



28-29 June 2010

Lyon, Rhône-Alpes (France)

Event **Towards a common European and Regional strategy for plastics clusters**

EU funding opportunities for innovative clusters:
Searching for synergies

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Clusterplast

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A relevant context to address synergies:

- EU 2020 (03/10), WIRE (03/10) & EP resolution (05/10)
- Title of this conference

Clusters are key elements in a regional innovation system:

- Universities and Higher Education Institutions,
- Research centres and technology institutes,
- Businesses and their (multi)sectoral organisations, social partners, regional development agencies,
- Other stakeholders: NGOs, consumers & citizens associations,
- Public authorities representing the different policy areas.



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Different policies, complementary aims

- Research policy for excellence in research
 - Framework Programme (FP)
 - Enterprise and Industry Policy for excellence in business
 - Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)
 - Regional Policy for a balanced territorial development (ERDF & CF)
 - Reducing regional disparities, in a sustainable way
 - Promoting regional competitiveness, growth and jobs
 - Social Policy for employment and social inclusion (ESF)
 - More & better jobs, training,
 - Other policies: education, rural and coastal development.
- **Adapting excellence to regional needs** (smart specialisation)
- **Regional innovation systems require synergies**

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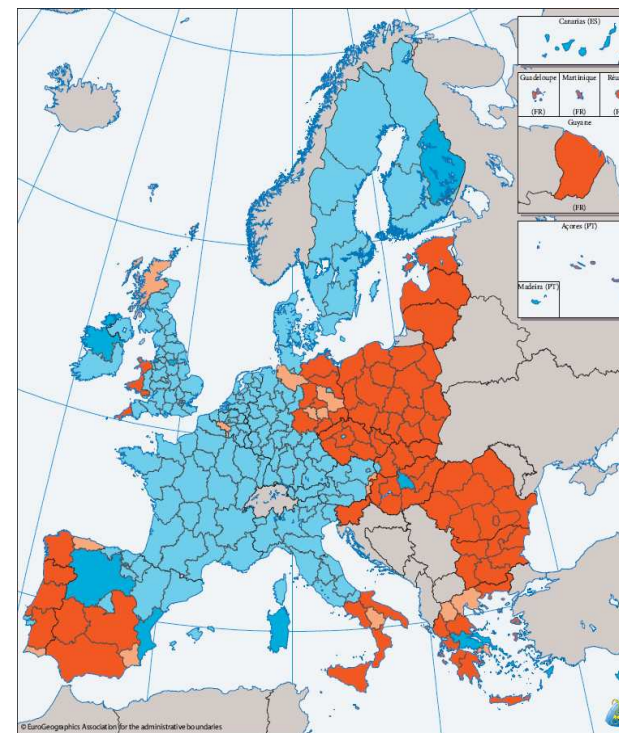
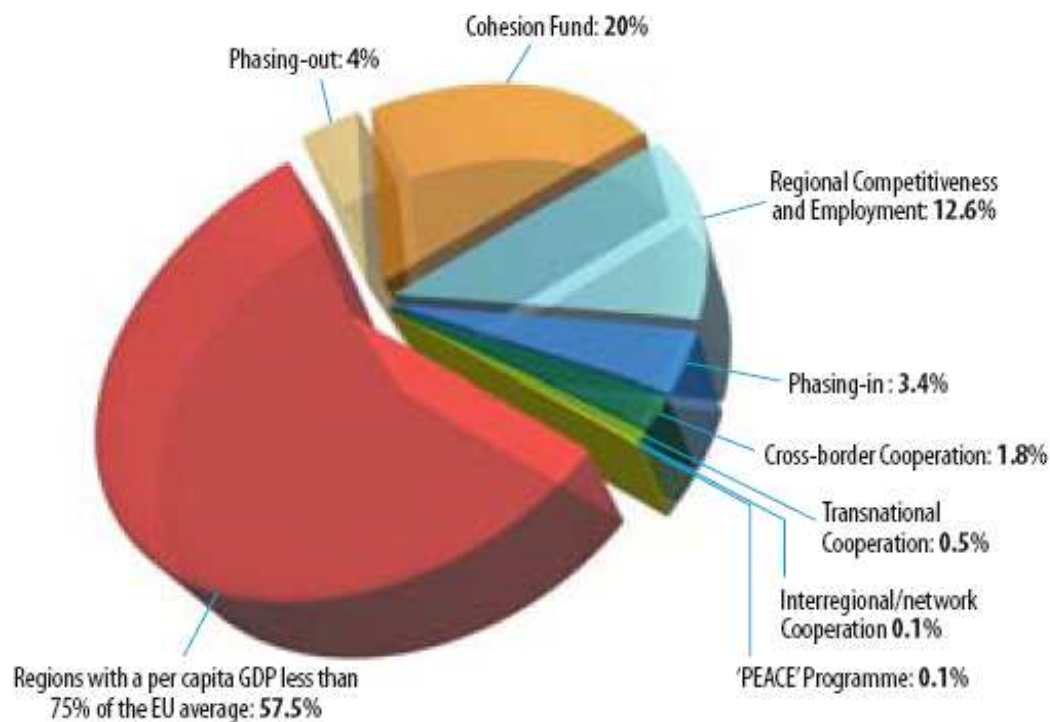
Cohesion Policy

