

BURGUNDY

Synthesis

Baiona (Vigo), Galicia

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Historical

In addition to the National Strategy for Research and Innovation (2008) and the Regional Economic Development strategy (2005), five diagnosis studies have been performed between xxx and xxx, meant for providing a basis for the development of a Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS), on the following topics :

- The global components of the regional innovation system
- The research potential in Burgundy
- The regional system of transfer of knowledge from research to innovation
- Innovation in SMEs
- Diagnosis of innovation systems clusters

Main bases : Burgundy is in a critical phase of development

- Burgundy is a rural region with a declining population, a GDP growing much slower than the national mean, and a modest growth in terms of employment concerning activities with high added value. The high diversification level of the economy represents an opportunity for innovative interdisciplinary developments. However, the private innovation capacity is still low and barely spread beyond the circle of small innovators.
- The SMEs greater than 100 employees are largely under-represented, with yet few specialized clusters. The services sector with low added value is predominant. Furthermore, the technological level of the industry is fragile.
- It harbors a low workforce linked to innovation compared to national statistics, a ratio of research personnels lower than in reference regions, and finally a weak outflow of higher education graduates.
- The public and private R&D partnerships are still inadequate, despite increasing efforts. The actual R&D domestic expenses, despite an encouraging dynamic and a good level of publications are in the low average compared to the national mean.
- The private research has focused on chemicals and pharmaceuticals on the one hand and on transportation and capital equipment, including mechanical and metallurgical, on the other.

As part of the 2014-2020 EU structural funds, a strategic territorial diagnosis (DTS) was conducted between April and October 2012. It brought together a wide audience of public and private stakeholders of the regional innovation and economic development ecosystem, and enabled thus many constructive discussions which represented the pedestal for the RIS evolution towards smart specialization.

Nine challenges were highlighted in 2010 (???) :

- Strengthening the research excellence
- Developing partnerships for innovation
- Strengthening the transfer activities of public research and its impact on the economic
- Increasing the attractiveness and visibility of the region and its potential for innovation at an international level
- Expanding the circle of innovative companies
- Developing human and technological skills for innovation
- Disseminating key enabling technologies
- Participating to the Digital Agenda
- Defining new areas of specialization

To address these issues, **three strategic areas** of intervention were identified :

1. Amplify the networking dynamics between research and business
2. Position the human skills in the heart of the dynamics of innovation
3. Enhance and disseminate knowledge to develop entrepreneurship and innovation

Main results of the RIS 2010 :

A strengthened regional partnership dynamic between the decentralized government and the Regional Council of Burgundy is now systematized.

▪ **Partnership between public science and industry**

As part of an ambitious Regional Action Plan for Innovation (PARI 2010-2013) driven by the Regional Council, 46 integrated research and innovation projects have been accompanied through a contractualization process with the decentralized State and the higher education and research institutions. They were anchored within 4 scientific domains : Humanities and Social Sciences, Material Sciences and Technology, Food and Agri-environment and finally STIC / Health. Furthermore, two mixed public-private research laboratories have been established in the automotive field, also under the incentive of the Regional Council. In addition, four clusters were created labelled by the State (Agro Enterprises Composites, Wind for Future, Center of performance Nevers Magny-Cours and Mecateam Cluster) which are resolutely committed to collaborative research.

▪ **Human building capacity at the heart of the dynamics of innovation**

One of the key achievements, proposed within the PARI, consisted in accompanying young researchers, during their thesis, to entrepreneurship through a sponsorship by a company and a training dedicated to entrepreneurship and innovation culture. These young researchers also performed a Master in enterprise administration and businesses in addition to the thesis.

▪ **Attractiveness of Burgundy**

The RIS has provided a better integration and recognition of Burgundy abroad. Burgundy generally refers to its quality of life and gastronomy, the beauty of its landscapes, its architectural heritage, and the excellence of its vineyards. The RIS contributed to show Burgundy also as a "land of innovations", that is a region susceptible to be attractive for youth and businesses, due to its innovative activities or potentials. It should be noted that Burgundy competitiveness in terms of « great export » has been improved. Furthermore, concerning public research, a dynamic meant to attract in Burgundy high level scientists has been successfully implemented.

