



Constructing a Sustainably
Competitive Europe

MANUFUTURE'2007 CONFERENCE

WORKSHOP 7

Raising the RTD intensity of European Industry

Conclusions and Recommendations

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Scope and objectives

- to examine the reasons for Europe's low RTD intensity
- to identify policy options and measures to steer private investment towards RTD



Public Grants for collaborative Research Projects

- to reduce bureaucracy / simplify participation both at the national and EU levels
- better matching of priorities between national and EU programmes
- combine national and EU funds in an complementary way



Public Grants for collaborative Research Projects

- often there is a “glass wall” between universities and companies (clearly they have different objectives)
 - companies day-to-day concerns vs the mostly long-term research objectives of academia
- difficulty for the SMEs to identify the right partners



EIB loans and other risk capital

- EIB loans appear to be an attractive instrument for private research activities
- one company had good experiences because of little administration burden and financial attractiveness
- however they are not very much used
- better information about these opportunities would be useful
- industrial associations could be effective information channels



RTD Tax incentives

- a very good funding mechanism
- easy to use (low administrative burden)
- it fits well the company's management strategy
- however there is not necessarily a direct link between this scheme and high private investment in RTD (e.g. no RTD tax incentives in Finland and Germany)



Horizontal issues

- need to create more bridges between universities and industry
- coordinated EU-policies must not lead to additional excessive bureaucracy
- mechanisms are needed to better support start-up companies
- efforts on highly qualified human resources are needed to get talents in the companies

