



Joint European-Latin American  
Universities Renewable Energy Project



*Policy support to regional authorities:  
in Renewable Energies*

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Project is funded  
by the European  
Union

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# 1. Complexities in regional capacity

- **Core Area**
  - Define the area and the scope of the support (e.g. TT, Innovation)
- **'Hard factors'**
  - Policy focus that can be identified, targeted and assessed quantitatively. (i.e. successful TT, numbers of patents, amount of venture capital)
- **'Soft factors'**
  - the entrepreneurial culture (i.e. national innovation system)
  - the role of key actors (e.g. the stake holder matrix)
  - The potential / actual entrepreneurs
    - those providing money and support
    - driving and implementing public policy, academia, etc.
- **Contexts**
  - The local, regional, national, global contexts

## 2. What it is necessary to build some regional capacity

- Well human capital
- Monetary resources
- Adequate infrastructure
- Well leadership and vision
- Entrepreneurial ambition
- Clear regional needs

## 3. Regional context for opportunities

- **Physical and geographical factors**
  - Abundant raw materials and natural resources
  - Transport links
  - History and migration
  - Technical conditions (e.g. electricity nets)
- **Economic profile**
  - Traditional or new industry base; **clusters or corridors?**
  - **Balance of work force** and their **skill mix**
  - Levels of
    - innovation, TT, enterprise, sectoral base
    - **investment** in TT, innovation, public-private sector partnerships, FDI
    - **patenting**, R & D, university-industry links

## 3. Regional context for opportunities

- **Support to enterprises**
  - Who does research with whom?
  - Do small firms link with other firms ?
  - How is the Technology and innovation in the region?
  - Convergence / uniqueness
- **Internal and external assets**
  - What does the regional knowledge base ?
  - Which linkages / networks are seen as assets across region and outside the region?
  - How does the region retain its departing assets, (e.g. graduates)

## 4. Questions for regions on their capacity

- How proactive or responsive is the region?
- Is it part of cross-regional clusters or actions?
- How well does the region connect with - innovation and enterprise?
- Can the region deal with change?
- Does the region have the capacity to deal with support (funds, new contacts etc) or with difficult trading conditions?
- **Can the region reinvent itself if it has to?**

## 5. Tangible indicators

- **Money**
  - Is money available for **business start up, growth and exit**, for **TT & innovation**?
  - Is money available for **non-traditional** businesses without tangible collateral (e.g., high technology; under-represented groups
  - How **rapidly** is money available?
- **Regulation / links**
  - How easy is it to **start, grow or end** a business or **to protect** ?
  - How hard is it to link with large firms, universities, other small firms?
  - Is there a regional response to new international change or regulations?



## 6. Soft factors

- Relate to the underpinning processes and enabling fabric of the region
  - Leadership and vision
  - Understand the risks
  - Entrepreneurial culture and innovative ambition;
  - Who is an entrepreneur or an innovator in the region?
  - Attitudes to innovation
- Soft factors in business
  - Brand and worth
  - Flexibility

## 7. Questions for regional authorities

- Do you have have a clear profile of regional innovative capacity, recognising both hard and soft factors?
- Does the region provide the right environment to support entrepreneurship and innovation?
  - flexible finance,
  - low bureaucracy,
  - enterprising culture to support creativity,
  - infrastructure and human capital components?
- Which *innovation focus* best fits the regional capacity and culture?
- Which international best practice extends the regional capacity and meets the regional needs?
- How can you encourage cross-regional cluster?



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## 8. Regional government needs

- **Recognise the level of complexity**, both hard and soft factors, to have any impact on innovation and entrepreneurship
- **Include all forms of innovation and stages of the innovation process** (e.g., no over-focus on specific sectors or business stage)
- **Combine less bureaucracy with more flexibility** in systems
- Recognise that innovators to grow new business roots.
- Recognise and develop **regional innovative capacity**

## 9. Which are the challenges?

- **Team-work**
  - Bring together the different actors in the region to work together
- **Access the best players and managers**
  - Scope the competition
  - Harness money and other resources to support TT & innovation
- **Will to win**
  - Build an entrepreneurial culture
  - Be aware of external and internal factors
  - Be ready to re-invent the region when conditions change

# 10. Example

Renewable energy

- Biofuels

Local and special initiatives goes directly toward ... and required ....

# 11. Bio-business

- Support integrated bioenergy planning at regional level

**KEY PARTNERS: regional authorities, relevant public bodies (e.g. chamber of agriculture & forestry, energy agencies), biomass interest groups (biomass suppliers, industry, biomass associations, NGOs, biomass service providers, potential end-users)**

- Promote reliable & efficient supply chains / markets for solid biomass

**KEY PARTNERS: biomass suppliers (farmers, forest owners & entrepreneurs, industries),**

**intermediaries (e.g. process, logistics, transport), potential end-users, developers, investors**

# 11. Bio-business

- Promote bioenergy standards, sustainability, labelling of solid biofuels  
**KEY PARTNERS: bioenergy producers, bioenergy distribution & retail chain, certification bodies, biomass organisations, bioenergy equipment suppliers**
- Stimulate investment in sustainable, integrated bioenergy production  
**KEY PARTNERS: public authorities & relevant public bodies, biomass suppliers (e.g. farmers & forest owners), industry, biomass associations, developers, financing institutions**
- Train and inform public sector decision makers, planners and investors  
**KEY PARTNERS: bioenergy knowledge centres, training organisations, energy agencies**



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Thank you very much for your attention!



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