



*“In order to get a comprehensive insight into the actual impact of regional innovation policy on the entirety of the regional enterprises and beyond that on the whole region, there is no other way than developing, testing, verifying, mainstreaming and continuously improving pragmatic and effective monitoring tools”, says Dr. Petra Bohuslav, Minister for Economy, Tourism, Technology and sports of the provincial government of Lower Austria. “And we prefer to accompany these activities by inter-regional European collaboration in order to think out of our regional box.”*

In times of growing financial uncertainty and increasing rates of indebtedness, also of provincial governments, the necessity to demonstrate the actual added value of regional innovation policy for enterprises as well as for the welfare of the whole region is becoming an increasingly crucial issue in order to ensure that the required money for future innovation policy is included in the regional budget.

SCINNOPOLI partners observe a growing effort of measuring and benchmarking the performance of national and regional economic and innovation systems in Europe. The introduction of the Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS) has boosted the endeavours of the European regions to improve their position in the RIS ranking. But the question is: “How to improve the regional innovation performance, if even the impact of single measures and therefore in particular the aggregated impact of a regional system of innovation support measures is not transparent?” This question is not sufficiently solved until today.

Furthermore the availability of overall innovation (performance) data is not guaranteed in all European regions, as pointed out in the latest RIS 2009. This is in particular valid for Objective Competitiveness regions in e.g. Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, the UK and France.

The lessons learnt for the SCINNOPOLI Partners are: it is not sufficient, if national and European statistics institutes are dealing with measuring the regional innovation performance in cooperation with further scientific institutions. Instead, it is necessary that the awareness and – even more

important – the willingness of gaining insight into the impact of the own regional policy on companies and the region has to be anchored in every European region and the responsible authorities. These are the prerequisites to influence the impact of regional innovation policy and to foster the regional innovation performance in a systematic and knowing way – on regional level and thus on European level. Therefore the SCINNOPOLI regions undertake comprehensive activities to improve their regional monitoring system by learning from each other, importing acknowledged Good Practices and improving effective monitoring tools.

The SCINNOPOLI partners have many years of experience in dealing with regional innovation profiles and impact assessment of regional innovation policy. Thus SCINNOPOLI can be considered as a European pool of “pragmatic” experts with regional experiences in monitoring of regional innovation policy and European experiences from e.g. several interregional projects on ‘Regional Innovation Policy Impact Assessment and Benchmarking’.

The partnership under the leadership of the provincial government of Lower Austria consists of 9 regions from 8 European countries including advanced as well as catching-up regions.

SCINNOPOLI regions want to be a Good Practice for other European regions in scanning the impact of regional innovation policy – and in particular for the managing authorities of the Regional Operational Programmes.

SCINNOPOLI is a Capitalisation Project, co-financed by INTERREG IVC, the European programme for interregional cooperation, and supported as Fast Track Project by the European Commission. SCINNOPOLI’s overall objective is to continuously improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the regional innovation policy through an effective impact scan system.