



Kompetenzzentren
Region Stuttgart

Competence Centre Programme Stuttgart Region

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The Stuttgart Region



The Region – Facts and Figures



- Population: 2.7 million from 170 countries
- Area: 3,654 km²
- Municipalities: 179
- People in employment: 1.3 million
- ~165.000 companies
- Gross domestic product: 101 billion Euro
- Unemployment rate: < 5 %
- Most important industries:
Automotive
Production Technology / Mechanical Engineering
Creative Industries
- Export (manufacturing): ~ 50 %

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R&D in the Stuttgart Region

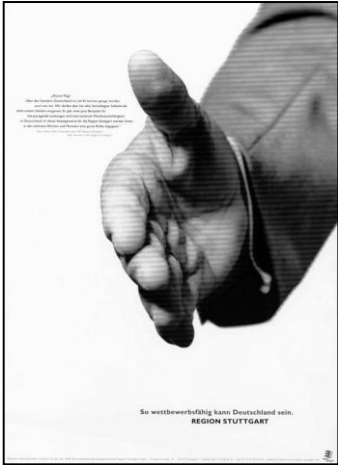


- R&D expenditures by the business sector in the Stuttgart Region reach 6.5 % of the GDP!

Infrastructure:

- Numerous university research facilities
- 2 Max-Planck institutes
- 5 Fraunhofer institutes
- 4 institutes of the German Federation of Industrial Cooperative Research Associations
- German Aerospace Centre (DLR)
(large-scale research centre)
- > 100 Steinbeis Transfer Centres
- Plenty of private research institutes

Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation Wirtschaftsförderung Region Stuttgart GmbH (WRS)



- Founded 1995 as a GmbH („Ltd.“)
- Major shareholder “Verband Region Stuttgart”
- 50 full-time employees
- Branch subsidiaries

Tasks:

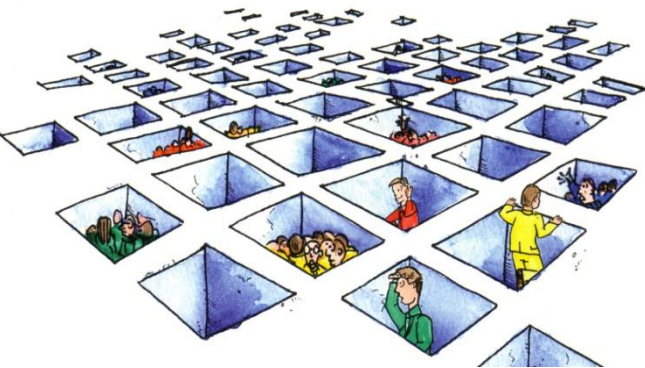
1. Support for Investors
2. Location Marketing
3. Innovation and Cluster Policy
 - Cluster Initiatives (inhouse)
 - Competence Centre Programme
 - Horizontal Networks and Initiatives



Vision and Mission of the Competence Centre Programme



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Regional Competence Centres are well organised regional networks. They integrate possibly all regional companies, universities, research facilities etc., working in the same field of technology.



They provide a suitable base for know-how exchange, innovative cooperation and project approaches among the partner institutions.

Competence Centres improve significantly the coordination and effectiveness of (regional) research activities and the transformation of results into marketable products and services.

Objectives of Regional Competence Centres



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- Position the centres as catalysts for cooperation and competitiveness
- Initiate and support co-operation between businesses, universities, research facilities, public bodies and other relevant organisations
- Support start-ups and spin-offs
- Provide a platform for (large scale) projects
- Create a joint learning environment
- Foster Open Innovation processes



- Competence Centres are organised as a registered society/association and employ at least one professional full- or part-time manager to organise collective activities and provide supportive services.
- Some of the Centres provide labs and facilities (e.g. Virtual Dimension Centre, Fellbach) or office space for member firms or start-ups.
- Financial aspects:
 - Basic financing via membership fees
 - European and federal grants
 - Institutional support from municipalities

