Public RTD funding policies

The Friuli Venezia Giulia Region experience

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Friuli Venezia Giulia in a nut shell

Geographic area (km²) 7.840,13
Resident population 1.200.000
Active population - 2006 543.000
Unemployment rate - 2006 4,1%
Working population - 2006 524.000
  Industry (mechanics, food & beverage, furnishing) 179.000
  Agriculture 16.000
  Commerce and services 329.000
Regional GDP (Meuro) - 2004 29.822
GDP procapite (Euro) - 2003 24.000
Friuli Venezia Giulia
RTD and Innovation Policies

Two Pillars

**Regional Law 4/2005 - Interventions for the support and competitive development of SMEs**
The regional law recognizes the important role of SMEs in the economic and social development of the territory. It promotes SMEs innovation capacity, competitiveness, production, qualification and diversification, workplaces quantity, quality and stability, income increase and safety conditions.

**Regional Law 26/05 - General rules and regulations regarding innovation, scientific research and technological development**
The regional law promotes the development of research, the spread of innovation and the technology transfer between industry and Public Administration.
**Regional Law 4/2005**

*Incentives for the support and competitive development of regional SMEs*

**For what**
- growth in enterprise size
- support for internationalization processes
- rationalization of enterprise management and organization
- spin-offs and start-ups creation
- enhancement of enterprise social responsibility
- supply of incentives for female participation

**How**
- strategic advisory services or development programmes oriented towards managerial competence enhancement
- resort to temporary managers
- research projects, also in cooperation with universities or public/private research centres
- resort to technological transfer mechanisms in cooperation with universities, research centres, science and technology parks, EZIT and industrial development consortia
Regional Law 04/05 in figures

SMEs increase expectations
- Turnover: +75%
- Workforce: +14%
- Productivity: +52%

Source: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region - DG Industry
Regional Law 26/05

General rules and regulations regarding innovation, scientific research and technological development

For what

to support and enhance of research development, innovation diffusion and technology transfer in favour of SMEs, research and innovation centres and Public Administration

- Industry driven research programmes
- PROs driven research programmes
- STPs driven TT programmes
- Districts of innovation driven by Triple helix organisations (i.e. biotech, shipbuilding)

How

- capital grants up to 50% for industrial research projects (25% for pre-competitive development activities)
- 10% increase for projects carried out in cooperation with universities or research centers
- 10% increase proposals from SMEs
- 5% increase in the 87-3C areas
- capital grants up to 50% for feasibility and research project studies to be presented to the State or to the European Union
In the 2002-2004 period FVG investments growths three times.

Source: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region - DG Labour, Training, University, Research.
InNOVAtive Network for coordinated actions on RTD policies at REGIOnal level

an EC partly funded project endorsed by the FVG Region focus on:

- Regional innovation policies to be assessed (ex-post), benchmarked and steered
- Analysis of R&D regional performance
- Learning and sharing knowledge among policy makers at EU level

7 EU Regions involved with 8 project partners (STPs, RDAs, Investing Bodies) co-ordinated by AREA Science Park
Objectives

- To get a more **efficient use of Structural Funds** to support RTD investments by means of guidelines included in a **Manual to self assess** and establish effective regional innovation policies in the targeted areas.

- To **balance the great disparity of RTD efforts within European regions** (i.e. Peripheral Maritime and Central East regions).
25 EU regional policies have been treated using the IVEM methodology (4 steps: identification, validation, engineering, monitoring)

Hot topics and performance indicators
- Raising Public & Private Funds
  - Total intramural R&D expenditure
- Entrepreneurship - Start-ups
  - Number of business start-ups, SME's innovating In-house (in %)
- Technology Transfer
  - Nr. of RTD projects within the region
  - % increase of RTD projects in the region
- Development of HR in ST
  - Human resources in ST (in % of total/active population)
- Networking - Clustering
  - Presence of regional knowledge-based clusters & "triple helix organisations"
- NPD - Innovation
  - Patent applications to the EPO (in %);
**Expected results**

- **RTD policy coordination**
  to enhance the interaction between regional-driven innovation policies at European level.

- **NOVAREGIO Virtual Centre**
  to setup an European board composed of experts in innovation and regional policies makers.

- **on-line forum**
  to self assess track records of existing regional innovation policies to move forward more effective innovation policies.

- **knowledge sharing**
  to organise experience sharing workshops and training seminars to deepen and spread project results.

- **benchmarking practice**
  to arrange a manual of innovation and RTD best practices addressed to regional policy makers and innovation practitioners, also useful to perform self evaluation of regional RTD policies.

- **Results**
  - best practices
  - self assessment
  - on-line forum
  - RTD policy coordination
  - NOVAREGIO Virtual Centre
  - knowledge sharing
  - benchmarking practice manual
Thank you for your kind attention!

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