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Project acronym: IKINET

Project title: International Knowledge and Innovation Networks
for European Integration, Cohesion and Enlargement

Instrument: STREP

Thematic Priority: 7

Project abstract

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Project coordinator: Professor Riccardo Cappellin

**Project coordinator
organisation name:** Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata”
Department of Economics and Institutions
Via Columbia 2
00173 Rome, Italy

telephone ref: (39)-0672595736
(39)-0672595732

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IKINET
INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION NETWORKS
for European Integration, Cohesion and Enlargement
EU FP6 - Specific Targeted research Project n: CIT2-CT-2004-506242

Project abstract

The project studies the problem of the transition of the less developed regions: Objective 1 regions and the regions of the candidate countries, to the model of the knowledge economy and how to avoid their exclusion with respect to the most developed regions, which operate at the frontiers of technologies. It studies the obstacles, which usually hinder the diffusion of "technology spill-overs" outside a specific local economy, and the policies and "soft" infrastructures and institutions which can remove those obstacles. The project will propose policy options to enhance the integration of EU research institutions in an "European Research/Knowledge Area", through stable and flexible networks, and to increase the ability of these latter to support the Europe-wide competitiveness. The project has undertaken an extensive and in depth empirical survey leading to the construction of indicators of innovation potential (WP1). This extensive empirical internationally harmonized analysis structured according to different regional characteristics and firm characteristics aims at improving the indicators considered in the "European Innovation Scoreboard" with a selected set of other key indicators focusing on interactive learning processes, as indicated by the modern methodologies of "Knowledge Management". The project will then elaborate an original theoretical study (WP2) on the feasibility of extending existing knowledge creation and innovation networks within regional production clusters to an international dimension. It will finally elaborate a quantitative framework (WP3) ("Matrix INT - Instruments and Needs of Technology"), for the evaluation of the gap between the demand/needs and the supply of innovation policies in various regions. It will identify key policy issues, benchmarks and models to be transferred and policy proposals promoting knowledge and innovation spill-overs, both at the local level and the international level WP4.