

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AP VOJVODINA

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

- Special attention is paid to the importance of specific and regional resources in stimulating the innovation and competitiveness in European Union
- Wilderness of EU documents on innovation (special emphasize is put on regional aspect)
- Enlargement of the European Union arouse the necessity to recognize that innovation is essential for the restructuring and competitiveness in new Member States as well as in candidate countries
- Emerged the establishment of national and also regional innovation systems in these countries



2. THE STATE OF THE ART IN AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA

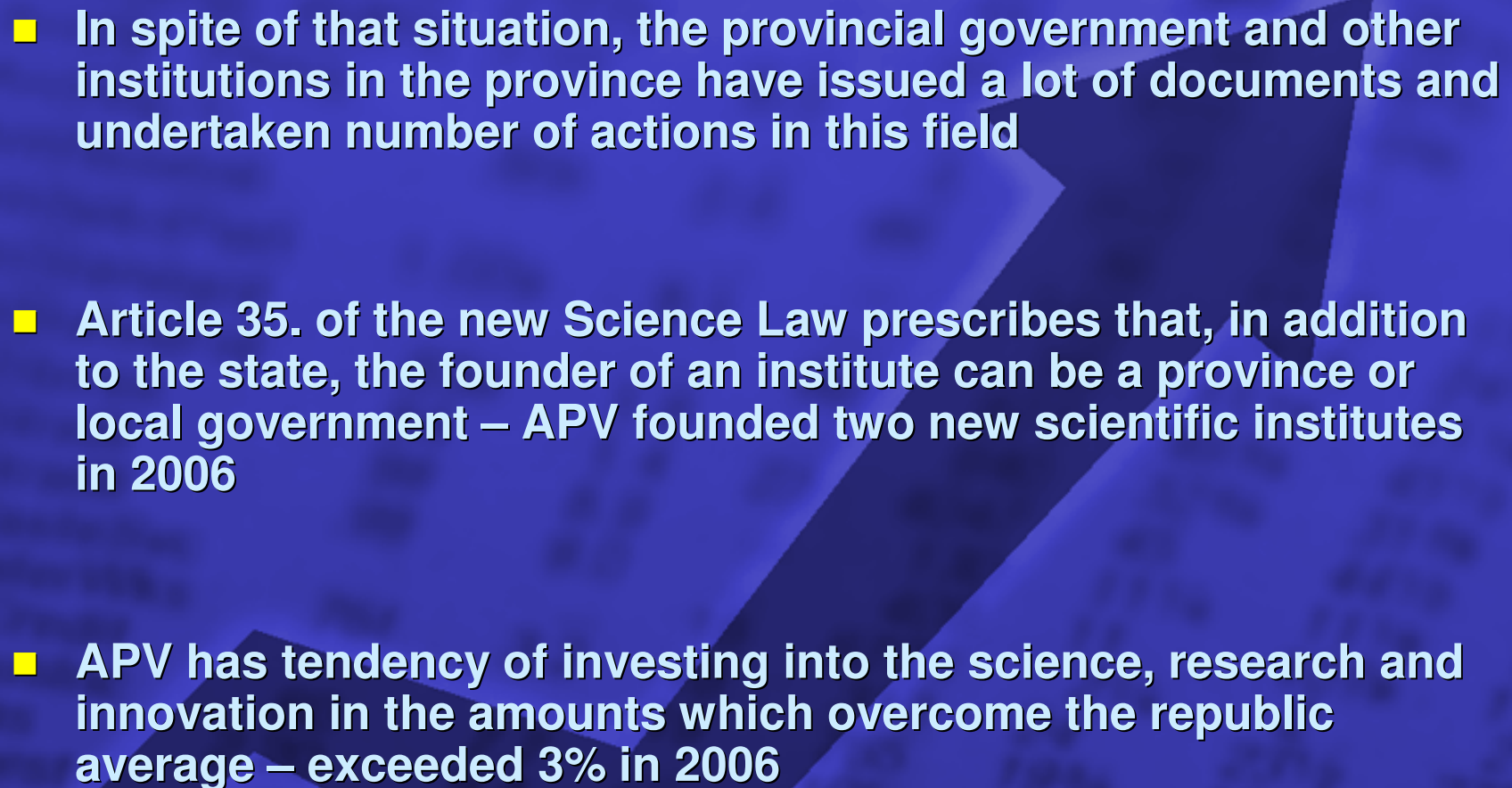
2.1. The profile of AP Vojvodina

- Autonomous Province of the Republic of Serbia
- EU border region (member of AER and DKMT), Corridors X, IV and VII
- Area of 21.506 km², 2.013.889 inhabitants (2001 census)
- Statute – the highest legal act
- Bodies (Assembly and Executive Council)
- Favorable conditions for agricultural production and food processing industry (petrochemical industry, heavy industry, textile industry, industry of building materials)
- 2001-2005 goal of the industrial policy-to stimulate the process of structural adaptation and to restructure the industrial enterprises towards a competitive and export oriented production, with the increase of business efficiency in enterprises, change of the production program, and ownership transformation
- 2002-2006 – 746 companies were privatized
- SMS`s are becoming increasingly important segment of economy



2.2. Legal framework in the field of science, development and innovation

- Autonomous Province of Vojvodina has no legislative power. Law establishing particular competencies of the Autonomous Province (2002) more specifically determines competencies of the Autonomous Province
- According to this Law, jurisdiction in the field of research and development is at the level of the Republic
