



EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMMES IN SCOTLAND PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT NAME	Mapping the Scottish Innovation Landscape
PROJECT SPONSOR	The Scottish Executive

PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

The Scottish innovation “system” consists of a large number of organisations, both public and private sector with a wide variety of roles and interventions. These have grown up historically in a relatively haphazard fashion without any attempt to impose a cohesive framework. This stems partly from the approach by Government of identifying perceived market failures and initiating interventions designed to correct them. The initiatives have been judged on criteria related to the outcomes they produce and the effect on the perceived market failure only: there has been little or no attempt to judge what other effects may have occurred, eg displacement activity, nor has there been a systematic reviewing of existing initiatives to see whether, once created, they need to continue or should be wound up once the desired effect has occurred. This approach has led to a wide range of small, finely targeted initiatives with the scope for confusion, duplication and overlap.

The first step in attempting to understand how the innovation process works in a systematic way would be to identify all of the organisations involved, what roles they play and what actions they take in encouraging innovation in Scotland. Without this data, it would be impossible to understand the overall framework of the dynamic interactions of the various bodies and initiatives, to identify any gaps or duplications and to come to a conclusion on how best to improve the capability and optimise the economic impact of the innovation system in Scotland.

The project would consist of an initial literature search, followed by interviews with key players to discover all the components of the system in Scotland.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The elements of the Scottish system identified in the first stage would be mapped on to the model to produce a dynamic, interactive view of the situation in Scotland thus enabling an assessment to be made of whether the system is operating at its optimum capacity. Assessment of the roles and impacts of organisations and initiatives could then be made in the context of their overall effect on the system and not just on the criteria originally established for measuring their effectiveness.

A model of this kind would introduce new thinking and consideration of international best practice into policy on innovation related to the situation as it exists in Scotland. Illustration of the interactions and flows of, for example, knowledge, skills and funding within the system would assist future policy development by providing an evidence base on which to decide whether or not existing interventions are necessary or efficient, whether there are gaps or duplications and the form that any future interventions might take. New metrics and methods of assessment could be introduced from experience elsewhere or specially devised for this purpose. New mechanisms for measuring the overall performance of a national innovation system would be a useful policy analysis tool for assessing future policy development.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

There does not exist at the moment a comprehensive list of all the public and private sector actors and actions that play into the Scottish innovation system. This project would be a largely desk-based study to discover and catalogue all of the relevant interventions and organisations involved. It will further our understanding of the components of the Scottish innovation system.

The outputs of the project will be of interest to all organisations, public or private sector, involved in innovation in Scotland. The Scottish Executive will use the material to initiate discussions with others on their involvement and how to maximise its impact. It will provide the source material to feed in to further work on the operation of the system in Scotland.

The outputs of the project will be placed on the Department's web site and shared with interested partners through involvement and presentations at suitable seminars and conferences and in Ministerial presentations and speeches to relevant audiences.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

A Steering Group will be set up to include representatives of the Department's policy teams with an interest in the area of the project along with colleagues from the Analytical Services Division which will provide specialist expertise from an economist and statistician point of view.

PROJECT FINANCE

Funding Partners	The Scottish Executive
Total Costs (£)	£90,000
Eligible Costs (£)	£90,000
ERDF/ESF Support (£)	£45,000
Action Line	1 – The Scottish Innovation System

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

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PROJECT FUTURE

The Project is a short term pilot research work of three months' duration.

Building on the learning gathered from this project, it will be complemented by a follow on project which will build a portfolio of case studies illustrating the workings of the Scottish innovation system, showing the interactions and dynamic flows of the various elements, eg knowledge, skills and funding, within the system and illustrating how they work both in practice and in theory for a range of different innovation



opportunities. This would be useful in designing and implementing new public sector interventions that would seek to optimise the innovation capability of the Scottish system.

PROJECT CONTACT

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