Objectives

This project is a Specific Support Action of the 6th Framework Programme for Research and Development of the European Commission. It contributes to the ‘Research and Innovation’ priority, whose aims are to encourage a more innovation-friendly environment throughout the EU, stimulate technological innovation and set up innovative technology businesses.

As regions are at the centre of the EURO-COOP project, the detailed project implementation plan was drawn up in accordance with the needs and challenges in the participating partner regions.

These are mainly interested in the following issues:
- Strengthening the process of sustainable regional innovation;
- Exchange of experiences with other European regions and,
- Development of a comprehensive regional policy impact assessment methodology.

In order to achieve these objectives, the regions will need ‘knowledge for action’. This is why it was decided to set up a cooperation between regional authorities or regional innovation institutions and research institutions. The research institutions will provide sound knowledge that can be applied in the partner regions. This will clearly go beyond the standardized approaches which are normally applied. It is clear that the partner regions want to gain from 'knowledge for action' that is based on sound scientific knowledge and can, therefore, be used for long-term and strategic concepts related to regional innovation policies and the development of impact assessment methods.

Regions

There are three types of partner regions in EURO-COOP:
- Metropolitan regions - Vienna, Paris, Berlin, Manchester, Bratislava, Warsaw
- Cross-border regions - CENTROPE (West Transdanubia Region, Bratislava, Vienna)
- Peripheral regions - Lublin, Tartu
Outputs

EURO-COOP comprises four stages:

Stage 1 - Definition
During the first stage, a management structure for the pilot projects was established in the partner regions, consensus-building among the stakeholders was initiated and the project’s objectives were disseminated.

Stage 2 - Methodology
The aim here is to develop a regional innovation policy impact assessment method. This will be based on past experiences and actual regional needs, appropriate methodologies and tools as well as the elaboration of both qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Stage 3 - Implementation and analysis
The methodology developed during stage 2 will be applied in the partner regions and used to analyze the impacts of regional innovation policies on the innovation systems and development pathways.

Stage 4 - Conclusions and policy building
Conclusions will be drawn on the basis of the impact assessment process. Policy recommendations and policy-building measures for innovation strategies at regional level will be the result.

Workshops
Several workshops are being organized during the lifetime of the EURO-COOP project.

Participants include external policy-makers, experts and stakeholders.

• Regional Workshops in Berlin (December 2005), Vienna (May 2006), Győr (October 2006), Warsaw (February 2007) and Bratislava (September 2007).
• Workshop on regional innovation policy impact assessment in Manchester (September 2006).
• Trans-National Project Management Board Meeting in Paris (December 2006).
• Workshop on the practical implications of the regional innovation policy impact assessment scheme in Tartu (June 2007).
• Final Workshop in Vienna (December 2007).