Regions at the Core of Europe's Future Competitiveness and Innovation Leadership

Policy Roundtable on the MFF (2028-2034) and Regional Innovation Strategies

14 April 2026
Brussels, Belgium

eurada

ERRIN European Regions Research and Innovation Network

Welcome



Pirita Lindholm

Director at ERRIN



Francesco Molica

Director at EURADA

Open letter on the Future of the EU Budget (2028–2034)

Ensuring Europe's Innovation & Competitiveness Leadership

eurada

ERRIN European Regions Research and Innovation Network

NESS

VANGUARD INITIATIVE New growth through smart specialisation

CPMR CRPM

NECSTouR

euregha European Regional and Local Health Authorities

FRIENDS OF SMART SPECIALISATION

EURASHE European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education

earlall EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

ebn

ERIAFF network European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry



Opening remarks

Siegfried Mureşan

Member of the European Parliament, Member of BUDG Committee, Rapporteur on MFF

Policy roundtable

Perspectives from European regions and institutions



Matthew Lowell

Policy Analyst at DG REGIO European Comission



Michael Johnsson

Director at Skåne European Office



Federica Garbuglia

Policy Officer at ART-ER, Region Emilia-Romagna



Thomas Wobben

Director for Legislative Works at European Committee of the Regions



Ilari Havukainen

Regional and Cohesion Policy Attaché, Finnish Permanent Representation

Moderator:



Raluca Abaseaca

North-East Romania Regional Development Agency

Open discussion



Lightning speech

Marcos Ros Sempere

Member of the European Parliament, Member of REGI Committee, Rapporteur on ERDF and Cohesion Funding

Concluding remarks

Mikel Landabaso

Director for Fair and Sustainable Economy, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission



Regional Innovation Strategies and their contribution to Europe's future Competitiveness

EURADA and ERRIN Conference "Regions at the core of Europe's Future Competitiveness and Innovation Leadership" Brussels 14th April 2026, House of the Dutch provinces

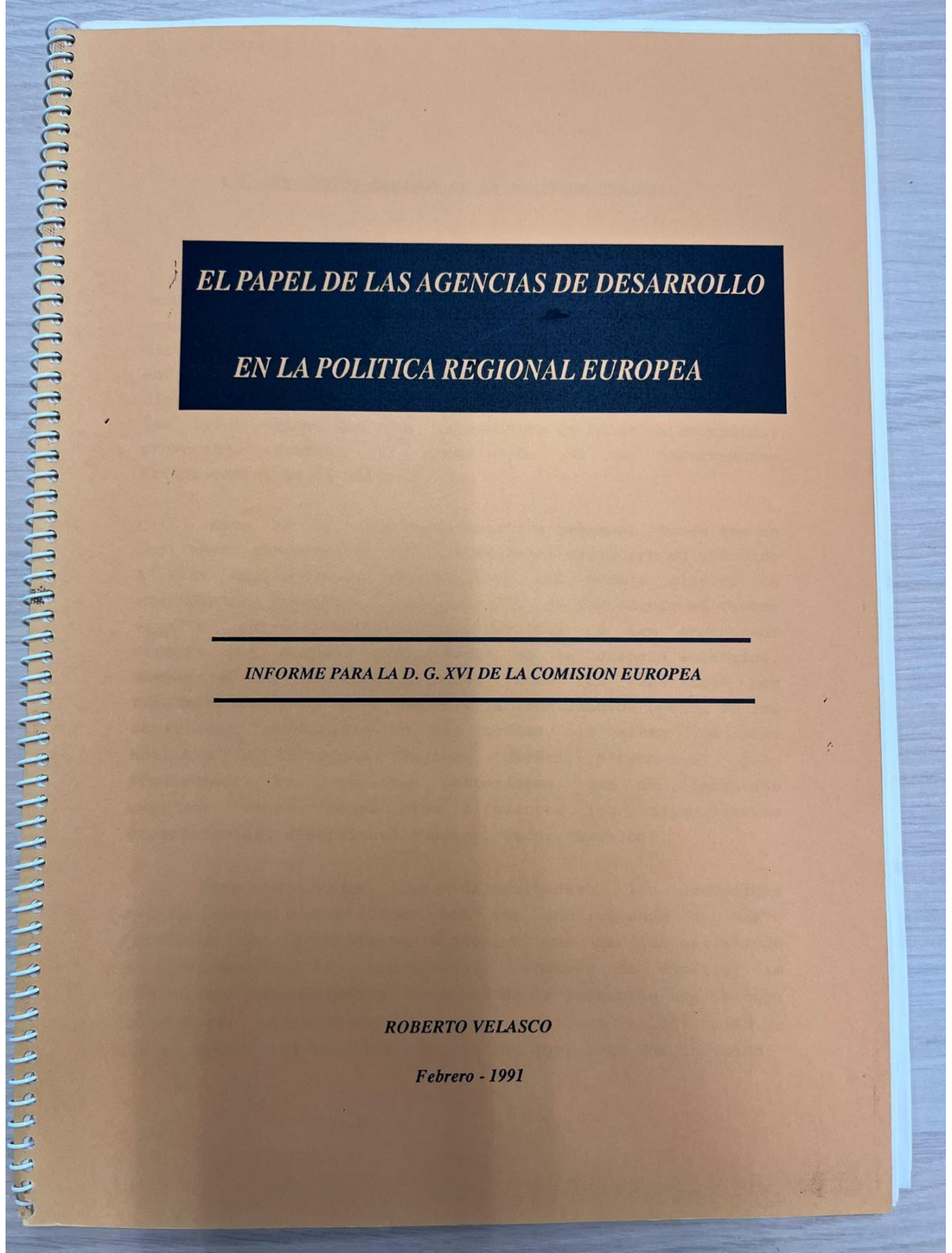
Míkel Landabaso
Director Fair and Sustainable Economy
Joint Research Centre, European Commission

European Commission

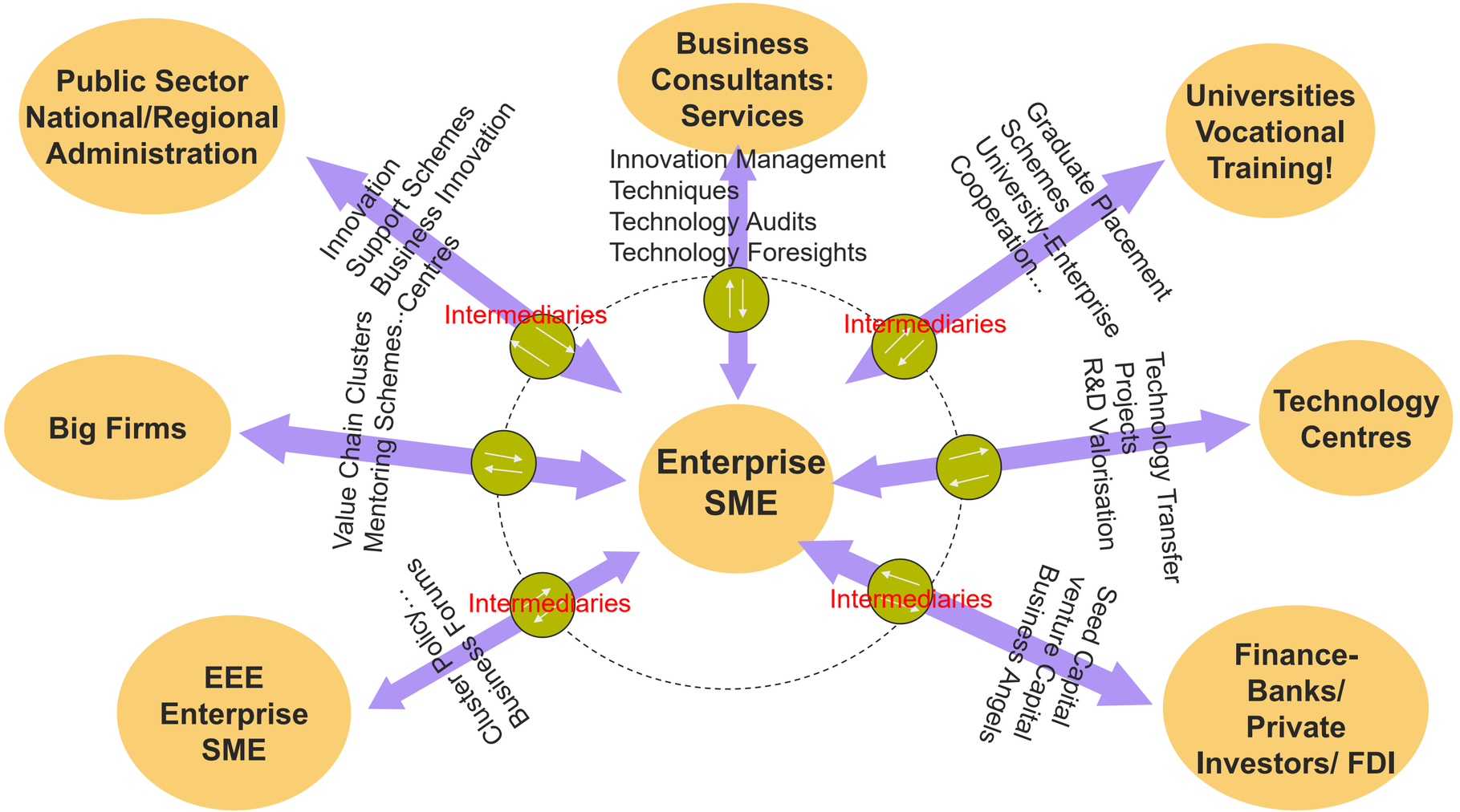
Index:

1. Micro: innovation as a source of competitiveness for firms
2. Meso: the importance of place
    - Institutional capacity for efficient innovation ecosystems
        - The Regional Innovation paradox
3. Macro: non linearity of the R&TDi process
4. Some lessons learnt along the way: the Long March of Regional Innovation Policy across the desert of the Washington Consensus
5. Fresh new Challenges: AI and Defence Spending – Dual Use?
6. Way forward: Transforming Territories (with and by the regions) for a more competitive, fair and sustainable EU Economy

Where it all began…EURADA: the very beginning - Art.10 ERDF (1991)



Key Hypothesis: “The competitiveness of a firm certainly depends on its own forces but in no less extent on the quality of its environment, sometimes referred to as ‘structural competitiveness” Chabbal 1994.