Main events since 2010

- The government launched in 2009 an investment program for the future (PIA), meant for dealing with the insufficient capacity of France to innovate, strengthening the link between science and industry and fostering new technologies as well as carbon-free energetic solutions. 35 billion€ were thus mobilized in Burgundy in five strategic areas : higher education and training, research, industrial sectors and SMEs, sustainable development and finally digital economy, infrastructure and applications.

- One of the key achievements of the PIA was the launching at the end of 2013 of a company dedicated to federate and boost technology transfer from public research within Burgundy and three neighbouring regions (SATT Grand-Est). The involved higher education and research institutions are : University of Burgundy, University of Franche-Comté, Lorraine University, University of Technology of Troyes, CNRS and INSERM.

-The constitution of a Pole for Research and Higher Education (PRES) gathering the whole scientific community of the Burgundy and Franche-Comté regions in 2010 changed the landscape of higher

education, research and public innovation. It is today, according to the 2013 new law for higher education and research, evolving towards a community of universities and higher education engineer and manager schools.

- A Regional Climate Air Energy Scheme (SRCAE) was built, as an opportunity for the development of green industries, particularly in the areas of eco-design, eco-construction, and agro-materials.

5 main strategic domains are proposed in the frame of the RIS3

1. Quality of environment, food and feeding for the well-being of consumers
2. Advanced materials and processes for secure applications
3. Integration of biomedical solutions for the person in terms of prevention, diagnosis and therapeutics
4. Eco-design, sustainable building and eco-based materials
5. Innovative and alternative technologies for mobility and transport

Main challenges for the RIS 3

1. The setting up of a catalog of services addressing the whole innovation value chain from public research to the market (base for an action plan) with the goal of improving financial and human support solutions for launching collective innovative projects
2. A better coordination of the regional innovation policy
3. A support to define corporate strategy integrating innovation
4. An acceleration of transfer activities from public research

To fulfill this ambition, a diagnosis was launched in June 2014, in view of providing an inventory of innovation services proposed by the public regional innovation ecosystem. An exhaustive database has been thus set up. The reliability of data is an important first task, in order to avoid redundancy and to define priorities on which to invest particularly. The major objective of the dynamic will be, for SMEs as well as for researchers, to accelerate the access to public innovation tools. However, each innovation operator (research units, tech transfer institutions, clusters, decision makers, economic development agencies, ...) has a catalog of services of their own, fact that renders the offer not legible. The construction of an integrative usable catalog needs thus to place the end user at the heart of the setting up process. The dynamic will lead to the production of a single catalog listing all the necessary generalist services, as well as the ones specific to the 5 strategic domains, all along the innovation value chain. At this point, nearly 200 individual services have been identified corresponding to an annual non exhaustive budget of 110 millions €.

Governance

Another challenge we face concerns the mandatory competence on economy policy given by the French law. This challenge is on two levels : implementation and coordination.

The question of the governance of the regional innovation ecosystem was repeatedly addressed during the RIS3 elaboration process. It is a central issue. The recent launching of the SATT Grand Est and elaboration of a new SRDEI (Regional Strategy of Economic development and Innovation) are changing the existing landscape. The governance aspect must be tackled not only in its strategic dimension, but also at an operational level, with the view of implementing a coordination and monitoring system leading to a successful RIS3.

The Regional Economic Conference (CER) is the political body of the SRDEI. It meets at least once a year. The membership is based on thematic committees representative of the four core sectors of the regional economic policy : innovation, social economy, international and development.

Concerning innovation, in adequacy with the RIS3, the strategic body is the Regional Committee, which pilots the innovation policy jointly. It comprises regional State bodies, the Regional Council and innovation actors.

At the operational level, the operating committee is the taskforce which pilots the dynamic in relationship with the RIS3 thematic commissions.

The thematic commissions are the “close to fiels” bodies. It includes for each strategic domain people from research and businesses and innovation’s actors. The work will be driven by a binom (representatives of the public and private research). Their main mission will consist in :

- Maintaining the analysis on the strategic domains (anticipation)
- Monitoring specific strategic areas
- Proposing developments projects
- Establishing responses to calls for national or European projects involving research and enterprise skills.