



CRISI -Project¹ Policy Briefing 1/2016

The CRISI -project aims at providing an improved understanding of cross-border regional cooperation in terms of how different types of proximity and the integration of cross-border regional innovation systems (CBRIS) impact on knowledge transfer and innovation in SMEs.

The project is funded by the Marie Curie Actions Intra-European Fellowship within the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the EU under Grant PIEF-GA-2013-624930.

The project has generated the following empirically and theoretically informed ideas and policy suggestions:

- A review (*forthcoming*) of existing knowledge about CBRIS provides the following key policy recommendations for developing cross-border integration and innovation cooperation:

Key policy suggestions for promoting CBRIS integration

Transfer the experiences of good examples and successful collaborations

Stimulate knowledge interaction

Signal the importance to policy makers and individual organizations of a CBRIS as a means to increase regional competitiveness

Promote the emergence of a common regional identity

Build up bridging organisations to connect actors and to facilitate cross-border cooperation

Facilitate dialogue and consensus building in cross-border policy networks

Improve cross-border accessibility

- However, relatively little empirical evidence exists on the effectiveness of these policy measures – making it difficult to develop evidence-based policies and actions

¹ Cross-Border Regional Innovation System Integration -Project (CRISI -Project)



Additionally, the project identifies the importance of the following for strengthening cross-border scientific collaboration within the EU:

- In order to achieve greater EU-wide cohesion, it would be beneficial to secure a higher level of research funding targeted specifically at recipients other than the leading public and private research actors in the EU-15. For example, through separate funding instruments, in order to allow the new member states to build up a stock of research competence and infrastructure
- Alternatively, a gradual opening of highly restricted network structures in the field of research and development can also be achieved by incentivizing leading research actors in the EU-15 to incorporate partners outside their list of ‘usual suspects’; for example, support for collaborating with, and transferring knowledge to, emerging actors in the new member states
- The structure of the EU’s new ‘[Horizon 2020](#)’ programme to support excellence in research and innovation can be seen as one step into this direction:
 - Particularly the newly introduced scheme, ‘Spreading excellence and widening participation’ within the ‘Horizon 2020’ programme which addresses the mismatches of research and innovation activities between the old and new member states, and offers various measures for overcoming these existing imbalances

Further reading:

Makkonen, T. & T. Mitze (2016). Scientific collaboration between 'old' and 'new' member states: Did joining the European Union make a difference? *Scientometrics* [LINK](#) (Open access)

Links:

Marie curie actions:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

CRISI -project webpage:

http://www.surrey.ac.uk/shtm/research/projects/Economic/knowledge_transfer_in_cross_border_regional_innovation_systems.htm

The next CRISI -Project Policy Briefing will be published in autumn 2016

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