

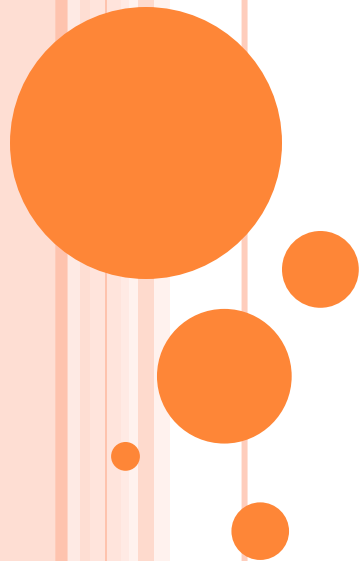
**INNOVATION POLICY  
AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL  
AND THE STRUCTURE OF ITS NETWORK:  
CASE OF SELECTED SLOVAK REGIONS**

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# AGENDA

- Motivation and goal
- Slovak regions and regional innovation system
- Theoretical background
- Research questions and methods
- Empirical findings



# MOTIVATION

- Many studies centred on inter-regional differences / disparities but lack of qualitative comparisons at the same time
- Personal research interests
- Research project



# GOAL

- Comparison of selected Slovak regions in terms of their:
  - Involvement into regional innovation policy making
  - Cooperation within regional innovation policy making



# SLOVAK REGIONS



# SELECTED REGIONS I.

NUTS 3 level (region)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Inhabitants (residents)	Residential density	Number of municipalities		Level of urbanisation (%)
				Overall	Of which towns	
Bratislava	2,053	616,578	300.4	73	7	82,30
<u>Trnava</u>	4,147	559,934	135.0	251	16	48.57
<u>Prešov</u>	8,974	803,955	89.6	666	23	49.25
<u>Košice</u>	6,755	775,509	114.8	440	17	55.72
<b>Slovakia total</b>	<b>49,037</b>	<b>5,412,254</b>	<b>110.4</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>55.03</b>



## SELECTED REGIONS II.

NUTS 3 level (region)	Regional GDP (2007)	
	mil EUR	%
Bratislava	16 444.249	26.72
Trnava	7 678.522	12.48
Prešov	4 987.000	8.10
Košice	7 218.778	11.72
<b>Slovakia total</b>	<b>61 547.069</b>	<b>100.00</b>

NUTS 3 level (region)	Unemployment rate in % (March 2010)
Bratislava	4.42
Trnava	8.62
Prešov	18.24
Košice	16.85
<b>Slovakia total</b>	<b>12.88</b>

# REGIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEM IN SLOVAKIA

- Superior territorial units  
(Self-government regions)
  - Established on 1 January 2002
  - Own decision making bodies
- Network of public and private policy actors / stakeholders



