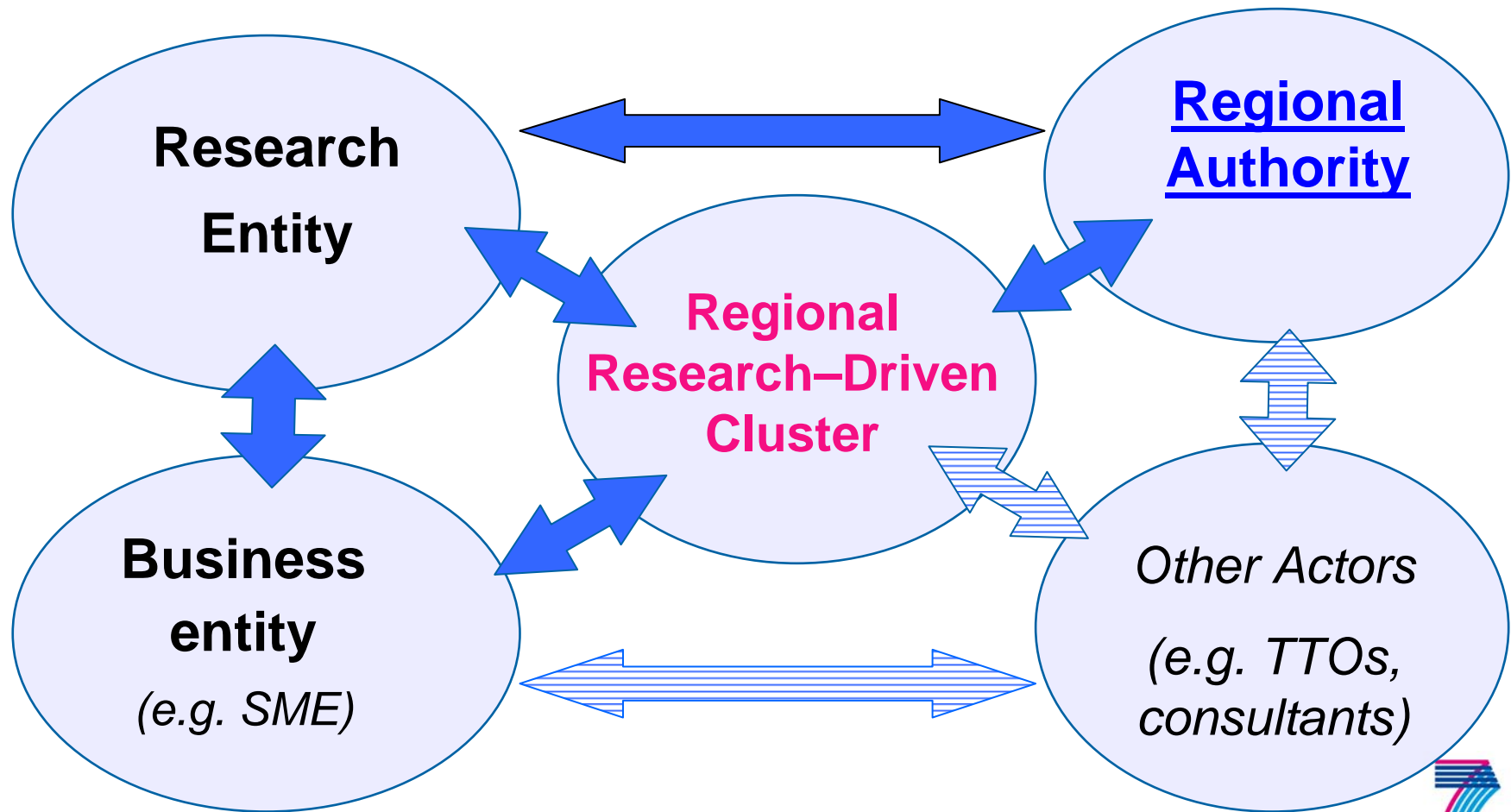
Through the development of regional 'research-driven clusters'

Associated and candidate countries are also eligible





What is a Regional Research-Driven Cluster?





