

## Lower Austria's Innovation Policy under the perspective of Smart Specialisation

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SCINNOPOLI - Final Conference Workshop 3: "S<sup>3</sup> Smart Specialization Strategies and selection of result indicators for ROP 2014-2020





# SCINNOPOLI SCANNING INNOVATION POLICY IMPACT

# Why should Lower Austria implement a smart innovation policy?

Because of

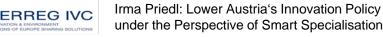
- Lacking critical mass in public R&D:
  Vienna as Austria's R&D hub in the middle of NÖ, but own province
- Lacking critical urban agglomeration: low population density - 81 people per km<sup>2</sup>, capital St. Pölten only 50.000 inhabitants
- > 400 km rural border region with Czech Republic and Slovakia
- Not being under the TOP 50 of the Regional Innovation Scoreboard

Lower Austria needs to

- Create its unique selling proposition, no duplication of other regions ("follower")
- Collaborate with neighbour regions
- Create critical mass in R&D and Innovation
- Facilitate innovation ... In order to support regional companies also in rural areas to become and stay competitive in Europe and the World













## Agenda

- What is "smart specialisation"?
- Example from Lower Austria
- What is a "smart specialisation strategy"?
- Examples from Lower Austria
- Conclusions









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European Un Regional Policy

## What is "smart specialisation"? (1)

- Promoting efficient, effective and synergetic use of public R&I investments and supports Member States and regions in diversifying and upgrading existing industries and in strengthening their innovation capacity
  - Technopol Program Lower Austria
  - Innovation Assistant / R&D funding scheme
  - focus on region's strength and competitive advantage based on evidence and strategic intelligence about a region's assets and the capability
    - Technopol Program Lower Austria: Screening of potentials
    - Large scale questionnaire survey on companies` strengths and needs in innovation
    - Well developed monitoring of impact of innovation services and financial schemes
    - SWOT application also within SCINNOPOLI











## What is "smart specialisation"? (2)

- Harnessing regional diversity by avoiding uniformity and duplication in regional investment goals
  - Support individual companies to innovate, no sole cluster policy approach
- involving key stakeholders from government, business, academia and other knowledge-creating institutions



- Since 1997 RIS NÖ (regional Innovation System Lower Austria) Steering Committee with development of first Regional Innovation Strategy
- Section Technopol Program following the Triple Helix Approach







## 

## Example: Funding Scheme "Innovation Assistant" (1)

- Individual support for regional companies to strengthening their innovation capacities
- In particular of SMEs and in rural areas
- Strengthening the links between business and Higher Education Institutes (HEI)
- Most popular Good Practice within the ERIK ACTION INTERREG IVC Capitalisation project
- Further transfers to Polish regions Opolskie and Lodzkie







#### Lower Austria Innovation Assistant (RegioStars 2008 Awards winner)<sup>10</sup>

Niederösterreich piloted a landmark scheme to encourage SMEs to employ recent university graduates in order to strengthen their technological and innovation capacities. This innovative action – part-funded by the ERDF – targeted small SMEs in rural areas to provide them with support from "Innovation Assistants". These are "intrapreneurs" with a university background managing innovation projects tailored to the specific needs of the SME. The scheme proved to be extremely successful, not only by piloting a new approach to supporting innovation in the region, which was subsequently mainstreamed into the region's overall innovation support policy, but also by resulting in new product development for SMEs, improvements to their research and technological capacities, and organisational innovation. For boosters, a win-win situation for the SMEs, the employed graduates and the region. The project received a RegioStars award in 2008.

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## SCINNOPO SCANNING INNOVATION POLICY IMPACT

## Example: Funding Scheme "Innovation Assistant" (2)

Monitoring and evaluation indicators:

- Impact on companies' innovation strategy
- Development of new products/services
- Development of market position
- Stimulation of cooperation culture
- Increased collaborations
- Improvement of organisation
- Introduction of modern project management methods stimulating further innovation
- Professional prospects of innovation assistants
- Impact on turnover and profit Part of SCINNOPOLI RAP NÖ: harmonising ex-post questionnaires
- New created jobs
- Generated investments by the companies





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REGIONAL POLICY FOR SMART GROWTH IN EUROPE 2020



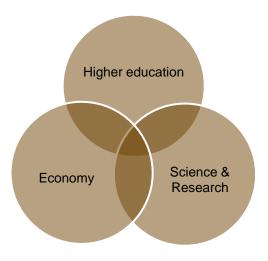




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## **Example: The Technopol Program**

