

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Summary of a Survey on the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative “Innovation Union”

Final Survey Report

This survey report was written by Vienna University of Economics and Business, Research Institute for Managing Sustainability (RIMAS) (Zoran Rušnov).

They do not represent the official views of the Committee of the Regions.

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1 Basic information

In summer/autumn 2013, the Committee of Regions conducted a study on “**Innovation Union**”¹ flagship initiative, through its Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, providing the current status on this topic from the point of view of Local and Regional Authorities.

This survey is part of a broader monitoring exercise on Europe 2020, which was launched by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in December 2012 and will last until November 2013. The results of these individual assessments will provide the backdrop for seven conferences – one for each flagship initiative assessment – that will subsequently feed into the contribution of the Committee of the Regions to the EU Commission’s mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy due in 2014. The present survey report is based on 41 responses from 17 EU Member States. The findings will be presented at the CoR conference on 27 November 2013.

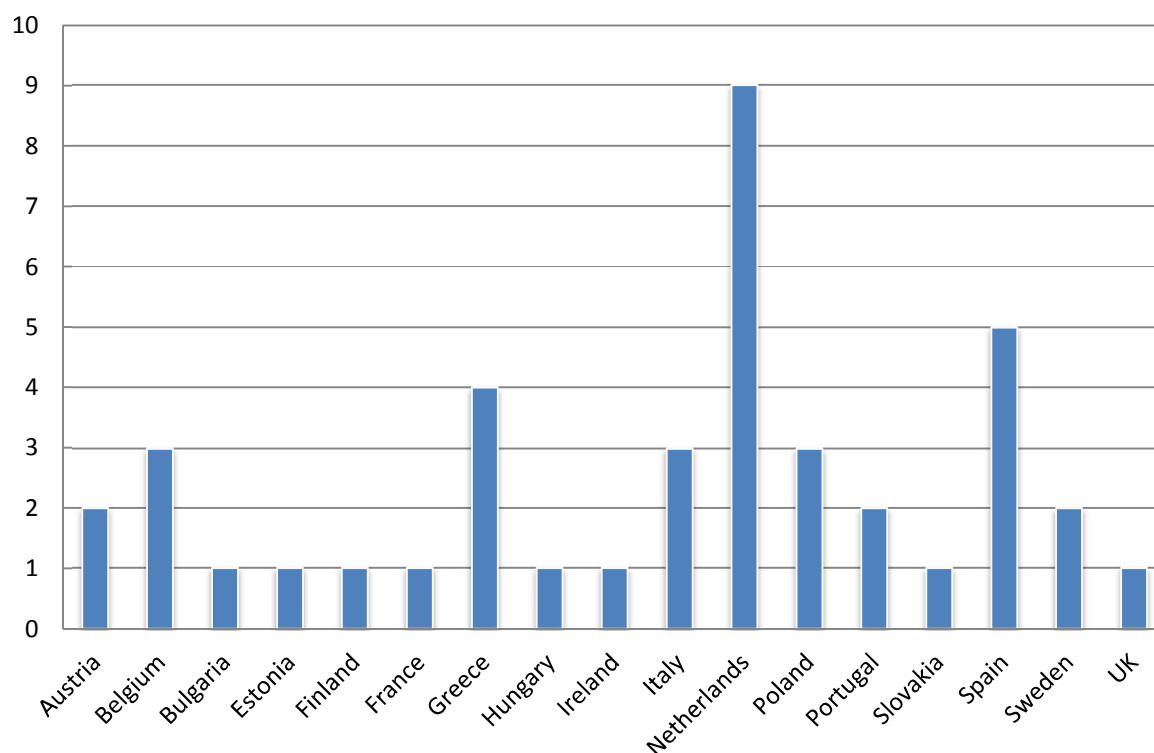


Figure 1. The number of responses received by EU member state

¹ The survey was open between 18 July and 27 September 2013; the questionnaire and basic background can be found at: <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Surveys/Pages/Innovation-Union.aspx>

The majority of responses were provided by – or on behalf of – Regions (21), followed by Cities (9), Provinces (6), Associations of Cities and Regions (2) and Counties, Organisations and Other (1 each), as depicted in Figure 2. Out of the 41 participants, 22 are members of the Committee of the Region’s Monitoring Platform for the Europe 2020 Strategy and 16 are members of the S3 Platform.²

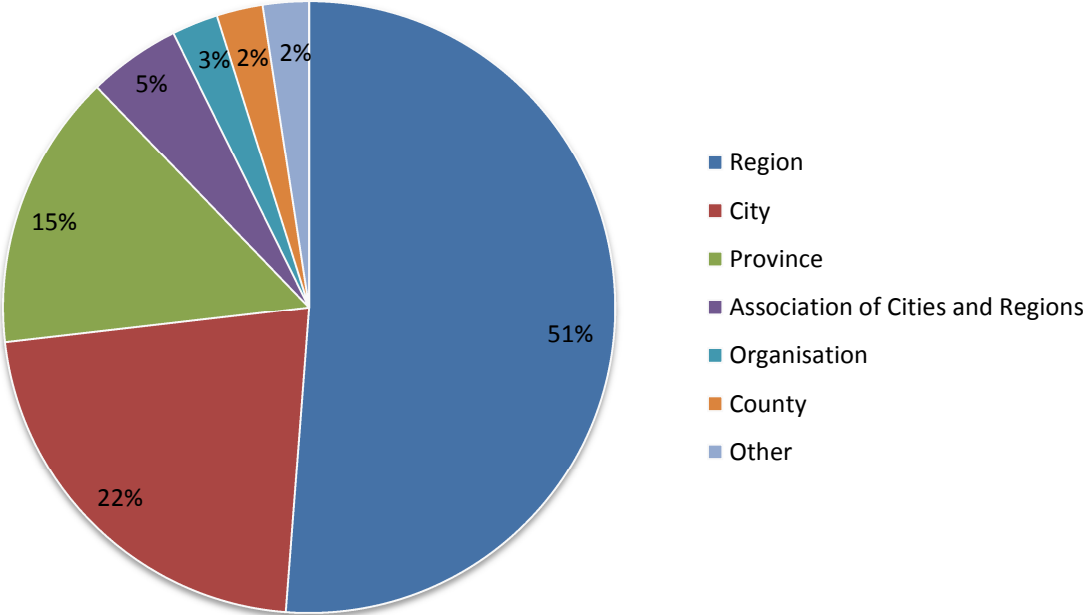


Figure 2. Survey responses by type of authority

This report is divided into four sections in accordance with the blocks of questions included in the survey questionnaire. These sections are:

- Policy challenges and responses at regional and local level.
- How is the “Innovation Union” relevant for your city or region?
- Are your countries’ policies relevant to your city or region?
- Policy and funding issues.

Each section both summarises the main trends emerging from the responses and highlights particular perspectives as well as unique comments. These four sections are preceded by an introductory section providing information on the flagship initiative itself as well as on current issues and challenges in the related policy fields.

² <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-platform-registered-regions>

2 Current issues and challenges in this policy field

As a crucial part of the Europe 2020 strategy the flagship initiative ‘Innovation Union’, under the pillar of Smart Growth, is focused on research and development on major societal challenges, such as climate change, resource efficiency, and demographic change. Furthermore, its aim is to boost ideas and creativity for the creation of jobs by increasing investment in research and innovation. As one of the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, the goal on R&D expenditure is set at 3% of GDP. However, this might be rather difficult to achieve for Member States that are still experiencing the aftermath of the economic crisis.

However, by using the strategic approach of **smart specialization strategies**, the design of policies which will foster maximum learning linkages both within the target regions as well as between regions, can be of help for those Member States that are battling the effects of the financial crisis.³ Under the new Cohesion Policy, EU Member States as well as their respective regions will have to incorporate such a strategy in order to be eligible to receive fiscal support from the European Regional Development Fund.⁴

Nevertheless, it must be said that those countries that have had high levels of investment in R&D, such as Germany and Sweden, have emerged from the crisis more quickly than other countries, indicating the importance of innovation for economic recovery.

In order to foster innovation, many Member States have launched policy reforms such as introducing higher autonomy to universities in the matter of research, internationalisation of public and private research actors as well as emphasizing cross border mobility and a sound level of competition. A crucial issue for pushing innovation are the instruments used to do so. 90% of the measures used are supply side instruments, such as tax incentives grants and subsidised loans – whereas it would be necessary to boost demand side instruments such as standards, regulations and public procurement to properly enhance the market for innovative solutions. Important steps towards an approach of bringing the EU’s expenditure on R&D to 3% of the GDP is reflected by, inter alia, the unitary patent package that was reached in 2012, reducing administrative

³ Smart Specialisation, Regional Growth and Applications to EU Cohesion Policy: http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/docs/s3_mccann_ortega.pdf

⁴ Guide to Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS 3): http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=e50397e3-f2b1-4086-8608-7b86e69e8553.

procedures and maintenance fees, thus allowing the obtainment by EU individuals and companies of a unitary patent throughout the EU.

Further the implementation of the **European Innovation Partnership** should ensure incorporating all relevant stakeholders into the research chain – from regional to national level, sufficient investment in demonstration and pilots as well as ensuring a quicker way to the market for innovative breakthroughs. With a view to the EU reaching an investment level of 3% of its GDP, Horizon 2020 facilitation of research approaches, transnational funding in the European Research Area could generate additional € 445 billion and 7.2 million jobs.⁵

The **European Research Area**, as stated in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, was being developed in order to foster research and innovation and make the EU as a whole more competitive on the world market. According to the European Research Area progress report 2013⁶, there are reforms urgently necessary in order to counter act the consequences of the economic crisis such as short cuts in budgets, which are preventing the full potential of EU research projects to be realised. Therefore the importance of national authorities providing sufficient funding to respective research institutes is of essential significance in order to boost innovation, hence create a foundation for job growth.

