

Innovation Clusters in Greece: The GSRT Approach

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State aid in Research & Development Funding Cycle

Basic Research
Universities, Research
Centres /
Infrastructures
Excellence, Human
Potential (docs, post-
docs)

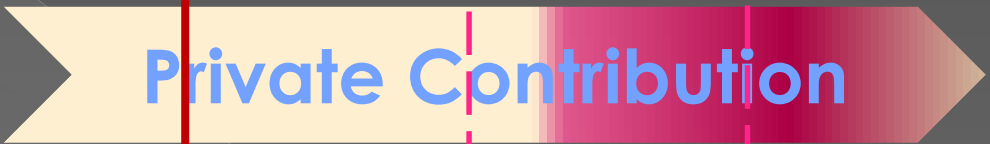
Industrial research,
Academia – Industry
Cooperation,
Transnational cooperation,
Highly skilled personnel in
industry

Spin Offs – Spin Outs
Innovation Clusters
Incubators
Venture Capital

Tax exemptions (50% R&D expenditures -
Patents)
Development Act
Structural Funds




Death Valley



Pre-commercial financing

Commercial financing

Background

- Clustering activities flourishing at the international scenery,
- Best practices from abroad: geographical and thematic focus, development of synergies in the triple helix model,
- Structure of the Greek productive sector: Dominated by traditional sectors, 99% SME, 
- Important market failures in the field of Innovation
- Limited spontaneous clustering in Greece,
- Clusters could be suitable tools to promote innovation and to achieve economies of scale and scope,

Need for Governmental intervention, in line with the European Innovation Strategy.

Support to Innovation Clusters

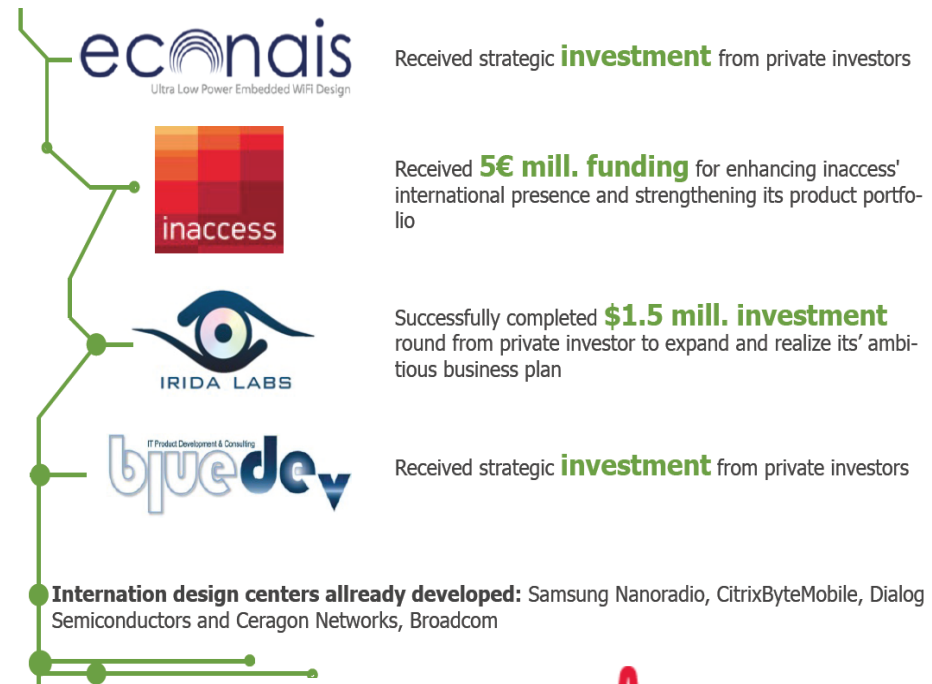
- Build on previous experience: good practice in the Micro-electronics / embedded systems sector (Corallia), initiated by 2005.
- Consultation with Stakeholders,
- New Action launched by GSRT in 2011 to support the creation of innovation clusters in further sectors (co-funded by European Regional Development Fund)



Growth 2006-2013

13	→	members	→	130
€ 23 million		revenues		€ 350 million
€ 12 million		exports		€ 162 million
275 FTEs		employment		>5.000 FTEs

Recent success stories



KPIs [% increase last 3 yrs]

Patent applications	↗	177%
Private sector Investments	↗	269%
Joint PhDs with Industry	↗	106%

Successive phases in clusters evolution

- Phase 0: Preparatory phase – Mapping - Identification of Clustering Needs.



