

Regional Innovation

The module aims at a better understanding of regional innovation and its supporting and hindering mechanisms. Students gain deeper insight in theoretical outlines on regional innovation systems, regional dynamic capabilities and underlying institutional mechanisms. They learn to understand a region as an ecosystem with different counteracting dynamics where universities and/or institutional entrepreneurs might play a pivotal role for regional transformation and a more entrepreneurial culture.

The module moreover aims at an illustration of regional innovation by analyzing and comparing the development of different regions. This also includes an exploration and reflection of the WorldFactory® concept of the Ruhr-University. Moreover, students are encouraged to bring in examples from regions they are familiar with and where they have access to specific data underlying the transformation process. The module invites students from different backgrounds to participate in a discourse on how to sustain the competitiveness of a regional ecosystem with its different firms and institutions.

	Topics	Content
Introduction	Outline on regional analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which approaches on assessing and analyzing structures, processes and dynamics of regional economic development do prevail? Understanding knowledge and innovation as a region's resources and the role of applied transfer processes
Coached self-study	Area Studies, capabilities views and incubator studies Dynamic Regional Capabilities View and Cluster theory The anatomy of the creative city and the middleground-concept Ever-arising new concepts: A region as an ecosystem Organization of transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which theoretical background is applied to which regional challenge? What are variables and indicators for measuring regional innovativeness and competitiveness? What are the specifics of each theory? Where do they meet, how to they differentiate? What are specific instruments and tools to each theory? Why are creative cities more innovative and economically prosperous? Why and how does the creative city sustain on a healthy middleground? How to identify institutions, actors and firms in a regional ecosystem? How to measure interaction, transfer and innovative capabilities? How to enact actors, networks and enable the strength of weak ties?
Transfer	Practical application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of concepts, methods and instruments of regional analysis to own case and poster presentation on self-organized expert forum

The module language will be English. Coaching's to this module will be held on five Mondays from 2pm to 6pm. Instead of a practice week the module includes own analyses on regional innovation and the organization of the final forum.