When talking about innovation in the public sector, the **European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard 2013** report⁷ underlines the fact that the public sector in the EU plays a key role in the latter's economy by employing 25% of the EU population. Due to budgetary cuts, the goal of European Public Sector Innovation is it to tackle these constraints by a more effective and efficient design of public services. In that sense societal challenges and decreased monetary resources are the main drivers for innovative solutions in the public sector. In order to measure the effectiveness of the European Public Sector the European Commission has launched a pilot project where the measuring of the EU Member States public sector innovation is at the core. It was found that innovative approaches are present, though that there are some internal barriers such as the lack of management support and the risk-averse culture, resulting in inefficient service. In general, two out of three public administrations have launched an innovative service, such as offering web services for businesses by which the respective domestic economy is fostered.

⁵ State of the Innovation Unions 2012:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0149:FIN:en:PDF>.

⁶ European Research Area Progress Report 2013: http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/progressreport2013_en.html.

⁷ European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard 2013:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/epsis-2013_en.pdf.

Creative industries, such as art, film, TV, fashion, software and videogames – just to name a few, are gaining increasingly importance in the economy landscape of the EU. As pointed out by the European Commission in the Communiqué regarding ‘An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era - Putting Competitiveness and Sustainability at Centre Stage’, creative industries are becoming an important pillar for the growth of the EU, accounting for 3.33% of the EU GDP and 3% of employment. This industry sticks out due to its tendency for innovation while at the same time being a driver for innovation in other sectors.⁸

In order to provide an accurate overview of the current issues concerning the Innovation Union of the EU, the Innovation Scoreboard 2013⁹ report was used to display the most important challenges and hurdles that EU regions are facing at the moment in this matter.

The Innovation scoreboard is assessing the performance of EU Member States as well as their regions taking into account several indicators that are to be found under the three main drivers:

➤ **Enablers**

- Human resources (30-34yrs old having doctorate, 20-24yrs old completed secondary education).
- Open, excellent and attractive research systems (international scientific co-publications, most cited publications and non-EU doctorate students).
- Finance and support (availability of finance for innovation projects by venture capital investments, support of governments for research and innovation activities by R&D expenditures).

➤ **Firm activities**

- Firm investments (indicators of both R&D and non-R&D investments that firms make in order to generate innovations).
- Linkages & entrepreneurship (measuring innovation capabilities by looking at SMEs with that innovate in-house and collaboration efforts)

⁸ An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era - Putting Competitiveness and Sustainability at Centre Stage [COM (2010) 604]:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/files/communication_on_industrial_policy_en.pdf.

⁹ Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/ius-2013_en.pdf.

between innovating firms and research collaboration between the private and public sector).

- Intellectual assets (captures different forms of Intellectual Property Rights, PCT patents application, community trademarks and designs).

➤ **Outputs**

- Innovators (firms that introduced innovation onto the market, covering technological and non-technological innovation as well as high growth firms).
- Economic effects (economic success of innovation in employment, contribution of medium and high tech product exports, exports of knowledge intensive services and sales due to innovation activities as well as license and patent revenues from selling technologies abroad).

When looking at the innovation performance on the Member State level, a wide gap between innovation leaders and innovation laggards can be identified, causing a growing divergence in performance. Leading countries such as Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Germany have demonstrated an ever growing increase in innovation since the beginning of the Innovation Union in 2010. However, in total, there is insufficient progress demonstrated since the start of the Europe 2020 strategy set by the European Union.

On an international level the EU ranks fourth place in innovation, after South Korea, the US and Japan. It has still maintained its lead over the BRIC countries, even though the lead over China has decreased in the last year. High R&D expenditures such as the one by South Korea with 5.5% of its GDP¹⁰ as well as higher rates of tertiary education in the US make it difficult for the European Union to catch up.

On the regional level, the innovation leaders are to be found in Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark as well as in part of France Austria, Belgium, Netherlands and the UK (Figure 3).

¹⁰ http://royalsociety.org/uploadedFiles/Royal_Society_Content/policy/publications/2011/4294976134.pdf.

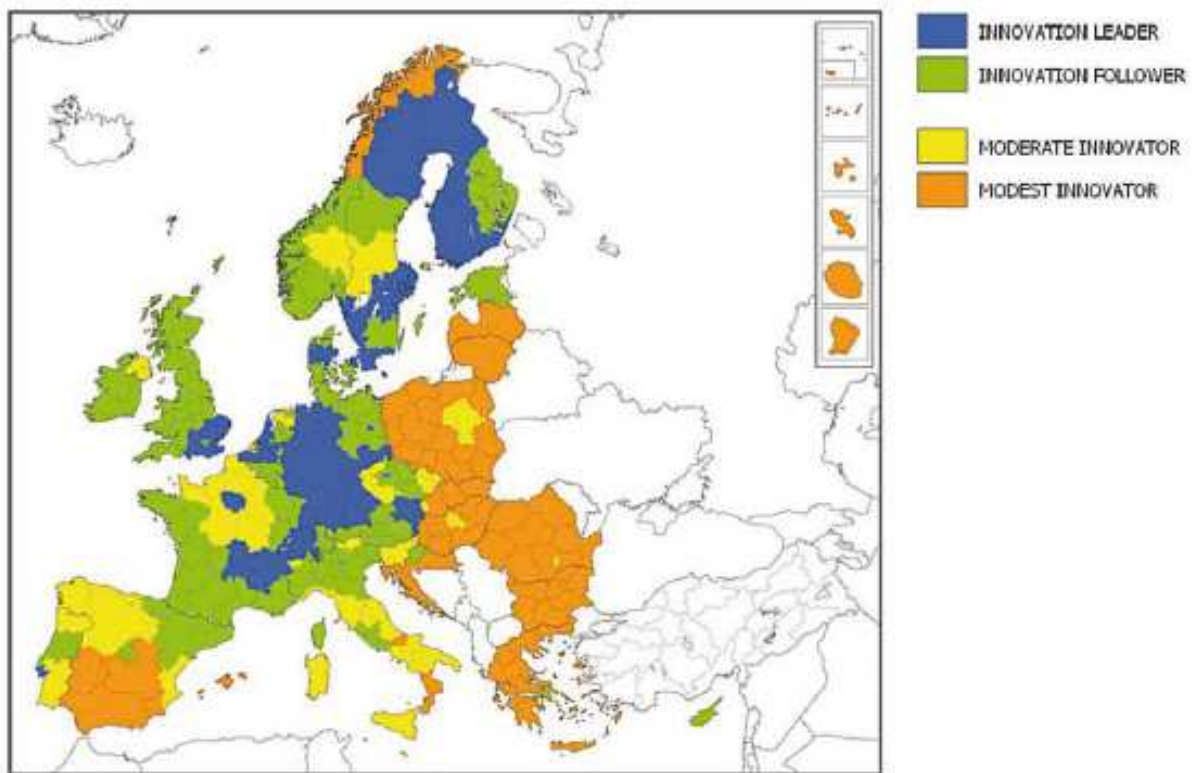


Figure 3. Regional Innovators, IUS 2013

Nevertheless there is also diversity within states to be considered, such as in Portugal and France, showing in-country disparities in innovation performance. Similar conditions are observed in Czech Republic, Finland, the UK, Norway, Spain and the Netherlands as well as Sweden.

Even though weak performing countries (moderate – modest innovators) in their entirety are low performing when looking at the indicators used to measure, they do as well have regions which are above average in matters of innovation, such as the cities of Prague or Lisboa and Bucharest.

However those countries that are rather performing in a poor manner are having difficulties in balancing out their performance structure, meaning that there might be modest to high performance in human resources though rather low performance in intellectual assets and firm investments. In order to bring about an equal innovation performance amongst EU 27 countries, the imbalance of performance must be achieved, hence ensuring sufficient achievement in all three main drivers.

3 Policy challenges and responses at regional level

This section addresses the following four questions of the survey:

Q1

What type of policy programmes/actions is being implemented in your city/region to support the policy goals of the Innovation Union (see Box 1)?

Q2

One of the main aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy is to increase investments in R&D to 3% of EU GDP. This target is underpinned by several actions under Innovation Union. The latest Innovation Union Scoreboard¹¹ of the European Commission, a progress monitoring tool, shows that there are big differences in the progress made towards this target across the EU. **Which of the following challenges would you consider as the most urgent to address?**

Q3

In line with the Innovation Union flagship initiative and the additional Communication on "Regional Policy contributing to smart growth in Europe 2020" (see Box 2), local and regional authorities are encouraged to build smart specialisation strategies, as a condition for having access to EU Structural Funds available for investments in research and innovation. Does your region/city have a smart specialisation strategy?

Q4

Innovation Union and the concept of smart specialisation encourage a better integration of cultural and creative industries in the overall economic development. Although they have a high innovation potential, they are not always included in strategies or projects. **Are cultural and creative industries included in the economic development strategy and/or in the smart specialisation strategy of your city/region?**

¹¹ comparative analysis of European analysis for 2013:
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/facts-figures-analysis/innovation-scoreboard>.