- Strengthen the regional strength and develop regional potentials
- Create critical mass in a selective way
- Involvement of all relevant actors and stakeholders due to Triple Helix Approach:





#### Specialisations and Technopoles in Lower Austria

Lower Austria's proximity to the knowledge-intensive Vienna region and the neighbouring Czech and Slovak Republics presents it with a specific set of challenges and opportunities. It managed to make the best of this position by focusing on cooperation both with Vienna, and within the cross-border CENTROPE region, but also with other neighbouring regions, such as Upper Austria, to allow the development of synergies, the opening of new markets for local companies and complementarity between value chains.

The region's innovation strategy is based on both qualitative and quantitative data and takes into account local and external conditions. Lower Austria has gone through extensive prioritisation processes thanks to several strategic exercises since the mid-1990s. In 1998, a project for the continuous improvement of its regional innovation system was started. The regional government carried out a SWOT analysis, sent questionnaires to its companies, organised workshops and carried out interviews with stakeholders. It also completed a survey of the activities of other similar regions.

Based on analysis of the region, several actions aimed at addressing the innovation needs of companies were undertaken, among them the creation of three 'Technopoles', in the areas where the region has a competitive advantage: Biotech and Regenerative Medicine; Environmental Biotechnology and Agrobiotechnology; and Microsystems Engineering, Tribology and Medical Systems Technology. In this way, Lower Austria invested in improving those specialisations with a potential for excellence and in creating complementarities in those areas where knowledge and resources have to be shared with other regions, therefore steering clear of excessive specialisation and any risk of trying to excel at everything.

A recent independent study on the economic contribution of these specialisations and the related support measures (Technopoles) confirmed their beneficial impact on structural change and value creation in the region.

### Monitored by Balanced Scorecard Approach



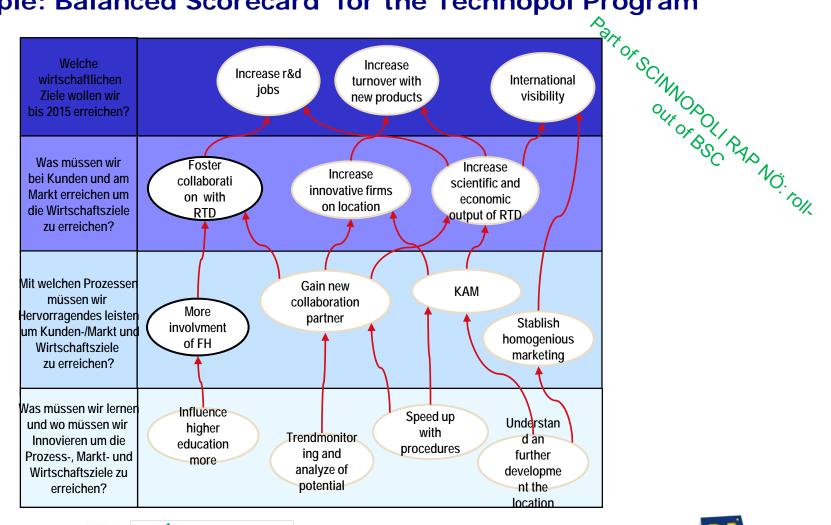


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### Example: Balanced Scorecard for the Technopol Program



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### **Example: Measurable indicators – Technopol Wiener Neustadt**

R&D in Technology Center TFZ	2004	End 2010
number of technology fields	22	5
researcher per field	10	66 - 82
researcher total	180	375
m <sup>2</sup> in Technologiezentrum TFZ (rentable)	7.100	12.000
Publikations and Patents	2004	End 2010
Publications reviewed	217	816
Patents	3	97
New industrial locations on Technopol Wiener Neustadt	2004	End 2010
new companies on site	3	8
new jobs since 2004	15	146









