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**European Week of Regions and Cities
Brussels**
10 – 13 October 2005

How can Regions be more involved in Research and Innovation?

REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE

(Bringing regions faster into the knowledge economy)

...Outlook towards FP7





The recent past: the 2000 Lisbon Strategy

- **LISBON**

2010: Europe should become “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge society in the world”

- Sustainable development, employment, cohesion, better governance, life-long learning and people mobility
- “Open method of co-ordination and benchmarking” (as a continuous, mutual learning process)

- **BARCELONA**

European Council confirmed RTDI as a top priority for the EU (March 2002)



(Ambitious goal of 3% of GDP average investment in RTD)

- **ERA** - a cornerstone of the Lisbon strategy

- A new vision for European research
- Re-invent the European research landscape through large scale integration of resources and overall organisational improvement





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The Regions of Knowledge pilot Action (KnowREG)

A first step towards targeted funding for regions in the ERA

- Introduced the by the European Parliament
- Fully conceived and developed by the European Commission (DG Research)
- €2,5 million
- Experimental activities
 - Networks of European regions (universities, research centres, and the business community)
 - Create "Knowledge regions"
 - Models of how regions can implement the Lisbon strategy
 - demonstrate the role of knowledge in driving regional development





KnowREG 2003- Implementation

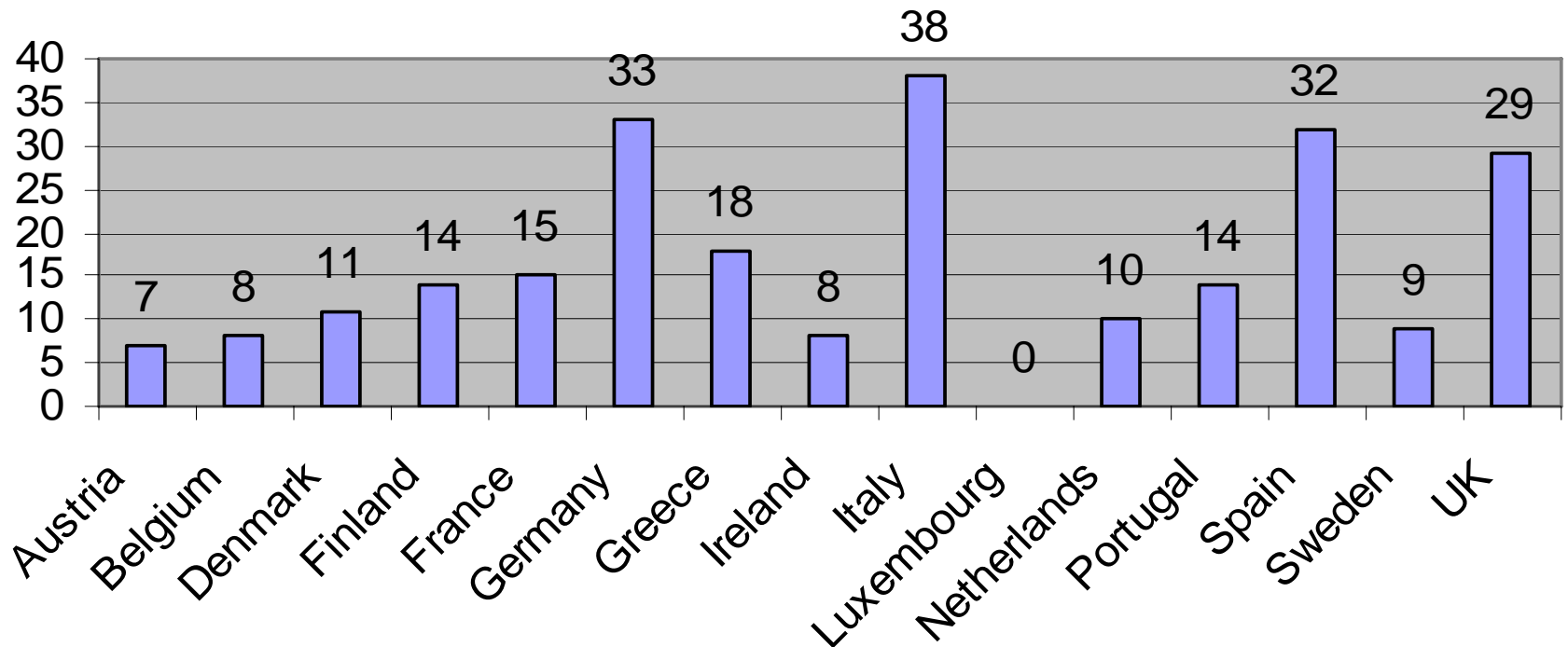
- Not the Framework Programme
 - new legal basis
 - new procedures and documentation (e.g. evaluation, contracts)
- Call for proposals:
 - 1 August 2003 (publication date)
 - 17 September 2003 (Deadline for proposals)
- Response was good -53 proposals
- Only organisations from the then 15 Member States could apply
- 246 applicant organisations
- Geographical distribution well balanced with all countries (except Luxembourg) having more than 5 applicants





