

S3 Plattform Peer Review Workshop
5th – 6th of November 2013 in Potsdam/Germany

Innovative Capital Region Berlin – Brandenburg
Background Information



The Capital Region Berlin - Brandenburg is the political center of Germany and a dynamic economic region in Europe

The growth industries in the city drive its economic development, especially the five transregional clusters, but also the regional industry and services

The Capital Region offers ideal conditions for innovation in research and development, production and sales

- > Outstanding technical/scientific infrastructure with a concentration of universities, research institutes and technology centres that is unparalleled in Germany
- > Great potential for specialists and executives
- > Internationality and multilingualism
- > Excellent international accessibility
- > Close proximity to government policymakers, media and industry associations
- > A creative environment where culture, media, music, fashion and design come together
- > Quality of life that attracts young, highly qualified talent

Science and Research in the Capital Region

The region offers the most tightly woven network of university and non-university research institutions in all of Germany - an excellent basis for interdisciplinary work and cooperation with industry. You find

- > seven universities, more than 30 universities of applied sciences and state-approved private colleges
- > 200,000 university students, 30,000 university graduates per year

- > nearly 100 non-university research institutes
- > more than 50,000 scientists working in the region

The joint innovation strategy of the states Berlin and Brandenburg (innoBB)

The joint innovation strategy of the states Berlin and Brandenburg (innoBB) passed in 2011 shows how the capital region is continuing to develop as an internationally competitive innovation zone. It is the result of a successful cooperation of all innovation policy players of both states, initiated in 2007. The strategy plans for even closer cross-border coordination, in order to concentrate forces and to enable the locations to position themselves optimally with regard to the global competition.

The capital region, with its excellent research and technology expertise, already has a leading position in the German and international innovation landscape. To strengthen this position and more keenly shape the location's profile, innoBB is concentrating on the targeted setting up and developing of clusters with high development potential. The cluster structures of the capital region appear in the following areas:

- Healthcare Industries,
- ICT, media and creative industries,
- Transport, mobility and logistics,
- Energy technology and
- Photonics.

They are characterised by a high density of competitive companies and science offerings and correspondingly high growth dynamism, especially in their innovative cores. The cluster development has already been implemented within the framework of the innoBB with the first visible results and will continue to be driven forward systematically.

The cluster development offers clear added benefits for all participants. Above all, the innovative SMEs will be given the opportunity to develop their potential more competitively within the group of companies and science facilities, to contribute to regional added value in a broader context and as a result will also be able to position themselves within the international competition.

The clusters of the capital region are anchored within a broad economic and scientific environment. As innovation suppliers with multi-industry technologies and processes, cross-cutting themes - clean technologies, security, materials and production and automation engineering - make a special contribution to the development dynamism of the clusters. The cross-cutting themes increase the efficiency of the companies involved in the clusters and promote the opportunity for improved inter-industry and inter-technology networking. The innoBB ensures efficient interleaving of these themes with the clusters.

innoBB also defines the future strategic and organisational framework for ensuring the cross-border cluster development process. Both states will actively use their political room for manoeuvre to achieve this. The close cooperation and coordination is focused on further harmonisation of the promotion of innovation and technology and on maintaining and developing the innovation infrastructure.

Within the cross-border cooperation, further implementation of the innovation strategy and future cluster development and overlapping topics, such as the merger and further development of the science and technology transfer system, are coordinated.

The clusters, with their following fields of action, are supported by cross-border management structures, which push forward the cluster profiling and ensure strategic development of the cooperation and project structures. International networking and systematic integration into EU funding support structures are of particular importance here. With this in mind, the joint innovation strategy is closely based on the current Europe 2020 strategy of the European Union.

Healthcare industries cluster

More than 280 medical technology companies, almost 300 biotech firms, around 30 pharmaceutical companies and 130 hospitals and clinics make Berlin-Brandenburg one of the most important locations for healthcare industries in Germany, as well as a growth engine for the region. The broad spectrum of products and services provided by this cluster and its 315,000 employees ranges from basic healthcare to high-end medicine and highly-specialized treatment and rehab. Its R&D work targets areas such as e-health, minimally invasive medicine, cardiac support systems, molecular diagnostics and imaging, pharmaceutical development and regenerative medicine.

ICT, media and creative industries cluster

The capital region is currently developing into one of the top locations for information and communications companies as well as for the closely associated media and creative industries. With approximately 38,400 companies and more than 176,000 employees with full benefits and nearly the same number of freelance individuals, this cluster is assuming a central position in Berlin-Brandenburg. IT-related research in the region is at the forefront worldwide. Focuses include future-oriented fields such as security and IT, digital media, mobile applications, Internet of Services, and “connected living.” The outstanding development of this cluster is especially evident in its unique and highly international start-up scene.