The Regional Innovation Paradox

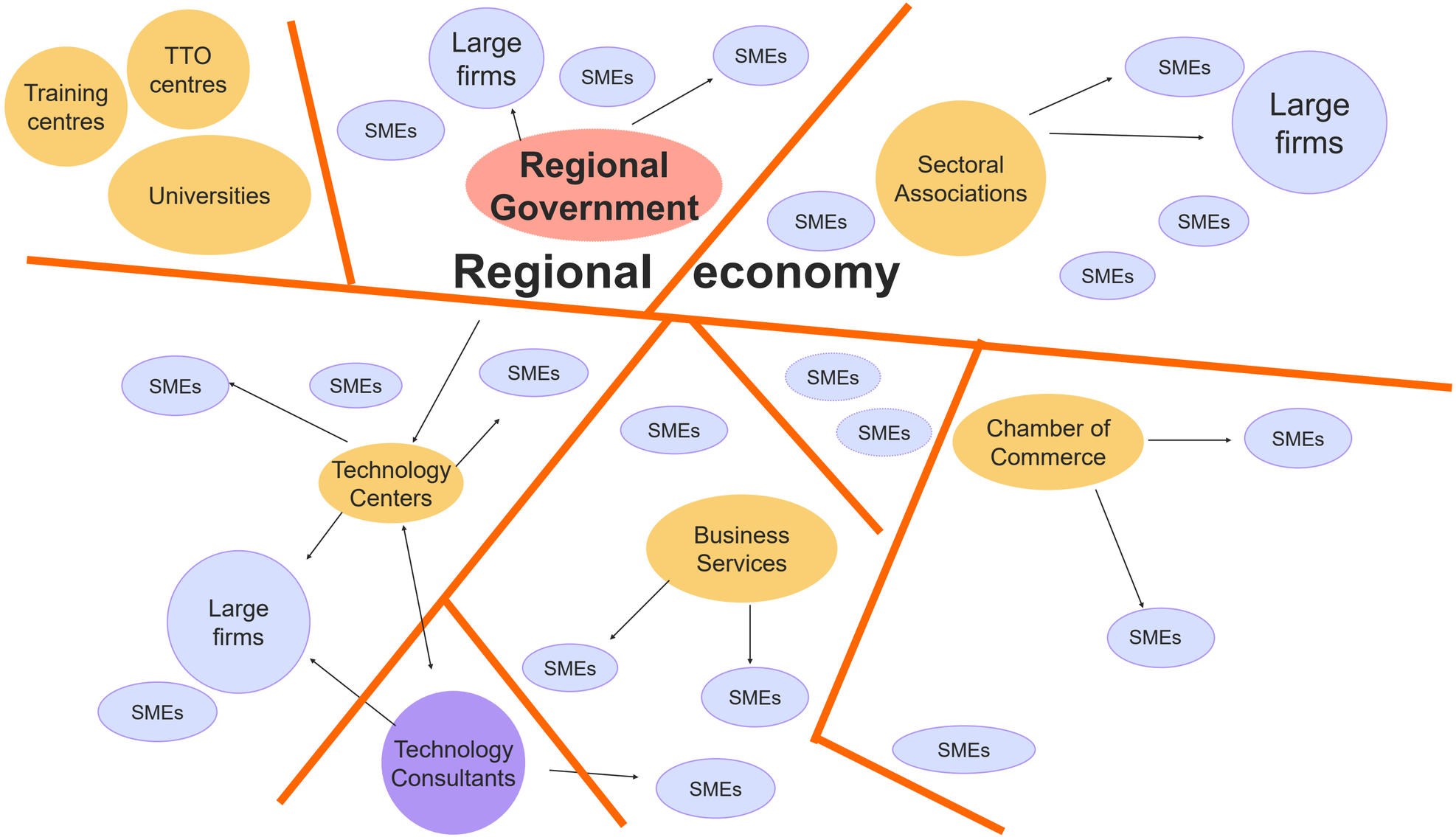


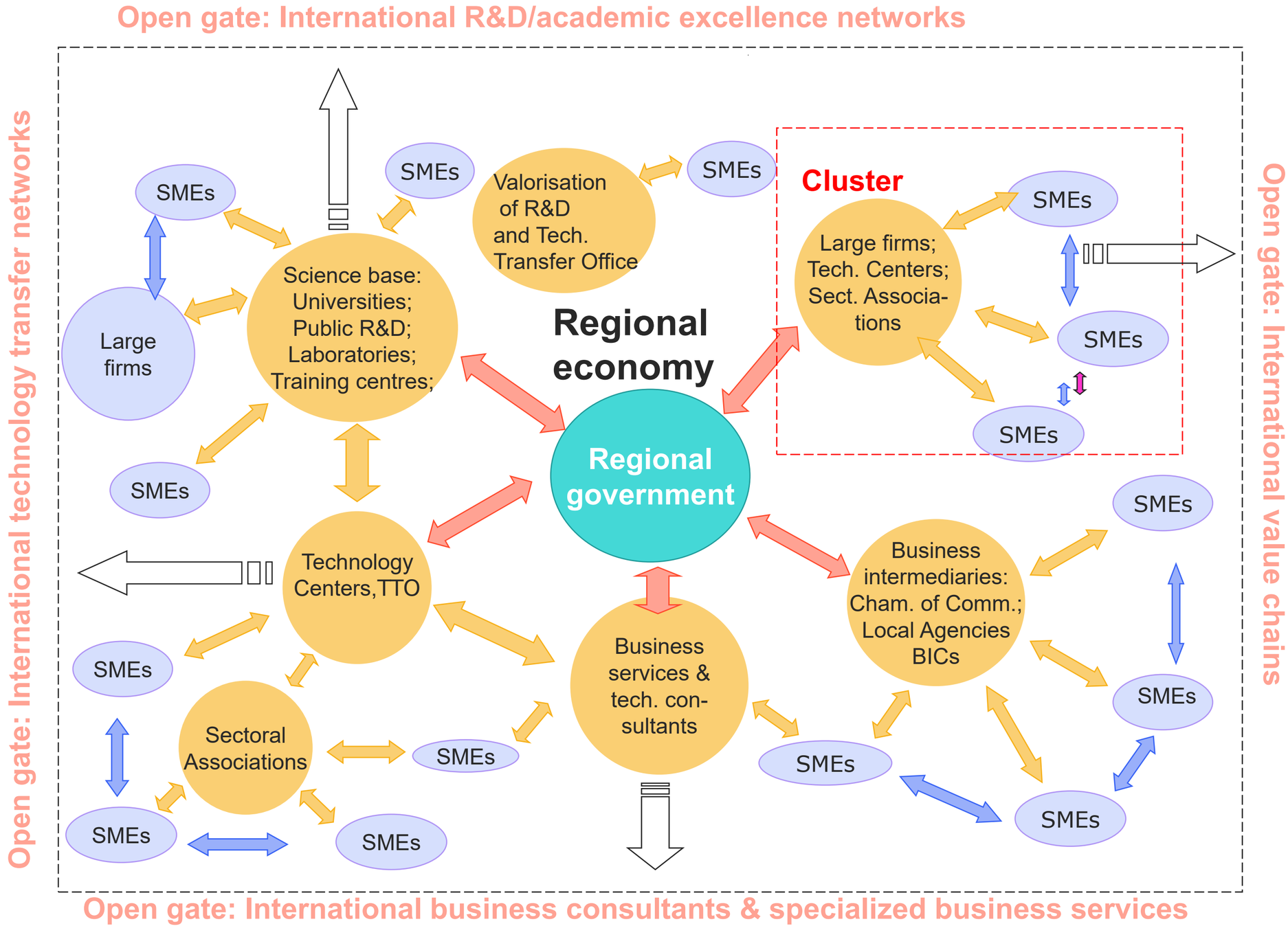
Regional Innovation Paradox: big need, big (public) money available and no capacity to invest in innovation.

Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013, Article 5(1)(b).

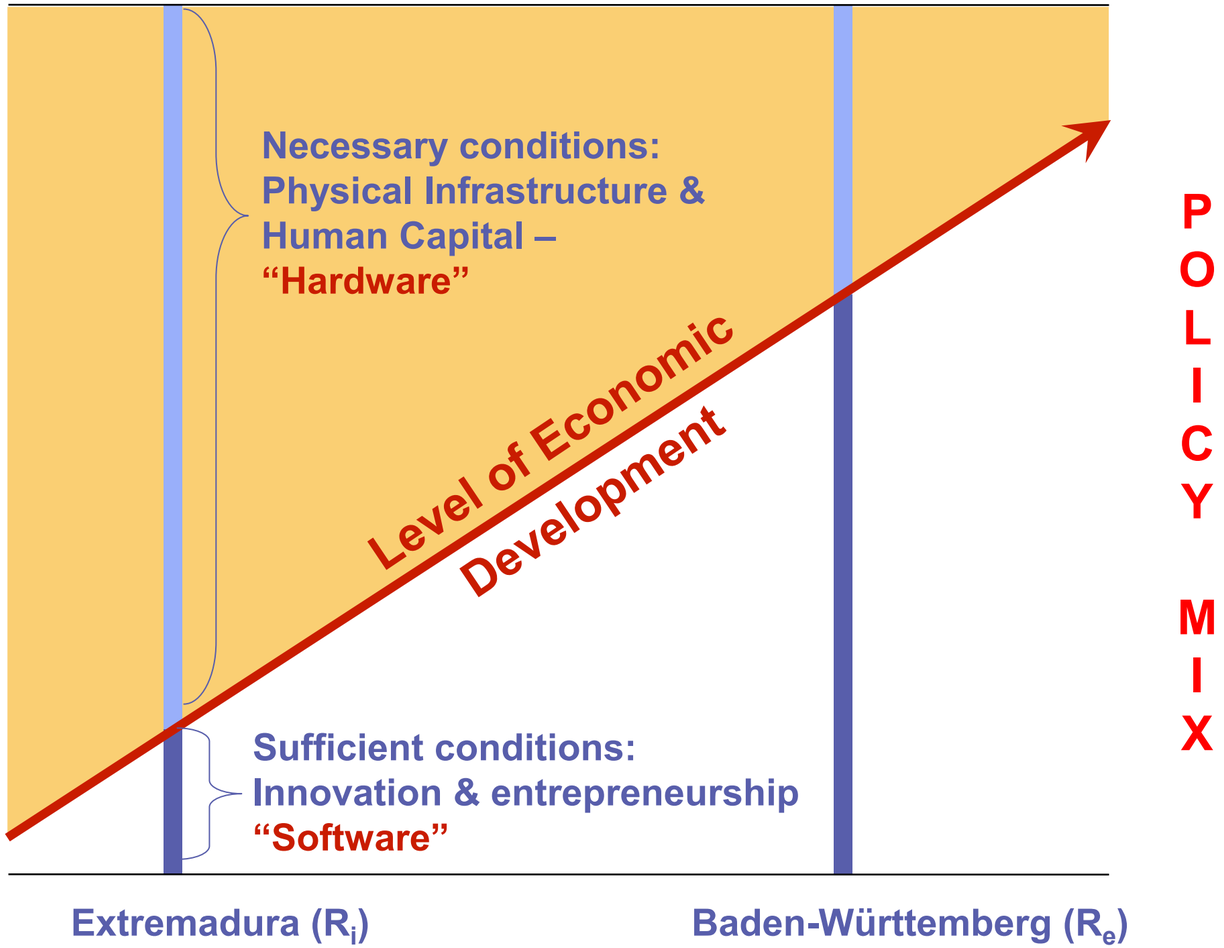
"...supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies..."

The Regional Innovation Paradox: A fragmented and inefficient regional economy opposing institutional change




Open gate: International R&D/academic excellence networks
Open gate: International technology transfer networks
Open gate: International value chains
Open gate: International business consultants & specialized business services
Regional economy
Regional government
Science base: Universities; Public R&D; Laboratories; Training centres;
Valorisation of R&D and Tech. Transfer Office
Large firms
Cluster
Large firms; Tech. Centers; Sect. Associa-tions
Technology Centers,TTO
Business services & tech. con-sultants
Business intermediaries: Cham. of Comm.; Local Agencies BICs
Sectoral Associations
SMEs

Climbing the development ladder calls for more innovation in the policy mix



P mix (Rn) = f (NC, SF) adapted to each regional context: business culture, institutional setting, sectoral/technology specialisation, firm size, inward investments, etc …

10 Structural factors affecting the regional innovation systems in lagging regions

(1) Weak co-operation links between the public and private sectors, and the lack of an entrepreneurial culture prone to inter-firm co-operation (absence of economies of scale and business critical masses which may make profitable certain local innovation efforts).

(2) Scarcity or lack of technological intermediaries capable of identifying and 'federating' local business demand for innovation (and R&TD) and channeling it towards regional/national/international sources of innovation (and R&TD) which may give response to these demands.

(3) Poorly developed financial systems (traditional banking practices) with few funds available for risk or seed capital (and poorly adapted to the terms and risks of the process of innovation in firms) to finance innovation.

(4) Lack of a dynamic business services sector offering services to firms to promote the dissemination of technology in areas where firms have, as a rule, only weak internal resources for the independent development of technological innovation (Capellin, 1989/9).

(5) Shortcomings relating to the capacity of firms in the regions to identify their needs for innovation (and the technical knowledge required to assess them) and lack of structured expression of the latent demand for innovation

(6) Lower quality and quantity of scientific and technological infrastructure (Talent diaspora).

