

**Förderung von Innovationsprozessen in strukturschwachen Regionen – Typisierung und
Analyse von Fallbeispielen**

*Innovation processes in lagging regions - classification and analysis of case studies in
Germany*

(StRegInno)

Funding:

The research project is financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the funding area "WIR! - Change through innovation in the region" as part of the framework "Innovation & Structural Change".

Project description:

The aim of the project is to identify and analyze the factors that contribute to the inhibition of innovation activities in lagging regions in Germany. Innovation barriers have already been extensively investigated in the literature (e.g. D'Este et al., 2008, 2011; Galia & Legros, 2004; Hadjimanolis, 2003). The project will add to this by focusing on the relationships between the characteristics of regions and the barriers to innovation that are particularly relevant to them. The first step within the project is a classification of lagging regions on the basis of the various innovation barriers specifically relevant there. To this end, the systematization of innovation barriers into exogenous and endogenous barriers by Hadjimanolis (2003) is used. Region-specific and company-specific differences in these barriers are identified and connected to regional characteristics, using also the systemic perspective from research on Regional Innovation Systems (RIS). With the help of statistical cluster analysis different types of regions are identified. The cluster analysis is carried out using variables such as patent activity, population density, company size, structural strength, labour market and GDP.

In a second step the different types of regions will be examined in several case studies of German regions. Besides statistical data, especially expert interviews will be conducted with actors from these regions. A specific focus will be on skilled labor shortage and cooperation barriers. The aim is to generate more knowledge on the specific mechanisms in the regions and the appropriate (potential) policy measures for each region type.

On 15 June 2021 an online policy workshop on the research topic will take place.

Responsible researchers:

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