

# How we can best involve regions in building the European Research Area ?

Dimitri Corpakis, DG RTD A5

June 3, 2002

# ERA: what role for the regions ?

- ◆ An **active** role: supportive, pro-active, based on public-private partnerships, strengthening actors, providing infrastructure and means, bridging the gap between knowledge creators and knowledge users
- ◆ **Not** just concentrated in a fund-absorption model

# How to achieve an active regional dimension in the ERA

- ◆ Mobilising actors
- ◆ Supporting cooperation, openness and connectivity
- ◆ Encouraging framework conditions
- ◆ Enlarging the knowledge base for policy makers and practitioners
- ◆ What role for Community policies (formal and informal cooperation)

# Building the regional dimension in the ERA

Concepts and facts

# ERA: the regional dimension and what it means

- ◆ Regional dimension identified in all ERA related Communications as important
- ◆ Special Communication on the Regional Dimension adopted 03/10/01 (COM(2001)549)
- ◆ Territorialisation of research policies, means paying more attention to local and regional factors and operators, when thinking about research policy - a message primarily addressed to the Member States
- ◆ Involve more the Member States and the regions in a European Policy context

# The Lisbon Strategy

- ◆ The vision: within 10 years (2010), Europe should become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge society in the world
  - Sustainable development, together with quantitative and qualitative improvement in employment
  - Greater social cohesion
  - Open method of co-ordination and benchmarking (as a continuous, mutual learning process)
  - RTDI a top priority for the EU (this was repeated in Barcelona, last March): ERA becomes one of the cornerstones of the Lisbon strategy
  - European labour market
  - New forms of governance
  - Life-long learning, mobility
- ◆ Key wake-up call for all actors (including regions)

# The regional research and innovation landscape in Europe

- ◆ existence of research and innovation policies at regional level
- ◆ successful implementation of cross-border cooperation
- ◆ an example of European success: the network of the so-called *motor-regions*: Baden-Württemberg (D), Rhône-Alpes (F), Lombardia (I) and Catalonia (E)
- ◆ Universities, businesses, local authorities
- ◆ S&T parks gather in one place universities, R&D organisations, multinationals, SMEs or laboratories
- ◆ technopoles, provide support to regional S&T growth

# **BUT....big regional disparities in RTD remain across the EU**

- ◆ Second Cohesion Report, adopted Jan. 2001, identified persistent convergence issues
- ◆ Cohesion countries technology gap compared with advanced countries has widened
- ◆ Concentration is general (in expenditure, human resources and patent applications)
- ◆ Forthcoming enlargement brings additional issues

# RTD regional expenditure in the EU

## Les dix régions européennes avec la plus forte intensité de R&D

	Pays	Région NUTS 2	Année	Dépenses en % du PIB	Dépenses en millions d'euros courants
1	Allemagne	Braunschweig	1997	4,84	1 675
2	Allemagne	Stuttgart	1997	4,79	5 045
3	Allemagne	Oberbayern	1997	4,38	5 911
4	Allemagne	Tübingen	1997	4,05	1 608
5	Finlande	Pohjois-Suomi	1998	3,82	410
6	Finlande	Uusimaa (Suuralue)	1998	3,73	1 571
7	France	Midi-Pyrénées	1998	3,70	1 803
8	Royaume Uni	Eastern*	1998	3,64	4 595
9	Allemagne	Rheinhessen-Pfalz	1997	3,50	1 527
10	France	Île de France	1998	3,43	12 416