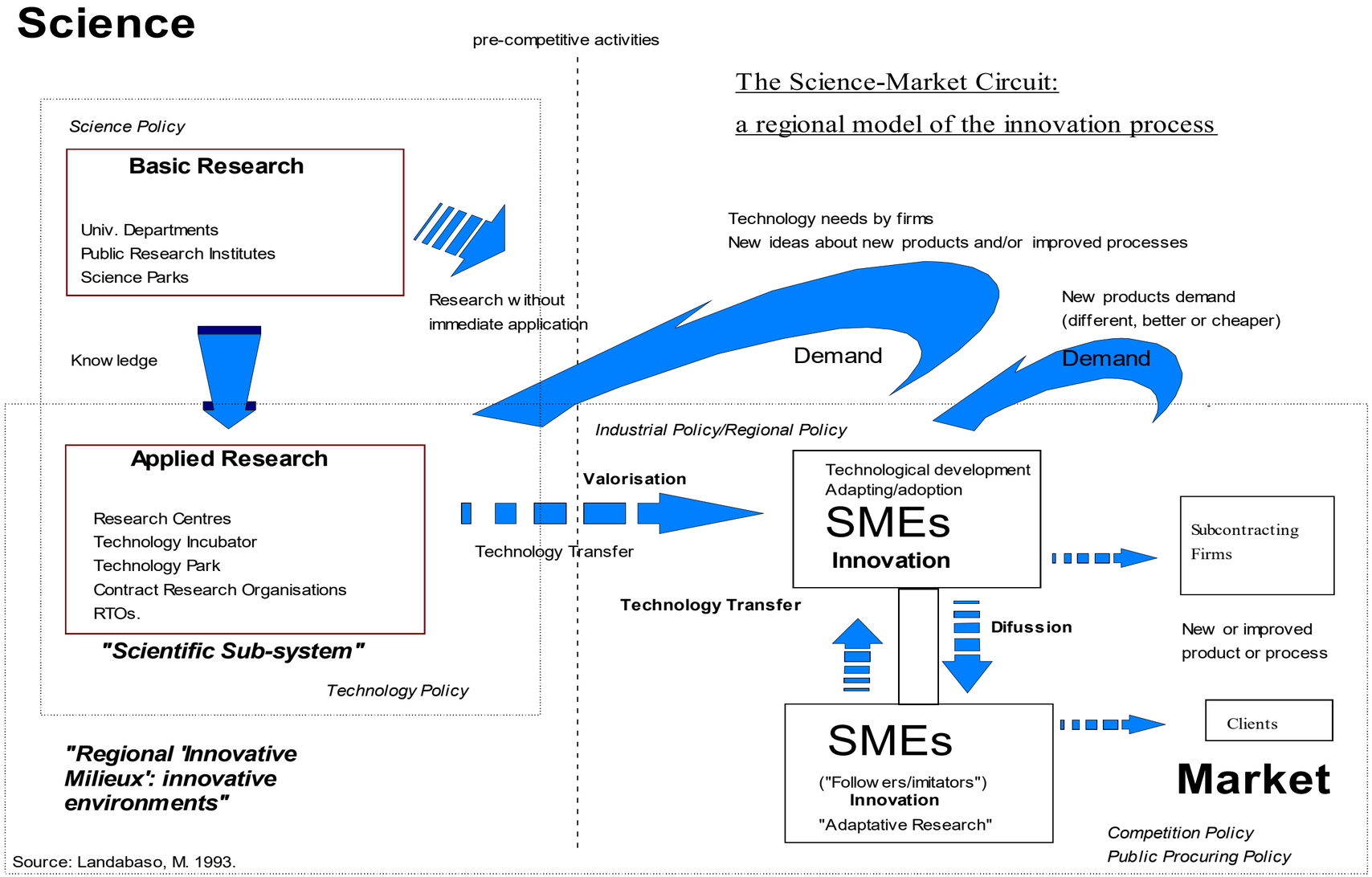
(7) Sectoral specialisation in traditional industries with little inclination for innovation and predominance of small family firms with weak links to the international market.

(8) Small and relatively closed markets with unsophisticated demand, which do not encourage innovation. (8) Little participation in international R&TD networks, scarcely developed communications networks, difficulties in attracting skilled labour and accessing external know-how.

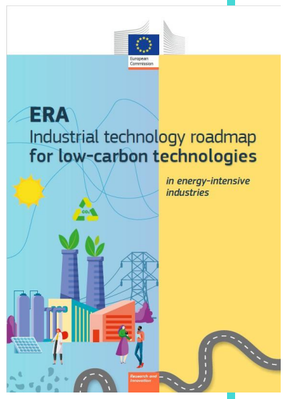
(9) Few large (multinationals) firms undertaking R&D with poor links with the local economy.

(10) Low levels of public assistance for innovation and aid schemes poorly adapted to local SMEs innovation needs

The non-linearity of the innovation process

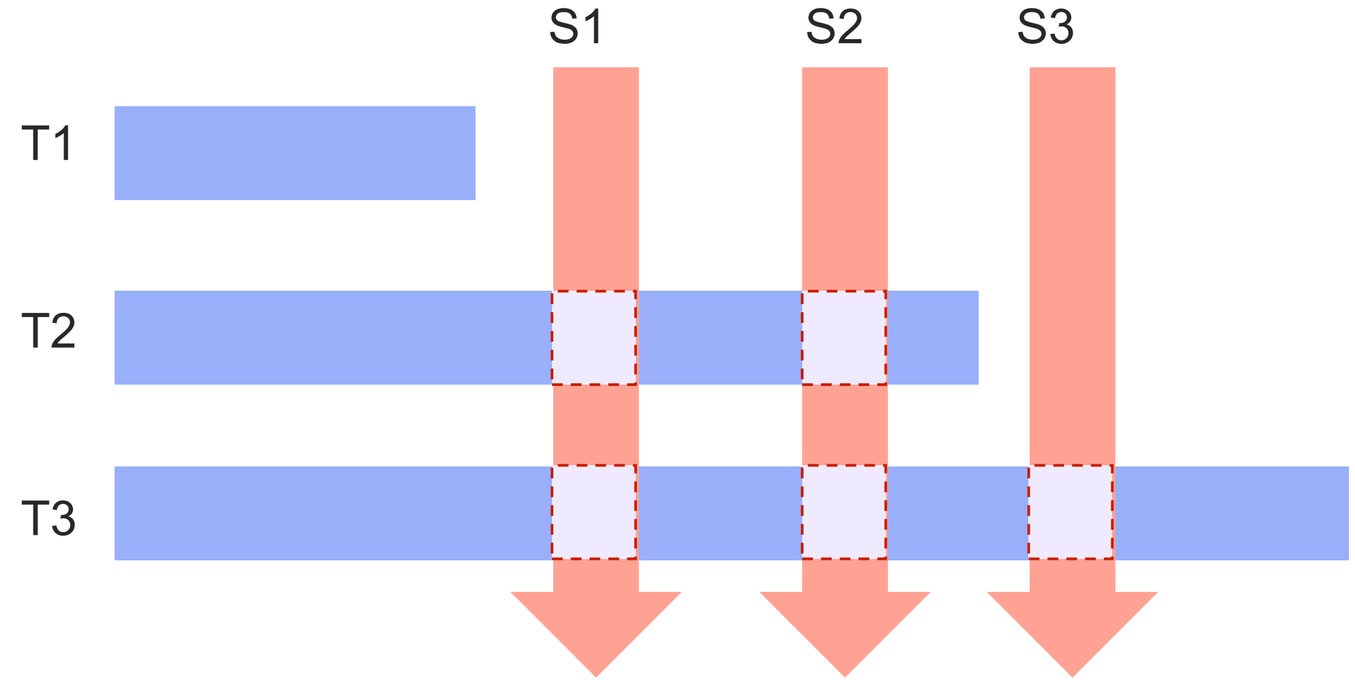


Place-based/regional approaches provide a socio-economic and institutional context to more narrowly focused (industrial and R&TDi) policy approaches



