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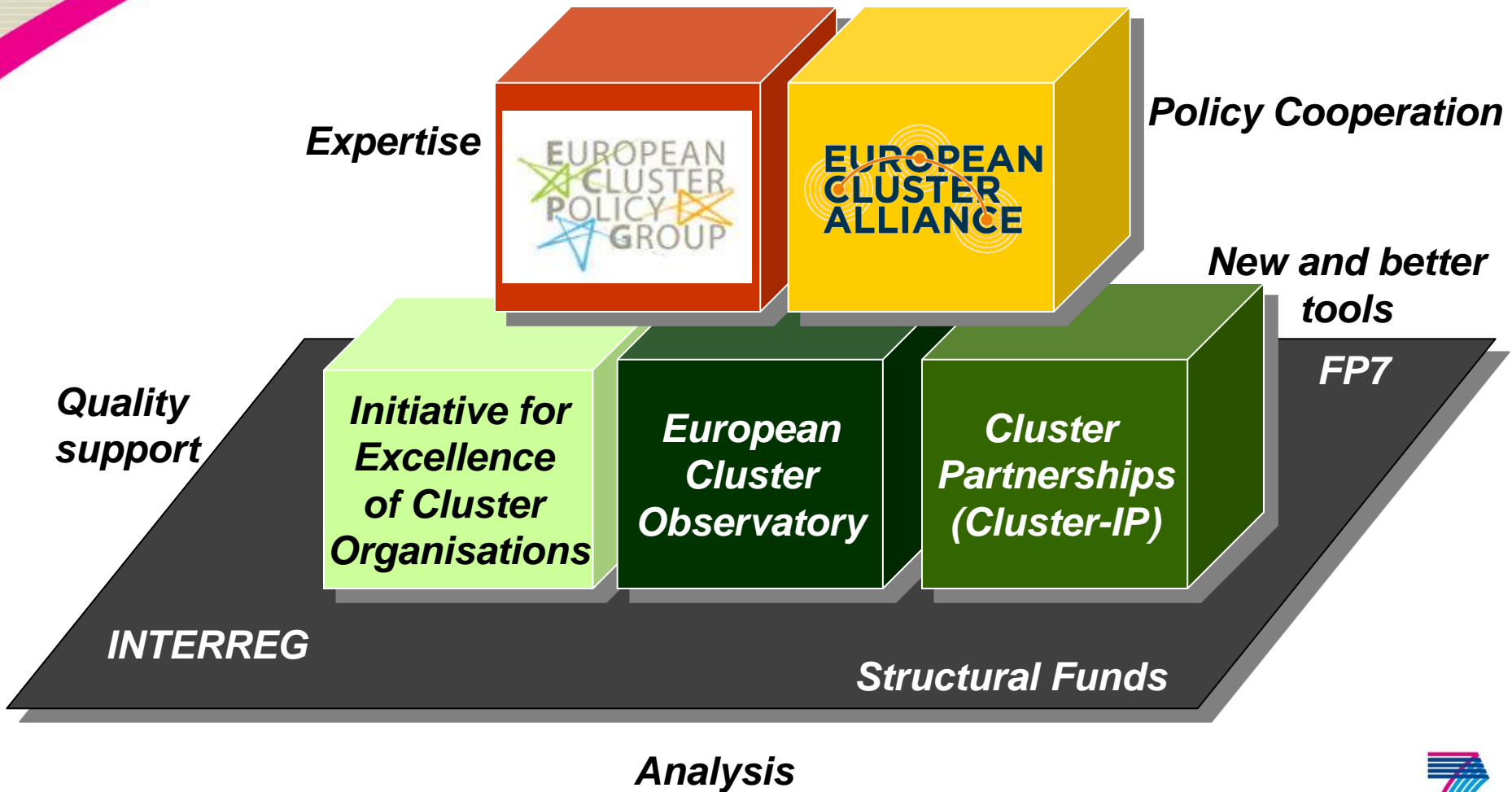
Do we need clusters policies in the new decade ?

Support to clusters from a European perspective, the regional dimension of innovation

O. Brunet (DG Research and innovation)
TCI regional conference - 30.03.11



The EU clusters initiatives





Cohesion policy, research and innovation... clusters ?

- **Cohesion policy = Structural Funds : ERDF** for regional policy, **ESF** for social policy
- **Reducing regional disparities + promoting competitiveness, growth and jobs**
- **Earmarking** : at least 60% or 75% of funds for “Lisbon” priorities (2007-2013) which give space to **clusters**
- **€ 86 billion = 25% of all SF to RTD-Innovation > FP7**
- Incl. € 62 billion in the convergence objective (=22%)
- € 22 billion in employment / competitiveness (=40%)
- € 2 billion in territorial cooperation (=27%)



