



# Impact assessment of EU policies

Scientific competences and research potential

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# Who we are ?

## **KNOWBBASE**

**Centre of Excellence in Knowledge-based Economy  
(University of Lodz)**

## **EEDRI**

**Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Research  
Institute (Academy of Management)**

**A wide range of research activities providing local and regional administrative and self-government authorities, representatives of companies as well as other regional and (inter)national research centres with the information and analyses necessary to develop, monitor and evaluate socio-economic policies:**

- **Regions of knowledge**
- **Entrepreneurship and SMEs policies, including internationalisation**
- **Scientific, technological and innovation policies**
- **European integration (theory of integration, economic consequences of integration).**

- **research services**
- **expert reports**
- **consulting**
- **publishing**

### **Membership:**

- **European Network for Social and Economic Research (ENSR)**
- **European Textile Collectivities Association (ACTE)**

## Research potential

- ❑ **Infrastructure for transfer of knowledge and competences:**
  - ❑ **international, interdisciplinary research activity**
  - ❑ **international excellence in the area of socio-economic research**
  - ❑ **reinforcement of own capabilities**

# Research potential

International, interdisciplinary research activity (mutual learning and exchanges of experience and best practices)

Example: Creating European Research Area (CERA), FP6, Specific Support Action

Aim	Areas	Measures/activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop a series of specialized activities helping to establish new co-operation links between leading research centres of Germany and Austria and Centres of Excellence in New Member States (NMS): Hungary, Poland and Slovakia</li> <li>• to provide an opportunity for the New Member States researchers to exchange "best practices" with their colleagues from Germany and Austria and to master skills in proposal development aimed at preparation of successful proposals of new EU projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health</li> <li>• Nanotechnologies and nano-sciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices</li> <li>• Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training workshops for scientists and administrative officers with aim to increase the competence in (FP) proposal writing and project administration</li> <li>• Get in Touch Meetings – specific workshops aimed at bringing together research teams from New and Old Member States on a basis of common research topic</li> <li>• Bridging Meetings – well prepared visits of groups of experts from New Member States in the leading research centres in Germany and Austria combined with site visits and workshops aimed at establishing contacts and starting collaboration</li> <li>• Single Expert Visits – single missions of senior researchers and heads of research organizations aimed at establishing of new co-operation contacts and strengthening the existing ones</li> </ul>

# Research potential

International excellence in the area of socio-economic research

Example: membership in European Network for Social and Economic Research (ENSR)

Aim	Areas	Types of projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>development of broad international scientific cooperation (over six hundred top-class international specialists)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substantial international experience in the area of broad issues related to entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support measures for business creation following restructuring</li> <li>employment initiatives for an ageing workforce</li> <li>social insurance system for young entrepreneurs and their spouses</li> <li>practices and policies in the social enterprise sector in Europe</li> <li>diversification of labour and human</li> <li>economic effects of seasonal migration</li> <li>non-legislative initiatives for companies to promote gender equality at work</li> <li>evaluation etc.</li> </ul>

# Research potential

## Reinforcement of own capabilities

Example: Partnership for fostering entrepreneurship and SME development (EEDRIPART), FP6, Marie Curie Actions

Aim	Areas	Measures/activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to build excellence in the field of formation of regional partnerships aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and SME development</li> <li>• to disseminate good practices in this field; to develop multidisciplinary research in the economic and social sciences</li> <li>• to stimulate the integration with the ERA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Networking:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– establishment of close linkages with outstanding EU centres in the area of economics, sociology, geography, policy studies</li> <li>– opening new research areas</li> <li>– transfer of best European practices</li> <li>– providing a basis for the formulation of joint projects in favour of integrated Europe (integrating into the ERA)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Capacity building:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– transfer of knowledge and research competencies</li> <li>– attracting young researchers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Regional partnership building:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– research, training and networking with local and regional actors as a foundation of durable partnership</li> <li>– dissemination of good practices in the field of co-operation of the research sector with political decision-makers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hosting of 10 highly experienced researchers (with more than ten years' experience) who possess</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– experience in the field of providing public authorities with the information and analysis necessary to develop, monitor and evaluate their policies</li> <li>– knowledge and international experience in a wide range of policy oriented research</li> <li>– experience in developing and using robust policy evaluation methodologies and in undertaking commissioned research that directly contributes to policy development</li> <li>– experience in involving in co-operation different national and regional actors</li> <li>– organisational and managerial experience</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Delegating own staff to the leading European research centers</b></li> </ul>

# Scientific competences

**Identification of the problem** (description of the nature and extent of the problem; identifying the key players/affected populations; establishment of the drivers and underlying causes; development of baseline scenario)

**Example: Challenges and Prospects of Cross-border Cooperation in the Context of EU Enlargement (CBCED), FP6, Specific Targeted Research or Innovation Project**

Aim	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examination of the current situation and opportunities and prospects for cross border cooperation including the impact of EU enlargement on changes in the scale, directions and intensity of this cooperation</li> <li>• identification of the sources of opportunities and threats to the development of entrepreneurship and international cooperation in a variety of border regions</li> <li>• diagnosis of the degree and needs of support for the purpose of complete adjustment of border regions to EU policy requirements</li> </ul>	<p>(among others)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the potential for cross border co-operation in contributing to the development of productive entrepreneurship and sustainable regional development, in selected regions</li> <li>• Identification and assessment of economic, social, cultural and institutional factors influencing the development and sustainability of different forms of cross border partnerships between various actors in selected border regions, with a view to identifying the scope for the development of emerging clusters of economic activity</li> <li>• Assessment of the role of individual and collective learning at the regional level, as well as personal and institutional trust, for fostering or impeding cross border co-operation and its contribution to economic development, together with the main implications for our understanding of business behaviour and practices of business support</li> <li>• Practical recommendations to policy makers (at the EU, national and regional levels) and practitioners in the fields of entrepreneurship and economic development, concerning cross-border co-operation, paying particular attention to the need for new forms of governance</li> </ul>

