

Interreg



Austria-Czech Republic

European Regional Development Fund

**Comparison of innovation impulses in Upper
Austria and South Bohemia**

**FH OÖ, EF JCU
2018**

Content

- 1. Introduction.....3
- 2. Innovation impulses in the South Bohemian region4
 - Financial impulses4
 - System impulses4
 - Infrastructure impulses4
 - Service impulses5
 - Soft impulses5
- 3. Innovation impulses in the Upper Austrian region6
 - Financial impulses6
 - System impulses6
 - Strategic and regional programs:7
 - Infrastructure impulses7
 - Service impulses7
 - Soft impulses8
- 4. Comparison of innovation impulses9
- 5. Conclusion9

1. Introduction

Innovation is said to be the most important factor of regional development and competitiveness growth, and it is the case also in the Upper Austrian and South Bohemian regions. The ability to generate new innovation impulses is important especially in the context of a growing globalized economy. Rapid technological development and growing competitiveness give a new dimension to the concept of innovation as a factor of a regional development. Although R&D, innovation, and technological progress are considered one of the priorities of national and regional development policies, the development of the innovation environment and its further development at regional level is crucial. This is due to the fact that the innovation potential has specific regional factors, especially the geographical proximity of innovative institutions and firms, their ability to interact and the overall culture and openness of the local environment for the acceptance of new ideas. The response to this situation is to integrate innovation, research, and development into regional development documents. The area of support for the innovation process may vary in different regions. The aim of the study is to compare the innovation impulses in the South Bohemian Region and Upper Austria, which should be the basis for finalizing the SIP tool as a part of the Interreg SIP-SME ATCZ16 project..

2. Innovation impulses in the South Bohemian region

Financial impulses

South Bohemian Business Vouchers

- Support up to CZK 150,000 for South Bohemian SMEs to purchase services from research organizations
- Aid amount 75%

Concessionary regional loan for entrepreneurs in the South Bohemian Region

- Designed for small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Support up to CZK 1 million (up to CZK 500 thousand for start-up entrepreneurs)
- Interest rate 4% per annum, maturity up to six years
- Eligible expenses: acquisition of tangible and intangible fixed assets, purchase of inventory and small intangible assets

Other financial instruments, including commercial products

System impulses

Regional Annex to the National RIS 3

- It is part of the national RIS 3 strategy
- Suggests specialization domains of the South Bohemian Region (Biotechnology, Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics, Electrical Engineering)
- It proposes activities for three key areas of change:
 - ✓ Quality human resources
 - ✓ Cooperation and technology transfer
 - ✓ Business development

Development Program of the South Bohemian Region 2014-2020

Relevant is above all Priority Axis 1 Competitiveness of the Regional Economy and Labor Market, which is divided into five measures:

1. Environment for the development and enhancement of business competitiveness
2. Conditions for the development of science, research and innovation
3. Tertiary education and lifelong learning
4. Labor market optimization
5. Development and diversification of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and support for local production

Infrastructure impulses

Research Organizations and Universities - Expertise and specialization, Labor Force (JČU, BC AV ČR, VŠTE) - (Closer Characteristics can be found in the Analysis of the South Bohemian Region)

Science and Technology Parks and Business Incubators (JVTP, TC Písek, ENKI Třeboň) - (Closer Characteristics can be found in the Analysis of the South Bohemian Region)

Industrial zones

Service impulses

Business Centers and Strategic Services Centers (JHK, CzechInves, RERA, CzechTrade)

Transfer of Technology Centers (CTT at JČU and BC AS CR, patent agents)

Technology Platforms and Clusters (Regional Food Cluster)

Testing and normative institutions

In the South Bohemian Region, for example, Dairy Research Institute - Tabor Branch, Branch of the State Institute for Drug Control, Technical and Testing Institute of Construction Prague - Branch, Testing Institute of Light Industry)

Soft impulses

Competitions

- **Jihoczech Startup Competition (JVTP)** - For all businesses that want to test their business idea and start their business, who need support for their interesting ideas with expert advice, provide business opportunities, or help them reach out to investors.

Training, courses

- **The ideaSTART program (South Bohemian Agency for the Support of Innovative Entrepreneurship)**, an 80-hour training and course aimed at shifting the ideas of start-ups from a simple idea closer to implementation and their subsequent development.
- **Support for technical education (South Bohemian Region)** - Support of companies in the preparation of apprentices for work. The aim is to support the cooperation of companies and schools in technically oriented fields, especially engineering, construction and electrical engineering in the South Bohemian Region in connection with labor market requirements.

3. Innovation impulses in the Upper Austrian region

Financial impulses

FFG: Funding provided by the Austrian Agency for Research as a part of the Patents.Voucher, SME Package, Innovation Services Initiatives, AAL, AplusB, AT: net, ASAP, Benefit, Bridge, CEDR, COIN, COMET programmes, etc.

