



Regional innovation policy - harnessing Europe's diversity

Assembly of European Regions

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Overview

- AER in brief
- From Subsidiarity to Success - The link between decentralisation and innovation
- AER activity to support regional innovation policy



Assembly of European Regions AER

- Largest independent network of regions in Europe
- 250 member regions from 34 countries
- Second level of governance
- Political voice and forum for interregional cooperation



AER Study

From Subsidiarity to Success

- Carried out by BAK BASEL Economics on behalf of AER
- Look for links between the degree of autonomy or decentralisation within a jurisdiction and the jurisdiction's economic development
- ⇒ **What is the impact of decentralisation on economic performance and innovation?**

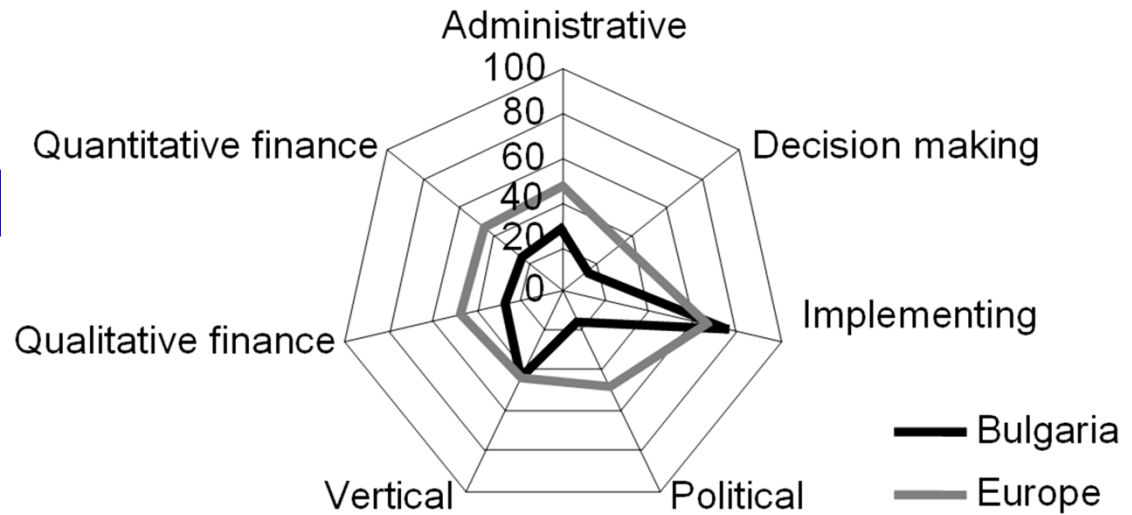


Measuring decentralisation

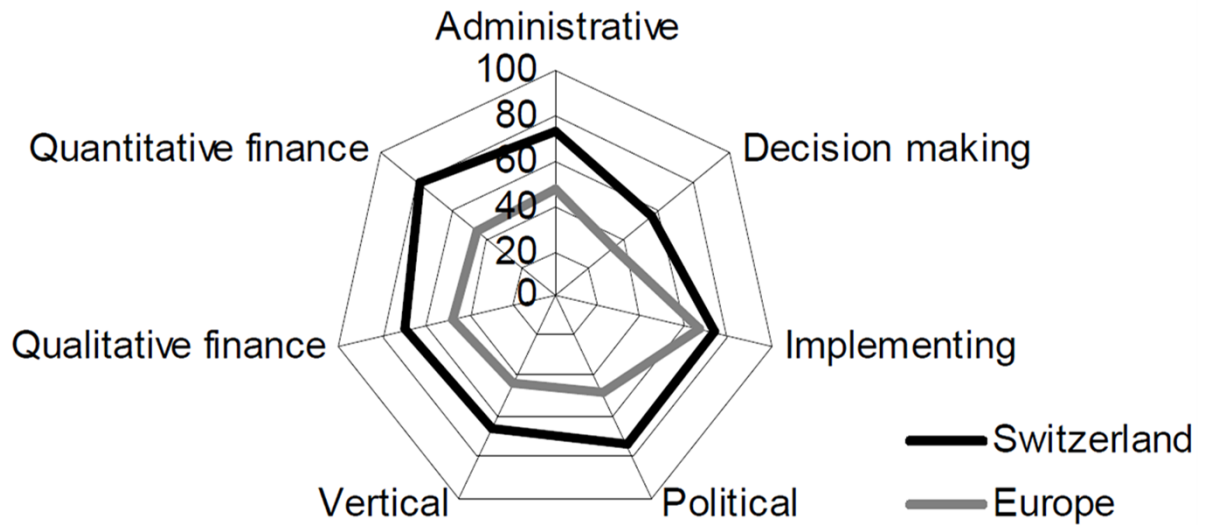
- Decentralisation index family measuring:
 - **Deciding** decentralisation
 - **Financial** decentralisation
- Further subdivided in administrative, decision making, implementing, qualitative financing, quantitative financing, vertical and political