2007-2013

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Structural Funds 2007- 2013:
Convergence and Regional Competitiveness Objectives

- Convergence Regions
- Phasing-out Regions
- Phasing-in Regions
- Competitiveness and Employment Regions

Cohesion Policy (2007-2013): € 347 billion





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Specificities of Cohesion Policy

- Reducing regional disparities
- Promoting competitiveness, growth and jobs
- Addressing sustainability issues
- 2 Structural Funds (SF):
 - ERDF: European Regional Development Fund (economic activities)
 - ESF: European Social Fund (human capital)
- RTD-I crucial to regions' economic performance
- Decentralised / shared management (OPs) & partnership
- Regions for Economic Change Initiative (Interreg IVC & Urbact)
 - Fast track networks for mainstreaming good practice from pilot scale,
 - RegioStars 2011: clusters & networks supporting growth & SMEs

Cohesion Policy & EU 2020: current & next period...



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Innovation: allocations under Cohesion Policy

€86 billion, i.e. **25%** of the total Structural Funds:

- €62 billion in Convergence regions
- €22 billion in Competitiveness & Employment regions
- €2.1 billion for territorial cooperation

This includes:

- RTD-I (RIs, TT, clusters, networks, incubators, services): €50 billion
- Entrepreneurship (start-ups & services): €8.3 billion
- Innovative ICT: €13 billion
- Human capital potential in RTD-I (training, mainly ESF)

Massive increase compared to 2000-2006 (from 11% to 25%):

Where are the projects to absorb the money?



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Innovation: a broad vision

R&D, not the only starting point for innovation (supply-driven):

- Demand-driven innovation and non technological innovation,
- From a linear approach to an interactive approach

Innovation is not limited to high tech & technology

- new products/services in all sectors (food ind, textile...)
- new strategies, new societal solutions
- new organisation, management and training models,

Innovation with all / for all (involving people / social innovation)

- potential & needs of disadvantaged people / groups: women; young, elderly & disabled people, ethnic minorities and migrant people; more than a social issue; it contributes to economic development.



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Regional Innovation Strategies: experience

Bridging the gap intentions / reality → RISs

Lessons from failure, difficulties with

- new participatory & transparent processes,
- traditional power boundaries between ministries/bodies

Lessons from success

- solid political commitment & consensus,
- shared public-private vision,
- public sector: less control / better economic environment, catalyse economic development by promoting new ideas and partnerships.



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Building Regional Innovation Strategies

Balance between different approaches

- supply-driven: R&D results / Demand-driven: SMEs' needs,
- global: several sectors / targeted approach: high tech or tradit.

With / for different types of SMEs (essential role)

- facilitating their access to: qualified workers; advice & support services; relevant information on funding; market,
- promoting entrepreneurship, clusters/networks,
- investing in human capital: new skills for new jobs.

Governance issues / Taking ownership of RISs

Promoting partnership at strategic / operational level between:

- national / regional / local authorities for relevant policies,
- private sector (businesses) & civil society (associations...).



