



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 52

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

BioProfile / BioRegio

Information Source/Reference

www.bioregio.com

Overview (nature, main goals)

In order to promote commercialisation of new biotechnology research results, the Federal Government has started a regionally oriented start-up competition in Biotech - BioRegio in 1997. In 1999, the programme was extended with the new, similarly designed initiative BioProfile. The objectives of both programmes are to develop a specific biotechnological profile in selected regions and to support innovation and commercialisation of biotechnological knowledge. BioRegio and BioProfile are organised as competitions, on three regions will receive special public support.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

- I.2. Mobility Students/Researcher/Teachers
- I.6 Promotion of clustering and co-operation for innovation
- III.1. Strategic Vision of R&D
- III.3. Start-up of technology-based companies
- III.4. Co-operation Research/Universities/Companies

Administering agency

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Description of Scheme

General Information

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

Directives on the BioRegio (1997) and the BioProfile (1999) competitions by the BMBF.

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

1997

Expected date of completion

2002, extended in 1999 until 2006

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

no

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

The BioRegio programme has been started as one element of a broad biotechnology research and commercialisation initiative of the Federal Government since the mid of the 1990s. The main objective was to close the perceived gap in this future technology to the USA. The start-up of new biotechnology firms, which rapidly transform new research results into new products, services and processes, was regarded as a major component

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The government followed a regional approach, considering the increasing significance of regional milieus and integrated innovation approaches (including and co-ordinating all relevant actors in the innovation process) for achieving new developments in biotechnology. Within the BioRegio competition, 17 regional consortia participated, but only three regions have been selected as winning regions. In order to allow the other 14 not-winning regions, as well as regions which did not participate in BioRegio, to further develop their competence in biotechnology, the BioProfile competition has been initiated. In contrast to BioRegio, BioProfile now focusses more on regional competence in certain fields of application in biotechnology and is thus much more open to small regions than the case of BioRegio, that has demanded a top-level research profile in biotechnology.

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

BioProfile, the successor programme of BioRegio, is focussing on smaller regions that have competitive advantages in certain fields of biotechnology near to application. The thematic focus of regional biotechnology initiatives has to be defined by the regional consortia themselves. Funding for BioProfile is smaller than for BioRegio.

What is the predominant role of the government?

Funding source

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Research Institutes

Universities

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

BioRegio: Regional consortia had to develop a concept for the combination of biotechnology research and commercialisation, involving all major regional actors in biotechnology. Special emphasis had to be laid on the promotion of start-ups in biotechnology. Regional potentials had to be bundled, common objectives to be defined and a business strategy to be formulated. A jury had selected three winning regions out of 17 proposals. The winning regions received about 80 mill. Euro out of national biotechnology programmes and should serve as best practice examples. BioProfile: As the programme focusses more on smaller regions and certain sub-fields within biotechnology, a three stage approach was used in the competition: - Stage I: self-organisation of regions establishing of regional consortia and co-ordination infrastructure, developing of a base regional biotechnology concepts without public support, application of the base concept - Stage II: Selection of 20 regional base concepts for further developing a sound concept for this stage, subsidies for costs are available up to 51,000 Euro (max. 50 % of total costs). - Stage III: Selection of the three best concepts, realisation of the concepts in the winning regions, subsidies for co-ordination and for R&D-projects are available up to 50 for companies and up to 100 for research organisations. Stage III has a term of 5 years, the total amount of public money for this stage is about 50 mill. Euro. Winning regions will be selected via a competition by a jury.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

Generally: Co-operation agreement among the actors in the regional consortia. BioRegio: Number, size and performance of biotechnology research in the region- quality and scope of interdisciplinary networks in biotechnology- industry structure in biotechnology- commercialisation efforts of biotechnology research so far- measures for promoting biotech start-ups so far- willingness of regional banks to engage in financing biotech start-ups- co-operation of research organisations and hospitals in biotechnology- regulatory environment in the region concerning biotechnology. BioProfile: - Number, size and performance of biotechnology research in the region- correspondence between regional biotechnology structures in research, education and businesses with the regional biotech profile- supply and demand in biotechnology education- quality and scope of interdisciplinary networks in biotechnology research- connection between regional biotechnology and other regional economic structures- international orientation of regional biotechnology sector- international competitiveness of regional research organisations & firms in biotechnology- quality of concepts for the development and commercialisation of new biotech products, services, and processes- measures for promoting biotech start-ups so far- practice of information and public relations in the region in the field of modern biotechnology

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

direct grants to regional consortia (co-ordination) and to enterprises and research organisations for carrying out R&D, including support for biotech start-ups.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

BioRegio: 75 mill. Euro (1997-2002) BioProfile: 50 mill Euro (2001-2006)

Financing : expenditure per year

10 to 15 mill. Euro in the realisation stage

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

There is a comprehensive national Biotechnology programme within the thematic research programmes (DE_15). For young biotech firms, the BioChance (DE_23) offers additional funding. There is a BioFuture programme within the Biotechnology programme which supports young scientists in making a scientific career or in creating a new firm. Furthermore, centres of competence for new fundamental innovations in biotechnology financed via BioFuture. For both activities, a total of more than 40 mill. Euro are available

Results

Result Measurement

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

no indicators mentioned explicitly, implicitly: number of biotech start-ups, growth in value added and jobs in the regional biotech sector, expert performance of regional biotech sector, adoption of the regional approach of the winning regions by other regions as best practice

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

no evaluation so far

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

The number of biotech start-ups has increased significantly since 1997, but the effect of the programme has not been analysed so far. Today, Germany is the leading biotechnology market in Europe. Public support for biotechnology research amounts to about 500 mill. Euro per year.

Observations

Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?

The regional approach as well as the competition approach proved to be effective for stimulating public-private partnerships in biotechnology. In the regions that participated in the competition but did not receive special funding as a winning region, a supportive regional infrastructure for biotech start-ups has been established, and awareness towards biotechnology has risen.

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