- The Autonomous Province, after the Statute, regulate by its ordinances individual issues of interest to its citizens as well as the manner of their achievement, and particularly the competencies of bodies and establishing of organizations and institutions and providing for their functioning
- Laws related to science, research and innovation at the level of the Republic of Serbia are:
 - Science Law (2005)
 - Innovation Law (2005)
 - Law on High Education (2005)
 - Laws on IP Protection: Patents Law (2004)
 - Copyrights and Related Rights Law (2004)
 - Trademark Law (2005)
 - Law on the Legal Protection of Designs (2004)
 - Law on the Protection of Integrated Circuit Topographies (2004)

- 
- In spite of that situation, the provincial government and other institutions in the province have issued a lot of documents and undertaken number of actions in this field
 - Article 35. of the new Science Law prescribes that, in addition to the state, the founder of an institute can be a province or local government – APV founded two new scientific institutes in 2006
 - APV has tendency of investing into the science, research and innovation in the amounts which overcome the republic average – exceeded 3% in 2006

The most important documents and studies related to research and development at the level of the Province:

- **Integrated Regional Development Programme of AP Vojvodina (2004 – 2007)**
- **Integrated Regional Development Programme of AP Vojvodina – updated ex post analyses of the economy AP Vojvodina**
- **Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Vojvodina - The main directions of the AP Vojvodina's technological development**
- **Action Plan for Realization of the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Vojvodina**
- **Study "Compettiveness index of the AP Vojvodina"**

2.3. Institutions

- Political authorities and administrative bodies
 - Research performers
 - Intermediary organizations
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Political authorities and administrative bodies

