The policy mix for science-industry knowledge transfer in Austria

Authors: Brigitte Eckera, Christian Reinerb, Gerald Gogola^c

^a Managing Director and Senior Researcher, WPZ Research, Austria b Researcher, WPZ Research and London Business School, Austria ^c Researcher, WPZ Research, Austria

The case study analyses the Austrian policy mix supporting knowledge transfer from an analyst point of view, describing its history, main instruments, and current challenges faced.

Topics covered

Policy mix, development, Competence Centres, collaborative laboratories, regional & cluster policies

Discussants: Brigitte Eckera, Martin Winklerb

^a Managing Director and Senior Researcher, WPZ Research, Austria b Federal Ministry Digital and Economic

Affairs, Austria

History of knowledge transfer policies

EUR 52.3 mio.

EUR 13.6 mio.

EUR 12.3 mio.

Catching up since 1990s: Knowledge transfer identified as strategic weakness of the Austrian innovation system

"Technology billion": Funding for the development the institutionalised cooperative research structures

First programme for cooperative research Christian Doppler Association (CDG) launched in 1995

Competence Centre Programme launched in 1998

COMET

BRIDGE

Total public funding volume (2008-2018): EUR 575.2 mio.

Total public funding volume (2005-2018): EUR 180.2 mio.

Total number of funded projects 658 BRIDGE 1, 118 BRIDGE 2,

Total number of funded Centres/Projects: 21 K1 Centres, 5 K2 Centres, 58 K-Projects

48 BRIDGE Early Phase-Projects

Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (aws) (est. 2002): Funding of high-tech startups via venture capital

Selected funding programmes targeted towards knowledge

transfer, according to size and activities funded

BMVIT/BMDW

BMDW

BMVIT/BMDW

Exploitation/transfer into the market

Autonomy of

universities,

establishment of non

university research

institutions:

Implementation of policy mix for knowledge transfer

BMDW

BMVIT

Main instruments

- COMET Competence Centre Programme
- Christian Doppler (CD) Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres
- BRIDGE
- COIN Cooperation & Innovation
- Research Studios Austria (RSA)
- AplusB-Centres
- Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise
- Knowledge Transfer Centres and IPR Exploitation
- Innovation Voucher
- Spin-off Fellowships
- Cluster policy (e.g. Automotive Cluster Styria, 1998; Automotive Cluster Upper Austria, 2000)
- Silicon Austria laboratories

COMET Module

Duration: 4 years

Public funding: 80°%

COMET Centre (K2)

COMET Centre (K1)

Duration: 8 years

COMET Project

Duration: 3-4 years

Public funding: 35-45°%

Public funding: 40-55°%

Federal funding: max. 0.5 mio. €/a

Federal funding: max. 4 mio. €/a

Federal funding: max. 1.7 mio. €/a

Federal funding: max. 0.45 mio. €/a

Total public funding volume (1995-2018): EUR 182.5 mio. Total number of funded Labs: 199 CD-Labs, 17 JR-Centres COIN EUR 11.7 mio. Total public funding volume (2008-2018): EUR 128.4 mio. Total number of funded projects: 110 COIN "Aufbau", 174 COIN "Network" - Projects **Research Studios Austria BMDW** EUR 4.6 mio Total public funding volume (2008-2018): EUR 50.1 mio. Total number of funded Research Studios: 65 Knowledge Transfer Centres & IPR Exploitation BMBWF/BMDW EUR 3.7 mio. Total funding volume (2013-2018): EUR 20.1 mio. Total number of funded Knowlledge Tranfer Centres: 4 ACR EUR 3.0 mio. Total public funding volume (2008-2018): EUR 32.7 mio. Total number of funded institutes (2018): 18 Innovation Voucher EUR 2.8 mio Total public funding volume (2007-2018): EUR 31.0 mio. Total number of vouchers: 4,209 Ipus-Vouchers (max. EUR 10,000), **Overview of COMET** 998 I-Vouchers (max. EUR 5,000) AplusB EUR 2.4 mio. Total public funding volume (2002-2018): EUR 50.4 mio. **Competence Centre** Total number of funded AplusB-Centres: 9 Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise EUR 1.5 mio. Total public funding volume (2009-2018): EUR 14.5 mio. programmes Total number of funded Laura Bassi Centres: 8 Basic/application-oriented Applied research/ Industrial research basic research experimental development RTI strategy, **Programmes**: sub-strategies: bottom-up, IP, open thematic, Tax innovation, Interaction with

incentives

Research

premium

Challenges

other policies

- Transfer of academic knowledge into goods and services by academic spin-offs
- Strengthen strategically oriented collaboration between science and industry
- Paying attention to excellence and sustainability of collaborative research outcomes
- Support SMEs for more STI-collaboration
- Foster more enterprises towards technology leadership and top positions ("niches") in innovation
- Reduce complexity of funding landscape and strengthen synergies.

Study on interactions with other policies

- Method: Interviews with 27 policy experts from ministries and agencies responsible for R&D
- Diversified research funding portfolio of funding programmes since 1990s

infrastructure

- Universities Act of 2002 increased autonomy of universities
- R&D tax credit ("research premium")
- National RTI Strategy of 2011

Ecker, B., Reiner, C., Gogola, G. and G. Höller (2019), "Case study on the policy mix for science-industry knowledge transfer in Austria: Case study contribution to the OECD TIP Knowledge Transfer and Policy project", commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs, Austria.

"Gründerland"