Regions of Knowledge in short

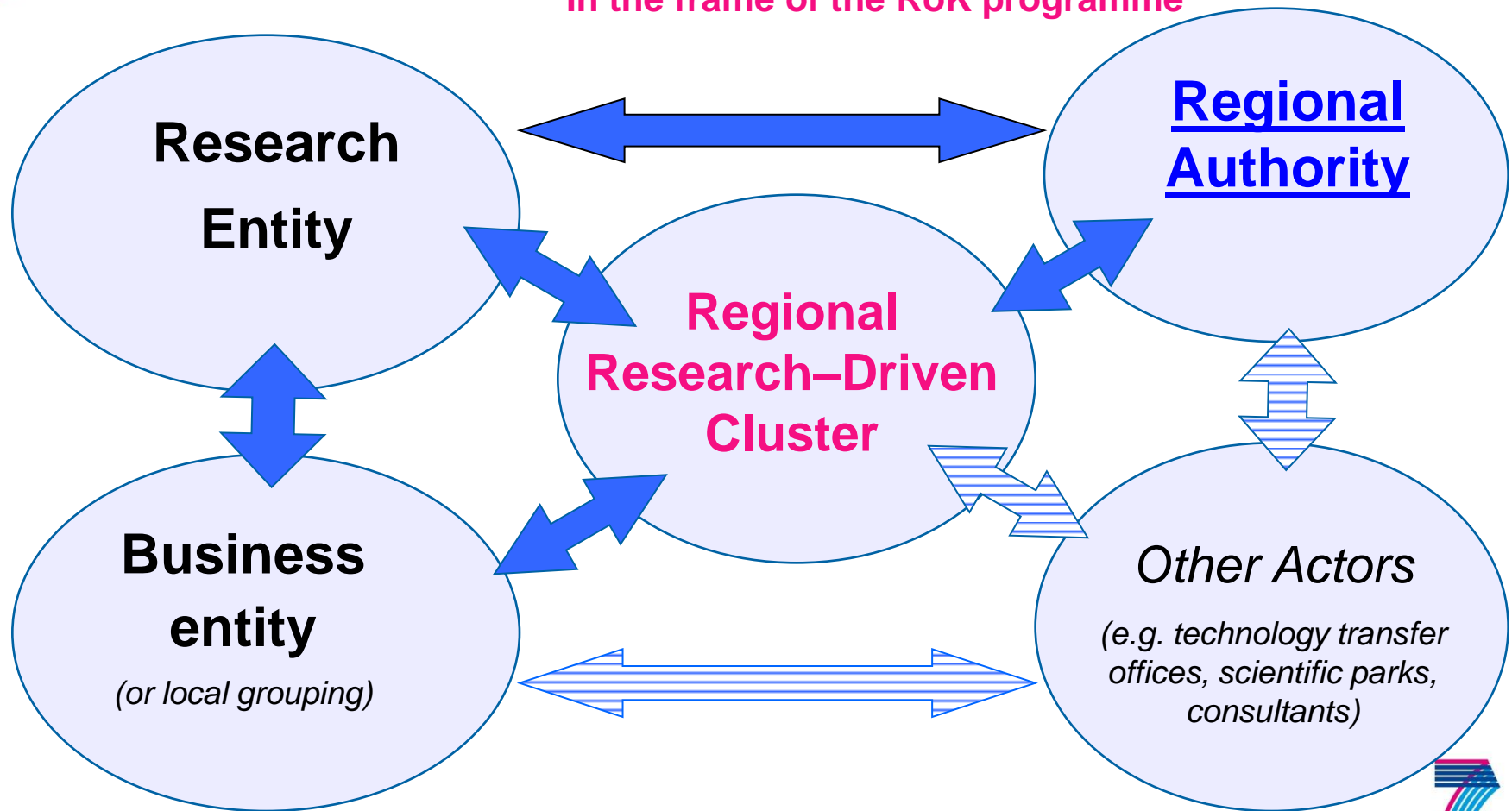
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/regions-knowledge_en.html

- Pilot action in FP6... **research capacity** in **FP 7**
- Targeted **cooperation** (transport in 2011) between **regional research-driven clusters**
- Aiming at boosting the **regional economic growth and competitiveness** through the setting up and implementation of **Joint action plans...** sustainability ?
- **Mentoring** of regions with a less developed research profile for capacity building
- More **regions** into the **European Research Area**
- In the limits of the **budget** available : **126 million**, 07-13



What is a (mature) Research-Driven Cluster ?

In the frame of the RoK programme





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Thematic RoK priorities 2007-2013

2007: SMEs & research + rural economy, 17 projects

2008: Research infrastructures + regional contribution to CO2 reduction, 15 projects

2009: sustainable use of natural resources (water, forest, soil and waste management), 9 projects

2010: Health economy, including e-health, 7 projects

2011: Sustainable transport, 7 projects ?

2012-13 : energy efficiency, digital agenda ?





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Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation

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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.



Expert Group on synergies FP7, CIP and SF

1. Current programming period

- State of art in operation of “**synergies in practice**”
- Mid term evaluations, Regions of Knowledge evaluation
- Recommendations for future development of **innovation** oriented “synergies in practice”

2. Next programming period

- Recommendations for enhanced “**synergies of policies**”
- Conclusions of the European clusters Policy Group
- Specific recommendations concerning Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential programmes
- Towards a **common strategic framework**



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“EUROPE 2020”

Innovation Union, flagship initiative

- **European Innovation Partnerships**, healthy ageing
- European Research Area framework
- Streamlined EU programmes
- New financial instruments
- Reform of standardisation system
- Public procurement of innovation
- Social innovation pilot
- Stronger monitoring





Innovation Union

What about clusters ?

- Focus EU funding instruments on **IU priorities**
- Consolidate the European level programmes to support **transregional cooperation...** to better assist the regions and increase impacts on regional development
- The « **regional policy** contributing to smart growth » communication also refers to « **innovation clusters for regional growth** »
- **Clusters** are an important element in **smart specialisation** strategies... support for their development needs to be concentrated on areas of comparative advantage



What is next ?

- Focus on **innovation** endorsed by Heads of State
- WIRE conference in June, Debrecen, on **clusters** and research infrastructures
- Preparation of a « **new strategy** for developing globally **competitive clusters in the EU** »
- Potential synergies between the **Smart specialization platform** and the **European cluster observatory**
- One single programme dedicated to **clusters' support** ?
- Financial perspectives 2014-2020 then legislative proposals, **mainstreaming** and **simplification**



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Thank you for your attention !

Happy to learn from you and discuss