### Example Technopol: The Economic Impact of all Technopols in Lower Austria

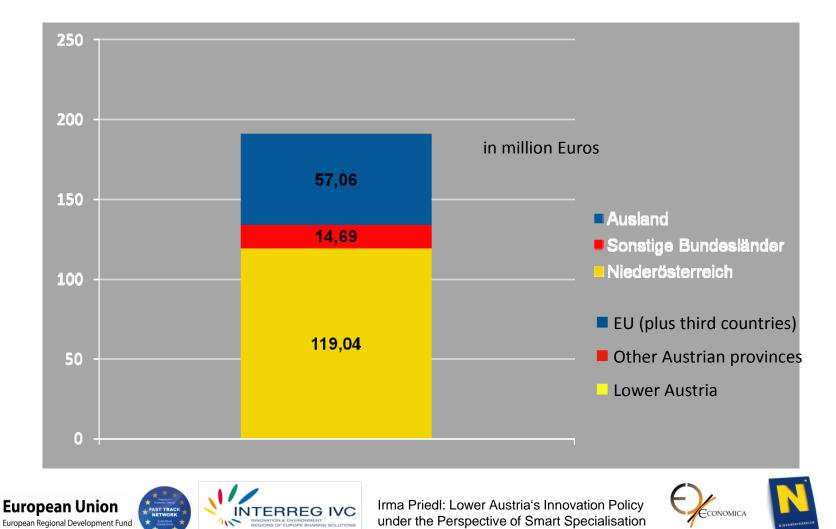
- "Structural change translates into growth dynamics"
  - but in a lagged manner"
- Quantitative analysis of the economic contribution of Technopols
- Direct and multiplier (indirect and induced) effects on value added, employment, tax revenues and social security contributions
- Effects on structural change







### Example Technopol: Overall Economic Effect - Gross Value Added



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### Example Technopol: Structural Change Employees (excl. self-employed) by economic sector

	Change 2004-2009	All NÖ districts	Technopol districts
	Total	9.24%	11.49%
А	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	-2.43%	-3.81%
В	Mining and quarrying	13.86%	27.74%
С	Manufacturing	0.68%	1.36%
D	Energy supply	15.44%	7.99%
E	Water supply	23.41%	24.14%
F	Construction	2.28%	3.50%
G	Wholesale and retail trade	8.26%	8.89%
Н	Transportation and storage	-2.11%	-1.44%
- I	Hotels and restaurants	9.39%	14.83%
J	Information and communication	19.96%	20.59%
K	Financial and insurance activities	13.10%	15.89%
L	Real estate activities	11.09%	17.96%
Μ	Professional services (scientific, technical)	23.84%	26.39%
N	Other services (administrative, support services)	22.30%	28.42%
0	Public administration	14.35%	15.72%
Р	Education & childcare	31.71%	39.62%
Q	Healthcare and social work activities	15.20%	12.13%
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### **Example Technopol: Conclusions**

- Technopols enhance regional value creation chains and networks
- Technopols support the structural transformation of the Lower Austrian economy
- Technopols promote the creation of a knowledge-intensive economy







## What is a "smart specialisation strategy"?

- A multi-annual strategy
  - RIS NÖ valid from 1999 until 2008
  - Economic Strategy Lower Austria 2015 (includes updated Innovation Strategy)
- Defines a policy mix and budgetary framework focusing on a limited number of priorities targeted
  - Policy mix with 6 corner pillars in Economic Strategy NÖ 2015
  - Combining infrastructure development and soft measures
- Long-term political with budgetary commitment to implement
  - Large political and financial independency of the federal Province of Lower Austria
  - Always allocated budget for strategy implementation in Lower Austria
  - Clear and transparent responibilities
  - Willingness for implementation!
  - As example see Regional Action Plan of SCINNOPOLI: expected implementation budget of ca. 3,8 m€, affected budget by RAP implementation of 234,3 m€ for time frame 2012 - 2020

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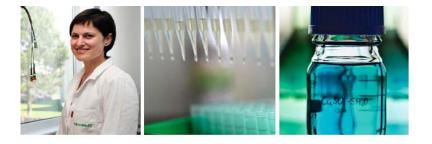
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Wirtschaftsstrategie

Niederösterreich

2015

# SCINNOPOLI SCANNING INNOVATION POLICY IMPACT



#### Wirtschaftspolitische Ziele

Zur Orientierung und Fokussierung aller wirtschaftspolitischen Maßnahmen des Landes Niederösterreich wurde eine Reihe wirtschaftspolitischer Ziele definiert. Im Rahmen eines strategischen Steuerungs- und Evaluierungssystems wird gewährleistet, dass Stoßrichtungen, Maßnahmen und Initiativen auf diese Ziele ausgerichtet werden und einen wesentlichen Beitrag zur Zielerreichung leisten.