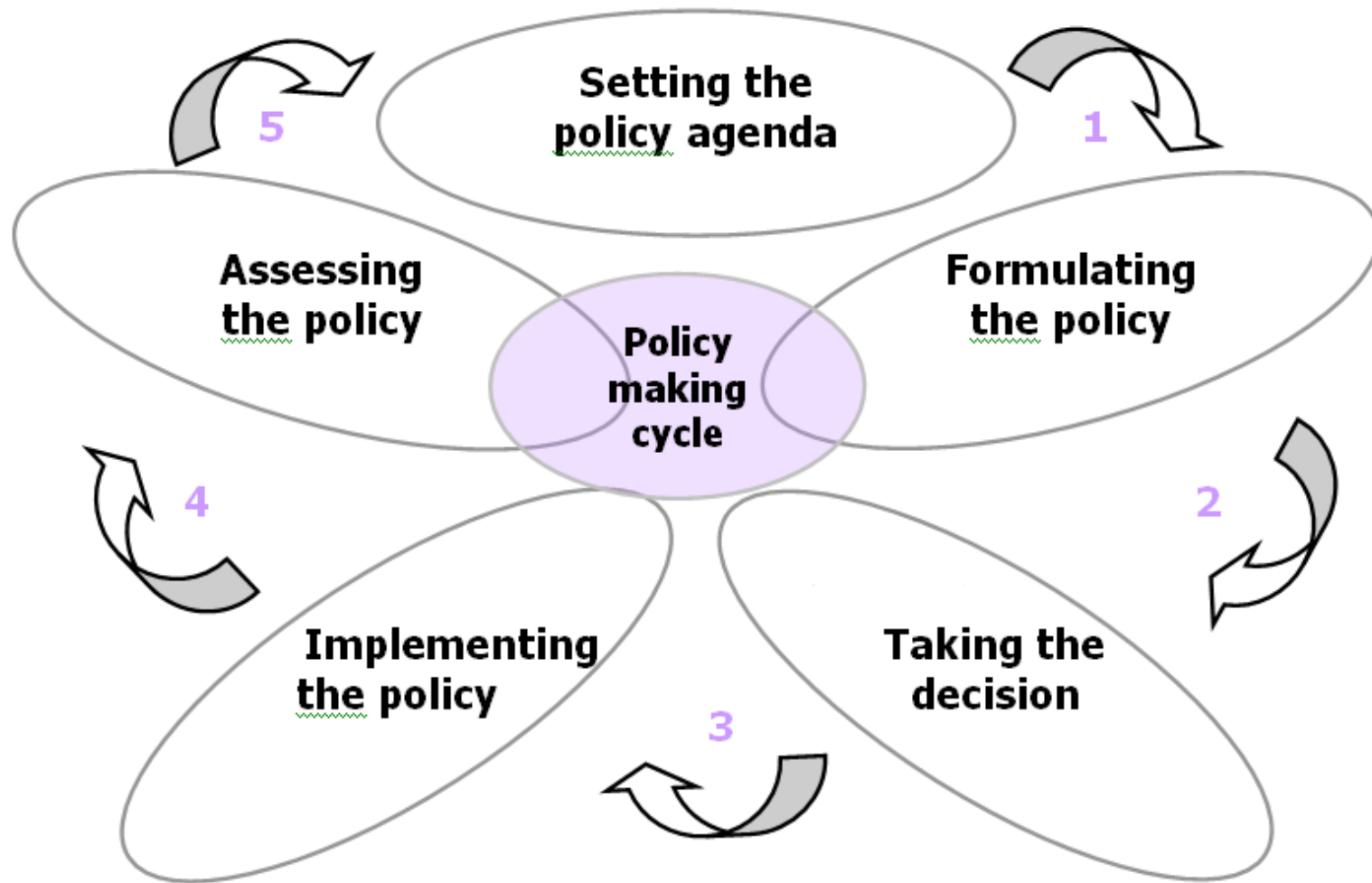
# REGIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEM

- View of the region as a system of 'learning by interacting/and by steering regulation'

(MOULAERT and MEHMOOD 2010: 106)



# POLICY MAKING AND ITS STAGES



# PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

- A special form of good governance:
  - Rather a new politics than policy
  - A new setoff relationships and interactions between public and private stakeholders
  - View of government not as a provider, but as an enabler/facilitator

(CAVAYE, 2005: 100)



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- A: What are the regional innovation systems in the selected regions in terms of the networks of innovation policy actors?
- B: What are the problems and obstacles linked to cooperation of innovation policy actors within regional innovation systems of the selected regions?
- C: How intensively are non-governmental actors involved into the innovation policy making in the selected regions?



# METHODS

- Content analysis:
  - Legal and strategic documents
  - Reports
- Interviewing:
  - Involvement of non-governmental/private stakeholders into regional innovation policy making
  - Cooperation of non-governmental/private stakeholders within regional innovation systems



# EMPIRICAL FINDINGS: A

- What are the regional innovation systems in the selected regions in terms of the networks of innovation policy actors?



## EMPIRICAL FINDINGS: A

- No qualitative differences in terms of institutional and normative settings
- Differences in terms of participatory governance
- Differences in terms of policy making stages
- Differences in terms of different policy actors' behavior



## EMPIRICAL FINDINGS: B

- What are the problems and obstacles linked to cooperation of innovation policy actors within regional innovation systems of the selected regions?



## EMPIRICAL FINDINGS: B

- Lack of regional research and development capacities
- Undeveloped culture of innovation
- Lack of regional accountability and willingness to be engaged
  - Universities
  - Public



## EMPIRICAL FINDINGS: C

- How intensively are non-governmental actors involved into the innovation policy making in the selected regions?



# EMPIRICAL FINDINGS: C

- Average level of involvement
- Formal involvement instead of real cooperation



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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