

**On our way to a  
Technological-Top-Region South-Netherlands  
– Eastern Belgium – West-NRW (TTR ELAt)**

**Ralf P. Meyer**

FIN-URB-ACT work meeting IV, June 16th 2010, Gijon (E)

**TECHNOLOGIE  
REGION AACHEN**  
*www.technologieregion-aachen.de*

**AGIT**  
*Gründen. Ansiedeln. Fördern.*

# 1

## TTR ELAt – what happened so far

# TTR – Kick-off

## Establishment of an official working group NL / B / NRW on April 10th, 2008 in Maaseik (B)

Objective: Develop a coherent international Technological Top-Region (TTR) on regional level:

- Noord-Brabant (NL)
- Limburg (NL)
- Vlaams-Brabant (B)
- Limburg (B)
- Lüttich (incl. DG, B)
- Western part of NRW (D)



# TTR – Area



## Location & area of TTR



# TTR – (First) representatives of NRW

Ministerium für Wirtschaft,  
Mittelstand und Energie  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

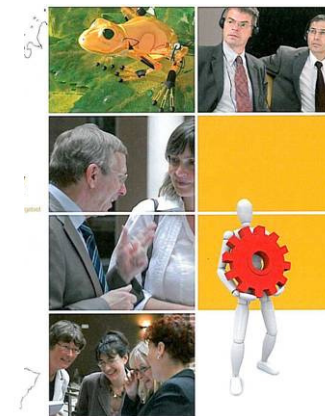


Ministerium für Innovation,  
Wissenschaft, Forschung und Technologie  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



# AGIT

Ministeries of Economics (MWME NRW) & Innovation (MIWFT NRW) have asked AGIT & Regierungspräsidenten Köln & Düsseldorf to join the official working group to represent the NRW-border region (municipality of Aachen joined too)