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



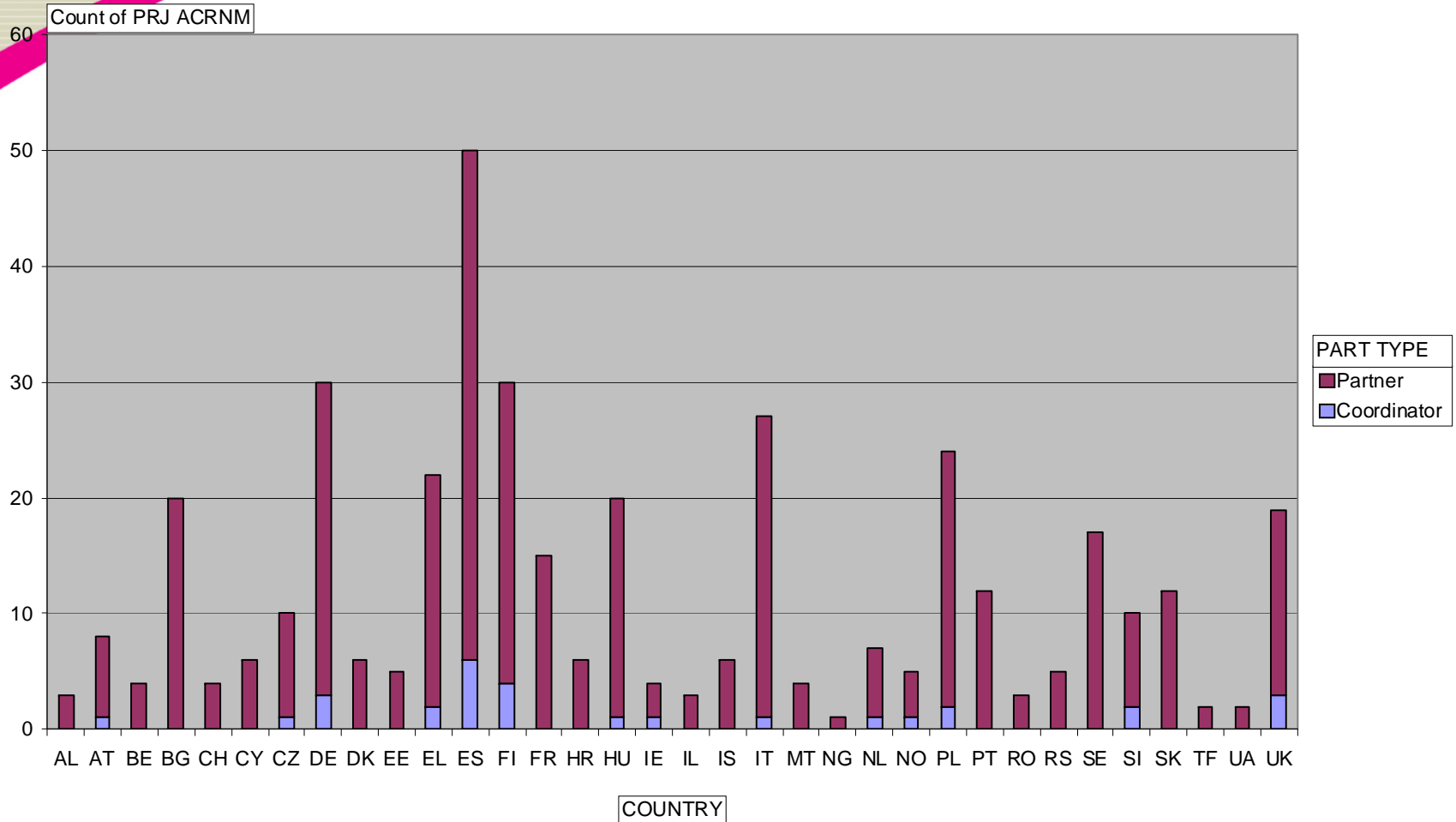
Expected impact

- **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) 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**



CALL FP7-REGIONS-2009-1 YEAR 2009

WP2009 Call : coordinators and partners





Congratulations to the Finish

- Two 2009 Regions of knowledge projects coordinated by Finish, management of natural resources
- RoK-FOR : sustainable management providing renewable energy, North Karelia Regional environment center
- Five clusters from six countries (FI, ES, DE, FR, Croatia and Serbia)
- BIOCLUS : sustainable use of biomass resources
- Coordinated in Jyväskylä
- With partners in Spain, Greece, Slovakia and Poland



Main changes introduced in 2009, kept in 2010

- **Strategic repositioning of the targeted clusters**
 - Focus on **dynamic 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



2010 Call for proposal

One call, REGIONS-2010-1, targeting the **transnational cooperation** of regional research driven clusters
- for a total of 16,95 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)



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Regions of knowledge 2010 thematic priorities

- Support **regional economic development**, including through supporting the emergence of the e-health lead market
- By boosting the competitiveness of **health-related economy**
- Support the innovative capacity of European health-related industries and businesses
- While improving the health of European citizens
- And addressing **global health issues** including major diseases
- From prevention to diagnosis, treatment and monitoring
- Healthy ageing and child care, including nutritional aspects and pursuit of personalized healthcare are also covered
- we favour **innovative** and **cross-disciplinary approaches**





