The Stairway to excellence (S2E)

Boosting regional growth through innovation

Brussels, 08 March 2017
europa.eu/!Wx96NN

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#S2Einno

Bulgarian ICT Cluster Initiative

- Established in 2005, as national wide cluster initiative in field of ICT.
- ICT cluster society has 10+ members: 7 vertical sector clusters with 300+ SME's, 3 sector associations, 6 technical universities.
- In 2014 Bulgarian ICT cluster initiated establishment of **Balkan and Black Sea ICT clusters network** and was its first leading organization. Today network is recognized on EU level and represents 18 organizations from 11 countries.
- Proven experience with H2020, COSME, Danube Strategy projects, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs. Member of national Business Council, supporting Council of Ministry in policy making, building road maps and implementation.

Policy level impact

How can regional authorities influence funding efficiencies in countries with strong central governments?

- Continuously training managing authorities staff (competence in programming, monitoring); Sustainable program for development & supports of scientific and research facilities; Use of PPP collaboration in all phases, but especially in phase of monitoring of every program/call impact & results.

What is the role of Regional policies in the implementation EU policies to promote research and innovation?

- To promote & use EU level of tolls (SoE, Cluster labeling system); To bias Regional support programs with RIS3; to support commercialization via TTO

Bottlenecks & Barriers

Which critical stakeholders are key to FP/H2020 success? Which are common barriers presented?

- Mobile, strong and knowledgeable research community; Platform for real time cooperation among triple helix actors; National support organizations; Rising media coverage for best cases;
- Lack of understanding of trends on global markets;

Which conditions of H2020 calls could improve governance safe-guards contingent on receiving awards?

- Continuous training instruments for SME & research society; Further improvement of evaluation system;

Implementation issues

What barriers/disincentives/risks exist to implementing RIS3 policies?

- Short horizon political view and/or political instability; Lack of coordination on national level thus overlapping among different instruments; Economical instability and high level of brain drain;

How could H2020 calls support the development & implementation of the RIS3?

- To compensate low level of R&I investments; To rectify direction of research & development keeping in focus global market opportunities and threats;