

ACRONYM:
POLITEC

TITLE OF THE PROYECT:

Transfer of good practice and methodology developed in Interreg 3B SUDOE (“AVANTEC Project”) for the elaboration of regional innovation policies in the sphere of cooperation between universities, businesses and public administrations.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION:

- Type 1: Regional Initiative Project
- Type 2: Capitalisation Project**

DURATION

Start: beginning of: 07-2008

Closure: end of: 07-2010

TOTAL N° MONTHS: 24

SUB-THEME SELECTED

Priority 1: Innovation and the Knowledge Economy

Sub-theme: Innovation, Research and Technology Development

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The POLITEC project consists of the transfer of good practice and methodology developed in the AVANTEC project, whose activities were financed by Interreg 3B SUDOE and successfully finished in 2007.

The good practice and methodology of the AVANTEC project are aimed at the improvement of the interrelation between organisations in the regional innovation systems (universities, businesses and public administrations), with the idea of providing services and creating new companies. The POLITEC project, as a capitalisation project, aims to transfer this good practice and methodology to the public authorities of the regions participating in the project in order to establish regional innovation policies.

The strategic objective of the POLITEC project consists in providing the political authorities of the participating regions with a common work tool in the sphere of relations between universities, businesses and public administrations, which allows an improved sharing of the innovation policies in this essential field for the efficient performance of the respective regional innovation systems.

The basic activities of the POLITEC project are as follows:

1. Analysis of existing innovation policies in the participating regions in the field of the interrelation between universities, businesses and public administrations through direct contact with the political authorities.

2. Application of shared work procedures:
 - a. Presentation of available methodology: PATSI: “Procedure of Advanced Technology Service Implementation” and POSTE: “Procedure of Systematic Support to Technology Entrepreneurs”.
 - b. Training in the use of PATSI and POSTE methodology.
 - c. Fieldwork in order to obtain data.
 - d. Construction of indicator system.
 - e. Personal interaction with the political authorities of each participating region for the interpretation of the indicator system.
3. Public presentation of the results of the project in seminars, conferences and other events, with the participation of public authorities, key stakeholders and members of the project consortium from the various participating regions.
4. Launch of diffusion initiatives: Web page, press, radio.
5. Elaboration of action plans for the support of political authorities in the orientation of the innovation policies of the participating regions.

As main project results it is expected that an adequate transfer of good practice will be reached, leading to the drawing up of action plans in each participating region, which will allow the political authorities to improve the interaction between the organisations forming the respective regional innovation systems (universities, businesses and knowledge centres).

PROJECT BUDGET (IN EUR)

2,7 M€

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

RATIONALE

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

The idea of launching the POLITEC project, as a capitalisation project within Interreg 4C, stems from the experience gained through the AVANTEC project, which was financed by Interreg 3B SUDOE and successfully completed in 2007. Amongst the results of AVANTEC, there was the application potential to the improvement of innovation policies in the interface sphere between universities, businesses and public administrations. This was not the main priority of AVANTEC, focused on providing services and creating companies, but it did include methodology which could be orientated in this other direction of support to innovation policies.

At the end of that project, both the participating partners and potential future partners expressed the desire to launch a new project, preferably with a political content, based on the methodology developed in AVANTEC. Once the content of the Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG 4C was made public along with its typology of projects related to capitalisation projects, it was a natural decision to present a new proposal that took advantage of the good practice developed in AVANTEC and was

aimed at innovation policies. This is the origin of the POLITEC project, which is presented in this proposal.

As a fundamental keystone of the origin of the POLITEC project, it should be stressed that it was the public administrations themselves, consulted through the contact network of the Fundación Universidade da Coruña, the project leader, who voiced their interest in benefiting from the methodology developed in AVANTEC to adopt the good practice aimed at improving innovation policies in the sphere of relations between universities, businesses and the public administrations themselves.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION/ISSUES ADDRESSED

The problem tackled by the POLITEC project is essential in the structure of national and regional innovation systems. In fact, these systems were spoken about in the sense that they were made up of institutions that collectively promoted innovation. If there were no interconnection between institutions, one simply could not talk about systems.

