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Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

UK 34

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

United Kingdom

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

UNITED KINGDOM

Title of the measure

Regional Competitiveness Development Fund

Information Source/Reference

www.dti.gov.uk/europe/mf4.htm

Overview (nature, main goals)

The UK Government is actively pursuing a long-term policy of regionalisation. A number of Regional Development Agencies have been established. They are now producing strategies for promoting growth and competitiveness.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

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

[DTI - Department of Trade and Industry](#)

151 Buckingham Palace Road, United Kingdom

Web Site: www.dti.gov.uk

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

[No specific contact](#)

DTI - Department of Trade and Industry

151 Buckingham Palace Road, United Kingdom

Description of Scheme

General Information

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

None

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Regional

Start date

2000

Expected date of completion

RDA plans for spending under the fund was due to b

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

None

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

The 1998 Competitiveness White Paper notes that the RDAs will be responsible for taking many of the White Paper's priorities, such as raising regional skills, encouraging links between business and higher and further education, working with Business Links to develop regional centres of expertise, encouraging business collaboration and facilitating the development of clusters.

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

Not relevant

What is the predominant role of the government?

RDAs are intended to act as the lead bodies at the regional level for the co-ordination of inward investment, raising skills, improving the competitiveness of business and for regeneration.

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

The 1998 Competitiveness White Paper notes that the RDAs will be responsible for taking many of the White Paper's priorities, such as raising regional skills, encouraging links between business and higher and further education, working with Business Links to develop regional centres of expertise, encouraging business collaboration and facilitating the development of clusters.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

These are under RDA control.

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

Money can be spent in any way which best addresses regional priorities, for example, promoting innovation, and supporting business partnerships, networks and business clusters. Some examples of what RDAs have used the CDF for so far are: (1) support for existing initiatives (e.g., supporting regional innovation strategies), (2) primary funding of initiatives, and direct funding of partnership projects, specialist consultancy/research advice not readily available from existing sources.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

This initiative will provide funding of £10 million over three years (£2 million in the first year of operation, 1999/2000) and £4million in each of the following years (2000/2001 and 2001/2002).

Financing : expenditure per year

See l.c.4

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

None known

Results

Result Measurement

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

Not known

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

No evaluation

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

Too early to say

Observations

Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?

Too early to say

Which mechanisms seem to be less successful in the measure?

Too early to say

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

Too early to say