\* Région de niveau NUTS 1

•Source EUROSTAT 13/03/02

# High-tech patent applications per million of active population (y 2000)

	Pays	Région NUTS 2	Demandes de brevets de haute technologie par million d'actifs	Demandes de brevets de haute technologie	Part des brevets haute technologie dans le total des demandes
	<b>UE-15</b>		<b>60,6</b>	<b>10 480</b>	<b>18%</b>
1	Allemagne	Oberbayern	540,9	1 132	37%
2	Finlande	Uusimaa (Suuralue)	530,4	416	52%
3	Pays-Bas	Noord-Brabant	524,2	633	40%
4	Suède	Stockholm	430,0	416	40%
5	Suède	Sydsverige	336,3	199	35%
6	Finlande	Pohjois-Suomi	312,1	86	54%
7	Royaume-Uni	East Anglia	236,3	265	39%
8	Finlande	Etelä-Suomi	202,4	188	37%
9	Allemagne	Mittelfranken	189,7	160	19%
10	Royaume-Uni	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire & North Somerset	169,6	197	39%
11	Royaume-Uni	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	169,0	156	43%
12	Allemagne	Stuttgart	162,9	315	12%
13	Suède	Övre Norrland	160,5	39	35%
14	Allemagne	Oberpfalz	159,6	84	20%
15	France	Île de France	155,1	854	25%

\* Données provisoires

•Source EUROSTAT 13/03/02

# Regional R/D Intensity as a share of national expenditure (the 2 champion regions per country)

✓	D	- Oberbayern (14%)	+	Stuttgart (12%)	= 26%
✓	GR	- Attiki (49%)	+	Kentriki Makedonia (18%)	= 67%
✓	E	- Madrid (32%)	+	Catalonia (23%)	= 55%
✓	F	- Ile de France (45%)	+	Rhône-Alpes (10%)	= 55%
✓	I	- Lombardia (24%)	+	Lazio (19%)	= 43%
✓	NL	- Zuid-Holland (25%)	+	Noord-Brabant (18%)	= 43%
✓	A	- Wien (52%)	+	Steiermark (14%)	= 66%
✓	P	- Lisboa (54%)	+	Norte (21%)	= 75%
✓	FIN	- Uusimaa(47%)	+	Etelä-Suomi (30%)	= 77%
✓	UK	- South East (24%)	+	Eastern (18%)	= 42%

(source : Eurostat - March 2002)

# The Toolbox of the 6th FP for the regions

(but don't forget Regional Policy  
as well)

# Specific direct measures in the 6th FP on regions:

## Strengthening the ERA foundations, the ERA-NET scheme (i)

- ◆ Support for the co-ordination of activities - programmes, instruments, plans or other initiatives undertaken at regional level, involving public funding to support RTD work, the development of research capabilities, and the promotion of innovation
  - co-ordination of independent activities including their mutual opening
  - preparation and management of joint activities

# Specific direct measures in the 6th FP on regions:

## Strengthening the ERA foundations, (ii)

- ◆ Coherent development of research and innovation policies
  - proceed by **early identification of challenges** and areas of common interest as well as **providing regional policy makers with knowledge and decision-aiding tools that can help them formulate policy.**
    - ❖ Analyses and studies; work relating to foresight, statistics and science and technology indicators
    - ❖ Benchmarking of research and innovation policies at regional level

# Specific direct measures in the 6th FP on regions: **Structuring the ERA**

## ➔ Research and Innovation:

- ➔ encouragement and validation of local and regional initiatives
- ➔ encouraging trans-regional co-operation
- ➔ experimenting with new tools and approaches

