MLE on Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies
- Wallonia -

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Not much « synergies » per se...

- Wallonia is fully autonomous regarding the funding of applied science and technologies
- A significant part of its annual budget is allocated to research and innovation
- ESIF rules are complex and somehow lack flexibility
  - State Aid Rules even more difficult to comply with
  - Threat of N+3 budgetary cutbacks and ambitious research programmes difficult to combine
Nevertheless...

• Wallonia has decided to complement (rather than combine) ERDF funding
  • Regional funds are used to fund additional projects for large project portfolios when the ERDF cofunding wasn’t deemed sufficient to attain their ambitious goals

And...
And, even more importantly...

- As such, large ERDF project portfolios need (and allow for) the funding of onerous research equipment and a critical mass of researchers that wouldn’t have probably been possible without it.
- This brings our research teams new opportunities, their inclusion in new international networks, etc.
- Which in turn lead to new projects to be funded via public (regional, European) funds or privately.
- Which in turn... well, a virtuous circle!
Charleroi (Brussels South) aeropole & Biopark

- +/- 100 hectares of agricultural land progressively transformed through successive investment phases by ERDF and Wallonia since the 90s
- Today 150 companies and 4,000 jobs
- 6 main economic sectors (biotech, aeronautics, ICT, manufacturing, B-to-B services)
- **Biopark**: 46 companies (incl. foreign companies) – 1,100 jobs + 2 universities + 4 research institutes + 1 incubator + 1 training centre (850 trained per year)
- Private investing in hosted companies: 150 M€
- Univercells: 12 M€ investment by the Gates foundation to develop a tool to produce 40 million dose of polio vaccine
GIGA (Interdisciplinary Cluster for Applied Genoproteomics)

• Since 2002, clustering of 22 research teams (600 researchers)
• Genoproteomics applied to human and animal pharmacy and medecine
• Attraction of new SMEs and training component
• Participation in:
  • European level: 14 FP7 projects, 3 Interreg, 1 ERC Advanced Grant
  • Federal level: 12 interuniversity projects + numerous FNRS and Télévie projects
  • Regional level: 39 research projects in various programmes
• Increase of the number of foreign researchers (122 – 38 different countries in 2014)
• Way more publications in high impact publications
• Etc...

In a nutshell, the scientific and technological investments made with the help of ERDF have a dramatic synergetic effect on projects, partnerships and investments.
• Wallonia has recently launched with regional funds two programmes with the intent of contributing to the internationalisation of its research actors:
  • SWAN
  • Horizon 2020 grants
SWAN (Seal of excellence WALloNia)

- SME Instrument
- Excellent propositions but... lack of EU funds, awarded a « Seal of Excellence »
- Phase 1 : Grant max. 50,000 € (at 75%)
- Phase 2 : Recoverable loan (in case of commercial success) (45-55 %)
- Same project proposals, maybe slightly modified to comply with our own regulatory and accounting environment
Horizon 2020

- SMEs
- Grant (3.500 € participant; 10.000 € coordinator)
- Preparation, Submission, Negotiation
- All FP calls (pillars 2&3) and other European (co-)funded initiatives (EUREKA, Eurostars, JTIs, ERA-NETs)
Thank you for your attention

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