- **The Assembly of APV**

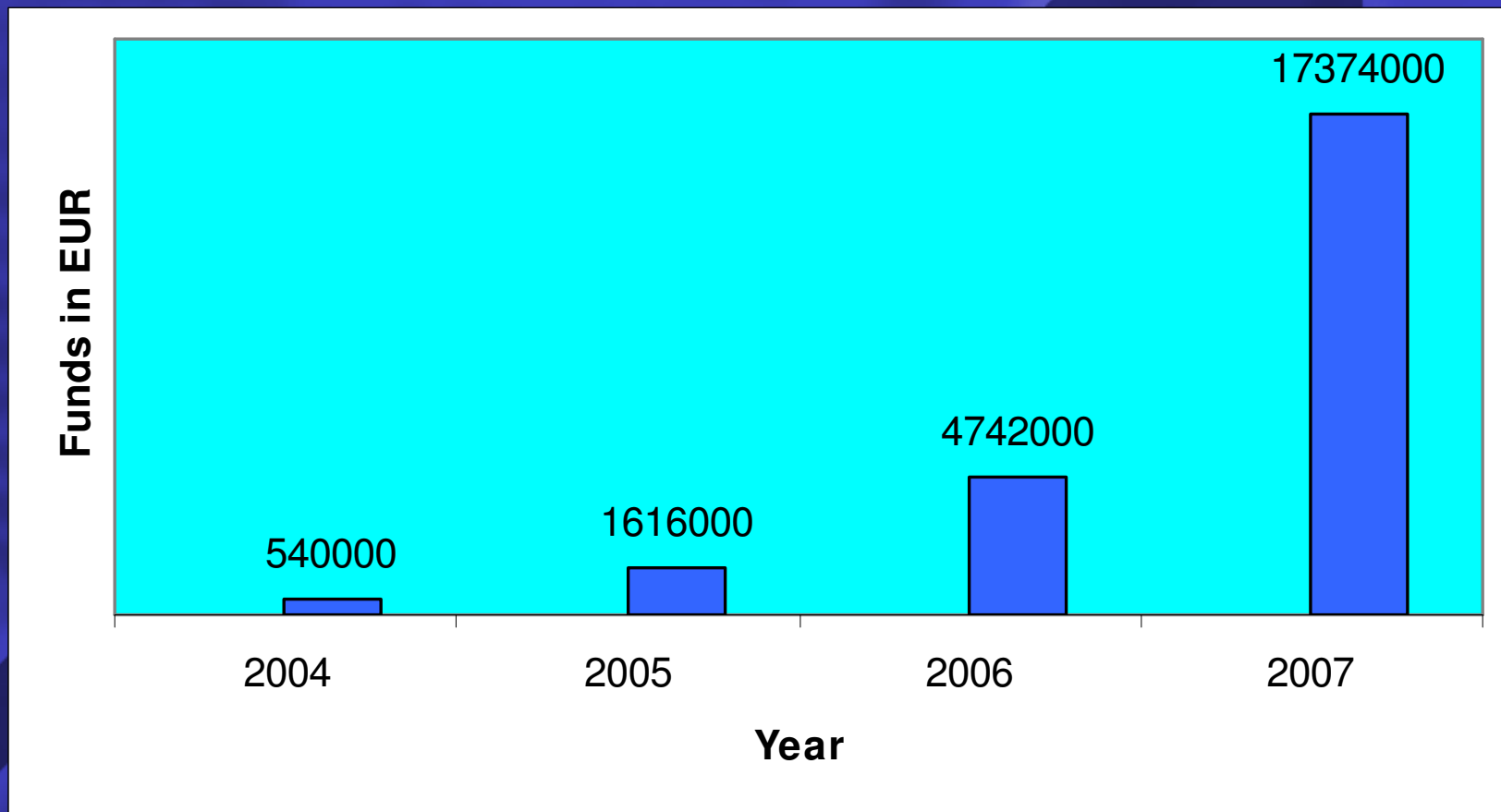
- **The Executive Council of APV -17 Secretariats**
 - Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development
 - Provincial secretariat for Privatization, Business and Small and Medium Enterprises
 - Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture
 - Provincial Secretariat for Economy
 - Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development

- The activities of the Secretariat are directed towards the development of science and technology in the AP Vojvodina, and bringing them closer to the European standards
- Interregional projects
- International projects
- Support of the project proposals according to EU programs (priority FP7)
- Projects of strategic importance for the development of AP Vojvodina
- Organization of scientific meetings
- Participation of the researchers from APV in the international conferences, symposia and workshops
- Programs of economic development of AP Vojvodina
- The strategy: "Main Directions of the Technological Development of AP Vojvodina"
- Co-funding of the new industrial plants
- New jobs for young returnees from abroad (Program Plan "400 Young Researchers on the Road to European Integration")
- International exchange of talented students
- The work of the Foundation for solving residential needs of the young teaching and research staffs

- In the budget of AP Vojvodina for 2007, the fund earmarked for science and technological development amounted to 1,389,976,532 CSD
- This sum is 3.66 times larger compared to that of the previous year

SECRETARIAT'S BUDGET 2004-2007



PROJECTS CO-FUNDED IN 2007

Field	Number of Projects		
	Continuation	New	Total No.
Social Sciences and Humanities	13	1	14
Medical Sciences and Physical Education	10	1	11
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	13	1	14
Technical-technological Sciences	11	1	12
Biotechnological Sciences	14	1	15
Law and Economic Sciences	3	-	3
TOTAL:	64	5	69

TYPE OF THE ACTIVITY	CO-FUNDED IN 2005	CO-FUNDED IN 2006	CO-FUNDED IN 2007
FP 5	1	1	1
FP 6	4	10	10
SEE.ERA-NET	0	0	1
INTERREG	1	2	6
TEMPUS	16	13	15
COST	2	6	10
EUREKA	2	2	2
CEEPUS	6	8	8
WUS	3	2	2
DAAD i Stability Pact	2	2	1
Multilateral activities	8	8	8
Bilateral activities	-	15	19
TOTAL	45	69	83

•In cooperation with institutions from more than 40 countries:

