

042980

REACT

**Regional Empowerment in Action and Concepts
for Policy Development and Technology Transfer**

Instrument: Coordination Action

Thematic Priority: Support of mutual learning and coordination in research policy -
making (RTD-OMC-NET)

Publishable Final Activity Report

Period covered: 01-2007 to 12-2008

Date of preparation: 02-09-2009

Start date of project: 01-2007

Duration: 2 years

Project coordinator name: Lars Wrage

Project coordinator organisation name: LEG Thuringen

Revision: -

1. Project Execution

1.1. Summary Description of Project Objectives

The project REACT was conducted from 2007 to 2008 and benefited from funding of the 6 Framework Programme. The acronym “REACT” stands for “Regional Empowerment in Actions and Concepts for Policy Development and Technology Transfer”.

The project was primarily policy-driven and aimed at improving RTD in European regions and supporting innovative policy-making for technology transfer. By fostering the technology transfer between research and industry within and among the participating regions REACT wanted to contribute to the enhancement of the environment for public research. However, REACT did not only intend to strengthen the links between public research and industry. It was also interested in creating bridges between researchers, policy-makers, and SMEs. In order to achieve this goal, the following concrete objectives were defined:

- Objective 1: knowledge building through regional analyses, following an adapted methodology design for policy analysis
- Objective 2: knowledge sharing through interregional exchange of experience and cross-regional fertilization
- Objective 3: knowledge learning through the creation of interregional platforms that foster interactive learning (not only within one region, but between different European regions) and allow the joint development of innovative policy initiatives
- Objective 4: knowledge implementation through the exploitation, transfer and dissemination of good practices, e.g. concrete actions and concepts for regional development policies and interregional technology transfer

By the pursuit of these objectives and thus by supporting mutual learning and coordination in research policy-making the project consortium contributed to the creation of a “Europe of Knowledge”.

1.2. Contractors

The REACT project was conducted by seven partners from six European regions:

Partner 01 State Development Corporation of Thuringia, Germany

Partner 02 Thüringen INNOVATIV GmbH (TI); Germany

Partner 03 Business Innovation Centre Bratislava spol. s.r.o. (BIC Bratislava);
Slovakia

Partner 04 Universiteit Maastricht, Economic Research Institute on Innovation and
Technology (UNU-MERIT), Netherlands

Partner 05 Institute of Baltic Studies (IBS), Estonia

Partner 06 Centre de Transfert en Micro et Nanotechnologies (CTMN); France

Partner 07 Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung (Styria); Austria

During REACT's run time three changes of partner occurred which will be pointed out in the following:

Partner 08 Mikrotechnik Thüringen e.V. (MTT)

This partner joined the project in place of partner 02.

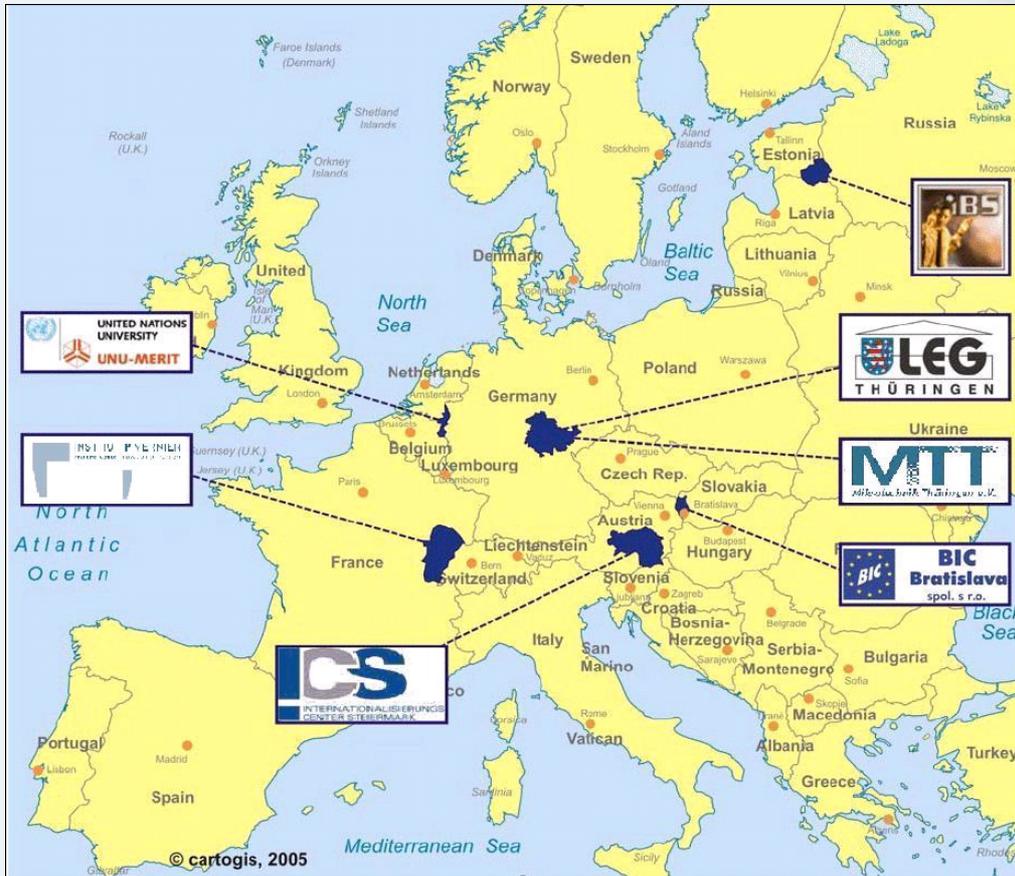
Partner 09 Internationalisationcenter Styria (ICS)

