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Innovation between policy learning & implementation – Lessons from CENTRAL EUROPE

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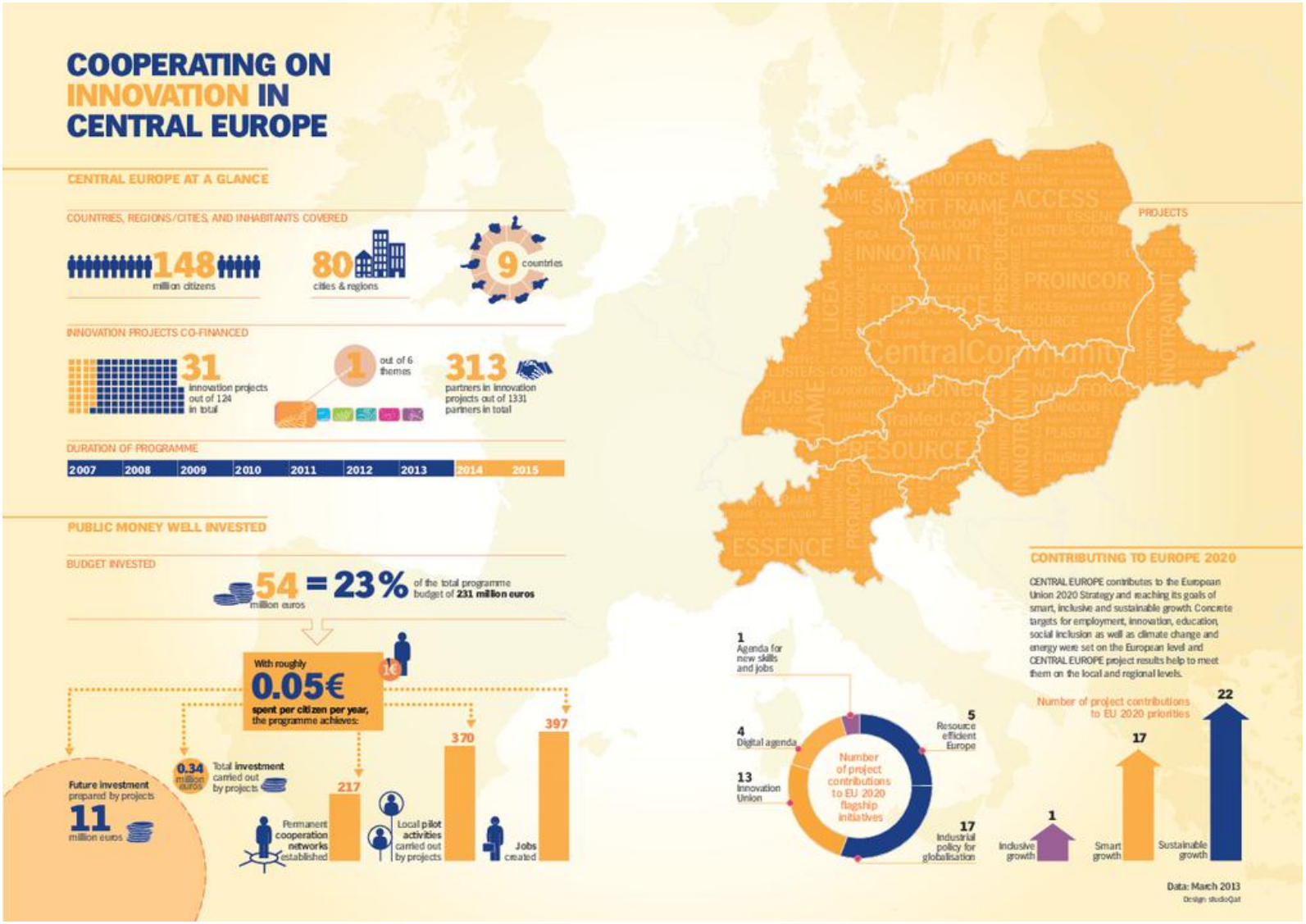