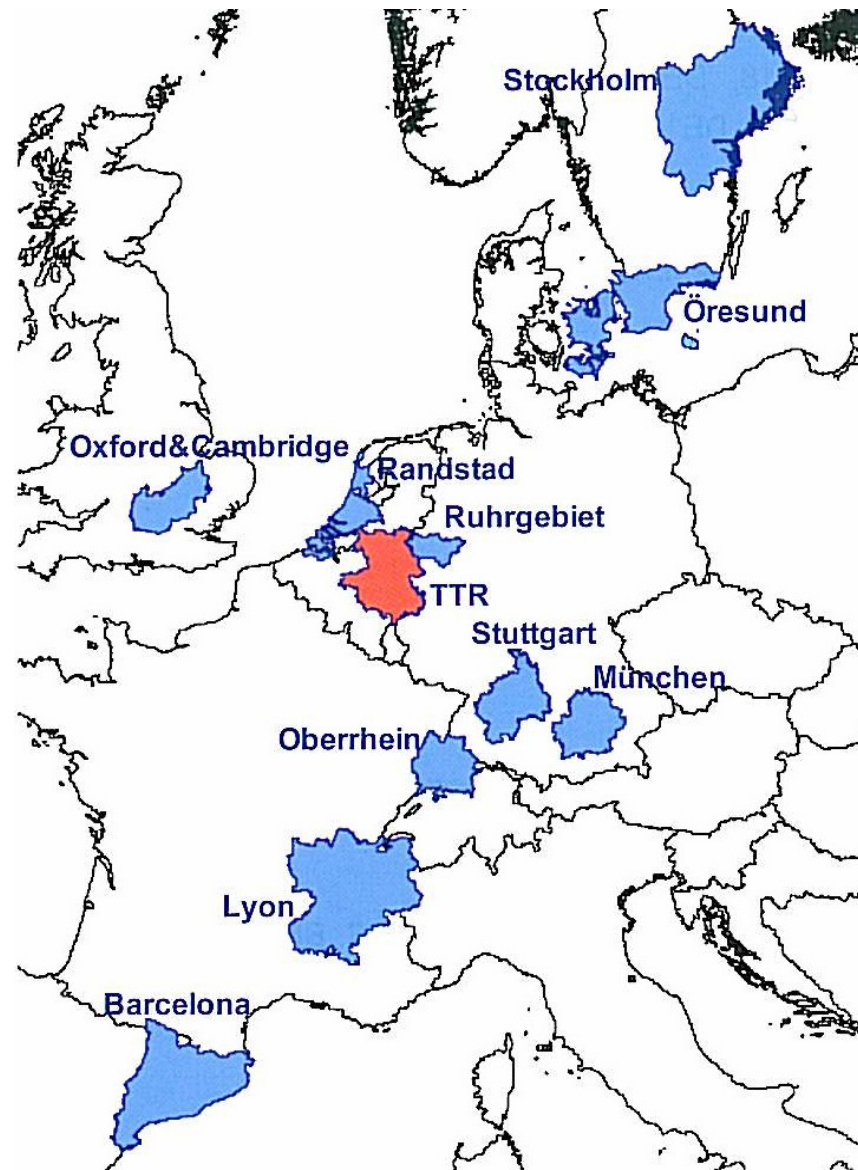


# TTR – Benchmarking Report

## Objectives & tasks

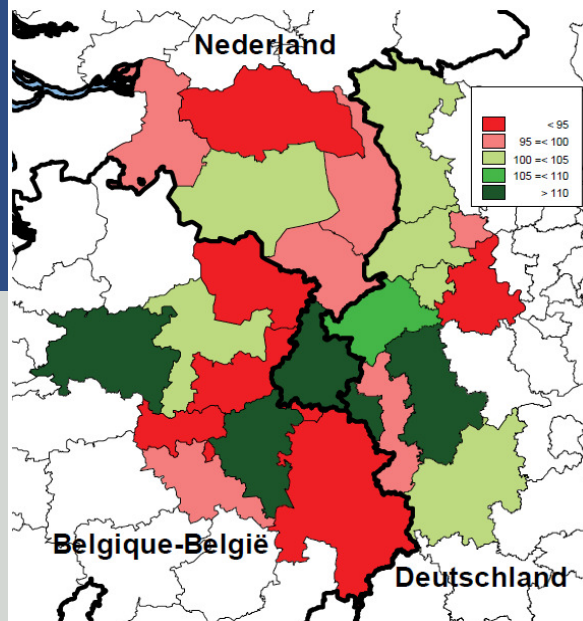
- Identify strengths & weaknesses compared to other technological top-regions in the EU & the US (14 Benchmarking regions)
- Analysis of comparative strengths & weaknesses in the sub-regions of TTR
- Work-out cross-border development potential

*Source: BAK Basel Economics (CH)*

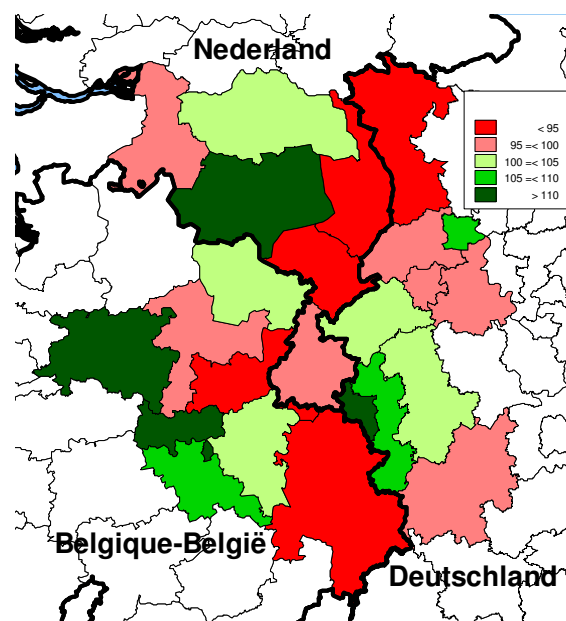


# TTR – Promising fields...

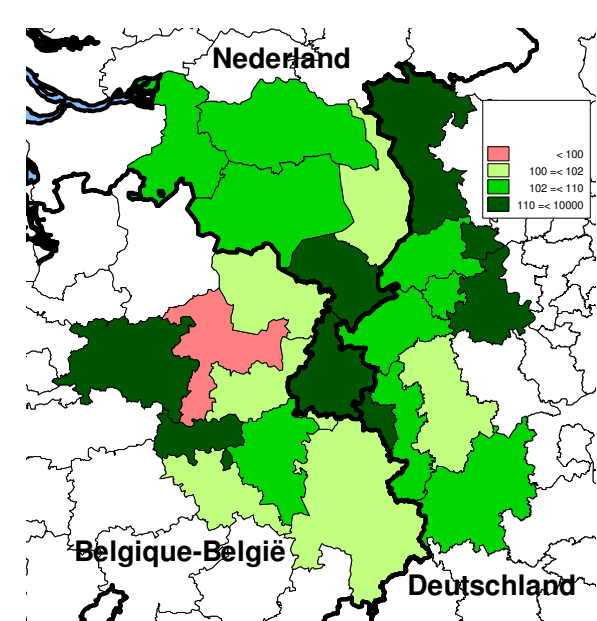
for cross-border cooperation in technological & economic perspective



