

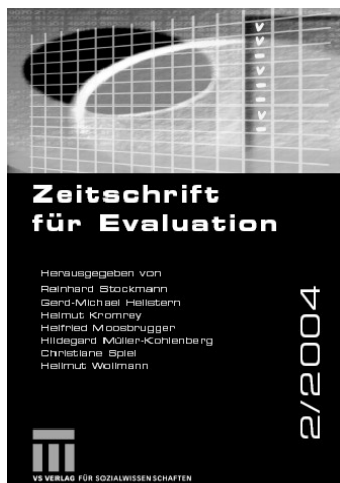
Evaluation of Regional Innovative Networks – Aim, Concept and Experiences from the German InnoRegio-Program

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Abstract

With the InnoRegio programme the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has broken new grounds in the promotion of innovation in the new Federal States of Germany. The programme supports a selected group of 23 regional innovation networks, i.e. co-operations between firms and scientific institutions. InnoRegio started in 1999 and will be terminated in 2006. The budget of the programme amounts to 256 Mill. Euro. In the following the objectives and approach of the evaluation are presented. The evaluation follows the steps of the implementation of the programme. In the beginning the focus was on the development of the networks. Therefore, the monitoring is centred on questions like the development of communication and the effectiveness of organisation. After the starting period the networks have been strengthened, and meanwhile several funded InnoRegio projects have been terminated. However, long-term economic effects of the programme are not yet to be expected. Thus and because of the complexity of this new innovation support approach, the focus of the analysis is rather on stimulating a discussion on the evaluation of networks and their methods respectively.



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