KnowREG 2003- Participation

Participants by country: all proposals





KnowREG 2003- Strands

1. **Integrated Regional Technology Initiatives**

(a) Technology audits and Regional Foresight

(b) University Driven Actions for Regional Development

(c) Mentoring Initiatives

- technologically advanced regions co-operate with less advanced regions (Objective 1) in a kind of "mentoring" partnership

2. **Supporting activities** (workshops and conferences)

- Projects had to have at least 3 partners coming from 3 different Member States.





Lessons learned

- Problems with project management in some cases
- Problems with actual delivery of promised work packages
- Weak coordination in some cases
- Need for greater engagement of Regional Government and Policy makers

- **Successful projects tended to be:**
 - **Focused**
 - **Thematic**
 - **Building on Need**
 - **Clear and Targeted**



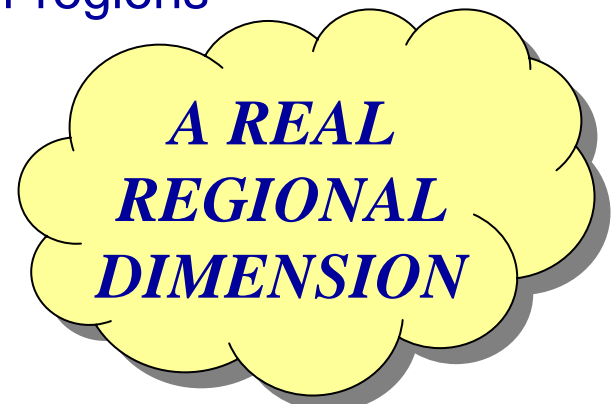
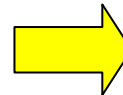


Lessons learned

- Successful models for regions
 - how regions can operate in the knowledge economy across Europe
- Knowledge management models at regional level
- Territorial pacts
- Establishing the ability of regions to work at the European level
- Key building block for future EU funding for regions

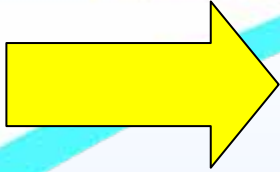


- **Identified a real need for regions**
- **Leading to KnowReg II**
- **In turn leading to FP7**





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Regions of Knowledge II

- In the 6th Framework Programme (FP6 rules apply)
- FP6 Specific Programme 1 (Integrating and Strengthening the ERA - Coherent Development of Policies)
- Focus is on R&D investment at regional level (achieving the Barcelona targets at a regional level)
 - Instrument chosen: Coordination Actions (CA)
 - trans-national, trans-regional collaborative projects
 - RTD policy-making and investment strategy at regional level
 - Spreading best practice to other regions
- Link to the Innovating Regions in Europe network





Regions of Knowledge II

- Projects could be thematic but policy driven
- Call closure Date: 19 May 2005
- Budget: €8,95 Million
- maximum total budget of €500,000 for each project selected
- EU financial contribution - up to 100% of eligible costs
- Project duration - up to 24 months





What are we looking for?

- **Analysis of regional RTD performance**
 - why are some regions more successful / less successful
 - What are the bottlenecks and other factors limiting greater R&D investment:
- **Regional governance**
 - competence of regional level in RTD policy
 - interaction / complementarities with national level
- **Analysis of what has worked in the past**
 - how successful have earlier regional RTD instruments / policies been
 - how have successful regions integrated R&D investment into local and regional development strategies





What are we looking for?