Health/Life-Sciences



High-tech-systems



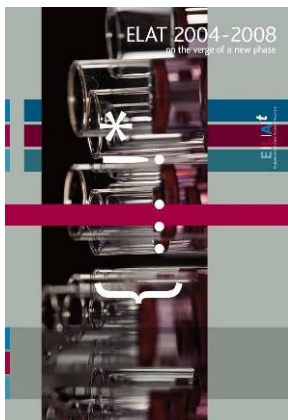
Advanced materials/  
chemicals

# ELAt – Since 2004

Cooperation Eindhoven (NL) –  
Leuven (B) – Aachen (D)



“Mapping-” &  
Benchmarking-  
activities



- Building first technology- & business- “communities“
- Entrepreneurship & access to investors

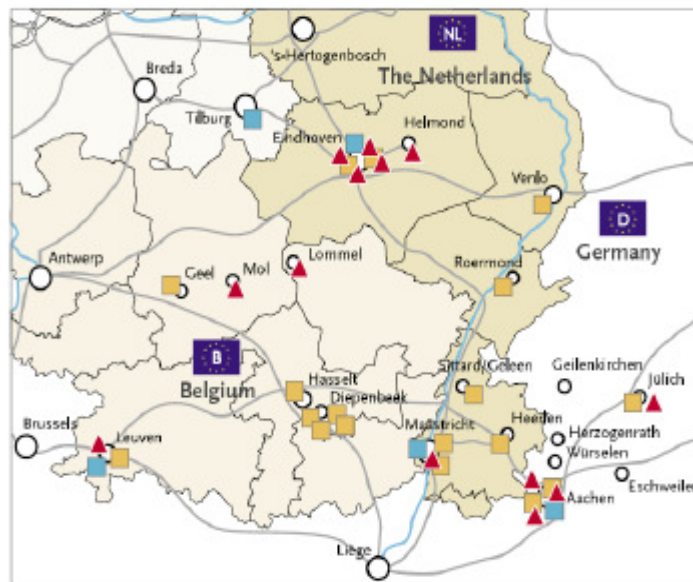


ELAt-strategy  
“Engineering  
the future”