GSRT intervention

- *Phase 1: Implementation of a Pilot Programme of Joint Activities.*
- Phase 2: Expansion – achievement of critical mass,

Model: Innovation Clusters

(according to the Community Framework for State Aids) + Facilitator

“groupings of independent undertakings — innovative start-ups, small, medium and large undertakings, as well as research organisations — operating in a particular sector and region and designed to stimulate innovative activity by promoting intensive interactions, sharing of facilities and exchange of knowledge and expertise and by contributing effectively to technology transfer, networking and information dissemination among the undertakings in the cluster”.

In addition: knowledge - driven, specialise in innovative activities of high added - value and strongly oriented towards international markets.

Facilitator: neutrality, trust

- Public or private organization catalyzing the setting up, expansion and management of the cluster: developing of synergies and interactions, mentoring, providing of services (legal advice, IPR, training etc.), promoting visibility, international networking and penetration of products in global markets.
- Free access to information and services to all interested undertakings of the sector, (open access, one stop shop).
- Dissemination of results.
- Support for access to finance.

Open access national – wide infrastructure in the thematic field of the cluster.

Conditions/ Main features

- Target groups: networks including at least 10 business firms (8 SMEs) and at least 1 research/academic organisation located in Greece.
- Geographical and thematic focus
- Open to all sectors/ thematic fields, and to all Greek regions
- No limitation as to the type of the facilitator (private or public sectors)
- No specific legal form required prior to the submission.

Innovation driven Programme. Not a research funding scheme!

- Basic or industrial research activities are not eligible for funding under the Programme,
- No direct support is provided to research organizations (HEIs, PROs), for activities other than the functions of the facilitator,
- Research organizations are allowed to participate as subcontractors to business firms for the implementation of experimental development projects.

An integrated approach offering a broad range of Instruments

- Joint infrastructures: collocation & incubation facilities (if necessary), common testing laboratories
- Operational costs (facilitator)

For Business Firms:

- Relocation costs
- Collaborative projects for prototype development / demonstration
- Soft innovation – related activities: participation to fairs, professional training, innovation advisory and support services, consultancy, support for IPR

A Two - Steps Approach

- **1st Step:** Call for expressions of interest (September 2011) - submission of short proposals including a mapping exercise in the thematic field of the emerging cluster, identification of the clustering needs, cluster identity),
- **2nd Step:** Call for submission of 5 - years business plans (launched July 2012). Financial support for the implementation of a 2-years pilot programme of joint activities.

Evaluation results

- Evaluation by international experts
- **Step 1** (Call for expressions of interest): 23 proposals submitted, 9 proposals selected to proceed to Step 2
- **Step 2** (Call for submission of business plans + individual projects for the facilitator and the business firms): 8 proposals submitted, 4 selected for funding
- ICT, Biotechnology for Health, Energy,

4 newly established innovation clusters selected for funding

- ◉ CHORUS Cluster for Green Energy
- ◉ BIONIAN - Life Sciences Cluster in Greece
- ◉ Hellenic Space Technologies and Applications Cluster (si-Cluster)
- ◉ Innovative Gaming Technologies and Creative Content cluster (gi-Cluster)

Duration / Budget

- ◉ Duration: 2 years
- ◉ Total Budget: 27,2 m €
- ◉ Total Public Funding: 17 m €
- ◉ Maximum Public funding/cluster: 5 m €
- ◉ Aid intensity: depending on the type of activity, type & size of firms (according to the European State Aid Regulations applied GBER, de minimis)
- ◉ Monitoring indicators : no of cluster-members, turn-over, exports, R&D spending, patents, new jobs, PhD holders, quality certificates, private investments

Expected benefits

- Increase investment in R&D and innovation,
- Promote knowledge- driven entrepreneurship in high added value sectors,
- Identify competitive advantages for the country (existing or potential) / smart specialization
- Promote employment of highly skilled personnel,
- Increase of exports and private investments,
- Networking / complementarities with innovation clusters abroad.