Technology Roadmaps
DG RESEARCH

Sectors Industrial ecosystems - DG GROW

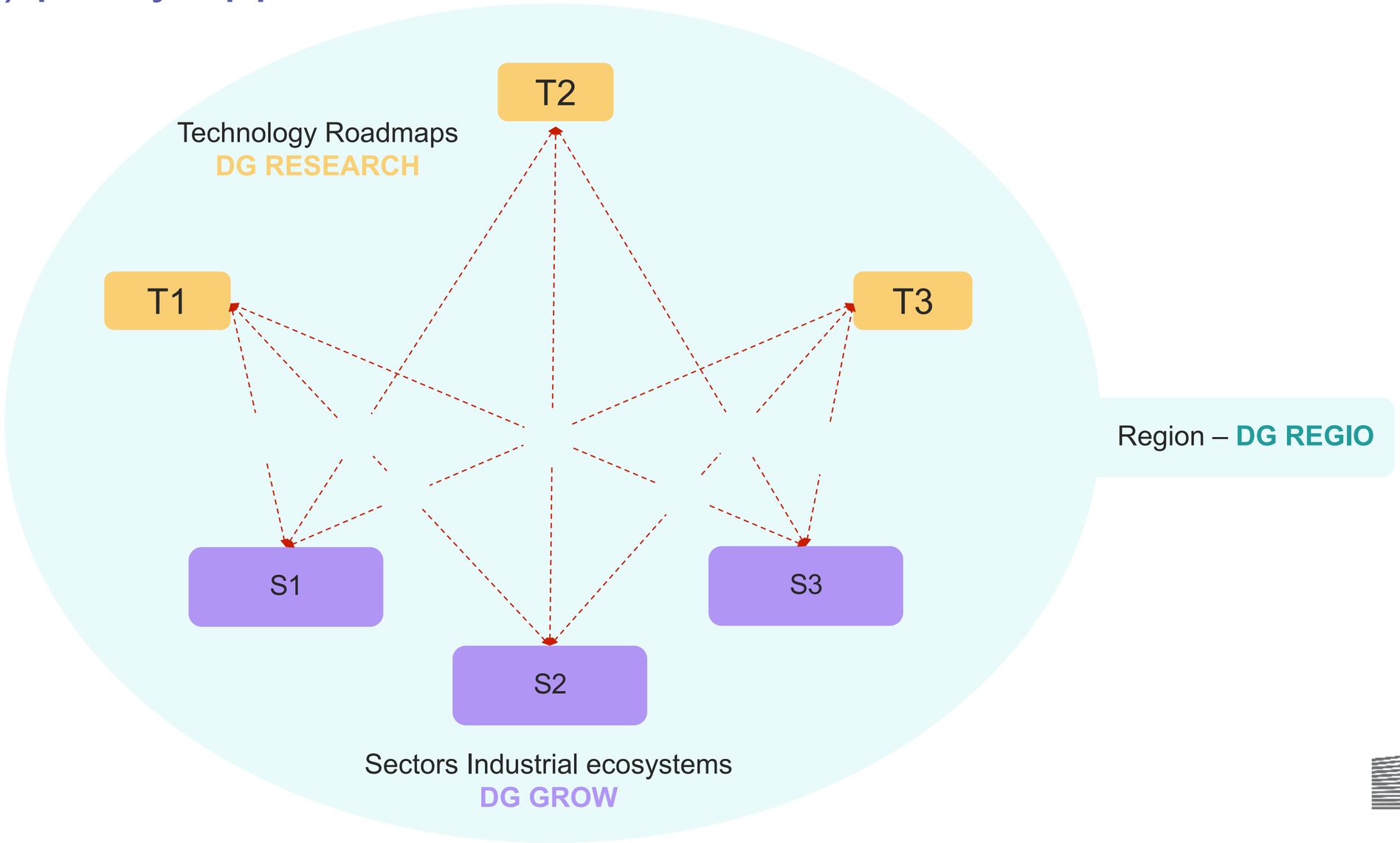




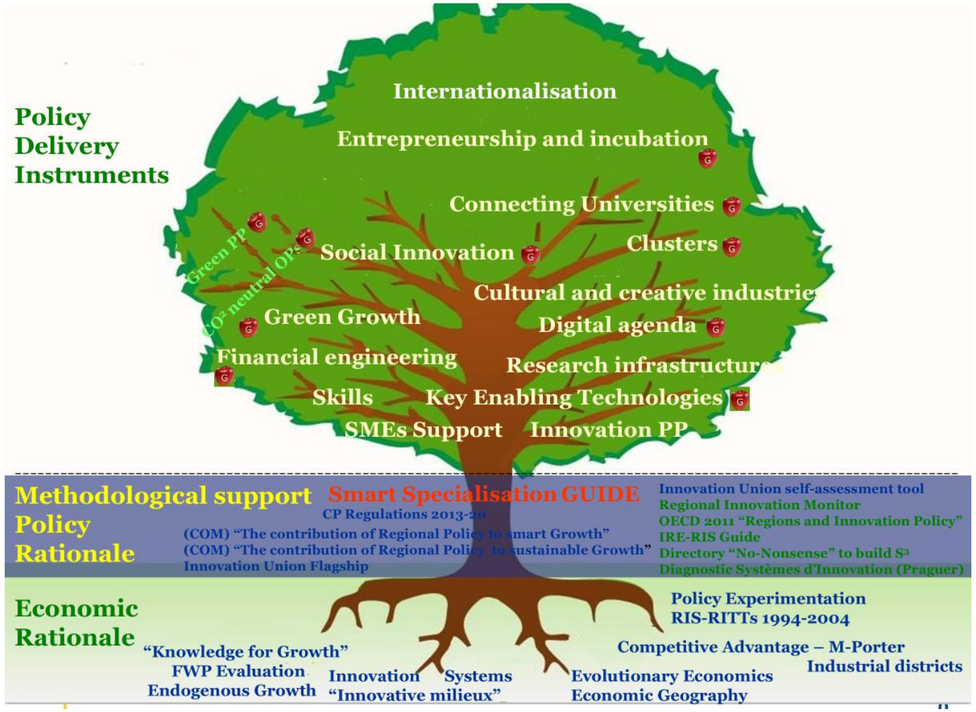


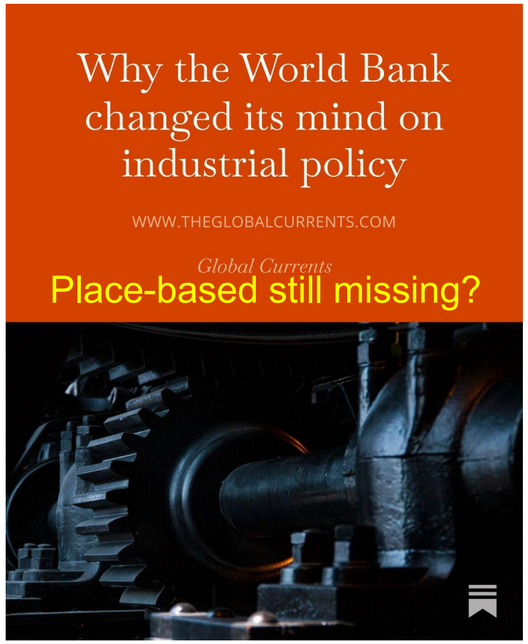
Region – DG REGIO

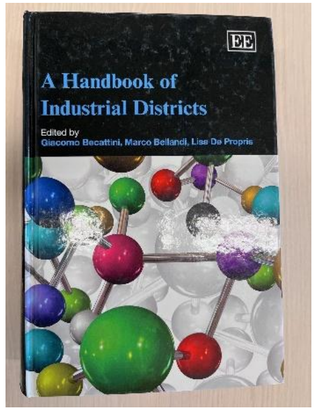
Place-based/regional approaches provide a socio-economic and institutional context to more narrowly focused (industrial and R&TDi) policy approaches



The long march of regional innovation







OECD (Conclusions of the Chair, High level Meeting, Martigny, Switzerland, July 2003)

"Both global economic growth and social cohesion require increasing the competitiveness of regions, especially where potential is highest. The comparative advantages that drive innovation and investment are as much a regional characteristic as a national one. For regions to succeed, they must harness their own mix of assets, skills and ideas to compete in a global market and develop unused potential".

Place-based in USA vs EU: Oklahoma Land Run vs 2500 years of an Epirus Taberna

Thomson Report 1973: *“Unless the Community’s economic resources are moved where human resources are, thus sustaining living local communities, there is bound to be disenchantment over the idea of European Unity….”*

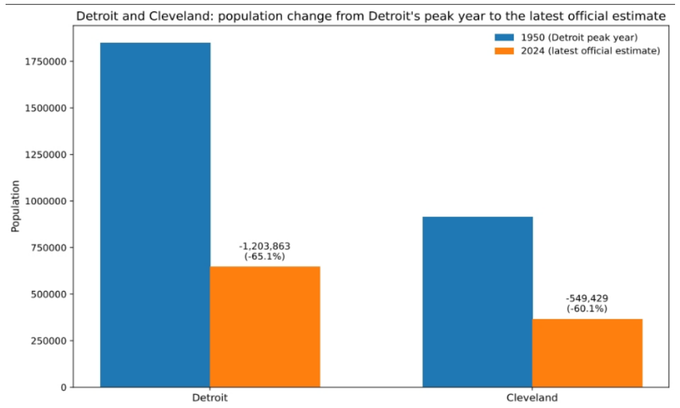


U.S.A. Big cities that come and go…

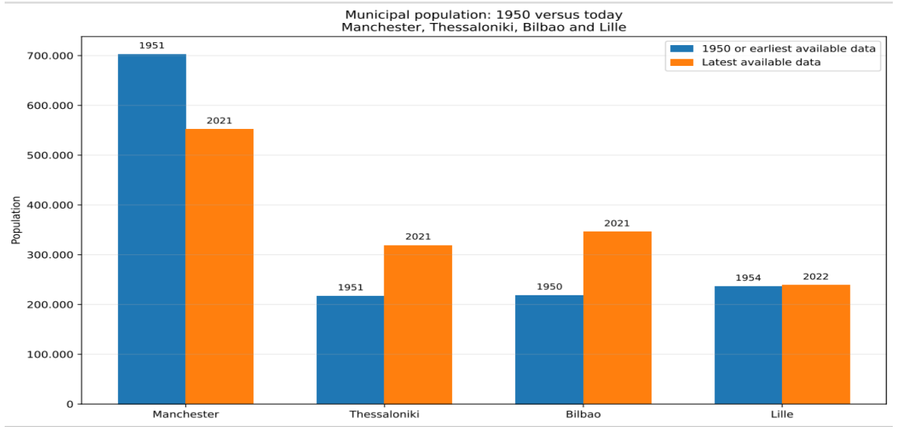




Institutions, history, language, entrepreneurial culture, specialization count… and a different notion of the “right to stay”



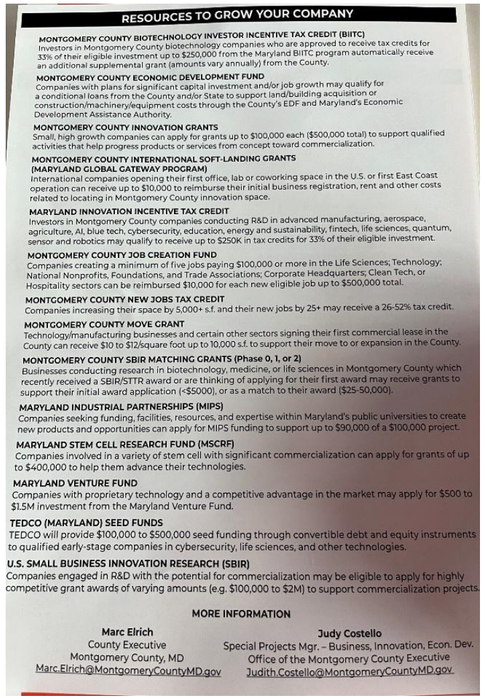
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Census Records: '10 Largest Urban Places'



Sources: Manchester City Council/Public intelligence and ELSTAT/Greek census materials
INE and INSEE

Regional Innovation Policy in USA: a hospital with only primary care doctors and focused on diagnostics and standard prescriptions (Tax credits and Reskilling…) ? Quid of therapy and surgeons?

How to Help left-behind regions and workers Prof. Gordon H. Hanson (LSE 28th October) "… *So the lesson from this is we are talking about an idea that is over 40 years old. What's needed in this space is not necessarily new ideas, where are we in place-based policy? It is not like cancer, with cancer, we need lots of molecular biologists who can find compounds that work. With place-based policy a lot of that has been done. The molecular biology is pretty well established. What we need are good primary care docs that can walk you through the menu of options you have available and help you understand the peculiarities of your specific diagnosis …"*



RESOURCES TO GROW YOUR COMPANY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BIOTECHNOLOGY INVESTOR INCENTIVE TAX CREDIT (BIITC)
Investors in Montgomery County biotechnology companies who are approved to receive tax credits for 33% of their eligible investment up to $250,000 from the Maryland BIITC program automatically receive an additional supplemental grant (amounts vary annually) from the County.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
Companies with plans for significant capital investment and/or job growth may qualify for a conditional loans from the County and/or State to support land/building acquisition or construction/machinery/equipment costs through the County's EDF and Maryland's Economic Development Assistance Authority.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INNOVATION GRANTS
Small, high growth companies can apply for grants up to $100,000 each ($500,000 total) to support qualified activities that help progress products or services from concept toward commercialization.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERNATIONAL SOFT-LANDING GRANTS (MARYLAND GLOBAL GATEWAY PROGRAM)
International companies opening their first office, lab or coworking space in the U.S. or first East Coast operation can receive up to $10,000 to reimburse their initial business registration, rent and other costs related to locating in Montgomery County innovation space.

MARYLAND INNOVATION INCENTIVE TAX CREDIT
Investors in Montgomery County companies conducting R&D in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, agriculture, AI, blue tech, cybersecurity, education, energy and sustainability, fintech, life sciences, quantum, sensor and robotics may qualify to receive up to $250K in tax credits for 33% of their eligible investment.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JOB CREATION FUND
Companies creating a minimum of five jobs paying $100,000 or more in the Life Sciences; Technology; National Nonprofits, Foundations, and Trade Associations; Corporate Headquarters; Clean Tech, or Hospitality sectors can be reimbursed $10,000 for each new eligible job up to $500,000 total.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEW JOBS TAX CREDIT
Companies increasing their space by 5,000+ s.f. and their new jobs by 25+ may receive a 26-52% tax credit.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MOVE GRANT
Technology/manufacturing businesses and certain other sectors signing their first commercial lease in the County can receive $10 to $12/square foot up to 10,000 s.f. to support their move to or expansion in the County.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SBIR MATCHING GRANTS (Phase 0, I, or 2)
Businesses conducting research in biotechnology, medicine, or life sciences in Montgomery County which recently received a SBIR/STTR award or are thinking of applying for their first award may receive grants to support their initial award application (<$5000), or as a match to their award ($25-50,000).

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS (MIPS)
Companies seeking funding, facilities, resources, and expertise within Maryland's public universities to create new products and opportunities can apply for MIPS funding to support up to $90,000 of a $100,000 project.

MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH FUND (MSCRF)
Companies involved in a variety of stem cell with significant commercialization can apply for grants of up to $400,000 to help them advance their technologies.

MARYLAND VENTURE FUND
Companies with proprietary technology and a competitive advantage in the market may apply for $500 to $1.5M investment from the Maryland Venture Fund.

TEDCO (MARYLAND) SEED FUNDS
TEDCO will provide $100,000 to $500,000 seed funding through convertible debt and equity instruments to qualified early-stage companies in cybersecurity, life sciences, and other technologies.

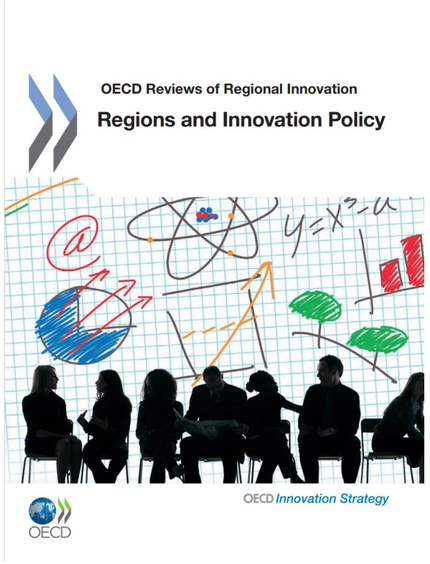
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR)
Companies engaged in R&D with the potential for commercialization may be eligible to apply for highly competitive grant awards of varying amounts (e.g. $100,000 to $2M) to support commercialization projects.