# TTR ELAt

## Interlinking technology- & business-oriented cross-border development initiatives

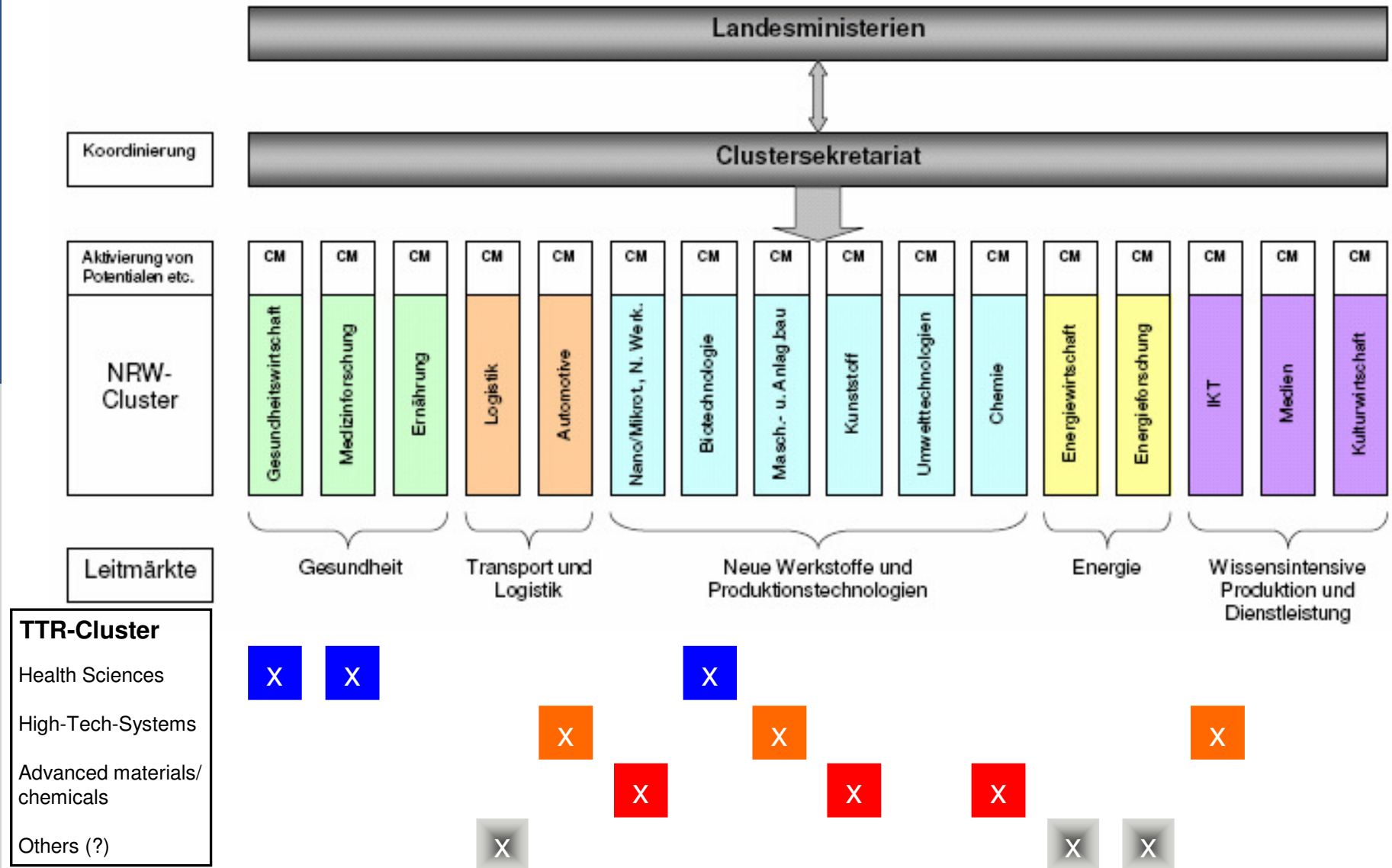


**E|L|A|t**  
EINDHOVEN LEUVEN AACHEN TRIANGLE



Technological Top Region

# TTR ELAt – adjustments on regional level



# TTR ELAt – Conference on March 10th 2010, Aachen

**Presentation of first joint TTR ELAt-action program...**



**...by the political representatives of the Netherlands, North-rhine-Westfalia, Flanders, Walloon region as well as the municipalities & regions Aachen, Eindhoven, Hasselt, Leuven, Liège, Maastricht**

