

Centres of Competence (CoCs)



Policy concept, Policy Learning Platform, and Interreg Europe projects.

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**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

Centres of Competence (CoCs) - Definition



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- **A Centre of Competence (CoC)** is a 'structured, long-term research and innovation (R&I) collaboration in strategically important areas between academia and industry with frequent interactions with the public sector. A CoC focuses on **strategic research agendas**, support strong interactions **between science and industry** and provides truly collaborative research with a medium to long-term perspective' ([TAFTIE](#)).

Centres of Competence (CoCs) can also focus on:

- Exploiting research results by means of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) and spin-offs,
- Training of PhDs and master students,
- Disseminating research results via publications, conferences etc,
- Stimulating networking and knowledge transfer,
- Acquiring third-party funding (including EU sources),
- Providing research infrastructures,
- Providing market intelligence.



Interreg Europe projects dealing with Centres of Competence (CoCs)



To enhance industry-led Centres of Competence (CoCs) as S3 implementation unit, for instance Kantola industrial estate and Woodpolis



To improve the exploitation of Research and Innovation Infrastructures, for instance imec



To reinforce university-industry collaboration, for instance National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre



To promote rural and urban digital innovation ecosystems, for instance industrial internet laboratory

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Story on Centres of Competence (CoCs)

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Policy brief on university-industry collaboration

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The Policy Learning Platform can help



Peer review in Sofia, Bulgaria on 17-18 June 2019

Host: Executive Agency Science and Education for Smart Growth
Operational Programme, Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria

The policy challenges were related to Structuring Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and Centres of Competence (CoCs), focusing on:

- governance structures,
- private sector involvement,
- extra-regional cooperation,
- financial models.



To know more about this peer review and read the peer review report [here](#)