MORE INFORMATION

Marc Elrich
County Executive
Montgomery County, MD
Marc.Elrich@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

Judy Costello
Special Projects Mgr. – Business, Innovation, Econ. Dev.
Office of the Montgomery County Executive
Judith.Costello@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

The U.S. Place-Based Policy Supply Chain" (2025), by Gordon H. Hanson, Dani Rodrik, and Rohan Sandhu

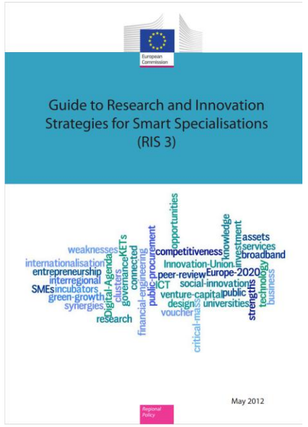






"If it works, it is fine but do not call it Industrial Policy" - "Reflexiones sobre las políticas de desarrollo económico en los EE.UU. frente al desafío de la 'nueva economía'" by Mikel Landabaso Álvarez, published in EKONOMIAZ. Revista vasca de Economía, no. 56 (2004), pages 84–131.

The Promotion of Innovation in European Regional Policy: a silent (r)evolution

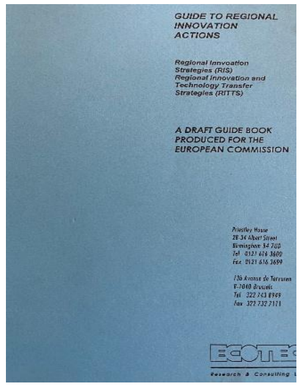


1989 – 1993: approximately 4% for innovation (2 billion out of 50)

- (L. Tsipouri, IPTS Report N°40, 2004)
- Community initiatives: Science and Technology for Regional Development – STRIDE, TELEMATIQUE, ENVIREG, VALOREN…

1994-1999: approximately 7% for innovation (7.6 billion out of 110)

- (L. Tsipouri, IPTS Report N°40, 2004)
- Pilot Projects: RIS, RIS+, RTTs, RISI, RISI2, IRISI, EBN, BICs



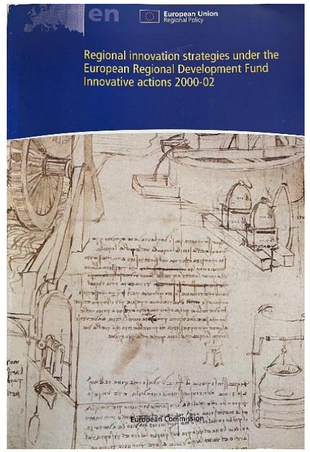
2000-2006: approximately 11% for innovation out of 195 billion

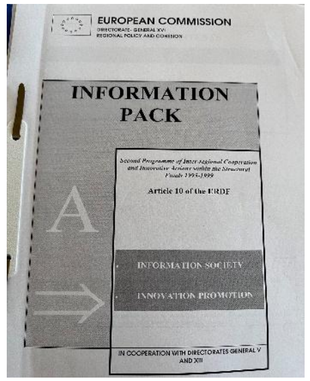
- ‘Regions in the new Economy’: PRAIS – Regional Programs of Innovative Actions 400 million

2007- 2013: approximately 25% for innovation (86 billion out of 345)

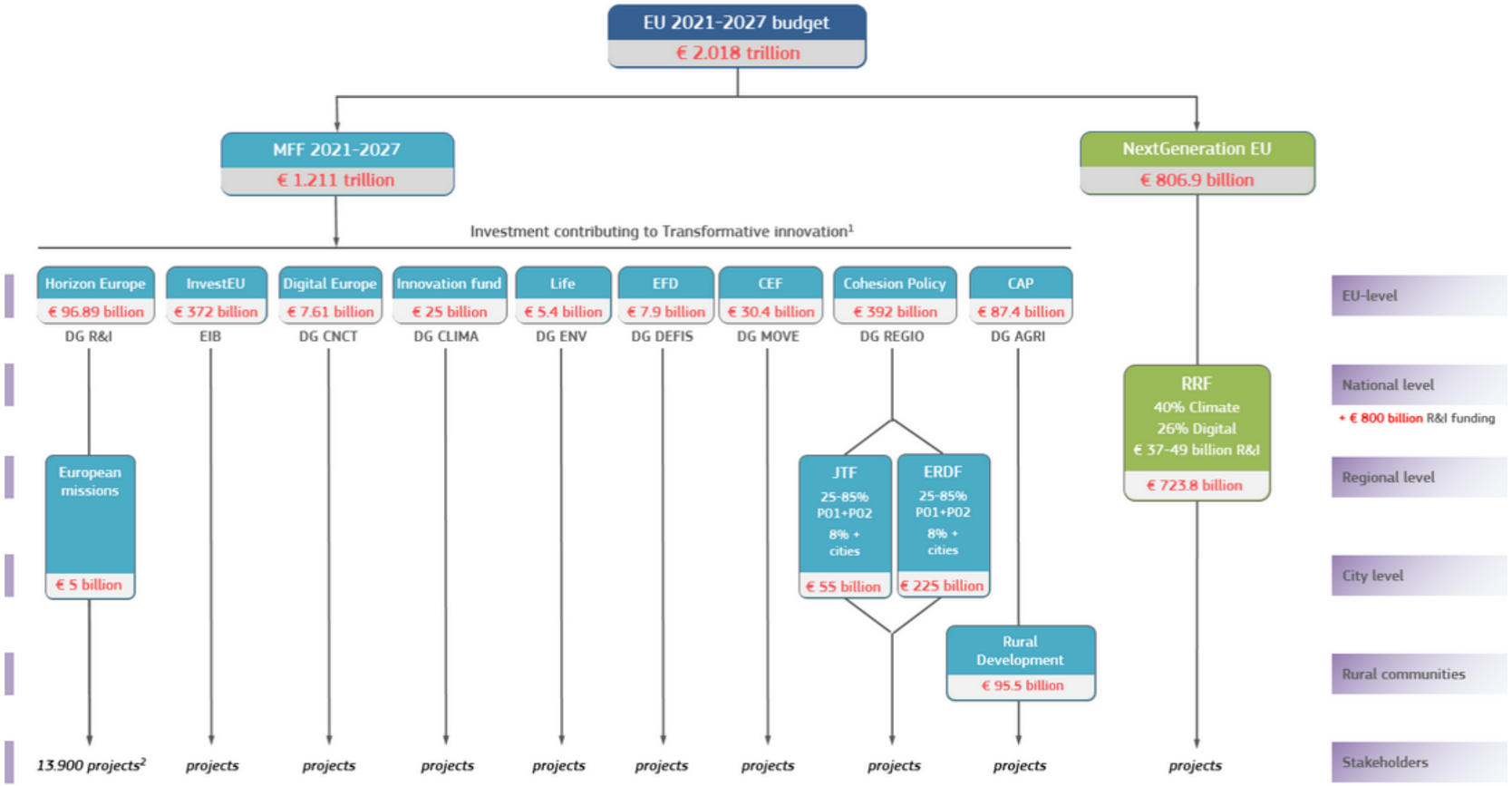
- Article 5 of the ERDF: innovation as a priority for the ‘Competitiveness’ objective -31.000 R&TD projects identified in only 95 ERDF Programs (40% of total budget) (Nordregio 2009)
- Regions for Economic Change

2014-2020: expected ERDF funding for R&D, innovation, ICT, competitiveness of SMEs and the low-carbon economy is about EUR 110 billion (RIS as an ex-ante conditionality for the first time)





Fragmentation of EU public investment – synergies & impact?



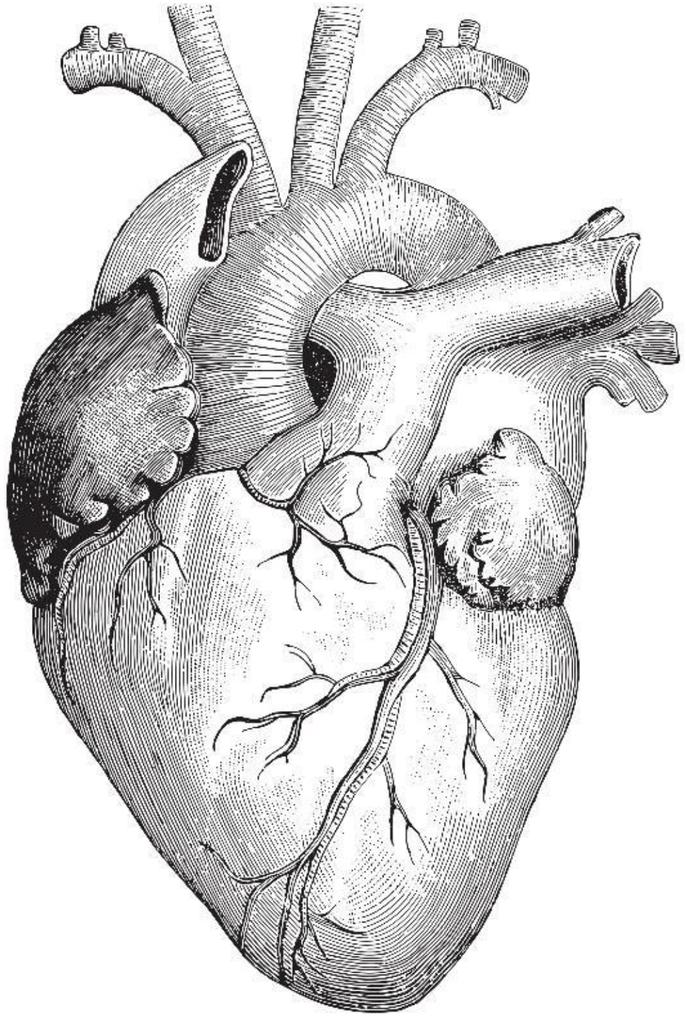
R&D excellence and regional innovation: EU's beating heart

Centripetal: Diastole (heart filling)

Horizon FP connects R&D excellence hubs to compete internationally with China and US (Industrial R&D Scoreboard)

Centrifugal: Systole (heart pumping)

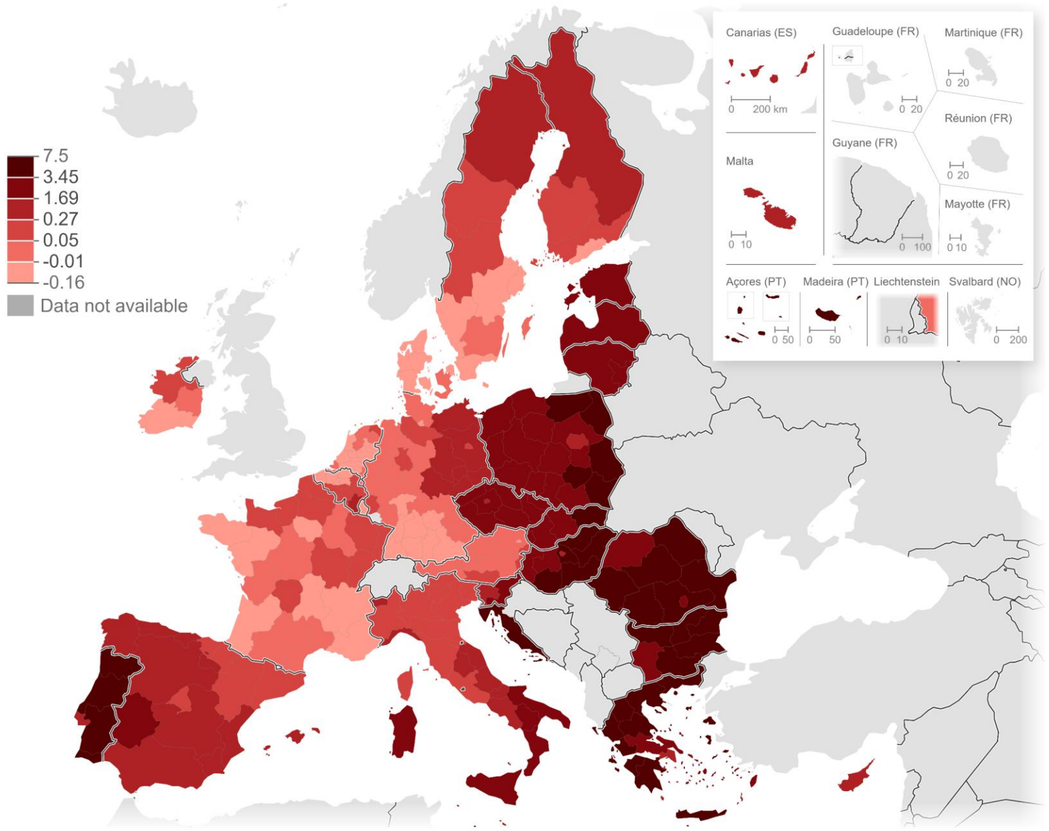
Cohesion policy facilitates tech transfer, diffusion, adaptation and adoption of R&D results linked to regional specialization and latent potential.