AWS: Financing through the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) and the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT)

aws IP.Market

Consulting, support and financing, with the aim of supporting the exploitation of innovative technologies and patents. aws IP.Market provides potential analysis of innovation degree and maturity, project-specific marketing support and SMEs can get grants:

- for the acquisition of property rights,
- for the implementation of marketing activities,
- for legal advice in connection with license and patent purchase contracts.

Financing for SMEs is up to 80% of the eligible costs, grant up to € 200,000.

Aws IP.Coaching

SMEs from the technology sector are working with aws to develop a strategy for the use of patents and other intellectual property rights. The aws provides support through advice and grants of up to EUR 100,000.00 (for example, for patent application costs).

FWF: Funding from the Austrian Science Fund

Other Resources:

Agencies for Open Innovation and crowdsourcing (Heuristic)

System impulses

Regional Annex to the National RIS 3

It proposes activities for key areas:

- **Industrial manufacturing processes** (mechatronics, process automation, materials, light construction, mathematical modeling, software, IT security, adaptive surface structures, material evaluation, resource efficiency)
- **Energy** (energy efficiency in production, decentralized systems, smart grids, intelligent meters, intelligent villages, energy supply monitoring, renewable energy, biogenic processes, building and building technologies)
- **Health and the aging society** (IT systems, e-health, software, virtual surgery, imaging software, medical devices and materials, telemetric analysis of human

movement, intelligent housing, assisted environment, personalized diagnostics, prevention, therapy)

- **Food and Nutrition** (Additives and Food Additives, Materials, Intelligent Packaging, Food Quality, Quality Assurance, Food Production Technology)
- **Mobility and logistics** (transport, logistics, adaptive power networks, sensors, intelligent transport system, supply chain management, engine and vehicle technology, lightweight construction)

Strategic and regional programs:

- **Upper Austria 2000+**
- **Innovative Upper Austria 2010**
- **Innovative Upper Austria 2010plus**
- **Innovative Upper Austria 2020**
- **AplusB**
- **RTI** (more information about the programs can be found in the Benchmarking Analysis of Upper Austria)

Infrastructure impulses

Research organizations and universities (FH OÖ campus Steyr, Wels, Hagenberg and Linz, JKU, Upper Austrian Research UAR)

Science and technology parks and incubators (Softwarepark Hagenberg, TZ Attnang-Puchheim, TGZ Bad Leonfelden, TZIS Bad Ischl, Techno-Z Braunau, Logistikzentrum Ennshafen, TDZ Ennstal, TZ Freistadt, TZS Gmunden, TIZ Kirchdorf, TIZ Landl-Grieskirchen, TechCenter Linz-Winterhafen, TDZ Neufelden/Haslach, TZ Mondseeland, TZ Perg, Techno-Z Ried, TIZ St. Florian, TGZ Schärding, TIC Steyr, GTZ Wels, BIZ Wels, tech2b)

Competence centers (LCM - Linz Center of Mechatronics GmbH, PCCL - Polymer Competence Center Leoben GmbH, PROFACTOR GmbH, Pro2Future GmbH, RECENDT Research Center for Non Destructive Testing GmbH, RISC Software GmbH, SAL - Silicon Austria Labs, SCCH - Software Competence Center Hagenberg GmbH, TCKT - Transfercenter für Kunststofftechnik GmbH, WOOD Kplus - Kompetenzzentrum Holz GmbH, CEST GmbH, FFoQSI GmbH, K1-MET GmbH, Lifetool gemeinnützige GmbH, LKR Ranshofen GmbH, MCL GmbH)

Industrial zones

Service impulses

Regional Upper Austrian Government Agency for the Support of Innovative and Investment Projects Business Upper Austria

Platforms and clusters (Clusterland GmbH, clusters focusing on plastics, automobiles, cleaners, IT, food, mechatronics, furniture and wood, medical technology, network logistics association, human resources network)

Business Centers and Strategic Services Centers (OÖ Export Center)

Technology transfer center (WKOÖ)

Testing and normative institutes

Institute of Economic Development
Chamber of Commerce in Upper Austria

Soft impulses

Competitions

EDISON (creative, technological and innovative inventor competition. It is the prize of Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Linz Art University, and the University of Applied Sciences of Upper Austria, and techn2b is organized in cooperation with TECHCENTER and CREATIVE REGION.)

Training, courses (BFI OÖ, WIFI OÖ, VHS OÖ, LFI, Renner Institut OÖ)

Workshops and projects (WKOÖ: ServiceAssessment, Institute of Trade, Sales and Marketing of JKU in Linz, FH OÖ: ServPrice, ServTrain, ISEM, and Association for the promotion of innovation between knowledge service providers)

4. Comparison of innovation impulses

Comparison of innovation impulses	
AT	CZ
Financial	Financial
System	System
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Service	Service
Spft	Soft

5. Conclusion