

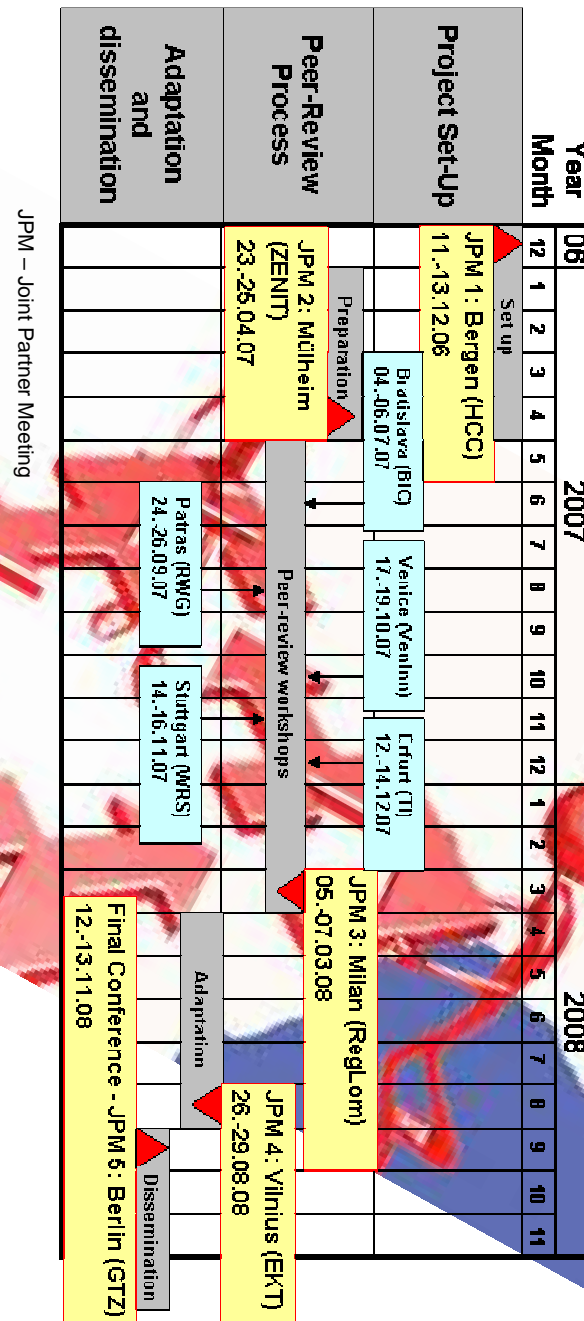
Adaptation of instruments and policy recommendations

The results of the Peer Review Workshops are utilised in the subsequent WP 4 "Adaptation of instruments" in two ways. On the one hand the peer reviewed instruments should be revised and adjusted according to recommendations of the partners. On the other hand it is the aim to further develop the transfer schemes to draft proposals for their implementation.

As revision of existing instruments and actual transfer of instruments require a complex consulting and change process these objectives can only partially be realised in the framework of the project. But the peer review methodology will help the partners amending or transferring an instrument to identify bottlenecks and possible solutions. As a result of this process the project partners will formulate policy recommendations for national and regional decision makers.

In WP 5 "Final Conference" it is the envisaged aim to summarise and disseminate the project results. The conference addresses policy makers on national and regional level as well as the expert community, the European Commission and other relevant networks.

Timeframe



Project Consortium

The project consortium comprises a **broad variety of complementary partners** in terms of:

- regional origin (15 partners from 10 countries, which are as well old as new EU Member States)
- involvement in design and implementation of RTDI support instruments (policy makers & implementing bodies)
- thematic priorities addressed with RTDI support instruments

Constant partners in the project are:

	German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
	Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy (MoEE)
	Business and Innovation Centre Bratislava (BIC)
	Centre for Innovation and Technology in NRW (ZENIT)
	Ekonomines konsultacijos ir tyrimai (EKT)
	Hordaland County Council Bergen (HCC)
	Institute of Baltic Studies (IBS)
	Lombardy Region (RegLom)
	National Center for Programme Management (NCPM)
	Region of Western Greece (RWG)
	Regional Development Agency of Northern Primorska (RRA)
	Stiftung für Technologie, Innovation und Forschung Thüringen (STIFT)
	Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (WRS)
	Veneto Innovazione (VenInn)

Additionally the consortium takes in policy makers on regional and national level as **follower partners** for participation in certain workshops and project meetings.

Project Objectives and Approach

EUROPEER SME stands in the broad context of the **Lisbon Strategy** which aims at making the EU the most dynamic and competitive economy based upon knowledge and sustainability by 2010. Increasing and improving investment in RTD, especially in SMEs, is an important part of this strategy. The project supports mutual learning and bottom-up co-ordination in research policy making, a field where policy competence lies primarily at national level. To achieve greater convergence towards EU goals it brings forward the Open Method of Coordination.

The **overall objective** of EUROPEER SME is to make RTD policies directed to SMEs of EU Member States more effective and therefore to promote innovation in Europe resulting in higher growth rates of Europe's future-oriented sectors of the economy. More specifically the project has the following objectives:

2. to foster mutual learning, elaborate best practices and improve the impact of national and regional RTD support instruments to SMEs
3. to optimise the exchange of best practices by identifying conditions for transferability and developing transfer schemes
4. to diminish overlap and strengthen the co-ordination of RTD policies directed to SMEs

Five work packages build the operational steps towards these objectives:

1. **Kick-off**
2. **Peer Review Preparation**
3. **Peer Review Workshops**
4. **Adaptation of instruments**
5. **Final Conference**

Peer Review Process

The Peer Review Process comprised the work packages (WP) 2 and 3.

In WP 2 "**Peer Review Preparation**" it was the primary objective to select the ten most promising instruments to be peer reviewed. Therefore, all partners transferred the two most effective RTDI support instruments they use in a standardised format to make them comparable. In a Joint Partner Meeting the instruments have been presented. Afterwards all partners voted in a moderated session for the instruments which seem most adequate for transfer in their own regional context. The ten selected instruments were clustered in pairs of two for five Peer Review Workshops.

In WP 3 "**Peer Review Workshops**" two objectives were in the focus: to improve existing instruments and to develop transfer schemes in order to make these instruments adaptable for other regional settings.

In a Peer Review Workshop two instruments have been presented along guiding questions to the participating partners. Afterwards the peers addressed in a moderated session the issues of:

- possible improvements in terms of content, implementation and dissemination
- success factors of the instrument

The participants subsequently elaborated a **transfer scheme**. The first part of the scheme is a "transferability checklist" which answers the question whether the instrument under examination is – in principle – transferable to the own context. If the answer is yes, the second part comes into play where transferring partners examine adaptation needs of the instruments on the level of:

- content
- infrastructure
- institutions
- finance
- monitoring and evaluation
- process and implementation