Transport, mobility and logistics cluster

More than 15,000 companies with about 191,000 employees make Berlin-Brandenburg one of the most important locations for transport, mobility and logistics in Germany. The corresponding cluster reflects the broad spectrum of technology in Berlin-Brandenburg. Its focal areas of automotive, rail transport, intelligent transport systems, aviation and aeronautics, and logistics are closely interwoven. This makes the cluster especially fertile for innovations – particularly at the interfaces and in cooperation among its more than 100 research facilities. The capital region is expanding its trail-blazing role especially in future-oriented fields such as rail technology, intermodal transport concepts, and systems integration. It is also highlighted as an “international showcase of electromobility.”

Energy technology cluster

Berlin-Brandenburg is one of the leading regions for energy technology in Germany. It holds a top position above all in the production and use of environmentally friendly energies and energy-efficient technologies. The numbers speak for themselves: approximately 4,900 companies with 56,000 employees and more than 30 research institutes, universities and institutions of higher education are working on this topic. In terms of content, the cluster concentrates on five focal areas: solar energy, turbomachinery / power station technology, energy grids and storage facilities (including infrastructure for electromobility), energy-efficiency technologies, and wind energy / bioenergy. A major role is also played by system-integrational approaches.

Photonics cluster

Combining optical and microsystems technologies, the photonics cluster includes some of the key technologies of the 21st century. With more than 17,000 industrial workplaces, 1,330 companies and numerous research institutes with worldwide reputations, Berlin-Brandenburg is one of the leading international locations for this sector. The range of products and applications comprises a number of different sub-sectors, including classical and ophthalmic optics, sensors and lasers, and components and systems for optical communications networks. Additional focal areas include micro-optics, UV and x-ray technologies, biomedical optics, and lighting technologies.

Cross-cluster topics

To exploit the networking and synergy potential among the five clusters in the best possible manner and to anchor the cluster initiatives in a broader economic landscape, the innoBB Joint Innovation Strategy has also defined four trans-cluster topics:

- Materials
- Production and automation systems
- Clean technologies
- Security

Efficient infrastructure

The Capital Region is located at the crossroads of the major trans-European routes. From the city, every major European market is just a day's drive away by truck. Berlin's central train station, the Hauptbahnhof, is Europe's largest and most modern junction station. By the public transport network, the region is well developed.

- > Unparalleled accessibility via air, rail or road
- > Convenient transport links in intermodal travel
- > Well-developed public transport network

Flexible job market

The Capital Region's job market benefits from the advantages that its attractive conurbation with nearly six million inhabitants entails. More than three-quarters of the people employed in Berlin have pursued vocational training, in Brandenburg there are even 90 %. Over 695,000 have graduated from university or university of applied sciences.

Affordable real estate

- > A large reserve of immediately available, well-equipped office space
- > A growing reserve of offices in good and prime locations
- > Attractive industrial sites and modern commercial space
- > Planned construction projects in top urban locations
- > Inexpensive rents as compared to those charged in other major cities
- > Increasing numbers of German and foreign investors buying properties in Berlin or investing into the city

Where the world comes together

Messe Berlin, the city's exhibition organizer, is one of the world's top ten trade fair operators when it comes to annual turnover. Covering 160,000 square meters, Berlin's fair grounds and exhibition center hosts more than 60 events each year (including international trade fairs such as IFA and InnoTrans) with round about 24,000 exhibitors and 1.6 million visitors. The ICC congress center next door, the largest of its kind in Europe, in combination with the "City Cube" is making the Capitol Region an attractive destination for international and domestic conferences.

Laboratory for ideas

The Capitol Region is one of the most innovative business locations in Europe. University departments and non-university research institutes collaborate closely in biosciences, material science, information and communications science, geosciences as well as transport and energy engineering. The Adlershof City of Science, Business and Media, the Campus Berlin-Buch, Golm and some 40 other technology parks and business incubators attract innovative enterprises in the future industries. The Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin enjoys an excellent reputation as one of the premier university medical departments and hospitals of the world.

The Capital Region as a great place to live

Germany's vibrant capital city is shaped by inhabitants from more than 190 different nations. Like no other city in the country, Berlin combines relaxation and natural surroundings with spirited city life and low-cost living.

- > Busy cultural calendar: nearly 200 theaters, more than 800 museums and galleries and four opera houses offer great cultural diversion.
- > Green city with natural surroundings: 30 % of Berlin's area is made up of forests, parks, rivers, lakes and canals. Brandenburg with 1.1 million acres of forest land - about 37 % of the country – is one of the most densely forested areas in Germany. At the same time, the region offers 3,000 lakes and with 30,000 kilometers of rivers the largest network of waterways in Europe.
- > Cosmopolitan: Berlin is home to 250 religious and non-denominational world-view communities.
- > Excellent medical infrastructure: more than 130 hospitals and clinics, round about 27,700 doctors and more than 1,400 pharmacies ensure the health of Berlin and Brandenburg.
- > Rents and living costs are still low.

For additional information:

www.innoBB.de

www.berlin-brandenburg.de