3.1 General findings

The most favoured policy programme or action to support objectives of the Innovation Union was deemed to be *'Investing in R&D, innovation and ICT (own resources, public-private partnerships, other sources...)'*. Most respondents (90%) stated that this type of action is included in their regional agendas, followed by the action of *'Providing support to potential beneficiaries to access EU funds and participate in EU initiatives in the field of research and innovation'* with 83% and *'Encouraging the use of the results of research projects in innovative products and services'* and *'Cooperation with international partners in the field of research and innovation'* with 78% of the respondents.

The majority of the LRAs, with 63%, mentioned that the most urgent challenge in the matter of reaching 3% of the GDP invested in R&D, is *'Poor access to finance for innovative start-ups'* equal with the issue of *'No real cooperation between research and industry, limited scale of bringing ideas to market'* with 63%. Every second respondent stated that *'Other'* issues should be tackled such as the administrative burdens and complex procedures, which in their opinion should be lowered in order to make access to funds easier.

75% of the participants said that their region had implemented a smart specialization strategy, whereas most of those presented an inside on how they include stakeholders in their strategy and provide a foundation for the latter in order to be able to properly participate in this type of strategy. 17% of the respondents that mentioned not having a smart specialization in place, which will make it more difficult for these to receive EU funds, since having such a strategy in place was proposed to become an ex-ante conditionality for EU Member States and respective regions in order to get fiscal support granted by EU funds.

As to the question of whether LRAs have included the culture or creative industry in their economic development/ smart specialization strategy, 70% of the respondents answered with a yes, whereas the most frequent explanation of those was that the culture or creative industries belongs to key areas of their innovation strategy, which reflects the rising importance of this industry – generating 3.33% of EU's GDP.

12% of those that declined including culture and creative industries in their regional strategies have not provided an explanation as to why this is the case.

3.2 Specific findings

Q1. What type of policy programmes/actions are being implemented in your city/region to support the policy goals of the Innovation Union (see Box 1)?

The most frequent type of programmes or actions implemented by the respective LRAs participating in this survey was 'Investing in R&D, innovation and ICT (own resources, public-private partnerships, other sources...)' with 90% of the respondents stated that the latter was supportive to the policy goals of the Innovation Union (Figure 4).

As explained by 'Innoviris- The Brussels Institute for Research and Innovation' (Belgium), the regional RDI programme, entailed 15 support schemes, devoted funds to regional businesses and university research centres that are specializing in ICT, environmental/energy and health issues. The 'Bratislava Self-Governing Region' (Slovakia) mentioned that its regional innovation strategy's main aim was it to create an R&D and innovation region of European standards linked to the European and global economy and to achieve a critical concentration in the region of technology companies.

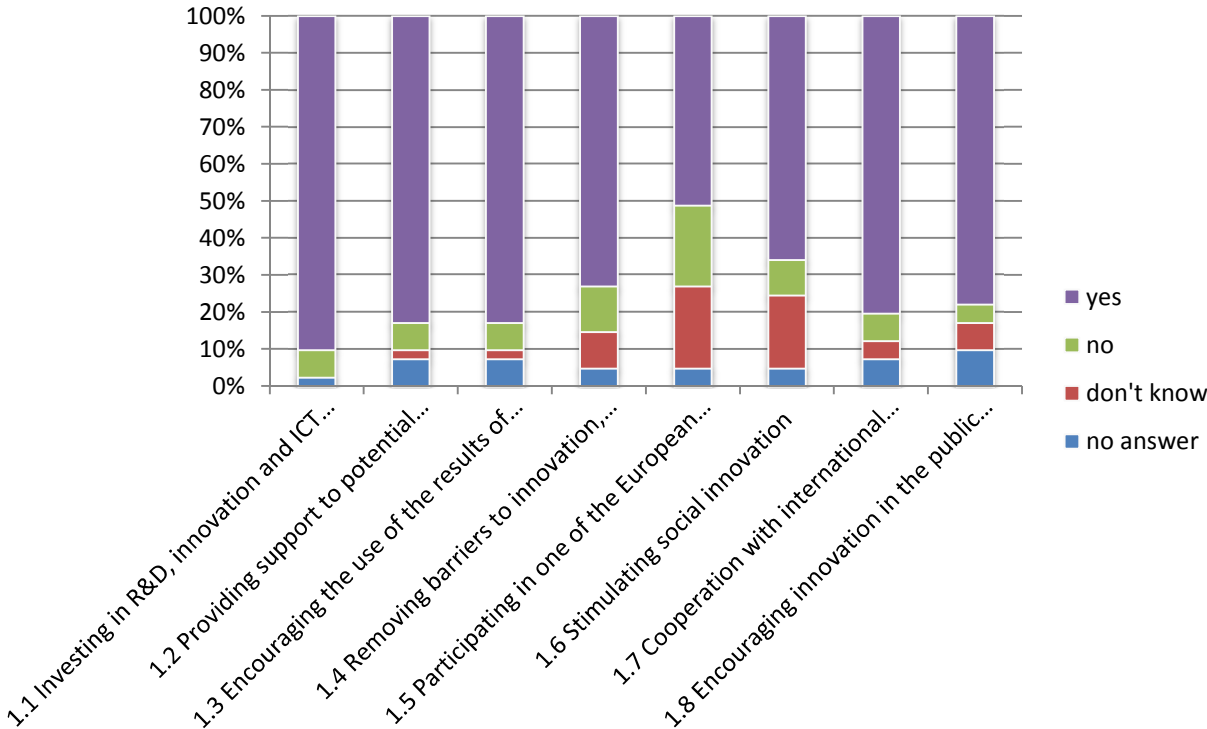


Figure 4. Preferred Policy Programmes by LRAs

The second most implemented programme or actions was mentioned to be *‘Providing support to potential beneficiaries to access EU funds and participate in EU initiatives in the field of research and innovation’* with 83%. The *‘Autonomous Government of Cataluña’* (Spain) mentioned that government's responses to taking forward the opportunities arising from European and international R&D programmes were focused on encouraging the active involvement of stakeholders and companies making up the R&D and innovation system. The *‘Business and Innovation Center Burgenland’* (Austria) reported about their initiative *“Gute Idee, Burgenland”* (Good idea, Burgenland) where innovation managers who were in close and constant contact with companies from Burgenland, strived to raise their innovation level by not only introducing these companies to regional but as well to EU funds. Ranking as well with 83% *‘Encouraging the use of the results of research projects in innovative products and services’* is deemed as a policy action needed to accomplish goals of the Innovation Union.

80% of the participants mentioned that *‘Cooperation with international partners in the field of research and innovation’*, followed by *‘Encouraging innovation in the public sector’* with 75%, *‘Removing barriers to innovation, such as expensive intellectual property rights and limited access to finance’* with 73%, *‘Stimulating social innovation’* with 65% as well as *‘Participating in one of the European Innovation Partnerships’* ranked last with 50%.

Q2. One of the main aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy is to increase investments in R&D to 3% of EU GDP. This target is underpinned by several actions under Innovation Union. The latest Innovation Union Scoreboard¹² of the European Commission, a progress monitoring tool, shows that there are big differences in the progress made towards this target across the EU. Which of the following challenges would you consider as the most urgent to address?

With 63% of the respondents the issues of *‘Poor access to finance for innovative start-ups’* is the most urgent issue that needs to be addressed (Figure 5). The second most urgent challenge to address is *‘No real cooperation between research and industry, limited scale of bringing ideas to market’* with as well 63% of the participants mentioned this issue needed to be addressed. With 49% the most urgent challenge that needs to be addressed is *‘Under-investment in the existing knowledge base (infrastructure, public research centres etc.)’* as explained by the *‘Office of the Regional Government of Styria’* were the high costs of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as well as the strategic approach to innovation at national level. Almost every second (46%) of the respondents

¹² Comparative analysis of European analysis for 2013: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/facts-figures-analysis/innovation-scoreboard>.

mentioned ‘*Other*’ to be seen as an important hurdle that is supposed to be tackled. The ‘Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly’(Ireland) explicitly talked about the fact that no strategic approach to innovation at regional level was present. The ‘Ornskoldsvik Municipality’(Sweden) explained that developing the level of innovation in the public sector in a structured and effective way was a challenge that needed to be addressed, whereas municipalities were required to complete tasks for which there are currently no solutions, and developing innovative procurement would not be enough in this context, as the challenges were too large and too complex.

