



# RESEARCH POTENTIAL

***SPICE FINAL MEETING***  
***10 June 2014***  
***Xanthi/ Ξάνθη***

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# REGIONAL ACTIONS IN FP7

- «Research Potential »

**Budget: 340Mio€, 2007-13**

- «Regions of Knowledge »

**Budget: 126Mio€, 2007-13**

# Aim REGPOT

## *For Gradiant:*

- **Upgrade RTD capacity & capability** (human resources, scientific equipment, research management)
- **Increase S&T excellence and visibility**
- **Integration in European Research Networks & in ERA**
- **Improvement of the participation in FP7 projects**

## *For the EU:*

- **Contribution to the regional RTD capacity building**
- **Foster the regional/European sustainable socio-economic development**

# Objectives

*To unlock the Research Potential of the European Union by integrating the excellent research entities established in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions into the ERA*

*To strengthen the capacities of selected research organisations to successfully participate in European research activities & in the EU Research Framework Programmes*

*To reinforce cooperation with at least 3 European outstanding research 'partnering organisations' (in the same S&T domain or in a complementary field) established in 3 different member states*



# Expected Results

*Exchange of know-how and experience through trans-national two-way secondments of research staff between Gradient and the 'partnering organisations'*

*Recruitment of experienced researchers*

*Upgrade research equipment*

*Organisation of workshops and conferences – dissemination and promotional activities – publications for knowledge sharing and better visibility*

# Final Evaluation

*Done by COWI-Denmark*

***General Conclusion:***

***Successful programme,  
although there are some risks  
regarding the sustainability of the  
REGPOT Achievement***

## ***Relevance***

***Strong indications that REGPOT addressed needs of research actors in convergence and Outermost regions***

- **High number of applicants**
- **Low number of non-eligible proposals**
- **Conclusions previous Expert Groups (2011) (Synergies and REGPOT evaluation)**
- **support of regional strengths (although some projects focus on national or global issues)**

## Efficiency

- **Efficient in helping to fill a funding gap among regional, national and international funding sources**
- **Desired effects were achieved at a reasonable cost**
- **Research capacities have been improved considerably through REGPOT funding**
- **Researchers profited from funding conference participation and networking**



## Effectiveness

- **REGPOT supported projects have to a large extent achieved their intended results**
- **Difficult to assess whether supported insittues have become equal level players in ERA**
- **REGPOT has helped reducing Brain Drain**
- **Many project participants have improved publication records**
- **Research actors have established links to Smart Specialisation strategies**



# Final Evaluation

## *Impact and Sustainability*

### **Risk of sustainability**

- Several actors seem to have difficulties to find sufficient funding to maintain research capacities

**Several projects achieved sustainability through incorporation of research results in commercial products**

**Synergies Expert Group (2011) advised higher budgets with links to other EU policies (e.g. regional)**

# Final Evaluation

## Recommendations/Lessons Learnt

- **More clarity on definition of regional centre of excellence**
- **Future actions should focus on where financial barriers are highest and where the research potentials may be the highest**
- **Allow some flexibility in application of the funding**
- **Focus on sustainability in future projects**