

Conference Conclusions

European Regions Knowledge-based Innovation Network

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Technological innovation and regional cohesion in a wider Europe

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ERIK network

ERIK Conference

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EU Structural Funds beyond 2006

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- Research and Technological innovation as a crucial objective for the European regional “development” strategy
- Innovation become a priority of the EU Structural Funds mainstream programs between 2007-2013
- **no** Innovative Actions or pilot projects under European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Main issues


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- A faint, orange-toned map of Europe is visible in the background of the slide, overlaid with a light gray grid pattern.
1. Relevance of the local (regional) level in the programming of Innovation (or development) Strategies (e.g. Jouen+Regional examples)
 2. The need to have an integrated strategic approach (e.g. Reppel, Baudelet)
 3. Relevance of pilot project in Innovation, allowing certain risk (e.g. Healy, Priedl, Jouen)

WHY ?

1 Relevance of the Regional Innovation (or development) Strategy

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- It may lower the level of opportunism and increase the integration of policies because it is an **inclusive** process
 - It's a process which builds and/or enforces institutional capacity (mapping, generating and organising knowledge)
 - It gives opportunity to establish regional networks and discover new potential niches of cooperation between sectors

2 Relevance of a regional integrated strategic approach

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- **Horizontal approach:** Innovation is fostered in different policy schemes therefore an enhanced "trans-policy" approach is necessary

3. Relevance of pilot projects

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ERIK POSITION ON EUROPEAN AND REGIONAL INNOVATION POLICIES / 1

The EU Structural Funds, most notably ERDF, **should** continue to offer a possibility for on-going testing of experimental measures in the field of regional innovation policies

ERIK position

EU Structural Funds beyond 2006

Policy recommendation

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WHY ?

- growing demand from the EU regions (139 out of 156 eligible European regions now implement RPIA)
 - value-added of European dimension of Innovative Actions: diverse expertise and good practices valid for different regional contexts
- a need for a flexible innovation policy tool allowing certain risk

ERIK position EU Structural Funds beyond 2006

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ERIK POSITION ON EUROPEAN AND REGIONAL INNOVATION POLICIES / 2

- The role of the regional networks established to support innovation measures should be strengthened

Relevance of regional networks

ERIK: what future role ?

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- A faint, orange-toned map of Europe is visible in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of the continents and major landmasses.
- disseminate experience and good practices of innovative actions (relevant also for mainstream SF programs)
 - provide a policy forum and partner search platform for European regions
 - include the new member state regions in the innovation policies through regional mentoring schemes (ERIK+)
 - provide policy recommendations for Regional and European policy makers and practitioners

More information

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Thank you

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