# Scientific competences

**Definition of objectives** (setting objectives that correspond to the problem and its root causes; establishment of objectives at a number of levels, going from general to specific/operational; securing consistency of objectives with existing EU policies and strategies)

**Example: report on directions and measures of innovation policy prepared for the Polish Ministry of Regional Development**

Aim	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide the most recent diagnosis of innovativeness of the Polish economy and</li> <li>• to formulate recommendations as to paths of innovation development or, in a broader sense, of technological development in Polish regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a pressing need for an immediate review and restructuring of the socio-economic model and for a shift to new paradigm substantially enhancing the intensity of R&amp;D commercialization</li> <li>• Given the new challenges posed by the BRIC countries, as well as by other developing nations, it should be assumed that technological competitiveness is going to be the primary vehicle for a strong competitive position of Poland. Thus, more attention should be paid to ensuring the right conditions for the generation of radical, breakthrough innovations (by modification of the technological development strategy, of the model of technological learning including cluster strategies) as well as to developing a systemic approach to innovation</li> <li>• Due to the budgetary stringency it should be assumed that the main sources of new financing of R&amp;D and innovative activities will be the private sector and EU funds. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on the generation of private outlays on development</li> <li>• Due to the relatively low efficiency of a number of ongoing measures for the enhancement of innovativeness and competitiveness, the principles of evidence-based policy should be followed more closely as regards defining and implementing development and innovation policies and a new approach to the development of infrastructure for innovation ought to be adopted</li> </ul>

# Scientific competences

**Development of main policy options** (identification of policy options with distinguishing – where appropriate – between regulatory/non-regulatory approaches; checking the proportionality principle; screening for technical and other constraints; measuring against criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and coherence; drawing-up a shortlist of potentially valid options for further analysis)

## Example: current foresight studies

Project	Results
<p><b>Food and nutrition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a vision for the development of the Polish food industry – development of a strategic research programme aimed at the development of technology for high-quality food in Poland (vision of the sector development, strategy for the high-quality food technology development in Poland; initiation and conducting scientific and technological research; development of methods of implementing new technologies in the food industry at a mass scale)</li> <li>• recommendations for innovation policy in respect of the development of technology for high-quality food</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advanced industrial and ecological technologies for sustainable development of Poland</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• map of directions of R&amp;D development in Poland in respect of manufacturing technologies, maintenance of machines and devices, environmental protection and staff training to meet the demands of advanced industrial technologies, industry requirements and the potential of research units</li> <li>• a vision for the development of these technologies by 2020 and action plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Modern technologies for the textiles. Opportunities for Poland</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a vision for the development of the textile industry in Poland (areas of Polish competence and global leadership) and technological scenarios for the textile industry</li> <li>• recommendations for innovation policy for the textile industry</li> </ul>

# Scientific competences

**Analysis of the impacts of the options** (identification of direct and indirect economic, social and environmental impacts and their causality; assessment of the impacts against the baseline in qualitative, quantitative and monetary terms; identification and assessment of the administrative burden/simplification benefits; consider the risks and uncertainties in the policy choices)

**Example: Poland. Administrative barriers to investment (prepared for the Polish Ministry of Economy and Labor, upon an order from the European Commission fulfilled by the Polish consultants, and with methodological and analytical support from FIAS – the Foreign Investment Advisory Service of World Bank Group)**

Aim	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to identify problems and propose solutions for reform in the area of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– registration procedures</li><li>– permit/licence procedures</li><li>– buying/leasing/building/rebuilding property procedures</li><li>– environmental procedures</li><li>– tax/social security procedures</li><li>– export/import procedures</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification of main problems</li><li>• recommendations to address these problems together with priority levels (high or medium) and timeframe: ;short-term’ activities that should be started immediately, but should not take longer than 3-4 months; ‘medium-term’: between 4 months and 1 year; and ‘long-term’ requiring more long-term planning and preparation (likely to be more than 1 year).</li></ul>

# Scientific competences

**Outline policy monitoring and evaluation** (definition of core progress indicators for the key objectives of the possible intervention; providing a broad outline of possible monitoring and evaluation arrangements)

**Example: Impact Assessment Systems and Methodologies For Innovation Excellence (IASMINE), FP6, Specific Support Action**

Aim	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to make the regional innovation actors aware of the importance of the innovation policies</li><li>• to provide the decision makers with appropriate methodologies and tools based on impact evaluation and benchmarking</li><li>• to disseminate good practices in the area of benchmarking and evaluation of innovation policies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• guidelines for performance indicators and benchmarking against the best in the world and tailored to the needs of different member states and sectors as a mean of comparing best practice</li><li>• translating these guidelines into regional policies by setting specific targets and adopting measures, taking into account regional</li><li>• periodic monitoring, evaluation and peers review organized as mutual learning processes</li></ul>

## Conclusions

- ❑ **Experience in the area of non-legislative initiatives/ Communications/ Recommendations/ Strategy papers, which set out commitments for future legislative action**
- ❑ **Expertise in the identification of ‘grand challenges’, which should gain political support (priorities of regional/national science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship policies)**
- ❑ **Use of strategic policy intelligence tools defined as methodologies used to provide decision-makers with comprehensive, objective, politically unbiased and forward looking information (based on solid evidence, broad participation and mediation and providing decision support)**
- ❑ **Experience rather in qualitative than quantitative methods, however some experience in econometric models appropriate for impact assessment**