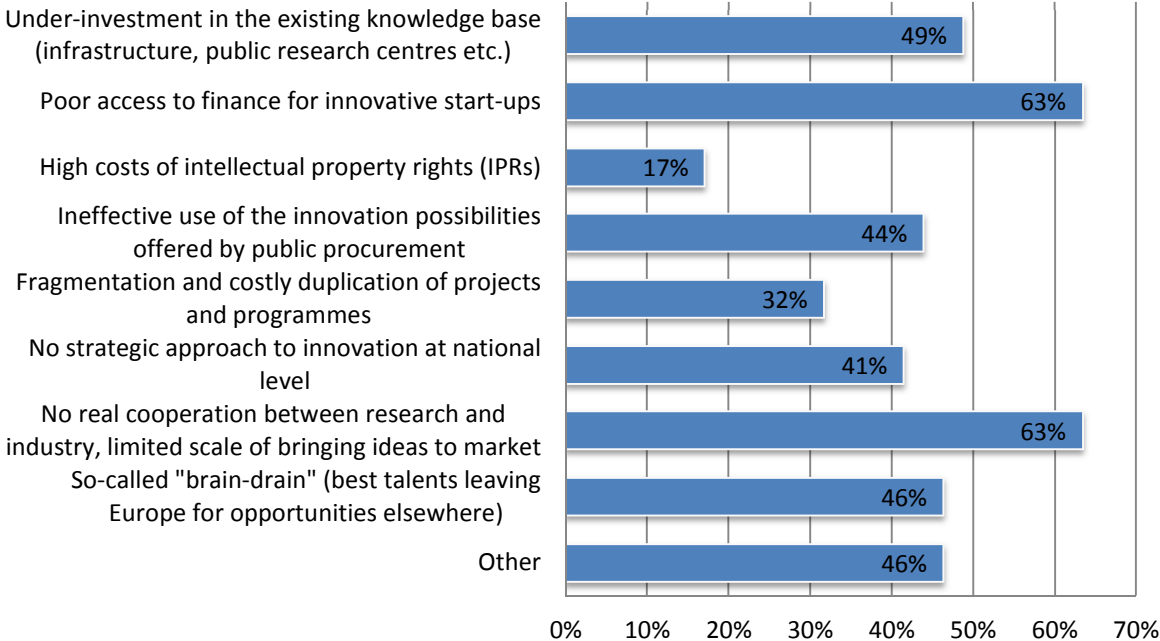


Figure 5. Challenges to reach 3% of GDP to R&D

The ‘Region of Western Greece’ (Greece) stated that innovation must form an integral part of public authorities' processes, hence that innovation was unknown territory for public authorities, concerning only research centres and other bodies which were interested in innovation as part of a helix (triple or quadruple) that was unconnected. The ‘Belgian Ministry for the German speaking community’(Belgium) answered that there was no real cooperation between research and industry (especially for SMEs), which brought about low innovation outcomes. The ‘Business Innovation Center Burgenland’ (Austria), the ‘Office of the Regional Government of Styria’(Austria) as well as the City of Heerhugowaard (Netherlands) mentioned the fact of too high administrative burdens imposed by the EU on regional levels when trying to access funds in this matter.

Followed by ‘So-called "brain-drain" (best talents leaving Europe for opportunities elsewhere)’ (46%), ‘Ineffective use of the innovation possibilities offered by public procurement ‘with (44%)’, ‘No strategic approach to innovation at national level’ (41%), ‘Fragmentation and costly duplication of projects and programmes’ (32%) and ‘High costs of intellectual property rights (IPRs)’ with 17%.

Q3. In line with the Innovation Union flagship initiative and the additional Communication on "Regional Policy contributing to smart growth in Europe 2020" (see Box 2), local and regional authorities are encouraged to build smart specialisation strategies, as a condition for having access to EU Structural Funds available for investments in research and innovation. Does your region/city have a smart specialisation strategy?

75% of the respondents mentioned that their region/city had a smart specialization strategy, where as 17% declined having such a strategy in place and 8% did not answer this question.

The ‘Province of Utrecht’ (Netherlands) mentioned that its smart specialization strategy opted for a broad approach to the concept of innovation, establishing a link with the available instruments – not only European funds, but also national resources, whereas its focus laid on offering innovative solutions to social challenges and needs. The ‘Madeira Region’ (Portugal) developed an action plan for research, technological development and innovation of the Autonomous Region of Madeira which involved more than 30 bodies and established the priorities and strategic actions for the region in various areas of development. The ‘Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie Region, Lublin’ (Poland) presented its innovation clusters for regional growth entailing the support of participation by bodies and their cooperative structures in networks at national and international level, introducing effective mechanisms and financing tools to serve the needs of innovative companies as well as developing the knowledge and skills of SME staff with a view to enhancing their companies' competitiveness on the basis of innovation and strategic management. The ‘INNOVA Észak-Alföld Regional Development and Innovation Agency’ (Hungary) reported about implementing innovation clusters for regional growth, innovation friendly business environments for SMEs, attractive regional research infrastructure and centres for competence as well as introducing “creative vouchers” in order to boost creativity and cultural industries.

The ‘Region of Attica’ (Greece) argued that there was still no smart specialization in place since it needs to be finalized in order to be properly implemented.

For those 17% (7 out of 41) that have declared not having a smart specialisation strategy in place, receiving funds under the ERDF will become rather difficult, since as already explained under point 2 of this report, such a strategy was proposed to become an ex-ante conditionality in order for EU Member States and regions to be able to receive fiscal support by European funds. Out of these seven respondents, 7% (3 out of 41) – namely ‘Marshal's Office of the Mazowsze Region in Warsaw’ (Poland), ‘Business & Innovation Centre (BIC) Burgenland’ (Austria) and the ‘Region of Attica’ (Greece) stated that they were asked by their national government to draw up such a strategy. The remaining 10% (4 out of 41) of the respondents that mentioned not having such strategy in place were also not asked to draw up such a strategy by their national government.

Out of the 41 respondents, 39% (16 respondents) are a member of the Smart Specialisation Platform, which was established in order to provide professional advice to EU Member States and their respective regions on innovative strategies. All, besides one out of these 16 respondents, have answered that they are having a smart specialisation strategy in place, where as the one stating not to have such a strategy in place, the ‘Region of Attica’ (Greece), argued that they were asked by the respective national government to draw up a smart specialisation strategy.

Q4. Innovation Union and the concept of smart specialisation encourage a better integration of cultural and creative industries in the overall economic development. Although they have a high innovation potential, they are not always included in strategies or projects. Are cultural and creative industries included in the economic development strategy and/or in the smart specialisation strategy of your city/region?

70% of the participants answered that there were cultural and creative industries included in their smart specialization or economic development strategies, where as 12% negated having included such industries 10% did not answer and 8% did not know whether their region included cultural and creative industries in the smart specialization strategy.

The ‘Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly’ (Ireland) mentioned that creative niches were identified as business niches, hence included in the regional innovation plan. The ‘Örnsköldsvik Municipality’ (Sweden) recognized that the cultural industry was important for its regional development, therefore an “art valley” functioning as a visitors attraction was introduced. The ‘Lombardy Region’ (Italy) stated that its creative industry was one of its specialization areas in its smart specialization strategy. The ‘Bratislava Self-Governing Region’ mentioned as well that the creative industry was one of its

key support areas in its innovation strategy and the Economic and Social development plan for the upcoming six years. The 'Östsm Regional Development' (Sweden) talked about several projects it has carried out in the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) as well as the establishment of two science parks in the region to stimulate the development in the CCI sector. The 'City of Delft' (Netherlands) mentioned that the importance of the Technology Innovation Campus since it supports boosting the technological innovation in this region.

Of those 12% that answered that they did not include culture or creative industries in their smart specialization strategy, no reasoning was provided in order to explain why.

The significance of the Cultural and Creative Industry, generating 3.33% of the EU's GDP, is well reflected in the answers provided by the LRAs participating in this survey. As demonstrated by answers stated above, the CCI has become a rising industry in the respective regions' economy.

4 How is the Innovation Union relevant to your city or region?

This section addresses the following three questions of the survey:

Q5

The Innovation Union contains 34 actions, which are listed with a detailed description on a dedicated platform: Innovation Union Information and Intelligence system (I3S). All actions are grouped under 12 thematic headings and an additional one on monitoring progress. [Innovation Union Information and Intelligence system](#) ^(13, 14). In your opinion and from a regional perspective, please state in which of these chapters has the EU made the most significant progress, which ones have good prospects and in which ones has the EU not done enough.

Q6

Overall, what are the strong and weak points of the Innovation Union flagship initiative, as seen from your regional/local standpoint?

Q7

Would you recommend any specific changes to the Innovation Union flagship initiative, during the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2014?

4.1 General findings

Significant progress in the twelve thematic headings of the Innovation Union was only moderately perceived by the LRAs, with the highest being '*Focusing EU funding instruments on Innovation Union priorities*' with 39%. Most of the thematic headings (8 out of 12) were seen, indicated by the highest percentage, to have only made some progress. However three out of twelve have been seen as to have made no progress, namely '*Creating a single innovation market*' with 63%, '*Increasing social benefits*' with 55% and '*Enhancing access to finance for innovative companies*' with 47% of the respondents reporting no progress.

¹³ See http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?pg=action-points

¹⁴ See <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/facts-figures-analysis/innovation-scoreboard> and <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/regional-innovation/monitor/>

As to the strong points of the Innovation Union, the respondents commended the promotion of the flagship initiative and amongst stakeholders such as SMEs and intermediaries as well as the public. Further the networking and the dissemination of knowledge across the EU was welcomed. When it came to the weaknesses, LRAs talked about inapplicable innovation models from high performing innovation to low performing innovation regions as well as the low access to funding that hinders them in reaching set EU 2020 goals.

95% of the LRAs would welcome change to the present flagship initiative Innovation Union, proposing expertise bodies to be implemented in regions in order to be of support for authorities to be more efficient in reaching goals in a timely manner as well as taking into account regional differences in innovation systems when formulating objectives to be reached.

4.2 Specific findings

Q5. The Innovation Union contains 34 actions, which are listed with a detailed description on a dedicated platform: Innovation Union Information and Intelligence system (I3S). All actions are grouped under 12 thematic headings and an additional one on monitoring progress. In your opinion and from a regional perspective, please state in which of these chapters has the EU made the most significant progress, which ones have good prospects and in which ones has the EU not done enough.

As the LRAs were asked to rank the twelve thematic headings according to how far these have made progress in their opinion, the one with the most votes on significant progress made was ‘*Focusing EU funding instruments on Innovation Union priorities*’ supported by 39% of the participants who believed that this heading reached a significant progress. The other ten thematic headings were only deemed to have made significant progress by around 20% of the respondents (Figure 6).

