Regional innovation policy - harnessing Europe's diversity

Assembly of European Regions

www.aer.eu
Overview

- AER in brief
- From Subsidiarity to Success - The link between decentralisation and innovation
- AER activity to support regional innovation policy
Assembly of European Regions (AER)

- Largest independent network of regions in Europe
- 250 member regions from 34 countries
- Second level of governance
- Political voice and forum for interregional cooperation
Look for links between the degree of autonomy or decentralisation within a jurisdiction and the jurisdiction’s economic development.

What is the impact of decentralisation on economic performance and innovation?
Measuring decentralisation

- Decentralisation index family measuring:
  - **Deciding** decentralisation
  - **Financial** decentralisation

- Further subdivided in administrative, decision making, implementing, qualitative financing, quantitative financing, vertical and political
Source: BAK BASEL Economics
Impact of decentralisation on economic performance and innovation

Source: BAK BASEL Economics
Key implications

- Decentralisation matters!
- There is a strong positive impact of decentralisation on patents
- There is a strong negative impact of decentralisation on publications
Implications II

- The most relevant aspect is financial decentralisation.
- The most relevant policy field is Education & Research.
- Decentralised regions have a higher innovation capacity.
Policy recommendations I

- Regions with more competences develop better than others
- Countries with a higher degree of decentralisation are economically more successful than centrally governed countries
- Giving more competences to sub-national tiers fosters the economy and innovation
Policy recommendations II

- Most relevant aspects for the regions:
  - More influence of the regions on the national level
  - More independence of the regions from the national level
  - More financial competences and resources for the regions
  - More competences in (1) recreation and culture, (2) infrastructure, (3) education and research, and (4) health care.
AER activity to support regional innovation strategies

- Innovation Peer Reviews
- AER Regional Innovation Award (RIA)
- Bi-lateral support (e.g. study visits, transfer of good practice)
Innovation Peer Reviews

- Audits of a group of 5 - 8 experts (peers) to a host region
- Document analyses, interviews, meetings, site visits
- Policy recommendations to the host region
- INTERREG IVC projects “SMART EUROPE” and “Regions4GreenGrowth”
AER Innovation Award

- Raise awareness for regional innovation policy and projects
- Highlight good practice in innovation policy
- Promote and increase innovation in the regions
- Support exchange of experience and transfer of good practice among our member regions
Innovative Actions Brabant
Noord Brabant (NL)

- Use of smart technologies for healthcare and prevention
- Demand-driven project: end-users involved in innovative process
- Partnership between SMEs, research and care / medical institutions
- Comprehensive network of stakeholders
- Cross-regional and international cooperation
Innovation Vouchers
Baden-Württemberg (DE)

- Stimulating innovation within SMEs with less than 100 employees.
- Supporting external R&D costs for new innovative products and services, such as pre-studies or applied research.
- Accompanied by “Innovation Coaching” and “Innovation Assistant” schemes.
Mobile Mammography Unit
Crete (GR)

- Promote the early diagnoses of breast cancer
- Overcome obstacles that prevent women from undertaking a mammography test
- Mobile mammography visits all the villages in the region twice a year
- 2,000 mammograms, 326 women referred to further examination, 14 cases of breast cancer detected
Thank you for your attention!

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