

Review of the Law on Economic Innovation in Canton Ticino: towards an integrated monitoring of the Regional System of Innovation

The context

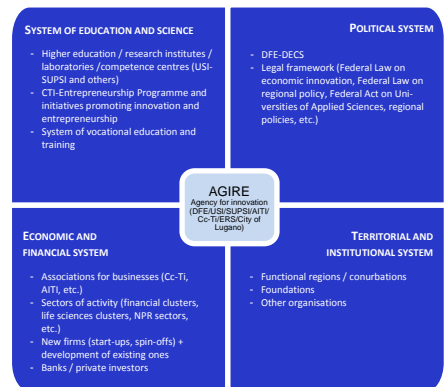
The debate on Regional Systems of Innovation has grown noticeably livelier over the years. The introduction of the latest-generation regional policy has made it possible for several Cantons, Canton Ticino included, to develop their own Regional Systems of Innovation. In the current state of play, it has now become necessary to design and implement a system of constant monitoring. This will help not only to assess the effects and impact of these systems on the economic and territorial dynamics, but also to strategically manage any future developments. This is indeed the conclusion suggested by studies conducted towards a review of the Law on Economic Innovation in Canton Ticino. Input, process, and output indicators no longer suffice; more attention needs to be paid to impact indicators.

inno3monitor

inno3monitor is a monitoring system especially designed to collect, sort, and analyse qualitative and quantitative data, from primary as well as secondary sources, on the issues of innovation and entrepreneurship, at the Cantonal level as well as nationwide and worldwide. It is a business intelligence instrument which gathers a whole gamut of indicators covering the technological, economic, organisational, and behavioural components of entrepreneurial and innovative processes.

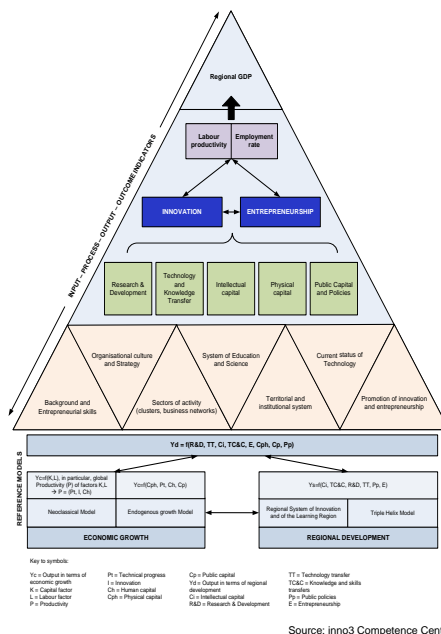
The problem

The revision work carried out on the Law on Economic Innovation stems naturally from the initiative undertaken by the Department of Finance and Economic Affairs in October 2010, which coincided with the launch of the ex-post evaluation of the Law itself. The context has changed considerably since 1997, when the law came into force. Therefore, the need has arisen not only for an up-to-date legal instrument, but also for a monitoring system capable of detecting and recording any forms of strategic, innovative and entrepreneurial behaviour of firms, whether beneficiary or not.



The project

The scientific apparatus consisted mostly of workshops. Tools and techniques were applied to solve complex problems, involving a whole range of dimensions, actors, and interests. For each working session, devoted to a specific issue, the appropriate logical-conceptual and sequential approach was adopted, aimed at drafting a new law. In the initial stages, we worked on the conceptual aspects: subsequently we addressed in turn the various elements that characterise a law.



Outcome

The intensive workshop discussions contributed to an overall reformulation of the law, accounting for the evolving concepts of innovation and entrepreneurship. It contributed to updating and reviewing all promotion and support initiatives, in line with the directions of the Canton's economic development and with existing regional policy guidelines; to updating and reconsidering the beneficiaries of the law, but also the organisation of responsible governance and the enforcement of the new Law. Recommendations include the creation of a monitoring system for the Regional System of Innovation.

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