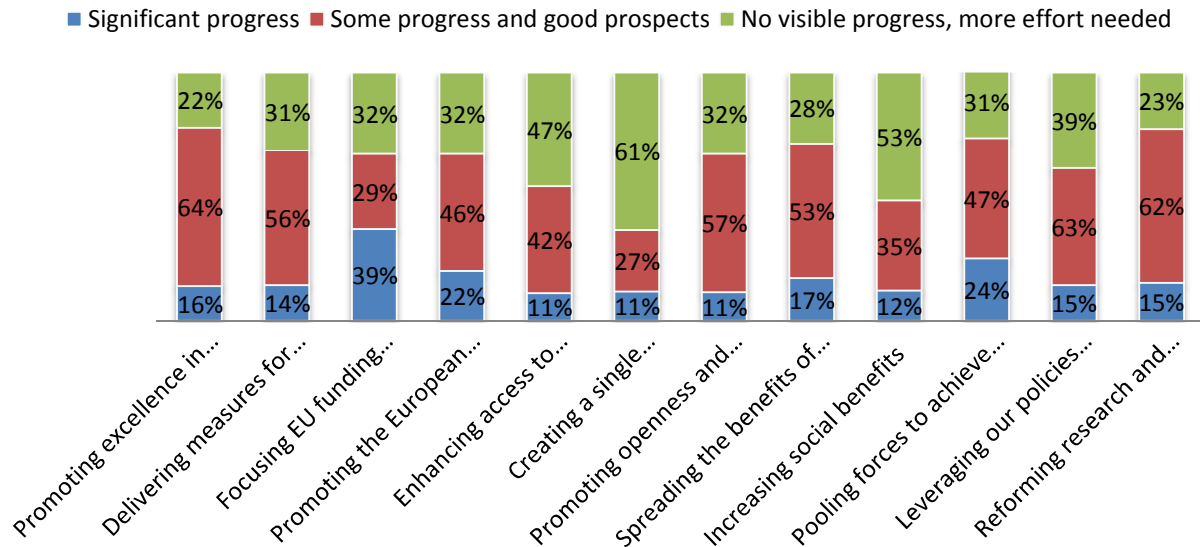


Figure 6. Progress made in 12 thematic headings of the Innovation Union

Eight out of twelve thematic headings have been attributed the highest percentage under the category “Some progress and good prospects”, ranging between 46% and 64%. Three out of the twelve headings have been deemed to have made no progress and that more effort was needed, namely the thematic heading of ‘*Creating a single innovation market*’ with 63% reporting no progress, ‘*Increasing social benefits*’ with 49% of the respondents as well as ‘*Enhancing access to finance for innovative companies*’ with 46%.

Q6. Overall, what are the strong and weak points of the Innovation Union flagship initiative, as seen from your regional/local standpoint?

Although a quantitative analysis cannot be provided for this question due to the variety of answers given, consensus emerged on a few strong points. Firstly, LRAs were fond of the fact that funding opportunities on an EU level became more accessible, hence by the possibility that research and innovation were more easily transferable to the market. Secondly, those LRAs that talked about a strong point, as well underlined the fact that the Innovation Union offered the realisation of greater networking and dissemination of knowledge across the EU. Another strong point that LRAs mentioned was that the flagship Innovation Union was promoted well enough to the public and the respective stakeholder such as intermediaries and SMEs.

As it comes to the weaknesses LRAs stated that innovation models that are applicable to European centres and large universities are rather inapplicable to low performing regions, hence those that have a weak RTD and innovation culture. This would bring about an even bigger gap between EU regions in the matter of innovation. In addition it was mentioned that regional governments

were not involved in the implementation of the Innovation Union. Therefore achieving balance in the performance across European regions would pose a problem in the upcoming time period, since regions were in different phases with accomplishing goals of the Innovation Union. Moreover due to the ongoing economic crisis and its consequences for regional achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy, some LRAs spoke about the issue of funding and how insufficient funding hindered them from implementing projects that would lead to fulfilling set objectives.

Q7. Would you recommend any specific changes to the Innovation Union flagship initiative, during the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2014?

Even though 17 respondents did not answer this question, 96% (23 out of 24) of those who did reply, answered this question with a yes, demonstrating a strong need for changes that need to be undertaken in order to enhance the applicability of the flagship initiative.

The ‘Ministry of Research and Innovation of Brussels Capital Region’ (Belgium), the ‘Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly’ (Ireland) and the ‘Region of Western Greece’ (Greece) called for a more thorough integration of regions, hence a higher effectiveness for the latter when it comes to harmonizing Research, Development and Innovation systems. The ‘Flemish Government’ (Belgium) urged for taking into account the regional differences when speaking about the content of the Innovation Union. The ‘Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de La Rioja’ (Spain) explained that there was a need for increasing innovation in SMEs since those companies were not eligible for funding due to their small size. The ‘Neas Peramos’ (Greece) and the ‘Lisbon City Council’ (Portugal) were calling for a expertise body/ competent institution that could provide guidance to regional demands in their respective language in order to be able to reach set EU goals in a timely manner.

5 Are your country's policies relevant for your city or region?

This section addresses the following two questions of the survey:

Q8

Does your country's 2013 (current) National Reform Programme (NRP) for Europe 2020 adequately respond to your regional/local needs in the policy areas covered by the Innovation Union flagship initiative (e.g. investments in R&D, bringing ideas to market, smart specialisation)?¹⁵

Q9

Would you suggest any changes in your country's National Reform Programme for 2014 in the area of innovation?

5.1 General findings

Even though the majority of the participants (52%) to this survey found that their national policies are relevant for their city/region, they did also find that there is room for improvement in their National Reform Programme, underlined by the fact that the majority with 45% saw shortcomings in this matter.

21% of the LRAs stated that they were not of the opinion that their NRP was meeting their local/regional needs in Innovation Union policy areas reasoned by too low regional involvement and complex financial mechanism hindering them from using their full research and innovation potential.

5.2 Specific findings

Q8. Does your country's 2013 (current) National Reform Programme (NRP) for Europe 2020 adequately respond to your regional/local needs in the policy areas covered by the Innovation Union flagship initiative (e.g. investments in R&D, bringing ideas to market, smart specialisation)?

¹⁵ All available here: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm.

52% of the respondents mentioned that their country's National Reform Programme for Europe 2020 adequately responded to their local needs in the policy area covered by the Innovation Union flagship initiative. The 'Blagoevgrad Local Council' (Bulgaria) explained that there are a lot of innovative SME projects improvements for young researchers made possible by the national NRP. The 'Örnsköldsvik Municipality' (Sweden) argued that their target for investing in R&D was set at 4% since this seemed to be accomplishable for the regional research infrastructure.

Amongst the 21% of the respondents that did not share this impression, 'Nea Peramos, Attica' argued that all positive effects of the NRP were at the time being undermined by the Greek bailout agreements, forcing all regions to undergo austerity measures. The 'Province of Overijssel' (Netherlands) stated that the national government undertakings were still far removed from regional SMEs' needs in the matter of innovation. The 'Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie region, Lublin' (Poland) reported about insufficient research and development expenditure and especially in the private sector and the fact that the distribution of EU funds was prioritizing regions with clusters that have the highest level of competition, neglecting the emergent ones. The 'Bratislava Self-Governing Region' (Slovakia) mentioned that there was little progress made in forging a common framework for supporting research and innovation as well as inadequate financial mechanisms for science and research leaving so called low innovators behind.

Further 10% of the respondents are stating that they did not know whether their NRP did respond to their needs covered by the Innovation Union and the remaining 17% did not provide an answer to this question.

Q9. Would you suggest any changes in your country's National Reform Programme for 2014 in the area of innovation?

The majority with 45% of the participants to this survey answered that they would suggest changes in their country's NRP for 2014 in the area of innovation. The 'Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly' (Ireland) stated that the upcoming NRP should include developing and supporting regional smart specialization strategies. The 'Autonomous Government of Catalonia' (Spain) argued that since innovation was the key to job creation, the latter should be reflected in budgetary terms and practical measures in order to meet challenges faced by the society. A similar answer was given by the 'Region of Western Greece' (Greece) stating that the operating culture should be enhanced, thereby increasing effectiveness of regional services, and not just of services administered by EU programmes, whereas there would be a need in turn for a budget to accomplish these changes. The 'Östsm Regional

Development Council' (Sweden) said that it would like to see a more distinct support to regional authorities in charge of regional development in order to implement and coordinate the activities more efficiently.

25% of the respondents did not find any changes necessary to their country's NRP for 2014 in the area of innovation, whereas 8% did not' know and the remaining 22% did not answer this question.

6 Policy and funding issues

This section addresses the following four questions of the survey:

Q10

Which of the sources of funding listed below are used to finance your actions under the Innovation Union flagship initiative? Are any other policy/financial instruments involved?

Q11

Are any of the actions you have undertaken to implement the Innovation Union flagship initiative (as stated in your answers to questions 1 and 2) carried out in partnership with different tiers of government? If so, please state (a) which administrative levels are involved and (b) which practical arrangements are taken to manage these actions jointly.

Q12

The policy goals under Innovation Union require an integrated, multi-sector approach. They can be achieved only if relevant stakeholders are also involved. Do you have a strategy for involving these various actors, such as the different research institutions, innovation centres, hi-tech companies (especially SMEs) and members of the public? If so, what kind of involvement have you pursued (e.g. information campaigns, dedicated events, PPPs).

Q13

Please add any further comments you wish to make on the issues covered in this questionnaire.

