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... research useful to society

Competence Centres in the Czech Republic – lessons learned

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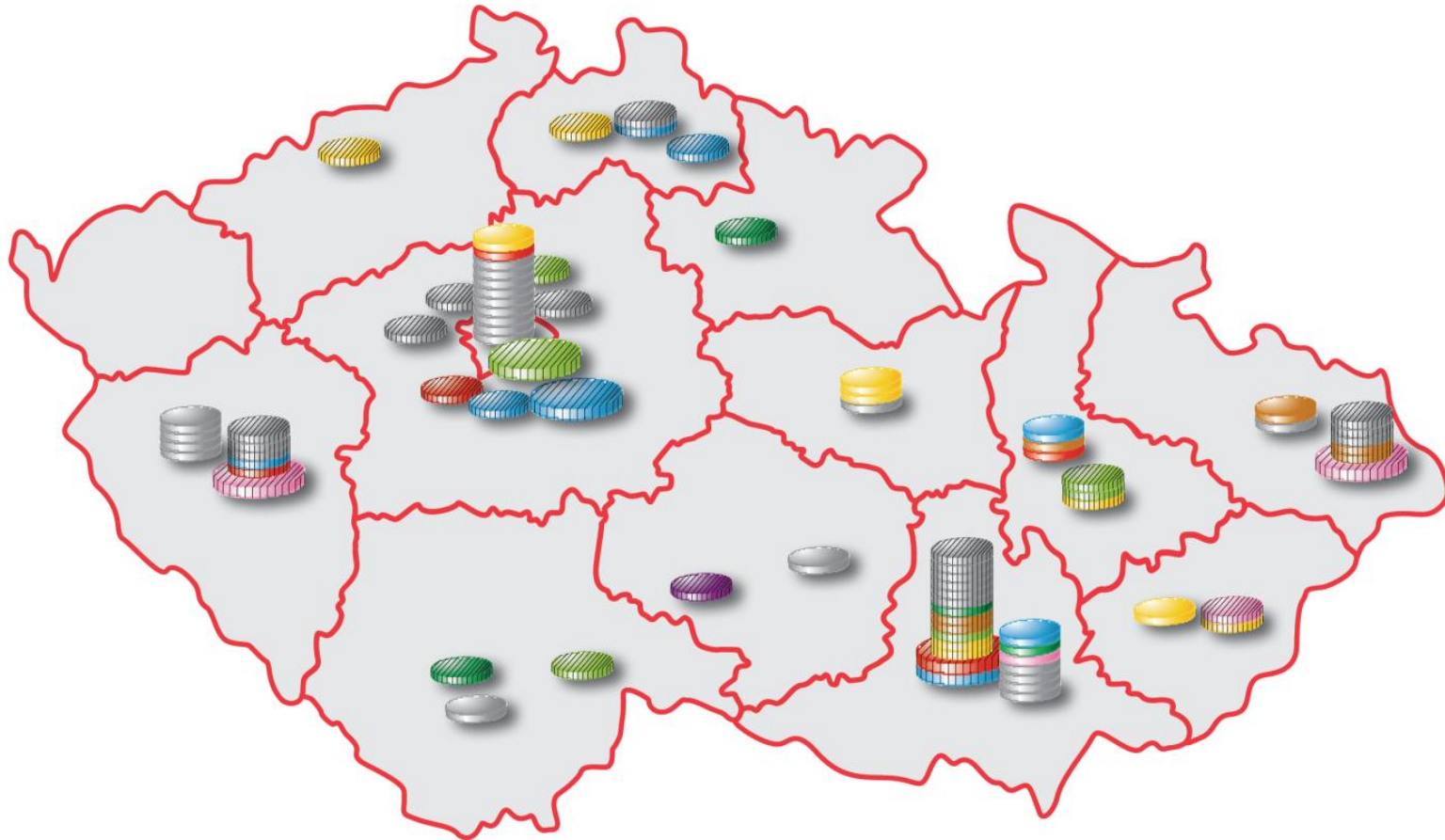
Why Competence Centres?












- Excellent work of CompAct Task Force
- Important to take into consideration specific aspects of each country
- Importance of cooperation of partners for the ecosystem
- Interesting experience from TAFTIE member agencies

Competence Centres Programme in the CR

- Approved 2011 for 8 years (2012–2019), total budget 6,297 bil. CZK (234 mil. EUR), aid intensity 70%. Total of 34 (!) centres.
- The aim of the programme
 - Stimulate growth of competitiveness of the CR
 - support the establishment and operation of centres for R&D and Innovation
 - with high application and innovative potential
 - reaching the critical mass in bottom-up selected areas

R&D&I Infrastructures & TA CR CC



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|---|--|--|---|
|  Competence Centres |  A – Social science |  D – Earth science |  G – Agriculture |
|  R&D&I Centres |  B – Math and physics |  E – Bioscience |  I – Informatics |
| |  C – Chemistry |  F – Medical sciences |  J – Industry |

Evaluation of CC Programme

- Realised from January 2015 to June 2016 by both internal and external evaluators
- Opportunity to test the Reference Evaluation Model of Task Force BIEE
- The general outcomes positive:
 - All programme targets seems to be met
 - Competence Centres programme successful

BUT...

Weak points of the CC Programme

- **Too many Competence Centres** – total of 34, areas of activities and topics are similar and overlapping

Recommendation: decrease the number of CC

- **Cooperation of partners improved, but limited trust to share or jointly create outcomes**

Recommendation: Support trust and further cooperation of partners

- **Centres with international dimension – proper definition missing,** therefore instead of cooperation also international activities (replaced by participation in the conferences, internship). Absence of international members of Competence Centres

Recommendation: Clearly define international cooperation and require it

- **„Horizontal mobility“** – very limited mobility of researchers between institutions

Weak points of the CC Programme

- **Programme settings - inadequate indicators**, intervention logics and links of programme goals and their evaluation are missing.

Recommendation: Focus on programme intervention logics, evaluation framework including set of well defined indicators, clear definition of programme goals (to be measurable and verifiable)

- **Proposal evaluations** – limited independence and use of experts abroad

Recommendation: Clarify definition of partiality, define the selection criteria, prepare internal evaluators

- **Lack of business organisation in the lead**
- **Absence of strategic focus**
- **Absence of legal structure**

Weak points reflect rather the weak points of the Czech R&D Environment

Lessons learned

- Setting the aim and goals is easy but how to set-up the conditions and criteria is a challenge
- Evaluation is important but it starts even before the programme setup
- Sharing good practices is fine but sharing the „bad practices“ is also important

National Competence Centres

- Programme under discussion, supposed length 13 years (2018–2030)
- 2018–2019 preparatory phase for the CC establishment
- Vision: 5–8 centres with international contacts, based on excellent teams of experts , clustering of CC, Excellence Centres and infrastructure financed by EU funds

National Competence Centres

- The aim of the programme:
 - Increase of efficiency and quality of results in applied research and technology transfer
 - Increase the competitiveness of companies through collaboration
 - Interdisciplinary and long term cooperation
 - Support of innovation via technology and knowledge transfer
 - Support of innovation leaders
 - **Stable and sustainable applied research “infrastructure”**

Thank you for your attention.

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