# TTR ELAt – Conference on March 10th 2010, Aachen

## Achieved results so far

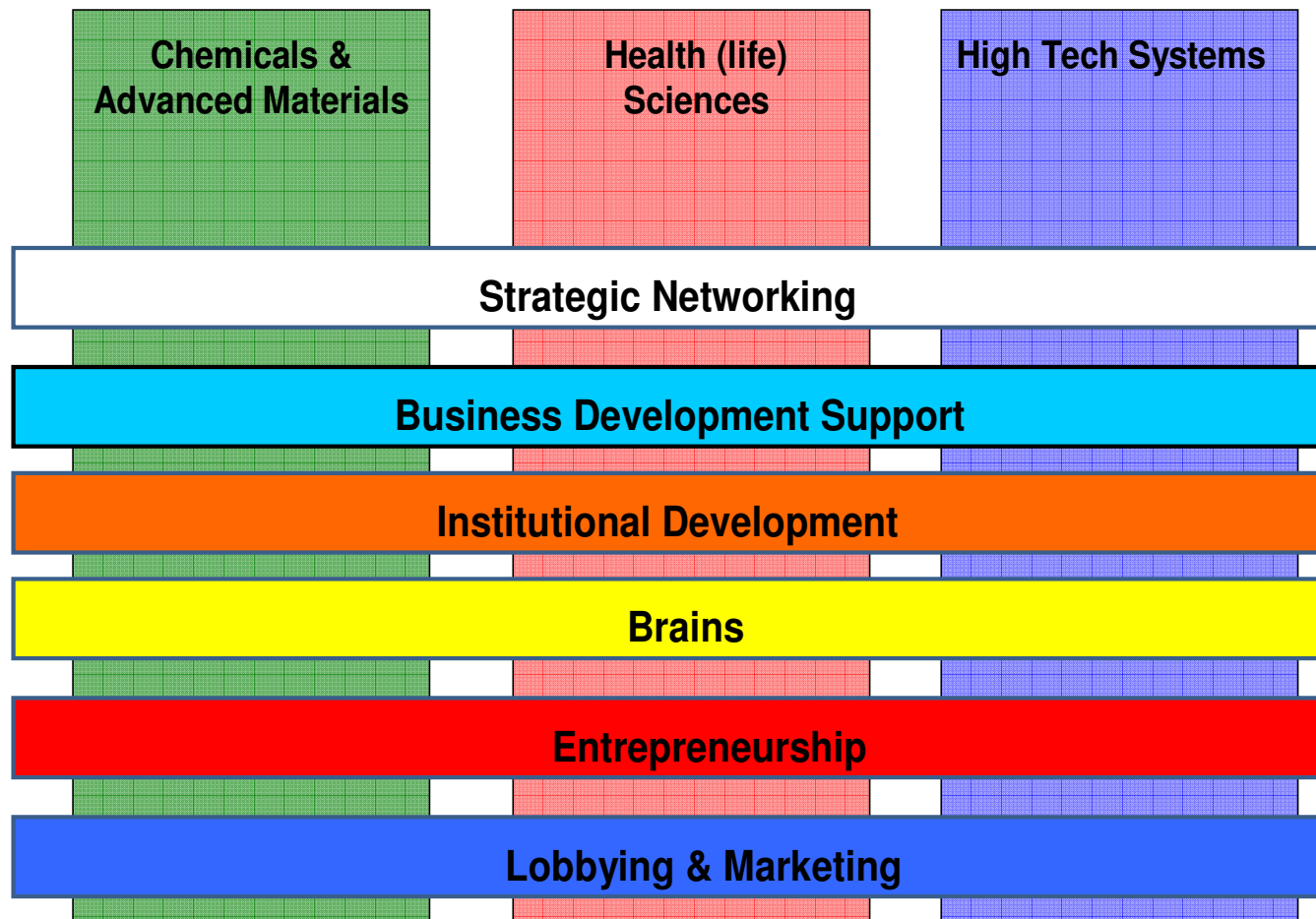
- With a first **joint action program** we have taken a step forward & the initiative was presented to the public
- Political representatives of Belgium, the Netherlands and North Rhine-Westphalia have indicated their **political support**: We will continue the process build up **operational structures** (including a small budget)
- The established **working groups** are responsible for the development of an **annual program** & to answer the remaining questions

# 2

## TTR ELAt – How to proceed?

# TTR ELAt – Future cooperation

## TTR ELAt – joint action program 2010 – 2013



# TTR ELAt – Future cooperation

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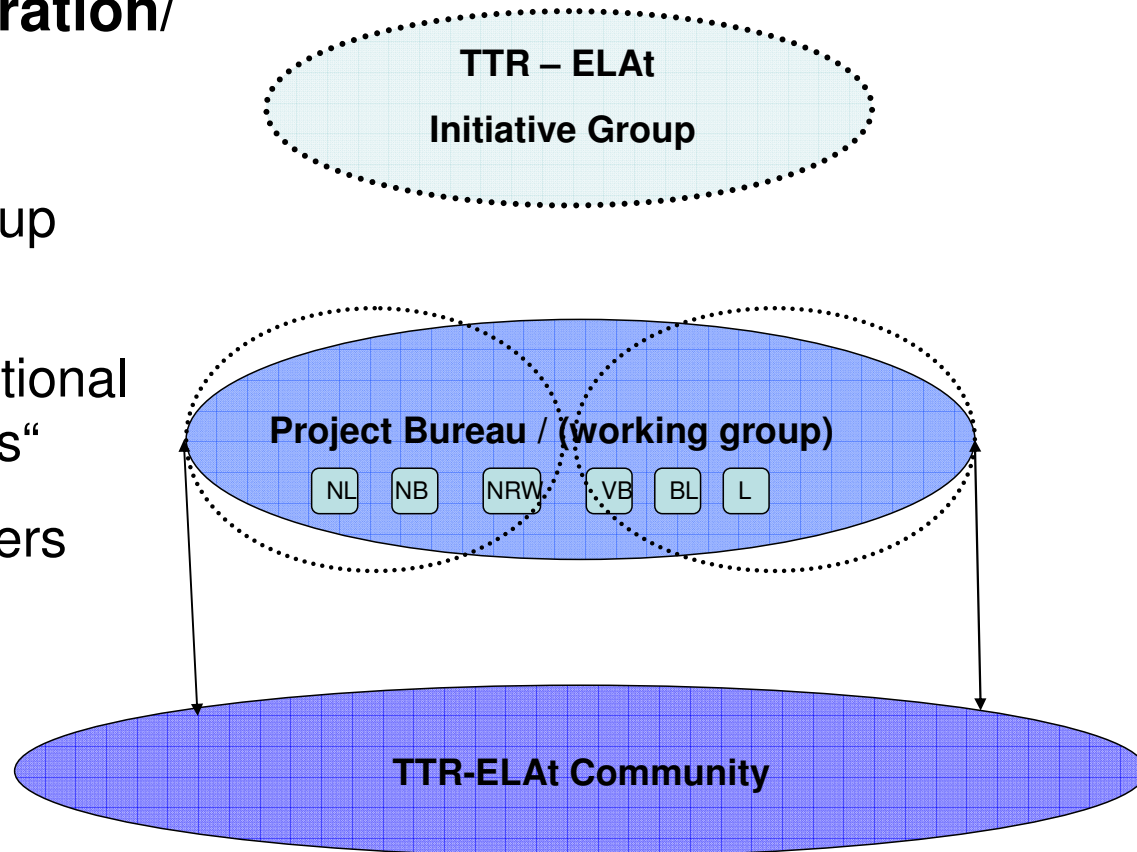
## General approach & financing