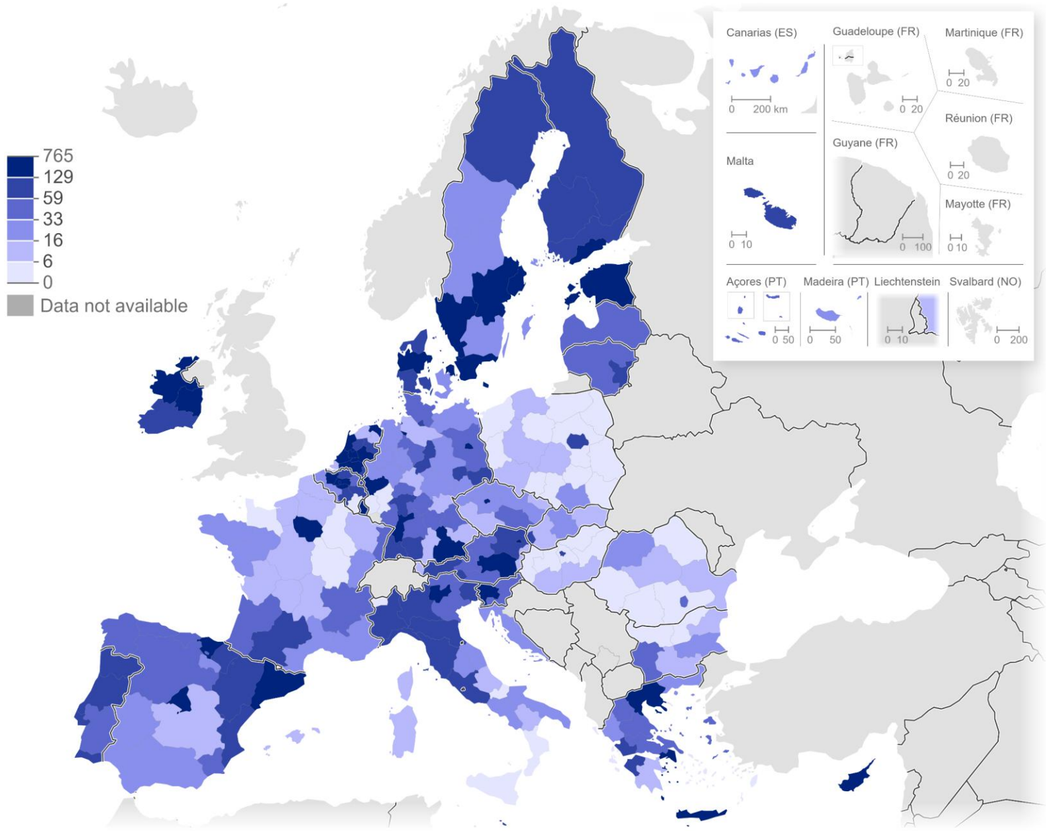


Cohesion funds (GDP impact by 2029)



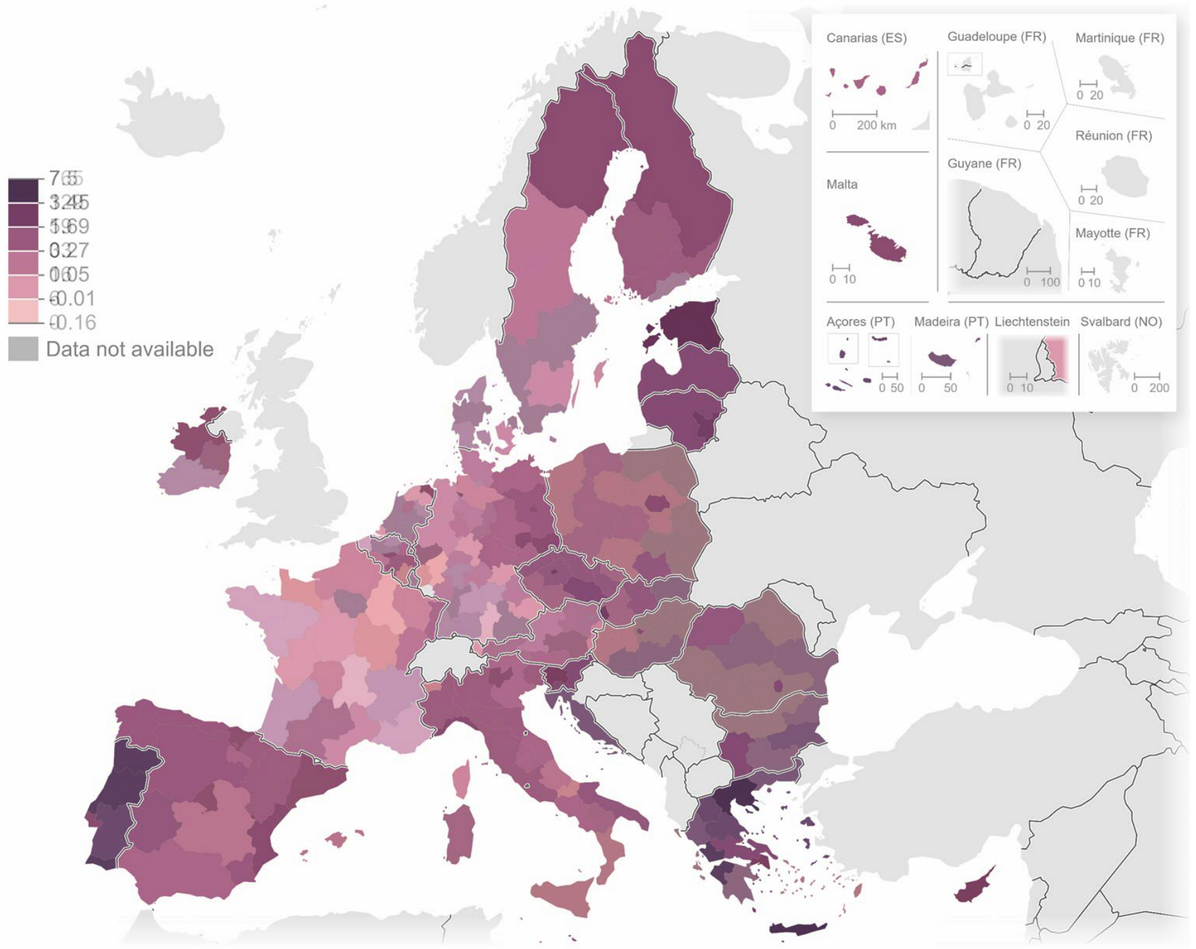
Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN–FAO © Turkstat
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 03/2026

Horizon Europe funds (per capita in euros, 2021-2024)



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN–FAO © Turkstat
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 03/2026

Horizon Europe and Cohesion funds combined



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN–FAO © Turkstat
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 03/2026

Some lessons along the way

Innovation is not just R&D…and just R&D is not Innovation: promoting innovation-led regional development is not just or primarily about increasing R&D excellence and R&TD infrastructures (supply push) but first and foremost about creating and strengthening efficient regional innovation systems (demand pull), partner with the private sector and mobilize the skills, intellectual and entrepreneurial capacities to create an innovation friendly business environment, for SMEs in particular, in all regions and in all sectors (not just high-tech) with a clear roadmap on how to prioritize scarce public funds to catalyse increased private innovation investments, including diversification by supporting start-ups and existing clusters.

Thus

The linear model (from R&D to the market) is much less relevant for policy design than the systemic or interactive model: not just patents but economic exploitation of talent and new ideas – not just industry and big firms with R&D but also services, competitive research and open innovation with a focus on improving the interactions between the private sector and knowledge and tech sources inside and outside the region.

Because

Regional innovation capacities are much more about institutions, **networks, cooperation (social capital) than it is about narrowly focused science and technology** efforts: reinforcing triple helix – knowledge triangle, clusters and university-enterprise cooperation as well as demand driven vocational training is key

Why?

Regional innovation for most regions in the EU is basically about knowledge diffusion (technology transfer, ICT, entrepreneurship) and absorption (education and training, advanced business services) than about knowledge generation (science efforts)

Conclusions on policy design

1. Innovation has a strong territorial dimension (tacit knowledge-networked economy) and there is **no 'one size fits all' innovation policy:** regional diversity is an asset that advocates for different routes to growth through innovation – **smart specialisation and an entrepreneurial discovery process are key.**

2. It is no longer about what or why but **about how and who**?
   Opening minds is more difficult than opening roads – need for much strengthened strategic planning capacities of regional/national governments (from design to ongoing learning evaluation) as well as implementation, allowing for trial and error, new policy tools (e.g. financial engineering, including seed and risk capital, and the provision of public goods and services rather than just grants or tax credits) and the use of pilot projets, sandboxes, civic university involvement, new public-private partnerships, and facilitate a culture of risk taking.

3. R&D excellence and Regional innovation are complementary and we need both: exploiting agglomeration and economies of scale is important (FP) but also diffusion and **absorption mechanisms based on regional potential (RIS3)**

4. Beyond R&D expenditure and patents: **we still do not have the required indicators** for properly characterizing regional innovation potential or measure policy impact. New evaluation methods, granular data and economic models using AI need to be explored.

- Matching business demand (as a starting point) with R&TD supply is vital: a process of structural cooperation and entrepreneurial discovery with the private sector is essential for innovation policy to succeed.

Microeconomic competitiveness problems can not be efficiently tackled by overdoses of macroeconomic or sector based policies but by integrated, place-based regional policies

Conclusions on the role of the public sector: an honest broker - **a new form of Public entrepreneurship?**

1. The public sector should provide leadership and vision, rather than control, and catalyze economic development by promoting new ideas and partnerships with the private sector: **not ‘for them but without them’**

2. Support schemes must be **long lasting, understandable and readily accessible** by SMEs (e.g. Innovation vouchers)

3. **Place-based regional innovation strategies** and action plans integrating multilevel governance (national-regional) and horizontal (inter-ministerial) cooperation are a necessary first step

4. **Grassroots ownership** of innovation strategies are required: consultants are useful but not in the driving seat. Mission approaches are welcomed as long as they are rooted on grassroot needs and energies.

5. **Listen** to Regional Development Agencies, Technology Centres, Technology Parks and Incubator managers, Technology Transfer Offices…they are the soldiers in the front line

6. Venture capital, business angels, soft loans, **guarantees…financial engineering better than grants** and tax incentives although need for combination and a wide menu adapted to each context and specific regional economic challenge.