This partner joined the project in place of partner 07.

Partner 10 Institut Pierre-Vernier (IPV)

This partner joined the project in place of partner 06.

While the regions of Limburg (partner 04), Styria (partner 07/ 09), and Franche-Comté (partner 06/ 10) seem well developed concerning RTD policy-making, the regions of Thuringia (partner 01/ 02/ 08)), Southern Estonia (partner 05) and Bratislava (partner 03) are still less prominent in this regard.



1.3. Methodologies and Approaches

The REACT consortium contributed to the improvement of RTD policies and the enhancement of the application of efficient and innovative regional development instruments. In this respect, REACT focused on the approach of “mutual learning” between technologically advanced regions and less privileged regions. This way, the project offered a platform for cross-regional learning and exchange.

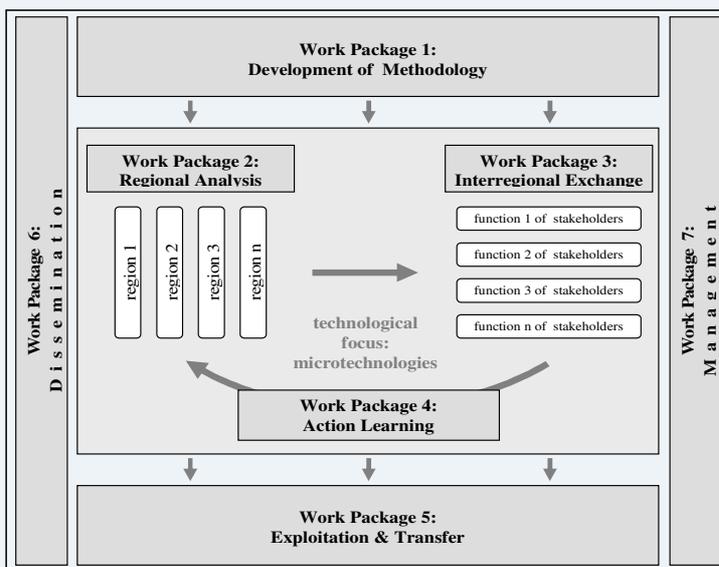
REACT primarily focused on micro- and nanotechnologies since this field is of high interest to all of the project partners. However, the methodological design of REACT can be used for a variety of technological fields. Therefore, the project offers a tool for sustainable regional development.

Apart from that, it is to state that the REACT project concentrated on overall micro technology issues. Yet, it was flexible enough to adapt to the respective partner

regions' specific competencies and experiences. For that reason, the micro technology domains dealt with in REACT were approached differently. Hence, the project was implemented with consideration of specific local technological and economic circumstances in the partner regions. This open approach ensured a higher applicability of the project's design. Eventually, it is to be emphasized that the mutual learning between the REACT regions and institutions did not affect any aspects of competition since the project related to family types of technologies without focusing too much on competing areas.

1.4. Work Performed and End Results

The REACT project consisted of seven work packages.



Within the first work package “Development of Methodology” the project’s methodology was developed and described within the *REACT Manual*. Among further things, the *REACT website* www.react-fp6.eu was activated as well. This website contains all of the published documents elaborated within REACT as well as further useful information about the project and its partners.

The second work package “Regional Analysis” focused on the elaboration of each region’s *Regional Analysis Reports*. They show the respective status of R&D policies

and the sector of micro- and nanotechnology in each region (objective 1). Still within work package 2 six stakeholder groups were formed functioning as a platform for regional dialogue that took place within each REACT region. The participants of the respective *Regional Dialogue Meetings* conducted a policy simulation by using the software of the so-called “*policy simulator*”. On the basis of the discussions and results of these meetings each partner prepared a *Regional SWOT Analysis* (tool: EDISON – Method).

The *Interregional Exchange Conference* (IEC) marked an important event within work package 3 “Interregional Exchange”. All of the results and outputs of the activities conducted in 2007 were used by the project partners within this conference that was held in the beginning of 2008. The IEC was also attended by regional stakeholders who were enabled to make contacts, to exchange experiences and to discuss about best-practices. This way, the conference contributed to



the improvement of the conditions for transfer, development, and the use of micro- and nano-technologies. In this respect, the IEC was an important means for its attendants to better understand the most effective strategies and policies enabling them to benefit from the potential of micro- and nanotechnologies (objectives 2, 3).