6.1 General findings

The most favoured financing source of the LRAs participating in this survey turned out to be the ‘European Regional Development Fund’ with 85% of the respondents choosing this type of source to be the most relevant one, followed by the FP7 fund with 60% of the participants depending upon the funds of the latter.

73% of the LRAs stated that actions carried out under the Innovation Union were carried out in partnership with different tiers of government, such as the Ministry of Industry.

All respondents have mentioned that they were involving various stakeholder such as universities, councils, regional bodies business – especially SMEs in their strategies for achieving policy goals under the Innovation Union. These strategies were incorporating seminars, meetings and round tables where expertise from all levels were participating to come to a viable and efficient solution on how to accomplish set objectives.

6.2 Specific findings

Q10. Which of the sources of funding listed below are used to finance your actions under the Innovation Union flagship initiative? Are any other policy/financial instruments involved?

As can be seen in Figure 7. the most implemented funding source chosen by the LRAs with 85% was the ‘European Regional Development Fund’ followed by the ‘FP7 (The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development)’ with 63%, the ‘Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme’ with 49%, the ‘Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)’ with 46%, ‘Lifelong Learning’ with 28% and lastly ‘Other’ with 24%, which was consisting out of the European Social Fund as well as regional funds.

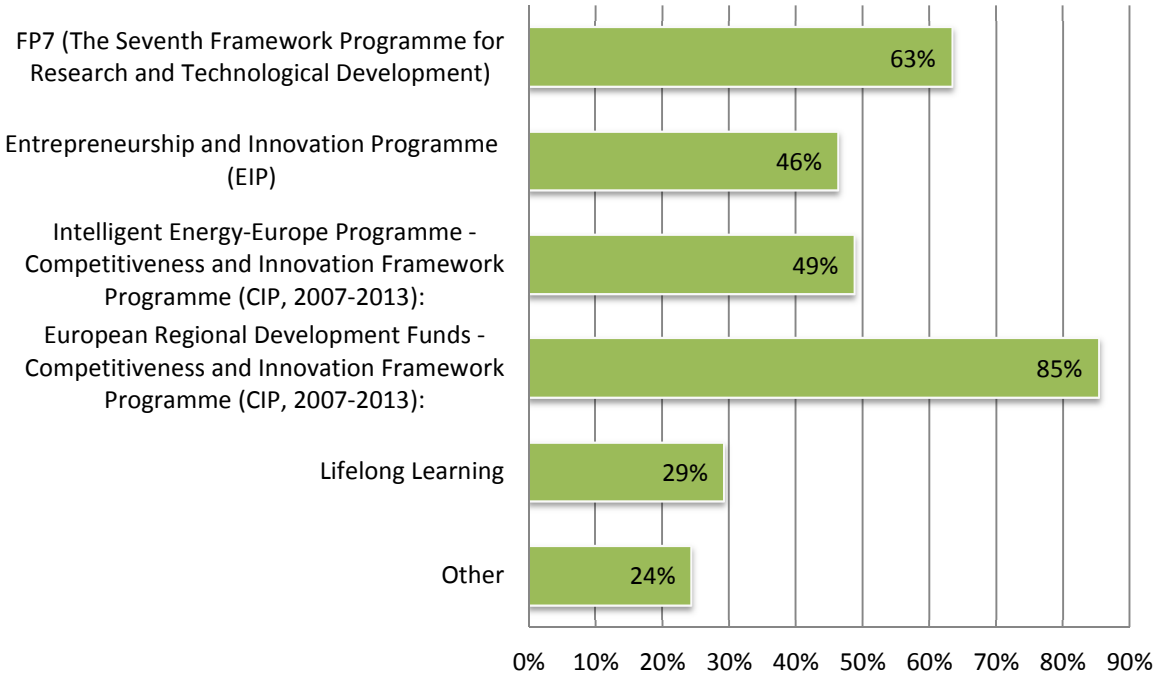


Figure 7. Main Source of Funding under the Innovation Union

Q11. Are any of the actions you have undertaken to implement the Innovation Union flagship initiative (as stated in your answers to questions 1 and 2) carried out in partnership with different tiers of government? If so, please state (a) which administrative levels are involved and (b) which practical arrangements are taken to manage these actions jointly?

73% of the participants to this survey mentioned that they carried out actions regarding the Innovation Union in partnership with different tiers of government. The cooperation between national and regional bodies in various types of forms, such as committees and councils was provided as an example for partnerships between different tiers of government. The ‘Province of Overijssel’ (Netherlands) explained that the region established so called “one stop” shops functioning as innovation centres, which were implemented in consultation with municipalities, moreover there are meetings held with representatives of the national government when it comes to financial instruments tackling different innovation agendas. The ‘Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie region, Lublin’ (Poland) described that all levels of government were involved in the drafting of strategic documents in matters of implementing the flagship initiative Innovation Union. The ‘Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de La Rioja’ (Spain) as well as the ‘Östsam Regional Development’ (Sweden) Council explicitly mentioned that the cooperation with the national level consisted out of seminars and meetings with the Ministry of Industry.

The remaining 27% didn’t answer this question, whereas it could be said that 100% of those who did answer, have conducted actions under the Innovation Union with different tiers of government.

Q12. The policy goals under Innovation Union require an integrated, multi-sector approach. They can be achieved only if relevant stakeholders are also involved. Do you have a strategy for involving these various actors, such as the different research institutions, innovation centres, hi-tech companies (especially SMEs) and members of the public? If so, what kind of involvement have you pursued (e.g. information campaigns, dedicated events, PPPs)?

All of the respondents answered this question with a yes, indicating that they had a strategy for involving various actors into their undertakings concerning the policy goals of the Innovation Union. The ‘Ministry of Research and Innovation of Brussels Capital Region’ (Belgium) explained that they needed one year of preparation for properly involving stakeholders into their efforts towards the desired policy goals, by interviewing administrative bodies, introducing thematic round tables and seminars with representatives from businesses and universities. The ‘Province of Gelderland’ (Netherlands) stated as well that there were regular sessions held with the key players in innovation which had a

consulting function when it came to drawing up the smart specialization strategy. The ‘Marshal's Office of the Mazowsze Region in Warsaw’ (Poland) mentioned that their 2007-2012 Mazowsze Regional Innovation Strategy included developing cooperation strategies between various stakeholders such as universities and businesses as well increasing the significance of SMEs and the establishment of networks and clusters supporting innovation and research. The ‘Lisbon City Council’ (Portugal) mentioned a task force that was set by the name of Lisbon/Europe 2020 bringing players from all fields together to multilaterally or individually make the best use of the EU funds granted for research and innovation. This body is overseen by rectors of the Lisbon University, local businesses and municipal councils in order to provide helpful guidance and monitoring.

Therefore it can be said that strategies involving various actors in the undertakings of reaching goals of the Innovation Union are consisting out of seminars, meetings and arranged councils that include all spheres needed for tackling this aspect of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Q13. Please add any further comments you wish to make on the issues covered in this questionnaire.

The ‘Region of Western Greece’ (Greece) stated the Innovation Union had to more efficiently include the needs of regions as well as the fact that governance and the involvement of business stakeholder should be more focused on. The ‘Westland Municipality’ (Netherlands) urged that there had to be more done about trans-regional cooperation, in the sense of clustering regions in similar topics. The ‘Östsam Regional Development Council’ (Sweden) emphasizes on the fact that the national government was putting a burden on the regional bodies by leveraging managing issues in development matters on the latter.

7 Conclusions

- The most favoured policy programme or action to support objectives of the Innovation Union was deemed to be **'Investing in R&D, innovation and ICT (own resources, public-private partnerships, other sources...)'** by **most respondents (90%)** stating that this type of action is included in their regional agendas, followed by the action of **'Providing support to potential beneficiaries to access EU funds and participate in EU initiatives in the field of research and innovation'** with **83%**.
- **63%** of the respondents, being the majority, mentioned that that **'Poor access to finance for innovative start-ups'** was the **most important challenge** that needs to be addressed, **equal** with the issue of **'No real cooperation between research and industry, limited scale of bringing ideas to market'** with **63%**.
- **75%** of the participants said that their region has **implemented a smart specialization strategy**. **17%** (7 out of 41) of the respondents do **not have such a strategy in place**; whereas **7%** (3 out of 41) are currently **working on drawing up such a strategy** as asked for by their respective government and the remaining **10% are not**.
- **70%** of the LRAs have **included the culture or creative industry in their economic development/ smart specialization strategy**, whereas **12%** declined including these industries in their strategies.
- Only **one out of twelve** thematic headings of the Innovation Union were perceived by LRAs making **significant progress**, namely **'Focusing EU funding instruments on Innovation Union priorities'** with **39%**. Most of the thematic headings, **eight out of twelve**, were seen as making only **some progress** ranging from **46% to 62%** in this matter. However the remaining three thematic headings, namely **Creating a single innovation market'** with **63%**, **'Increasing social benefits'** with **55%** and **'Enhancing access to finance for innovative companies'** with **47%** of the respondents reporting no progress.
- Concerning the **strong points** mentioned by the LRAs in this survey the respondents commended the **promotion of the flagship initiative and amongst stakeholders** such as SMEs and intermediaries as well as the public. Further **the networking and the dissemination of knowledge** across the EU was welcomed. **Weak points** regarded by the LRAs were mentioning **inapplicable transfer of innovation models** from high performing

innovation to low performing innovation regions as well as the **low access to funding that hinders them in reaching set EU 2020 goals.**

