



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 36

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

Networks of Competence

Information Source/Reference

www.kompetenznetze.de

Overview (nature, main goals)

This initiative by the BMBF seeks to promote networking among science, education and enterprises in order to bundle competence and to present internationally attractive networks to the world. The initiative supports the establishment of such networks and the presentation of the network on the Internet. The initiative aims at promoting co-operation within top-level technology networks. Centres of Competence which are supported via the thematic programmes (DE_15) are part of the total of 38 networks of competence at the moment.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

I.3. Raising Public Awareness
I.6 Promotion of clustering and co-operation for innovation
III.1. Strategic Vision of R&D
III.4. Co-operation Research/Universities/Companies

Administering agency

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Name of the manager(s) responsible for the implementation of this measure with address, fax, phone

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Description of Scheme

General Information

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

Project by BMBF

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

1999

Expected date of completion

2002

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

no, but centres of competence are an instrument within research promotion in thematic programmes (DE_15), such as biotechnology, medicine, optical technologies, and gene research.

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Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

This initiative was established by the BMBF in order to bring together main actors in the fields of education, science and the enterprise sector within a certain field of technology. Cooperation among actors should increase trust, reduce information asymmetries and strengthen competitiveness within a field of technology, especially in technologies. intensify international cooperation in young fields of technology.

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

no

What is the predominant role of the government?

promotor, funding source

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

Other

Managers

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

The initiative is managed by VDI-Technologiezentrum which is responsible for setting up and maintaining the homepage and for public relation and marketing activities. Networks are built up on private initiatives. Public support is provided for communication and cooperation within networks. There are, however, no public subsidies delivered to network partners, but support is given via services (marketing, consulting, provision of a homepage). Initiatives who want to establish a network of competence have to apply to management. A jury decides on whether to allow a network to present itself on the platform.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

To be accepted as a network of competence, networks must have a thematic and regional focus, must consist of a larger number of partners which show high performance and interact intensively among each other, must have an innovation orientation among its members and both a vertical and horizontal network structure, and, finally, must have the potential to generate world-leading innovations.

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

As soon as a network initiative is accepted (i.e. if they meet the criteria mentioned above) gets access to the network structure, i.e. they are allowed to present themselves on the kompetenznetze.de homepage. There is no direct financial flow to the networks. Support provided only by the "branch name" and by maintaining the internet portal.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

for the management and marketing, appr. 2 mill. Euro are provided by the BMBF, networks are financed by own resources or via sponsoring R&D activities within networks are financed by other sources (such as DE_15)

Financing : expenditure per year

about 0.5 mill. Euro on average for providing the platform

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

there are a number of other networking initiatives and programmes in Germany (see DE_23, DE_27, DE_50, DE_51, DE_52, DE_53, DE_16).

Results

Result Measurement

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

no indicators mentioned in the programme

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

no evaluation yet, but networks will be evaluated 2 years after acceptance to the network

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

not available yet

Observations

Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?

not available yet

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?

no

