

How can regions be more involved in research and innovation – science goes practice

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Styrian Regional Research Strategies

- Concentrating on technical-scientific and institutional research
- Analyzing strengths and weaknesses of Styria
- Concentrating on core capabilities
- Strategic Coordination between different governmental levels and research institutions
- Positioning Styria in the European Future Region

Framework

- label “EU-Future Region”: Styria, Carinthia, Burgenland and Slovenia, Croatia, West-Hungary and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)
- taking up the responsibility for research on sustainable development in Central and South Eastern Europe → connecting area between the “old” and the “new” European Union

The European Future Region

Zukunftsregion Süd-Ost



Examples for transboundary development and research networks

- K-net competence pool water
- eCare – research network on electronic procurement
- KOSS - cooperation Styria and Slovenia on hard materials
- Metalcomp - solutions for high quality purpose designed components

Hochkarätige VertreterInnen aus Politik und Wirtschaft aus Österreich und Slowenien diskutierten zu den Themen Arbeit und Wirtschaft, Perspektiven zukünftiger grenzüberschreitender Regionalentwicklung und damit verbunden auch über die Entwicklung zukünftiger Förderprogramme.

EUREGIO-Zukunftsforum

EUREGIO als Motor der Kooperation zwischen Steiermark und Slowenien

Sustainable Development of Austrian Regions (also Central and South Eastern Europe)

group of 32 key researchers from several institutes:

- Karl-Franzens-University of Graz
- University of Technology
- University of Leoben
- Joanneum Research

worked out the research program „regicen“

- 17 subprojects ” connecting economic, management, historic, geographic, legal and social perspectives as well as issues of technology

Objectives

- **inter- and transdisciplinary** research → input from a wide variety of disciplines (regional problems)
- most ambitious **vision**: transdisciplinary research aims at developing a new methodology which integrates paradigms, basic questions and methods from different traditional disciplines (complexity of regional problems)
- long-term objective to establish a “center of excellence” for “Sustainable Development of Regions” → knowledge transfer (from regions to universities – from universities to regions)

- **to strengthen sustainable development of environmental, social and economic structures in regions by:**
- creating and consolidating a scientific knowledge base for decision support in sustainable regional development
- developing decision support models and tools based on an inter/transdisciplinary approach and
- applying selected models and tools to pilot regions in close cooperation with local stakeholders

Procedures for Cooperation of Research and Regions

- **Phase 1:** achieving true interdisciplinarity by intergrating and aligning contextual and partial results of research work based on singular and disciplinary problem definitions.
- **Phase 2:** focuses on a problem-oriented approach involving multi-perspective and multi-contextual problem definitions and research questions.

Procedures for Cooperation of Research and Regions

- **Phase 3:** leads to „sustainable research“, takes into account the needs and wants of future users or „stakeholders“.

Procedures for Cooperation of Research and Regions

This framework draws the outline for cooperation within the special research program and with the regions using existing links with Central Europe and creating new potentials by combining different approaches for problem finding and solutions, by using the regional knowledge base, and by producing sustainable knowledge to increase the regional competitiveness and innovation.

Innovation Policy

- Strengthening a positive climate for innovation
- Support of technology adaption and transfer
- Support of future-technologies
- Development of management know-how
- Support of building up enterprises
- Bundeling ressources and competences between research and business
- Framework for financing innovations (also risky strategies)

Innovation-Performance

- Still too low
- R&D should increase (more enterprises)
- Universities have to transfer knowledge to regional institutions
- Innovation competitions have to be supported
- Increasing the quote of researchers (femal)
- Balance of „Technology Push“ - „Market Pull“