- **96%** of the LRAs, that answered this question (24 out of 41), would **welcome change to the present flagship initiative Innovation Union**, proposing expertise bodies to be implemented in regions in order to ensure appropriate undertakings in order to achieve policy goals under the Innovation Union.
- **52%** of the respondents deemed that their **National Reform Programme (NRP) does respond to their local/regional needs**, where as **21% are not of that opinion** were arguing that **too low regional involvement and complex financial mechanism** are hindering them from using their full research and innovation potential.
- **45%**, the majority, mentioned that they would **suggest changes to their NRP**, such as more support in developing regional smart specialization strategies, amplifying regional needs in the matter of innovation.
- **85%** stated that the **European Regional Development Fund** is their major source of funding, followed by **FP7 funds** with **61%** and the **Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme** with **49%**.
- **73%** of the LRAs stated that actions carried out under the Innovation Union are carried out **in partnership with different tiers of government**, such as the Ministry of Industry.
- **All respondents have mentioned that they are involving various stakeholder such as universities, councils, regional bodies business – especially SMEs in their strategies for achieving policy goals under the Innovation Union.**

Annex I – List of respondents

N°	Country	Organisation	Name	Mail	Level	Smart Specialisation Strategy	Member of S3 Platform (*)
1	Austria	Office of the Regional Government of Styria	Dr. Gerd Gratzner	gerd.gratzer@stmk.gv.at ; markus.poleschinski@stmk.gv.at ;	Region	✓	
2	Bulgaria	Blagoevgrad Local Council	Mitodi Dimitrov (Методи Димитров)	mdimitrov@blgmun.com	City		
3	Estonia	Kose Rural Municipality	Uno Silberg	uno.silberg@gmail.com	City		
4	Belgium	Ministry of Research and Innovation of Brussels Capital Region	Beata Bibrowska	bbibrowska@innoviris.irisnet.be	Other	✓	✓
5	Ireland	Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly	Kieran Moylan	KMoylan@bmwassembly.ie	Region		
6	Greece	Nea Peramos, Attica	Dimitrios Ioachim	ioachim13@msn.com	City		
7	Netherlands	Province of Gelderland	R. Haaijk	r.haaijk@gelderland.nl	Province	✓	

N°	Country	Organisation	Name	Mail	Level	Smart Specialisation Strategy	Member of S3 Platform (*)
8	Netherlands	Province of Utrecht (Provincie Utrecht)	Ralph de Vries, Marieke Kuijer	ralph.de.vries@provincieutrecht.nl ; marieke.kuijer@provincieutrecht.nl	Province	✓	
9	Sweden	Örnsköldsvik Municipality (Örnsköldsviks Kommun)	Lena Finne Jansson	lena.finne.jansson@ornskoldsvik.se ; hanna.l.wallin@ornskoldsvik.se ; gunbritt.hagglund@ornskoldsvik.se	City	✓	
10	Portugal	Madeira Autonomous Region (Região Autónoma da Madeira)	Maria Fernanda Dias Cardoso	sa.drace.vp@gov-madeira.pt ; fernandacardoso.vp@govmadeira.pt	Region	✓	✓
11	Netherlands	Province of Overijssel (Provincie Overijssel)	Bastiaan de Jonge, Tjerk Sytsema	bd.d.jonge@overijssel.nl ; te.sytsema@overijssel.nl	Province	✓	
12	Spain	Autonomous Government of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya)	Tatiana Fernandez Sirera	t.fernandez@gencat.cat	Region	✓	✓
13	Greece	Region of Western Greece (Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Ελλάδας)	Spýros Papaspirou (Σπύρος Παπασπύρου)	s.papaspirou@pde.gov.gr ; grafeio.pde@pde.gov.gr ; nthomopoulos@mou.gr ; d.karaboulas@pde.gov.gr	Region	✓	
14	Netherlands	Province of North Holland (Provincie Noord-Holland)	Elvira Sweet , Eva Gijbels	secr.sweet@noord-holland.nl ; gijbels@nl-prov.eu ; Weij@nlprov.eu ; donkerh@noordholland.nl	Province	✓	✓

N°	Country	Organisation	Name	Mail	Level	Smart Specialisation Strategy	Member of S3 Platform (*)
15	Netherlands	Westland Municipality (Gemeente Westland)	Marga Vintges	mgmvintges@gemeentewestland.nl	City	✓	
16	Netherlands	Province of South Holland (Provincie Zuid-Holland)	Rogier van der Sande, Alexander van den Bosch	bosch@nl-prov.eu	Province		
17	Belgium	Vlaamse overheid (Flemish Government)	Niko Geerts	niko.geerts@ewi.vlaanderen.be	Region	✓	✓
18	Poland	Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie region, Lublin (Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Lubelskiego w Lublinie)	Bartłomiej Poczowski	bartlomiej.poczowski@lubelskie.pl ; radoslaw.dudzinski@lubelskie.pl ; monika.rozembajgier@lubelski	Region	✓	✓
19	Netherlands	City of of Heerhugowaard (Gemeente Heerhugowaard)	Henk Jan Jansen	h.j.jansen@heerhugowaard.nl ; l.aarts@heerhugowaard.nl ; J.vanes@heerhugowaard.nl	City	✓	
20	Slovakia	Bratislava Self-Governing Region (Bratislavský samosprávny kraj)	Martin Hakel, Marek Dvorský	martin.hakel@region-bsk.sk ; Marek.Dvorsky@region-bsk.sk	Region	✓	✓
21	Spain	Instituto Valenciano de Competitividad Empresarial (IVACE) – Autonomous Community of Valencia	Juan Manuel San Martín Blázquez, Cruz Corachán	maricruz.corachan@impiva.gva.es ; Juanmanuel.sanmartin@impiva.gva.es	Region	✓	✓

N°	Country	Organisation	Name	Mail	Level	Smart Specialisation Strategy	Member of S3 Platform (*)
22	Poland	Marshal's Office of the Mazowsze Region in Warsaw (Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Mazowieckiego w Warszawie)	Adam Struzik, Andrzej Żuk	a.zuk@mazovia.pl ; r.zieba@mazovia.pl ; katarzyna.manska@mazovia.pl	Region		
23	Italy	Lombardy Region (Regione Lombardia)	Armando De Crinito	armando_de_crinito@regione.lombardia.it	Region	✓	✓
24	Spain	Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de La Rioja	Amadeo Lázaro Fernández	alazarof@larioja.org ; jurena@larioja.org	Region	✓	
25	Poland	Marshal Office of the Wielkopolskie Region (Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Wielkopolskiego)	Monika Gałganek-Napierała	Monika.Galganek-napierala@umww.pl	Region	✓	✓
26	Italy	Autonomous Province of Trento (Provincia Autonoma di Trento)	Isabella Bressan, Nicoletta Clauser, Michele Nulli	michele.nulli@provincia.it ; nicoletta.clauser@provincia.it ; Isabella.Bressan@provincia.it	Province	✓	
27	Belgium	Belgian ministry for the rman-speaking community (Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens)	Yannick Grosch, Catherine Jungbluth, Inga Klawitter	Yannick.grosch@wfg.be ; catherine.jungbluth@wfg.be ; inga.klawitter@dgov.be	Region	✓	
28	Netherlands	City of Delft (Gemeente Delft)	Wilbert Hoondert	whoondert@Delft.nl ; helen.schuurmans@vng.nl ; pvgeel@Delft.nl	City	✓	

N°	Country	Organisation	Name	Mail	Level	Smart Specialisation Strategy	Member of S3 Platform (*)
29	Spain	Basque Government (Gobierno Vasco)	Arantxa Tapia, Sofia de Orue	Des-eco@ej-gv.es ; Sofia-Orue@ej-gv.es ; jabasterra@ej-gv.es ; leyrebilbao@ej-gv.es	Region	✓	
30	UK	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)	Leonie Hertel	leonie@cosla.gov.uk	Association of cities and regions		
31	Portugal	Lisbon City Council (Câmara Municipal de Lisboa)	Cristina Rocha	cristina.alfaro@cm-lisboa.pt ; patricia.teixeira@cm-lisboa.pt	City	✓	✓
32	France	Eurisy	Laure Lepastier	laure.lepastier@eurisy.org	Organisation		
33	Austria	Business & Innovation Centre (BIC) Burgenland	Michael Sedlak	michael.sedlak@bicburgenland.at ; Hans.Lackner@bicburgenland.at ; claudia.schlag@bgld.gv.at	Association of cities and regions	✓	
34	Sweden	Östsam Regional Development Council (East Sweden)	Anna Lindberg	anna.lindberg@ostsam.se ; office@ostsam.se ; maria.pettersson@eastsweden.be ; info@eastsweden.be	Region	✓	

N°	Country	Organisation	Name	Mail	Level	Smart Specialisation Strategy	Member of S3 Platform (*)
35	Greece	Region of Attica (Περιφέρεια Αττικής)	Nickos Androulakakis (ΑΝΔΡΟΥΛΑΚΑΚΗΣ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ), (ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ)	nandr@patt.gov.gr	Region		✓
36	Greece	Crete Region (Περιφέρεια Κρήτης)	Eleni Iniotaki (Ελένη Ινιωτάκη), Γραμματεία Περιφερειάρχη Κρήτης	gram.pkr@crete.govr ; e.iniotaki@crete.govr	Region	✓	✓
37	Spain	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia (Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia)	Jesús Oliva García, María Elena González Lezcano	jesus.oliva2@carm.es ; melena.gonzalez@carm.es	Region	✓	✓
38	Italy	Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia)	Sara Vito, Vittorino Boem, Maurizio Trevisan	m.trevisan@trevisanstudio.it ; maurizio.trevisan@rengov.eu ; olivero@siti.polito.it	Region	✓	✓
39	Finland	Uusimaa Regional Council (Uudenmaan liitto)	Kristiina Heiniemi-Pulkkinen	kristiina.heiniemipulkkinen@uudenmaanliitto.fi	County	✓	✓

N°	Country	Organisation	Name	Mail	Level	Smart Specialisation Strategy	Member of S3 Platform (*)
42	Hungary	INNOVA Észak-Alföld Regional Development and Innovation Agency (Észak-Alföldi Regionális Innovációs Ügynökség Kht.)	Norbert Grasselli	norbert.grasselli@eszakalfo.hu	Region	✓	
43	Netherlands	City of Eindhoven (Gemeente Eindhoven)	Twan De Bruijn	t.de.bruijn@eindhoven.nl ; n.verstraeten@eindhoven.nl	City	✓	

(*) Local and Regional Authorities being part of this survey were compared to the regions that are members of the S3 platform, in order to show whether those participants to this survey that have answered to have a Smart Specialisation Strategy in place are at the same time also members of the S3 platform.