- Austria
- Germany
- France
- Great Britain
- Switzerland
- Spain
- Portugal
- Italy
- Belgium
- Danmark
- Norway
- Sweden
- Finland
- Netherlands
- Greece
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- Slovenia
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Czech Republic
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Gruzia
- Moldova
- Croatia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Macedonia
- Turkey
- USA
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Israel
- Brazil
- Australia
- India
- Singapour
- Hong Kong
- Malaysia

Research Performers

■ University of Novi Sad

- Leading role in scientific and research activities in APV
- 15 faculties located in the four major towns of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina: Novi Sad, Subotica, Zrenjanin, and Sombor
- Entrepreneurship at UNS (Courses in entrepreneurship, FTN, Faculty of Economics, European Studies; UNESCO Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies (UCES));
- Units of knowledge transfer were established at university level: an Innovation Center (IC), a Technology Transfer Centre (TTC) and a Novi Sad Incubation Center (NOSIC))

■ 4 scientific and research institutes

(Research Institute for Crop and Vegetable Crops, Research Institute for Veterinary, Research Institute for Food Technologies and Research and Development Institute for Low-land Forestry and Environment and Institute for food technology)

■ Research and Development Units in Enterprises

■ Private faculties

■ Branch of Serbian Academy for Science

■ Vojvodina Academy of Science and Arts

■ Matica Srpska Society

Intermediary organizations and networks

- A number of organizations, directly or indirectly, deal with research, development and innovation activities in APV

- The most important are:

- **Vojvodina Investment Promotion Fund (VIP)**

Development of business incubators and technology parks.

Two business incubators have been opened in Vojvodina (in Zrenjanin and Subotica)

- **Vojvodina Centre for Strategic Economic Studies**

- **Novi Sad Innovation Centre (NOSIC)**

A dozen of successful start-ups emerged from University-based R&D projects

- **Regional Chamber of Commerce**

- **Regional Agencies**

Regional Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Size Enterprises "Alma Mons" in Novi Sad

Regional Centre for Socio-Economic Development Banat in Zrenjanin with subcentres in Vršac, Kininda and Pančevo

Regional Agency for development of SME's Subotica

Regional Agency for SME Development, Sombor

2.4. Funding schemes

- The finance is **one of the greatest obstacles** by both enterprises and innovation support organizations to innovation in Serbia (Innovation Audit in Serbia)
- **Sources of funding at the level of the Republic of Serbia**
(Fund for innovation, seed capital (own sources, family, friends, NGOs), direct financial support to firms (some donor-funded grant schemes, Development fund, Opportunity International Saving Bank, NGO`s, indirect financial support to innovating firms (Guarantee Fund) and funds for enablers –intermediation (incubators, industrial parks etc.)
- **Specific funds at the level of the Province:**
 - Vojvodina Capital Investment Fund
 - Vojvodina Development Fund
 - Guarantee Fund of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
 - Programme Plants for the application of new technologies

2.5. Capacity and possible further steps towards regional innovation strategy

- It is not possible to talk about regional system of innovation in Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
- Many actions have been undertaken and many documents have been adopted on the Provincial level
- Main challenges like measuring of regional innovation capacity, the availability of data, lack of coordination among the actors in the innovation activities, strategic approach to innovation, lack of financial mechanism for innovation etc. are present
- The organization of innovation systems is long term effort and it is very difficult to find the appropriate route to innovation



■ **Have to be done :**

- **create a consensus on systematic approach to the innovation question among key actors in the Province**
- **mobilize the public and private stakeholders concerned in the development of the strategies and actions which can facilitate regional innovation**
- **foster regional capacity for innovation**
- **make the necessary analyses of regional situation, measuring of regional innovation capacity etc.**
- **create the strategic document in the field of innovation**
- **improve coordination of all actors and levels involved in the innovation activities**
- **foster financial support to the research, innovation and SME sector**
- **promote the innovation and entrepreneurial culture**
- **establish more coordination and networking between engaged subjects in the country and abroad (especially with partners from EU countries)**

3. CONCLUSION

- The tendencies in EU innovation policy put in focus the necessity of the emergence of the regional innovation system in Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in future
- According to the elements of regional innovation activity that exist in the Province, its economic situation and institutional capabilities it could be concluded that there are many elements and capacities in APV that could lead to the establishment of the regional innovation system in the future
- APV could be the appropriate region that can fulfill the administrative economic criteria for use of the EU Pre-accession funds in the field of research and innovation as the essential for the improvement of the competitiveness of the region and the country as a whole



<http://apv-nauka.ns.ac.yu/vece/index.jsp>