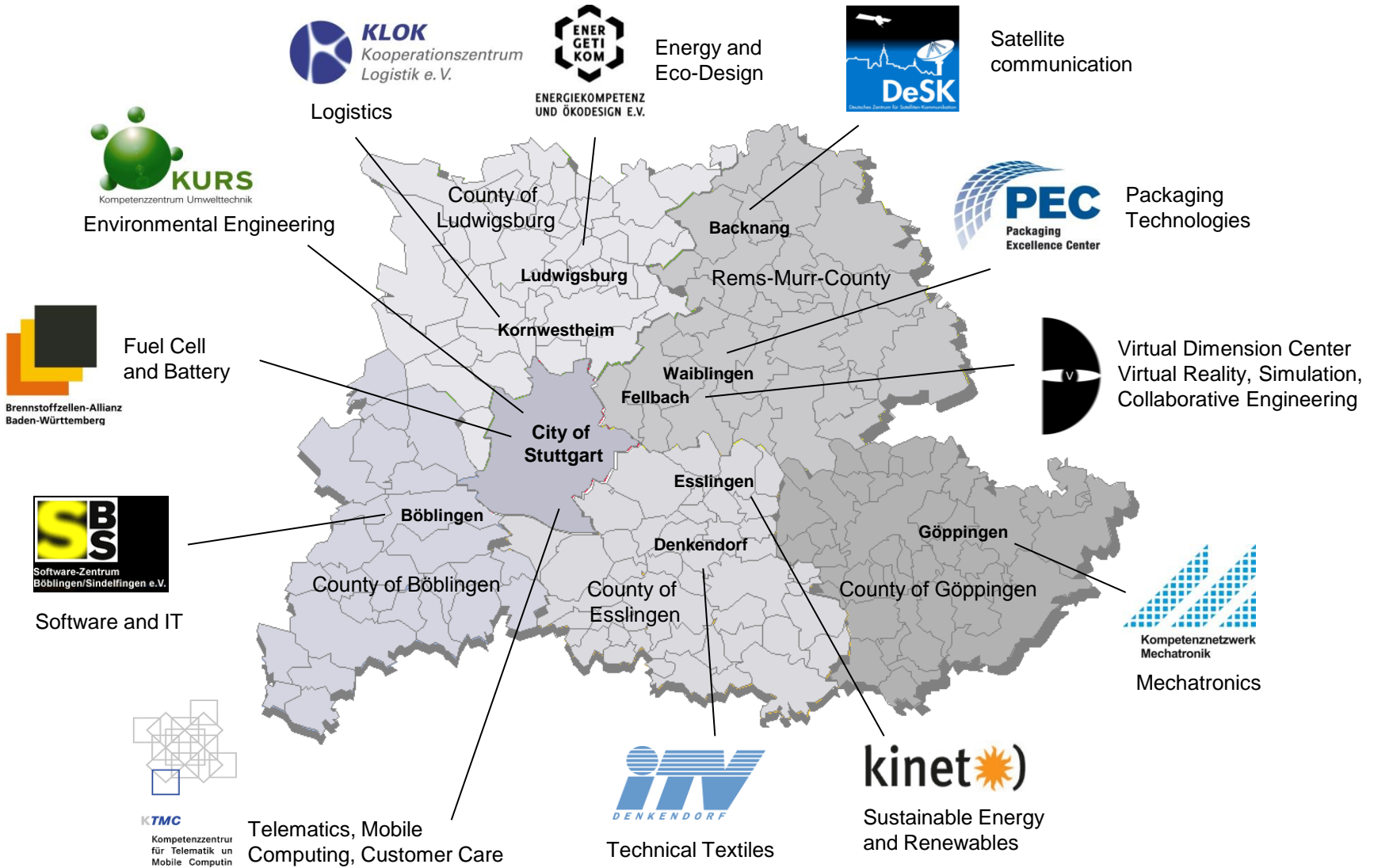


- Programme was initiated by a regional competition.
- Selection of the most promising bottom-up concepts proposed by municipalities, companies and research institutions.
- First phase (2000 – 2002): 2 million Euro contribution programme for co-financing the establishment and operation of the selected competence centres.
- Second phase (since 2003): Support for projects run by the Competence Centres:
 - cooperation projects (up to 20.000 €)
 - innovation projects (up to 50.000 €)
 - development of project proposals (up to 10.000 €)

Competence Centres in the Stuttgart Region



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Results of the Regional Competence Centre Programme

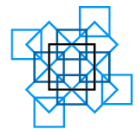


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- 12 Competence Centres in different fields of technology
- Very high level of participation:
 - > 450 companies (80% SME)
 - > 60 institutes and research facilities
- Extensive private investments could be triggered with little public money
- Many co-operation and/or research projects initiated (private and public funded) (> 100)
- Significant improvements of the Private-Public-Partnership
- Improved access to national and European funding programs for the members
- Requests for additional Competence Centres (in and outside the Stuttgart Region)



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Important instrument:

The “Network Manager“, who...

- sets up and cultivates the network,
- keeps alive the partners' participation and commitment

Important process:

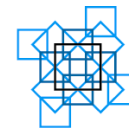
- The communication between the partners (supported by a communication platform)

Important legal component:

- A legal body for the network to ensure the partner's commitment for financing and (net-)working

Important task:

- Initiating concrete projects to ensure that partners perceive (net-)work advantages



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Thank you very much for your attention

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