Annex II – List of regional/local initiatives reported in the contributions

Country	Organisation	Initiative
Austria	Business & Innovation Centre	Gute Idee, Burgenland: This initiative has three major topics to support innovative companies: (1) intermediary between companies and R&D institutions, funding institutions. (2) funding program for innovative measures. (3) awareness raising for innovation at companies and the population.
Austria	Office of the Regional Government of Styria	COMET: Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies: The COMET program promotes the development of centres of excellence, whose centerpiece is a business- and science-defined research program at a high level.
Belgium	Belgian ministry for the German-speaking community	Life in East Belgium 2025: The local event of the German-speaking Community focused on linking the Regional Development Strategy “Ostbelgien leben 2025” (living in Eastern Belgium in 2025) with the Europe 2020 Strategy. Since the German-speaking Community is a typical cross-border region, borders play an important and reoccurring role in the Community’s regional development and in the daily life of the citizens living in our region. In two of the projects in the Regional Development Strategy, borders itself are key subjects, but they play an important role in every single one of the 16 projects and 48 sub-projects.
Belgium	Flemish Government	Enterprise Europe Network Vlaanderen: The Enterprise Europe Network Vlaanderen (EEN) manages business cooperation including on innovation at the EU-level. It is a cooperation network between IWT, AO and FIT (Flanders Investment and Trade).

Country	Organisation	Initiative
Netherlands	Province of Utrecht	<p>Economic Board Utrecht: This board is a platform where businesses, knowledge institutions and authorities in the Utrecht region work together to develop the regional economy, for example by giving greater impetus to knowledge-intensive services and the creative sector and stimulating innovation.</p>
Netherlands	City of Eindhoven	<p>The Brainport 2020 programme: Brainport 2020 is the strategic vision and implementation programme that reveals the direction and concrete actions to develop Southeast Netherlands into a technological and economic top region of world stature. That happens with a focus on the cross-border links with Flanders and Nordrhein-Westfalen. Brainport 2020 is a comprehensive programme that sets down the required actions in the area of: employment (People), Research & Development/Design (Technology), economy (Business) and environmental quality and infrastructure (Basics).</p>
Poland	Marshal's Office of the Mazowsze Region in Warsaw	<p>Mazowsze Regional Innovation Strategy: This strategy is providing support for initiatives that step up cooperation between the various players on the innovation market.</p>
Poland	Marshal Office of the Wielkopolskie Region	<p>Wielkopolska Regional Operational Programme, 2007 – 2013 (WRPO) : It is an instrument developed to enforce measures aimed at reducing economic, social and territorial disparities within the Community. It implements one of the three objectives set out in Article 3 of the aforementioned Regulation, i.e. "convergence".</p>

Country	Organisation	Initiative
Poland	Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie region, Lublin	Lubelskie Region Development Strategy 2014-2020: The aim of the Strategy is to accelerate structural change and the development of selective areas, which on one hand are grounded in traditional business fields of specialization of the region, on the other hand provide long-term profitability of production and services. These will improve the social and economic attractiveness of the region, especially cities, which will stimulate economic processes, increase the inflow of external capital, reduce migration trends and protect the region against loss of the most active and well-educated young people.
Portugal	Madeira Autonomous Region	PIDTI: Action Plan for Research, Technological Development and Innovation of the Autonomous Region of Madeira. The PIDTI is aligned with the RIS3 strategy, in accordance with the Europe 2020 strategy and the guidelines for the NRP 2020, and seeks to create a culture of RTD+I in the ARM in which the value of knowledge and ideas, and the benefits they bring to society, are recognised, and above all which rewards those who create knowledge and enable it to serve social and economic development.
Portugal	Lisbon City Council	Lisbon/Europe 2020 task force: The task force was set up to prepare the city's involvement in the Europe 2020 strategy and make the best possible use of the resources available in the next period 2014-2020. The aim is to ensure a viable strategy for the city, enlisting in this process universities, the business world, social and cultural institutions and civil society in general, helping and encouraging these players to make maximum use of EU funds and initiatives.
Portugal	Madeira Autonomous Region	CONHECIMENTO: This is a system of Incentives for Technological Research and Development of the Autonomous Region of Madeira which seeks to step up regional RTD efforts and create new knowledge in order to make companies more competitive, promoting coordination between those companies and the bodies of the Scientific and Technological System.

Annex III – Box of good practices

Country	Organisation	Good examples
Austria	Office of the Regional Government of Styria	Green Network Concept : The main task of this concept is the networking of existing green and open spaces with linear, connecting paths and green elements. Thus parks, play and sports fields as well as free spaces are linked into a green system and embedded in a superordinate context. Therefore, the "Green Network" concept can simultaneously fulfil several functions: it allows for safe and attractive walkways and cycle paths, has positive impacts on the microclimate and the local ecology, allows local recreation and positively contributes to the region's overall appearance with well-greened road spaces.
Austria	Office of the Regional Government of Styria	Economic Policy Styria 2020 – Growth through Innovation: The new Economic Strategy 2020, Growth through Innovation, has been in force since May 2011 (Decision of the Styrian Parliament of 17 May 2011). Its main features are active development of business locations in line with three guiding themes (mobility, eco-tech and health-tech) and the orientation of support instruments towards active development of business locations. The aim is also to mobilise private investment capital more effectively and to focus on the development of flexible financing instruments.
Belgium	Belgian Ministry for the German-speaking Community	Stimulating innovation: offers innovation advisory services for East Belgian companies. Its target group are small and medium enterprises, self-employed persons and large companies. Individuals who would like to transfer their ideas into concrete economic goods or services have also the opportunity to contact the innovation advisor to develop their ideas further and get support.

Country	Organisation	Good examples
Finland	Uusimaa Regional Council	<p>EER 2012 - Uusimaa as a European Entrepreneurial Region 2012: The aim is to promote entrepreneurial skills amongst young people. The target groups are Uusimaa's young entrepreneurs and businesses. The expected outcome is that young people's interest in entrepreneurship will have increased. The measure will be implemented over the course of 2012. The budget is EUR 1.1 million (ESF 75%) plus development funds from regional level of EUR 0.6 million for EER – projects.</p>
Italy	Lombardy Region	<p>Project DINAMEETING: The aim of the project is supporting innovation of micro and small enterprises in Lombardy through the operational planning of an extensive reorganization and business development based on the application of computer technology. The plan is that selected companies can access specific services (due diligence technological and business evaluation, preparation of a business plan, support the start up of investment projects) with the support of ICT-Temporary managers providing reference models of other enterprises that succeeded by the innovations implemented.</p>
Italy	Region of Lombardy	<p>DECO TER: The project DECO TER aims to promote and support young designers by offering them the opportunity to translate their ideas into prototypes by businesses, which in turn benefit from fresh ideas to renew the production and be more competitive in domestic and international markets.</p>

Country	Organisation	Good examples
Poland	Marshal's Office of the Greater Poland (Wielkopolskie) Voivodship	<p>Innovative Greater Poland: The project is consistent with the Innovation Union flagship initiative. This is a project arising from the Regional Innovation Strategy for the Greater Poland Voivodship, which is in the process of realisation. It is made up of many initiatives (modules), the realisation of which is intended to contribute to the growth of innovation in Greater Poland, e.g.: Innovative Office; Partnership for Innovativeness; Innovative businesses; Effective business environment institutions; Cooperation between academia and business; Education for innovation; Pro-innovation local authority. A number of projects have already been implemented. As it is difficult to present this complex initiative briefly and to describe the effects of its implementation to date precisely in the context of this questionnaire, please see the website iw.org.pl/ for details of the project.</p>
Spain	Autonomous Government of Catalonia	<p>Technology Valorisation Program: The Technology Valorisation Program was developed to cover the gap between the results from basic R&D and the implementation of the results of this research in the industry or in the market. Over the last decade the quality and quantity of research in Catalonia grew up exponentially, generating a great knowledge with a high potential of application in the industrial sector, but instead of reaching the market this technology stayed in the labs not being made commercial. ACCIÓ decided to boost the technology transfer activity of the universities and public research centres in order to increase the competitiveness of the Catalan market. Before developing the program, ACCIÓ carried out a benchmarking study to identify similar initiatives around Europe, and some were found in Scotland and England.</p>
Uk	COSLA	<p>Open Innovation Project: Edinburgh City council has brought together a partnership of local governments, universities, business support services and other public bodies from the UK, France, Germany, Ireland and Belgium aiming at the creation of jobs and new businesses by stimulating the application of collaborative open innovation models to co-create and develop new products and services.</p>