- **Set-up:** As a regional initiative TTR ELAt is carried out by regional partners, accompanied & supported by political representatives
- **Basic financing:** Basic activities of TTR ELAt covered by contributions of 25,000 € per partner & year (2010 - 2013) provided by the provinces/NRW-ministeries
- **Additional funding:** To execute concrete projects based on the program other independent funding sources (e.g. INTERREG IV/V, Objective 2, FP7/8) have to be found

# TTR ELAt – Future cooperation

## Develop a sustainable cross-border cooperation/organisation

- Political initiative group
- Two working groups „Economy“ & „Institutional framework conditions“
- Community of partners („triple-helix“)





# TTR ELAt – Future cooperation

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## Working groups (I)

**Main targets & tasks** so far are:

- Work-out joint action program
- Act on operational level
- Develop an annual action plan
- Carry-out at least one important activity/project per year

Working groups foreseen as a „**growth model**“ (i.e. could be expanded to a joint TTR ELAt-bureau)

# TTR ELAt – Future cooperation

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## Working groups (II)

- **Working group „Economy“**  
supervises program lines (1) strategic networking, (2) business development support, (4) brains & (5) entrepreneurship  
At least foreseen members: RDAs, universities, business networks, campus/companies
  
- **Working group „Institutional framework conditions“**  
supervises program lines (3) institutional development as well as (6) lobbying & marketing  
At least foreseen members: Government, mayor cities

# 3

## First conclusions & benefits

# TTR ELAt – First conclusions & benefits

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1. Desired **West-orientation of Northrhine-Westphalia** and **East-orientation of the Benelux countries** ("Gateway to ...") **will be expanded** in economic & technological respect
2. Trinational interlinkage of insufficiently connected regions so far opens up new opportunities to **close gaps in the regional value-chains**, to **create more critical mass** & to **strengthen the visibility on European scale**
3. The **focussed** (only three promising fields) & at the same time **strategic approach** (combining contentwise & framework condition-related activities) **is new** & probably **opens up better chances for successful results**

## TTR ELAt – First conclusions & benefits

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4. The regional & project-oriented approach of the TTR ELAt-initiative could lead to **very practical & demand-oriented cooperations**, but assumes also a stronger interlinkage between regional strategies & funding opportunities
5. Cross-border business will be supported especially in the field of technology-oriented SMEs & by **building up cooperate networks between companies** (& R&D/ university institutes)
6. Border-related **structural barriers & problems** (e.g. in terms of funding instruments) **will be tackled strategically**; their solution will **strengthen the leading role of the regions in cross-border development** within the EU

## Your contact & further information:

[r.meyer@agit.de](mailto:r.meyer@agit.de)

[www.technology-region-aachen.com](http://www.technology-region-aachen.com)

[www.agit.de](http://www.agit.de)

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