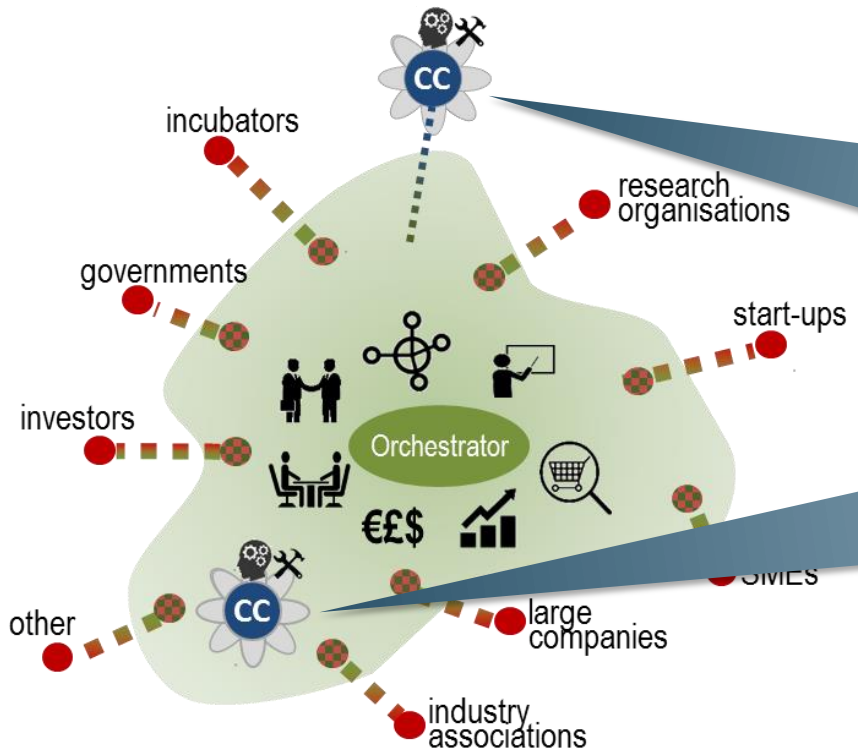
DIH NETWORKS AND FUNDING OF COOPERATION

TNO | Maurits Butter | Govert Gijsbers | November 14, 2017

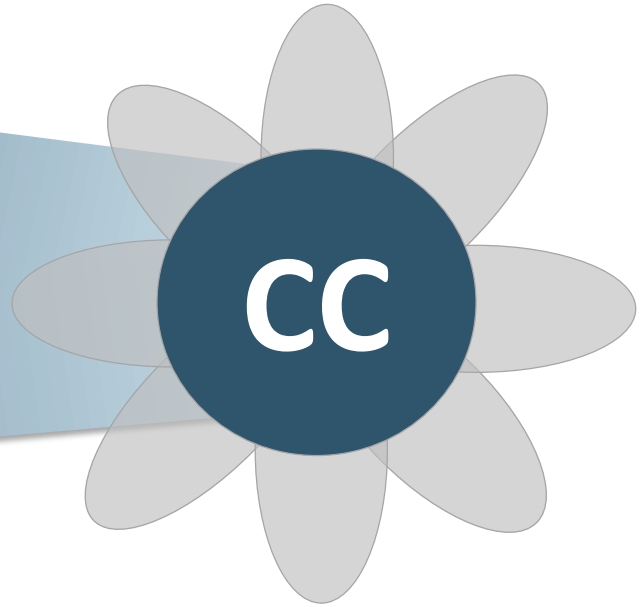
TNO innovation for life

TWO CORE CONCEPTS

Digital Innovation Hubs



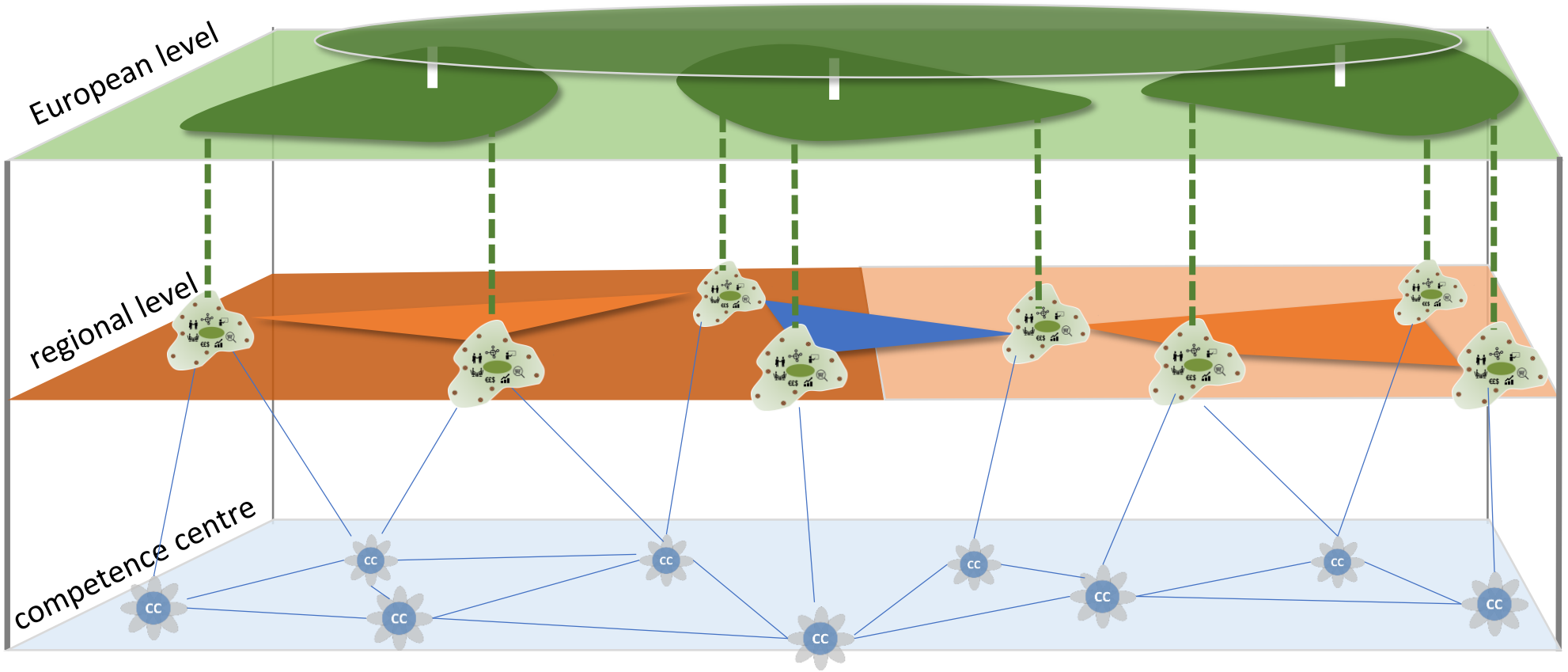
Competence centres



DIFFERENT LAYERS OF NETWORKS

- The organization level
  - Competence centres
  - Ditigal Innovation Hubs
- The “regional” level
  - National/regional domain networks
  - Regional cooperation networks
- The European level
  - The pan-EU domain cooperation networks
  - The pan-EU coordination networks

A PAN-EU VIEW ON A HUB NETWORK(S)



OBSERVATIONS ON COOPERATION AND ITS FUNDING

- In general, cooperation between hubs is difficult, as the added value is often perceived as limited
  - Cooperation between CC is more obvious, but a
- The cooperation between regional hub is funded by
  - Often seen, but struggling with making their actu
  - Alignment with national networks is hard work; f
- On a pan-EU level, cooperation between CCs is seen often, but less between DIHs
  - The added value is perceived as limited and other priorites are set
  - Smart specialisation is linked to the needs of the regions

The question is what the added value is, how to make this operational and what business models can be seen?

SO WHAT ARE ADDED VALUES

BUT THERE ARE FUNDING PROBLEMS

- Creating pan-regional, pan-EU awareness/interest on specific topics
- Making use of the specialised technologies and expertise within different regions
- Create a regional doorway for innovations from other regions
- Address issues on pan-EU value chain cooperation
- Create new cross-sectoral opportunities
- Learning from each other how to organize your activities

- Regional governments want regional focus
- Examples of financially successful inter-regional cooperations are limited
- **Pan-EU cooperation is costly (time, money) and will create benefits only mid-term**
- Hubs have a hard time just surviving, as budgets are limited and “no time”
- Business models are unclear
- Pan-EU cooperation is creating more patchwork
- Article 70?