

## Output factsheet: Innovation networks

Version 1

<b>Project index number and acronym</b>	CE1171 SYNERGY
<b>Lead partner</b>	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
<b>Output number and title</b>	O.T2.1 KPAs innovative Synergic Networks
<b>Responsible partner (PP name and number)</b>	Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, PP 5
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### Summary description of the established innovation network explaining its structure and functions

A Synergic Network has been defined as a clustered pool of regional Innovation Actors that have a common area of expertise and interests with a structure that aligns with at least one of the KPAs. On the basis of this definition three transnational innovative Synergic Networks (SNs) related to three SYNERGY Key Project Areas (KPAs): Additive Manufacturing & 3-D Printing, Micro- & Nanotechnology and Industry 4.0 has been created. Their structure can be seen in Annex: Members of Synergic Networks.

The KPA leaders were responsible for the selection of the 9 sample SN members. The data foundation was SynPro Tool (O.T1.1). It was agreed that selected organizations should be described with sufficient data (especially in terms of competences/skills and infrastructures), selection should include a diversity of entity types (samples should be from SME, industry and from higher education & research) and a diversity of country. Finally, organizations are spread over a range of countries, industry sectors, entity types and service types - even though a certain degree of uneven distribution is noticeable.

Established SNs has been evaluated. The approach selected for the evaluation of the SNs was a SWOT analysis to describe strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of each SN and to determine future strategies. The evaluation and analysis of the SNs resulted in lessons learnt from the phase of setting up SNs.

The three SNs carry high potential for handling projects of different types and sizes - with SN members who have relevant experience in cooperation.

### NUTS region(s) concerned by the innovation network (relevant NUTS level)

Regions where the innovation network was developed and implemented:

- ✓ Dolnośląskie (PL51)
- ✓ Oberösterreich (AT31)
- ✓ Chemnitz (DED4)
- ✓ Zahodna Slovenija (SI02)

- ✓ Karlsruhe (DE12)
- ✓ Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
- ✓ Emilia-Romagna (ITH5)

The innovation network consists of actors from regions:

- ✓ Berlin DE30
- ✓ Chemnitz (DED4)
- ✓ Dolnośląskie (PL51)
- ✓ Dresden DED2
- ✓ Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
- ✓ Karlsruhe (DE12)
- ✓ Niederösterreich AT12
- ✓ Oberbayern DE21
- ✓ Oberösterreich (AT31)
- ✓ Stuttgart DE11
- ✓ Styria AT22
- ✓ Thüringen DEG0
- ✓ Vienna AT13
- ✓ Zahodna Slovenija (SI02)

## Expected impact and benefits of the innovation network for the concerned territories and target groups

SNs will facilitate successful regional and particular international cooperation between innovation actors from the different SYNERGY target groups (research and higher education, SMEs, industry and business support organization).

SNs creation leads to the connection of innovation actors that have a focus on similar technologies and common areas of interest, but no knowledge of each other. The members of the SNs contribute to the definition and development of the needs and requirements for the planned Synergic Crowd Innovation Platform (SCIP).

## Sustainability of the innovation network and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The strategy for the extension and growth of the SNs has been developed. The strategy supports the future persistence of linkages, cooperation and common actions between regional innovation actors.

In order to increase interest, commitment and retention of innovation actors, it is important to extend promotion activities and the usage of the SYNERGY communication channels, e.g. to expand the presence in online media (e.g. SYNERGY website) and social media (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter), which might include more news contributions, connections to innovation actors on social media etc. In addition, enhanced interconnectedness to regional multiplier networks for the SYNERGY target groups, namely start-up, SME, large enterprises etc. leads to an increased popularity of SYNERGY and the related activities and is thus beneficial for achieving interest and for growing the SNs. In doing so, it is essential to highlight the benefits and added value of joining the SNs. To achieve full commitment of innovation actors, it is of course relevant to start common projects and cooperation in the SNs - based on common objectives.

It would be possible to use the methodology of setting up similar SNs in other territories and among other stakeholders.

## Lessons learned from the development and establishment process of the innovation network and added value of transnational cooperation

The analysis of three SNs found that all SNs include a remarkable number of organizations with a broad variety of unique and very specific knowledge, competences & skills and infrastructures.

It was confirmed that organization of regional and international workshops are appropriate activities for the creation of SNs. Furthermore, existing PPs' personal contacts are in any case beneficial for the recruitment of innovation actors.

Through the registration in the SynPro Tool, the innovation actors expressed their interest and commitment to the SYNERGY project and the SNs, which strongly supported the SNs creation process.

Other findings refer to the proven method of contacting innovation actors first via e-mail and then via phone calls, attaching informative flyers to raise greater interest among the target groups, and contacting at least twice as many innovation actors as required.

## References to relevant deliverables and web-links If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

### References:

Deliverable D.T2.1.7: Report on 3 (1 per KPA) Synergic Networks creation

Deliverable D.T2.1.8: Approach for extending and growing Synergic Networks - report

### Annex:

Members of Synergic Networks [SYNERGY O.T2.1 Annex Members\_of\_SNs.xlsx]