Constraints

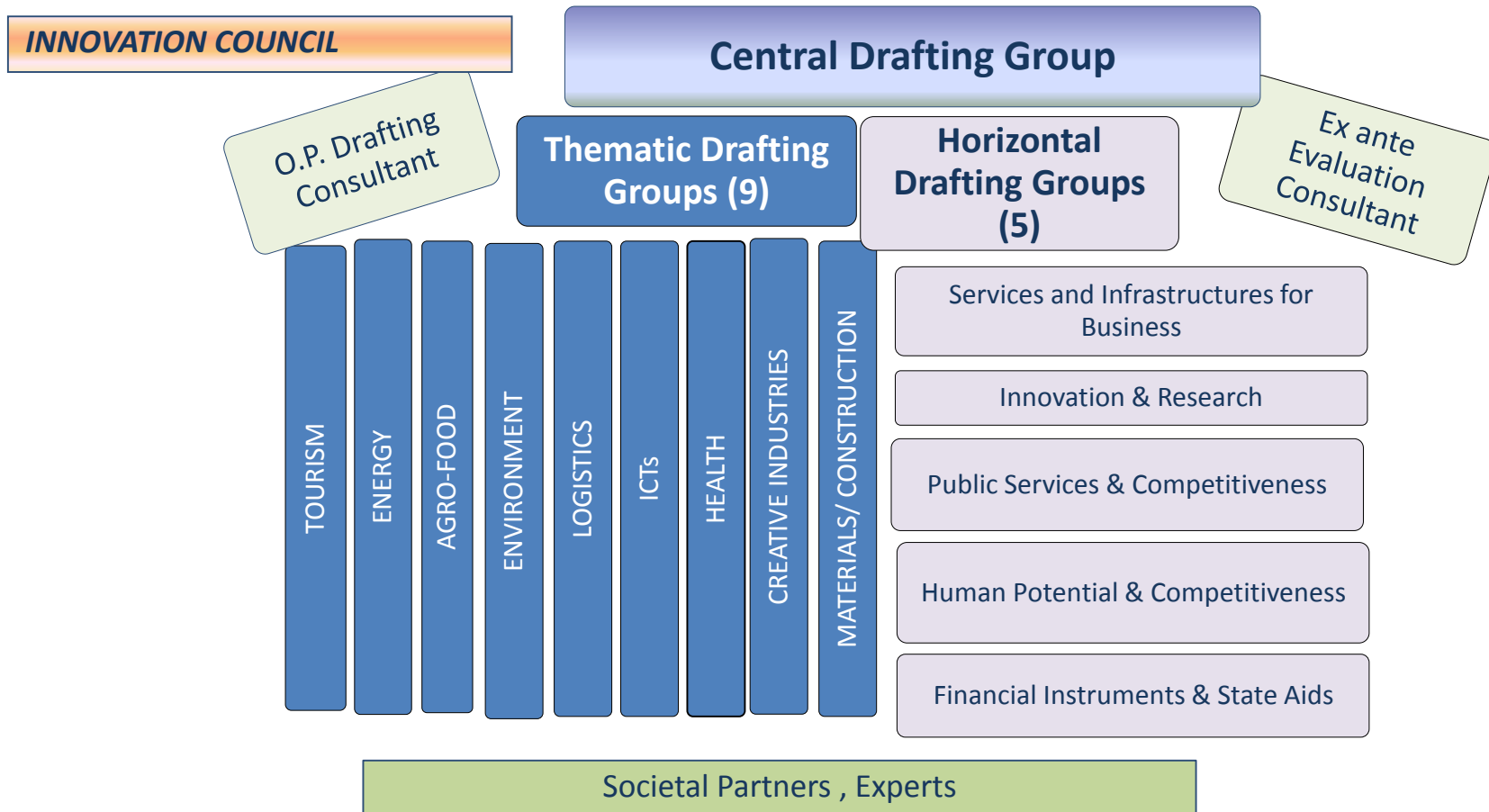
- Limited experience at national / regional level
- Specificities of the Greek productive sector (traditional businesses, limited cooperation spirit)
- Restrictions of the European State Aid Regulations combined to the Restrictions of the European Structural Funds Regulations
- Long procedures (long consultation period, two-step approach)
- Complicated scheme (large number of different instruments)
- Heavy, bureaucratic procedures/ emphasis on controls
- Current economic crisis.

Future Perspectives

- ◉ Structural Funds: New Programming Period 2007-14/ Operational Programme “Competitiveness- Entrepreneurship – Innovation” under preparation: new cluster policies considered (expansion, achievement of critical mass)
- ◉ International Cooperation and Networking
- ◉ Horizon 2020, COSME, European Funding Instruments



Operational Programme Competitiveness - Entrepreneurship-Innovation 2014-2020 / Organizational Structure



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!

<http://www.gsrt.gr>

Merci