REGIONS-2010-1

Transnational cooperation of RDCs

Activities

- **Analysis**, development and 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



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



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



Selection and negotiation

Timetable of procedure

- ✓ Calls for proposals published : 30/07/2009
- Deadline for submission : 14/01/2010
- 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



Selection and negotiation

Reminder : eligibility criteria, in particular for:

- Cluster composition

Selection and award criteria:

- *Financial capacity*
- Relevance to the objectives of the work programme
- **Scientific and technological excellence**
- **Potential impact** – through the development, dissemination and use of project results
- **Quality and efficiency** of the implementation and management



Further information

- **Work Programme and associated documents for REGIONS-2010-1:**

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

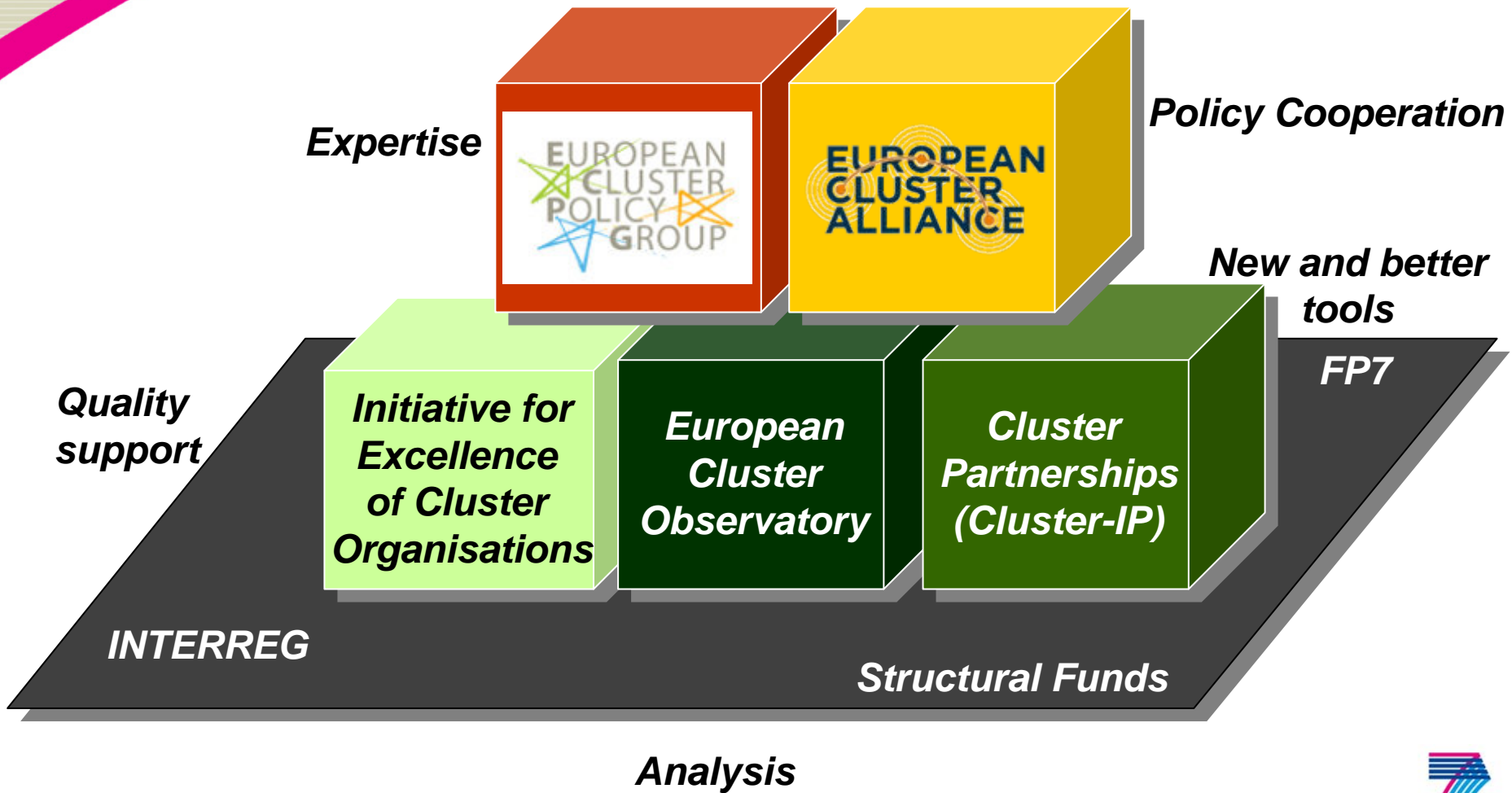
- **Research Enquiry Service:**

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

- **FAQs:**

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

EU initiatives in support of clusters





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

SUPPORT for INNOVATION

Support for Innovation Unit, Innovation Policy Directorate
European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/support>