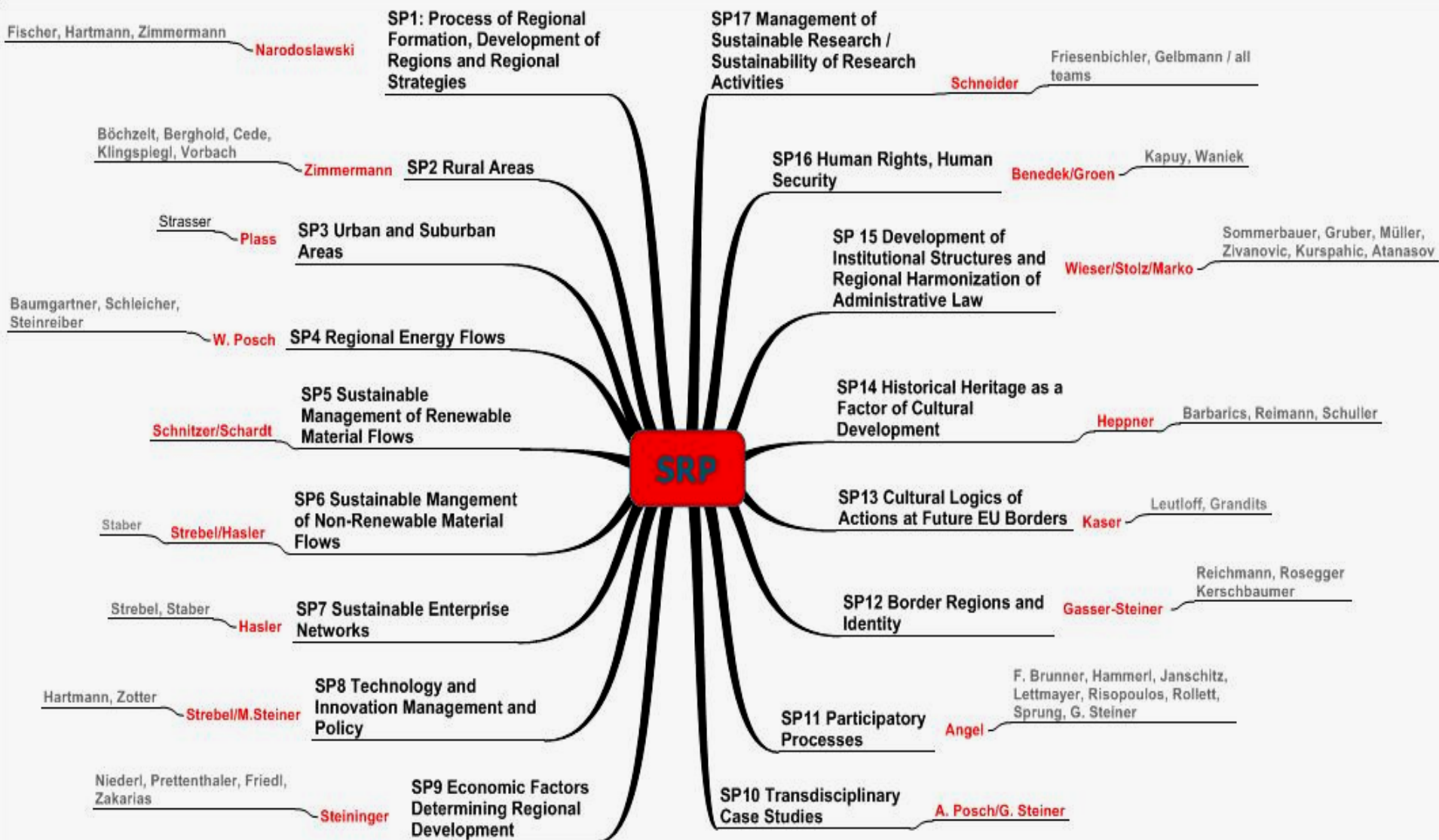
Governance of Regional Research Systems

- Governance forms the framework for automatic control
- To ensure the Strategic Policy Intelligence
- Regions-Universities: informationflow/feedback
- Portfolio of scientific strengths
- Establishment of a group for R&D questions

University of Graz

- Founded in 1585
- 72 departments
- 23 000 students
- 1200 academic staff
- 125 Millionen Euro budget
- During the university reform in 2004, the Faculty of Medicine becomes an autonomous university.

Subproject Structure of the Special Research Program „regicen“



Subproject SP 1: Development of Regions and Regional Strategies

- Investigation of the relationship between different approaches of sustainable spatial and regional development and their impact in terms of:
 - the emergence of regional identities
 - regional governance structures
 - and the development of social and economical structures.

Subproject SP 2: Rural Areas

- tight correlation of agriculture, tourism and natural environment → “sustainable development”
- search for new economic opportunities (e.g. tourism, plants for alternative energy) is leading to conflicts which have to be solved in regions
- Analyzing developments in rural regions from two different perspectives:
 - socio-political and the production level
- to show (and public) possible combined approaches to sustainable agriculture and tourism



In der Oststeiermark, einer strukturschwachen und agrarisch dominierten Region, suchte man in den 70er Jahren nach Kohlenwasserstoffen. Ein Bohrversuch in der Gemeinde Blumau brachte nicht das erwünschte Erdöl, sondern Thermalwasser zutage.

Auswirkungen der Therme Blumau auf die Region

Seminararbeit von Gernot Schwab

Subproject SP 3: Urban Areas

- future perspectives of urbanized areas - way in newly urbanized areas?
- define new faces of urbanized space
- Build a common understanding for future sustainable development in urbanized areas
- Role for appropriate planning systems and decision makers
- Practical tools which support decision-making

Networking

- Thematic innovative useful themes
- Engagement of enterprises in regions
- Strengthening research- and education
- Strengthening of regions by eco-techniques, medicine- and human technology
- Promotion of networking by successful examples



Competence pool water Ltd.

- More than 70 partners from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia.
- 6 thematic net nodes:
 - Watermanagement in Valleys and Basins
 - Sustainable Water Supply in Mountain Areas
 - Water and Health
 - Water in Underground Mining and Power Plant Construction
 - Net Product Chain Management of Water Ressources
 - Utilization of Groundwater for Agriculture and Industry

Strategy

- The „Competence Pool Water“ should forge close links between water related technology business, the water using industry and water research in Austrian regions as well as in East European regions.
- Furthermore it should work out innovative and integrative approaches and solutions to problems in order to optimize water resources management in regions.

Net of financial Aid Providers

- Austrian Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour
- Regional State of Styria
- Regional State of Carinthia
- Regional State of Tyrol
- Province of Prodenone
- Government of Slovenia
- Government of Croatia

Added Values

The implementation of the funding program “K_{NET} water” provides a **stronger cooperation between business partners in different regions on the one side as well as university and extra-university research institutions** on the other side.

Through the financial aid measures K-net provides an incentive for highly **innovative research** projects in industry, tourism, supply of drinking water and water for industrial purposes.

A continually progressing **build-up of competence in regional business** will take place through the individual network nodes, which unify project and information network. They are responsible for public relations, mobility and innovation management. Educational and training programs play thus an important role.

Added Values

The focusing of specialist competences and the common presentation of several research and business partners result in a **higher added value from R&D investments.**

Therefore the competitiveness of the K-net business partners will increase because research results get directly generated within the company and/or an intensive cooperation with research partners takes place and it is not necessary to buy those results via long detours (fairs, markets, etc.).

In the international framework the market can be better prepared through additional know-how and this increases again the competitiveness.

Added Values

- **Accompanying network marketing serves as an information track and brings advantages for the positioning at the international market.**

Strategic business decisions can get better prepared through the network and can more easily be made through the working out of field-related basic concepts.

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**Thank you very much
for paying attention!**