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Synergies between EU policies

- to joint efforts for meeting long term challenges (e.g. climate, energy)
 - EU (ERDF, ESF, FP7, CIP), national, regional and private funds,
 - Ensuring that EU remains a leading player in the world of R&I,
- COMM “Competitive EU regions through RTD-I” (2007)
 - Underlining potential for synergies between FP7 / CIP / SF
 - Practical guide informing about funding options (FP7 / CIP / SF)
- Complementary financing: possible for RIs
 - FP7: planning, design & access to RIs / ERDF: construction of RIs
- Complementary financing: possible for RTD-I activities
 - After the construction of RIs funded by FP7 and/or ERDF, the use of RIs for research activities may be supported by FP7, CIP, ERDF/ESF
(no double or mixed financing for the same part of a project!)



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Role of national / regional authorities
implementing the different EU policies:

- **Exploiting the potential for synergies**
- **Fostering co-ordinated access to the EU funds:** possible policy mix to be explored with Managing Authorities (ad hoc template)
- **Ensuring communication & information**
- **Updating a database of projects**
- **Preventing financial irregularities**



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About EU support to R&I and involvement of Rhône-Alpes

- ERDF-OP: high potential for growth (15 centres of competitiveness)
 - 38% allocated to R&I, TT and bringing SMEs closer together,
 - 150 coop. projects RTD & Industry, 150 actions for entrepreneurship
- Cooperation between regions (under ERDF & FP7)
 - ERDF: ECREIN (eco-innovation, Interreg), calls for projects, Open days
 - Coord. 2 FP7-RoK projects: Clusterplast (plastic ind.), PITER (energy),

Congratulations for the involvement of regional authorities & clusters!

- Encouragement to further develop synergies FP7/CIP/ ERDF + ESF (e.g.)
 - Finding sustainable solutions: mainstreaming into ERDF programmes
 - Linking different clusters initiatives / CIP-supported projects: European clusters alliance European clusters observatory (WIRE conclusions)



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From synergies of policies...: Recommendations at EU policy level

- Strengthen cooperation among EU Commission DGs:
 - Higher education, research, enterprise & industry policies
 - Structural policies: regional, social, rural & maritime policies
- Reflect on harmonisation and simplification for EU 2020:
 - financial rules: eligibility of expenditure & payments of expenses,
 - Procedures: submission and assessment of projects,
[but specificities, differences between centrally or shared management]
- Promote good practice of policy mix & governance:
 - Identify regional innovation systems based on policy mixes fostering complementarities in the implementation of EU policies linked to R&I,
 - Analyse success factors, e.g. governance / partnership issues,
 - Disseminate good practice and encourage its implementation.



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... to synergies of action: Recommendations to MS & regions

- Establish nat. & reg. integrated innovation strategies:
 - combining EU funding opportunities linked to research & innovation,
 - catalysing partnership among public and private stakeholders, in particular between universities, research centres and businesses (e.g. science parks with incubators for innovative start-ups, EIT-KICs)
- Explore possible ERDF support to FP7 or CIP projects:
 - selected but not retained by FP7 or CIP due to the lack of financial resources (if regional impact); ERDF may also use of related ideas,
 - identified and shaped in the context of centrally managed EU projects, but whose implementation falls outside the scope of EU programmes,
- Foster transfer of good practice to large scale:
 - good practice tested at pilot scale (e.g. under FP7-RegPot/RoK, CIP, Interreg) could be mainstreamed into ERDF operational programmes.



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Visit the EU specific websites

- Practical Guide on EU funding opportunities for research & innovation:
http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html
- FP7: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html
- CIP: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm
- ERDF: Managing Authorities for the Operational Programmes
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/index_en.htm
- ESF: Managing Authorities for the Operational Programmes
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/index_en.htm

Contact the information centres & the MAs in the MS

- EEN – Enterprise Europe Network: for FP7 and CIP
- NCP – National Contact points: for FP7; for CIP (energy & ICT)
- SF – Managing Authorities: contacts & OPs summaries in web-sites; funding depends on their budget planning, timing and procedures.

Thank you for your attention !