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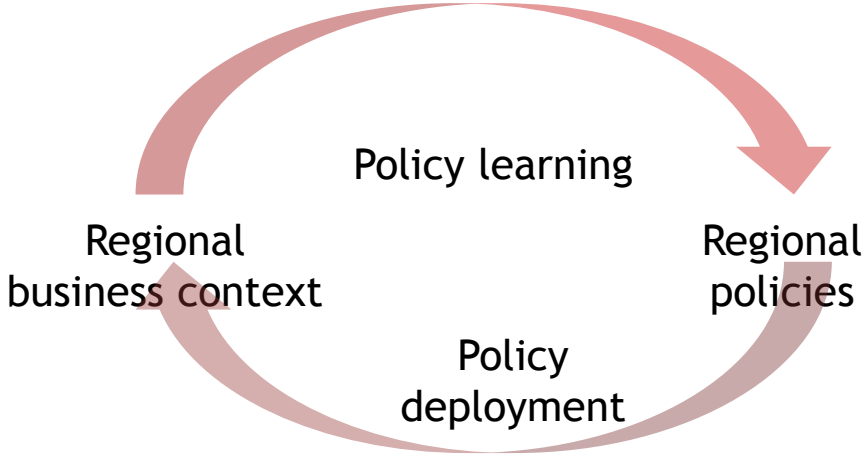
Transnational Cooperation project can create the framework for

- a fruitful policy learning process in the innovation field
- addressing the relevant barriers to innovation faced by regional businesses

High complementarity of policy learning cycle and implementation cycle with concrete measures for business support

- *International dimension (critical mass, synergies, complementarities and spill-over effects)*
- *Bottom up and multi-governance character*
- *Triple/quadruple helix approaches*
- *Knowledge management on regional level*
- *Development of regional innovation support services*



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Policy learning – Learning from others and learning from own success and failures

Improving local practices:

- ✓ benchmarking of existing policies and programmes
- ✓ implementation of formal evaluation / review mechanisms (such as peer review or other external review schemes)

Adopting external practices:

- ✓ watch mechanisms to identify successful approaches at a global scale (screening and validation of external measures that can be adapted to local contexts through mainstreaming)
- ✓ access to support and assistance for implementation of external good practices (e.g. twinning mechanisms, partnering fora) leading to implementation of new programmes and measures

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Direct support to businesses and especially SMEs to unlock their innovation potential – how is it ensured?

Addressing barriers to innovation faced by regional businesses:

- ✓ Shortage of own financial resources and the problem of accessing finance for innovation
- ✓ Shortage of innovation management skills
- ✓ Insufficient marketing of innovation and of innovative products and services
- ✓ Lack of research capabilities in most firms and in particular SMEs
- ✓ Weaknesses in networking and co-operation with external partners

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Policy mix underlying RIS3 should balance different tools and schemes

Examples of several schemes/tools which could be successfully tested through transnational co-operation projects:

- ✓ Support to gain access to specialist infrastructure – Living Labs approach *(CentraLab)*, promotion of use Innovative Light Sources *(CENILS)*, business incubation and settlement *(SMART FRAME)*
- ✓ Advisory service schemes – IPR issues *(CERIM, FREE, InTraMed-C2C)*, to Young Innovators *(InoPlaCe)*, innovation management (*PROINCOR* with its innovation audits), open innovation (*Central Community* platform for life science community), "innovoucher" scheme *(centrope_tt)*, advisory services to regional "Hidden Champions" *(i3SME)*, KET (Key Enabling Technology) mainstreaming , in this case one specific - nanotechnology *(NANOFORCE)*
- ✓ Support to stakeholder regional/international collaboration – clusters *(CNCB, AutoNet, ClusterCOOP, CLUSTERS-COORD, CluStrat)*, "cross innovation vouchers" *(FORT)*, Nanodeals generator *(NANOFORCE)*

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