Die definierten Ziele auf gesamtwirtschaftlicher Ebene sind:

#### \_Höchstes Wirtschaftswachstum in Ostösterreich erreicht

Niederösterreich strebt das höchstes BIP-Wachstum im Vergleich zu den angrenzenden Bundesländern (Wien, Burgenland, Steiermark und Oberösterreich) an.

#### Hochwertige Arbeitsplätze abgesichert und ausgebaut

Grundsätzlich wird angestrebt, die Zahl der Arbeitsplätze und die Gesamtzahl der Beschäftigten zu erhöhen. Hauptaugenmerk soll dabei auf hochwertige Arbeitsplätze gerichtet werden, da hier noch enormes Wachstumspotenzial liegt und hochwertige Arbeitsplätze auch einen wesentlichen Faktor für die Wettbewerbsfahigkeit darstellen.

#### \_ Niederösterreich als nachhaltiger und attraktiver Wirtschaftsstandort positioniert

Lebensqualität ist nicht nur für Bewohner eines Landes wichtig, sondern auch für Unternehmen ein wesentlicher Standortfaktor geworden. Dabei zählen nicht nur Bildungsangebote, Einkommen oder Gesundheitswesen zu wesentlichen Elementen sondern auch Naturräume, sauberes Wasser, Kunst und Kultur sowie hochwertige Freizeitangebote. In diesem Sinne wird auch die Wittschaftspolitik mit ihren Instrumenten einen Beitrag zur Verbesserung der Lebensqualität leisten.

## European Union



Example: The main targets of the Economic Strategy Lower Austria 2015

#### Schlüsselqualifikationen gesteigert

Vor allem in den Bereichen Management, Internationalisierung sowie Naturwissenschaft/Technik liegt auch zukünftig enormer Bedarf. Die Forcierung der Weiterbildung, aber auch die Bewusstseinsbildung für den "Nachwuchs" stehen hier im Fokus.

#### Ressourcenschonendes und sozial

verantwortungsvolles Wirtschaften etabliert

Immer mehr Unternehmen verankern das Thema Nachhaltigkeit in ihrer Unternehmensstrategie. Es sollen verstärkt Maßnahmen angeboten werden, um Unternehmen bei der Entwicklung. Umsetzung und Dokumentation von Nachhaltigkeitsaktivitäten zu unterstützen. Dadurch soll ressourcenschonendes und sozial verantwortungsvolles Wirtschaften als selbstverständliches Handlungsmuster etabliert werden.

#### Unternehmenswachstum beschleunigt

Zahlreiche Unternehmen zeichnen sich durch hohen Innovationsgrad und gute Ideen aus und verfügen dabei über großes Wachstumspotenzial. Dieses Wachstumspotenzial gilt es entsprechend zu fördern und dadurch Unternehmen gesundes Wachstum zu ermöglichen.

#### Unternehmen stärker vernetzt

In Zeiten globalisierter Märkte und Unternehmen wird es immer schwieriger mit kleinen Einheiten wetbewerbsfähig zu bleiben. Kooperation und Vernetzung sind oft wesentliche Erfolgsfaktoren, aber nicht immer leicht zu realisieren. Hier soll gezielt Hilfestellung geboten werden.





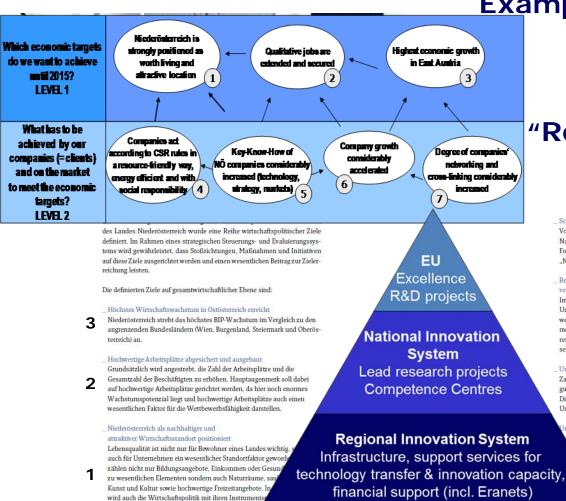


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## SCINNOPOLI SCANNING INNOVATION POLICY IMPACT



## Example: The main targets of the Economic Strategy Lower Austria 2015 – transformation into the "Roof BSC" for monitoring

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#### **European Union**



Verbesserung der Lebensqualität leisten.

