

European BIC Network

The roots of the BIC concept =



- The need to support the development and diversification of regional economies, notably in less favoured regions
- The perennial challenge: *how to turn innovative entrepreneurial projects into successful businesses, adding long term value to regional economies?*

The solution identified =



The Business & Innovation Centre:

- A homogeneous but flexible approach, based on strict terms of reference adapted to the region's needs and reinforced by a quality assurance system
- An interface facilitating synergy between innovators/entrepreneurs & other organisations, ensuring an A - Z range of assistance to new and existing SMEs
- A combination of 'hard' and 'soft' services: much more than just an incubator!

What is a Business & Innovation Centre (BIC)?



- **A successful European Commission Regional Policy pilot project that is a self-sufficient and efficient tool for regional development**
- **An instrument with a specific mission but an integral role in regional development**

1. Consensus

***relevance of a BIC in the local/regional system of services to enterprises (complementary function)**

***public/private partnership**

***its involvement in and its agreement with strategic and operational objectives**

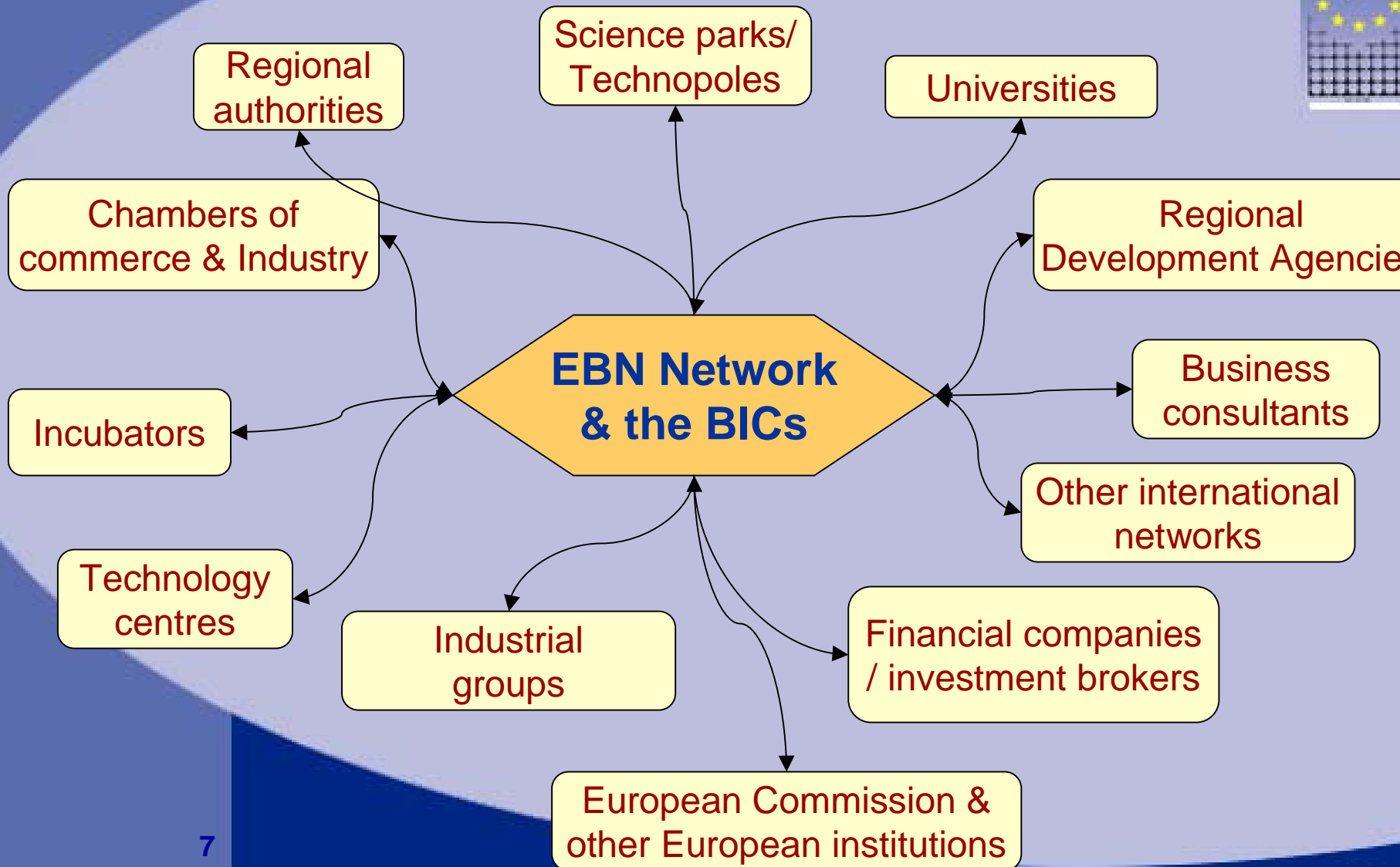
2. Understanding & meeting SMEs' needs

- * Understand production systems
- * Adapted operational strategy

3. Quality of BICs' management team (and staff):

- * Management typology
- * Professionalism

The EBN/BIC ENVIROMENT



Results/measures of success



Expectations

- *quantitative results at short and middle term :
business creation and business development, job creation and job safeguard
- *qualitative results : diffusion and promotion of entrepreneurship, spin-off

Results

Some figures:

- 160 BICs including 150 in the EU and +/- 10 in CEEC
- 1500 SMEs and thousands of jobs created / year
- 6000 existing SMEs
- Survival rate of enterprises and jobs safeguarded after 5 years : more than 90%

What is EBN?



= 160 x



+ *Small Brussels based team of professionals*

in 21 countries

Synergy & added value for the BICs

For more information

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Commission's 'BIC Guide' via:

www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/innovating/guidec_en.htm