



Submission to the Evaluation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Programme

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NDP Subcommittee 4/7/08



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Key Issues for the BMW Region

1. **STI Policy Reinforcing Regional Imbalances**
2. **Under-Investment in R&D in the BMW Region**
3. **Low Level of Innovation in the BMW Region**



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Key Issues for the BMW Region

4. **Low Levels of Interaction between Third level Institutions and Enterprises**
5. **3rd Economic Development Role of TLIs Remain Under-Developed**



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1. Reinforcing Regional Imbalance

- **STI Policy Inconsistent with NSS**
- **Negative Impact on Spatial Balance**
- **Reinforcing Existing Concentrations of Economic Activity**



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2. BMW Region R&D €

1. **PRTL: 12% of €605m (2000-2006)**
2. **SFI: 9.3% of €824m (2000-2007)**
3. **TSRI: 19.8% of €38.9m (2000-2006)**



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3. Low Levels of Innovation in the BMW Region

- **BMW Audit of Innovation 2004**
- **Crucial to the Development & Shift-to a Knowledge Economy**
- **Vital for BMW Region Due to Heavy Reliance on Primary Sectors Which are in Decline e.g. Construction**



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4. Weak Levels of Interaction Between TLIs & Industry

- East, Enterprises “Rarely/Never Interact with Region-Based Education Sector” (O’Leary/Jordon 2007)
- Nationally 6.8% of Companies Cooperate with TLIs (Forfás/CSO 2008)
- Real Collaborative Research Required → To Enable Tangible Benefits for Enterprise



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Underdeveloped 3rd Economic Role for TLIs

- TLIs New 3rd Role in Addition to Educating & Researching
- 3rd Role: Greater Collaboration with Industry & Contribute to Development of Knowledge
- Requires Greater Government Consideration and Policy Initiation



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Submission Policy Proposals

1. **Completion of Territorial Impact Analysis of R&D**
2. **Dedicated R&D Fund for BMW Region**
3. **Regional Innovation Strategies**
4. **Regional Investment Strategies**



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Submission Policy Proposals

5. **Incentivise Collaboration with Weaker Institutions**
6. **Regional Investment Strategies**
7. **Improved Synergies between National R&D Policy & Regional Policy**



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