Cluster links:

Commission Communication “Towards world-class clusters in the European Union” and explanatory Staff Working Document from 17.10.2008, both available at

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/clusters>

Europe INNOVA conference on 20-22 September 2009, Crete <http://www.europe-innova.org>

European Cluster Policy Group <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/ECPG>

European Cluster Alliance <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/ECA>

European Cluster Observatory <http://www.clusterobservatory.eu>

Cluster partnerships of the European Innovation Platform for Cluster <http://www.europe-innova.org>

European Initiative for the Excellence of Cluster Organisations <http://www.proinno-europe.eu> (to follow)

European Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/index_en.htm

Regions of Knowledge (FP7) http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/regions-knowledge_en.html

Towards **World-Class Clusters**
in the European Union





Cohesion policy, research and innovation

- Reducing regional disparities
- Promoting competitiveness, growth and jobs
- Addressing sustainability issues
- Earmarking : at least 60% or 75% of funds for Lisbon priorities
- € 86 billion = 25% from SF to RTD-I (2007-2013)
- Incl. € 62 = 22% in the convergence objective
- € 22 billion = 40% in empl / competitiveness
- € 2 billion = 27% in territorial cooperation



Home

News

Funding

Results

Themes

Go local

Look it up

Interact

Help

Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation

[Maps](#) | [Advanced Search](#)

Search all CORDIS

Search



European Union
Cohesion Policy

Important notice

- [Home](#)
- [Supporting your ideas](#)
- [Finding sources of funding](#)
- [Combining different options](#)
- [Understanding the roles of authorities](#)
- [Checklist for funding](#)
- [Annexes](#)
- [Print the whole document](#)

Introduction

The knowledge economy – with its emphasis on education, research, technological development, innovation and entrepreneurship – is at the heart of the renewed Partnership for Growth and Jobs, a programme to develop Europe's economy and guarantee quality of life for its population.

In an open global economy, competitiveness lies in the capacity of businesses to create high value-added goods and services. A move towards innovation-based sustainable growth is therefore at the heart of the EU's response to globalisation. Research and innovation can also offer solutions to overcome the great challenges that face our continent and the whole world, challenges such as energy security, climate change, environmental degradation, exclusion of vulnerable groups, ageing population and disabilities, global health threats, and demographic developments.

At the Community level, the Union possesses three key funding instruments to support research and innovation: Cohesion policy which is funded through the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund; the Research Framework Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme. In 2007 the European Commission published its ideas on 'Competitive European Regions through Research and Innovation' ¹ and called on Member States and regions to make more effective use of the available funding instruments. The issues to be addressed in achieving this aim cut across many domains of European Commission policy, such as economic affairs, employment policy, energy, transport, agriculture, environment and information society, going beyond the programmes under our responsibility. With all our colleagues, we hope that the ideas put forward will see a change in approach, with much greater attention to the optimal use and combination of the different EU funds. For this to happen, we rely on the active cooperation of the Member States and regions.

This Practical Guide was conceived in order to help potential beneficiaries of our programmes find their way through the three funding instruments and identify the most appropriate funding scheme for them. It provides a concise description of the three funding sources, explains how they can in practice be combined and provides policy makers with advice on setting up mechanisms at the national and regional levels to foster co-ordinated access to them.

It has been produced with the full collaboration and support of our fellow Commissioners Mrs Mariann Fisher Boel (Agriculture and rural development), Mrs Viviane Reding (Information Society and Media), Mr Andris Piebalgs (Energy), Mr Joe Borg (Fisheries and maritime affairs), Mr Vladimír Špidla (Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) and Mr Antonio Tajani (Transport), who are jointly responsible with us for the funding instruments covered by the guide. Together, we hope that this guide, above all else, proves to be practical and user-friendly. Its aim is to provide potential recipients of EU funding for research and innovation with the basic information they need to access this funding.



SYNERGIES : not only funding, policy first of all

- Practical guide based on a communication on “competitive European regions through research and innovation” (16.08.07)
- Territorial cohesion : Green paper, Lisbon Treaty, then what ?
- New initiatives in the field of innovation
- Follow up to the Lisbon strategy
- Budget mid term review... new financial perspectives post 2013
- At the eve of a new political cycle : European Parliament, European Commission, next EU Presidencies
- What happens in the field ?



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Thank you for your attention !

