SLOVENIAN RESEARCH AGENCY

Public RTD Funding and Communication Models
Presentation of good practices from selected European regions

SLOVENIA

dr. Tomaž Boh & Blaž Golob
tomaz.boh@arrs.si
blaz.golob@gov.si

Nova Gorica, 31 May 2007
Few facts

• RTD personnel
  – Total 12,600 (7,132 FTE)
  – 1,01 of employees

• GERD as % of GDP
  – Total: 1,22 (GERD on RTD)
  – Government 21,8 %
  – Business: 59,5%
  – Higher education: 15,7
  – Other: 3%

• Patents per mil/pop
  – 320,34

• ISI scientific publications per mil/pop
  – 1,160 (year 2006)

• % of labor force in S&T occupation
  – 36 %
Background information

• No mezo-level of regions
• Centralized RTD system
• Key institutions:
  – Governmental Office for Growth
  – Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
  – Ministry of the Economy
  – Ministry of Defense
  – Science & Technology Council
  – **Slovenian Research Agency**
  – Slovenian Technology Agency
RTD Strategy and RTD Issues

- Slovenia’s Development Strategy (2005)
- Reform Programme for Achieving the Lisbon Strategy Goals (2005)
- **National Research and Development Programme** (2005)
  - From a total of 60 measures included in NRRP, 14 are directly aimed at strengthening co-operation between public research sphere and the business sector
Priority areas of Slovenian RTD

- **Information** and Communication Technologies
- Advanced New **Materials** and Nanotechnologies
- **Complex Systems** and Innovative Technologies
- Technologies for **Sustainable Development**
- **Health** and Life Sciences
Priorities related to social and cultural development

- support to national identity, modern Slovenian history, natural and cultural heritage
- development of efficient state and modern democratic society
- management of social processes and risks caused by new technologies, globalization, changing the demographic structure
The most important RTD instruments

- Support to research capacity building
- Direct activities of research activities
- Support of research infrastructure development
- Block-funding (programmes)
- Support connections between researchers and industry
Formalized links between knowledge producers and knowledge users

- Technology centers;
- Technology networks and platforms;
- Technology parks and entrepreneurship incubators;
- Slovenian Technology Agency;
- Public Agency for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments

- Technology branch,
- Industrial clusters
- University spin-off incubators;
- Technology transfer offices,
- Network of regional technology centres and research centres,
- Intellectual property offices:
Communication models

a) Informing – providing information
b) Interacting – active two way communication

- Communication with policy makers:
  - Annual and up-to date reports provided by the SRA
- Business and research community:
  - Info meetings,
  - Special publications
- General public:
  - SICRIS information system
  - COBISS bibliographical system
  - Newspaper supplements
  - TV broadcasting
  - Web pages
SLOVENIAN RESEARCH AGENCY

- **Establishing**: November 2004, Government of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Status**: a legal person of public law; indirect user of the budget of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Mission**: performing professional tasks relating to implementation of the adopted National Research and Development Program
- **Budget**: 145 million € per year (2006)
SRA main areas of operation

- Promotion of excellent and applicative research
- Monitoring and analyzing
- Funding of research
- Objective evaluation
1,300 FTE by research type
Program of **Young researchers (YR)** in Slovenia

- **1,200** young researchers (850-900 FTE) financed per year
- **250** new candidates for young researchers accepted per year
- **25 mio EUR** per year
- **19%** of the budget of SRA
YR by research organizations

Total number of young researchers financed by research organization type 2001-2004

- Research units in business sector
- Other research organizations
- Public research institutions
- University of Primorska
- University of Maribor
- University of Ljubljana
Features of the YR program

- YR participate in research work during their postgraduate studies on research projects;
- they have regular, fixed-term employment contracts;
- the Agency finances their pay, social contributions, as well as material and non-material costs for research and postdoctoral study;
- the average annual cost of financing one YR is cca. EUR 30,000;
Conditions and criteria of YR

- have at least **university-level education** in the appropriate field;
- have an average grade for all examinations and coursework (excluding the degree examination) of **at least 8.00**;
- be **aged up to 28 years** inclusive (with respect to the year of birth); if a young researcher has already enrolled in a postgraduate study programme without financial support from the Agency or ministry responsible for science, the age of the candidates may rise above 28 years, namely, one year shall be added for each study year.
Thank you for your attention!!