



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Regional Policy

The role of reformed Structural Funds in promoting regional innovation & competitiveness

Krakow, 21 April 2005

Olivier Baudelet

DG Regional Policy

Head of Sector

olivier.baudelet@cec.eu.int



This presentation will deal with:

1. The added value of regional policy
2. Regional policy and Lisbon Agenda
3. The reformed Structural Funds
4. Issues for the successful innovation & competitiveness through the SF



What does it bring?

1 Added value

- Leverage effect
- Programming effect
- Governance effect
- Effect on other EU policies
- Return effect



Lessons learned from the Kok Report

- EU should have "financial incentives"
 - Structural & Cohesion Fund
- There is a lack of "ownership"
 - Embedded in the european regional policy
- MS should adopt a "national action plan"
 - Regional policy is based on a strategy



Commission's proposal

- Background is enlargement
- 336 Bn €
 - Convergence: 78%
 - Competitiveness: 18%
 - Cooperation: 4%
- Competitiveness & innovation programme



Messages

- Innovation is a priority
- Regions have a big role to play
- There are challenges to tackle:
 - Absorbtion capacity
 - Innovativeness of the projects
 - Competence to implement
 - Knowledge & Imagination



1 - Governance

- Regional Innovation Strategies
- Public - Private Partnership
- Regional balance
- Evaluation and benchmarking
- Awareness initiatives
- Facilitating risk taking



2 – Innovative business environment

- Capacity (infrastructure, eqt & human cap)
- Financial instruments
- Facilitate the adaptation of SMEs
- Presence of qualified personnel

3 – Implementing instruments

- Use TA to identify projects
- Selection criteria linked to Lisbon
- Industry - Science relationship



Key messages

1. EU Regional policy adds value
(Cohesion & implementation of political priorities at the EU level into results)
2. EU Regional policy is a powerful tool to implement the Lisbon Strategy
3. Reformed SF will have innovation & competitiveness as one of its main objective with huge amounts