



KNOWLEDGE – NETWORKS – GOVERNANCE

IKINET results and recommendations from an Austrian perspective

Michael Steiner

Policy Forum

Regional competence centres

and European knowledge and innovation networks:
an international comparison of innovation cluster policies

Roma, September 19 – 20, 2007

Institute of Technology
and Regional Policy - InTeReg
Elisabethstraße 20
A-8010 Graz
Tel.: ++43 316 876 1488
Fax: ++43 316 876 1480
e-mail: michael.steiner@joanneum.at

Department of Economics
Universitätsstraße 15/F4
A-8010 Graz
Tel.: ++43 316 380 3450
Fax: ++43 316 380 9520
e-mail: michael.steiner@uni-graz.at



MAIN RESULTS

- Background: Styria - from old industrial area to knowledge intensive region
 - network strongly based on knowledge intensive relation
 - firms pursue different and specific sourcing strategies
 - interactions are strongly structured
 - new cooperative R+D institutions – „competence centres“ as important elements
 - networks / clusters as institutions for knowledge exchange
- ➔ clusters as a „scientific community“



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- organization of networks in the whole context of innovation and technology policy
- basic need to devise policy instruments for specific target groups
- 7 core themes
 - building upon regional strenghts and developing proactive cluster policy
 - extension and further development of leaders in innovation
 - internationalization and inter-regionalization
 - promoting new company formation which is technology oriented and knowlegde based
 - job qualifications and further training and education
 - strenghtening the regional knowledge infrastructure
 - policy design and implementation



PROACTIVE CLUSTER POLICY

- clusters as institutionalized fields of regional competence
- changing organizational character
 - from public funding to self-financing with public tasks
- differentiation of regional cluster policy
 - company-related service structures
 - support of core cluster themes by devising long-term programmes
 - providers of access to company activity
- mixed financing of cluster activities
 - promotion fees for member firms for current services
 - support in core themes via personal resources and special research programmes
 - project-oriented public funding



DYNAMIZATION OF REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE INFRASTRUCTURE

- permanent monitoring and refocusing of regional competence fields

developed – developing – emerging fields

- development of new institutions – „Competence Centres“ – as temporary funded cooperation in specific research fields between government, industry and science on competitive basis

examples:

Acoustic CC

CN Water Resources

Polymer CC

CC Virtual Vehicle

new: COMET- Competence Centers for Excellent Technology

- management and coordination of differentiated research institutions

- Styrian Research Council; Research Forum
- Technology Concept Styria; Research Strategy Styria
- research networks: NANONET Styria
 SIMNET Styria



IN SEARCH OF INTERNATIONALIZATION / INTERREGIONALIZATION

- focus on bordering regions and countries



- cross-border value chains
- cluster and competence centers as gate keepers both for internationalization and regionalization

➔ KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS AS A
FITNESS PROGRAMME FOR REGIONS

Networking among R& D Institutions in the 5th Framework Programme (CORINNA)

