

BMWF^a

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research

Conference
**Knowledge Society in Practice:
HI-TECH SLOVAKIA**

Bratislava, 3 April 2009

Regional development with accent on science-technology
parks and innovation clusters

Social Innovations' contribution to regional development

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What makes a region innovative?

Introduction: Topical issues and definitions

Region

Innovation

Development

Human capital

Innovative region

Components of innovative regions ...

REGION:

Understanding in the case of the workshop:

- **Intra-national**
- and
- **Cross-border**
- regions

DEVELOPMENT:

Objectives:

Decreasing disparities?
Growth & trickling down?

Measures / policies:

Improving tangible and intangible infrastructure
Ownership & investment

... embedded in the „**Learning Society**“

HUMAN CAPITAL:

„Acquired and useful **abilities**“
– in particular knowledge

Improving human capital is a necessary but (alone) insufficient **pre-condition** to fully gain benefits from the **knowledge triangle** (educ./research/innov.)

INNOVATION:

Comprehensive concept of innovation:

Effective solutions in technology, economy and social systems –

adapted to regional requirements and specific capabilities

Innovative regions

Basic Essentials

Strategy formation (analysis for finding a vision and strategic objectives)

Policy deployment & implementation of practices (tools, governance, money)

Practices at programme and project levels (management, monitoring, use results)

Innovative regions

Awareness among stakeholders and continuity of processes

Networking in the region, supporting bottom-up initiatives (critical mass!)

Innovation in the centre of a vision, assignment of funding for RTDI (Research, Technology Development and Innovation)

Innovative regions

Accountability of decision makers, requires independent evaluation

Learning in public and private institutions (incl. NGOs) necessitates stimulation and facilitation – focus in education on professional training for all age groups

„Learning regions“

means the networking of different regional stakeholders
with the aim

- to adjust demand & supply in the fields of research & learning
- to improve human capital and the regional knowledge base
- to foster concrete cooperation = projects

The „Learning Society“

....puts knowledge at the **core of society**
with a **new mode of production and consumption**
where knowledge is the predominant **source of value-added**
with **new rules** of governance and distribution.

The learning society increases people's degrees of freedom by giving people more effective means for using their competencies.“

Irish EU Presidency Conference on “Foresight for Innovation”,
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin , 2004

Thank you for your attention!

This presentation was mainly based on contributions from

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at the International Conference „Fostering and building human capital for sustainable knowledge societies in South Eastern Europe“,
Bukarest, March 2009