- Identification of R&D policy priorities at a regional level
 - through foresight and prospective / intelligence methods
- Benchmarking, networking and other activities
 - evaluation of trends
 - subsequent guidance to policy makers in RTD matters
- Mentoring in the field of implementing R&T policy
- Better and more efficient use of Structural Funds in supporting RTD investment





What next? (2007-2013)

*Ongoing
debate about
EU Budget*

*FP7
(2007-13)*

*New
Structural
Funds
(2007-2013)
based on
Lisbon goals*

*Towards a Regional Component
in FP7:*

(Capacities Specific programme)

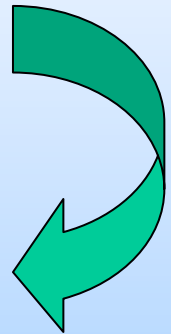
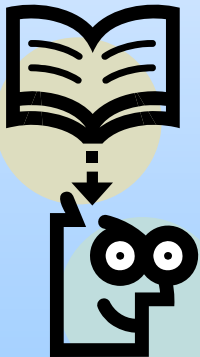




Regions of Knowledge In FP7

INITIAL AIM: to support experimental actions at regional level to develop « regions of knowledge » in the area of technological development, cooperation between universities, and research at regional level and stimulate the integration of regions in Europe

OBJECTIVE IN FP7: Strengthen the research potential of European regions, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional « research-focused clusters » associating Universities, Research centres, enterprises and regional authorities.





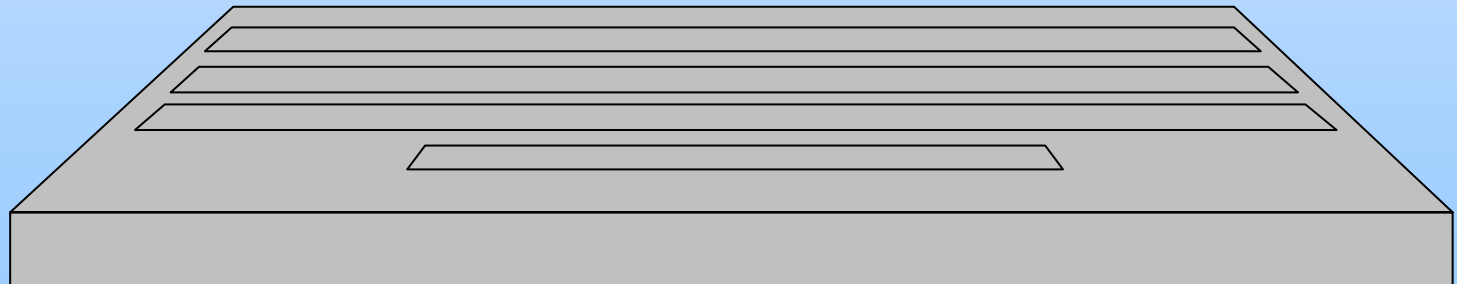
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Regions of Knowledge In FP7

**Three key
objectives will be
addressed:**



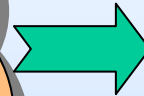
1. **Developing regional strategies for R&D**
2. **Making more and better use of the Union's structural policies**
3. **Maximising European regions potential for an efficient involvement in FP projects**





Regions of Knowledge In FP7

ACTIONS: Focus will be placed on location specific R&D intensive cluster development (incorporating business and R&D actors) +interconnecting already existing ones



TWO MAIN STRANDS:

1. Networking of Regional Research Intensive Clusters (CLUSTERLABS)
2. Transnational Collaboration on R&D Strategies (R.A., Unis, Res.centres, Industry etc)

- **INSTRUMENTS:** CA & SSA
(the Community will cover 100% of eligible costs)





