



Project No FP6-042982

BIS-RTD

BUILDING AND IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR RTD POLICY AND PUBLIC SPENDING

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PUBLISHABLE FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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Project coordinator name: **Blaz Golob**

Project coordinator organisation name: **Slovenian Research Agency**

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- Coordinator contact details:
 - Slovenian Research Agency
 - Tivolska Cesta 30
 - Ljubljana, 1000, Slovenia
 - Contact: Blaz Golob, blaz.golob@gov.si
- Full list of contractors:

Participant name	Short name	Country
Slovenian Research Agency	ARRS	Slovenia
Stockholmregiones Europakomitee	STOK	Sweden
Fundacion Comunidad Valenciana – Region Europea	VAL	Spain
Scottish Enterprise	SCOT	UK
Regione Emilia-Romagna	ER	Italy
Olomouc Region	OLOMOUC	Czech Republic
West Pannon Regional Development Agency	WPRDA	Hungary
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)	TUBITAK	Turkey
European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD)	ECPD	Serbia
Slovenian Business and Research Association	SBRA	Belgium

Project website: www.bis-rtd.net



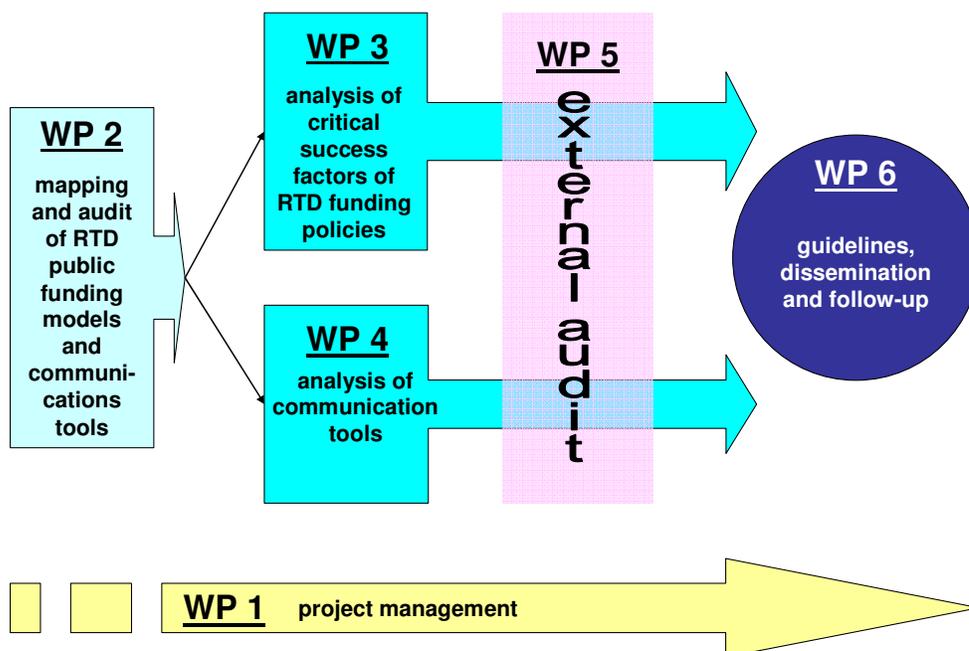
The Project

BIS-RTD aims at establishing a permanent co-operation platform among European regions to facilitate the emergence and circulation of good practices and contribute to RTD policy making coordination, so as to ensure the spreading and (partial) adoption of effective adoption models of good practices.

In order to carry this purpose, the project addresses the following objectives:

- Identify and evaluate existing RTD funding models, policies and instruments in participating regions/countries including their communication
- Identify critical success factors for RTD funding policies resulting in enhanced research and innovation performance
- Select and present good practice cases assisting policy makers through mutual learning and benchmarking
- Formulate guidelines for successful target-oriented RTD funding policies and their implementation
- Offer recommendations to RTD policy makers on communication tools for obtaining funding levels necessary for 'competitiveness-minded' research, leading to new and improved products and services

In order to achieve the stated objectives, the project is structured into six main tasks or Work Packages:



Besides the direct involvement of the contractors, the project has benefited from the accumulated expertise of two external bodies especially configured for BIS-RTD:

- The Project Advisory Group (PAG) independent experts that have reviewed the project deliverables and offered advice for its improvement

- The External Experts group, in charge of auditing on-site the findings of the project deliverables through meetings with key experts in the partner countries/regions

The results

The results of the project are:

- One Country/Region Profile Report describing RTD public funding and communication models in each partner country/region.
- One specific study about benchmarking, success factors and best practices in public funding in each partner country/region
- One specific study about RTD communication models and best practices in each partner country/region
- The BIS-RTD Guidelines on Public RTD Funding Policies and Communication. The document includes a specific Executive Summary prepared to be independently distributed, especially to high level politicians and stakeholders
- The BIS-RTD Final Conference was held in Istanbul on April 29, 2008. The results of the project were presented to an attendance of more than 100 RTD policy and decision makers and key stakeholders
- A final Validation Workshop was held in Nova Gorica (Slovenia) on June 7, 2008 in order to decide the future sustainability of the project objectives and the future dissemination and the communication activities.

The main conclusions

- Political parties are not yet able to translate their support to building knowledge society into commitments to place RTD funding into the very centre of policies required for the successful implementation of knowledge society programmes. This can partly be interpreted as the result of failure of politicians to fully understand the direct link between RTD funding and improvement of knowledge-based competitiveness at the macro and micro levels.
- The research communities do not play a sufficiently proactive role in building public support for RTD funding, and do not use appropriate messages when communicating and lobbying with governments, parliamentary representatives, and the media
- The mere raising of RTD funding levels is not enough. Equally important is to improve the funding systems, by rewarding quality, encouraging excellence, and applicability. This cannot be achieved without effective reforms of the mostly outdated systems of quasi-budgetary RTD funding (instead of competitive project funding, RTD institutions are being funded), and without much stronger involvement of the users (specially from the corporate sector) in the process of priority setting, and finally approval of public funding for specific research projects needed to support technological advance of the region/country concerned

The next steps

The BIS-RTD Executive Summary Guidelines deliver a strong and specific message about RTD funding and communication policies. It is a short document, clearly written and structured. It is therefore a good tool to promote actions among RTD policy and decision makers. To this effect some measures will be adopted by the partners in their regions/countries:

- Translate the Guidelines into local languages and adapt them to the local environment
- Send the document to a selected list of RTD policy and decision-makers as well as to their advisory staff. Appointments will be sought to explain the Guidelines and discuss ways to implement them and introduce their recommendations into mainstream RTD policies

BIS-RTD partners agree that Best Practice sharing is one of the best ways to improve their own RTD policies and will therefore try to maintain a working and information relationship using the BIS-RTD website www.bis-rtd.net as a common working space. The web will be operational at least for the next three years after the project end.

The EREF Conference will be the platform for the BIS-RTD Consortium in the following years. EREF pledges to devote a slot in their next editions to a BIS-RTD meeting where RTD funding experiences will be shared and discussed