However, it is easy to talk about the need for these connections, with the aim of providing innovation systems in their full sense, but it is not so easy to determine the state of these relations or to formulate policies to improve them. The relations are subtle. They are not seen directly, and they mostly lie in personal connections of the individuals that form part of these institutions.

On the other hand, there are a large number of innovation indicators. The “European Innovation Scoreboard, 2006” contains the following innovation indicators for European countries plus the United States and Japan:

INPUT - Innovation drivers

- New S&E graduates per 1000 population aged 20-29
- Population with tertiary education per 100 population aged 25-64
- Broadband penetration rate (number of broadband lines per 100 population)
- Participation in life-long learning per 100 population aged 25-64
- Youth education attainment level (% of population aged 20-24 having completed at least upper secondary education)

INPUT - Knowledge creation

- Public R&D expenditures (% of GDP)
- Business R&D expenditures (% of GDP)
- Share of medium-high-tech and high-tech R&D (% of manufacturing R&D expenditures)
- Share of enterprises receiving public funding for innovation

INPUT - Innovation & entrepreneurship

- SMEs innovating in-house (% of SMEs)
- Innovative SMEs co-operating with others (% of SMEs)
- Innovation expenditures (% of turnover)
- Early-stage venture capital (% of GDP)
- ICT expenditures (% of GDP)

→ SMEs using organisational innovation (% of SMEs)

OUTPUT - Application

- Employment in high-tech services (% of total workforce)
- Exports of high technology products as a share of total exports
- Sales of new-to-market products (% of turnover)
- Sales of new-to-firm not new-to-market products (% of turnover)
- Employment in medium-high and high-tech manufacturing (% of total workforce)

OUTPUT - Intellectual property

- New EPO patents per million population
- New USPTO patents per million population
- New Triad patents per million population
- New community trademarks per million population
- New community industrial designs per million population

Of this list of 25 indicators, only two refer to relational aspects, which are:

- Share of enterprises receiving public funding for innovation
- Innovative SMEs co-operating with others (% of SMEs)

The first indicator shows the relation between businesses and public administrations through the financing that the latter contribute to the companies. The second refers to cooperation between companies. Therefore, there is nothing about something as essential as the relation between the institutions that generate new knowledge, i.e. universities or research bodies and the companies as institutions that apply the new knowledge to conceive new applications and develop new products or production processes.

The intention of the POLITEC project is to rectify this shortcoming and provide an original indicator system on relations between universities, businesses and public administrations, obtained from the application of the methodology available from the AVANTEC project and known as PATSI and POSTE, which will be described in another section of this proposal.

This new indicator system aims to solve the problem of public administrations having to formulate innovation policies in the sphere of the relations between institutions of the innovation systems without having the data to orientate their decision.

This is the approach of the POLITEC project: to penetrate the terrain of the relations produced in the innovation systems of the regions participating in the project and to provide an indicator system to orientate the action plans of the public administrations in the participating regions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The strategic objective of the POLITEC project is to provide the public administrations in the participating regions with a common working tool in the sphere of relations between universities, businesses and public administrations, which allows an improved sharing of

the innovation policies in this field that is essential for the efficient performance of the respective regional innovation systems.

The operational objectives of the project are as follows:

1. **CURRENT POLICIES:** to determine the current state of innovation policies on the promotion of relations between universities, businesses and public administrations in the participating regions.
2. **TRANSFER OF GOOD PRACTICE:** to transfer the PATSI and POSTE good practice and methodology to the public administrations of the participating regions through their use and control by the project partners.
3. **INDICATOR SYSTEM:** to build an indicator system in each participating region on the relation between universities, businesses and public administrations through the application of PATSI and POSTE methodology.
4. **CONTACT ACTIONS:** to create personal contacts on a regional and interregional level between project partners, policy makers and key stakeholders through seminars, conferences and other events.
5. **DIFFUSION ACTIONS:** to communicate actions taken and results achieved in the project through diffusion initiatives such as Web page, press and radio.
6. **NEW POLICIES:** to draw up action plans in each participating region to provide the appropriate authorities with practical suggestions for the orientation of new innovation policies in the participating regions.