7. Public procurement (green and innovation driven) as well as sandboxes are important tools to consider

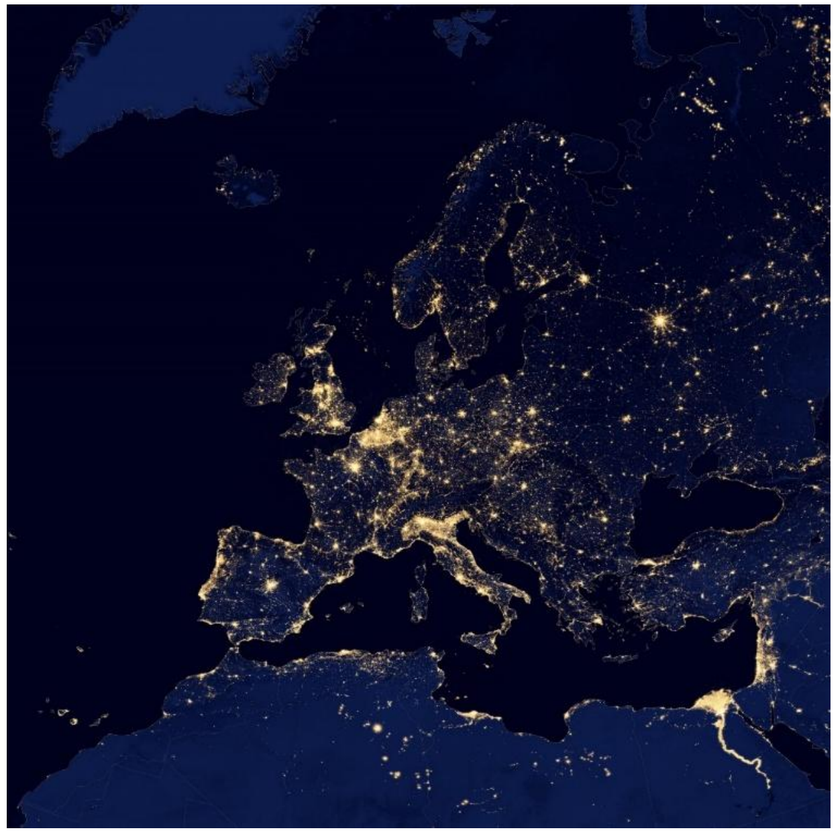
8. Innovation policies require risk taking, trial and error and **sound evaluation** on top of deep pockets and long lead times (political consensus a plus)

Future of work in a post-COVID world (McKinsey Global Institute, 2020): **urgent need for place-based innovation**

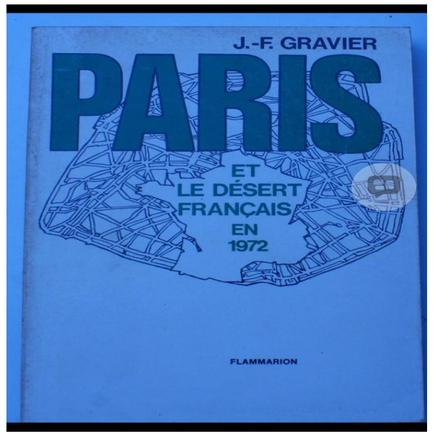
Declining supply of labour due to ageing (- 13.5 million (4%) by 2030)

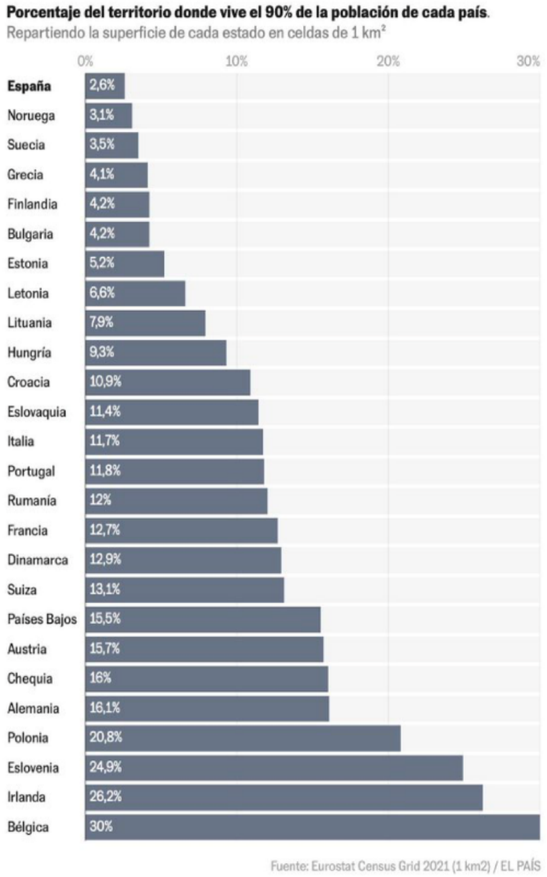
Urbanization trends: 48 cities could capture more than 50% of Europe's potential job growth

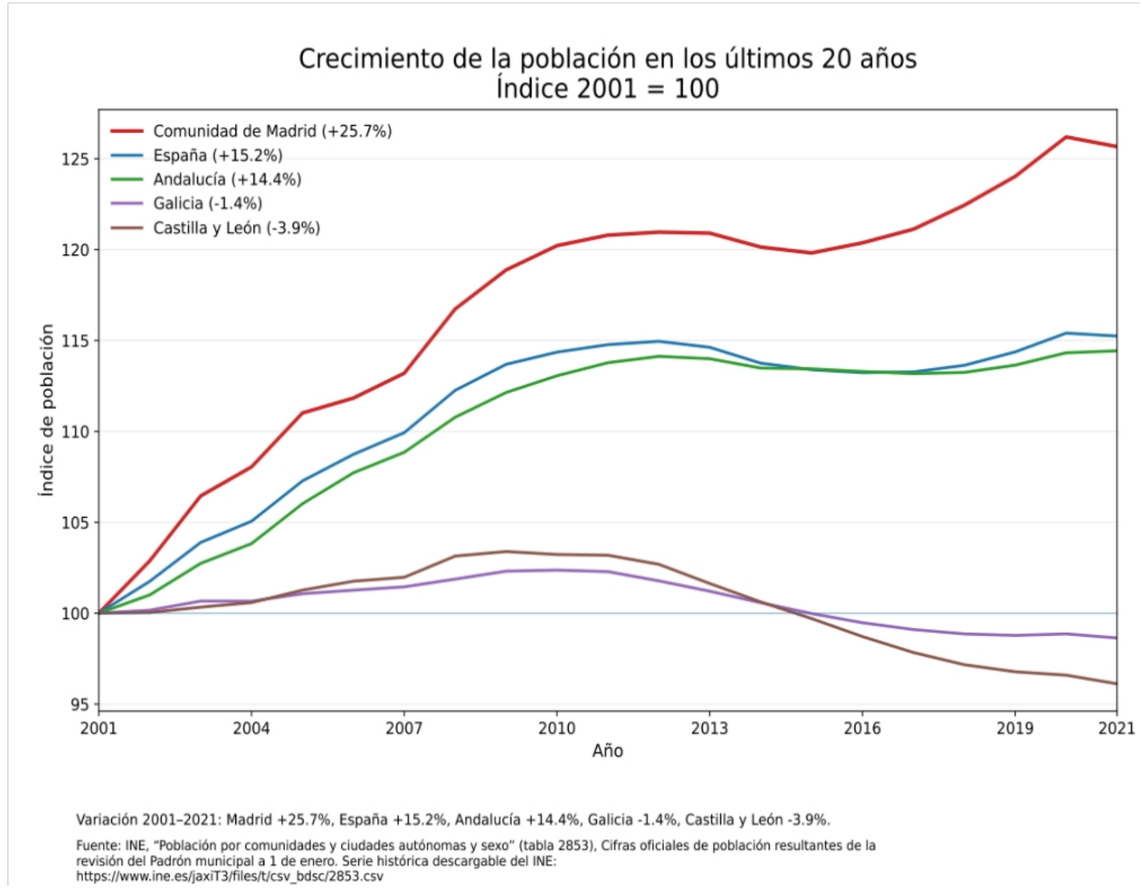
40% of Europeans will live in regions where jobs are declining



Future of work : **urgent need for place-based innovation**







Variación 2001–2021: Madrid +25.7%, España +15.2%, Andalucía +14.4%, Galicia -1.4%, Castilla y León -3.9%.

Fuente: INE, "Población por comunidades y ciudades autónomas y sexo" (tabla 2853), Cifras oficiales de población resultantes de la revisión del Padrón municipal a 1 de enero. Serie histórica descargable del INE: https://www.ine.es/jaxiT3/files/t/csv_bdsc/2853.csv

Is agglomeration and critical mass the only future? All Mexico DF?

Generative AI: Artificial entities that “observe”, “learn & train” and “decide” autonomously

Fastest diffusing general purpose Tech historically: ChatGPT 100 million users in 2 months…



“We are being afflicted with a new disease…namely, technological unemployment. This means unemployment due to our discovery of means of economising the use of labour outrunning the pace at which we can find new uses for labour…three hours per week will be sufficient in 100 years (2030?)…so from survival (‘the economic problem’ solved) to how to live well (‘the real/permanent problem’)”.

J.M. Keynes “Economic possibilities for our grand children” (1930)

Tech features and implications:

- **Gradualism**: Do we have the time to prepare (upskilling, regulation…)?...or the train accelerates exponentially, and we can no longer catch it?
- **Human control:** Will it never do some things better than humans? Will there be a distinguishable difference? Conscience (Harari) – is the last frontier? Blade Runner?
- **Substitution/complementarity** – absolute advantage of AI over Humans?

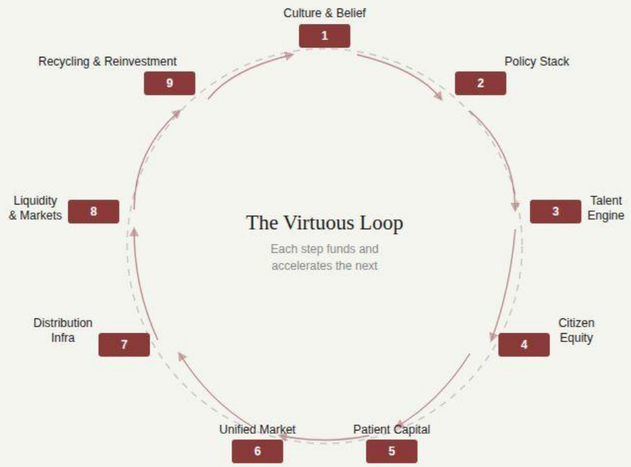
Policy implications of Macroeconomic impact: revival of Demand management policies need of anti-trust policies?

- Taxing super-benefits, induced by AI fuelled super-productivity, of AI investments by a small(er) – (4 USA Companies investing over 500 billion euros in 2026) group of investors…
- Revitalise Demand and Labour market with (new) social services funded by these taxes to compensate for an AI induced consumption/labour market slump.

Europe's AI Flywheel

9 steps to close the gap with the US

STARTUP RIDERS · MARCH 2026 · UPDATED EDITION



1 Culture & Belief

Normalize risk. Stop stigmatizing failure. Build a founder-helps-founder loop where exits mint the next generation of angels and mentors. Sweden has this. Most of Europe does not.

2 Fix the Policy Stack

ESOPs that work so employees join startups over corporates. EU-Inc across all hubs incl. UK and Switzerland. One rulebook, not ten overlapping frameworks. Policy is the permission layer — everything else is built on top.

3 Talent Engine

Build the deep tech pipeline. Streamline university spin-offs (Oxford and Cambridge are the benchmark) with unified EU rules so researchers can found without losing IP rights. Attract and retain builders with real equity upside — Europe produces world-class deep tech talent that too often ends up commercialised elsewhere.

4 Citizen Equity Access

Tax-free accounts (like Sweden's ISK) so citizens own equity with zero friction. **20% of Swedish households own stocks vs <5% in Southern Europe.** Remove every barrier between citizens and ownership.

5 Patient Domestic Capital

Pension funds: **0.12% → 3% = €100B.** Grow local VC so founders stop depending on US tourist capital optimizing for American fund cycles, not European ecosystems.

6 Unified Market / Demand

500M people, 27 procurement silos. Harmonize public procurement standards, cross-border VAT, contracts and billing infra. Aggregate demand or founders keep re-selling country-by-country with slower revenue ramps and weaker late-stage narratives.

