



## Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 57

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

#### Country

Germany

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

(National)

#### Title of the measure

Innovative Regional Growth Poles

#### Information Source/Reference

[www.wachstumskerne.de](http://www.wachstumskerne.de)

#### Overview (nature, main goals)

The programme supports the establishment of regionally and thematically focussed innovation initiatives in the New Länder. Initiatives will consist of enterprises, public research organisations/universities and other actors. Co-operative R&D/education projects should rest on regional strength and act as future growth poles. They should be oriented market commercialisation from the beginning on, including an effective management of initiative. The programme is implemented as a competition, thematic focus is defined by bottom-up initiatives.

#### Action Plan objective addressed by measure

- I.1. Education & Training
- I.6 Promotion of clustering and co-operation for innovation
- III.2. Strengthening Company Research
- 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, ...)

Richtlinie on the programme "Innovative regional growth poles" (Innovative regionale

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

Central

### Start date

2001

### Expected date of completion

2003

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

Experiences from the InnoRegio-Programme (1999-2005) (DE\_16) were used to design the new programme. The new programme is intended to enlarge and deepen the activities supported by InnoRegio, putting more emphasis on market orientation of innovation and regional co-operation and improve the management of regional innovation initiatives.

### Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

In recent years, technology and economic catch-up of the New Länder (East Germany) has slowed down. In the last 10 years, a comprehensive and attractive infrastructure in the fields of education and research has been established. In some industries, competitive and innovative enterprises have evolved. In order to use these potentials for further growth, co-operation and joint innovation activities should be strengthened, both in the fields of R&D and human capital (education, training).

### 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?

funding source, stimulator for new bottom-up initiatives

### Target Group

#### Who are the target groups of the measure?

Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Research Institutes

Universities

Public Authorities/Organisations

Other

## Organisation and Implementation

### Organisation and Structure

The programme is organised as a competition. Public support is given to regional consortia ("innovation initiatives") which have signed a co-operation agreement and should consist of enterprises (preferably SMEs), research/education institutions, and other actors. Consortia have to establish a management which works out a regional innovation concept including various innovation projects. Content and thematic focus are defined by the consortia as a bottom-up approach and should rest on regional comparative advantages. Innovation activities may comprise a broad range such as joint R&D, new products, new marketing strategies, new education measures, start-ups, awareness measures. Critical to all projects is their market orientation, i.e. innovation oriented towards commercialisation. In a first round, proposals for regional innovation concepts can be submitted until May 31, 2001. Financial support is made available to regional consortia for consulting external experts in the stage of writing the concept. Individual project proposals should form an appendix to the innovation concept, including their contribution to the overall concept. Proposals are evaluated by an expert group at the BMBF, consisting of scientific and business experts. The best concepts with respect to the criteria for eligibility are selected for public support. Support will be limited in time, and regional consortia are expected to be self-sustaining after the period of support.

### What are the criteria for eligibility?

- functional connection between industry, science and education; - existence of co-operation agreement - quality of regional innovation concept: size of market targeted by innovation activities, competitiveness of regional entrepreneurial consortia, feasibility of concept, quality of regional management, regional competences in the thematic fields (concerning education, research, businesses), number and characteristics of the enterprises involved, infrastructure used, type of own financing, scope of regional actors involved. - public support of activities via other programmes (avoiding multiple promotion)

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

Direct subsidies via project funding. Projects may include: R&D (up to 50 % for enterprises, up to 100 % for public institutions), qualification (up to 25-70 % for enterprises, up to 100 % for public institutions), co-ordination (up to 10 % of total costs). No cumulative support with other public support is allowed.

### Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

77 mio. Euro

**Financing : expenditure per year**

2002 (planned): 26.6Ca. 26 mill. Euro per year as an average of the period 2001-2003

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

no

**Results****Result Measurement****What are the main indicators for the measurement of the results ?**

market success of innovation activities, contribution to long-term growth of the regionaleconomy, increasing co-operation between industry, science and education with the region

**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?**

not available yet as the programme just has started

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

not available yet as the programme just has started

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

not available yet as the programme just has started

**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 as the programme just has started

