



## Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 16

### General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

#### Country

Germany

#### Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

#### Title of the measure

InnoRegio - innovative networks in Eastern Germany (incl. Interregional Alliances)

#### Information Source/Reference

www.innoregio.de www.interregionale-Allianzen.de

#### Overview (nature, main goals)

The InnoRegio programme aims at stimulating regional co-operation in East Germany a mean for strenghtening innovation activities and utilising innovation potentials. InnoRe supports the establishing of co-operation and learning processes and should contribute i the development of new products, services and processes. Supported regions shall develop a profile in education, research and economic activities. InnoRegio is carried ou as a contest in 3 stages. In 2001, a special initiative on "interregional alliances for tomorrow's markets" was carried out, financing innovation platforms in 18 East German regions.

#### Action Plan objective addressed by measure

- I.6 Promotion of clustering and co-operation for innovation
- III.2. Strengthening Company Research
- III.3. Start-up of technology-based companies
- III.4. Co-operation Research/Universities/Companies
- III.5. Absorption of Technologies by SMEs

#### Administering agency

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### Description of Scheme

#### General Information

#### Reference to legal basis (e.g. act, public document, ...)

Directive on the Programme "InnoRegio", issued by the BMBF. Announcenment of Promotion Principles for "Interregional Alliances for tomorrow's markets", issued by the BMBF in February 2001

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**Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?**

Central

**Start date**

1999

**Expected date of completion**

2005

**Previous measure (name, date, links with the current measure)**

No previous measure

**Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure**

Innovation activities are regarded as a major prerequisite for successful catch-up of Eastern Germany to the West German level of productivity and income. For innovation activities, regional co-operation and the utilisation of regional networks is an important factor. Many sources for innovation stem from the interaction with customers, competitor suppliers and public research institutions within a region. Regional co-operation is perceived to be weak in Eastern Germany, and there are several constraints for establishing regional networks. Thus, the programme aims to stimulate regional co-operation by initiating regional providing a framework

**Have any of the main features of the measure/scheme/action/regulation changed during its implementation**

In 2001, a complementary measure for Innovation Platforms was implemented, called "Interregional Alliances for Tomorrow's Markets". It provides funding for organising regional innovation platforms on certain field of technology for which a region provides competitive strengths. They should contribute to the establishment of interregional networks of co-operation and co-operative innovation processes. Funding is not restricted to InnoRegio regions but available to all East German regions.

**What is the predominant role of the government?**

Funding Source, Stimulator

**Target Group****Who are the target groups of the measure?**

Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Research Institutes

Universities

Researchers

Graduates

Public Authorities/Organisations

Individuals

Other

Students in upper secondary schools

**Organisation and Implementation****Organisation and Structure**

InnoRegio aims at increasing innovation activities in the new Länder by integrating not only R&D activities but also innovation related activities on a regional basis in the new Länder. In order to attain this goal, concepts and projects for the development of innovation potential is to be developed on the regional level. For this, a regional innovation dialogu is initiated. There should be a commencement in the construction of regional networks in which persons coming from varying fields of exercise should work together in collective innovation and educational projects. InnoRegio is realised as a three stage contest: Stage 1: Qualification stage: The call for ideas for regional activities in innovation produced 44 responses of regional action plans by regional initiative for the new Länder (April to October 1999). 25 regions were selected for further support. Stage 2 - Development Phase: The 25 regions develop concepts and projects which shall contribute to the overall aims of the programme, i.e. improving innovation activities. Therefore, regional innovation fora took place. Regions received support by consultants and process management. Stage 3 - Realisation: 19 of the 25 regions were selected for financial support in this phase in which the concepts and projects developed in stage 2 will be realised until 2005. The volume of public subsidies ranges from Euro 4 mill. to Euro 20 mill. per region. The remaining 6 regions may overwork their concepts until June 30th, 2001. The initiative "interregional alliances for tomorrow's markets" offers subsidies to regions that organise platforms on innovation in certain fields of technology up to a total of 18 regions.

**What are the criteria for eligibility?**

Excellence of regional concepts, innovation stimulation effect of the projects, broadness of actors integrated in the network, competences of the members of the network, excellence in those fields of technology/economic activity selected as a thematic focus point of the regional network.

**What is the mode of delivery of the measure?**

direct subsidies for regional networks. Subsidies of 0,15 mill. □ for 25 winners (regions)

realise their concept (stage2) and a total of 255 mill. Euro for 19 finally winning regions. "interregional alliances for tomorrow's markets", up to 59,000 Euro are provided for each region.

#### **Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure**

InnoRegio: 260 mill. Euro  
Interregional Alliances: 1.06 mill. Euro

#### **Financing : expenditure per year**

InnoRegio: 2002: 35.8 mill. Euro (37 mill. Euro per year as an average for the period 1999-2005)  
Interregional Alliances: 2001: 1.06 mill. Euro

#### **Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)**

There are several other programmes supporting or financing innovation activities, but there is no programme directly promoting regional co-operation in innovation. In March 2001, a similar programme (DE\_57: Innovative Regional Growth Poles) has started in the New Länder.

## **Results**

### **Result Measurement**

#### **What are the main indicators for the measurement of the results ?**

increase in innovation activities, sustainability of regional networks

#### **Where an evaluation has taken place, what were the main results achieved?**

There is an ongoing evaluation (incl. Monitoring) running from 1999/2000 until 2005 (see [www.innoregio.de](http://www.innoregio.de)). No results were published so far.

#### **If no official evaluation has been undertaken, have there been any indicators of success?**

19 regional networks could be selected for promotion in the third stage of the programme, indicating that there is a significant potential for regional co-operation in innovation. The programme stimulated regional networks. There is no evidence so far that innovation output or innovation success was increased, but one should expect a significant lack between the promotion of regional networks and a measurable result in innovation performance.

## **Observations**

#### **Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?**

The basic idea behind this kind of programme which consists of a contest at the level of project ideas and a competition for their best implementation will continue to be an important instrument in the area of direct subsidies. This integration of R&D and innovation in private business, public R&D infrastructure, innovation assisting public and private services at a regional basis can be viewed as evidence that innovation policy in Germany today is strongly influenced by the idea put forward by the proponents of the network theory of innovation. Stimulating networking of actors along the value added chain, cross industries and between the public and private sector is the new approach for innovation policy. For the German new Länder, the primary concerns are to: - make long lasting improvements in the employment situation - strengthen the competitiveness.

#### **Which mechanisms seem to be less successful in the measure?**

not available yet

#### **Are there any other measures planned or in operation as a follow up to this measure? Direction of the planned measures? Objectives? Target groups?**

not available yet