7 Distribution Infrastructure

US startups scale on existing rails: cloud credits, accelerator networks, and media that global buyers actually read. Europe has none of this at scale. Build the pan-European layer — founder networks, tech media, marketplaces — that makes a Tallinn startup visible to a Munich buyer.

8 Liquidity & Capital Markets

Europe's Nasdaq: unified pan-European tech exchange, lower thresholds (**$100–300M**), mandated market makers, retail flow via tax-free accounts. Founders stuck between Series B and premature exit need a bridge.

9 Recycling & Reinvestment

IPOs create retail wealth. Founders become angels. Citizens who own equity get culturally invested. Talent flows back from the US. The loop closes itself — and feeds the next generation of Culture & Belief.

Europe doesn't need more incubators. It needs *belief, talent, liquidity, unified demand, and better policy.* In that order.

Analysis by Startup Riders. Data: Dealroom / Prosus, "State of AI in Europe: The Invisible Giant", March 2026. Updated flywheel based on community discussion.

startupriders.com
by Ivan Landabaso

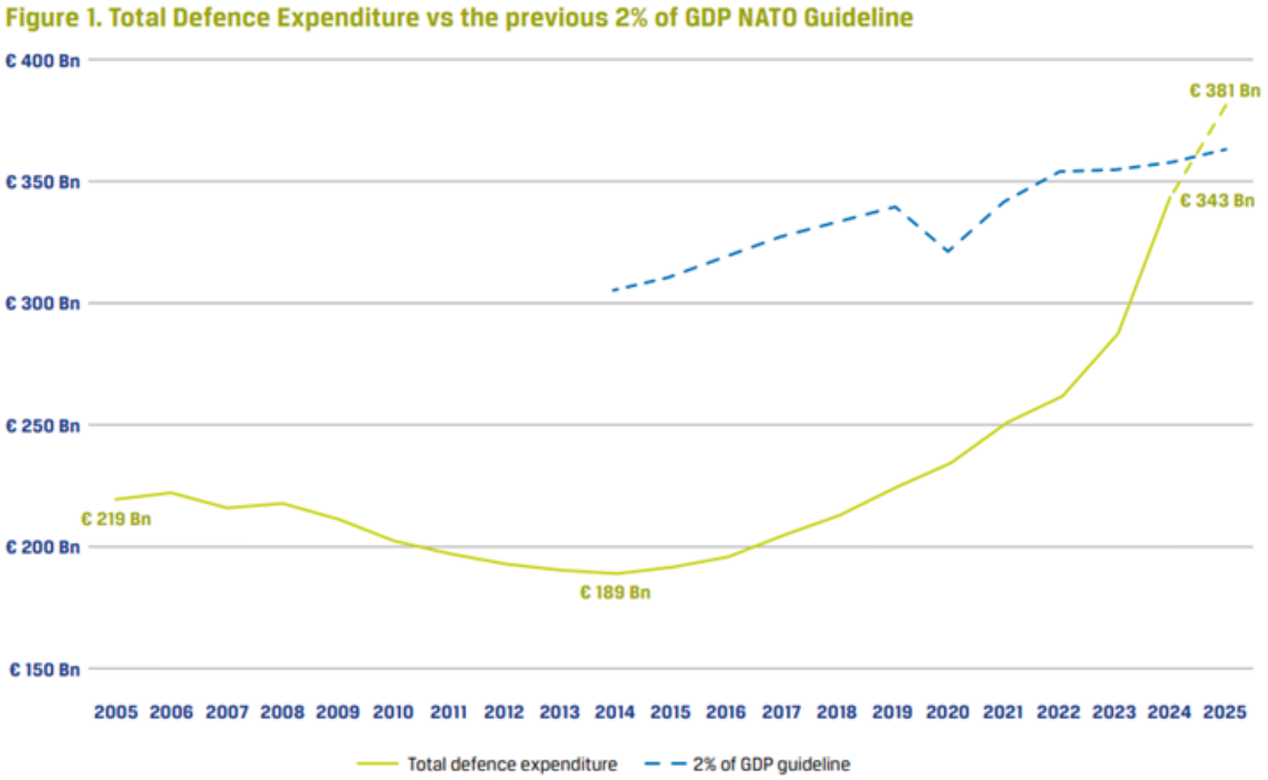
Caring for the Green Shoots in the Regional Economy is Key for regional diversification/modernization and the valorisation and retention/attraction of talent (“right to stay”)

New geopolitical scenario

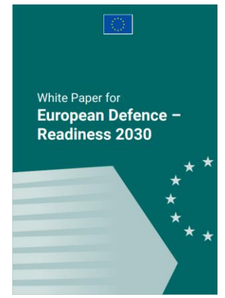








EDA, 2025



SAFE | Security Action for Europe







Proposal for MFF 2028-2034
EUR 131 billion to support investment in space and defence. x5 to the previous MFF.

Dual use Technologies for Terriorial Preparedness, a driver for transformative innovation

1. What our work shows

- Preparedness and defence are **place-based**
- Dual use technologies can act as a **transformative lever** for competitiveness and preparedness
- Its impact depends on how territories connect assets, actors and strategies

2. The role of territories

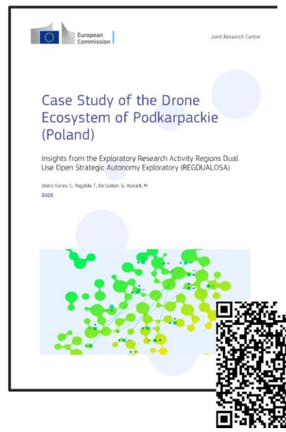
- **Orchestrate systemic innovation** across industry, research, skills and infrastructures
- **Link governance levels**: European, national, regional and local
- **Turn specialisation into transformation** capability building, whole of government and creating the framework conditions

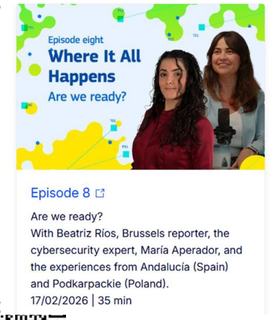
3. Action keys

- Integrate **preparedness by design and dual-use innovation** in territorial innovation strategies
- Reduce **fragmentation** in funding, support and governance
- Invest in **skills, enabling infrastructures and innovation procurement**
- Scale **interregional cooperation and European synergies**









From RIS and S3 to RIS4

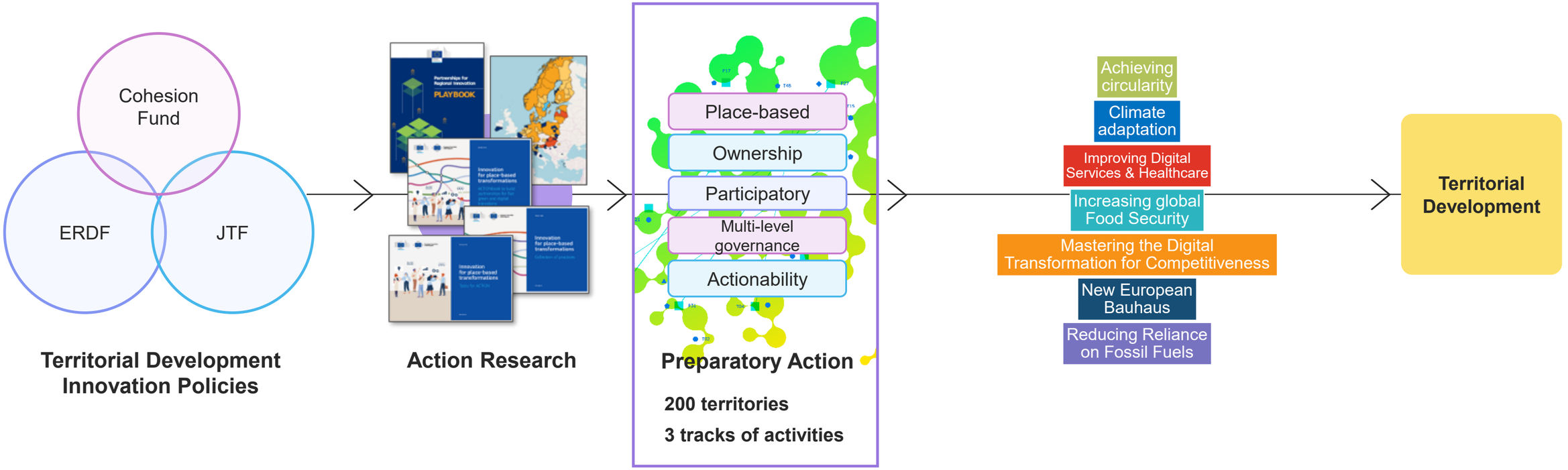
Developing S3: balancing directionality vs subsidiarity

1. Directionality: Green Deal and Digital Transition
2. Fragmentation of funding: Cohesion Policy, RRF and beyond
3. Governance: from EDP to ODP and complexity for system transformation
4. Whole of government approach: investments, regulations and procurement
5. Experimentalism: regional/local missions and sandboxes
6. Scientific framework: new sources of innovation, AI and start ups
7. Pan-European value-chains: interregional collaboration for strategic autonomy

“You have to run very quickly to remain in the same place”

(Lewis Carroll)

Preparatory Action
‘Innovation for place-based transformation'



What's next

2 June: high-level event in Brussels

- Political commitment to the initiative
- Results of current work
- Presentation of new experimentation topics (water resilience, cities)

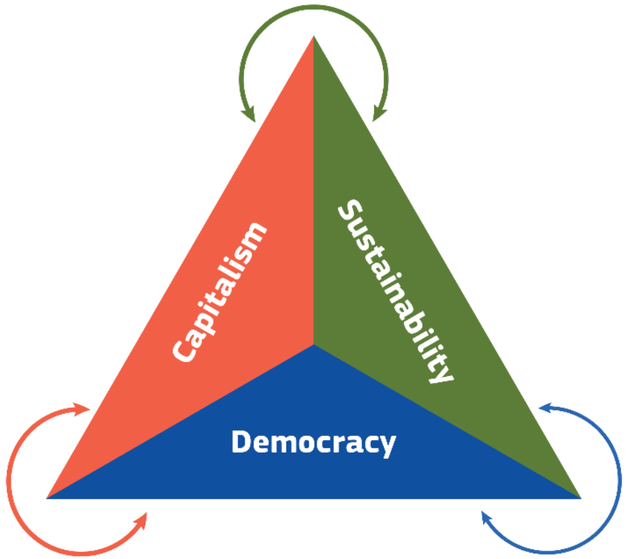


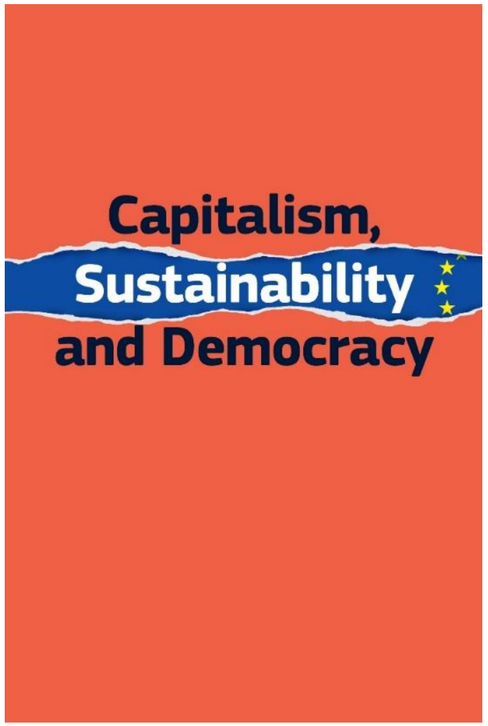
Listen to our podcast!

The European model under attack

The EU needs a broader narrative where regions are also protagonists: innovation thrives on diversity

Competitiveness yes – but beyond: enhance EU Resilience and protect the European social market model





Thank you!


eurada


ERRIN
European Regions
Research and
Innovation Network