



# Call for papers

## Regionalization of Innovation Policy – Options and Experiences

Call for papers for a conference organized by the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin, <http://www.diw.de>) on **June 4-5, 2004 in Berlin**.

Globalization leads to a greater relevance of regional factors for innovation processes. There is a growing consensus in the academic field, as well as among politicians, that innovation policy should include this regional dimension, i.e. regional innovation systems. But it is still not quite clear how this could or should be done in practice. In general, there are two approaches to the regionalization of innovation policy. One strategy is attempting to improve the quality of the innovation system in certain regions. The main questions here concern appropriate instruments for such a strategy and the selection of regions. A second strategy that may be complementary to the above-mentioned one is to scale down national innovation policies in such a way that they take into account the various regions (for example, by focusing measures on certain clusters). In some countries, interesting attempts at such a policy that are worthy of investigation have been made (for example, the BioRegio or the InnoRegio program in Germany).

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars working in the field. We invite contributions on topics such as:

- *The concept of a regional innovation system and its relationship to the sectoral, national and global system.* How do regional innovation systems work? What are the main factors that determine the regional conditions for innovation activity? What is the impact of national and international developments on regional innovation systems?
- *Ways to scale down national innovation policy to a regional level.* How can policy account for the regional dimension of innovation processes? How should responsibilities be allocated at the various state levels? What can be done at local level to improve innovation conditions?

- *Appropriate strategies to improve regional conditions for innovation.* What are the main bottlenecks for the relevant types of region? What are the appropriate policy measures to be taken?
- *The relationship between regionalized innovation policy and regional development policy.* Is regionalized innovation policy an appropriate tool to stimulate development in lagging regions?

We are open to other proposals which fall into the realm of the above theme. There are plans to publish a selection of the papers presented in a special issue of a scholarly journal. The conference language is English.

***Submission procedure:***

Abstracts for contributions of no more than 2 pages or complete papers should be submitted electronically to all three organizers by **January 15, 2004**. Decisions will be communicated by February 15, 2004. The complete paper should be sent by April 30, 2004.

The organizers may be able to contribute to the presenters' travel expenses (APEX airfares and accommodation).

***Organizers:***

- Michael Fritsch (Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg and DIW Berlin), [michael.fritsch@tu-freiberg.de](mailto:michael.fritsch@tu-freiberg.de)
- Andreas Stephan (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder and DIW Berlin), [astephan@diw.de](mailto:astephan@diw.de)
- Axel Werwatz (DIW Berlin), [awerwatz@diw.de](mailto:awerwatz@diw.de)

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Berlin, 10 October 2003