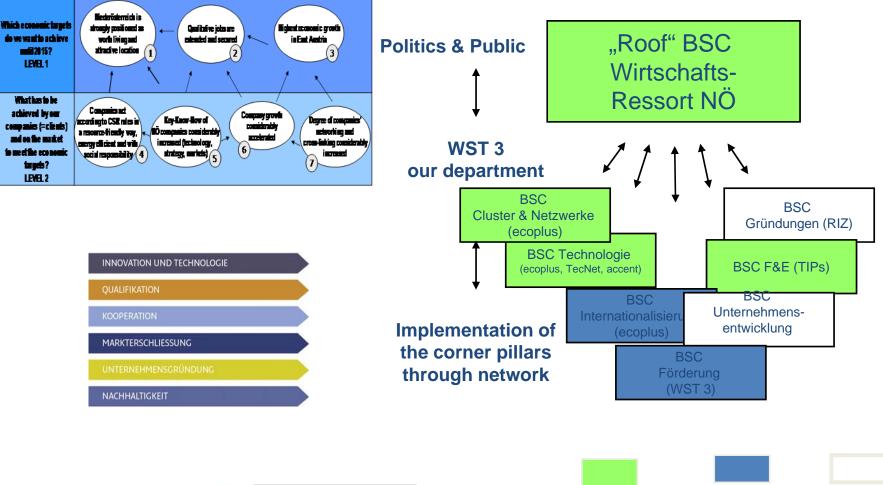


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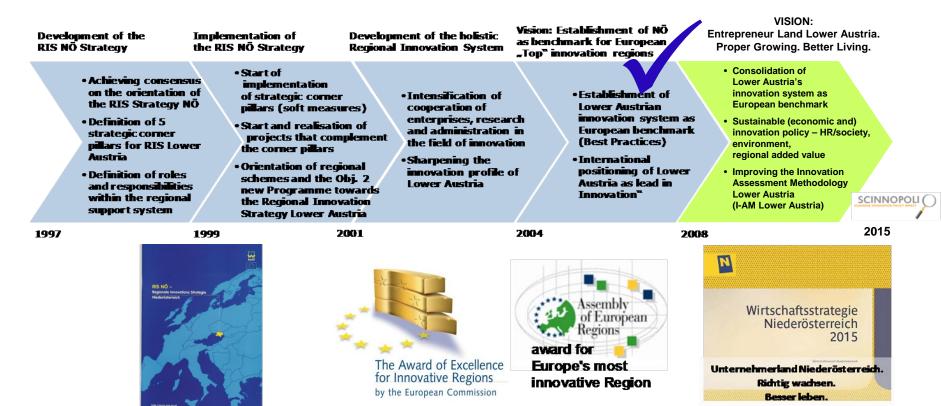
European Union European Regional Development Fund





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# Example: Long Term Continuous Improvement Process of the RIS NÖ (CIP RIS NÖ)



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## Conclusions

- There are numerous ways of developing Smart Specialisation Strategies it has to be the "individual way of the region"
- Every strategy and single activities require individual result indicators
- Huge variety of result indicators exists for monitoring of S3 and the new structural funds period 2014 till 2020 – only the individual elaboration of the regional S3 will allow proper monitoring and evaluation
- Foster pragmatic and hands on S3 implementation, because without implementation there is no
  - Gathering of experiences
  - Validation of S3 strategies
  - Evidence evaluation of regional innovation policy







## 

# Smart Specialisation and SCINNOPOLI

- In the Booklet "REGIONAL POLICY FOR SAMRT GROWTH IN EUROPE 2020" there are 3 Good Practices of regions on their way to "smart specialisation" – Europe 2020
- All 3 regions are SCINNOPOLI regions:
  - Navarra: Macro-Sectors and focus on education and talent
  - Flanders: Spearhead initiatives and strategic clusters
  - Lower Austria: Specialisations and Technopoles
- What is this link between "smart specialisation" and SCINNOPOLI?
  - Individual USP according to regional strength & potentials & needs
  - Pragmatic Implementation
  - MONITORING of the impact of the regional innovation policy!











## Thank you for your attention!

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