Bulgaria



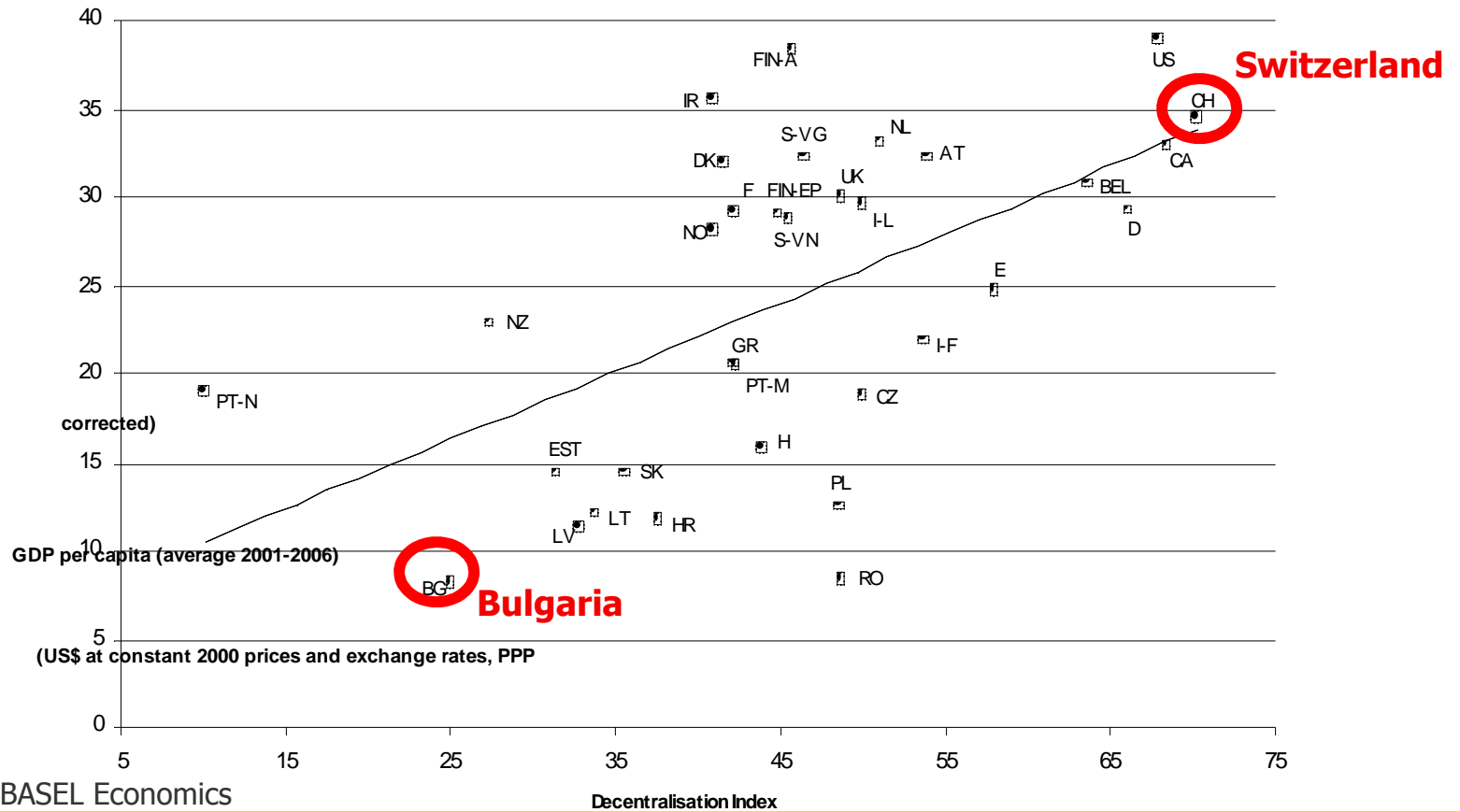
Switzerland



Source: BAK BASEL Economics



Impact of on economic performance and innovation



Source: BAK BASEL Economics



Key implications

- Decentralisation matters!
- There is a strong positive impact of decentralisation on patents
- There is a strong negative impact of decentralisation on publications



Implications II

- The most relevant aspect is financial decentralisation
- The most relevant policy field is Education & Research
- Decentralised regions have a higher innovation capacity



Policy recommendations I

- Regions with more competences develop better than others
- Countries with a higher degree of decentralisation are economically more successful than centrally governed countries
- Giving more competences to sub-national tiers fosters the economy and innovation



Policy recommendations II

- Most relevant aspects for the regions:
 - More influence of the regions on the national level
 - More independence of the regions from the national level
 - More financial competences and resources for the regions
 - More competences in (1) recreation and culture, (2) infrastructure, (3) education and research, and (4) health care.



AER activity to support regional innovation strategies

- Innovation Peer Reviews
- AER Regional Innovation Award (RIA)
- Bi-lateral support (e.g. study visits, transfer of good practice)



AER Innovation Peer Reviews

- Audits of a group of 5 - 8 experts (peers) to a host region
- Document analyses, interviews, meetings, site visits
- Policy recommendations to the host region
- INTERREG IVC projects "SMART EUROPE" and "Regions4GreenGrowth"



AER Innovation Award

- Raise awareness for regional innovation policy and projects
- Highlight good practice in innovation policy
- Promote and increase innovation in the regions
- Support exchange of experience and transfer of good practice among our member regions



Innovative Actions Brabant Noord Brabant (NL)

- Use of smart technologies for healthcare and prevention
- Demand-driven project: end-users involved in innovative process
- Partnership between SMEs, research and care / medical institutions
- Comprehensive network of stakeholders
- Cross-regional and international cooperation



Innovation Vouchers Baden-Württemberg (DE)

- Stimulating innovation within SMEs with less than 100 employees.
- Supporting external R&D costs for new innovative products and services, such as pre-studies or applied research
- Accompanied by “Innovation Coaching” and “Innovation Assistant” schemes.



Mobile Mammography Unit Crete (GR)

- Promote the early diagnoses of breast cancer
- Overcome obstacles that prevent women from undertaking a mammography test
- Mobile mammography visits all the villages in the region twice a year
- 2.000 mammograms, 326 women referred to further examination, 14 cases of breast cancer detected



Thank you for your attention!

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