Within work package 4 all of the information gathered in the previous work packages were used for further “Action Learning”. Thus, *Regional Feedback Workshops* were organized in each partner region. These workshops helped transferring the knowledge gained through the mutual interregional learning process. Moreover, they supported the partners in adapting this know-how about policy-making and RTD strategies to their individual needs. Apart from that, the workshops enabled the partners to use the input gained during the IEC to revise and improve some of the contributions they made to the project.

The results and outputs of REACT deduced from the previous work packages were used in work package 5 “Exploitation and Transfer” in order to generate innovative strategies for RTD policy-making. One of the most important outputs of the project was elaborated within this work package: the *REACT Methodology and Policy Guideline* (Guideline for Efficient Regional Policy Making in the Area of R&D Support). This document aims at providing recommendations regarding regional innovation policies’ formulation and implementation to the relevant regional and national policy-makers (objective 4). Hence, it is also to be regarded as an important means contributing to the establishment of a dialogue between representatives of the political level and representatives of SMEs.

Work package 6 was mainly occupied with “Dissemination”. In order to systematically approach this task a dissemination plan was developed. Moreover, materials such as *posters, newsletters, a brochure* and a *logo* were elaborated which are published on the REACT website. Apart from that, all documents intended for publication are available on this website as well.

Furthermore, the REACT partners took place in numerous events, such as congresses, conferences, and fairs. The *Interregional Exchange Conference* in Thuringia and the *REACT Final Conference* in Styria belong to the most significant events of the project. The latter examined the role of interregional networks and partnerships that intend to strengthen technology transfer. The conference also showed how REACT contributed to the way micro- and nanotechnologies are dealt with on the political level of the REACT partner regions. Moreover, key policy lessons learnt as well as new possibilities for intra- and interregional cooperation were discussed in order to promote knowledge exchange in the field of micro- and nanotechnologies.



The REACT partners also visited *Micronora fair* in Besançon, an internationally known trade fair for microtechnologies. In the framework of this highlight meetings

with stakeholders of the region Franche-Comté were organized as well. Additionally, stakeholders of the partner regions were given the opportunity for contact-making and for exchanging experiences. This way, mutual learning and coordination in research policy-making was supported.

The final work package 7 “Management” was conducted by the State Development Corporation of Thuringia. For all questions regarding REACT please contact:

Lars Wrage (Lars.Wrage@leg-thuringen.de)

Kathrin Wagner (Kathrin.Wagner@leg-thuringen.de)

1.5. Achievements and Impact to Industry and Science

Above all REACT aimed at improving RTD in European regions and supporting innovative policy-making for technology transfer. Throughout the project’s duration the consortium put serious efforts in promoting and fostering the technology transfer between research and industry within and among the participating regions. Particularly due to the IEC and the REACT Final Conference it was possible to bring together representatives of politics, industry, and research. This way, REACT engaged in the strengthening of the links between research and industry. In this respect, the project also contributed to the creation of bridges between researchers, policy-makers, and SMEs.

The *REACT Methodology and Policy Guideline* summarizes the results of those conferences and the further regional and interregional events conducted within REACT. By distributing this document on the regional and/ or national political level of the partner regions the REACT consortium contributes to the enhancement of RTD policy-making. In combination with the further outputs of the project, this guideline does not only intend to support the political level. It also aims at sensibilizing the sectors of industry and research to the possibilities and challenges concerning micro- and nanotechnologies.

In addition to that, the project activities and dissemination efforts contributed to the raising of the awareness level of the REACT regions in regard to micro- and nanotechnologies. Therefore, this sector could be generally promoted as well.

Finally, it is important to mention that all members of the project consortium are willing to continue their activities in this area also after the project's termination.

2. Dissemination and Use¹

The following project outputs are available for download on the REACT website www.react-fp6.eu:

- 6 Lists of Stakeholders
- 6 Regional Analyses
- Summary Report of the Regional Analyses
- 6 Regional SWOT Analyses
- Core Competence Table
- Summary of the REACT Partner Regions' SWOT Analyses
- Interregional Exchange Conference
- Summary Report of the Interregional Exchange Conference
- Document Containing "Main Learning"
- Report on the Regional Dialogue Policy Simulator
- Summary Report of Regional Feedback Workshops
- Methodology and Policy Guideline
- 3 Poster Presentations
- REACT Final Conference Handbook
- Report on Raising Public Participation and Awareness
- REACT Final Conference

¹ „Section 3 – Publishable Results“ of the Final Plan for Using and Disseminating the Knowledge is not applicable to REACT. Therefore, this chapter lists all of the project's deliverables that are published and available on the REACT website.