

D3.1 Workshop Materials and Future Scenarios

Deliverable 3.1 consists of materials for use in workshops with key regional stakeholders. These workshops involved outlining a number of future scenarios for each of the regions in order to promote debate on the policies necessary for the creation of a successful, knowledge driven regional economy. The three scenarios comprise of a 'base case', where by the region follows its current trend; a 'growing' scenario, where a slight improvement on the current trend is observed; and an 'optimistic' scenario, where a large improvement on the current trend is observed. The implications of each scenario were then outlined as well as the measures necessary to implement the scenarios.

The conclusions of the scenarios for each region can be summarised as follows:

Yorkshire and the Humber

In Scenario 1, if the region continues its current trends then the regional economy will continue to diverge from the UK. In Scenario 2, small improvements will prevent further decline relative to the UK but will merely maintain the region's current lagging position. In Scenario 3, large improvements in R&D expenditure will not only arrest the decline but ignite a process of catch up with the UK.

Central Macedonia and East Macedonia/Thrace

For Greece to approach its RTD targets for 2010 will require significant effort with very fast and sizeable increases in RTD spending also at regional level. Regional RTD policy will need to be conscious in terms of what the special weight of each region in the whole RTD effort should be. In the case of EMTH a choice is open as to whether it should evolve in a more independent fashion regarding RTD activities or be seen as part of a broader region. The scenario analysis indicates that the continuation of current RTD spending rates although they might raise the share of RTD spending in GDP will keep Greece as a laggard in EU R&D developments and increase further the regional gaps.

Thrace (Turkey)

The comparison of optimistic, pessimistic and the base scenarios prove that Turkey requires a substantial leap in RTD investment rates with an exponential growth in the following years so that the targets for 2013 are reached. This actually implies the need for cultural change in the business sector and the government sector so that the collaborations among the three parties can be more effective. The scenarios serve to highlight that the key issue for Turkey to achieve its RTD targets for 2013 requires agility and sizable increases in RTD expenditure at the regional level. Even the optimistic scenario does not avoid Turkey being a laggard in the EU mainly because of the high population.

South East Bulgaria

In Scenario 1, if the region continues its current trends then the regional economy will continue to diverge from the EU average levels and will find itself stuck in a low skill

equilibrium dominated by low skilled, low paid jobs and low value added, and low technology industries. As a result, there will be further restrictions on the growth of long-term economic potential of the region and on the future improvement of population living standards. In Scenario 2, based on the quantitative targets set out by National Innovation Strategy. This is an optimistic scenario that will result in large improvements in R&D expenditure. The main outcome will be not only preventing from further divergence from EU but also starting up a process of catch up with the EU countries. Scenario 3 assumes more moderate annual increase in nominal R&D expenditure and GDP that will result in small improvements in local economic development and competitiveness. According to this scenario it would still take a considerably long time period to converge with the EU, even assuming no increase in the proportion of EU average GDP spent on R&D.

Dissemination

The materials contained in this document were presented to policymakers in all four regions. This served to enlighten policymakers of the work being carried out by MIRIAD and also engage them in the project. The results of the discussions are presented in Deliverable 3.2, 'Workshop Reports.'