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Regions of Knowledge In FP7

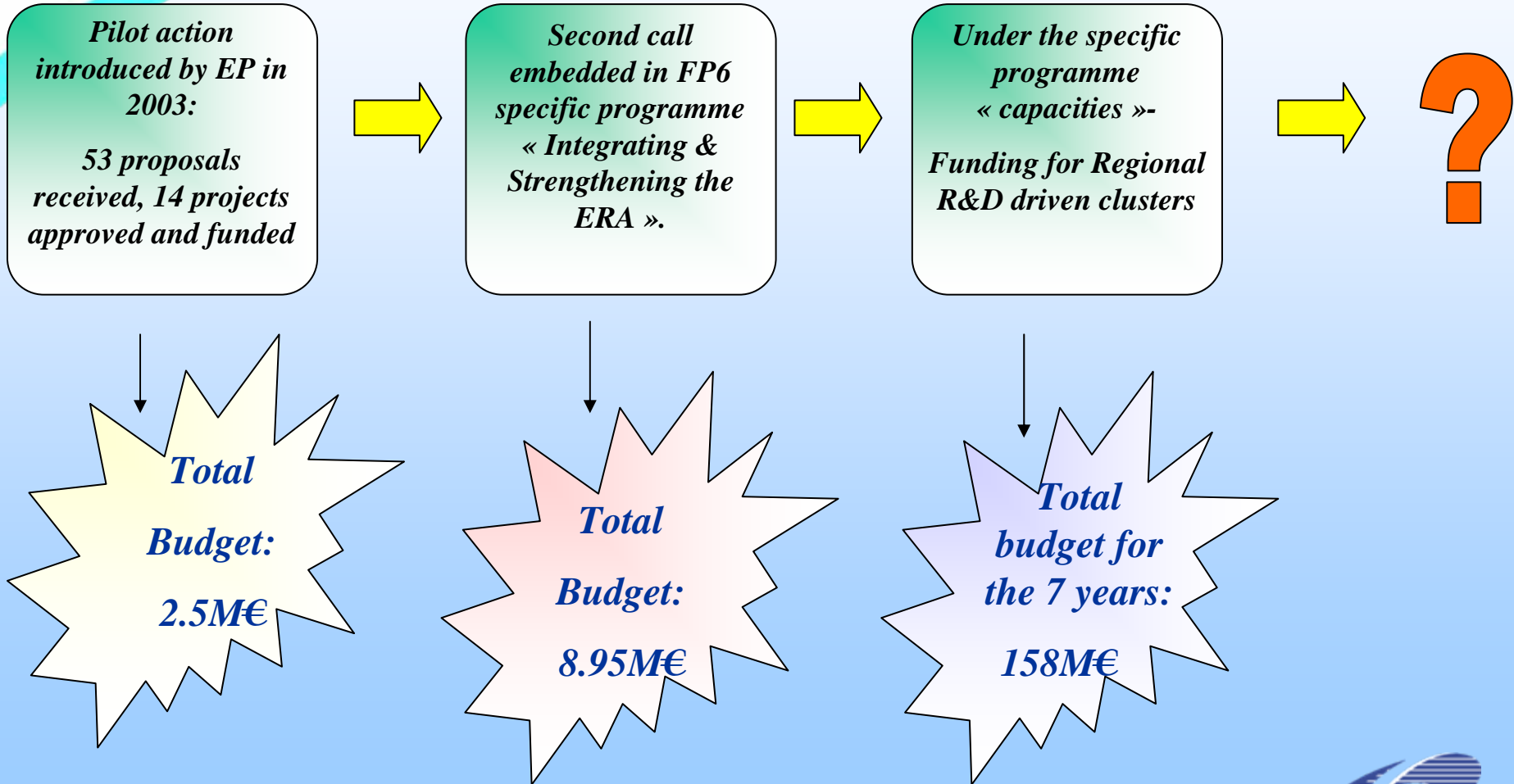
Expected outcomes:

- better integration of research actors and institutions in regional economies
- Improvement in research networking
- Increased synergy with other related EU policies:
 - **Structural funds**
 - Competitiveness and Innovation Programme
 - **Education and Training**





Regions of Knowledge “The story so far....”





Links

- **Seventh Framework Programme:**
<http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>
- **Regions and the European Research Area:**
<http://www.cordis.lu/era/regions.htm>
- **Information requests:**
research@cec.eu.int
- ➔ **Dimitri Corpakis- Directorate M, Head of Sector on Regional Aspects of Research Policy**





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Thank you for your attention!

