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Finland Futures Academy



# SPIDER

Increasing regional competitiveness through  
futures research methods  
Juha Kaskinen



# Definition of concepts

- Regional competitiveness
  - Regional economical success factors, regional attraction forces and capability to reform
- Innovation
  - Creation of new knowledge and applying it so that economical profit is achieved
  - All innovations are by nature technical, economical, social and cultural
- Innovativeness
  - Means the reformation taking place in all the sectors of action in organization (products and marketing, production technology, organization and management, the relationships between organization and its environment)

# Definition of concepts

- Innovation system
  - A complex cooperation and communication network which focus on the basic elements (actors: organizations, companies, regions) and in particular the amount and quality of interaction between actors and their interdependences
- Regional innovation system
  - Is made up of the systematic connections between different knowledge producers (universities, research institutions), intermediate organizations (private and public innovation services) and enterprises (both SME's and large)

## Goals of SPIDER

- The aim of the SPIDER project is to create connections between regional actors and reinforce their role as actors and creators of regional knowledge-based innovation systems.
- Development of foresight methodologies on the basis of good practices coming from the national foresight exercises and e.g. the methodological proceedings of other projects
- Implement futures research and foresight methods in an central part of regional innovation systems

# Funding

- EU Commission ***"Regions of Knowledge"*** (KnowREG) Pilot Action (50 %)
- National funding (50 %)
- Total budget 360 000 €
- Duration: Two years (officially 1.2. 2004 - 31.1. 2006)

# Organization

- Coordinator FFA (Finland Futures Research Centre, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration)
- Partners
  - 1) Germany Z\_punkt GmbH Büro für Zukunftsgestaltung (Agency for Shaping the Future) and
  - 2) Belgium The Destree Institute

All are node-organizations of Millennium Project

# Actions

The main phases of the project are:

- 1) Designing the detailed networking strategy and the inter-regional/ regional work plans
- 2) Composing local actor groups with recommendations given by the SG and in accordance to the local work plans
- 3) Carrying out the pilot project and applying the regional competitiveness model in the selected regions (regional analyses & comparison)
- 4) Designing regional visions by using Delphi method (with the electric tool of Professional Delphi Scan, questionnaire & interviews)
- 5) Modifying region- and European -based policy implications
- 6) Reinforcing connections / cohesions between European regions and actors

## Current status

- Networking and local action groups (LCA)
  - First meetings in October 2004
- Regional analyses
  - Data gathering during summer 2004
  - First version of each region in September 2004
  - Will be the data basis for LCA-brainstorming and vision building sessions

# LCA - sectors

- Bio- /nanotechnology and ICT
- Tourism
- Environment (nature and social environment )
- Culture (production)
- Welfare services (public and private)
- Agriculture and food industry
- Local and regional administration
- Regional special features

# Components of regional analyses

- Human capital
- Innovativeness
- Concentration
- Infrastructure
- Firms and companies
- Institutions
- The quality of environment (nature, social and cultural env.)
- Networks of developers
- Creative tension
- Image

## Additional information

- Dr. (Soc. Sc.), Coordinator (International Affairs)  
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