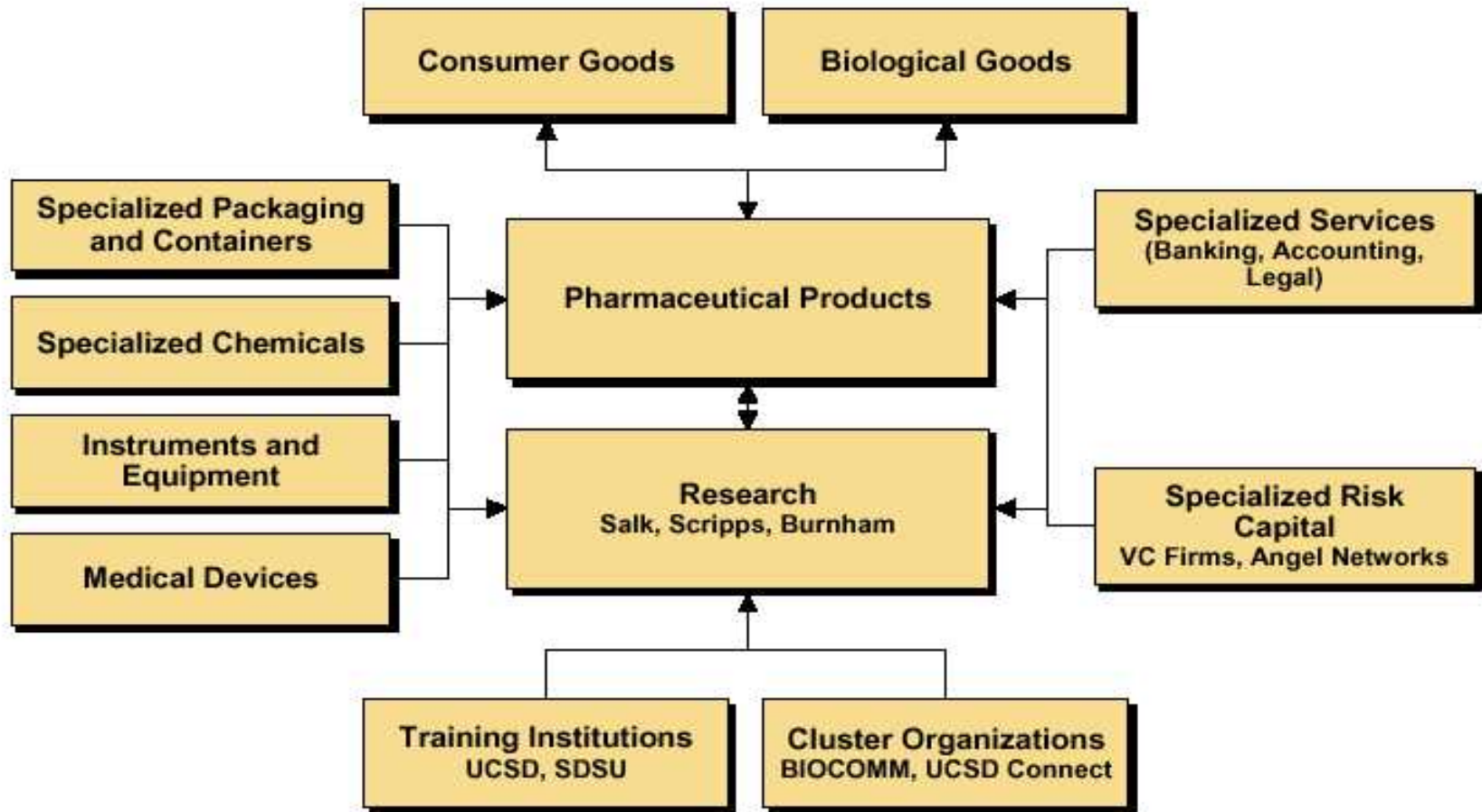
# The Territorial Dimension

R&D for regional development  
(but what about regional  
development for R&D ?)

# About Regional Clusters

- ◆ A geographical concentration of interlinked firms and institutions in a particular technological area; membership within the group is significant for each member firm's individual competitiveness
- ◆ Overwhelmingly used in regional science and economic geography to explain regional development

# The San Diego Biotechnology / Pharmaceutical Cluster



Source: M.Porter

# Can we build knowledge clusters with the FP ?

- ◆ Can networks of excellence (NoE) and integrated projects (IP) be considered as knowledge-cluster building instruments ?  
[ intra-regional and inter-regional]

# NoE - IP as Cluster generators

- ➔ Reinforcement and integration of existing or developing scientific excellence in all EU regions
- ➔ strong programming character
- ➔ better connectivity between central and peripheral hubs of scientific competence,
- ➔ increased opportunities for collaboration, staff mobility, information and knowledge exchange
- ➔ positive spill-overs to the local and regional economies
- ➔ strong barriers against interregional brain-drain (scientists moving from less favoured to richer regions).
- ➔ Ability to build multi-polar areas of innovation
- ➔ excellence, supporting indirectly local development and economic growth, thus contributing to regional population stability
- ➔ Regional bodies may be associated in transnational partnerships to develop specific projects, of a substantial scale, aiming at integrating scientific and technological efforts.



*A lot of work still ahead*

Thanks for your attention

